

# WOMEN'S MAY DAY EDITION--Direct Affairs One Day.

## History of the Innovation of 1895--Contents of The Bee Contributed by Members of Fair Sex

We have been asked for a review of the May Day Bee. Hoping to recall only pleasant memories for the readers, we cheerfully turn again in memory to those days of new experience, and while we found newspaper work not all romance, neither was it altogether devoid of its pleasant side. There had even been a belief current in the minds of most of us that it must be an easy matter to produce a bright, interesting, readable and entirely satisfactory newspaper, views that were found theoretical. Real knowledge is obtained only through experience; in this respect the knowledge is ours. Editors will ever find ready sympathizers among the May Day Bee coterie.

At a meeting of Presbyterian ladies, where the needs of the Presbyterian hospital were being discussed, one who has ever been a leader and an inspiring spirit suggested the publishing of a paper as a means of revenue for the hospital. It was known that women of other large cities had met with considerable success in that line. She argued that Omaha women were as energetic and intelligent as any in the land. The need was great; the effort needed to be great. A meeting was called of the women of all the Presbyterian churches in the city to discuss and decide the matter. Regarding the wisdom of this undertaking there was great difference of opinion, and it was found that discussions must be closed, that immediate determination was the one thing necessary. The opposition forces were in the minority, and lost. Discussion, with the spice of opposition, had made some ambitious enough to undertake almost any task. By vote it was decided to try to find a publication willing to let the women try this experiment, the proceeds, if there were any, to go to the Presbyterian hospital.

A committee of women was afforded the opportunity to wait upon the editors of the leading dailies, instructing them as to our aggressive movement, and presenting our modest request.

The Bee, being nearest to our place of meeting, and having one of the finest and most complete buildings in the country, and knowing its editor is always liberal when his sympathies are with the cause, the committee decided to make its first appeal there. As they were being elevated to the editor's sanctum, what thoughts were theirs?

Echoes of the questions they expected to have plied to them. What is to be its religion or politics? Are you goldbugs or stand on a free silver platform? How much of the proceeds will you contribute to the next campaign fund? Is it tariff for revenue or free trade? Do you declare yourselves in favor of the principles of the party of which I am a leader? Ad infinitum! It was "16 to 1." Mr. Rosewater was the one, and, with his usual singular power of analysis and his quick conception, he discerned this at once.

There were few questions asked, no restrictions imposed; the terms were, payment for nothing but extra blank paper used and extra composing required in issuing the two editions. With assurances of his best wishes for our unbounded success, his journal was ours for any date of issue we might name, gratuitously and with all emolument. From that day the editor was "out of town" if any of the women called upon him. He had given up his idol, and, brave man though he be, he could not stand by and see it managed by other hands.

### Use of The Bee Tendered.

Our first real enthusiasm was received by the re-

*Omaha Nebraska  
May 4th 1895.  
Mr Rosewater.  
Dear Sir:-  
The Executive Committee  
of the Woman's Edition  
of the Bee desire  
to express to you  
sincere thanks  
for all your kindness  
& courtesy in connection  
with that edition.*

*We realize that it  
was only the few  
facilities put at  
our disposal that  
made possible the  
publication of such  
an edition.  
We beg to assure  
you of our appreciation  
& also to thank  
you for the use  
of the room on*

*fourth floor, as offices,  
which is much  
lightened the labor  
of the women editors  
by giving me more  
of a room for my  
gratitude. In our  
fancy we are  
the deep grateful  
the C. H. Committee  
of J. H. Langston  
the John Langston  
Committee*

### THANKS FROM THE MAY DAY WOMEN.

port of this committee. It is no small undertaking for a party of inexperienced women to take hold of a daily paper with a circulation of 20,000 and having upwards of 150 employees, some of whom have had many years of experience. A paper that for twenty-four consecutive years has had but one name as editor upon its editorial page. But the first critical period was passed. The journal was ours. With modesty most rare, and simplicity exceptional, for editors, the women became the publishers of two editions of The Bee for May 1, 1895, the name of Rosewater not on the editorial page, and they responsible for every line that appeared in the twenty-eight page publication.

The one idea dominant was success, and if popular appreciation counts for anything in the line of success, the women have the satisfaction of knowing The May Day Bee was a success. We would not have the public believe we had none of the trials of an editor, and an unvaried experience, but as a little side play, occasionally our trains collided with each other and the public. However, with the tact, discrimination, and self-sacrificing labor of our general manager, these were so scientifically managed that they were soon forgotten and no damages had to be paid from our assets.

This brings to the writer's mind some of the funny things that added to our experience. Without at-

taching much importance to them, let us just mention one or two.

A subscriber for one number when offered her paper at her door looked at it, with disappointment plainly visible, and exclaimed, "Why I thought it was to be printed on white satin;" at 5 cents a copy. Another asked, "When am I to receive my other numbers?" When told that she had subscribed for only one number for 5 cents, she said, looking the paper over, "Is this all there is of it? I thought I was to have a dozen papers. I don't believe I want this," and she was excused from the obligation of taking so little for so much money. Again, an employe in a bank, a man, refused to take his one copy and pay for it because "It was not delivered before 5 o'clock," the usual time. But the people of this age are a generous people with but few exceptions.

The time of preparation extended over a period of six weeks. The number of actual workers was something over 100. With two, possibly three, exceptions this entire force was wholly inexperienced in newspaper work. They were not all Presbyterian women, as from other churches valuable assistance was rendered, and writers of well known ability were solicited to contribute. Many from abroad gladly contributed articles, and the South Omaha women proved themselves estimable assistants and lent efficient aid in various ways.

