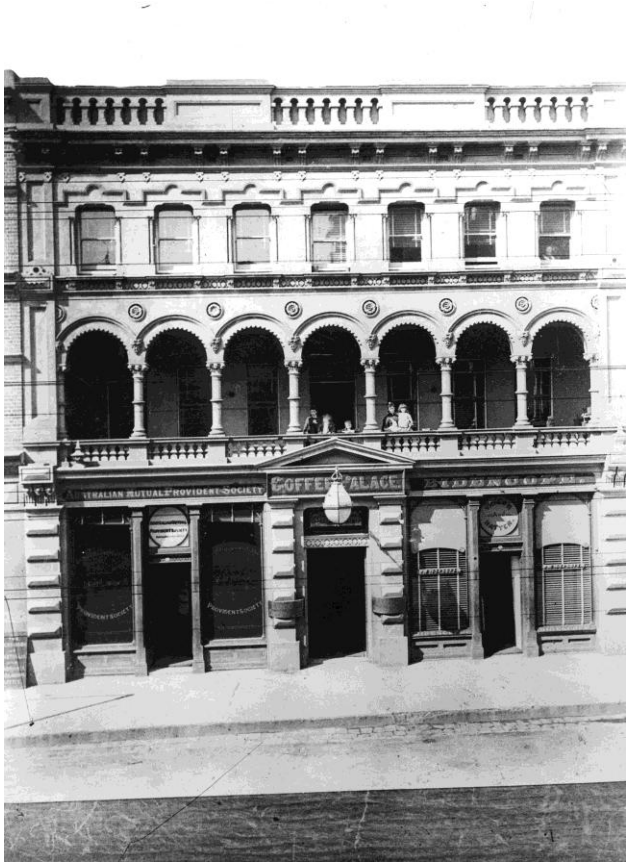
COFFEE PALACES IN LAUNCESTON

1880 – 1920

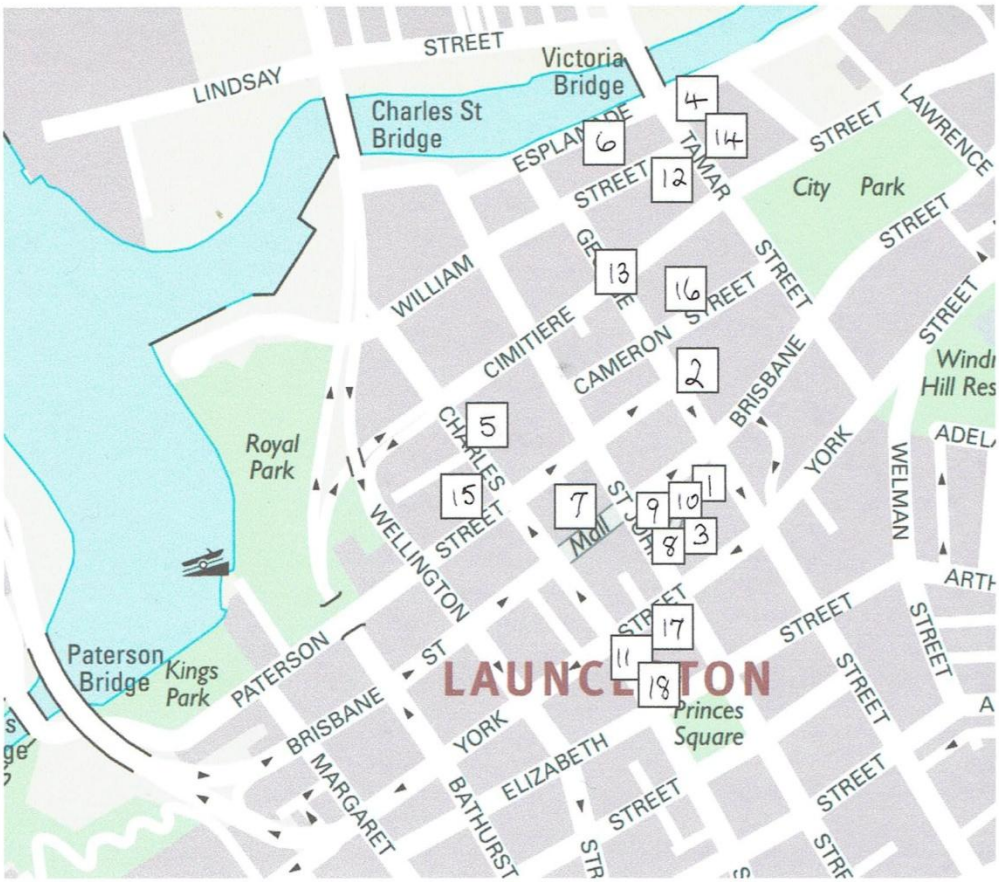


Sutton's Launceston Coffee Palace in Brisbane Street

Tony Walker, H.R.A.

For the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Launceston

July, 2022



1. Launceston (later Metropole) Coffee Palace, 67-75 Brisbane St., 1882
2. United States Coffee Palace, George Street 1886
3. Victoria Coffee Palace, 21 Quadrant, 1888
4. Tynan's Coffee Palace, cnr Tamar & Esplanade 1888
5. Federal Coffee Palace, 72 Charles St., 1889
6. Shields (later Austral) Coffee Palace, 77 Esplanade, 1893
7. International Coffee Palace, 130 Brisbane St., 1894
8. Quadrant Coffee Palace, 27 Quadrant, 1896
9. Jubilee Coffee Palace, Quadrant, 1897
10. Imperial Coffee Palace, 89-91 Brisbane St., 1898
11. Intercolonial Coffee Palace, 183 Charles St., 1898
12. Alexandra Coffee Palace, 8 William St., 1898
13. Royal Coffee Palace, 14 George St., 1902
14. Commonwealth Coffee Palace, 23/29 Tamar St., 1904
15. Alford's Coffee Palace, 71 Paterson St., 1906
16. Tasmanian Coffee Palace, 30/32 Cameron St., 1908
17. Launceston (Russell's) Coffee Palace, 89 York Str., 1908
18. Russell's Coffee Palace, 203 Charles St., 1921

Coffee was seen by nineteenth century temperance movements as an antidote for alcohol and coffee houses had been common in Europe since the 18th century. London alone had more than 500 coffee houses in the 1730s.

The term coffee palace emerges in the late 19th century and seems to be generally applied to temperance hotels, which offered accommodation, dining rooms, billiard rooms and other recreation.

The term was used rarely in the UK, but universally in Australia, and this is probably due to the grandiose "high Victorian" architecture of most of the new buildings. Australia was at the peak of an economic boom initiated by the gold rush of the 1850s and flaunted its new found prosperity.

The aim of the temperance movement was to make these new coffee palaces "... as attractive as possible for the working man, [which] should combine every facility for harmless amusement and intellectual enjoyment, with the advantages of a large hotel, the only difference being that coffee should be vended instead of intoxicating liquors".[1]

The most outstanding was the extraordinary Federal Coffee Palace in Melbourne and the principal surviving example of this style is visible in Melbourne's Windsor Hotel which opened in 1882 as the Grand Coffee Palace.



Federal Coffee Palace, Melbourne



Grand Coffee Palace, Melbourne

Australia's first coffee palace was in Melbourne. In October 1878, the Coffee Palace Company and Working Man's Club was formed with a capital of £5000 in 5000 shares of £1 each, with the objective "*to provide that accommodation for social comfort and recreation at present supplied by public houses,*

[1] The Argus,Melbourne, 8/10/78

but free from the evils and temptations which naturally and unavoidably arise from the traffic in alcoholic liquors."[2]

The Collingwood Coffee Palace opened in Smith St in August 1879. It had "every requisite of a first class hotel, without intoxicating drinks", and included dining rooms, bars, a library and reading room, billiard room, meeting room s and a "room for musical entertainment". It was an immediate success and the following year the Board added a further 25 bedrooms and a large dining room.

