

THE BEE'S OLD GUARD

In the Service of This Paper for More than Fifteen Years



T. W. McCullough, 1871.



THOMAS F. DOYLE, 1891.



W. D. PERCIVAL, 1875.



LOUIS WORM, 1876.



GEORGE RAPPLEY, 1890.



W. S. RIPLEY, 1896.



E. C. SNYDER, 1888.

SKETCH OF EDWARD ROSEWATER--Remarkable

Self-Made Career of the Founder of The Bee

Edward Rosewater, founder of The Bee and for thirty-five years its editor, was born in Bukowan, a village about fifty miles south from the historical city of Prague, in Bohemia, on January 28, 1841. His elementary education was acquired in the common schools of a nearby town of Pisek, where Bohemian or Czech is the prevailing language. He also received instruction in German from private tutors. At the age of eleven he was sent to an academy at Prague in which the branches taught are on about the same plane as those in American high schools.

On Christmas day, 1854, he landed with his parents in the city of New York and thence immediately moved to Cleveland, Ohio. Owing to the limited means of his parents and the fact that he was the oldest of a family of nine children he was at once compelled to earn his own livelihood. Having no knowledge of the English language he had great difficulty in finding something to do. The first permanent employment he was able to secure was in a wholesale tinware and stove store, where his muscles were developed in polishing stoves and in assisting journeymen tinsmiths in manual work. By 1856 he had acquired sufficient knowledge of English to secure a position as clerk in a retail grocery store at a salary of \$7 a month and board. At the end of another year he found a clerical position in a small dry goods store at a salary of \$100 a year and board. At the end of the first year he severed his connection with mercantile business and took a three months' course in a commercial college from which he graduated as an alleged accountant and bookkeeper. This was in the fall of 1857, a year of great financial depression and the first and only position he secured as bookkeeper in a wholesale willow ware and basket establishment terminated abruptly by the failure of the concern.

Unwilling to resume the drudgery of a clerk and unable to secure a position as bookkeeper he left Cleveland in company with a young man who had been engaged as clerk in an employment office and located in Sandusky, O., where his first venture on his own resources was made under the title of "Rosewater & Warren, Intelligence Office." The partnership survived just three months. It had intelligence enough, but failed to secure employment either for its patrons or itself. Warren, the junior partner of the firm, was a telegraph operator, but had temporarily discarded his profession.

Becomes a Telegraph Operator.

It was mutually agreed that the two partners would seek their fortune in the south and although they had less than \$5 in cash, besides free transportation when they landed in Cincinnati in October, 1858, they were not in the least disconcerted or despondent. Within 24 hours after landing at Cincinnati, Warren secured a temporary position as operator in the Ohio & Mississippi railroad depot, and Rosewater at once began his apprenticeship as a telegrapher.

At the end of three months he imagined he had fully mastered the profession and accepted a position at Vincennes, Ind., but he was chagrined when he found that he must continue to practice before he could hope to hold down a situation. Returning to Cleveland in January, 1859, he completed his preliminary education as a telegrapher and was finally assigned to Oberlin, O., at a salary of \$25 a month. In June, 1859, he accepted a position as operator at Murfreesboro, Tenn., 33 miles south of Nashville. Later he was transferred to Stevenson, Ala., at the Junction of the Nashville & Chattanooga and Memphis & Charleston railroads. Here he remained until Alabama had seceded. In March, 1861, he accepted a position in the commercial office of the Southwestern Telegraph Co., at Nashville, where he remained until after the capture of Fort Donelson and the occupancy of the city by the Union army.

