

AHEAD OF THE PROCESSION

Facts Concerning the Mechanical Department of The Bee.

IT IS COMPLETE IN ALL OF ITS DETAILS

History of the Paper Furnishes the Key to the Typographical Inventions of the Press.

Among the myriad inventions of the past quarter of a century those which relate to the mechanical department of a great newspaper occupy a conspicuous place. For nearly four centuries and a half the art of printing has been in constant course of development, but within the memory of the present generation improvements have been added which were far more wonderful than Gutenberg's crude wooden blocks which furnished the material for the inventive genius of succeeding centuries. The history of The Bee affords a key to the typographical inventions of its period. For with its characteristic enterprise it has kept fully abreast of the times in its mechanical features. No sooner were the merits of new inventions and improvements adequately tested and established than they were drafted into the service of The Bee. Vast amounts of money were spent in procuring the most complete and the most perfect equipment of The Bee of today with the meager facilities which it afforded in its incipient days as an effective portrayal of what human ingenuity has accomplished during the period in which The Bee has existed. Twenty-five years ago the machines that are now regarded as necessary to the manufacture of a newspaper were unknown. Perfecting presses, stereotype apparatus, typesetting machines, automatic folders and the numerous other contrivances by which thousands of papers are turned out almost as soon as the forms are closed existed only in the visions of mechanical cranks. The hand press was universal and as only one side of a sheet could be printed at once each paper had to go through the machine at least twice, after which it was folded by hand.

It was with such appliances that the first copies of The Bee were issued. They were printed on an old Cincinnati hand cylinder press, which had been purchased by Redfield Bros. some years before for \$1,500. Its capacity was about 700 impressions or 350 sheets per hour. It would have required 137 hours of constant labor to accomplish what is now done in a single hour by the two large Web perfecting machines of The Bee press room. An intelligent contraband of nubian complexion named Archie Richmond furnished the motive power. He continued in the service of The Bee for over twenty years, but did not live to see its quarter century. This same press with the same dandy attachment was used until after the fire of 1872 when the office was removed to the Farnam street building.

FIRST FAST PRESS. At this time Mr. Rosewater purchased a three-revolution Hoe press with a capacity of 1,000 four-page impressions per hour. At that time the new press was accounted a marvel in Omaha, and although it was bought at second hand, it did satisfactory service for ten years. As the circulation of the paper continued to increase it was found necessary to supplement the Hoe press with a large cylinder, Cottrell & Babcock, which was also purchased at second hand. Then Mr. Rosewater purchased the first new press that The Bee had ever owned. It was a two-revolution Cottrell & Babcock and was at that time the finest press that had ever been brought into Nebraska. It was also used for job work when it was not required in getting out the paper.

About 1881 the first folding machine was put on the market. It was manufactured by Chambers of Philadelphia and its merits were soon and appreciated by Mr. Rosewater. He at once ordered one of the machines and in due time The Bee office was equipped with the first folder ever seen in the state.

The next purchase was a second-hand double cylinder Hoe press, and this was shortly followed by a Dexter automatic press. In 1883 another double cylinder press was added, which was equipped with two Dexter folders. These additions raised the mechanical department of the paper to a standard which was not approached by any paper in this part of the country at that time.

But by this time The Weekly Bee had attained a large circulation and even these facilities were found inadequate. Great difficulty was experienced in getting the editions of the press in time for the mails, and Mr. Rosewater decided to provide himself with what was then the latest invention, the Webb perfecting press. One of these machines was purchased at the "Potter" store at Lincoln, N. D., at a cost of \$17,000, and it was put in operation September 28, 1885. It included the dampening machine and the stereotyping apparatus and had a capacity of 12,000 complete papers per hour. A year later this was supplemented by another similar press, so that The Bee office was capable of printing nearly 25,000 papers per hour.

