



Minnesota Works Progress Administration:
Writers Project Research Notes.

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Short cuts to results

There were short cuts to results in bygone days in Minnesota. For instance, if a minister wanted money from his congregation he told them he'd quit, and he got it. If a tramp would dodge the rockpile, he went to Minneapolis. If your dearest enemy needed a shakeup, you put him on a stage coach. It was all in the bag.

Annals tell of a mid-Minnesota pastor of the 60's who tersely announced to his congregation that he wanted \$1,000 — or else. The flock hustled all over the town and got it.

One way to get relief from a wife's idle chatter was (Minneapolis Tribune, 1878): "A man in the city from Minneapolis (township) this morning observed just outside the city limits a farmer holding a plow to which was attached his wife as motive power."

The rockpile dodge (Also the Tribune, 1878): "St. Paul has a stone pile on which the vagrants are put to work pounding rock. The tramps don't like it and raise their fines if they can and light out of town — probably to Minneapolis, where there is no such municipal philanthropy."

Jarring your enemy (Letter to St. Paul Pioneer, 1863): "No more unhappy infliction could be imposed upon one's worst enemy than a general shaking up over 100 miles [between St. Paul and LaCrosse, Wis.] in a cramped, schreeching, lumbering wagon, nowadays called a stage-coach. Had Moses touched Pharaoh with a like experience, his Egyptian majesty would have cried out in utter despair: 'Wayward, brickmakers, depart in peace!'"

Minus the funeral (Mower County Transcript, 1871): "The funeral of a child was appointed to be held in a schoolhouse on a Sunday afternoon, the hour fixed chancing to be the same as that for holding Sabbath school. A number of persons who came to attend the latter, objecting to the obsequies from superstitious reasons, sallied forth, stopped the procession and compelled the interment of the child without delivery of the sermon."

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*Samples of major handicaps of
pioneering (fifth column)*

Early Minnesota folk stood up stoutly to the major handicaps of pioneering; but they also had to combat the fifth column of their time, the petty annoyances that "bored from within." Some samples:

Stillwater Messenger, '64— "As evidence of the ability, enterprise and public pride which characterizes the administration of our public affairs, we call attention to the carcasses of defuncted cats which have ornamented the most public streets of our city more than a week."

Also the Messenger, '66 — "The annual visitation of the penitentiary committee of the senate and the 'house of reprobates'... will take place probably on Friday. We advise our citizens to look out for their gin and silver."

Goodhue County Republican, '67 — "Several very young men of this city are sporting their big brothers' side arms on the street and playgrounds, to the great annoyance and jeopardy of peace abiding citizens. It is high time this schoolboy brigandism was taken in hand by parents or the proper officials."

Minnesota Chronicle, '67 — "In a new country like Minnesota, there is no use for idle, frivolous, lazy dandies or dressy, fancy ladies who think it a disgrace to wash dishes, make their beds, do chamber work, or knead bread... Drawling words, fondness of dress, living beyond their means won't do here. The country is too new."

Minneapolis Tribune, '71 — "Just complaints were uttered [after a fire] that the hose boys, especially those of Mutual No. 2, were obliged to tug their carriage through the frozen mud with only five

or six men's strength, while a dozen or score of idle lookers-on walked the street refusing a hand. The machine, of necessity, was left on the ground for the night. It is humiliating that Minneapolis can turn out loafers, even at a fire."

Also Tribune, '75 — "People residing in the vicinity of the mills complain of indecent exposure and unseemly actions on the part of bathers... and pronounce the habit a disgrace which requires attention from the police. Let an example be made of these brassy bathers."

* * *

Millions have registered for the draft, but, so far as recorded Austin, seat of Mower county, is the only community that offered a girl soldier. Miss Reika Schwanke, who slipped one over at the registration office and was duly listed as a draftee, has underscored Austin's reputation as a city of Grade-A patriots.

Austin, which was settled in the 50's and by 1870 covered 450 acres, has set a pace rapidity in growth, although fire, spotted fever and war taxed its fighting spirit.

Its Mower county neighbor, LeRoy, was quick on the trigger when the Civil war broke. The Independent there reported, in July 1861, a meeting of Mower countyities which resolved: "That in view of the present great national crisis it becomes the duty of every citizen ... to be ready at the call of his country to march and defend ...our honored traditions ... That we will organize an Independent Rifle Company." Whereupon 31 men stepped forward to join the ranks.

With the crisis past, Austin turned its attention to the new generation. In '67, the Mower County Register, published there, said a "baby reception" was held and a premium announced for the smartest and best looking. But as every mother insisted her infant was "it," the judges "were unable to make any award" "voted all equally entitled to the cup."

The Register in '68 said Austin had eight hotels "all of which are doing a rapidly increasing business." That same year, the first number of the Austin Democrat appeared. And the population was recorded as 2,256.

Next year, '69, came the fire, \$50,000 blaze which destroyed the First National bank and other structures. But that couldn't keep a good town down. Three months later, the Democrat reported: Since October last over one hundred new buildings have been erected ... including one hotel and schoolhouse."

Austin had need of its fighting spirit again in 1873. The Tribune: "Spotted fever is raging at Austin. Six victims were buried in one day."

But in 1875, according to The Tribune, everything seemed to be moving smoothly. "The Germans of Austin, in solemn conclave assembled, passed a resolution that every man must buy his own beer! "

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Grandfather's Day.

IV
Recreation in early days.

In Grandfather's day if anyone had said "five spades" and somebody else had said "double," Grandfather would have blinked and wondered what went on. For they had no contract then. But there were simple pleasures in plenty.

Croquet was being played along in the 60's and got this from the post-war Minnesota Chronicle: "We notice a good many of our young ladies and gentlemen on the several lawns of the city [St. Paul] are constantly engaged in the exercises of this play, or game. A little healthy exercise is very well, but at this season of the year knitting needles are about as useful an instrument and companion for young ladies as need be."

Heralding the Y. M. C. A. - Minnesota Chronicle, October, '66:
"An association for young men formed for the avowed purpose of advancing the morals and religious sentiments of the town . . . There is something about such an association which elevates and purifies the principles and morals of a city even when the young men have merely associated together and taken no further action . . . The Y. M. C. A. of Minneapolis has begun its career and to that we look for a purifier which shall cleanse our community and awaken to new life the zeal in those who now forget all good in the eager pursuit of riches."

In 1870 there was no Memorial Stadium, no team of Gophers. But, said the St. Anthony Falls Democrat that year: "The University of Minnesota is giving tone to the social life of this city. There is a rising aristocracy. At first one would take it to be snobbish, decidedly, but further acquaintance would relieve first impressions. It is healthy, genuine, hearty, well bred. What it will become in the future is uncertain."

Besides the spelling matches which developed into municipal affairs, there was the gentle art of debating. Mankato Record, 1870: "The Welsh residents of this city have organized a debating society which holds its first meeting next week, Thursday evening, to discuss the question: 'Which should be victorious in their contest, the French or the Prussians?'

"Messrs. G. Williams, W. Jones and J. Davis are the disputants on the French side of the question, and Messrs. E. E. Ellis, T. Hughes and R. Roberts on the Prussian side. The debate is to be conducted in the Welsh language. These societies, properly managed, may be of great use."

Grandfather's Day.

IV

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Stork battles odds in early days

Obstetrical drama, recalling the exciting births of the Dionne quins, is contained in the news story recently furnished by Glencoe, seat of Minnesota's Glencoe county - the safe arrival of a baby weighing one and three-quarters pounds, which was put in a makeshift incubator in the farm home of its parents near Hector. Next day a rural electrification unit was contacted, and a mile of wire stretched from the nearest power line to the house and connected with an electrically heated incubator.

This astonishing story of odds overcome rivals those in the annals which relate handicaps under which the infants of pioneers first saw the light of day. Early medical heroes, rivalling Dr. Dafoe, made hazardous journeys over icy wastes in the dead of night. Just as often, women became mothers minus medical aid. The Minneapolis Tribune in '71 recounted how a Belle Plaine doctor crossed the Minnesota river in answer to a call but could not recross because the ice broke down. "He had to go to St. Peter," said the article, "and use the wagon bridge. He was obliged to drive nearly 60 miles to get home."

Early newspapers were alert to chronicle birth features. In 70, the Sauk Center Herald printed a letter from the mother of an 11-year-old married girl, rejoicing in the birth of a $7\frac{1}{2}$ pound daughter. "And her weight before the birth of the child," said the writer, "was 80 pounds."

That same year, November 26, the Tribune reported: "Mrs. Charles Duber, living in St. Anthony, gave birth early in the week to twins, male and female; the first weighing $11\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, the second 11 pounds. Dr. Loar, the attending physician, vouches for the truth of the statement. There was a period of 11 hours between the births. Mother and family are doing well."

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More Minnesotans - little ones - were approved in 1860, according to this from the press: "Girls are wanted all over the state to do housework. They are in demand on the frontier where they are wanted to make good, wholesome Minnesota farm wives, where they can have good homes and become good, noble mothers, which is the greatest boon to which a noble woman can aspire."

Blessed event, 1875: "A few weeks since, Miss X about to become a mother was taken to Cottage Hospital where at the earnest solicitation of one or two citizens, she was permitted to remain. Sunday last, [Mr. V] returned from the pineries and visited the hospital to find he was father of a bright baby, eight days old." Whereupon: "A marriage ceremony was performed by Dr. Knickerbocker, just prior to baptism."

*From the Scrapbook: Two-headed lady,
Paper wheels for Pullman cars, etc.*

6.

Pullman car wheels made of Paper. A two-headed lady who sang soprano and alto at the same time. A man boring holes in his feet with an awl to "cure" them from freezing. Twenty-one teeth pulled from a man who refused ether. And immigrants coming into Minnesota well heeled with counterfeit coin. There are odd things in the state's annals. Chronologically set forth:

MAN WITH A PULL---1868, St. Paul Daily Press: "In Le Sueur last week Dr. Angle at one sitting pulled 18 teeth for George E. Edwards, and on the next day pulled three more. Mr. Edwards refused to take ether."