Returning to Cleveland, where his parents still resided, he decided to enter the United States military telegraph corps and was mustered into the service at Wheeling, W. Va., in April, 1862, and assigned to accompany Gen. John C. Fremont in the West Virginia campaign. On the first of July, '62, he was ordered to report at Washington, where he was assigned to the navy yard, then under command of Commodore Dahlgren. When Gen. Pope was about to enter into his famous "On to Richmond" campaign, Rosewater made application to the War department



Grateful Words from Hanna

United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr Rosewater I am in debt of you of the 4th, 1858 and in common with all friends here feel very grateful for what you did in breaking the deadlock and securing the election of two Rep U.S. Senators. All is well and we are very happy on the result. Truly Yours W. Hanna

Charity that Counts

Omaha Neb Feb 23/64

Mr. E. Rosewater, City. Dear Sir: Your generous and thoughtful act in the matter of the meeting on the little house of the Widows Society is another evidence that your heart is right and it speaks volumes in your praise as a man. Such deeds are an inspiration to all men to lead better lives. They are the rays of sunshine that brighten the gloomy path of life of the plebs in this sordid and selfish world. They are the convincing evidence that the finer sensibilities and good impulses of all men are not blunted in the mad whirl of business of the present day. Yours truly, E. W. ...

to accompany Pope and was assigned with Gen. Pope's staff to duty in the field. He accompanied the army of Virginia on its march to the Rapidan and its retreat across the Rappahannock, and during the three days' battle near Bull Run, August 29th, 30th and 31st transmitted all Gen. Pope's dispatches from the battlefield. On the first of September, 1862, he was recalled to Washington and assigned to duty in the War department. The members of the telegraph corps in the War department were men picked from the most skilled and trusty operators in the service, this office being the receptacle of all dispatches directed to President Lincoln, Secretary Stanton and the general of the army.

Locates in Omaha in 1863.

In September, 1863, at the instance of Edward Creighton, who had the year previous built the Pacific Telegraph, Rosewater resigned his position in the army telegraph corps and entered the service of the Pacific Telegraph Company at Omaha. In the spring of 1864 he was appointed manager of the Omaha office and continued in that capacity until January, 1870. A few months later he accepted the position of manager of the Atlantic and Pacific and Great Western telegraph lines.

While acting as local manager of the Pacific Telegraph company he was also agent of the Associated Press and telegraphic correspondent of leading Chi-

cago, New York, Cincinnati and St. Louis papers. Incidentally with this work he established a telegraphic correspondence bureau, which gathered important news from the Rocky Mountain region as far west as Montana and Idaho.

In the spring of 1870 he, in conjunction with others, founded the Omaha Daily Tribune. When the paper made its first advent on July 25, 1870, its editor in chief, a scholarly Massachusetts journalist, had failed to put in an appearance and his place was supplied during the first week by Mr. Rosewater, although ostensibly the editorials had emanated from the pen of the gifted New Englander.

This was Mr. Rosewater's first direct venture in journalism. The Tribune, although an excellent paper, was from the start a losing undertaking. Owing to differences as regards its management, Mr. Rosewater resigned his directorship in September, 1870, and fortunately for himself he had not severed his connection with the telegraph company, but had merely dipped into newspaper work as an amateur with no expectation of following it as a profession.

A few months later, November, 1870, he was elected a member of the most stormy and protracted legislature that has ever been held in Nebraska. In that body he took a leading and active part in the impeachment of the governor, David Butler, and in the investigations into the corrupt management of state institutions. Among measures with which he was prominently connected was the endorsement of

the postal-telegraph system, the regulation of the practice of medicine, the location of the State Deaf and Dumb Institute at Omaha and the creation of the Board of Education for that city. The latter measure met with strenuous opposition from the Omaha daily press.

Reason for Starting The Bee.

The act creating the Board of Education required its submission to and ratification by the citizens of Omaha. Desiring to counteract the adverse public opinion created by the press, Mr. Rosewater started, on June 19, 1871, a small sheet in the shape of a theater program under the heading of "The Omaha Daily Bee." These sheets were given free distribution for several weeks. They contained the latest telegraphic and local news in brief and editorial comments on city and state politics. The Board of Education law was sustained by the people by an overwhelming majority. Encouraged by this evidence of popular favor the paper after four weeks' free distribution was enlarged and started on its career as an afternoon daily with local carrier subscriptions. From the outset the paper met with most phenomenal success. Within less than five years it outstripped the old established dailies in circulation and influence, notwithstanding the most determined and powerful opposition both from the ruling politicians of its own time and corporate influences inimical to its vigorous anti-monopoly policy. Under his energetic management it grew and flourished in spite of murderous

assaults upon the editor and bushwhacking warfare upon the paper.