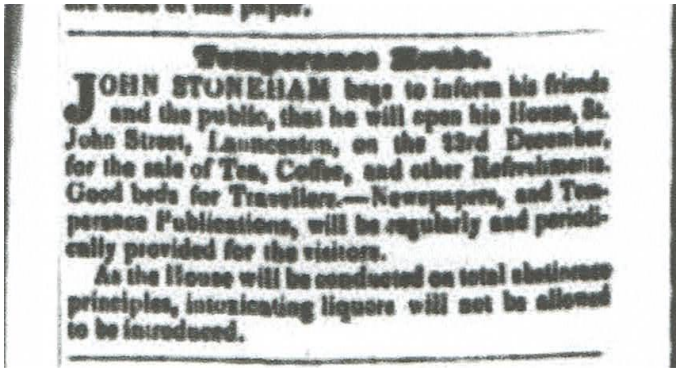
There were soon calls for Launceston to follow Melbourne's lead. Addressing the Tasmanian Teetotal Society in 1880, the Rev. Shallberg called for a limit on the number of licences issued but added they must also provide something to fill the place of the public-house, by establishing in the city a temperance coffee palace, for the man who left off frequenting the public-house, naturally looked for some other place to go and spend his spare time.[3]

Samuel Sutton built the first coffee palace in Launceston in 1882, and this study has identified 18 coffee palaces that existed in Launceston over the period 1880 to 1920, but there were probably more. Only a few were built on grand lines, many being little more than boarding houses with a dining room, hardly worthy of the term "palace".

Almost every satellite town also had a coffee palace, including Beaconsfield, George Town, Lilydale, Perth and Evandale, although again, few of these lived up to the grandiose name.

EARLY TEMPERANCE COFFEE HOUSES

While the late 19th century was the main period for the proliferation of coffee palaces, temperance institutions had been around much longer. One of the earliest was the Temperance Coffee House run by John Stoneham in Launceston from 1839. In the Launceston Advertiser of 12 December, 1839 he announces.[4]



Temperance Hotel.

JOHN STONEHAM begs to inform his friends and the public, that he will open his House, St. John Street, Launceston, on the 23rd December, for the sale of Tea, Coffee, and other Refreshments. Good beds for Travellers.—Newspapers, and Temperance Publications, will be regularly and periodically provided for the visitors.

As the House will be conducted on total abstinence principles, intoxicating liquors will not be allowed to be introduced.

In 1842, he moves to a "commodious house" in Paterson Street "next to Mr Evans the baker". This was a former boarding house owned by Henry Evans, who also built the Coach and Horses on the corner of Charles and Paterson Sts, where the open carpark now stands.

Joseph Stanley ran a similar coffee house at Sandhills.

There was considerable resentment from hotels protesting that

[2] The Age 17/10/1888
[3] Examiner 7/7/1880
[4] Launceston Advertiser 12/12/1839

"these houses should be allowed to be open all hours of the night for gambling, &c., while the licensed victuallers are obliged to close their houses at ten o'clock."[5]

There were even queries about their dedication to temperance:

Temperance Coffee Houses which were so far from being what they profess, are receptacles for drunkards, and the scenes of vilest depravity and debauchery. If a strict watch were kept, the police would find that something stronger than tea, coffee, or lemonade may be procured at these dens, and that in fact they are nothing more nor less than sly-grog shops. I have myself frequently witnessed drunken men reeling from them, a circumstance which of itself ought to cast suspicion upon the purity of the water said to be vended at these establishments.[6]

Samuel Sutton ran a large catering business in Wellington Street in the 1860s. In January 1873, he took over the lease of 89-91 Brisbane St, formerly occupied by Mr William Costain. The premises included a shop, Refreshment Rooms, parlour, sitting room, five bedrooms and a bakehouse. In November, 1873 he opened Sutton's Temperance Hotel and Dining Rooms, offering meals, lodging and also continuing his catering business. It was the immediate forerunner of the Launceston coffee palaces and in fact became the Imperial Coffee Palace and Cafe when taken over by Mr. Theopholis Cope in 1898.

LAUNCESTON COFFEE PALACES

(Dates shown indicate earliest and latest evidence found in newspapers and Assessment Rolls)

(SUTTON'S) LAUNCESTON COFFEE PALACE/METROPOLE COFFEE PALACE 1882 - 1906

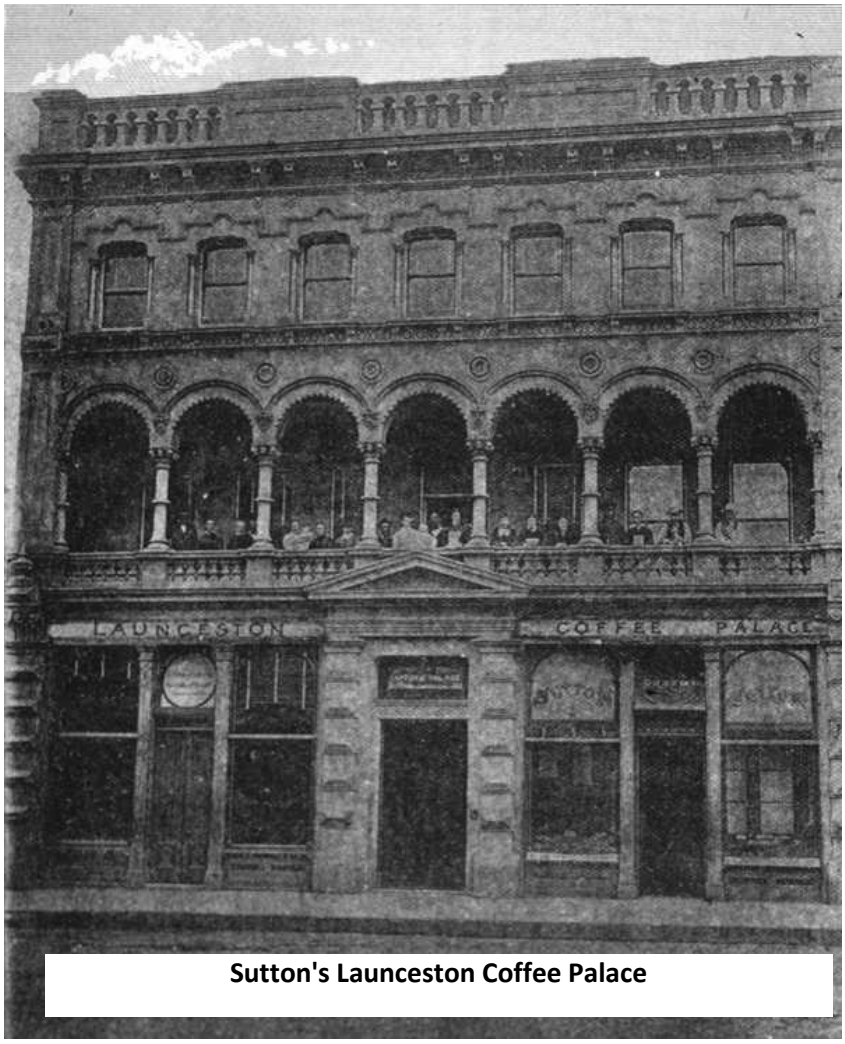
In 1881 Samuel Sutton, proprietor of Sutton's Temperance Hotel, visited Melbourne and, inspired by the magnificent Federal Coffee Palace in Collins Street, planned a similar, if rather more modest, development for Launceston. In May, 1881, he announced that he would build a three storey coffee palace at 75 Brisbane Street. Construction cost was £6,500 and it was officially opened in January 1882 (The Temperance Hotel at 91 Brisbane Street became the Imperial Coffee Palace later, under Mr. T. Cope's management).

The Launceston Coffee Palace, often referred to as Sutton's Coffee Palace, quickly became a social centre for the town. There are no known photographs of the interior, but the Examiner's correspondent gives us an exhaustive contemporary description.[7]

Sutton, a total abstainer, became a prominent Launceston citizen, instrumental in constructing the Albert Hall and bringing the Tasmanian International Exhibition of 1891/2 to the city. He was an Alderman, Mayor of Launceston and a Member of the Legislative Council and a prime mover in making Launceston the first city in the Southern Hemisphere to have electric street lighting in 1896.