A CURE-AWL---1869, St. Paul Daily Press: Sauk Rapids Sentinel correspondent wrote that when he was a trader at Leech Lake in 1824 he froze his feet "as hard as a rock up to the ankles. I was relieved by immersing them in a deep pan full of wine, having first punctured the feet and toes with an awl. As soon as the frost was out, they began to bleed freely. I kept them in the liquor until they had done smarting. I then put on my stockings and shoes, smoked my pipe and went to bed!"

SOMETHING "QUEER"---1878, Minneapolis Tribune: "The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway brought out of Chicago Wednesday about 375 immigrants for Minnesota. Some of the immigrants were loaded down with counterfeit money."

THEN WHAT?---1878, Minneapolis Tribune: "A Catholic fair at Grand Meadow netted \$400. Among the prizes were a cow and sewing machine. An orphan girl drew the cow and a bachelor the sewing machine."

SEEN IN THE PAPER---1878, Minneapolis Tribune: "The Pullman sleeper Potaski which runs on the St. Louis line was in the Milwaukee & St. Paul yards this morning. It is equipped with paper wheels, the center of the wheels being composed entirely of paper, which has been found to be a successful and practical substance of which to construct rolling stock, and especially adapted to sleeping cars where the smoothest running effect is desired to be obtained."

LEADING A DOUBLE LIFE---1880, Minneapolis Tribune: "Miss Nellie Christine, the wonderful two-headed lady, entertained yesterday at the fair grounds... While one head was talking Italian to a lady, another was holding a conversation in French with a gentleman. She dances gracefully and sings a duet very sweetly, one voice being pure soprano while the other is contralto."

* * * * *

Yes, Anoka wins. The town was given the acid test by researchers after they had come upon this ballyhoo in Anoka correspondence to the St. Paul Press in 1864: "We are such a temperate people up this way that you might just as well go into a Shaker village for sensation items.... Our jail has been without an occupant for over a year, and there is talk of leasing it this winter for an ice house."

Brushing aside the bright thought that a jail frequently is called a "cooler", the researchers dug into Anoka annals to learn if the place really was that good, and became cynical when they read in the St. Paul Pioneer in '69 of what was termed a "wholesale housebreaking". At the home of Rev. J. B. Tuttle, housebreakers "helped themselves to some pie, cake, bread, and a tin pail to carry the provisions away with them." The shock sustained by this revelation was somewhat absorbed, however, when the St. Anthony Falls Democrat in '70 supplied the encouraging information that "Anoka suppressed the only public rum shop in her limits two weeks ago ... buying out the saloon keeper for \$115 and pouring the liquor into the street."

The community under inspection went through several disastrous fires and two dam breaks, but came out triumphant. First annals mention: "The postmaster general has changed the name of the postoffice at Rum River from Decorri to Anoka." - St. Anthony Express, '54.

St. Paul Democrat, '58: "The grist mill at Anoka was destroyed by fire Saturday.... Loss, \$14,000."

Daily Minnesotian, '56: "Mr. Woodbury's dam at Anoka has been destroyed by the recent freshet in Rum river."

Anoka correspondence, Minneapolis Tribune, '69: "Saturday evening our town suffered the most disastrous fire that has ever visited it. Eight two-story stores were destroyed." Loss was placed at \$30,000.

In '69 the Anoka dam was washed out with millions of feet of logs. The St. Paul Pioneer, September 22, said the Kimball House was endangered and "to save it it was found necessary to move it."

Higher journalism. St. Paul Pioneer in '70 announced: "The editors of the Sauk Rapids Sentinel and the Anoka Union are at loggerheads; the party of the first part twits the latter with wearing pants and vest that are not paid for."

Finding this one in The Tribune, 1874, the researchers decided no one need worry about Anoka, and quit the investigation: "Anoka county has on deposit ... a balance of \$4,000. The county is entirely out of debt."

* * * * *

Grandfather's Day

Household hints. Drunks attract crowd. Wicked women contribute to city.

Sixty years ago, the mistress of the household wanted her hints. The Tribune contributed these in 1890:

"To Keep Jelly - Housekeepers will be glad to know that jelly covered with pulverized sugar will keep without mold if it is set away on a shelf where small boys cannot get at it."

"House Plant Fertilizer - It is an old but not a well known fact that a few drops of spirits of hartshorn, mixed with the water used for sprinkling, is one of the best and cheapest fertilizers for house plants."

"Black Calico - After washing black calico in warm suds, rinse in cold water with a handful of salt thrown in the rinse. A little bran in the first suds will make the wash easier. On no account soak the goods, as that fades them badly."

"Scrap Book Paste - I had a beautiful scrap book . . . and I intended to fill it with engravings. I began to paste them in with a paste made of flour and water cooked, but they warped and wrinkled in a very unpleasant manner. A lady told me to make a paste of starch. This I tried and it proved very satisfactory."

In the same year, it was poor policy to be caught in ones cups on a Minneapolis street. The Tribune was an unsparing observer, as shown by the following:

"A teamster too drunk to be happy attracted a crowd on Hennepin avenue last evening. A companion only a little less intoxicated had hitched his team behind the first wagon to shirk the responsibility of driving. The expedient worked well until the first driver fell off, when the second went after him and for some minutes each drunken fool was trying to help the other into his wagon with the idea that he alone was

drunk. A good samaritan finally bundled them both in and drove them off, waving their hats triumphantly and derisively at the hooting crowd."

And while browsing among the 1880 records, this happy thought for the day in a St. Paul paper is worth quoting:

"The wicked women of this city, legally recognized as such, contributed \$324 to the revenue of the city yesterday. Why is it that licenses in the way of fees are not collected from men of the same class?"

Grandfather's Day.

IV *Thanksgiving Day date in question* 9.

Controversy over the date of the national Thanksgiving holiday is not without precedent in Minnesota. Indeed, observance of the day had its official beginning here in an atmosphere of critical agitation. First Thanksgiving proclamation for Minnesota was issued by Gov. Alexander Ramsey in 1850, when the gopher domain was a territory. Ramsey, it appears, took his time in the matter. And the delay caused irritation, particularly in St. Anthony, which finally sent a delegation to bring pressure on him.

The St. Paul Pioneer, November 14, tinged an editorial query with irony: "Will his excellency Gov. Ramsey be good enough to treat Minnesota this year to a Thanksgiving?"

Thus besieged, the governor on December 12 issued the demanded manifesto, which said in part:

"Whereas it is meet that a people should acknowledge the protecting arm of the Almighty Power that sways the universe, it is proper that nations should return thanks for blessings vouchsafed to them from season to season and from year to year by Him who hath appointed seed time and harvest time, who from the clouds waters the earth and with its teeming fruits feeds his creatures.

"It is wise for a community to bend in praise and thanksgiving to heaven for innumerable and precious gifts, in order that the liberal hand may still be outstretched . . .

"Equally grateful, humble yet joyously thankful should the people of the territory be for the prosperity which has smiled upon us, for the peace which has dwelt among us . . . for the future, with its golden hopes. Young in years, we have come into the wilderness to found a new empire in

aid of our pursuit of happiness . . . Our fields have yielded a rich return . . . neither blast nor hurricane hath visited us . . .

"Let us in the public temple of religion, by the fireside and family altar, on the prairie and in the forest join in the expression of our gratitude to God . . .

"With these views, therefore, I have deemed it advisable to recommend in this manner that Thursday the 26th. day of December be observed throughout the territory of Minnesota as a day of public thanksgiving. . . .

"Given under my hand and the seal of the said territory in the year of our Lord 1850, and of the territory the second year."

Looking backward from today, 1856 seems pretty long ago, and one would be inclined to say that "old timers" then must have been few and far between. But the Daily Minnesotian in November of that year printed the following, particularly interesting in its reference to "reminiscences concerning the early history of St. Paul and the territory generally":

"A fire broke out yesterday morning between 3 and 4 o'clock in the block of brick buildings on St. Anthony street, formerly known as the Rice House . . . The fire originated in the floor of the third story, over King & Rich's store, but how is not known . . . The block was entirely destroyed, and now lies a heap of smouldering ruins . . .

"There are many interesting associations and reminiscences concerning the early history of St. Paul and the territory generally connected with the old Rice House. It was erected in the summer of 1850 by H. M. Rice and John Banfill, and was the first business property built of brick finished in the city. The second session of the Territorial Legislature, the long session of 90 days, convened in the Rice House on the first day of January, 1851. This was not only the most eventful session that has ever convened in the Territory, but the most stormy and exciting one. Our present code of laws was framed during that session; but this was not the great question of contention or cause of bitter personal strife among members and their friends and supporters outside. The questions of the seat of government and the apportionment of the Territory were the great dividing measures.

"The session finally closed on the night of March 21st, which was a day and night of excitement such as we have never seen since in St. Paul, and never desire to. . .

"Several newspapers were during that winter and afterwards published in the upper apartment of the Rice House. Here the Minnesota Democrat was started by Col. D. A. Robertson, in December 1850. Here also, the old Whig Chronicle and Register lived its short life after it passed into the hands of the late Charles J. Henniss, Esq. The notorious Watab Reveille likewise ran its brief career in that old third story; and there also was printed for a time the Sioux missionary paper the Dakota Tawatchikukin.

"The block was turned into a hotel in the spring of 1852, and kept as such during that summer by Joseph Daniels, Esq. It afterward again became mercantile and office property, and, as we have seen, was thus occupied at the hour of its destruction."

They had red hot campaigns, contested elections, lobbies, soldier preference and all the rest in early Minnesota politics.

There was a fine kettle of fish in 1856. Or, to be exact, no fish at all. A big barbecue for the Democrats of southern Minnesota was announced for a November Friday. Promptly an Irish delegation approached those in charge. The Minnesotian quoted the delegation's spokesman: "'Faith and a pretty fellow ye are. You've bin and got up a barbecue on Friday, when you know two-thirds of the Democratic party don't eat meat on Firday, an' ye have no fish at all, at all!'"

Then there was the importation of voters. Minnesota got this attention from Harper's Magazine in '60: "St. Vincent is the name of a new townsite opposite Pembina, in the northwest corner of Minnesota. It receives large annual accessions to its poll list just before election time from over the river North Dakota, but ordinarily its population consists of half a dozen families of half breeds, with dogs, mosquitoes, ad lib."

