

THE ILLUSTRATED BEE.

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Pen and Picture Pointers

The Bee this week turns the thirtieth mile post in its career as a newspaper. In commemoration of the anniversary of its foundation, June 19, 1871, it feels justified in devoting some of its space to a retrospect of its history and achievements since it made its initial bow to the public. Readers of a newspaper from day to day become familiar with its features and policy as with a member of their own family, rarely looking back of the printed pages to see who is the directing force and how the work of newspaper making is conducted. Yet because the newspaper is a constant and living factor in the public life it is itself a subject of current interest. So far as The Bee is concerned, its career, extending over thirty years, has been so interwoven with the onward march and prosperity of Omaha, Nebraska and the growing west, and so thoroughly identified with all that made for the development and upbuilding of their resources, that progress is stamped on every page of its successive volumes. At the completion of thirty years of continuous publication it has before it a field of promise and of usefulness to which it is confident it will fully measure up.

The portraits in this souvenir number present to readers of The Bee the likenesses of many of the men who have contributed in different spheres to its success throughout its history. The portrait of the founder and editor, Edward Rosewater, which forms the frontispiece, will be readily recognized, but a word of explanation will be appropriate for the others. We have in Charles P. R. Williams the first mechanical foreman of the paper, now in the government service, residing at Grand Island. In this state, Henry A. Haskell, now superintendent of the mechanical departments, has been in continuous employment almost as long as the paper has been published. The successive associate or managing editors were William E. Annin, Alfred Sorenson, James B. Haynes and Victor Rosewater, while others prominent in editorial work are Edwin C. Hardy, T. J. Fitzmorris, T. W. McCullough, A. J. Kendrick, Frank G. Carpenter, the noted correspondent, and Perry S. Heath, for many years The Bee's Washington representative. From the business office we have Edwin Davis, first treasurer of the company; George B. Tschuck, present treasurer; N. P. Fell and Charles C. Rosewater, successive business managers. Many who have contributed to the success of the paper are necessarily omitted from inability to secure photographs or lack of space who perhaps merit representation as much as those that are here.

In 1871, when the first copy of The Bee was printed, Ulysses S. Grant was president of the United States, Queen Victoria was in the forty-fourth year of her reign, William of Prussia had just been crowned emperor of Germany and Louis Napoleon fallen from the height of his career. There were only thirty-five states in the union, Nebraska having been the most recently admitted. In 1871 the population of the United States was 38,558,371, of Nebraska 122,992 and of Omaha 16,983, while by the census of 1900 the population of the United States is 76,593,387, of Nebraska 1,666,300 and of Omaha 102,555.

Thirty Years of Active Journalism

AMONG American journalists the founder and editor of The Omaha Bee, Mr. Edward Rosewater, occupies a prominent and honorable place. Very few people have an adequate conception of what is required to build up a daily newspaper until it becomes a power and influence in public affairs. It is a not uncommon impression that anybody can run a newspaper. Yet the fact is that no other enterprise in the business world requires for success greater ability, better judgment, closer attention and more arduous and persistent labor. The modern newspaper must of necessity be progressive. To stand still is to retrograde, to lose in popular regard and to fall into decadence. Therefore the man who builds up a great daily journal, making it a respected force and influence in the field it occupies and maintaining it in the front rank of the most highly developed journalism, must have uncommon capabilities.

The career of The Omaha Bee and its editor is so well known to the readers of the paper that it is not necessary to present all the details, interesting though they are, in this article. The origin of The Bee was unique. It was not started to "meet a long-felt want." There was, indeed, a demand in Omaha thirty years ago for an honest, fair, conscientious and incorruptible newspaper to defend, safeguard and promote the interests and welfare of the public, but it was not with a view of meeting this demand that Mr. Rosewater, on June 19, 1871, issued for free distribution the two-page sheet, described by himself as having "the appearance of the theater program," which proved to be the seed of a great journalistic enterprise. It was intended simply as a temporary medium for presenting to the public Mr. Rosewater's views on a question of local policy, with no idea that it would survive the settlement of that question. In a very brief time, however, it was demonstrated that here was an opportunity. The little sheet grew in popular attention and favor. The editor had made an impression, a popular interest had been created in the paper, and it was wanted. Five weeks after the first issue Mr. Rosewater announced the formal entrance of The Bee into the newspaper world, with the promise that it should be "a thoroughly fearless and independent exponent of public opinion." That promise has to this day been faithfully observed.

Years of Arduous Toil.