PECULIAR PASTING DEVICE. There is a unique little machine in use in The Bee press room, which is used to seal all papers which are sent out for sale on very small cost, so that it is fast in its operation. One of the greatest features by which the circulation department of all newspapers has had to contend is the practice of newsmen on the trains selling a paper over and over again, thereby making it up after the passenger has left the train and returning it as an unsold copy. This machine is a simple attachment to the press which seals the edges of the paper on the top edge. When a paper is opened the pasted edge will be broken and no return which has been opened can be returned as representing an unsold paper. This machine is the invention of the foreman of The Bee pressroom, Fred Youngs, and is the first thing of the kind that has been both a mechanical and financial success. The Bee now saves 25 per cent on papers sent to railroad news companies.

The machine consists of a brass paste can attached to the frame of the press by a vertical rod, a toothed paste wheel and an eccentric friction wheel. The friction wheel runs on the binding reel, just before it goes into the binders, and the paper is pasted just after leaving the angle bar before the sheet is folded. The friction wheel turns the paste wheel, and, being an eccentric, when the round surface is against the binding reel, the whole machine is pushed up on the vertical rod, and it is only when its flat portion is on the reel that the paste wheel touches the paper. In this way the paper is pasted together in three places on its top edge. Just after the paper is thus pasted it passes through the binding reels and is firmly pressed together and sealed. Specially prepared colored paste is used and the shade is varied from day to day, so that it is impossible for the train boys to imitate the machine sealing and peculiar coloring. This is accomplished by using a gear and using positive motion instead of friction motion it can be attached to any press and will no doubt be used before long in every press room in the country.

PRESS ROOM OF THE BEE. The present press room of The Bee is located at the left of the court from the entrance, but as perfectly in the machinery which was used when the two perfecting presses are running at their full capacity

not the slightest jar is perceptible. In this respect the arrangement of The Bee differs from that of other large dailies. The press room is usually located in the basement, and the space occupied is 20x75 feet, which is divided into two compartments. The presses occupy one, while the other is used as a mailing room. The floor in the press room rests on twelve-inch steel beams arched with brick and covered with a layer of concrete. In order to prevent communication of the vibration of the machinery to the walls of the building, the presses themselves are placed on a foundation which is entirely independent of the building. The ground in the basement was excavated to admit foundations of concrete, and from these solid brick buttresses rise to about eight inches above the floor in the press room. On these rest the huge presses, and no matter how rapidly they revolve no tremor is communicated to the floor around.

To describe the intricate mechanism of the perfecting press would require several volumes. The blank paper is hung in burlap rolls at one end and completely printed and folded papers come out at the other more rapidly than the observer can count. A feature of the Bee press room is that there is no visible motive power. No belt or shafting disfigures the apartment, but the power is communicated by belts that run through the floor from the engine room in the basement and connect directly with the main shaft.

IN THE MAILING ROOM on the right the papers are stacked and mailed on several tables, surmounted by polished marble slabs. Here more than 100,000 Bees are handled every week, exclusively of the papers delivered at Omaha, South Omaha, Council Bluffs and Lincoln. One of the boys employed in this department has wrapped, stamped and mailed 1,000 papers in an hour.

SUB-BASEMENT MACHINERY. The machinery required to run the presses and the other machinery of The Bee and elevator service is located in the sub-basement, which extends the full size of the building. Here is a veritable labyrinth of engines, boilers, dynamos, switches and various other appliances incidental to such an establishment. The basement is divided into three compartments, occupied respectively by the engine, boiler and electric light machinery. The boiler room is floored with cement, the engine room with stone tiling, and the dynamo room with hard wood.

The boiler room is 28x31 feet, with a 10-foot ceiling. Adjoining it are the immense coal bunkers, with a capacity of 100 tons. There are three boilers of the Baker type, each 18 feet long and 60 inches in diameter. Each is supplied with a Kirkwood rocking and dumping grate, and they are so arranged that any one or all of them may be used at pleasure. Combining they have a capacity for supplying 200-horse power, which is somewhat more than is required.

