

# The Bee Building--Magnificent Home of The Bee



CORNER OF BEE COMPOSING ROOM

under a high and richly decorated ceiling and at the foot of two graceful marble staircases leading in opposite directions to the counting room floor. These stairways are wainscoted with selected Tennessee marble and the same material is used in the hall on the first floor. This hall is frescoed in colors that blend with the rich tint of the marble wainscoting and, as in all the other halls in the building, the floor is laid in encaustic tiles of a color and pattern to harmonize with the finishing.

To the right the first floor hall leads to the business offices of The Bee, the main entrance through a magnificent doorway of antique oak, the upper panels consisting of heavy beveled plate glass. The lobby of the business offices is wainscoted in Italian marble, with trimmings of Tennessee marble. Four Ionic pillars along the center of the room support the high and frescoed ceiling. Along the line of these pillars runs a fifty-foot counter that separates the lobby from the counting room and private offices. The counter is built on a base of chocolate marble, supporting russet Tennessee marble pilasters surmounted in turn by a quarter round section of marble of similar color and texture to that which forms the base. The panels are of Florentine marble to match the wainscoting of the lobby. Above the counter rises a beautifully wrought screen worked in Bower Ballf iron, in which appear the openings through which the general business of the office is transacted. The counting room is finished in antique oak, while the floor of the lobby is of marble of Mosaic patterns imported from Bergamo, Italy.

The characteristic feature of the interior of the building is the great central court affording light and air, which is based on the ground floor at a level with the street and rises in unbroken white to the skylight, 120 feet above. The court is forty-three feet square and in the center is a large aquarium of marble, to which fresh water is constantly supplied by a spray fountain rising from its center.

A series of pilasters extending to the third floor divide the court into three bays. In the basement story these pilasters are crowned with an entablature of a severely classic design composed of architrave, frieze and cornice. The frieze is ornamented with circular and diamond-shaped panels, while a simple dentil design adds to the effect of the cornice. The pilasters which extend through the first and second stories rise from this entablature and are surmounted by semi-circular arches around the third story. The whole is crowned by a handsomely moulded modillion cornice, underneath which the spandrels are wrought in an interlaced Moorish fretwork. The capitals which bear the arches are beautifully moulded with a delicate French detail ornament.

The decorations of the fourth and fifth stories consist only of simple lines of moulded cornices and still courses which are in architectural harmony with the more elaborate ornamentations below. A double set of pilasters surround the upper or sixth story. One set forms a continuation of the main pilasters below, while the other serves the purpose of mullions between the windows.

In the second and third stories a corridor surrounds the court behind the main pilasters. These open on the court as balconies and are outlined by balusters of an elegant design. At the rear of the court another handsome marble staircase leads to the rear corridor on the first floor. The court must be seen to grasp its striking effect.

The editorial rooms of The Bee are on

the seventh floor, running along the entire Seventeenth street side of the building. They are entered through an ante room, from which a long corridor opens up on either side the editorial rooms. The editor-in-chief occupies a large and comfortably furnished suite of rooms, with windows opening into Farnam and Seventeenth streets. Along the Seventeenth street side of the building are the offices of the managing editor, the exchange editor, the city editor and the reporters, and across the hall from these are the rooms of the night editor, the telegraph editors and other editorial writers.

Stretching the entire width of the building on the north side of the seventh floor is the composing room, with an equipment not excelled by that of any newspaper in the country. There are twelve Mergenthaler linotype machines, arranged in a row on an elevated platform, each machine facing a large window, which lets in ample light and fresh air for the operator. At night the room is illuminated by incandescent electric lights, as are all the other rooms in the building. On the side of the room opposite the linotype machines are the advertising, or display type cases arranged along the windows that open into the perfectly ventilated central court.

On the west side of the seventh story are the stereotyping rooms and the perfectly equipped quarters of the art department. So it is that the working rooms of the men who prepare the various editions of The Bee for the press are all on the same floor and contiguous to each other. The immense perfecting presses are in the sub-basement, to which the forms are rapidly lowered on special elevators.

Two rapid and commodious passenger elevators at the entrance of the central court afford access to the upper floors of The Bee building. The corridors and offices throughout the building are equipped with every convenience. The trimmings are of antique oak and the hardware is of a special and unique design in Bower Ballf iron. The office doors are paneled with crystallized plate glass and large transoms of the same material open to the corridors.

The sanitary arrangements are perfect and in keeping with most modern demands. Most of the offices are furnished with Italian marble basins, with running water, and each floor has its own toilet rooms. There are combination fixtures for gas and incandescent light throughout the building and electric current is furnished from a special plant in the basement. In every particular the building is absolutely fire-proof; its safety having been enhanced more lately by removing the boilers and furnaces into a separate building erected for the purpose on the other side of the alley to the north, thus avoiding even the possibility of damage from boiler explosion.

## Pointed Paragraphs

Chicago News: It is almost impossible to cure a stage ham.

When snow ceases to come down ice begins to go up.

Some men are made by circumstances and some are unmade.

King Edward VII is a busy man, but he gets pretty fair wages.

It is difficult to deal with a man who refuses to be shuffled.

When the wolf is at a man's door he isn't troubled with book agents.