And job-hunters, of course. Daily Atlas, '61, said there were 700 applicants for office under Lincoln in Minnesota."

Also, they contested elections. William J. Cullen wrote the Pioneer in '62: "I serve upon Governor Donnelly (Lieutenant Governor Ignatius Donnelly) a notice . . . that I should contest his right to a seat in the next congress."

Veteran preference. Pioneer, '64: "The house of representatives performed a very creditable act in electing Mortimer for fireman. He was formerly a member of Co. K, Fourth Minnesota, and lost his arm . . . We are glad to see the claim of disabled soldiers upon the public recognized."

Lobbies? Yes. Pioneer, '70: "A heavy lobby delegation from Carver county is in the city. They come to 'interview' our Legislators upon the question of county seat removal."

And of course, the wet-dry issue. Minneapolis Tribune, '70:

"Elections under the new law . . . allowing towns to vote . . . whether they will . . . tolerate licensed saloons have been held in Champlin, Bloomington, Brooklyn and Independence townships, and have all resulted adversely to licensing the sale of liquor."

Chambers of commerce, realtors and publicity folk in general might well take a leaf from the page of history in exploiting the charms of their pet section. The following description, given in the St. Anthony Express in 1856, recounting the first expedition made to the Kandiyohe country, could be taken as an example. It is doubtful if even today's staunch boosters of that area the Willmar Tribune, Gazette and Journal, the Atwater Republican Press, New London Times, Raymond News, Green Lake Breeze of Spicer - could do better.

"Kandiyohe! where and what is Kandiyohe? Is it in Minnesota or Central Africa? Such may be the exclamations and interrogations uttered by the readers of this article.

"Kandiyohe, then, is the Indian name of a large lake about 100 miles west of Minneapolis, connected by means of rivers and small lakes with a group of seven or eight others, many of them of considerable size, and all more or less remarkable for their beauty; thus forming probably the largest and most extraordinary series of lakes to be found in the Territory, and surrounded by land of the richest description, whose fertility will never be believed in until it is seen.

"Here, in truth, is unquestionably the Garden of Minnesota, and few will be the circling years ere these regions will teem with . . . a thriving population, while their dwellings will adorn the hillsides and peep forth from the graves of Kandiyohe, whose sparkling waters will reflect them to the entranced beholder as he gazes on the fairy scene outspread before him, while steamers and pleasure-boats will be gliding onwards, threading the many channels or sweeping round the richly wooded islands, so many of which gem the bosom of Kandiyohe; and then will he confess in his

inmost soul that a lovelier country never passed before his eyes."

Daily Minnesotian the same year printed another bit of booster news about a district north of the Twin Cities, though considerably east of Kandiyohi:

"Dr. Carlton Goring, whose farm is situated about 35 miles directly north of St. Paul . . . has sent us two mammoth vegetables raised, as he informs us, on his own free soil . . . One is a turnip weighing 10 pounds - not a rutabaga - the other a radish weighing 7 pounds, both perfectly solid and fit for table use. The time is coming when St. Paul fogies and Ramsey county commissioners . . . will stop their sneering at the 'sunrise swamps and Rum river sand hills.' "

*A fair bounty to fill draft quota
in 1864*

Uncle Sam's gigantic draft machinery has been set into motion with scarcely a hitch. In the Civil War, the draft, though effective enough, was a cruder affair. Offering bounties to men unwilling to enlist voluntarily was not an odd notion then. The hiring of substitutes was also a matter for calm consideration.

As the draft of 1864 approached, the St. Paul Press of July 14 said:

"Would it not be well for the city to raise a fund to secure a few more volunteers? It is asserted by many that there are quite a number of men who could be got by the offer of a fair bounty, and it really seems the best way to raise our quota.

"Hitherto we have in this city escaped the terrors of a draft, and it was a great mistake that the city did not, when men could be had for \$100, secure 40 or 50 more or even 100 more, and thus clear St. Paul on all calls for several months to come.

"It is not disputed now by anybody, scarcely, that even yet it would be better to secure volunteers, even at a round expense. A draft will most surely come, and one that will take almost every able-bodied man left. Why not meet it in advance by filling our probable quota?

"There is no one now but that is deeply interested in this matter, unless it be the exempts, the old, the halt and blind. No \$300 will clear the conscript now. Our best business men may have to shoulder arms. The price of substitutes will be enormous, and the market poorly supplied, when a draft comes. Under such circumstances, there is no one but who is willing to do a liberal share to avoid a draft. It would well pay a laboring man or mechanic to stand a smart tax even, if thereby he avoided the danger of a draft.

"If anything of this kind is done, it will be well to take action now, as other places are in the market, and after the draft is ordered the price of substitutes may rise."

*Col. J. H. Stevens first settler -
in Mpls. Mann selected for city*

Nobody got sick, so the one doctor in "Minneapolis" left in disgust. There were no children, so the lone schoolmaster departed. The farmers didn't like the place and headed for California. "Two of us determined to remain," said Col. J. H. Stevens, first white settler in these parts, in a lecture before the Minneapolis Lyceum in 1855. I pitched my house on the west side of the falls of St. Anthony, there to live, perhaps to die."

Parts of Stevens' lecture were quoted somewhat later in the St. Anthony Express as follows:

"In the month of April, 1849, a colony of some 10 persons might have been seen wending their way from St. Paul, looking for locations for a new settlement... As we journeyed from the Fort Snelling... not a solitary house except the old mill property was to be seen ---an unbroken wilderness surrounded the site of Minneapolis. We saw a number of wolves start from their lairs and eagles, even, seemed disposed to dispute our right to visit the crags below the falls."

Then followed the mention of the doctor, schoolmaster and farmers. Stevens' remaining companion was J. P. Miller. The colonel went on:

"My present dwelling was erected in the winter of 1849-50, being the first house built in Minneapolis by a private citizen. We have often retired at night and opened our eyes in the morning upon the wigwams of either the Sioux, Chippewa, or Winnebago, which had gone up while we slept. My oldest little girl is the first white child born in Minneapolis...

"One of our early and most perplexing difficulties was the selection of a name for our embryo city. Col. J. H. Goodhue thought 'All Saints' to be a good name... In 1851, 'Lowell' was adopted. This did not suit Messrs.

Charles Hoag, Dr. A. E. Ames, A. Northrup and others. At an accidental meeting ---the whole of Minneapolis was present and we hit upon 'Albion.' This name the citizens soon got tired of, and, at last, as a compromise, it was left to Geo. D. Bowman, Esq., Editor of the St. Anthony Express, to give it a name. He selected Minneapolis, which met with some opposition at first, but Mr. Bowman would come out every week with an article on Minneapolis, and all finally swallowed it. Minneapolis is derived from 'minne,' the Sioux term for water, and 'polis', the Greek for city --- allowed on all hands to be a beautiful combination of the native Sioux and the classic Greek."

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IV
*"William Crooks" Minnesota's
first locomotive.*

Presumably the first "railroad accident" in Minnesota was caused by a locomotive that was standing still. And it was the same locomotive that has just been returned to St. Paul from the New York World's Fair- the William Crooks, named in honor of the chief engineer of the old St. Paul & Pacific railroad. The engine, known in railway circles everywhere as Minnesota's first, made its initial journey when it rolled from St. Paul to St. Anthony, in 1862.

But the "accident" was the year before. The details were thus reported in the Pioneer Democrat, October 3, 1861: "The locomotive of the Pacific railroad frightened a horse yesterday, which ran and overturned a wagon and spilled an assortment of farmers' produce over the bank."

Pioneer Democrat related its arrival in the issue of September 10, '61. "Yesterday morning the steamer Alhambra came into port with unusual demonstrations in the shape of ringing the bells, screaming of whistles, etc... It was soon discovered she had on board and in her barges a fine locomotive called the William Crooks...two platform and one box car, two hand-cars, and about 50 tons of track iron."

Three days later: "Engineer William Crooks says he will have the cars running to St. Anthony by the 15th of October. Workmen commenced laying the rails on Tuesday."

Ceremonial opening of the road, however, did not take place until June 28, 1862, when the paper said: "Yesterday afternoon, by invitation, the Lieutenant Governor, the Mayor and Alderman, Directors of the Railroad, and citizens to the number of about 100 made an excursion trip to St. Anthony. The passenger cars were brought up by the Key City yesterday morning and Col. Crooks, the Superintendent of the Road had them on the track all right by noon." Regular passenger and mail service between St. Paul and St. Anthony

began on July 2.

Then another report in which the famous engine figured. St.
Paul Daily Press, July 23, 1863:

"Yesterday afternoon the 5:30 o'clock train to St. Anthony ran over an ox on the road below the Lake Como crossing and was thrown from the track into the marsh through which the road runs. The engine ran completely off the track, and was placed hors du combat in the marsh. Fortunately, no one was injured... This is the first time in the history of the road that an engine has been unhorsed."

* * *

Grandfather's Day

*Good hunting in Itasca county
Bow & Arrow to be used*

There may be more method than madness in the growing popularity of the ancient sport of archery. Minnesota has just had a five-day period reserved for hunting deer in Itasca county with bow and arrow.

This reversion to the old Indian way of getting meat causes one to ponder the changes since the red men abandoned their bows for the muskets brought them by the white men. Minnesota's earliest white comers pitted their muskets against poisoned arrows, but early in the seventeenth century the French furnished guns to the Chippewas, enabling them to drive out the still arrow-equipped Sioux.

Itasca early became recognized as a good place to hunt. The St. Paul Pioneer Democrat in '57 told about W. W. Winthrop of St. Anthony, who had returned from a trip to the Itasca area and said "he shot a number of partridges, pheasants, foxes and small animals."

The gun-bearing Chippewas stepped out of line in '68, when the St. Paul Press printed a St. Cloud dispatch: "Information from the upper country is that a number of the Pillager or Leech Lake band of the Chippewa . . . robbed the storehouses at White Oak Point of United States goods." Soldiers were sent from Fort Ripley.

Women, too, got the Itasca habit. Grand Rapids Magnet, '91: "Dave Williard, of the heavy lumber firm of J. W. Day & Co., Minneapolis, accompanied by his accomplished wife, has gone up the river . . . Mrs. Williard is herself a hunter and does her share of shooting . . . whether fowl or the fleet-footed deer."

