

Story of The Bee

(Continued from Page Four.)
 portance to Omaha, as it added \$100,000 a year to its rightful revenue from railroad taxes.

One other reform pushed steadfastly by The Bee is the abolishment of graft offices in the state, now showing in only one spot. Discontinuance county coroner is an outcome of a of useless offices such as that of movement begun by this paper.

Burned Out Twice.
 In its 47 years of industrious life, The Bee has made its home in five hives; two of these were burned as the result of incendiary fires and three were outgrown.

First of its homes, after it really had become a newspaper, was a two-story frame building on Twelfth street, just south of Dodge, adjoining the similar building occupied by the Redfield Printing company, in which the paper was first printed. Even after Edward Rosewater had leased the building in which he set up his separate business, he continued having the presswork on The Bee executed at the Redfield plant. Here the firebug first found The Bee as a victim. In June, 1872, just before the first year of its life had been completed, a discharged employe sought revenge by setting fire to the building, which was completely destroyed, together with its contents. The culprit was quickly caught, tried and convicted, and sentenced to prison for his crime.

Getting Bigger and Better.
 By this time the growth of the paper was such as to justify a larger outlay for plant, and an order was sent to St. Louis for types, presses and other materials to equip a really commodious office, which was set up in a two-story brick building on Farnam street between Ninth and Tenth, which had been erected by Mr. Rosewater in 1869. In this new home The Bee continued its growth, and here it again suffered from incendiaryism, the loss being heavy, but met, as before, by the indomitable courage and determination of its editor, who restored the building, refurnished the mechanical and office equipment and went ahead, with the result that his business was soon bigger than his quarters.

In 1879 the adjoining lot was leased and later bought from Samuel Orehard, with a frontage of 44 feet on Farnam street, on which was put up a building that served for a few years, but in 1885 it was remodeled into the fine four-story structure that still occupies the site. By this time, it was apparent to all that the growth of the city would leave lower Farnam street out of the line of business traffic. The tendency to go "up the hill" was too plain, and in 1887 Mr. Rosewater set about the erection of the present Bee building at Seventeenth and Farnam streets. At the time this building was occupied in 1889 it was the handsomest and best appointed newspaper building in the country.

Keeping Pace with Progress.
 Changes in methods of publication, in mechanical equipment and for the more speedy functioning of the processes of getting out the paper made it advisable to bring the editorial and typesetting rooms down from the top floor in 1904, and the several departments of the paper have gradually been consolidated or rearranged until now the publication office, the editorial rooms, the composing room and the stereotyping department are all on the same floor level. This greatly facilitates the work of getting out the paper. The big presses, of course, had to be located in the basement, where they could be set on solid foundations entirely independent of the foundations of the building itself. The engraving department, photographers' and artists' rooms are above the composing room.

From the little paper that was just a "job" in the routine work of a frontier printing plant, The Bee has come up to a place where its mechanical equipment astonishes even visitors familiar with the progress made in the art of printing. The force of compositors employed during its first year of life would not be able at this time to set the display headings for the news in a single edition of The Bee today, were they to be restricted to the methods of 47 years ago. The amount of type set for a single issue now would have sufficed the paper for weeks during its first year of life. As was the practice with newspapers at the time, when The Bee began its second year of existence, equipped with new material, it had a job printing plant in connection. This was continued until during the early '80s, when it was abandoned and its efforts devoted exclusively to newspaper publishing.

Days of Early Growth.
 In the earlier days of the struggle of The Bee against the many influences lined up against it, its founder felt many times that the life of his paper was trembling by a thread, but he stuck to it. At the end of two years it had grown to proportions where he must enlarge its size, and although the panic of 1873 was 21 its height, he bought more and better machinery and entered upon the real career of a journalist.

In March, 1874, it was issued as a nine column folk the old "blanket sheet" type, the fifth time it had been enlarged since its birth three years before. On January 1, 1875, The Bee issued the first illustrated number ever published in the west, a review of the city's activities, illuminated with cuts of buildings, individuals and other matters of interest.

In 1878 the Bee Publishing company was formed. The morning edition had been added some time before, and both editions were enlarged to eight pages. In 1881 a Council Bluffs department was set up, and four years later Lincoln was taken in. From that time continuously The Bee has had its own representatives in both of these cities. A special representative has been maintained in Washington since early in the '80s, and for more than a dozen years a resident staff correspondent has been kept at Des Moines, thus giving The Bee its own representatives in the great news centers of the country and the states it especially serves.

Pays High for News.
 From its very start The Bee found great difficulty in getting its news service from the world outside. The local field was easily enough covered, but the gathering of news by

The Bee Household: Group of Our South Side Carrier Delivery Boys



telegraph was accomplished in the face of discouraging conditions. The telegraph companies would do nothing to aid the paper, and for many years it paid outrageous tolls for its telegraphic news. It was denied entrance to the Associated Press, and as a result, while the other Omaha

papers were paying but a small sum, around \$75 per month for telegraphic news. The Bee was forced to pay from \$500 to \$800 for what it got. Finally, in 1884, it was admitted to the Associated Press on the payment of a cash bonus. Connections were also made with the great journals

of the east, and an alliance with the New York Herald that continued for many years, or until the Herald became involved in an effort to sustain a rival to the Associated Press, when the connection with The Bee was broken off. In 1885 the mechanical equipment

of The Bee was expanded to meet its growth by the addition of a web perfecting press and complete stereotyping outfit. August 1, 1886, The Sunday Bee made its appearance. Up to that time the morning edition of The Bee had appeared on Monday, but not on Sunday. The success of

the new venture was in keeping with the enterprise that has marked its career. In 1889 The Bee moved to its present home, and even during the times of depression that came in the '90s, it continued its growth. It was in 1893 that the battery of 12 linotypes, the first in the west, were ordered, and the production of

the paper by machine set type was commenced early in the following year. In 1898 the two Potter perfecting presses were displaced by two Hoe presses, each of more than double the capacity of the ones taken out. These in their turn were ten years later displaced by others of (Continued on Next Page)

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