

BUILDING BOOM ON IN VIRGINIA

New Theater, School, Business Blocks and Residences Going Up in Range City.

(Range Bureau of the News Tribune.)
VIRGINIA, March 13.—The approach of spring has revived building activities appreciably. The majority of the local contractors already have enough work to keep them busy well into the summer and out side firms in several instances have been enlisted in Virginia's building campaign. It is going to be a hard matter for the builders to keep pace with the actual growth of the city.

Virginia will have several fine new residences this summer, which will be constructed for the most part by people connected with the mining companies. Some of the contracts have been let and work will be started soon. A large number of smaller dwellings will be built, most of these to accommodate laborers and their families who will be brought here to assist in the mining operations.

A substantial business block is in the course of construction now at the corner of Chestnut and Wyoming streets. It will be owned by Edward Finch and will be occupied on the first floor by the 'Shandeling Bros.' clothing store. Offices will be installed on the second floor. The basement practically is completed and work is progressing on the brick work of the first floor.

New Theater and School.

Virginia expects to be very proud of its new theater and its new high school. The theater will be one of the finest in the northwest in the way of appointments. It will seat from 1,000 to 1,200 and will be erected just west of the Fay hotel. While not as large as the theaters in many of the larger cities, it is planned to spare no expense in making it attractive in appearance and elaborate in modern equipment. The building will occupy three lots and the space not taken up by the theater proper will be given over to office rooms. White pressed brick will figure largely in the construction. An endeavor will be made to obtain the best attractions during the theatrical season. Assurance has been given that Virginia will be put directly on the Winnipeg circuit and will get all of the companies that go to the Canadian city. The venture is controlled and financed by a company of four men, O. H. Griggs, J. A. Kennedy, H. J. Sigel and D. W. Elmquist.

The new school, which will be known as the Technical high, had just been started. It will contain a manual training department and equipment for other branches of school work that have been taken up only recently throughout the country. Bonds for \$150,000 for its construction were authorized at the last school election and it will be completed so that it may be equipped at the beginning of the next school year. It will be three stories in height and will be constructed of fire proof brick. The Balley-March company, of Minneapolis, has the contract for putting it up. The old high school will probably be used as a grade school on the completion of the new building. The Technical school will be an invaluable addition to Virginia's already efficient educational system.

The Virginia Electric Power & Water company is putting in a new office building west of the site of the new theater. The first floor will be occupied by the company's offices and the second by the Virginia club rooms.

Plan New Hotel.

A new hotel is planned by the Hamm Brewing company, but no definite decision has been reached by the firm. If it is built it will be located opposite the Fay hotel on block No. 1. It will be thoroughly modern, with telephone service and running hot and cold water in each room, elevators and the best cuisine.

The city hall has just undergone a number of improvements, the most important of which was an addition to make room for more offices, the district court rooms and the headquarters of the chief of police.

The Fitger Brewing company will commence the erection of a building on its Main street property early this spring, according to statements from the Duluth office. While it has not been definitely announced, it is more than probable that the structure will be used for a hotel.

President August Fitger said tonight that the company is very loath to undertake the construction of a hotel at Virginia, but that it might yield to the importunities of the Virginia Commercial club and citizens generally. If it is not used for this purpose the building will be occupied by business concerns. It will cost in the neighborhood of \$20,000.

In preparation for the work, the Fitger company has ordered the removal of the billboards from the property, situated at the corner of Chestnut street and Cleveland avenue. The plot of ground is said to be the most valuable piece of vacant property on the main street.

Contractors are figuring on other buildings of which no definite announcement has been made as yet, but enough is certain to make it safe to say that it will be an unusually active building year.