The steam thus generated is utilized by two efficient Corliss engines, with a combined capacity of 230-horse power. The larger engine is used only for the operation of the electric machinery. It has a 18x44 inch cylinder, and is rated at 150-horse power. The drive wheel is 11 feet in diameter, with a 28-inch face, and weighs between eight and nine tons. The smaller engine is 80-horse power, with a 12x26 inch cylinder. Its drive wheel is ten feet in diameter and weighs 11,000 pounds. It supplies the power for the presses, stereotyping machines, Mergenthaler machines and various other purposes.

TWO huge drums, one high pressure for pulp rags and one low pressure for heavy sheets, are connected with the boilers by seven-inch pipes. These are equipped with a Davis automatic pressure regulator, by which any amount of steam can be turned up, and can be utilized for heating purposes. There are 16,000 feet of radiation in the building, which are supplied from the low pressure drum by the forty steam radiators, each of which is directly connected with the source of supply, so that it may be shut off without affecting the remainder of the system.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PLANT. The electric lighting plant of The Bee building is a mechanical work in itself. It is one of the most complete plants of its size in the city, and has a capacity of 1,500 incandescent lamps. For these the current is furnished by three dynamos of the most improved make, and each of the two larger dynamos revolve 800 times per minute and can supply 600 16-candle power lamps each. The smaller one revolves 1,050 times per minute and can supply 1,050 lamps. The dynamos are self-governing, so that any number of lights may be turned off or on without affecting the balance.

The switchboard through which the power from the dynamos is distributed is one of the marvelous triumphs of electrical mechanism. It has an amperage meter by which the number of lights in use is registered; an indicator for registering the candle power of the lamps in use; a balance to effect an even distribution of power between the different circuits; and a ground detector, which locates a ground in any part of the system. The remainder of the electrical equipment of the building is equally perfect. The system is divided into eight circuits, so that in case of accident only one-eighth of the lamps would be impaired. In 1883 another double cylinder press was added, which was equipped with two Dexter folders. These additions raised the mechanical department of the paper to a standard which was not approached by any paper in this part of the country at that time.

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OLD-TIME JOURNALISTIC PUSH

Newspaper Enterprise of Today Equalled, Comparatively Speaking.

NEWS SCHOONERS AND-PONY EXPRESSES

Great Rivalry Among the Publishers and Wonderful Scams Attempted Under Adverse Conditions.—The Spur of Necessity.

A gossip writer on the Philadelphia Times recalls the enterprise boasted by the newspapers of a half-century ago. Few newspaper men, he asserts, are acquainted with the amazing news enterprise of the penny press of fifty years back. A few instances are cited in support of the assertion that the old-time hustlers could keep up with their professional descendants.

It is not necessary, says the Times writer, to go back to the time when the editor of the Boston News-Letter in 1703 publicly regretted the fact that he was "thirteen months behind in giving the news from Europe," but one can properly refer to the time, surprising as it may be, when the North American was spoken of "as the most splendidly managed newspaper in Philadelphia," and was actively engaged in the spirited race for news that preceded the construction of an ocean cable, and so operated with the great New York journals in the East and European news from Boston and Halifax. The contest for news which agitated the newspaper world fifty years ago would make some of the journalists of today dizzy. All information concerning European affairs was received by steamers and sailing packets and the most amazing efforts were made to secure foreign newspapers in advance of hated rivals. The big journals of New York had as a portion of their equipment news schooners and pony expresses.

The Courier and Inquirer, for instance, constantly engaged two pilot boats and subsequently built a superb clipper which had the name of the newspaper upon its bow. Its most vigorous rival, the Journal of Commerce, had two schooners, one named the Evening Edition and the other the Journal of Commerce. Sometimes these five swift vessels would be together from fifty to 100 miles at sea from Sandy Hook in the exciting pursuit of ships and foreign news. The races between them were almost equal to those of the fast yachts of the New York squadron. The enterprise of these two journals alone cost each of them \$20,000 a year. It was begun in 1831, and was continued until 1833, when the schooners were disposed of and small rowboats replaced their occupants in the harbor. These "blanket boats," as the large newspapers were termed even on those days, also had special pony expresses to carry their dispatches from Washington, and the races between these were most exciting. These efforts appear still more marvelous when you consider that although the circulation of these newspapers was considered very large, none of them sold more than from 4,000 to 4,500 papers daily.