In 1884 he expanded the Coffee Palace, adding 30 more bedrooms and two bathrooms.

[5] Launceston Examiner 18/1/1843
[6] Launceston Courier 17/10/1841
[7] Appendix 1



Sutton's Launceston Coffee Palace

Sutton was an enterprising proprietor- in 1894 he purchased a live 230lb turtle and charged 6d for a viewing with the proceeds going to the Benevolent Society. The Telegraph *writes "Eventually the turtle will be killed and diverted into luscious soup, for the benefit of epicures and visitors to the Coffee Palace."*[8] He also organised excursions to "various picturesque localities within easy distance of the town".

The Launceston Coffee Palace was a popular stopping off spot for travelling doctors, dentists, healers, clairvoyants and other business people, who would advertise their services available from their rooms. The first floor gallery overlooking Brisbane Street was a popular stage for concerts with the City Band and others providing recitals and carols sung at Christmas time.

On one occasion a few Welsh residents of the town entertained 60 young Welshmen from the slate mine at Bangor. After dinner the lads took to song, soon attracting a crowd: "*The social was intended to be one of a private nature, but the harmonious sounds issuing from the large dining hall gradually attracted visitor after visitor until the apartment was quite full. Loud applause greeted the close of each selection, and all were loud in their praise of the music."*[9]

Sutton was Executive Commissioner for the Tasmanian Exhibition of 1891/2, and President of the Organising Committee. He was a prime mover in the building of the Albert Hall, at a cost of £14,000. He substantially enlarged the Coffee Palace in time for the Exhibition, taking it to 135 bedrooms and



Illustration from Launceston Exhibition poster 1891

[8] Daily Telegraph 28/11/1894
[9] Examiner 22/2/1986

extending a full 200 feet back from its Brisbane Street frontage. A new feature was the garden with it carefully trimmed lawns, grotto, summer house and many ferns. Tessellated tiles were laid in the main entrance hall to mark the occasion of the Exhibition.

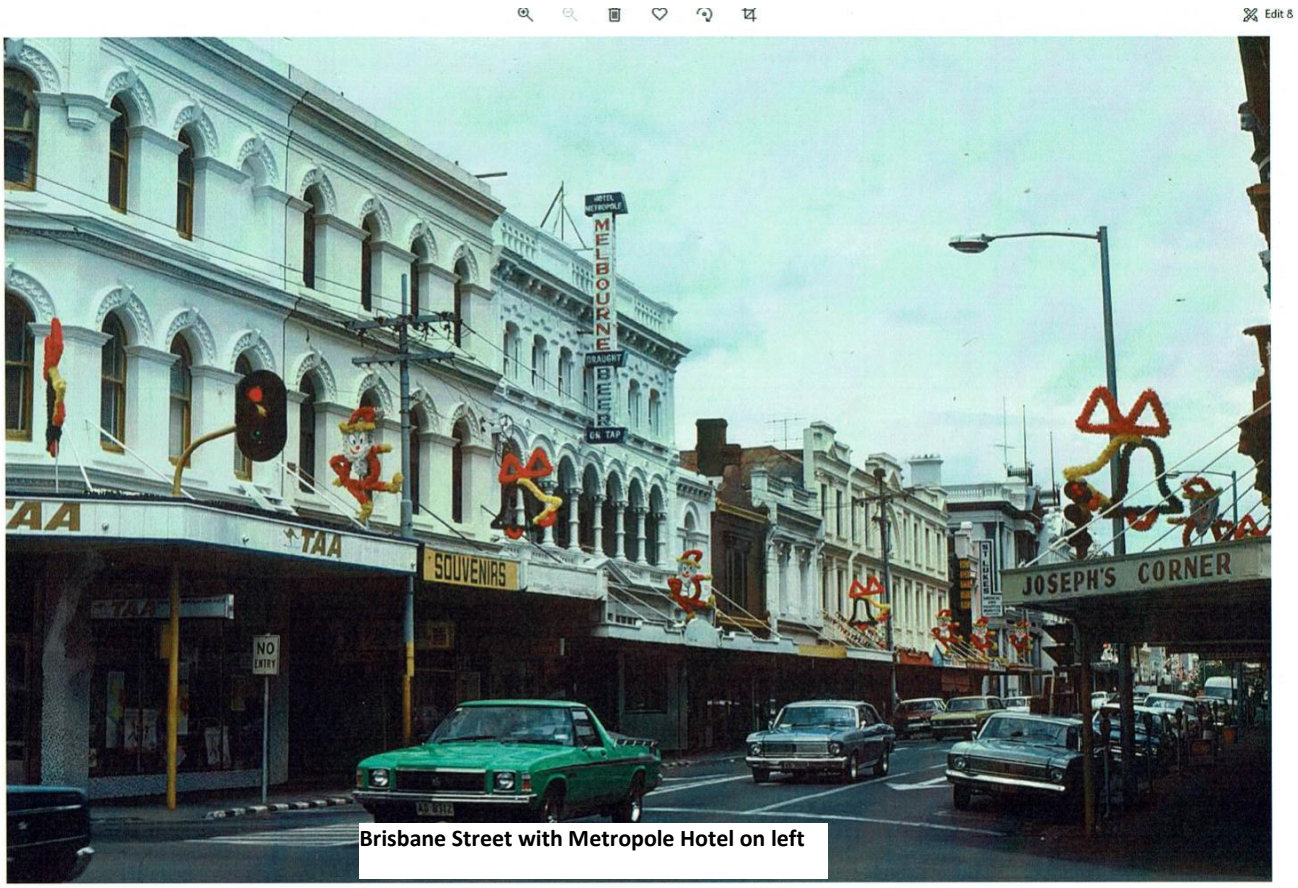


A later photo of the Launceston Coffee Palace, with Bidencopes occupying the shop at right, previously a confectionery and pastrycook's

In 1892, Sutton visited Sydney and Melbourne to inspect "most modern improvements which are

in vogue in the large hotels and coffee palaces", then met his head cook in Melbourne to investigate the latest kitchen equipment. He came back enthused about electric lighting, pointing out that the Victoria Coffee Palace in Melbourne used 270 electric lights at an annual cost of £1/1/- per light, while another Coffee Palace used 200 gas lights at an annual cost of £2/10/- per light and of course the electric lights were much more brilliant. The Launceston Coffee Palace introduced electric lights in May 1896, "no less than 160 lights being required", but it was not the first in Launceston, the International Coffee Palace having switched on its lights in March.

In 1898, the name was changed to the Metropole Coffee Palace. In 1901, Mr Sutton retired and the Metropole was taken over by Mr W. Hunt. Sutton died in 1906. Shortly after the Metropole acquired a liquor licence and became the Metropole Hotel, becoming a well known Launceston landmark until the 1970s.



Brisbane Street with Metropole Hotel on left

UNITED STATES COFFEE PALACE 1886-1889

The United States Coffee Palace is first mentioned in February, 1888, when Mr H.A. Walker relocates to George Street, near Paterson Street in the premises previously occupied by the City Restaurant. This was apparently almost opposite his previous premises. Meals were 6d. and accommodation 16s. per week.

In December, 1889, we read:

TO THE PUBLIC
MR H. A. WALKER
(LATE OF THE UNITED STATES COFFEE
PALACE, GEORGE-ST., LAUNCESTON),
Thanks the public for their patronage
during the last four years, and hopes that
the same encouragement will be accorded
to his successor
MR JOHN MARTIN.
December 5, 1889.[10]

This suggests the business was founded at the previous George Street address in 1885 or 1886. There is no further mention of the Coffee Palace under the management of John Martin.