Evidence of change in Indian procedure from the bow and arrow days was seen in the Magnet, in '92--the report of an influx of Chippewas that caused speculation in the city until an interpreter explained they were going to Washington to "lay before the Department of Indian Affairs certain grievances."

Itasca had become a great game center by '92, when the Magnet stated:

"Over 30 deer have been brought to Grand Rapids within the past week, and venison has been as plentiful as beefsteak."

Lake City and her fires

Fire which destroyed the Gillett & Eaton foundry in Lake City the other day was by no means the first to cause that Wabasha county community, home of the Lake City Graphic, losses, although it was probably the most costly. The foundry had been filling war contracts.

Under the heading "Great Fire in Lake City," the Minneapolis Tribune, January 29, 1873, printed the following dispatch:

"About 7 o'clock this evening a very destructive fire broke out in the drugstore of Glines, Gould & Co., consuming it and an adjoining wooden building, and also two brick blocks and one wooden block. Nine stores were entirely consumed, all of which were occupied.

"The firms burned out are: Glines, Gould & Co., J. E. Parra, dry goods; S. H. Bell, Grace & Co. and three saloons, with the J. Reading eating house. The loss is probably from \$25,000 to \$30,000. The amount of insurance is not known."

And again, two years later, the Tribune had to report another Lake City blaze. "The Boston Elevator was burned at 3 o'clock this morning. The origin of the fire is unknown. The building and machinery were worth \$30,000, insured for \$12,500. Seventy-five thousand bushels of wheat in store, mostly insured. A portion will be saved."

One might say Lake City came by its war contract logically, if there's anything in a name, because the annals show Wabasha county was named for a Sioux war chief. First newspaper notice of industrial construction in the county were furnished by the Daily Minnesotian, which in '55 said: "At Beaver Dam, Foster & Co. are erecting a saw and grist mill . . . Whitewater

Falls, nine miles distant, shows considerable thrift. A mill with four runs of stone is under construction."

Along with other pioneer communities, Lake City sensed a need for more representatives of the fair sex, which prompted the Lake City Tribune in '59 to say: "Minnesota has 25,000 more men than women. Massachusetts has 250,000 more women than men. Let the old Bay State send out a few car-loads of girls so our bachelor farmers and mechanics may secure to themselves good wives."

But the St. Paul Pioneer & Democrat demurred: "Why Mr. Tribune, it would cost men more money to support those 25,000 women you propose to import . . . than would pay the interest on at least three \$5,000,000 loans, to say nothing of the cumulation of family burdens that would accrue. . . No, sir, the thing is not to be thought of for a moment!"

"North Pole, Minn." This state's newest village, on the shore of Lake Bemidji in Beltrami county, is designed to capture some of the mailing popularity long since achieved by "Santa Clause, Ind." Husky Beltrami county, of which Bemidji is the seat, has not had quite as many breaks as some of its sister divisions in the Gopher commonwealth, but it has kept moving forward, and North Pole bids fair to prove an added and unique boost. For what child wouldn't be pleased to get a reply to his Saint Nick letter with a North Pole postmark?

Up that way there were not many children to write to or get letters from back in 1852. The Minnesota Pioneer in February of that year published a Red Lake item:

"This is amongst the Chippewas, several hundred miles north of St. Paul. Mr. Boutwell, missionary at Red Lake, reports the average attendance of children at school the past year to be 10. Mr. B. says: 'The soil at Red Lake is the best I have seen in the territory and produces abundantly almost all kinds of grain and vegetables; the lake also abounds in excellent fish. The missionaries have raised this year one and a half acres of winter wheat, which yielded 40 bushels per acre. Their corn yields from 50 to 75 bushels of shelled corn to the acre; potatoes yield abundantly and are of a better quality than can be raised in the states.' " This in the days before anybody thought there'd be a North Pole close by. Or any daily newspaper, like the Bemidji Pioneer.

However, in 1867 there was a Weekly News published in Wilton, in Beltrami, from which the Minneapolis Tribune in July of that year quoted an

item showing the steady influx of settlers-to-be:

"Our foreman has kept count during the past five days of the number of immigrant wagons which he has seen pass through this place, and reports the number to have been 54. The cattle, horses, mules, sheep and swine were too numerous to mention."

And two years later, Beltrami annals reveal increasing progress. The St. Paul Daily Press, Sunday, February 28:

"The saw and grist mill at Red Lake in process of building by the Government for the Indians, who raised 5,000 bushels of corn last year, will be completed this spring."

Beltrami's bid for recognition has been "here a little, there a little," but steady, and now Uncle Sam has granted the county another favor in establishing North Pole on the mail map.

Grandfather had his firecracker complaints. And the Minnesota "flowers that bloomed in the spring tra-la" were outclassed by winter flowers, sometimes. Picked from old files of the Minneapolis Tribune are these oddments:

1869 (June) - "Firecrackers are already tossed around. If we are not mistaken, there is a law on our statute books in regard to these instruments of annoyance and danger."

1870 - "The high sidewalk on Minnetonka street [Marquette Avenue] above Third is a dangerous path from the breaking away of a part, and absence of the remainder of the railing. A hammer and saw is needed - or a petition!"

1870 (December) - "Mr. Kellett left at our office on Friday two buttercups in blossom, which he plucked on the prairie in Mc Pherson the first day of December. On the third, farmers in this and Martin counties were plowing."

1871 - "About 100 friends of Mr. and Mrs J. T. Harrison met at their residence last evening to celebrate the second anniversary of their wedding day. The bride and groom were attired in handsome paper suits."

1873 - J. F. Lewis, superintendent of schools [in Wright county] reports seven districts . . . wanting teachers at wages ranging from \$12 to \$30 per month, and board."

1876 - "Mr. P. W. Cornelius of this city has invented a door mat or scraper, made of rubber and iron, which is said to be an article of great convenience and utility by those who have examined it."

Minnesota's Tourist Bureau, waging a vigorous and successful campaign to increase the state's renown as a vacation land, would have whooped with appreciation if it had existed when the influential Boston Transcript devoted much space to extolling Minnesota and called it an inducement to sweltering humanity elsewhere to come here. Among other things the article, published in 1879, said:

"The tide of summer travel which years ago set towards this region around Minnehaha and the Falls of St. Anthony is every season increasing. The sanitary claims of Minnesota are too well-known to require other than a brief mention . . . The pure, dry atmosphere, rich in ozone and oxygen acts like a tonic upon the system and infuses new life and vigor into the overwrought brain. Statistics prove that Minnesota and Oregon are the two healthiest states in the union. . . .

"The dual and rival towns of Minneapolis and St. Paul cover large areas and, although nine miles apart, bid fair to meet each other half way ere long on the broad University avenue. . . .

"Lake Minnetonka is very irregular in outline, being made up of a chain of apparently distinct lakes, some 25 in number. . . . The lake . . . has a shore line of more than 100 miles and covers an area of 14,000 acres. It is dotted with verdant islands, and in its sinuous course forms many peninsulas and bays and coves, which give endless variety to its scenery and furnish innumerable charming sites for summer cottages and camps upon the beach. . . . New cottages are going up this season at all points around the lake . . .

"The days when the corner-lot and mill dam elite, a new-rich, uncultivated class, ruled in social circles in Minneapolis are over. There is a genuine culture in Minneapolis now, and people are esteemed not so much for

what they have as for what they are. . . . Much that is best in the social and mental life of this young and thriving town comes from New England, and from Boston, the soul of New England, who is intellectually the mother of us all."

Who remembers the jolly old sleighride parties the young folks used to have? Before the autos, radios and movies? They were along this pattern, described in the Tribune in the winter of '75:

"The officers and teachers of the Y. M. C. A. Mission Sunday School ... have made arrangements for giving the children a sleighride tomorrow afternoon. Three large sleighs, each drawn by four horses ... have been engaged, in which it is expected to stow away the teachers and 100 boys and girls, and carry them to the Falls of Minnehaha ... The School is composed almost wholly of the 'arabs of the street', who eat peanuts in the Post Office lobby and 'shine 'em up' on the street corners... The expenses of the excursion will be met by money donated by business men and others."

This isn't the first time France has been on a hot spot. Reporting a lecture on Paris given in the opera house in this city in '70, the Tribune concluded its account:

"The glittering grandeur of the palaces of France ... the flowery beauty and art treasures of the city of Paris ... were given passing notice and many a wholesome inference drawn ... in view of the present fallen condition of that land." [Franco-Prussian war]

It seems that Grandfather had a hunch when a "blow" was going to strike Minneapolis. Tribune, May 19, 1870:

"The Congregational Society of this city are building a ... chapel on Washington avenue, in North Minneapolis, near the schoolhouse, and it was enclosed and the rafters for the roof all set in place and firmly braced in anticipation of a blow. During the night, the roof frame was blown in, and the upper window frames almost entirely demolished... The new Catholic church, a few blocks nearer town on the same street, was moved from a plumb line about four inches, but can easily be righted."

You just looked at the clouds, in those days, if you wanted to know what

the weather was going to be. It was simple. Tribune in 1870 said:

"Soft and delicate clouds denote fine weather and light breezes; hard-edged oily clouds, wind; dark gloomy sky foretells wind; bright blue sky, fine weather." The article added that a "greenish, subtly looking color" of sunset foretold rain and wind.

Grandfather's Day.

*Minnesota admitted to the Union
Come in Hawaii! Minnesota went
right ahead.* 22.

IV

Hawaii has just held a plebiscite on statehood, resulting in a majority in favor. The next step will be up to Congress. If the people of the islands find it difficult to restrain their eagerness to move into the union, they might take a glance at the annals to learn what early Minnesotans did in a similar situation. When our grandfathers finally decided they wanted to be a state, they just went ahead and started to function as a state.

Minnesota's admission was in May 1858. The year before, Congress having passed the enabling act, two constitutional conventions were held, one by Democrats, one by Republicans. Each claimed to be the legal body. They finally got together, but not until (Pioneer Democrat reporting) "Hon. W. A. Gorman and Hon. Mr. Wilson came to blows."

Without waiting for final action by Congress, Minnesota not only adopted a constitution and elected Henry H. Sibley governor, but began to pass laws in state legislative session.

