

# ANCIENT ART AND MODERN BUSINESS METHODS MEET

New Business Office and Counting Room of The Bee Shows a Most Effective Mingling of Byzantine Art and the Very Latest of Equipment for Doing Business.

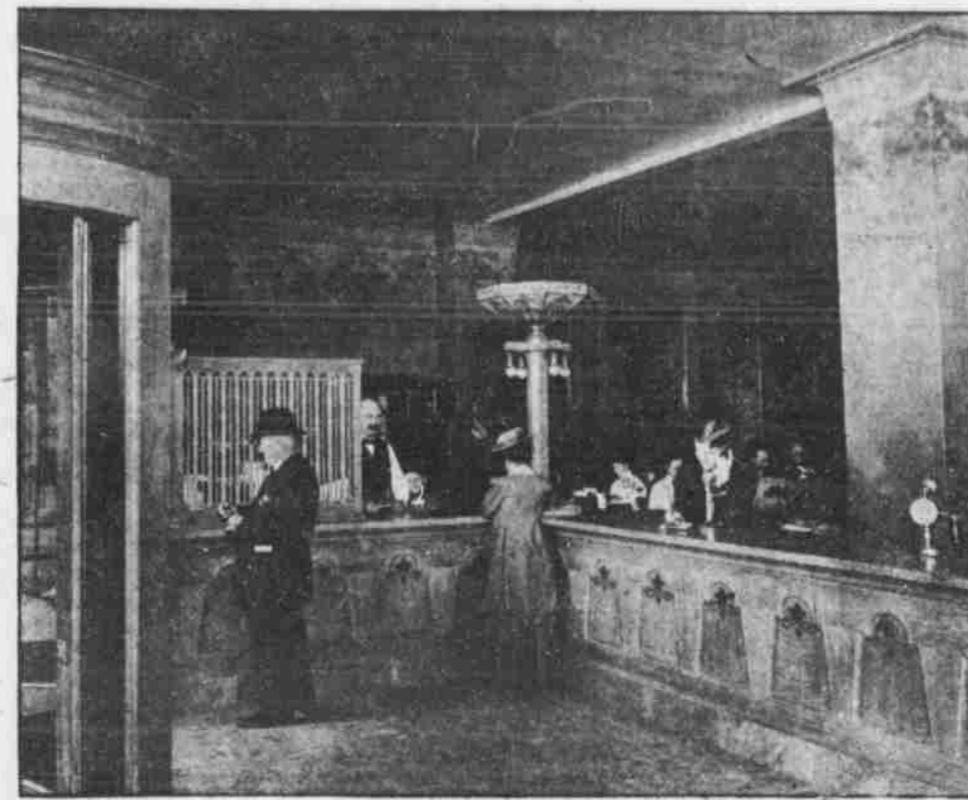


ENTRANCE TO THE BEE BUSINESS OFFICE.

THIRTY-EIGHT years ago The Omaha Bee came into existence. June 19, 1871, its first edition was printed, and what had been merely an idea in the brain of the late Edward Rosewater became a physical entity. Like most institutions destined to long years and great growth, the beginning was not pretentious and the first edition was in size no larger than two pages of the present paper. Those knowing the founder might have foreseen that an enterprise fathered by him was likely to increase in influence, but would scarcely have had a clear mental image of the proportions to be attained in later years.

During the days that have passed since The Bee was born, back in 1871, many changes have come into the world. Especially has the newspaper business undergone the expansive operation, with the consequent improvement in methods and results. Newspapers now do each day as a matter of course things that would seem miracles to one who dates no further ahead in the world's experience than thirty-eight years ago. Social life is more complicated and its complexities involve the newspaper to a greater extent, perhaps, than any of its other agencies or manifestations. Thus in 1871 only a very few newspapers used the rotary printing press, such as is now so common that even the dailies in towns of 20,000 have them. Only a very few published papers seven days in the week. The gigantic Sunday issues were unknown; telegraphic news was gathered at great expense and with much labor by a few of the more pretentious papers, while the vast majority depended on the mails for their information outside their immediate local field. Even the local field was taken care of in a way that would now be considered decidedly slipshod and inefficient. From the "flat bed" press of 1871 to the great accumulation of multiplied units that constitutes a newspaper press of these days is a far cry, but it only marks a little of the progress in methods of publishing. All the papers published in Nebraska in 1871 would not have used in a week the white paper The Bee now consumes in a day. All the printers employed in Omaha in 1871 could scarcely set the type in a day for a single issue of The Bee of today. The telegraphic report that comes to The Bee daily