TYNAN'S COFFEE PALACE 1888-89

Patrick Tynan was licensee of the Terminus Hotel on the corner of Tamar and William Streets throughout the 1880s and built a new hotel on the corner of Tamar St and The Esplanade in 1888. He opened this in December 1888 as Tynan's Coffee Palace, but this seems to have been only while awaiting his liquor licence, which was granted in April, 1889. After this the building was known as Tynan's Hotel and later Tynan's Bridge Hotel.

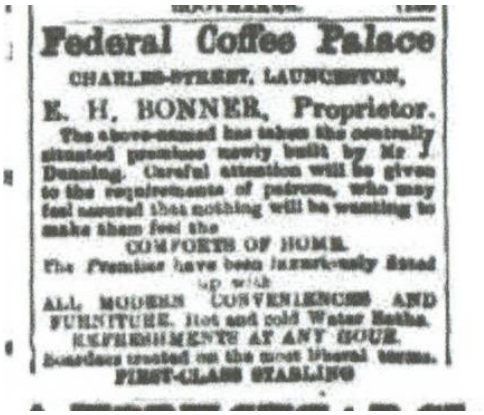


VICTORIA COFFEE PALACE 1888-1910

The Victoria Coffee Palace at 21 Quadrant Mall first advertises for boarders in April, 1888. Mr. Fred Parsons was the proprietor. The last advertisement is in 1910. It was a frequent advertiser in the local newspapers, offering "well cooked substantial meals" for 9d. and weekly board at 16/-.

[10] Daily Telegraph 6/12/1889

FEDERAL COFFEE PALACE 1889 – 1894


Federal Coffee Palace
CHARLES-STREET, LAUNCESTON,
E. H. BONNER, Proprietor.
The above-named has taken the centrally situated premises newly built by Mr J. Dunning. Careful attention will be given to the requirements of patrons, who may feel assured that nothing will be wanting to make them feel the
COMFORTS OF HOME.
The Premises have been luxuriously fitted up with
ALL MODERN CONVENIENCES AND FURNITURE. Hot and cold Water Baths.
REFRESHMENTS AT ANY HOUR.
Boarders treated on the most liberal terms.
FIRST-CLASS STABLING

In June, 1888 Messrs John Dunning and John Hunter advertised for tenders for the construction of "a Coffee Palace, six Shops and Residences at 72 Charles-street." Mr. J.F. Farmilo won the work with a tender of £3,815. The Federal Coffee Palace was opened on September 14, 1889, under the management of Mr E.H Bonner[11], and featured 19 rooms with 14 of them bedrooms, a large sitting room with a piano, a smoking room, a commodious dining room and a refreshment room intended for use between meal times. There were stables and a bakehouse at the rear.[12]

The Federal Coffee Palace was put up for sale in July 1890 "subject to a building lease, which expires on August 1, 1914, at an annual rent of £200, payable quarterly,"[13] but was passed in at £4,600.



[11] Bonner had been the proprietor of the Launceston to Scottsdale coach line before the introduction of the railway.
[12] Appendix 2
[13] Examiner 17/7/1890. The lease was held by John Dunning.

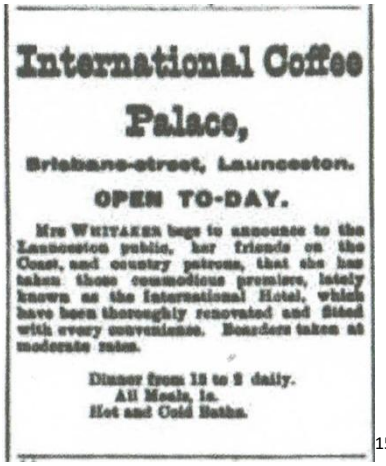
Mr Bonner relinquished the lease in April 1891 and it was taken up by Mr William Harvey "that well known caterer, late of York-street." In August he was advertising:

FEDERAL COFFEE PALACE,
CHARLES-STREET, LAUNCESTON.
W. HARVEY, PROPRIETOR,
MANY YEARS STEWARD ON THE
NORTH-WEST COAST STEAMERS.:
A comfortable home for visitors. A
good table. Breakfast at 8 a.m.; dinner
at 1 p.m.; tea at 6 p.m.; luncheon
throughout the day. A cup of tea, coffee,
or cocoa at any time. Bedding all new.
Cleanliness and attention a specialty.[14]

In July, 1892 the freehold was sold to Mr William Sidebottom for £3250.
In 1894 a Mrs Abney is advertising soup luncheons at "Abney House, late Federal Coffee Palace".
The façade of the old coffee palace with the 1888 construction date is still to be found over the shops at 72 Charles Street, between Brisbane and Paterson Streets.

INTERNATIONAL COFFEE PALACE 1894 – 1929

In August 1894, Mrs. Whitaker, who had run the Latrobe Coffee Palace for some time, secured a large portion of the late International Hotel at 130 Brisbane Street, and, after extensive alterations and improvements, opened the International Coffee Palace, advertising:


International Coffee Palace,

Brisbane-street, Launceston.

OPEN TO-DAY.

Mrs WHITAKER begs to announce to the Launceston public, her friends on the Coast, and country patrons, that she has taken those commodious premises, lately known as the International Hotel, which have been thoroughly renovated and fitted with every convenience. Boarders taken at moderate rates.

Dinner from 12 to 2 daily.
All Meals, 1s.
Hot and Cold Baths.

[15]

In March, 1896, it was the first coffee palace in Tasmania to introduce electric light, and proudly advertised the fact saying: *"We lead, others follow. Progressive citizens, make this your house of call."*
In August the same year, Mrs. Fanny Whitaker, the proprietress, announced "extensive additions to meet increased business".
In 1900, the Assessment Roll lists Charlotte Robinson as proprietress.

[14] Examiner, 14/8/1891
[15] Examiner 18/8/1894

The property was purchased by the National Bank in 1922, but it appears to have continued trading as Perry's International Coffee Palace until about 1934, when the Ezy Walkin Company of Melbourne purchased the block of shops adjoining the National Bank, including the International Coffee Palace. The Examiner reports: *"the International Coffee Palace will retain the third shop, which will form an entrance to their renovated and greatly improved residential hotel."*[16]
It continued to trade into the 1950s.

QUADRANT COFFEE PALACE 1896 - 1897

Mrs. Wilton opened the Quadrant Coffee Palace in June 1896 at 27 Quadrant, with the following ad in the Telegraph:

A TOWN HOME FOR COUNTRY PEOPLE,
QUADRANT COFFEE PALACE

3 and 4 course dinner, 9d. Home comforts and convenience. Low terms for boarders. 27 Quadrant. Mrs WILTON, Prop. The premises until recently occupied by Mr W. Boddon, 27 Quadrant, having been renovated and furnished, are to be known in future as the Quadrant Coffee Palace. The same will be open from to-day, and under the proprietorship of Mrs Wilton will be made to meet all demands, in the way of homely conveniences, for country residents and others visiting Launceston. *17*

As an extra inducement she was offering *"No extra charge for second or third helpings".*
There was clearly a healthy rivalry between the two coffee palaces in the Quadrant. In October 1896 the Victoria Coffee Palace advertised:

A GOOD MEAL is always to be had at
Parsons' Victoria Coffee Palace.
All Meals, 9s.- Tickets for permanent customers,
7s 6d per doz. No connection with
any other Coffee Palace in the Quadrant.

And Mrs Wilton countered:

A BETTER MEAL is always to be had
at Wilton's Quadrant Coffee Palace
than elsewhere for 9d. Four-course dinners,
horses, free stabling. Tickets, 7s per dozen.
Cyclists catered for, Mrs G. Wilton, Prop.[18]

[16] Examiner 20/101934
[17] Telegraph 22/6/1896
[18] Telegraph, 8/10/1896

It appears to have been short-lived and there is no mention in the press after 1897.