Pioneer Democrat quoted the New York Tribune as attributing Sibley's 20,000 votes to "whisky and Indians."

The lawmakers of Minnesota kept a calm eye on Washington Pioneer Democrat - "Question of the legality of the meeting of the legislature prior to admission of the state into the union was raised, but not discussed or voted upon, further than to quietly lay the motion on the table."

Daily Minnesotian, early in '58: "The Minnesota state senate has voted \$75 to the sergeant at arms ... for 'extra service' to wit: Liquor furnished, \$45; revolver stolen from liquor room, \$30; total, \$75."

Washington correspondent, Cincinnati Enquirer, that year: "The decision to keep Minnesota out of the union until Kansas is admitted will prevent Messrs. Shields and Rice from obtaining their seats, although they are de facto members of the senate."

After the senate finally acted favorably, the house delayed, causing the Pioneer Democrat to say: "It is thus that Minnesota ... has been received by the congress.... We are made to serve the purpose of a football."

Finally everything was smoothed out and Rice and Shields "drew" for their terms, Rice drawing the six-year period and Shields a two-year.

Come in, Hawaii! But hold on to your leis!

Post-election hostility not easily forgotten in early days

With the election over, the sentiment is generally expressed that "now is the time for all good men" to forget campaign bitterness and get down again to the wholesome business of promoting American unity. It appears from the annals that it was not always easy to forget, immediately, the pre-election hostility.

Peace and good will slipped a cog in the 1858 Daily Minneaotian, when it said:

"The Minnesota Star, printed at Albert Lea . . . has for its editor one Alfred P. Swineford. This individual was, at the election, a candidate for the Legislature on a bogus ticket headed 'independent' . . . under which false colors he tried to cheat the Republican people of Freeborn county in electing him. He slipped up, however . . . and now we notice he is busy taking advantage of his position as an editor to blackguard and abuse his successful opponent, Amander H. Bartlett, whom he characterizes as 'no gentleman.' "

The St. Paul Pioneer Democrat, November 1857, likewise took a bitter editorial fling: "In St. Anthony it is notorious that a gang of armed bullies, in the pay of the Republican leaders, took possession of the polls of the Upper Precinct and prevented Democrats from voting."

Goodhue County Republican, after Lincoln's election: "The depreciation in prices consequent upon the political excitement of the country has rather taken the life out of the grain trade."

St. Peter Statesman, '64: "There are just 15 enthusiastic Lincoln men in this place - five Federal office holders, three dependents or hangers-on, and the wives of seven of these."

St. Paul Daily Press, '65: "The Hastings Independent attributes the success of the Democratic ticket to the return of the draft sneaks who have been on a visit to Canada during the war."

Minneapolis Tribune, '77: "The Marshall Democrat says J. W. William, Democrat, is elected representative by 45 majority from that Republican stronghold. Lac Qui Parle did it to pay off an old grudge."

Grandfather's Day.

IV
*"Bridges" Construction Engineers
meet with setbacks*

24.

Collapse of Tacoma's Puget Sound bridge brings the thought that, even with all that modern science has been able to contribute to the art of construction, its best laid plans "oft gang agley." Construction engineers of today meet with setbacks sometimes, as did their predecessors of pioneer times.

Minnesota annals are full of items reporting destruction of bridges in various parts of the state and within the memory of many is the tornado that razed the High Bridge across the Mississippi, in St. Paul, in 1904.

An early disaster of this variety is described in an 1855 item from the Minnesota Pioneer:

"We announced the partial destruction of this elegant structure [the Wire Suspension Bridge] in a portion of our edition yesterday morning. We learn that immediate steps will be taken to rebuild it in a more durable manner. It is now estimated that it will require from \$7,000 to \$10,000 to repair the injury done."

Logs were almost as much of a menace as wind in those days. In '59, the Pioneer and Democrat said:

"The Lower Bridge - On Friday afternoon . . . one of the piers of the lower bridge across the Mississippi partially gave way under the severe wrenching of a jam of logs . . . and one span fell into the flood. It is thought that some other portions of the bridge will give way before many hours. This fine bridge was . . . opened to the public in the spring of 1857, at a cost of \$55,000.

"The Upper Bridge - This structure has had two spans carried away by the freshet . . . Day and night gangs of men were stationed with pikes, hooks and ropes to prevent the logs and drift from jamming upon the piers."

Bridges weren't the only things that fared badly. Pity the poor toll keeper, on occasion, too. In '65 the St. Paul Daily Press announced this "by our own reporter.":

"In that funny room under the tower of the Suspension bridge, on Nicollet Island, is our genial young friend, the toll keeper. But this cold weather [December] he almost freezes to death, because the chimney won't draw, and so the stove won't heat up. So they are building a new toll house close by the old one, which is intended to be cold-proof. This is the second move, within four months, of the toll house or toll keeper, and we sincerely hope that the next time he moves it will be a move out of sight and hearing."

Minnesota Snow Storms
Grandfather's Day

It was a fierce storm all right, and caused no end of trouble for Minneapolis and Minnesota. But it was nothing new to Gopherdom. One of the worst winter tempests described in the annals was that of 1873. First inkling of the impending diaster reached the Twin Cities when the Worthington (Nobles county) Advance, at the beginning of the year, complained that goods shipped for that city from St. Paul were six weeks on the way, due to snow blockades.

The Faribault Republican, January 3, said that freight trains were discontinued four days on the Milwaukee & St. Paul road, "owing to the cold."

On January 4, the Anoka correspondent for the Minneapolis Tribune reported: "Lowest thermometer this winter was at Champlin, where a spirit glass showed 54 below."

Then the storm broke in earnest. Tribune, January 9: "Snowed? You bet it did! Few persons in Minnesota ever saw anything to rival it, and they are among the oldest inhabitants . . . We observed many a man gazing hopelessly first on a drift and then on his snow shovel, and abandon the work before he commenced . . . The snow drifts are . . . many of them, as high as the tops of the cars." Which nowadays would mean automobiles, but then referred to railway cars. "No trains left Milwaukee for the west last night and no train left Winona on the Winona & St. Peter . . . Probably every locomotive in Minnesota is standing still as we write, or butting in a futile fashion against snow banks."

Any touch of levity vanished from next accounts. Headlines in the Tribune, two days later: "Frozen to Death - Appalling List of Victims - Men, Women and Children in the Icy Tomb." Three days later, January 14, "Bad News Still Coming In - Frightful List From Fergus Falls and Morris - Worthington

and Sioux City Add Names."

On January 16, also the Tribune: "The county treasurer of Redwood county was on his collecting tour when the recent storm overtook him. He crawled into a snowbank and lay there three nights and two days and . . . became so hungry that he ate portions of his shoe packs."

The Big Blizzard of 1880 is a story in itself. In 1881 snow blockaded the mails from the east to Minneapolis, beginning March 2; they finally got through March 9.

In 1889 there was a peculiar fall of black snow, ascribed at the time to prairie fires. On Sunday, March 14, the year following, there was another black snowfall.

Railroad crossing accidents

Add to proofs that history repeats itself. They had the problem of the railroad crossing accident way back when, without, of course, the reckless auto driver who nowadays tries to beat the train to it. The Tribune on July 26, 1879, devoted valuable space to a crossing mishap when the only fatality was a horse:

"As the Chicago train on the Minneapolis & St. Louis road was drawing up to the depot preparatory to starting southward this morning, a horse attached to a hack belonging to the City Omnibus company met with an accident which proved fatal.

"The driver, familiarly known as 'Slippery Elm,' whose true name could not be ascertained, was wheeling his horses between the tracks at the Washington avenue crossing, trying to take his place among a number of hacks next the platform, when the cylinder head of the engine, which was running very slowly, struck the horse in the breast, throwing him down, and the animal so fell that three of his legs were across the rail.

"The forward trucks and drivers passed over them... The spot where the accident occurred is not a dozen feet from the place where little Mary Crowe met with her untimely end not many weeks since. That it was not a hack load of passengers instead of a horse is exceedingly fortunate....

"And yet the railroad is not at fault in this matter. From the very nature of things at that point these accidents must occur. Over 40 regular trains pass that crossing daily, and with all the transfers and switching it is probably an inside estimate that the avenue is crossed by locomotives as many as 150 times every day.

"This crossing is made by a streetcar every six minutes all day long, besides hundreds of other conveyances."

Early-day newspapers were quick to point out the moral of an event. But now and then, the moral was hard to pin down. For instance, the Tribune, in the same year, same month:

"Mr. Stephen Fiske asks ministers to kindly make a note of the fact that C. Cox, who murdered Mrs. Hull, was caught coming out of church. There ought to be some sort of moral here. If Cox had been captured at a theatre it would have been clearly shown ... that the theatre is a resort of thieves and murderers, but exactly what his attendance at church establishes is not apparent."

In these days of miracle inventions and steamroller salesmanship, it may be forgotten that grandfather himself left few stones unturned. Under the heading, "A NEW MINNESOTA ENTERPRISE," the St. Paul Daily Pioneer of 1870 revealed a novel effort to keep the wheels of industry spinning.

"There's a free bridge across the Mississippi, and the ice crop promises to be a great success. Sufficient importance has not been given by the local press to this rich and unfailing resource of our State, and we therefore feel it incumbent upon us to say that our water congeals fruitfully during the most unfavorable seasons in a lower altitude.

"Should we be enabled to market the entire product this year, our taxes would fall upon us as lightly as snowflakes. We understand that the expense of transportation of this article to the East is to be overcome by keeping navigation open through Lake Superior by artificial means during the dull winter season, and thus business will be furnished to the lake steamers that have been compelled hitherto to lay up unprofitably during four months of the year.

"The expected fall in the price of coal will make this enterprise entirely practicable. A red hot iron steamer is to be sent through the frozen surface of the lake, and melt a channel for the wooden vessel that is to quickly follow, and the steam that is made by the iron steamer is to be caught and utilized for the propulsion of the wooden one.

"This, as will be seen, will make a new era in the transportation business, and will make us reasonably independent of the combination of railroads that put up the price of freight and fare as winter lays her icy hand upon their summer competitors, the water channels.

