

THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

WILL BE OCCUPIED AT THE OPENING OF THE FALL TERM NEXT TUESDAY

The high school building which Cheney Brothers have had in the course of construction for the past two years is now nearing completion and will be opened in all departments next Tuesday, September 6th. It will be devoted to the uses of the high school and grammar grades, which will be transferred in toto from the old building to the new. This will mark an era in educational matters in this town and give the people of this place one of the best equipped and most elaborate outfits of the kind to be found in all New England.

The building itself is of red vitrified brick with Indiana limestone trimmings and entrances. It contains three stories and a basement, as may be seen by the illustration shown herewith. The cornices and deep gutters are of copper and the roof is of slate. There are six entrances, one in front, one at either side, and three at the rear. The main entrance will be used by the grammar school boys and girls, and the side entrances by the high school boys and girls. All wheels will be brought into the basement by the rear entrances, which are reached by the driveway on the north side of the building. The High school boys will bring their wheels in by the northwest entrance and the High school girls by the southwest. The grammar grade wheels will be brought in by the middle west entrance. Steps lead down to the basement from the rear and smooth runways are arranged at each of these entrances. Four bath rooms are located in the northeast basement for the High school boys, three of which are shower baths and one a tub. Lockers for clothing are at hand where apparel may be bestowed and locked in. Toilet accessories in ample supply adjoin the bathrooms. Hot and cold water will be found in all the bath and toilet rooms. The most thorough ventilation known to modern sanitary science has been installed. The heating of all the rooms from basement to top floor inclusive is adjusted automatically, thermostats in each room furnishing the necessary regulation, which may be set at any desired temperature.

The Grammar school boys enter the basement through the second northwest entrance, where they have bicycle accommodations similar to those of the High school boys, and also have toilet arrangements of like convenience, not including the baths. Two monster boilers furnish heat, and also power to run the engine which operates the huge ventilation fan by means of which pure air heated by coils of pipe connecting with the boilers is forced into all the rooms of the great building. The fan and engine are located near the boiler room, and the coal room is also at hand. There is an auxiliary boiler for the purpose of furnishing hot water in warm weather, without heating the large boilers.



The Grammar school girls have an entrance to the basement for wheels next south of that for the Grammar school boys and with similar conveniences and accessories.

The High school girls have an entrance to the basement for their wheels on the southwest corner. They too have all the needed accommodations similar to the rest, including two shower baths and one bath tub. As the girls do not incline to athletics so much as the boys, it is not believed that they will find so much use for the baths, hence the number of these conveniences is not so great as for the High school boys. Lockers for clothing are found in the girls' department also. All these toilet compartments are separate for each of the four divisions of the school.

As stated previously the Grammar grade pupils enter and retire by the front door (and at the opening of the school next Tuesday (will) occupy five of the seven school rooms on the first floor. There is a retiring room on this floor for the teachers or others of the Grammar grade, should they be indisposed temporarily or require rest. All the school rooms throughout the building conform to the standard size of 27x32 feet, with slight exception.

Principal Frederick A. Verplanck, who has general supervision of both buildings and of all the pupils in both, has his office located on the first floor near the center of the building on the east side, where he can have a general survey of the school grounds and surroundings of both school buildings.

Bookcases and closets for clothes will be found in each room, and in the halls are repositories for wraps, hats, rubbers, umbrellas, etc. in generous supply and profusion as well as drinking fountains. An intermural telephone system encompasses the entire building and every room therein. Electric lights are likewise in every room from top to bottom. The school rooms have five chandeliers in each room, including one over the teacher's desk. All the clothes racks are on the first floor. Ornamental radiators are placed under the stair rails in the halls, out of the way. Near the front entrance inside of the building will be suspended from the ceiling a large four-dial electric clock.

The High school will occupy all of the building above the first floor. There are eight school rooms on the second floor, six of which will be used next Tuesday.