BISHOPS TEMPERANCE HOTEL / TEMPERANCE COFFEE PALACE / SHIELD'S COFFEE PALACE / AUSTRAL COFFEE PALACE 1879 (but probably earlier) - 1920



Austral Coffee Palace, Esplanade

Established on the site of the former Burten Brewery in the Esplanade, and originally known as Bishop's Temperance Hotel, it became more commonly known as Shields' Temperance Hotel and then Shields' Coffee Palace during the time it was run by Mr. D. Shields. It is first mentioned in July, 1893, situated in the Esplanade, near the Queen's Wharf. In 1894, wharf extensions were completed so that *"the wharf available for shipping will extend from the Tamar-street bridge to a point opposite Gunn-street on the Inveresk side, and Shields's Coffee Palace on the town side of the river."*[19]

[19] Examiner 14/7/1894

In 1896, Mr Shields was advertising:

SHIELDS' COFFEE PALACE
QUEEN'S WHARF, Launceston
Visitors will find every comfort and convenience
at the above establishment, combined with
strictly moderate charges.
D. Shields, Proprietor.[20]

In April 1896, the coffee palace was advertised to let, with furniture at valuation. In September the lease was taken up by Mrs. W. Bishop, whose late husband had run the coffee palace previously, as Bishops' Temperance Hotel, before Shields. She renamed the business Austral Coffee Palace and her ad read:


BUSINESS NOTICES.

"When you come to stay
For a month or day"

ensure the comfort of home
by staying at the

Austral Coffee Palace

(Late Shields').

Mrs W. Bishop has taken over the management of this splendidly situated Coffee Palace on the Esplanade, and trusts that friends will remember how well it was conducted some years ago by her late husband.

The Electric Light

has been installed throughout.

New Bath Rooms, Lavatories, etc., have been added for Ladies and Gentlemen.

Meals always ready.

First-class Stable Accommodation.

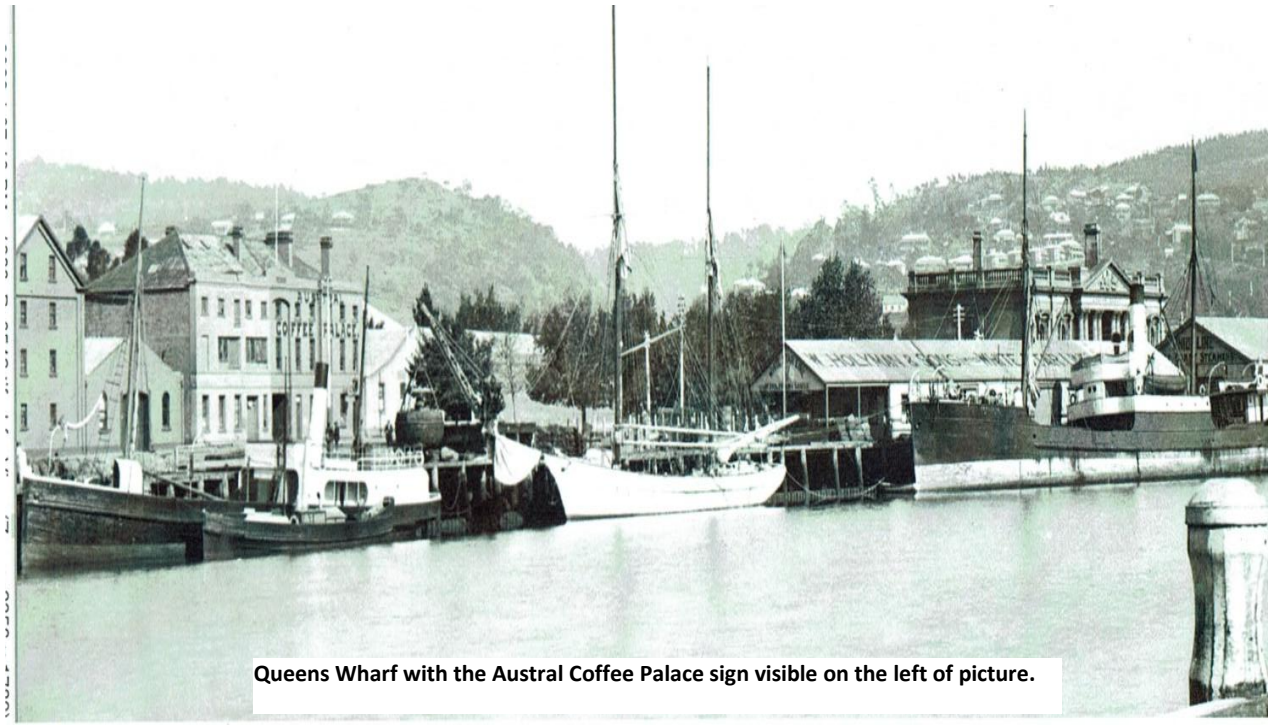
THE AUSTRAL COFFEE PALACE

is close to the Shipping and Railways, and a few minutes' walk from Post Office.

MRS W. BISHOP,
Austral Coffee Palace,
Esplanade, Wharf.

21

[20] Telegraph 8/5/1894
[21] Telegraph 7/10/1896



Queens Wharf with the Austral Coffee Palace sign visible on the left of picture.

In November 1899, Mrs Bishop “retiring from business” offered the coffee palace for sale as a going concern. In April 1900, it is advertised under the management of Mrs Rogers “renovated and refurbished”. In November 1903 the Austral Coffee Palace was offered at auction, with “28 rooms, also a 2-stall stable, cart-shed, store rooms, and wash-house. The land contains 31 5-10 perches, and has a frontage on the Esplanade of 59 feet and 5 inches, and an average depth of 175 feet. It was taken over by Mrs A. Grounds as proprietress, offering meals and beds for 1s. In 1906, it was again offered for sale, apparently in some financial difficulty as Mr A. E. Grounds advertises that he will not be responsible for debts incurred by his wife. The Austral was still advertising for boarders in 1910 and in 1915, Mrs Crooks was proprietress of the palace “entirely renovated and up to date”.
In 1920, we see advertised ”Brick building, Esplanade, known as the Austral Coffee Palace, with a frontage of 74J links and a depth of 43 3-10 links. It was sold to the Public Trustee and this seems to be the end of its 30 year life as a coffee palace, although it is advertised again in 1927 as “property known as the Austral Coffee Palace.”

The building was demolished in the 1950s and the site now makes up part of Monds Flour Mills in the Esplanade.

JUBILEE COFFEE PALACE 1897

The Jubilee Coffee Palace in the Quadrant advertised between June and December of 1897, The ads carried the name Barker. It is possible that there were briefly three coffee palaces in the Quadrant, but it seems more likely that this was a temporary rebranding of the Quadrant Coffee Palace before its closure in 1897.

IMPERIAL COFFEE PALACE 1898-1922

Mr. Theopholis Cope took over the Wade's Refreshment Rooms at 91 Brisbane St. (previously the Temperance Hotel run by Samuel Sutton) in October 1898 and opened the Imperial Luncheon Refreshment Rooms, which was also known as the Imperial Coffee Palace. A detailed description was published in the Daily Telegraph and is included at *Appendix 4.* It was taken over by George Gladman in 1907 and he continued to run the business until at least 1919.

COMMONWEALTH COFFEE PALACE 1904 - 1954



Commonwealth Coffee Palace. The original, with 66 rooms, must have been much larger

The architect, A. North, called for tenders for the Commonwealth Coffee Palace in May, 1903, a building of 66 rooms, to be erected at 23-29 Tamar Street not far from the railway. The Examiner published a detailed description of the plans, which is included at *Appendix 3.* It was originally planned as a four story building of 200 rooms but was never completed. J & T Gunn got the job with a construction time of seven months. In February, 1904, Mr J.B. Waldron advertised that it would be ready for occupation March 1. It took a little longer as in September Mr Waldron invited the public to inspect the premises "before they are tenanted next week". In 1904 it was advertised to let (probably in error) as the Commercial Coffee Palace. They began advertising for tenants in October, with Mrs Richardson as proprietress. In May, 1905 the goodwill and furnishings were offered for sale with the ad boasting "a really good business has already been done".