"Large ice houses will probably be built at St. Paul, in view of this splendid prospect of business, and the Lake Superior Road will have on hand in time for the new trade a sufficient number of ice cars.

"In order to insure the success of this great work, Governor Austin has consented to allow his name to be placed at the head of it, and has agreed to devote as much time and talent as he can spare from his official duties and private and public correspondence. We wish it the success that it deserves."

- - - - -

Grandfather's Day.

IV

Myth man Richard Gale in Congress

28

How Minneapolis happens to have congressman-elect Richard Gale is told in an unpublished diary kept by his grandfather, Samuel Chester Gale. It reveals that when the grand-elder came to "these parts" from Massachusetts in 1857 it was only for a visit, but he decided to remain. The progenitor of the newly elected congressman from the third district wrote in his diary:

Dec. 31, 1857 - "I arrived in Minneapolis May 11, 1857. I found my brother in good health . . . & just starting out for preempting. We . . . selected claims of 160 acres each near a town called Cedar City . . . I came to Minnesota expecting to return to Worcester, but after long deliberation I decided it was best for me to remain here."

July 25, 1858 - "Today is the beginning of Dog-days, inaugurated this morning by a terrific thunder-shower . . . Times are exceedingly hard; very little business is done except by dicker; no money to be had except by those who can give excellent securities and they generally do not need money. Although I am getting some [law] practice, still I find it difficult to get enough money to pay my board . . . I am not discouraged, however. I have health, and this will be a valuable experience for me."

June 14, 1859 - "The Mississippi River has been running riot - the highest it has been for nine years . . . The Suspension Bridge remains uninjured . . . One Berkman, who the town council hired to watch over Bridge St. during the night watches has just yelled out the 'Ten O' clock' - said watchman is occasionally drunk, a qualification which is not supposed to greatly increase his vigilance."

July 30, 1860 - "The Falls are having at least 350 visitors stopping for a while at hotels and private houses. At the Winslow House in St. Anthony are some 15 to 20 slaves, servants of visitors. One escaped

from his mistress (a Mrs. Prince) last week, but was caught and smuggled off to the slave land - all contrary to our law, of course. Our policy touching these slaves is to let them alone; but if they of their own will once seek and obtain their liberty and desire to keep it, not the powers of hell even shall prevail to use us to help capture them."

Jan. 24, 1862 - "Just snow enough for good sleighing . . . The wood and hog men with hay sellers are very abundant. Stores doing a lively business at Minneapolis . . . The latest news is that Gen. Thomas in Kentucky has achieved a great victory over the Rebels . . . Our gallant Minnesota was in the fight and lost 12 men killed, as the papers have it this morning."

And so, one thing leading to another, Minneapolis now has a Gale in Congress.

*Wells**Scandinavian**Civilization forged ahead*

Time was when the presence of so many Scandinavian names in the Minneapolis city directory caused more comment than now. Today one turns page after page of Viking patronymics without blinking an eyelash, but not grandfather in the 70's. On July 17, '79, the Tribune commented on the new directory:

"The directory presents some curious features to the student of nomenclature. The large Scandinavian element in this community is mirrored in its pages, and if a man, or woman either, desired to be lost 'in the maddening crowd' as it were, they would take on the name of Johnson. There are only 235 of them mentioned in the book. Suppose you multiply that number by the usual directory multiple so as to provide for the female Johnsons and the infant Johnsons, and you are just three short of a round 1,000.... Fifteen are called Andrew, 15 were plain Charles, and 24 more John, 12 Peter and eight Ole.... The Andersons came [after the Smiths] with 161, of whom 13 are Charles, six Oles, four Ericks and 19 Johns. The Petersons came next ... about 470 in the city."

According to research made by the Writers' Project for Iron Men, a study of the Finnish settlements in Minnesota being readied for publication, the Finns of the state have been conscious of surname confusion. The numerous tribe of Maki, for example. But many of the Makis, changing the name, only complicated the situation. The change was to Johnson.

Civilization was forging ahead in Minneapolis in '81, when the Tribune announced: "A sidewalk is to be constructed all the way around Nicollet Island!" Also (add civilization's strides) in '80: "Mrs. Farr goes to St. Paul to dress the ladies' hair for the governor's reception by special request."

Still in step with civilization as reported in 1880. "An individual with a patent washing machine warranted to wash anything from a cambric handkerchief to a baby attracted a crowd on Washington avenue last evening."

RECEIVED
JUN 11 1880
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

The fellow who first observed that nothing is sure but death and taxes overlooked another thing. Time. Time also is a dead certainty. A few "footprints on the sands of time" taken from issues of the Minneapolis Tribune in the year 1880:

Aug. 6---"A match game of croquet was played at Rochester on Wednesday, by a team of Winona Adepts. Winona talent won."

Aug. 8---"A gopher club organized at Scandia, Stevens county, killed between 3,000 and 4,000 of the pests."

Aug. 16---"The prairies north and east of the city [Anoka] were scoured by chicken hunters yesterday. One successful SHOOTIST brought in 38 last night."

Aug. 20---"An old man named Brakke, of Lanesboro, in his 74th year, is said to be growing a new set of teeth and a new crop of hair."

Aug. 20---"Fred Newberg of Lake City, while fishing, left his hook in the bushes a few minutes and when he returned he found he had hooked a plump young quail."

Nov. 26---"A dyeing and cleaning establishment on wheels is the latest addition to Faribault business."

Nov. 29---"An amateur minstrel company was organized in this city [Lake City] last Saturday evening."

Nov. 29---"Our [Rochester's] drugstores will hereafter close at 8 o'clock in the evening."

Dec. 2---"One day last week a German in Todd county took a promissary note written on a pine shingle and indorsed it to a notary public in Long Prairie for protest."

Dec. 4--- "George Rogenstine [Stillwater] rejoices in the possession of the finest barber pole in the state, and arrival of six new elegant shaving mugs."

Present day city editors who battle with reporters to "write the stuff short" would have hailed this correspondent who knew how. "Lake City, Dec. 9. An earthquake shock occurred here one day last week."

Grandfather's Day.

31.

IV

*"Duluth" a prosperous and
pleasure-giving city says J. H. Tuttle
in '79.*

Duluth looked good to visitors as far back as 1879, and they were able to envision for it a prosperous and pleasure-giving future. One Rev. J. H. Tuttle, who went there from Minneapolis in the year mentioned, wrote the Tribune in July:

"When we came upon the shore of the great fresh water ocean [Lake Superior], the effect upon us was delightfully exhilarating . . . We arrived at our hotel, Clark House, about 6 P. M. . . . Duluth is built on a rocky eminence with a sharp pitch toward the lake. Last Sunday morning, houses came near being washed into the lake by one of the heaviest rains ever witnessed here . . .

"Business is increasing here . . . if it continues to be the terminus of the Northern Pacific, it must at some time be a place of considerable importance . . . There is no town . . . where one is so sure to escape our extreme summer heat, and where the facilities for sailing and fishing are greater . . .

"We are warned to prepare for mosquitoes, for they are found always where trout are . . . The majority of our party has what mosquitoes evidently look upon with extreme delight - bald heads . . . We hear exciting stories of trout luck, of even four-pounders having been caught this season . . .

"Mr. J. A. Ensign, one of Duluth's prominent lawyers, and Judge O. P. Stearns came to our hotel this morning and invited our party to a sail on the lake. We accepted, and enjoyed a cool, breezy hour on the Bay between Minnesota Point and Rice's Point . . .

"We are indebted to them for relating to us the story - which we do not remember to have heard before - of the singular loss of one of the islands that used to lie in the Bay. This island pulled up its anchors one day and

sailed off upon the lake. After a considerable absence and after everybody had given up all expectation of ever seeing it again, it came floating back - It did not return to its former place exactly, but lodging against the long strip of ground called Minnesota Point, it . . . became a portion of the main land.

"The Manitoba came in today with over 200 Mennonite emigrants, from Russia, on board. . . . We hope and believe they have done wisely in coming to this new world. They have still hard work before them, and many sufferings and sacrifices, but they have freedom also, peace and plenty."

And now, children, gather round for grandfather's old-time story. There was a big, bold bear and it - well, let the Stillwater Gazette tell the tale. The Gazette (1876) prefaced it with this: "We trust none of our readers will question the truthfulness of the following, as it is vouched for by 'Old Dirty Face' and several other reliable gentlemen."

"Isaac Staples has a large force of men on Ann River in the capacity of shoppers . . . Last Saturday one of our boys named Budge . . . saw bear tracks . . . The word was passed that Sunday was to be a bear hunt . . . Bright and early the boys, armed themselves with axes, knives, guns, saws and bludgeons . . . By noon bruin was brought to bay in a hollow tree . . . The tree was one of the real old giants of the forest and had a cavity equal to the size of a small bedroom.

"The question was how to get his bearship out; all means at hand proved a failure. Dan Cornickle proposed making a set of hooks to throw in and grapple him with. A team was proposed to haul him out and the lot fell to Alex Underwood, as he is the best teamster on the St. Croix river . . .

"Alex came with the oxen, four in number, and hitched them to the grappling irons . . . But the cattle went back instead of forward. Slowly bruin drew them into and through the tree, out at the other end and climbed a lofty pine, oxen and all. Alex looked stupid."

In the same newspaper, the same year, the following story also appeared, this one without any preface:

"There is a female nimrod at a place called Green Lake, near Willmar. Her name is Mrs. Aspinwall, and she may fairly be considered a rival of the famous huntress whose name we are unable to recall, who killed such an immense number of wild animals which were on exhibition at the (Philadelphia) Centennial, in the Colorado building.

"Mrs. Aspinwall recently shot and killed a deer while standing in a boat. (The woman, not the deer). The Willmar Republican Gazette says this lady about two years ago ventured out on the lake in a boat guided by a hired man and killed three deer with four shots. When her husband returned home the wife had the deer in the shed and one of them dressed."

Growth of the Parent-Teacher movement

Grandfather's Day

Recent observance of American Education Week served to emphasize the growth of the Parent-Teacher movement throughout the nation, and the Minnesota branch organizations played a prominent part. Present-day cooperation between parents and teachers is a far cry from the times when the public school struggled to continue existence and when parental attitude was, to say the least, passive.