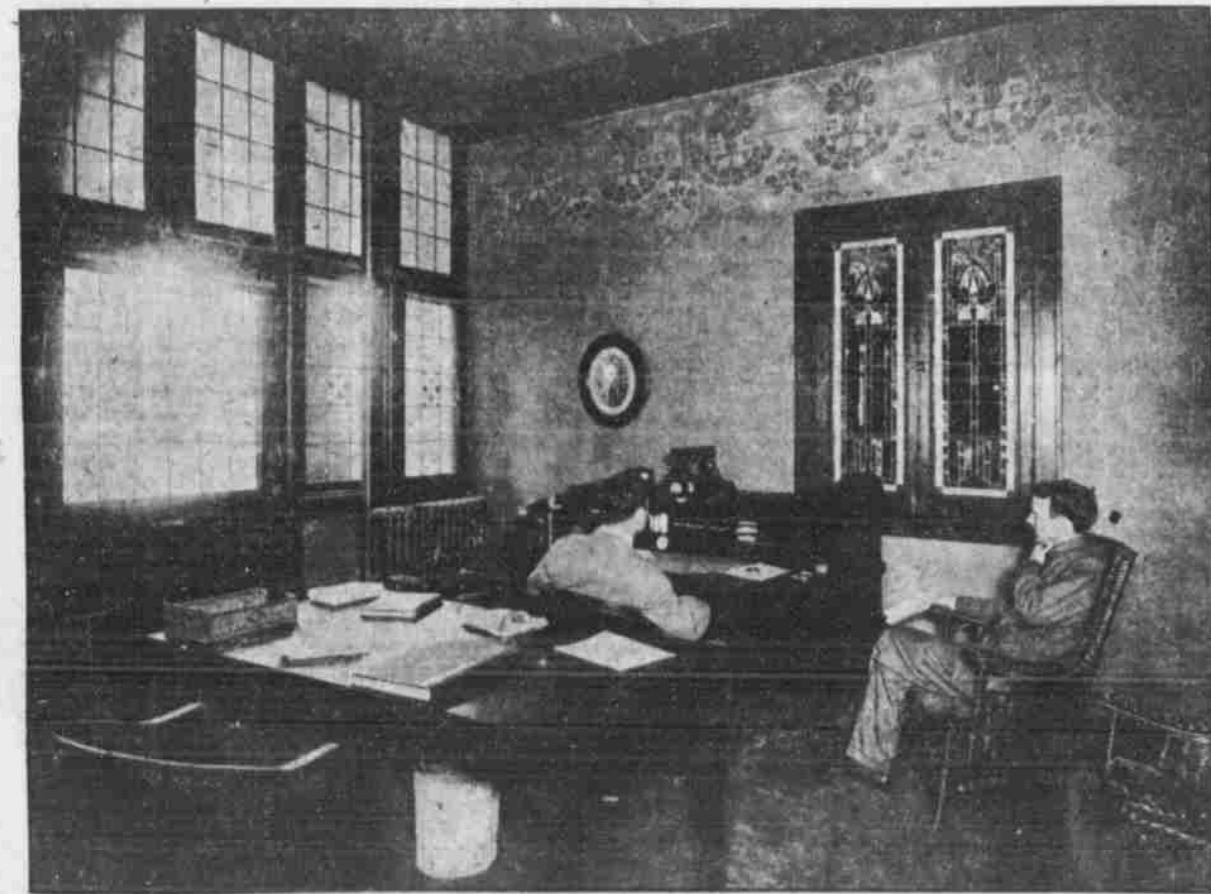
now would have swamped the facilities of the local office of that time, while the local matter prepared daily in The Bee office now would have sufficed an Omaha paper then for many days. These are but few incidents in the development of the paper with the growth of the world. It was established first with no idea of permanency, but it grew even greater than its founder dreamed, and with his personality it expanded to become an institution of influence and importance in the affairs of the city and state, known throughout the land, and permanent in its existence and prosperity. Naturally, the growth of the newspaper has been accompanied by a growth in its publishing plant. Originally The Bee was published in a little job printing office, with a dry goods box for the editor's desk, and its business was transacted wherever the editor and publisher chanced to meet a customer. From this start to a plant of its own was the first step in real expansion, and then the continued growth of the paper and its steadily increasing business took it through several buildings, each with equipment commensurate for the time, until it finally was moved into the Bee building twenty years ago. But even here the growth did not stop and the plant that was adequate at that time has long since been outgrown, and the latest of machinery has supplanted the equipment then thought to be complete. And the quarters assigned to it in the new building have also been changed, so that room might be had for the accommodation of the increasing force needed to carry on the work.



