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Grandfather's Day

Counterfeit Money in early days.

There is something queer about this. It's money. Periodically the authorities have to go gunning for the makers of that kind of money, and they have just run to earth in Minneapolis a pair - charged with making a mold designed to coin 50-cent pieces. An early press notice for bogus money appeared in the Daily Minnesotian of 1856, which announced a "teacher" who would tell how to detect fake bills.

"Our business men have had a call...from J. S. Corbin, Esq., whom they recommend as a teacher of a system for detecting counterfeit notes. He is prepared to give such instruction...that any person of ordinary powers of observation may learn in a few minutes."

Nevertheless the counterfeiters were going good a few years later. In 1861, the St. Paul Pioneer Democrat said: "Deputy Marshals Brackett and Cleveland have at last ferreted out and broken up the grand source of all the bogus coin that has circulated so extensively in Minnesota for the last three years. The rascals...have not all been nabbed, but such revelations have been made as...will prevent for the future the carrying on of their extensive business."

St. Paul Pioneer, '69: "On Saturday night a bold and to some extent a successful attempt was made in this city to pass counterfeit money. The bills used for this purpose were \$20 bills on the National Bank of Commerce, New York...So far as was known last night about \$100 of these counterfeits were received by some of our dealers."

There was another epidemic in St. Paul in '72. The St. Paul Daily Press: "Merchants state that a considerable amount of counterfeit money

is now in circulation in this city, the last arrival...being in \$5 and \$10 bills of the Poughkeepsie National Bank, New York. The engravings ...are so unusually dark as to attract attention."

The private coiners got down to pin money later. Minneapolis Tribune, '77: "Counterfeit nickels are about as numerous in the city as those which bear the image and superscription of Uncle Sam. These counterfeits all look fresh, but readily tarnish, are made of pewter, and are evidently cast in plaster-of-Paris mould."

Grandfather's Day.

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Minnesota's poultry is something 2.
to crow about.

Minnesota's poultry is something to crow about. Witness the convention in Minneapolis of the state Baby Chick Cooperative and that in St. Paul of the state Poultry Association. Before there were cooperatives or hen conventions, Minnesota's fowls were laying not only eggs but the cornerstone of a big business.

As far back as 1850, the egg angle of the hen industry merited a paragraph in the St. Paul Chronicle & Register: "Tomorrow is Easter but the good old custom of feasting upon eggs most of us will be compelled to forego . . . The trade here holds out great inducements to the down-the-river folks."

St. Paul Democrat, '54: "Since the day . . . Mr. Winne returned home from the east with his Shanghais that crowed loud enough to wake a whole neighborhood up, henneries have multiplied and the stock is very great."

A squawk from the St. Paul Press in '68: "Farmers about St. Paul are accustomed to taking the feathers off fowls they bring to market and leaving the entrails in. In this manner they freeze solid and remain so for weeks. It is a filthy, dirty, infamous, disgusting, swindling FOUL habit, and if the people would refuse to buy poultry in this condition the habit would soon be abandoned."

St. Paul Pioneer, '69: "We saw yesterday . . . 20,000 eggs in one lot. They belonged to Mr. Smith . . . Mr. Smith has a process of his own for preserving them fresh for two or three years, if necessary." Pioneer again, '71: "Bohrer & Co., of this city, sold during the holidays up to February 1st, 24,640 pounds of poultry."

Then a poultry show. Minneapolis Tribune, '72: "Notwithstanding the foul weather, the fowl exhibition at Winona was duly inaugurated Thursday evening." Tribune, '75: "The managers of the State Poultry Association have offered to donate the proceeds of Saturday's exhibitions to the Protestant Orphan Asylum."

Tribune in March, '77: "And now people commence to brag of early spring chickens. A gentleman by the name of Wilcox residing on Sixth street . . . has twenty-eight ducks three weeks old."

The machine invades the nest. Tribune, '78: "A patent automatic hen machine is being stuffed with 300 eggs with a view of having broods of chickens hatched during the poultry exhibition . . . at Brackett's Hall."