The scope of the paper was to keep it a newspaper, to retain as nearly as possible the everyday look of The Bee, and originality. Original articles alone were accepted, and although many excellent ones were received for reprint they were, without exception, consigned to the waste basket. The advertising solicitors met with the most generous of receptions.

### Women Who Did the Work.

The staff of the Woman's May Day Bee was as follows:

- General Manager—Mrs. George Tilden.
- Assistant General Manager—Mrs. F. B. Tracy.
- Editorial Writers—Mrs. John Gordon, Mrs. W. P. Halford, Mrs. H. A. Wagner, Miss Clara Elder.
- Telegraph Editors—Mrs. Max Adler, Mrs. Frank Barnard, Mrs. L. E. Skinner.
- Exchange Editor—Mrs. Charles D. Thompson.
- Commercial Editor—Miss Jessie France.
- Live Stock Editor—Mrs. Alexander G. Buchanan.
- City Editor—Miss Mary Fairbrother.
- Assistant City Editors—Mrs. W. S. Strawn, Miss Josephine Moberly.
- Sporting Editor—Mrs. Will Townsend.
- Reporters—Mrs. Blanche L. McKelvy, Miss Bessie Higgins, Miss May G. Acheson, Mrs. Cora B. Lathaw, Mrs. C. F. Gardner, Mrs. Maude I. Wallace, Mrs. J. H. Wheeler, Miss Comstock, Miss Dorris McMaster, Miss Dell Porter, Miss Winnie Keene, Miss Minnie Riley,

- Miss Hallie Hood, Miss Anna Gulick, Mrs. Anna E. Barnard.
- Advertising Manager—Mrs. Robert Hunter.
- Advertising Solicitors—Mrs. H. E. Cole, Mrs. J. C. Morrow, Mrs. C. A. Starr, Mrs. Anderson, Miss Ella Bracken, Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Esmond, Mrs. W. H. Fahs, Mrs. N. Guld, Mrs. Hood, Mrs. S. K. Spaulding, Mrs. H. M. Clannahan, Mrs. Crosby, Mrs. George Esmond, Mrs. E. A. McEachron, Mrs. Newton, Mrs. O. C. Williams, Mrs. Ruddy.
- Treasurer—Mrs. H. P. Allen.
- Manager of Circulation—Mrs. C. H. Townsend.
- Assistant Managers of Circulation—Mrs. J. N. Kuhn, Mrs. J. C. Denise, Mrs. A. P. Wood.
- Ward Circulators—Mrs. Arnout, Miss Bell, Miss Hattie Kennedy, Mrs. Dunham, Miss Lydia McCague, Mrs. Ed McEachron, Miss Emma Stiles, Mrs. Mary Porter, Mrs. Kuhns, Mrs. George W. Slabaugh, Mrs. S. K. Spaulding, Mrs. M. M. Van Horn, Mrs. A. L. Blair, Mrs. J. N. Tillson, Mrs. Olive Foster.
- South Omaha—Mrs. J. M. White as editor, and Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Blair in charge of circulation.

### Success of the Venture.

A twenty-eight page paper, with a circulation of 48,000 copies, requiring ten and one-half tons of paper, was the result of our labors. As far as we know, one of the largest editions edited by women, and the only one editing both a morning and evening edition.

As proof of success financially the net profits were \$2,221.31. Both editions went to press on time, and every mail was caught on time. All this goes to show what can be successfully accomplished by alert, determined women, even though they be inexperienced in the work they undertake.

Rumors had reached us from other cities of the first copy of the woman's paper being sold for large amounts. What should we do with ours? This was discussed with many suggestions. The public library, being so near the hearts of all of us, it was decided to donate our first copy to it, which was done. Apropos. It was never thereafter heard from, never having received honorable mention, nor, as far as we know, has it seen the light of the sunshine of the library.

The Sunday Bee of May 5, 1895, gave a lucid account of the work of the day of publication, which we will not review. Immediately on the afternoon edition going to press, the women of the editorial force turned the paper over to the men who are regularly employed, realizing that their success was very greatly due to the perfect system and complete facilities of The Bee. They were accorded the most courteous treatment and shown unlimited kindness by every attaché with whom they came in contact, which tended greatly to lighten their task and add to its pleasures and efficiency.

The circulation of the evening edition brought our forces out en masse, and any one who caught a glimpse of the rotunda of The Bee building while we were waiting for our papers will never forget the sight, nor will we that final battle.

We volunteered as recruits, decidedly raw, we disabled veterans, though none of us were disabled or mortally wounded, neither did we feel we had "fought our last fight." The brilliant deeds done individually, and oftentimes single-handed, will never become history. That we never retreated, nor were ever defeated, and but once fell into the hands of the enemy, is our record.

ANNA FITCH SKINNER,  
Omaha, June, 1896.



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Hard Work  
Out of Keeping  
Things Clean**

**AVOID  
Caustics and Acids  
Use  
Old Dutch  
Cleanser...**

Old Dutch Cleanser will **relieve** you of all the **drudgery** and **hard work** of HOUSE CLEANING; because it does all work easier, quicker and better than old-fashioned soaps, soap powders, scouring bricks and acid cleaners

## It Cleans, Scrubs, Scours, Polishes

Use it on your floors, tiling, painted walls, windows, metal work, stone walks, bath tub, sink, in fact, it does all the cleaning in every part of the house.

Large Sifter Can,  
**10c**

At All Grocers,  
**10c**

Write for interesting booklet. "Hints for Housewives," FREE, containing many valuable house cleaning suggestions.

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