Mrs D.G. Wakelin took over as proprietress, but retired through ill health in July 1907 and the business was again offered for sale as "a good and steadily increasing business". Advertising at the time claimed that the coffee palace could accommodate 150 people. The goodwill and furnishings sold for £450. The new proprietor was Mr.H.J. Knott and in 1908 the tariff was 4s. a day or 20s. a week.

In January 1912, ill health again caused the sale of this "flourishing business".

It was taken over by Mr R.E Russell, who had something of a flair for advertising:

C.C.P., Mamma! Just fancy! How nice for the Competitions.

C.C.P.-What's that, Gertie? What's taken your fancy now?

C.C.P.-Oh, Mamma-It's just lovely. You know Mr. Russell?

C.C.P.-Russell, -of Charles-St? Yes; Nice man. What of him?



Looking down William Street to the Commonwealth Coffee Palace in Tamar Street

D.C.P.--He's purchased the Commonwealth Coffee Palace. We must stay there at Easter.[22]

Mr. Russell's tenure was brief however, and 1913 sees Mr W.C. Wilson in charge. In 1939 it is advertised as Luck's Coffee Palace.
The Commonwealth Coffee Palace was sold as part of the estate of James B. Waldron in 1949, but continued to trade until the 1950s, alternatively advertised as the Commonwealth Coffee Palace and Luck's Coffee Palace, and was demolished in the 1960s. With a working life of 40 years it was one of the longest lived of all the Launceston coffee palaces.

ROYAL COFFEE PALACE/LAUNCESTON COFFEE PALACE 1902 - 1916

William Doodie was a Launceston publican who established the Royal Coffee Palace, a brick building of 17 rooms, on the Corner of George and William Streets in 1902. In 1911, Mrs Laura Parish, retiring through ill health, sold the furniture and effects. It was advertised to let in 1912, and adopted the name Launceston Coffee Palace when the original Launceston Coffee Palace in Briisbane St. changed its name to the Metropole. It was still trading in 1916 under the management of Mrs. R.T. Rose.

[22] Examiner 2/3/1912

In 1908 Mrs Doodie advertised Doodie's Alexandra Coffee Palace at 8 William Street, which would have been close to Tamar Street.

TASMANIAN COFFEE PALACE 1908 - 1917

The Tasmanian Coffee Palace was at 30/32 Cameron Street, between Tamar and George Streets and close to Holy Trinity Church. It was a brick building of 24 rooms. It was first advertised in 1908 offering "First class meals 9d. Good beds 1s.". In 1917 it was taken over by Mr R. E. Russell, who established Russell's Dining Rooms. Russell at different times also leased the Commonwealth Coffee Palace, the Royal Coffee Palace, Launceston Coffee Palace (York St) and Russell's Coffee Palace in Charles St., so he may have run five of these institutions at different times.

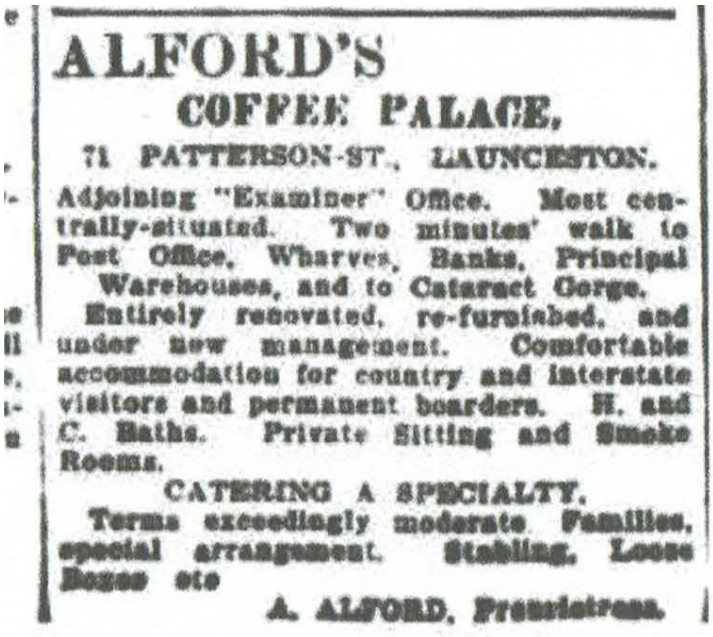
The Tasmanian Coffee Palace in Cameron Street is last advertised in August, 1917.

LAUNCESTON COFFEE PALACE (YORK STREET) 1908 - 1913

When the original Launceston Coffee Palace, established by Samuel Sutton in 1882, changed its name to the Metropole, two other establishments took up the Launceston name - the Royal Coffee Palace on the corner of George and William Streets became the Launceston Coffee Palace and a coffee palace at 89 York Street, which advertised "LAUNCESTON COFFEE PALACE -DINNER, 3 courses for 6d; all Meals, 6d; good Beds, 1/; special terms for boarders." Proprietor was Mr. R.E. Russell, and it was sometimes referred to as Russell's Coffee Palace.

ALFORD'S COFFEE PALACE 1906

Alford's Coffee Palace advertised over two months in 1906:


ALFORD'S
COFFEE PALACE,
71 PATTERSON-ST., LAUNCESTON.
Adjoining "Examiner" Office. Most centrally-situated. Two minutes' walk to Post Office, Wharves, Banks, Principal Warehouses, and to Cataract Gorge.
Entirely renovated, re-furnished, and under new management. Comfortable accommodation for country and interstate visitors and permanent boarders. H. and C. Baths. Private Sitting and Smoke Rooms.
CATERING A SPECIALTY.
Terms exceedingly moderate. Families, special arrangement. Stabling. Loose Boxes etc
A. ALFORD, Proprietress.

This may have been the same building used by John Stoneham in 1842 as the Temperance Coffee House.

RUSSELL'S COFFEE PALACE 1921 – 1924

Mr R.E. Russell who had previously had the Commonwealth, the Tasmanian, the Royal and the Launceston (York St) coffee houses, advertises a new coffee palace at 203 Charles St., close to Elizabeth Street, saying "best of meals. Boarders taken."

WORKING IN A COFFEE PALACE

Working conditions in Launceston coffee palaces were very poor. Employees, usually women, would often be expected to work a 90 hour week with no day off. Despite frequent complaints, it was not until 1907 that the Industrial Commission took an interest, saying that *"the hours were so excessive that steps should be taken to regulate them, and to provide those servants with a full half-holiday weekly."*[23]

Despite this intervention, it took another six years for the Wages Board to act, restricting the hours to 56 per week and setting minimum wage rates in 1913. These varied according to the size of the employer, but on average were a considerable improvement, with a waitress and a housemaid earning 15 shillings a week, plus room and board. In positions where both men and women were employed, women earned "three fifths of the male rate".

THE DECLINE OF COFFEE PALACES

The true coffee palace era was largely terminated by the economic downturn and depression of the 1890s. Some acquired licences and continued as conventional hotels, others became boarding houses and some of the buildings were simply put to different usage. From 1900 the term coffee palace was adopted by small residential hotels and guest houses, most of which offered a dining room open to the public but did not have the grand scale of the true coffee palaces of the 1880s.

[23] Examiner, 1/10/1907

APPENDIX 1

THE LAUNCESTON COFFEE PALACE

A detailed description by the Examiner's correspondent
Report from the Examiner 25/1/1882

The Launceston Coffee Palace, Brisbane-street, which is undoubtedly one of the most ornamental, as well as useful, institutions in the town, is now completed and will to-day be thrown open for inspection by visitors.

The structure, which presents an imposing appearance, has a frontage on the street of 45 feet, and a depth of 107 feet. In the front of the building are two commodious shops, one of which will be used by the proprietor, and the other has been engaged as an office by the Australian Provident Assurance Company.