The Minnesota Chronicle, in 1849, quoted an exchange as saying that "The Hon. William Slade, Ex-Governor of Vermont...passed up to Minnesota to engage in the establishment of schools...He had in his company 11 young ladies who came out...to engage in teaching the young Minnesotans."

Teachers had got the convention idea by '53, when the Pioneer reported an "educational convention" attended by teachers and others was held at St. Paul Oct. 29. The main business was passage of a resolution "That we deem it of great importance to have one uniform system of books in the Common Schools."

Early mention in the annals of an occasion on which parents joined with teachers was in the Pioneer Democrat of '57: "The parents, children and teachers in the First Ward [St. Paul] had a very happy entertainment at the Stone School House on Christmas evening."

In '63, the Pioneer: "There seems to be a necessity for a new classification in our schools in order to give efficiency to our present corps of teachers; and it will be necessary...to have the boys and girls of the secondary schools to sit in the same room."

Then, in '72, the St. Paul Press: "A Mankato jury has decided it is lawful and proper for a school teacher to inflict corporal punishment upon his pupils if necessary to compel order and obedience."

Nearing the Parent-Teacher movement: Stillwater Gazette, '76---"The ladies of Stillwater - particularly the mothers who take the deepest interest in the proper educational training of their children - are cordially invited to be present at the annual school meeting on Saturday."

Also the Gazette, same year: "The school trustees in a place known as Maple Lake...wanted a man teacher and they've got one. His name is Jo Kerr and the refractory pupils will find him no jo-ker, for he is six feet four inches in height and means business. The trustees were obliged to have the ceiling at the school room raised so Jo can swing his ruler aloft."

Grandfather's Day.

*Mr. Harlow Gale's Dime Concert
a big hit.*

The series of Sunday afternoon "twilight concerts" just inaugurated by the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra is but a revival of the effort to provide good music for the public at bargain prices. Those responsible will be glad to recall that as far back as 1877 there existed a highly successful Minneapolis project with the same purpose.

These quotations are from the Minneapolis Tribune in the year named:

May 7---"Harlow Gale's great Dime Concert is the first managerial success which has occurred in Minneapolis this season. But then, if anybody can fairly bulldoze an enterprise into success, Harlow can."

May 12---"Great surprise is expressed by many persons at the price of those [Dime Concerts] entertainments... Mr. Gale... says he would rather have 2,000 persons at a dime than 200 at a dollar. The leading attractions tonight are the Weinberg Orchestra...a cornet and a piccolo solo, vocal solo by Prof. Rhys...another by Prof. Hyde...and some male quartets."

Oct. 27---"The 'Divine Concerts' have been on some six months every Saturday night, and only one stormy night in the time. This morning everybody said 'wet day'...[but] it don't rain Dime Concert nights, and here we have it cleared away about noon, good for a lively thousand people, we judge."

In November the concerts were shifted from Market Hall to the new Association Hall, equipped with 300 "finest upholstered seats" and 300 "folding settee sittings."

Then on, into the next year, with ushers present to seat all ladies.

Jan. 5---"The Dime Concerts have been so successful that Mr. Gale is studying up a series of entertainments at the low price to be given at a circuit of 10 towns."

March 4---"Mr. Gale made a popular movement on Saturday evening when he insisted that the entire audience remain through to the end of the performance...He closed the doors...and was heartily cheered."

Harlow S. Gale, educator and musician, will probably attend the "twilight concerts" and remember his father's contribution to the cultural tradition of the city.

Grandfather's Day

*Worthington, looked mighty good to
a correspondent of the Press.*

Worthington, now the seat of Nobles county, looked mighty good to a correspondent of the St. Paul Press back in 1872, when he wrote about it and the immediate area. Worthington's present-day Weekly Globe and Nobles County Times couldn't have done much better. July 1 the correspondent wrote:

"In a recent issue of the Press you published a letter from this point giving some account of the location and prospects of the National Colony. The influx of colonists has been steady during the past three months until now there is no one to question the success of the enterprise. There will be, as there has been, some disappointment, but the disappointment is of that agreeable sort which comes from much more than realizing one's expectations.

"Since my last letter, thousands of acres of sod, over which the elk swarmed at this time last year have been broken and crops have been planted. The prairie is already spotted with farms and dotted with houses. The town is growing steadily, and the faith of Minnesotans in its future is indicated by the fact that business men from such places as Minneapolis and Faribault are investigating here. A large building is being erected, the upper story of which is to be a public hall, with three store rooms below.

"The prospectus of a newspaper to be called the Western Advance and to be under the editorial charge of Rev. B. H. Crever has been issued. The press has been ordered and the first number of the paper will be issued in a few weeks. A post of the G. A. R. was mustered in a few evenings since by Captain Castle of your city, which contains 46 charter members...

"Thus far the colony is principally from the East, where it has been extensively advertised. Surprise is expressed that so little is known of the enterprise in your own state. It has only become generally known within a few months past that a colony was locating in southwestern Minnesota. But we are pleased to see that the character of the enterprise is understood and that the principles upon which it is founded are appreciated...

"At present, as you know, the only railroad crossing Nobles county is the Sioux City & St. Paul,****but branches are projected from Worthington to Lake Shetek and to Sioux Falls..."

Grandfather's Day

Hebrews began to gain prominence in Minn. before B'nai B'rith was mentioned

Ranks of the B'nai B'rith in Minneapolis and throughout the country are in the midst of their national drive for membership, with District 6 of which the Minnesota lodge is an affiliate having as its goal 7,500 new members. The state's lodge has drawn from the legion of Hebrews who are descendants of the pioneers of that race who came early to the western "promised land" along with others to make the foundation of a great commonwealth.

Long before there was any mention of B'nai B'rith, the Minnesota Hebrews began to gain prominence in the annals. Early newspaper recognition was in the Minnesota Pioneer in 1851: "Mr. Noah's Lecture on the Jews . . . This lecture was attended by a very large and fashionable audience . . . The speaker, . . . not only showed himself familiar with his subject, but entered into it with an ardent zeal such as no one could equally have manifested but one of the children of Israel."

St. Paul Press, Feb. 26, '63, announced: "German-Hebrew School . . . This is a select school under charge of Rev. E. Marcusan, a rabbi of the Jewish congregation of this city . . . Number of pupils, about ten. The children are all connected with his congregation."

Then, the new year. St. Paul Pioneer, Sept. 29, '67: "Tomorrow the Jewish New Year commences a festivity called in Hebrew the Rosh Hashana. It will be observed by the Jewish congregation here in an appropriate manner. They are not yet a regularly organized congregation, but have a meeting place over Sheehy's store."

First synagogue. St. Paul Pioneer, Sept. 14, '70: "The members of the Jewish faith in this city are taking the initiatory steps for the erection of a synagogue . . . The site selected is on Tenth street." It was dedicated the following January. Rabbi E. Eppstain, of Milwaukee, conducting the service."

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By 1872 Jewish citizens had become so numerous that the Passover got considerable press attention. Minneapolis Tribune, April 23:

"The Jewish Passover . . . commenced last evening . . . In this state there is but one synagogue, being that at St. Paul, and a greater portion of the Israelites cannot attend. The heads of all families are expected, however, to have family worship at their respective homes."

There was more than one Minnesota synagogue by 1880, though, because (Minneapolis Tribune, September 4): "The Jewish church is making preparations for the opening of the new synagogue on Fifth street south, between First and Second avenues tomorrow."

Military incidents of other days

In These days of "wars and rumors of wars," one scans with awakened interest those Minnesota annals that tell of military incidents of other days, when there also were draft objectors, conscripts, pension red tape, etc. From these annals it appears that much the same problems as now confront the national defense work have been faced before.

In connection with opposition to the draft, the St. Paul Press, December 22, 1864, said: "Captain Slaughter brought down seven draft deserters from Stearns county yesterday. Two of them were from Illinois, the remainder from this state."

In June the following year the same paper reported:

"One hundred conscripts came down from Fort Snelling last night enroute for the front. They were in charge of Lieutenant Carver of the 8th. Regiment and are to go direct to the 2nd. Regiment stationed at Chattanooga. They would have gone on the G. H. Gray, but did not arrive in time...All were quartered at the Market Hall until this morning.

"These conscripts are all fine looking, intelligent men, and we do not see why they should not make good soldiers. This makes 200 conscripts in all which have been sent to the front within a few weeks from Fort Snelling."

In 1876, the Stillwater Gazette went to bat in vigorous fashion on behalf of a soldier's widow:

"Law's delays are naturally and proverbially tedious enough, but when are added clerical errors and blundering boobies, the matter becomes inexpressibly exasperating, as in the case of a certain widow in this city,

whose husband died a few years ago from disease contracted in the army.

"She has made the most active efforts toward securing a pension for herself and little ones during the past two years and, when...all the red tape and formula and affidavits and whereases had been adjusted, it was discovered that the justice of the peace---an old slouch by the name of Mason---who performed the marriage ceremony twenty years ago had made a mistake in her name, a trifling error to be sure, but just enough to stop the whole business...The services of Judge Crosby will now be required and the lady's baptismal name be changed to correspond with the one erroneously given her years ago."

Buffalos or music--which will win? Hutchinson is now seeking to have the seat of McLeod county transferred from Glencoe. Buffalos seem to have figured in Glencoe's start toward fame, while Hutchinson is forever linked with the musical family of that name.

Andreas Atlas says that on May 21, 1855, Col. John H. Stevens and companions "emerged from the dense forests" and "beheld with delight the beautiful prairie," adding that "At the edge of the woods they located a town, giving it the musical name of Glencoe, situated on the banks of Buffalo Creek. . ." St. Anthony Express, '55: (A Glencoe letter) "This is the name of a new town on a creek called by the Indians 'the place where they make buffalo.' "

Then along came Hutchinson. Letter from there in the Express, in '56: "This is the name of a new town located and established on the middle ford of Crow river." Followed the names of the founders, and this: "our readers will observe that the Hutchinson family. . .are included in the enterprise."

Glencoe bobs up again in the Daily Minnesotian, '57: "Wonders will never cease. Ten years ago Glencoe was a 'howling wilderness'. . . Now it has a smart weekly. . . H. G. Baxter is editor."