When a man asks a woman to be his wife it is merely a catch question.

The smaller the wife's pocketbook the oftener the husband is called upon to fill it.

## High Water Marks in Circulation

The first issues of The Bee, thirty years ago, consisted of 1,000 copies run off on a hand press, half of which were distributed free of charge among the business houses and the other half handed out as programs at the old Academy of Music.

Today The Bee issues daily 26,000 to 29,000 copies, delivered or mailed to paid subscribers in all sections of the country.

For years The Bee has printed every day a sworn accurate schedule of its circulation, including the number of papers printed by its presses and the number unsold and returned and the actual net circulation. The Bee's statement takes the public completely into its confidence, telling not only when the circulation goes up, but also when it comes down, with all the variations during the seasons.

The circulation figures of a newspaper constitute a thermometer of the public interest in pending questions about which the people are eager to have the latest and most reliable news. From this standpoint it is interesting to study some of The Bee's high water circulation marks:

1888—November 7, election.....	21,500
1891—January 11, Boyd-Thayer contest.....	35,285
1892—November 9, election.....	44,475
1894—November 7, election.....	34,250
1895—May 1, Woman's edition.....	48,000
1896—July 12, Logan wreck.....	26,940
1896—November 4, election.....	42,265
1898—May 2, battle of Manila bay.....	39,539
1898—May 7, Dewey's official report.....	37,142
1898—July 4, battle of Santiago.....	46,287
1900—November 7, election.....	68,429

From this table it will be seen that the greatest demand for the newspaper usually comes immediately after an exciting national campaign, when everyone wants the latest and most reliable election figures. The Bee has achieved a reputation for reliability in its election service that gives it supremacy over all contemporaries.

Up to last year the high water mark of The Bee's circulation had been set by the Woman's May day edition in 1895, when the entire plant was turned over free of cost to the local women, who conducted the paper for the day for the benefit of the Presbyterian hospital, distributing 48,000 copies and turning into the hospital fund as the net profits \$2,221.31.

This high water mark was passed by a new record the day after the recent presidential election, November 7, 1900, when The Bee turned out the unprecedented number of 68,429 copies, all of which were sold to a news-hungry public. It is needless to say that no other paper in this section of the country ever equaled that feat.

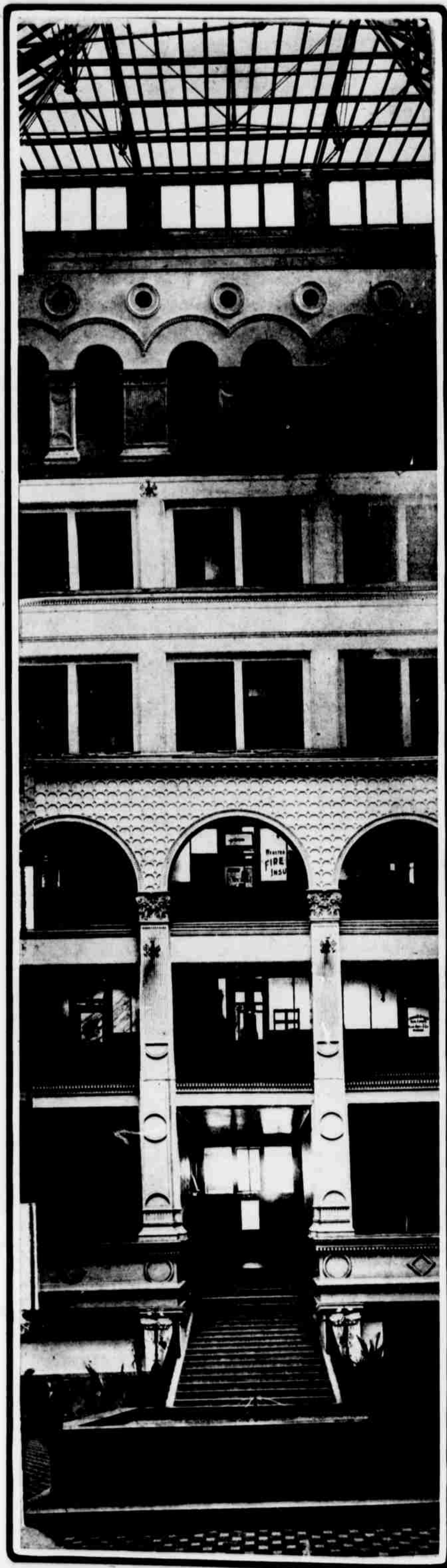
## Highest Wages Paid

It is not generally known, but it is none the less the fact, that the salary list of The Bee's employes gives the highest average of any industrial establishment in Omaha or Nebraska. This was disclosed by the industrial census, taken last year by the federal authorities, in which the schedules for The Bee showed higher rates of wages than the schedules turned in from any other establishment.

## Happy Retort

Leslie's Weekly: "Now, don't tell me any story about misfortune an' wantin' to be a hard worker, 'n' all that," said the hard-faced woman. "I can see right through you."

"Gee!" said Dismal Dawson. "I know I ain't had nothin' to eat for three days, but I didn't know it had thinned me down like that."



GRAND COURT OF BEE BUILDING.