Mr. H. C. Folsom, principal of the High school, has an office on the second floor, where the telephone central office is located, and where all the clocks in the building will be adjusted from. At the rear of Mr. Folsom's office is a room for the storage of books, where adjustable shelves are placed, and all books in use at the High school may be systematically bestowed.

The juniors' room occupies the southeast center of the second floor and the seniors the southwest center; the sophomores the northeast room, and the freshmen the northwest room. Bookcases with glass doors are found in all these rooms. There is a retiring room on this floor for teachers or others who may be indisposed where comfortable furnishings and necessary equipments will be found, as required. This room is west of the sophomores' room.

On the top floor is the chemical laboratory in the southwest room. This will be supplied with every contrivance necessary to the suitable carrying on of the experiments in this branch of study. It will be very thoroughly equipped, and in the most modern manner. A store room is situated north of the chemical laboratory, where all the necessary supplies and equipments will be kept. This room is furnished with a lift from the basement, where heavy packages may be elevated to this floor. A dark room for developing photographic plates and films is also on hand here.

The grand main hall or assembly room of the building is situated in the center of the top floor and will furnish seating capacity for 936 people, by means of the regular folding chairs.

With the introduction of extra sittings on special occasions no doubt 1,000 persons could be seated.

This certainly is a fine addition to the equipment of the great school building. There is not a pillar in sight to obstruct the view. The ceiling is high and nicely ornamented. The color scheme is pale green and white. The acoustic properties of the hall are superb. A handsome floor is laid here, made of narrow hard southern pine. A stage is located at the north end of the hall, and there are rooms at the rear of the stage that may be used as dressing rooms, should occasion require.

In the northeast corner of the top floor is situated the art room, where the study of drawing and allied work will be presented. A number of screens and easels placed on casters are here, to which the canvases used in sketching, etc. may be fastened. These are covered with a strong canvas, to which the work may be pinned or otherwise secured. A feature of this room is the cabinet for bestowing drawing boards. This has a collapsing front made on the model of a roll top desk. Within are shelves for the reception of 168 drawing boards. This is a convenience that drawing pupils never had here before, and will be highly appreciated. Each pupil's number may be inscribed on the shelf, and have a place of its own, where it can be found conveniently and expeditiously. There are glass cabinets in this room for keeping paper and other supplies needed in the art department. There are two recitation rooms northwest of the drawing room.

The interior of the building is finished throughout in ash. Ornamental stairways beautify the halls. It would be difficult for one, other than an expert, to suggest a detail that has not been provided in the equipment and furnishing of this fine school building.

Granolithic walks are now being completed leading up to the school entrances front and sides, and a similar walk is in process of construction on the Main street frontage. The pupils who are fortunate to enter High school this term will find themselves surrounded by conveniences surpassing the most extravagant dreams of even five years ago.

That the High school had outgrown its quarters sometime ago was not susceptible of debate, but that the springing up of a new structure would bring forth all the modern equipments to be found here, was without the pale of even the most sanguine imagination.

That the utmost care has been exerted in the planning of this most useful pile is apparent at every point. As an illustration of this fact one circumstance may be cited. Slate blackboards of the very best grade obtainable were ordered. When the shipments were made it was found that they were not up to the standard, and they were at once rejected and ordered removed at the expense of the contractor who supplied them. A second invoice arrived and another inspection revealed the fact that even some of these were not of the standard required, and they too were not allowed to be installed. The chalk troughs that go with the blackboards are of ash, and are deep and sufficient in every particular. This same care of selection and of workmanship appears everywhere in and about the building.

When the walks are completed and the grounds graded, the outfit as a whole will be one to which all residents of this town will point with pride, and will be glad to call the attention of friends from other places who chance to visit them.

When thoroughly completed suitable dedicatory exercises will be held, and the public will be invited to call and inspect it thoroughly.

Very much more could be written in praise of this great High school building, but the above will give our readers a general idea at least of some of the good things that are in store for those pupils whose good fortune directs their paths through this splendid monument of education, and this crowning achievement of our public school system.