The latest step taken in this direction has been to remodel and enlarge the room set apart for the uses of the business office.

It was determined when the enlargement was conceived that the work should be so treated and carried out that harmony with the general architectural scheme of the Bee building might result. Plans were laid that in general arrangement and in decorative detail this concordance might ensue and these plans have been thought out and achieved.

The Bee building is an ex-



OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER.

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EOUL, 1909. — (Special Correspondence of The Bee.) — The situation here in Korea is much the same as that of the Philippines at the close of our war with Spain. It is even worse on account of the hordes of low-class Japanese who are overrunning the country and in many cases outraging the natives. The average Korean cannot believe that Japan is anxious to develop this country for his good and he considers it a patriotic duty to drive out the so-called invaders. There are organized societies of insurgents who have sworn to kill any Japanese soldier or citizen if they catch him apart from his fellows. Small bands of these societies are now scattered all over Korea. They have taken into their ranks the disaffected and rascally officials who have lost their jobs by the Japanese taking hold of the government, as well as idlers and ex-soldiers and even the old bandit element which has for generations preyed upon the country. In the meantime the Japanese army is doing all it can to wipe out these insurgents. General Hasegawa, the commander-in-chief, has something like 20,000 men in the field. These are scattered from one end of Korea to the other, and they shoot or hang the insurgents on sight. For a time the military policy was to wipe out every village which was found to be harboring insurgents, and today all who feed or conceal such men are shot without

## Emp Yung League Organized to Drive the Japanese Out of Korea

mercy. Within the last year it is estimated that something like 12,000 people have been killed on the charge of being insurgents. The chronicles of the insurrections and the numbers killed and wounded are published from day to day in the Seoul Press, which is the organ of the government, and foreigners who have kept count tell me that the deaths are running very close to 1,000 per month. This seems an enormous number, especially as the authorities say that the conditions are growing better and better and that the rebels, with the exception of bandits and professional brigands, have almost disappeared. There is no doubt but that Japan must manage Korea with a strong hand if it would bring about peace and order, but it is questionable whether its methods are not over-severe.

### Bibles Versus the Revolver.

And still the situation is serious. There are perhaps 15,000,000 people on this peninsula, and if the rebellion is allowed to go on this guerrilla warfare will be continued for years. The Koreans are to some extent divided up into parties. There are a number of pro-Japanese who are accepting the situation, cutting off their topknots and taking advantage of the new civilization. The rebels consider these men

traitors to their country, and they shoot them even more readily than the Japanese themselves. At the same time the pro-Japanese inform upon their enemies among the insurgents and aid the soldiers in hunting them down. Indeed, it is important for a Korean now traveling over the country to show that he is not in favor of the Japanese government. If he wears foreign clothes or has cut off his hair he is almost sure to be spotted by the rebels sooner or later and he may be shot upon sight.