STORY OF A GREAT SCOOP. The smaller penny press of that day was not one whit behind their larger contemporaries. The New York Sun, for instance, among this class of journals, and it did not hesitate to endeavor to rival the boastful Herald in the acquisition of foreign news. When it was managed by Moses S. and Joseph Beach, prior to its purchase by Charles A. Dana and associates of one thing the republican party of New York is entitled to boast, and that is, its enterprise and expensive. Frederick Hudson gives the following instance of the energetic endeavors of the Beaches: "On one occasion two express men were arranged to bring the European news from Boston to New York, one to run over the Norfolk & Worcester road for Providence & Stonington road for the Herald. The Cunard steamer made a longer passage than usual, and was not telegraphed at Boston until early Saturday morning. The Herald was not then published on Sunday and the Sun never issued a regular issue on that day. If the express men were run they would reach New York about midnight on Saturday. What was to be done? The agent of the Herald determined not to run his express, but he was not anxious for the Sun to enjoy the luxury. So, with the express fired up, he made arrangements to start the moment the news reached his hands. The wideawake agent of the Sun was not to be outdone. He was watchful. The moment the Cunard touched the wharf at East Boston he started with the news for the Worcester depot. John Philip's time was beaten through the streets of Boston as easily as Bonner's time afterward distanced all others on Harlem Lane. On the panting and puffing locomotive he joined the indefatigable man of the Sun, and with one shrill whistle, he was off for New York.

The agent of the Herald, as soon as his plucky competitor had started, was off at the rate of a mile a minute, his locomotive run in the engine house and cooled off. He then went down to the Worcester depot, where he was met by a street by Purdy & Bradley, and quietly got out the news and had it printed on extra sheets with the New York Herald head. He took several hours to get to New York, but after noon and sent as many by a messenger as he could.

"Busy bee! busy bee!" "Where is your home?" "In the hive, my dear friend." "I live in a comb."

"And you, little rabbit, where do you rush?" "Back to my family, under the brush."

COMB AND BRUSH.

OUR COPPER ALLOY TYPE NEEDS NO INTRODUCTION

It has been selected to properly display the number of the "Bee." See the preference expressed for Jensen Old Style, Quentell, Facade Condensed, Lippincott, Polo, Typo, etc., etc.

The Publisher—The Advertiser—The Ad. Writer—

What is true of such a metropolitan paper as the "Omaha Daily Bee" applies to every paper in the west. We sell the best type and best machinery for printers. Buy the Best—it costs no more. Stereotyping and Electrotyping.

Telephone your orders to No. 1070.

American Type Founders Co. ARTHUR CHASE, Mgr., 1118 Howard St., Omaha.

It Pleases The Advertiser—The Ad. Writer—

THE BEE IN THE HOLE.

References to the Honey-Maker in the Sacred Book.

And the Amorites, which dwelt in that mountain, came out against you, and chased you, as bees do, and destroyed you in their, even unto Hormah.

And after a time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcass of a lion; and, behold, there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcass of the lion.

—Deuteronomy I: 41.

They compassed me about like bees; they are quailed of thorns; for in the name of the Lord I will destroy them.

—Psalm CXVIII: 12.

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall hiss for the fly that is in the uttermost part of the rivers of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria.

—Isaiah, VII: 18.

THE BUMBLE BEE.

The bumble bee, the bumble bee, He flew to the top of the tulip tree, He flew to the top, but he could not stop, For he had to get home to his carry tea.

The bumble bee, the bumble bee, He flew away from home, But he made a mistake and flew into the lake, And he never got home to his carry tea.

The greatest of aperient waters concentrated. A laxative, tonic and liver regulator. Cures all diseases of the digestive and secretory organs.