The confectioner's shop has been fitted up in the most approved manner with a handsome counter, the front being of Huon pine and cedar top. Handsome Corinthian columns are also attached to it, which, together with the mouldings, have been tastefully ebonised. The windows have been fitted up with a novelty, the pulleys and ropes for raising them being hidden from view, and the sashes hung from the centre instead of from the top.

Near the centre of the shop is placed a smaller counter, made after the same design as its large companion, and intended as a stand for a coffee urn. The shelves around the room will afford ample accommodation for articles appertaining to the confectionery department. The shop has been fitted up by Mr. Anderson, of George-street.

The hall and main entrance are both noticeable features in this building. Upon the left side as you enter at the front door, has been constructed a post-office box, for the convenience of lodgers, which will be cleared by letter carriers twice a day. The hall, which is 57 feet long by 13 feet 6 inches in height and eight feet in width, is provided with handsome folding doors and side lights.

Near these doors are placed two large statues, one of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and the other of the Princess of Wales. Upon the right a neat glass box for the reception of letters that come for lodgers and visitors, and other memoranda, has been fitted.

On the left side, and 23 feet from the front door, is the grand staircase, which runs from top to bottom of the building. Next to this is a comfortable room, intended to serve as a ladies' dining apartment, furnished with couches, marble-top tables, Austrian bentwood chairs, and a piano. The coffee-room, which adjoins the front shop, has in it all that is required for the accommodation of visitors who wish to obtain refreshments.

Behind this apartment is the reading-room, which is furnished with a leather-top table, couches, etc, and will be provided with all the principal journals and periodicals. The smoking-room is also fitted up in a most comfortable manner, with all the requisites required by those who patronise the apartment to enjoy a "whiff". Placed on the walls of this room, and all through the building, are diamond-shaped ribbed glass strikers, for the use of those requiring to light matches. This idea is an excellent one, as it prevents persons from striking matches upon the walls, and thus disfiguring them.

At the end of the main hall is the public dining-room, a spacious apartment 30 feet in length by 20 feet in breadth, and 13 foot 6 inches in height. This room contains a number of handsome marble-top tables of various sizes, a large pier glass, and two commodious glass cases filled with all the requisites of a dining apartment. It is lighted by two gas reflectors from the ceiling.

Upon a side-board is placed a large coffee urn, manufactured by Mr. Goodwin, of George-street, in a manner that reflects credit upon his skill as a workman in this department. Off from the dining-room is the pantry, an apartment 16 feet long by 9 feet wide, and 13 feet 6 inches in height. This room is fitted with all the appliances for hot and cold water, and with large cupboards for the reception of crockery.

The crockery is the best description, being mostly Indian stone china, purchased, by Mr. Sutton from Webb's Hotel, Hobart. The kitchen calls for special mention, on account of the completeness of its fixtures and furniture. It is fitted with a large stove, containing two ovens, manufactured by Pullenger, of Flinders-lane west, Melbourne; also a plate rack, and everything complete. There is besides this a superior gas stove, of English manufacture, which will greatly facilitate matters when any cooking is required to be done with speed. Beside the gas stove is a large grill oven for the cooking of chops and steaks, which is also from the establishment of Mr Pullenger.

The kitchen, also contains a steam carving table and plate closets. Fitted into the table are three dishes upon which the meats will be placed and kept hot by steam. The steam bain-marie or hot bath for keeping soup and sauces warm will also prove a useful addition to this department.

Amongst the other articles worthy of notice are the fine battery of copper utensils, jelly moulds, and the freezing apparatus for ice creams. The cooking department will be under the charge of Mr G. Sayer, late of Melbourne, who comes here with a first class reputation as a chef-de-cuisine.

Adjoining the kitchen is the vegetable room and scullery which contains a large boiler for the heating of the steam table and other necessary work. The table in this room has connected with it four steamers for the reception of provisions that require cooling. The washing trough for cleansing dishes, etc., is fitted with superior hot and cold water appliances, and above it is placed a large plate rack. The boiler was put up under the superintendence of Mr Meech, engineer, of Hobart.

Detached from the main building are the bootery, coal, and coke sheds. The bakery is behind these, and the machinery for baking is fitted up in a large apartment 52 feet overall. At the top end of the room two large ovens, each 12 feet by 10 feet, have been constructed.

The ovens are patent register, and are fitted with gas appliances. The machinery for the manufacturing of biscuits calls for special attention on account of its efficiency. A large engine made by Nicholson and Son of Newark, England, occupies a prominent position in the room, and will be used in connection with the biscuit making machinery.

The first floor of the Coffee Palace is occupied chiefly by drawing-rooms and the principal sleeping apartments. There are two drawing-rooms, each opening out on to a fine balcony 42 feet in length by 7 feet wide.

Both apartments are supplied with handsome creton furniture from the establishment of Mr Richards, of this town. One of the drawing-rooms contains a splendid pianoforte manufactured by Lipp, and in the other is a grand organ from the famous establishment of Estey and Co., U.S.

The balcony will afford a pleasant promenade to visitors and lodgers, and is fitted with seats and flower stands, besides being lighted with gas. The hall on this floor is 50 feet long by 8 feet broad, and is tastefully furnished.

Besides the eight bedrooms, all of which are furnished with half-tester bedsteads, and other appropriate appliances from Ayton's furniture warehouse, Hobart. At the end of the hall is placed a large linen press, and at the termination of a wide passage is a well-fitted up ladies' bath-room, supplied with hot and cold water.

On the top flight there are 21 bedrooms, all of which are comfortably furnished, besides a bathroom. In the vicinity of the bathrooms are placed cisterns for the purpose of supplying the house with hot water. The water supply arrangements throughout the building are most perfect. At the back of the kitchen range is fitted a large shoe boiler, capable of holding 40 gallons of water. Immediately over this is a large souper heater. This boiler is fed from a large 300-gallon tank placed on the top of the building, and supplies the whole of the establishment with hot water. The water is heated by a small kitchen fire.

On the whole, the building can be justly said to hold its own with any of a similar description in the Australian colonies, and the thanks of the Launceston public are due to Mr S. Sutton for his enterprise in providing their town with such an ornamental and, at the same tim, useful edifice. There can be no doubt but that both the townspeople and visitors will liberally patronise the building, and so reward the energy and perseverance of its proprietor.

The palace has altogether been erected at a cost to Mr Sutton of£6,500. It will be thrown open for inspection by visitors to-day, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., to-morrow from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., and on Saturday business will be commenced in the building.

A later description from the Examiner 24 January, 1884 (after redevelopment)

THE COFFEE PALACE

As most of our readers are acquainted with the exterior of the above, it is needless for us to enter into a description save that it is a handsome looking structure, containing three storeys, extending over the premises rented to the Colonial Mutual Insurance Company and the shop now occupied by Mr. Dean as a pastry-cook's.

There are two outer double doors which are thrown open during the day, giving admission to a passage wide and lofty. A little way on there is a second pair of swing doors, with glass panels, giving admission to the dining-room, which is 36 feet by 45 feet, and 15 feet high. Eleven windows, 7 feet high, give a sufficiency of light, while at night four gas chandeliers illuminate the apartment. At one end of this room, a circular refreshment bar is to be erected, at which tea, coffee, and other light refreshments will be dispensed. Proceeding to the back we enter the pantry and serving-room 45 feet by 16 feet, which is fitted up with a steam table, steam chest, and Bauiberi tin.

Passing from hence the billiard room is reached, 40 feet by 23 feet, and 10 feet high, this is to be fitted up with Alcock's best tables. The kitchen in the rear has Pullinger's ranges, with shoe boiler holding 30 gallons of water. A grill, also of Pillinger's manufacture, completes the most noteworthy cooking apparatus.

In the roof there is a receptacle for the steam from cooking, which finds an outlet into the main chimney whence it is carried over the top of the house, thus preventing a disagreeable smell of cooking to permeate the rooms of the Palace.

Returning from kitchen through the dining room into the passage, we enter on the left hand side the ladies' dining-room, 25 feet by 15 feet and 14 feet high. An arch, from which curtains will be suspended, can, at will, be lowered, dividing the room for additional privacy. Small tables on iron standards will be fitted up here.