A curious phase of this situation is that the Korean Christians are supposed to be neutral or not in favor of the Japanese government. For this reason if a Korean traveler is met by a band of insurgents he tries to convince them that he belongs to our church. The rebels make him prove his faith and demand that he sing a hymn or recite the Lord's prayer. He is sometimes asked to say the ten commandments as well. Indeed, an increased demand for hymn books and Bibles in Korea has sprung up and many who are not Christians buy these to carry with them over the country. They are better than revolvers and often save the life of the owner. The largest association of these rebels is known as the Emp Yung league. The people here pronounce it Weep Yung. It

means the ever righteous and patriotic army, and its members are sworn to kill all Japanese, found alone, upon sight. It was to this league that the assistants who murdered Durham White Stevens belonged and it is said there are branches of it in the Hawaiian islands, in the United States and elsewhere.

The Emp Yung operate in small bands. They have no organized forces and they are merely guerrillas. At first they were largely composed of patriots who had sworn to die for their country. They are now made up of the dissatisfied of all sorts. Many of them are ex-soldiers of the Korean army, which was disbanded by the Japanese at the time when they deposed the old emperor and put his son in his place. They have no money, and live on the villages. This fact puts the peace-loving Korean between the devil and the deep sea. When a band of rebels comes to him and demands money or food he replies that he dare not give it, for the Japanese soldiers will shoot him as soon as they learn he has helped the insurgents. Thereupon, the rebels reply: "Well, if you don't give us what we want we will kill you right now. If you give up, you have at any rate the chance of living a day or so longer. Otherwise you will die." The rebels mean what they say, and the villagers know it.

They give, and in many cases are actually slaughtered by the Japanese soldiers for giving. Indeed, I am told that many of the so-called insurgents whose deaths are reported in the newspapers are members of villages who have thus forcibly been made to harbor insurgents.

**Soldiers and Christians.** I have met foreigners who have claimed that they were badly treated by the soldiers by whom they were stopped when traveling over the country. One such case was that of Mr. A. R. Weigall, an Australian mining engineer, who had his wife with him. The soldiers insulted the latter and Weigall narrowly escaped being shot. The treatment of Mrs. Weigall was barbarous. The Japanese excuse this, however, by saying that Weigall refused to give information about himself to the soldiers. When they asked him how old he was he said: "One hundred and ten," and he claimed that his name was King Edward the Sixth and that he lived in Buckingham place. Similar answers given to a company of our troops in the Philippines would not lead to good treatment, although none of them would commit the barbarity and indecencies performed by this Japanese squad.

For instance, upon being told not to tie his horse in the churchyard because it would eat the trees cursed the sexton and cut him over the head with his sword. This was reported by the missionaries and the man was degraded. I have met foreigners who have claimed that they were badly treated by the soldiers by whom they were stopped when traveling over the country. One such case was that of Mr. A. R. Weigall, an Australian mining engineer, who had his wife with him. The soldiers insulted the latter and Weigall narrowly escaped being shot. The treatment of Mrs. Weigall was barbarous. The Japanese excuse this, however, by saying that Weigall refused to give information about himself to the soldiers. When they asked him how old he was he said: "One hundred and ten," and he claimed that his name was King Edward the Sixth and that he lived in Buckingham place. Similar answers given to a company of our troops in the Philippines would not lead to good treatment, although none of them would commit the barbarity and indecencies performed by this Japanese squad.

**Koreans Against Koreans.** It is also claimed that a great deal of the fighting is a matter of private warfare between the Koreans. There are no

end of feuds among these people, and the average native will do anything to bring about the death of those against whom he has a personal grudge. The Japanese do not understand the Korean language and they have to rely upon the natives as spies and interpreters. Such men point out those whom they hate as insurgents and as a result have them killed. The Japanese have taken many of the old Korean soldiers into their police force and are training them as gendarmes throughout the country. Such Koreans are much more cruel than the Japanese themselves and they are believed to be responsible for a large proportion of attacks upon the so-called insurgents.

**Country Unsafe.** With conditions like these, the country is unsafe for foreigners when traveling without some kind of protection. The Korean people believe in the missionaries and the rebels respect them, but many of the bands are ignorant to an extreme and at a distance they cannot tell the difference between a Japanese and a European. Many Japanese dress in European clothes, and the rebels are prone to think any man so dressed a Japanese, and to shoot him on sight. Not long ago Mr. Erdman, a Presbyterian missionary at Taikoo, about 100 miles north of Pusan, went on a trip over the country. He had on a khaki suit, and

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