Cures torpid liver, biliousness, indigestion, dyspepsia, heartburn, sick headache, constipation, dysentery, diseases of the kidneys.

W. G. ALBRIGHT CO., N. E. Cor. 16th and Jackson Sts., OMAHA.

Albright's Aquatic Mineral Water. Purest on Earth. Celebrated Lemon Sour, Ginger Ale, Cherry Phosphate.

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by the other regular line. They reached New York about 6 o'clock the next morning and the extras were immediately sold to the newsmen. Meanwhile the Sun express had made special time from city to city, and there was a great commotion in the Sun office. All was bright and watchful, but quiet at the Herald establishment. There was no news there. The Herald is beaten, gleefully exclaimed the happy fellows in the Sun building. But to their bewilderment about 6 o'clock they heard the cry: "Here's the extra 'Herald'! Important news from Europe!" Under the very windows it was too late; the Sun was eclipsed that morning. Thousands and thousands of dollars were spent in these delightful contests. Some of this money was apparently thrown away, but none was in reality wasted. It assisted in the great development of newspaper enterprise which has become a characteristic of the American press.

GETTING NEWS FROM EUROPE. It was the successful efforts of the Herald to obtain foreign news ahead of its rival at no matter what cost that gave it the pre-eminent position in American journalism which it so long held. So commanding was the Herald's position that in 1831 the Tribune, Sun and Journal of Commerce of New York, combined with the leading newspapers in Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, made one of the most audacious efforts to destroy its prestige. An outline account of one of these will illustrate the manner in which the newspaper enterprise of those days in many respects surpassed that of the present time. On February 6, 1846, all of the New York newspapers, including the Herald, published the following advertisement:

Letters for Europe—A vessel of extraordinary speed, with choice sailing master and efficient crew, will leave New York for Liverpool on Monday, the 9th inst., at 12 o'clock, and returning will leave Liverpool for about the 20th inst. at 12 o'clock. Public curiosity was greatly excited by this mysterious advertisement. It was ascertained that the vessel was one of the famous and fast boats of New York, but as to her mission, and in many respects surpassed that of the present time. On February 6, 1846, all of the New York newspapers, including the Herald, published the following advertisement:

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SUPERIOR COPPER-MIXED. We offer the best people in the world, that is, our customers, the best Type on the market. SUPERIOR COPPER-MIXED. TYPES. FOR SALE BY GREAT WESTERN TYPE FOUNDRY, 1114 HOWARD STREET, OMAHA, NEBRASKA.

Metz Brothers BREWING CO. BREWERS OF Lager Beer. "THE OLD RELIABLE." Established 1865. Omaha, Nebraska.

THE PALACE OFFICE BUILDING OF OMAHA. THE BEE BUILDING.

The Equitable Life Assurance Society OF THE U. S. Assets \$201,009,397.94. J. W. CRAIG, General Agent, 602-3 Bee Building. E. W. SIMERAL, Attorney at Law, Room 352, Bee Bldg. A. R. CUYLER & CO., Dental Supplies. State Mutual Life Assurance Co OF WORCESTER, MASS. J. W. CRAIG, General Agent, 602-3 Bee Building. PACIFIC MUTUAL Life and Accident Insurance Co OF SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. A. V. TODD, General Agent, Room 607, Bee Building. Alpha Camp No. 1 Woodmen of the World. C. E. ALLEN, Clerk, Room 450, Bee Bldg. Bee Building Barber Shop. FRED. BUELOW, Prop. Ground Floor—Opp. Elevators. The Combined Mortality and Expense Rate of The Provident Life and Trust Co OF PHILADELPHIA is lower than that of Any Other Company. A. LANSING, Gen'l Agent, Room 340 - BEE BUILDING - OMAHA. WEBSTER, HOWARD & CO., Fire, Cyclone, Plate Glass, Accident and EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY INSURANCE. Rooms 406-408 Bee Bldg, Omaha. Fidelity Trust Company, BONDS, MORTGAGE LOANS, Real Estate Investments. BEE BUILDING, OMAHA.