

# OLD HOTEL TO GO; VAUDEVILLE WILL TAKE ITS PLACE

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## Cook Amusement Company Will Build \$400,000 Theater on Site of St. Louis Hostelry.

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The St. Louis hotel will soon be a thing of the past. Negotiations which have been pending for nearly two years and whose outcome was forecast a number of times in the News Tribune, were yesterday concluded by the signing of a 99-year lease by representatives of the Realty Company of Massachusetts, owners of the building, and M. S. Cook and B. J. Cook, officers of the Cook Amusement company, which becomes lessee of the property.

Possession passes to the Cooks May 1, 1920. They will then proceed to tear down the present structure and erect a modern theater on the site, which is 140x115 feet in size. The new theater will cost approximately \$400,000 and will seat 2,400 persons.

Frank N. Phelps, general manager of the Cook brothers' enterprises, will have supervision over the new playhouse. He said yesterday that the new theater will be used for high class vaudeville and pictures and will be equipped with every modern appliance of such a theater.

### Will Raze Building.

Figured according to the commonly accepted values of Superior street property the site of the hotel is valued at not far from \$280,000. The building itself is in reality more of a liability than an asset to the new proprietors inasmuch as it must be torn down.

Many of the most prominent men of the state and country have been entertained at the St. Louis. It has been the center of many hot political campaigns, many tales of iron ore finds have been told at its fireside in the early days of the Range and its passing will be sorely regretted by many.

The old St. Louis hotel, which stood on the site of the present Providence building, was built in 1862 by Thomas Cullyford.

### Odd Bits of History.

When, in 1889, it was rumored that the Spalding hotel was to be built, Mr. Cullyford, to discourage such a project, built an annex to the St. Louis. The Spalding was finished in 1889, nevertheless, and Mr. Cullyford found that his building was larger than his business would support. He then sold the old part of the building to Butchart & Michaud, who operated it as the St. Louis. Mr. Cullyford then called his part of the hotel (the new building) the Brighton.

In 1893 the St. Louis hotel, in the old part of the building, was burned. The same year Mr. Cullyford sold the "Brighton" to the Realty Company of Boston. It was operated by them until six years ago, when the name of the hotel was changed to the "New St. Louis." The building is owned by the Realty Company of Boston.