The early years of The Bee were years of intense struggle and most arduous work for its publisher and editor. Those who then worked on the paper tell of the indefatigable labor of Mr. Rosewater, as well as the indomitable pluck that mastered all difficulties and overcame every obstacle. These were numerous and formidable. The paper espoused the cause of the public against the selfish schemes of corporations, and their influence was persistently and relentlessly directed against it. It championed honest government and incurred the hatred of every corrupt and unscrupulous politician. This opposition, carried on with extraordinary persistence and bitterness, was fearlessly met by The Bee, whose editor's faith in the people never for a moment faltered. Although at this time Mr. Rosewater had had but limited experience in newspaper work, and that chiefly as a news correspondent, he wielded a vigorous and trenchant editorial pen. There was no half-hearted condemnation of what he believed to be wrong, no temporizing with what he regarded as inimical or dangerous to the public interest, and this has characterized his newspaper career throughout. His later writing has been less severe, less caustic and scathing than in the early years of The Bee, but it has been no less uncompromising in denouncing public corruption and wrongdoing, in demanding fair

treatment of the people by the corporations, in battling against corrupt corporate influence in politics and in warring upon monopoly. The principles which guided him at the beginning of his journalistic career, and his able and fearless advocacy of which made The Bee known throughout the country, are still his guiding principles.

Capacity for Business.

Mr. Rosewater is not an editor only, as were most of the successful journalists of this country. He has uncommon business ability and undoubtedly could have achieved fame and fortune in any mercantile or commercial pursuit. Horace Greeley and Henry J. Raymond were great editorial writers, but the business success of the New York Tribune and Times was not due to them. The elder Bennett was more distinguished as a business man than as a writer. Joseph Medill was a great editor, but it was largely the business ability of Alfred Cowles that made the Chicago Tribune profitable. Mr. Rosewater's capacity for practical affairs, his business acumen and foresight, are not less marked than his ability as an editor and every step of The Bee in a business way has been directed by him. What may be termed the commercial faculty is still assertive and Mr. Rosewater continues to show a large measure of interest in the business department of the paper. In short, there is no department of The Bee that was not organized under his direction and over which he does not maintain more or less supervision. This capacity for practical affairs has made Mr. Rosewater a valued counsellor in public enterprises and was conspicuously displayed in connection with the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, in the organization and development of which he performed a leading part.

Courage in Politics.

A believer in the principles of the republican party since he could distinguish between political parties, Mr. Rosewater has consistently advocated those principles. He has opposed republican candidates for state and municipal offices whom he regarded as unworthy of popular confidence and support, but in no case at any sacrifice of republican principles. His purpose in every such instance was rather to conserve those principles by relieving the party of the domination of men whose influence in it was demoralizing and destructive. No republican candidate whose character for integrity and trustworthiness entitled him to public confidence and respect was ever refused the support of The Bee. Mr. Rosewater's ability and skill as a practical politician have been most amply demonstrated and widely recognized. His management of the anti-prohibition campaign of 1890 was masterful and gave him national fame as a political leader. He was a member of the republican national committee in 1892 and did excellent service in the campaign of that year. The confidence in him of the national republican leaders was attested in 1896 and 1900 in his appointment on the advisory committee, and it is unquestionable that the republican victory in Nebraska last year was due largely to his management of the campaign and to his individual efforts throughout the state. Mr. Rosewater is an indefatigable worker in a political campaign. He devotes himself to the work with all the earnestness and determination of his nature. For all the arduous work and great service he has given the republican party Mr. Rosewater has received no political reward. He was elected to the legislature in 1876, the year before The Bee was started, but his subsequent efforts to attain public position were unsuccessful. Mr. Rosewater's contest for the United States senate will long be memorable. His candidacy had the endorsement of over 45,000 of the popular vote and there is not a reason-

able doubt that a majority of the people desired his election.

Aid to State Development.

To the development of Nebraska no citizen of the state has contributed more largely than Mr. Rosewater. This is not to be measured by his property interests merely. From its inception The Bee has actively and constantly labored for whatever would promote the upbuilding of Nebraska. Every interest of its people has always had in The Bee a hearty champion. Mr. Rosewater's public spirit has been conspicuously manifested in Omaha in giving encouragement to various enterprises. His contribution to the growth of the city in money expended has been liberal. The Bee building is a splendid monument to his enterprise and his faith in the future of Omaha and his pen has never grown weary of imbuing the people with that faith. Organized labor has always found in Mr. Rosewater a consistent friend who supported it in every just demand. He believes that labor is entitled to just treatment and fair reward and exemplifies this belief in the considerate treatment of employees. He requires capable and faithful work and all who render it are assured of permanent tenure in the service of The Bee. Mr. Rosewater likes to see about him the old employees, the men whose loyalty and fidelity have been thoroughly tested and in all such he takes a friendly interest.