Next to this room and facing the staircase is Mr. Sutton's office, to which a telephone is fitted. On the opposite side of the passage there is a reading room, 22 feet by 16 feet and 14 feet high. Here

newspapers of various kinds abound in profusion, where a bookcase with volumes of various kinds are to be met with.

Opposite the office there is a store fitted up like a retail shop, with all kinds of necessaries for the house. Proceeding up stairs we step on to the balcony, 45 feet long supported by seven arches. Gas is laid on here, so that it can be illuminated at any time.

On this floor there are two handsome sitting rooms, one containing an excellent cabinet organ, and the other a piano for the use of visitors. There are eight good double-bedded rooms 14 feet by 12 feet and 11 feet high, and 14 single rooms. Two bathrooms, with hot and cold water laid on, and lavatories, complete the floor.

Proceeding upstairs, we find five double and 30 single-bedded rooms, of good size and well ventilated, with bath-rooms and conveniences similar to the flat below. There are two staircases, one leading-directly into the dining-room, the other (the main) to the hall.

Mr Sutton informs us that he can make up 100 beds at any moment. Every bedroom has one or more windows. There are linen presses and bells fitted up throughout. There is also below a luggage room for the storage of belongings not required for immediate use by visitors.

We have no doubt Mr Sutton will, with such excellent accommodation at command, find his hotel well patronised by the travelling and general public.

APPENDIX 2

FEDERAL COFFEE PALACE

A description from the Examiner's correspondent.

From the Examiner March 22, 1889

In the course of another week the new Coffee Palace, which for some time past has been in course of erection in Charles street, will be completed, the workmen at present being engaged in putting the finishing touches on the building, and constructing a verandah over the side-walk in front.

The premises, which are built of brick with cement facings and two storeyed, contains six shops, each with a depth of 46 feet, having show-rooms attached. Four of these shops have residence apartments, including bathroom, scullery, kitchen, and lavatory connected with each, while two are without. The centre shop it is intended shall be let for the carrying on of a confectionery business, with a restaurant and dining-rooms attached.

The private entrance to this portion of the building will be through a commodious right-of-way which runs through the centre from Charles-street to the rear of the premises.

At the back, a bake-house fitted with all necessary appliances has been constructed for use in connection with the Coffee Palace proper. On the second storey there are a number of commodious apartments, where accommodation can be found for lodgers, while bath and billiard rooms have also been provided.

It is the intention of the proprietors to have the Coffee Palace conducted as an establishment where a superior class of meals will be supplied at all hours of the day, and as the position is central such an institution should receive a considerable share of public patronage.

The building has been constructed by Mr. J. T. Farmilo, and Messrs. Corrio and North were the architects.

APPENDIX 3

THE COMMONWEALTH COFFEE PALACE

Examiner's correspondent reports on a meeting with the architect

FROM THE EXAMINER 13/5/1903

AN UP-TO-DATE COFFEE PALACE

Another valuable addition to the many buildings now in course of construction in Launceston has been decided upon. This will consist of a coffee palace, to be conducted on modern lines, and which will be erected in Tamar-street, nearly opposite William-street, to the order of Mr. J. D. Waldron.

A representative of the "Examiner" yesterday had the pleasure of inspecting the plans at the office of Mr. A. North, the architect. The building when completed will have about 150 bedrooms, but at present it is only intended to put up a portion of the structure, with 50 bedrooms.

The dining-room will be a fine spacious apartment, 25 feet by 40 feet, and there will be all the necessary kitchens and offices. The appointments throughout will be of the most improved principle, especially the bathrooms and lavatory accommodation. The building is to be four storeys high, and the staircase will be wide and in short flights, with an easy rise.

The dining-room and principal halls will be ceiled with twill steel, the cornices being in embossed zinc, by which means a pleasing, effective, and permanent ornamentation will be obtained. All the interior division walls will be of brick, carried over the larger rooms on the ground floor by rolled steel girders. Lath and plaster partitions have been avoided, the risk from fire thus being reduced to a minimum.

The front elevation of the principal building is carried out in Italian Renaissance, and will give it a very handsome appearance. It is not intended to erect this part at present.

The coffee palace is to be named *The Commonwealth*, and tenders for its erection close on Friday. It will be ready for occupation early next summer.

APPENDIX 4

THE IMPERIAL COFFEE PALACE

Two descriptions of the Imperial Coffee Palace

From the Daily Telegraph, 7 October 1898

A New Business — The centrally situated premises 91 Brisbane Street formerly occupied as Sutton's Coffee Palace and more recently in the occupation of Mr Wade as a refreshment room has been thoroughly renovated.

The new lessee is Mr Theopholis Cope, who is well known as a pastry cook in Launceston and he intends opening the place as the Imperial luncheon and refreshment rooms.

The interior has been beautifully fitted with all the latest ideas for the equipment of an up to date establishment.

The shop, which will be stocked with pastry goods, refreshments and delicacies of all kinds, will afford ample room for customers to take away their purchases bought at the main counter, and a semi circular one is provided where summer drinks may be obtained. The dining room, screened from the shop by handsome curtains is lavishly decorated with handsome framed mirrors of beveled glass, hung on the walls at intervals, while an elaborate over mantel is a feature of the arrangement.

The larger dining tables occupy the centre of the hall and smaller ones are ranged at either side. The windows looking into the side entrance have been picturesquely painted so as to effectually prevent anyone looking into the room while they afford a pleasant aspect to the diners.

Mr Cope, who has had extensive experience as a public providore, will cater for the public in a manner hitherto unobtainable in Launceston; a four-course dinner will be obtainable every day for a modest charge and the cuisine will be of the best description.

There will be accommodation for boarders, all the bedroom like the rest of the premises having been thoroughly renewed and furnished on the most approved principles.

The shop fittings have been designed and erected by Mr Robert Scott, Wellington-Street. Mr Cope has engaged the services of a first class baker and ornamentor from New Zealand. He intends to make bridecakes a specialty as will be noticed by a glance at the windows on opening day, tomorrow.

From the Examiner October 7, 1899

THE IMPERIAL COFFEE PALACE AND CAFE.

It is just 12 months since some wiseacres and Job's comforters offered Mr Cope their advice and consolation on the weakness of his enterprise, informing him, as a caterer for the supply of public comforts, with such accommodation and environments, that his career would be of short duration. The proprietor desires to thank those well-wishers of 12 months ago for their good intentions, and wishes to inform them that under capable management his business has supplied a long-felt want in this city.

He desires more especially to thank the general public who have patronised his establishment for their past support, and hopes by renewed efforts and careful attention to business to still further merit their custom and support.

In comparison with other houses of the same kind, the "Imperial" stands out clear in front. From the moment you step inside the front door until you reach the top flat, the order throughout is cleanliness itself. Light penetrates everywhere, and brightness is the rule in every apartment.

There is a very comfortable little smoke room, a large well furnished sitting-room, with about 20 bedrooms, every one of which is larger and more airy than is usually found in coffee palaces of today. All round, the feeling is more that of home than is met within establishments of this kind, and Mr Cope merits well the support he receives in this part of the house.

The cafe and dining-room are special features in connection with the "Imperial." If you walk along Brisbane Street and view the outside you can form a pretty accurate conception of what the place is inside. Taste is displayed everywhere. In the dining-room the walls are covered with nicely framed mirrors, flowers adorn the white marble tables, and everything seems in its proper place. There is no crowding of furniture, and yet there are no bare spaces. The cafe the passerby can judge for himself.

Brightness, cleanliness, light, order, are everywhere in evidence. Pastries, cakes, and confections of the best only are in stock. Luncheons for business men, and afternoon tea for ladies, are specially catered for, and the cuisine given the closest care and attention. Country visitors, too, are beginning to find out the value of the "Imperial" as a place of casual residence, and the comforts to be obtained at its board. A single visit to this thoroughly well regulated house will satisfy the most fastidious.