Pioneer & Democrat, '58: "The Hutchinsons--This family of vocalists well known. . .for various eccentricities, chief among which is the habit of parting their hair in the middle and wearing their shirts reversed, are now in New York, giving concerts."

Back to Glencoe and buffalo publicity. Glencoe Register, '58: "A few days since, as Amos James, Esq., Postmaster of Glendale (nine miles from

Glencoe) was plowing. . .near his residence, a brace of huge buffalo walked within 15 rods of his team."

Then a boost for Hutchinson. Glencoe Register, '61: "To our Hutchinson friends belongs the credit of obtaining the first bell west of the big woods. . . Its weight is 375 pounds. . .purchased by Prof. W. W. Pendergast."

Notes from The Scrap Book
Racketeering, Census Takers, Streetcar
horses, Iron and Manganese.

Grandfather's Day

The gentle art of racketeering existed in grandfather's day. It even crept into the historic capture of the Younger brothers in the 70's. The Stillwater Gazette, January 17, '77, said:

"Suspicious bills have been presented to the commissioners of Rice county in connection with the search for the Northfield raiders. One gentleman handed in a bill for \$2.50 to reimburse himself for whisky drank by himself and a companion while on the bloody trail... Another presents a bill in all seriousness for two games of pitch for which he was stuck."

Census takers of old had problems, same as those who recently finished a nose-counting job for Uncle Sam. Explained the Blue Earth Post, in '70:

"'Sprechen Sie Deutsch?' and 'Kann du tale Norsk?' That much of the German and Norwegian language the census taker must, of a necessity, be able to speak; then, if he receives an affirmative answer he knows with whom he has to deal. If a German is the subject, the first question is to ask his name - 'Wie heissen Sie', but he thinks he smells an assessment and a subsequent tax, and he hesitates to answer, until the meaning of 'census' is made plain to him. But with the Norsk it is only necessary to say 'jeg tager mantal,' and he is ready with all the information required.

Some other odd quirks. Minneapolis Tribune, '79: "Nothing like the enterprise of streetcar horses. One of them broke loose from his moorings on Washington Avenue this afternoon, forced his way onto First street and Bridge Square and then dropped into the Tribune counting room to let us know about it!"

---of the whole world!"

St. Paul Chronicle, '67: "We saw a gentleman from the upper Mississippi yesterday who informs us that beyond a doubt iron exists in very satisfactory quantities...this side of Pokegama Falls...This discovery will open a new era in the history of our state."

At long last---manganese! Grand Rapids Magnet, '93: "At the Moose iron mine in township 58-17, Mesaba range, a very rich deposit of manganese has been struck."

Chorus from Hibbing, Eveleth, Ely, Chisholm, Virginia, Crosby, Ironton, et al: "Uncle Sam, here we come!"

Grandfather's Day

IV
Mining in Minn. Manganese
Iron

All of a sudden, thanks to Herr Hitler, another big industry appears on the Minnesota horizon. It's manganese. Lest the man on the street, have a hazy idea that manganese is the female of the mangan, it should be explained that it's a purifying agent used in converting pig iron into steel. Up to now about 95 per cent of the manganese used in the United States has been imported. Now, however, Uncle Sam turns to Minnesota to develop its supply--- and quickly.

There were mining '49ers in this state as well as California. First digging of the earth's treasures in this region occurred before there were any papers hereabouts. But the Buffalo Morning Express said (correspondence from Ontonagon, Lake Superior, in 1849): "They have raised to the surface some masses that will weigh two tons or more...The lode of copper is between six and seven feet to the shaft I have mentioned..."

But that was copper. The annals go on to tell about strikes of gold, coal, lead, slate etc. Then iron takes the center of the stage. Lake Superior Journal, in '55, said some very fine specimens of magnetic iron had been discovered on the shores of the lake and samples of it were to be tested in manufacture of steel.

Tribune, same year: "Machinery...for an iron furnace has arrived at Carp River, Lake Superior. It is calculated that by October 1 upward of 400 tons of Lake Superior iron...will be in New York for sale."

St. Paul Pioneer, '65: "The late discovery of iron in northwestern Minnesota is likely to be the precursor of a revolution in the iron trade

What would these young fellows have stacked up as jitterbugs? Stillwater item in the Tribune, same year: "A number of young men were paralyzed at a party last night in frantic efforts to dance the Newport."

Query---Was the poundmaster there? Tribune, December 28, '80: "The pound party last Friday evening at Mr. Leonard's was a success ...Everyone carried a pound or more of something good."

Stillwater Gazette, January 31, '77: "Neuralgia is the name of a girl in Taylor's Falls. Her mother found the word on a medicine bottle and was captivated with its sweetness."

This Minnesota industry is a honey. Answering the ancient query "How doth the busy bee?" the annual convention of the Beekeepers' Association at Minneapolis responded, "Very nicely, thank you."

Father Jaeger, Minnesota's nationally known bee and honey expert, is only one of a long line of apiary folks the annals tell about. The St. Anthony Express as far back as 1855 proudly announced: "Our old friend John R. Miller. . .has 37 families of bees. . . The big woods are full of wild bees. A tree was cut down in Carver county. . .that contained 270 pounds of honey."

Skipping along to 1868. St. Paul Daily Press: "St. Cloud is noted for bee culture. Col. Hoit alone keeps from 80 to 100 hives." The Minneapolis Tribune: "Knight Whipple of Minnetonka is devoting much attention to the raising of bees. The linden. . .makes excellent pasturage for bees." Tribune, '69: "Mr. Whipple of Lake Minnetonka. . .finds more money in honey than in most branches of farming."

St. Anthony Falls Democrat, 1870: "J. W. Hosmer of Janesville, claims to have realized \$70 clear profit from six swarms of bees." Mankato Record advertisement, '71: "Italian Queen Bees! Reared from imported stocks, sent to any part of the United States and safe arrival guaranteed." Stillwater Gazette, '73: "An honest farmer was in town today with a lot of real sweet honey, which he retailed by the box at 25 cents a pound."

Tribune, '76: "Oliver Strock of Concord intends to give his entire time to ^{the} bee business this coming season." Tribune, '79: "Some choppers. . . west of Northfield found a bee tree which yielded them about 60 pounds of honey."

Pass the honey cookies, please!

Grandfather's Day

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IV

Comets are made of

Minnesota comet fans who have recently been gunning for Cunningham's comet via. telescope are told by those who know such things that it will be visible to the naked eye about December 10. If the experts hit the thing right, one may regard them as good publicity agents for the sky-scooter. Way back when, there apparently was a celestial visitor to the state that dropped in without benefit of advance billing.

Rushford (Fillmore county) Journal, April 24, 1872:

"Last evening as several young ladies and gents were returning home from a party between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock, one of their number noticed a sudden gleam of dull, yellow light, and immediately afterward something passed slowly over his head which appeared to be a yellow ball of flame.

"It came from the south, and struck the bluff side just back of the Episcopal chapel, where it lay like the dying embers of a fire. By the time the young man who is our informant reached it, the light had nearly died out, and in a few moments nothing remained but what appeared to be a common gray stone, which, judging from its size, would have weighed about 20 pounds, and which in a few moments he ventured to touch with his hand.

"To his extreme astonishment, his finger seemed to penetrate the stone and, upon taking it up, instead of a rock weighing 20 pounds, he had some sort of ashy substance hardly weighing an ounce.

"He carried it home, and early this morning brought it to this office, where it is at present. The mass has the appearance of petrified moss and also looks . . . not unlike a hornet's nest . . . A piece the

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size of a hen's egg, upon being crushed, did not yield actual substance enough to fill a thimble.

"Among the many conjectures as to its origin . . . an intelligent gentleman suggested its possible connection with Platanour's comet, which is to visit us next August. The thought is amazing, that we may have discovered in advance of all scientific research, actually and indisputably, the stuff of which comets are made! "

Announcement that Dorothy Maynor, Negro soprano, will be presented in concert with the Minneapolis symphony orchestra has caused pleasure to local music lovers. Her appearance will be sure to occasion a popular tribute not only to the singer herself but to the steady record of achievements made by her race in the last few decades.

Minnesota has had its part in the Negro development and shared in the Negroes' contribution to national life. Negroes who settled here made a good impression from the start. The Minnesota Pioneer in 1852 remarked: "[They] are attentive to their business, and are no idlers . . . here on the confines of barbarism [they] do as much to put a civilized aspect upon the face of society as any other class." Education, according to the St. Paul Democrat of 1856, got under way with a Board of Education resolution: "That whenever 30 pupils of African descent apply for instruction the Secretary be authorized to employ a teacher for the same." Religious organization also came early, in 1863, as reported in the St. Paul Press: "The colored people of the city have made application to the Good Templars to rent their lodge room in order to hold religious services."

The same year, Miss Greenfield, advertised as "The Black Swan," sang at Ingersoll's Hall, St. Paul, winning an enthusiastic notice from the Press. "Miss Greenfield possesses a voice of great compass and flexibility. Her range of notes is greater than any other living vocalist, from a deep bass to the loftiest notes of the scale."

Progress of a substantial sort was noted by newspapers of the late 60's. In 1868: "The colored people will have a grand celebration on New Year's day in honor of the adoption of the amendment to the state

constitution which gives them the right to vote." In 1869: "An act was passed by the last legislature which abolishes separate schools for colored children." Also 1869: "Colored jurors sit in St. Paul for the first time in the state."

Fred Douglas, Negro lecturer, was greeted by big Twin City audiences during the late 60's. In these years, too, Blind Tom, pianist, composer and singer, inspired appreciative audiences. Of his recitals at the Pence Opera House, Minneapolis, in 1869, the Tribune said: when the "veil of darkness was drawn over his eyes," light and beauty poured into his being and he was gifted with "syllables of music for the delight of the world."

In 1875, the Robert Banks Literary Society discussed the question, "Is Novel Reading Injurious?" A Negro debating club of Minneapolis took sides on political philosophy and science in 1876. The Colored Drama Group of St. Paul offered entertainment in 1879. On February 11, 1880, the Tribune reported: "The colored people of Minnesota have an organ in the shape of the St. Paul Review, a neat little paper published in the Saintly City."