From its inception until his death, Mr. Rosewater remained the chief editor and owner of The Bee which for years has occupied a front rank among the great newspapers of America. Having firmly established his paper Mr. Rosewater conceived the idea of erecting a monumental newspaper building and this project was carried out by the erection of The Bee building, which was begun in 1887 and completed in 1889. This structure is perfectly fireproof and at the time it was built covered a larger area of ground than any other newspaper building erected on either side of the Atlantic.

The later years of his life were given much more to public affairs and made him a figure of national prominence as a political adviser of presidents and party leaders, and as a champion of the people in many popular movements. As a member of the republican national committee he had active charge of the presidential campaign in Nebraska in 1892, and he was a delegate-at-large to the Philadelphia convention in 1900, in which he was also secretary of the committee on resolutions that framed the platform. He was on the advisory committee of the national party organization in 1896, in 1900 and in 1904. He went to the forefront to combat the 16 to 1 free silver fallacy in the campaign of 1896, publicly debating the subject with "Coin" Harvey and with William J. Bryan.

Official and Other Honors.

Edward Rosewater was a member of the United States Mint commission by appointment of President Cleveland in 1896, and in 1897 was named a delegate for the United States and vice president of the World's Postal congress that met at Washington. He was the original promoter and one of the Board of Managers of the Trans-Mississippi exposition, held in Omaha in 1898. He participated in the two national conferences on trusts, in the reciprocity convention; in the National Sound Money League, in the International Arbitration congress, in the Lake Mohonk conference, in National Civic federation meetings and in many other similar progressive gatherings. In none of them did he occupy a back seat. One of his most strenuous undertakings was that, which he personally instituted and prosecuted, with all his vigor, to force a more equitable assessment of railroad property in Nebraska for taxation, which, while only partially successful at first, found its capstone in the new revenue law designed to bring railway taxes to the same basis as taxes on other property.

Mr. Rosewater was a candidate for United States senator before the legislature of 1901, leading on many ballots, but withdrawing at the close in order to break the protracted deadlock and save Nebraska from being left unrepresented in the senate. Even in this campaign, although it was not required of him, he insisted on submitting his name to a preferential vote of the people at the election pursuant to his long advocacy of the election of United States senators by direct popular vote.

Life Closes With Sudden Call.

In 1906 he was again appointed to represent the United States as its delegate to the World's Postal congress meeting, this time at Rome, and while absent abroad was projected as a candidate for the nomination for United States senator on the republican ticket. Returning to this country, he again appealed to the popular vote, demanding that all delegates to the convention be put under instructions by the rank and file of the party and had these instructions been carried out he would have been nominated. Although defeated by treachery he accepted the situation philosophically, promptly pledging support to his successful competitor in a speech before the convention, and admonishing his hearers to complete the ticket with men of integrity for whom no apology would be needed.

It turned out, however, that he had but a short time more to live. On August 30, 1906, Edward Rosewater delivered an address to an Old Soldiers' reunion at Waterloo, returning home in the early evening, and having died suddenly of heart failure the same night, was found the next morning, sitting on a bench in a court room in The Bee building, where he had evidently stopped to rest. Mr. Rosewater had been married in 1864 to Miss Leah Coleman, of Cleveland, Ohio, and had five children, of whom all survive excepting one daughter.



CLYDE A. BAUMGARDNER, 1882.



FRED RAPPLEY, 1892.



N. P. FEIL, 1882.



JOSEPH R. CAMPBELL, 1882.



J. D. WEAVER, 1882.



DWIGHT WILLIAMS, 1892.



C. F. SLINGSHOLLAND, 1892.