Result of Well Directed Effort.

Edward Rosewater's success in life is due to no fortuitous circumstances. What he has accomplished owes nothing to chance. It is the result and reward of wise and well directed effort, of untiring energy and industry, of integrity of purpose and of keeping faith with the people. Born in humble circumstances in a small village in Bohemia, he had little opportunity there for schooling and when he came to America, a boy of 13, with no knowledge of the language, he was poorly equipped, save in ambition and industry, for the battle of life among strangers in a strange land. But adverse conditions did not daunt him; they rather spurred him on. Whatever he found to do he did energetically and with a will. He was never afraid of work, however hard and exacting. He never faltered in the performance of a duty. With an extraordinary faculty for languages, young Rosewater soon learned English, acquired a knowledge of bookkeeping and five years after he had come to the United States was a telegraph operator. It is needless to say that his services were in demand. Some of the most interesting incidents in his career, greatly cherished by Mr. Rosewater, were in connection with this service—for instance the fact that on January 1, 1863, he personally transmitted the original emancipation proclamation from President Lincoln to the army, he being then in the military telegraph service at Washington. Another interesting fact is that after the second battle of Bull Run Mr. Rosewater transmitted all of General Pope's dispatches from the battlefield. It was as a telegraph operator that he came to Omaha thirty-eight years ago, subsequently managing offices here of the Atlantic & Pacific and Great Western companies.

Student at All Times.

Edward Rosewater is in the best sense a self-made man. From his early manhood a thorough student of affairs, giving close attention to all public questions, few men in the nation are so well informed regarding our political history, or so well equipped for the intelligent discussion of economic and political subjects as his numerous speeches in past political campaigns abundantly show. He has acquired also a knowledge of several languages besides his native tongue, having a full command

of the English vocabulary and speaking fluently German and French. Mr. Rosewater has made a special study of postal affairs, both in Europe and the United States, and was one of the representatives of this country in the international postal congress, held in Washington in 1897. He is a forceful and impressive speaker, whose matter, while having none of the "flowers of rhetoric," is always interesting and instructive. He writes—or rather dictates—with facility, and few editorial writers in the country can turn out so much matter daily when it is required of him. Mr. Rosewater's opinion on public questions has frequently been sought by congressional committees.

Still Vigorous and Active.

Now in his sixty-first year, Edward Rosewater is still vigorous and active. His step is as elastic, his carriage as erect, his perception as keen and his mental grasp as firm as they have ever been. His vitality and power of endurance are remarkable. Though he has been relieved of many of the details of the daily work of getting out this great newspaper since his two sons assumed control of departments, he maintains a general supervision of the business. A man of most positive character and strong convictions, Mr. Rosewater has enemies, but he also has a host of friends, and there is no doubt that his foes are largely outnumbered by those who admire his sterling abilities, his energy and enterprise, his industry and integrity. May he live many more years to guide and direct The Bee and to battle for the public interests and welfare. E. C. HARDY.

A Professional Opinion

I am asked to give an estimate of The Bee and its influence upon the development of Omaha and this new country since its establishment thirty years ago. My text naturally excludes a description of its founder, proprietor and editor, Mr. Edward Rosewater, who is one of the few leading editors of the country whose personality is so strongly marked upon our American journalism, and I know I am expected to pass judgment on The Bee from a purely newspaper standpoint. I will venture, however, to risk saying that as an organizer of broad-based work in our modern newspaper life, for sagacity and intelligent grasp of important questions and affairs, and in bold and daring enterprise of a publisher, The Bee building, and its superb equipment will long remain as enduring monuments to the remarkable foresight and conceded abilities of Edward Rosewater.

My opinions of the influence of The Bee may be divided as to time into two periods: In the unequal struggle through which it won its way to its own existence, which may have continued for ten years, I hold its influence, in the main, to be pernicious as it affected our material development, wherever this depended upon the progress of the railways. Allowance may be properly made for this view when it is stated that, as the editor of The Herald, my attitude was one of constant and sharp antagonism to The Bee on this and all political questions.

In the later years of its labors, without reference to political affairs, and viewing it as something far higher and better than a mere purveyor of news, in which, by the way, it is not surpassed by any newspaper in our country either in judgment or enterprise, under a just estimate of conditions, The Bee's general course and conduct, and the high plane of ability that have marked its various departments, has placed it in the first rank as a newspaper of great influence and a positive and continuous force for good to the people of this part of the west. GEORGE L. MILLER, Omaha, June 15, 1901.



GRADUATING CLASS OF 1901 OMAHA HIGH SCHOOL—Photo for The Bee by Bostwick.