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*Christmas, and Christmas
trees in early days*

'Twas the day before Christmas
And all through the annals
These queer things turned up
From various channels.

Perhaps the most curious was the time when the Christmas tree was a novelty. Said the St. Paul Democrat, December 26, 1854: "A very pleasant affair came off at the home of one of our citizens last evening --- the door of the parlor was thrown open presenting to the astonished gaze of the children a Christmas tree. This is a custom we believe peculiar to some countries in Europe, and one we hope to see more generally adopted in this country."

As long as 20 years after, Santa Claus was still something of a novelty, too, for the Minneapolis Tribune, December 24, 1874, said in reporting a Yule entertainment in the high school: "To make sure that every little heart should be touched by at least one kindly act, /the teachers/ purchased a quantity of candy and nuts, made them up into about six hundred small parcels, with colored tissue paper, and devised a novel plan for their distribution. After some singing ... the window suddenly flew open and a veritable Santa Claus, in Buffalo hood and coat, with a strange face and long, flowing snow white beard, bounced into the room... Some of the children were really frightened and ... for a few moments almost a panic ensued."

Gethsemane Church, Minneapolis, at its Christmas festival in 1871, extended the spirit of kindly charity to Poor Lo. "A novel feature. . . was an empty tree. . . set up for the benefit of Rev. Emmegobergh, Chippewa

Indian missionary. Mr. Knickerbacker had invited the children to bring gifts to be placed on the tree to be sent to the Indian church connected with the Mission. "We need not say the tree was well loaded down with fruit during the evening."

Holiday transportation deluxe Mankato Record, '59: "Mr. Porter requests us to say that for the accomodation of those. . . who may wish to attend his Christmas. . . ball. . . he will run a two-horse coach between this place and South Bend. . . Persons leaving their names at the drugstore will be called for."

Under the heading "First Christmas in Winona," the Winona Republican, in 1869, an article "from the leaf of an old journal." The date of that journal was 1852, and it recorded a public holiday dinner attended by every resident. The Republican added: "It is now 17 years since that company [some 54 persons], comprising all the residents of what is now the city of Winona, could all assemble in one small town."

Christmases have come and gone in Minnesota, but the holy spirit of Yule has not changed since, far back in 1843, Father Lucian Galtier celebrated Christmas mass in St. Peter's --- now Mendota. Following is a translation of the priest's report to his superior, Bishop Loras of Dubuque:

"Christmas and the end of the year have furnished me the subject matter of the present letter. According to custom, I celebrated midnight mass. A great crowd of people filled the church, and before the Holy Sacrifice began all the places were taken, and one could only with difficulty make a passage through the midst of the crowd pressing on every side. Officers, soldiers, protestant gentlemen of the vicinity, and a large number of Catholic Canadians from St. Croix, from Lake Pepin, from St. Paul and from St. Anthony Falls attended the ceremony. Some musicians from the Falls of the St. Croix ... had come to add to the festive spirit of the occasion. The sanctuary was lighted by a large number of wax tapers which gave a brilliance that was quite thrilling; it was heightened by the draperies that surrounded it ... and ... the effect was modestly accompanied by a garland of greens in the form of a triumphal arch set up at the entrance of the sanctuary and beside the communion table. In the center hung a chandelier surmounted by twelve candles, symbolic of the twelve apostles.... The singing began at half past eleven and did not stop. It ended with the mass of thanksgiving...."

For Her-- pre-Christmas advertisement in the St. Paul Press, 1868:

"Good hoop skirts for 40 cents and all whalebone corsets for 75."

Even as now, folks got presents from those they weren't expecting any from and had to hurry around for something to give in return. This St. Paul store made formal provision, announcing on Christmas Day, '68, in the Pioneer: "Today, in order to afford an opportunity for those who wish to make return presents, D. D. Merrill, Randall & Co., will keep their store open till 12 M."

What John B. Lake of St. Paul found under his tree in 1868 made the news. "A magnificent gold-beaded cane," said the Pioneer. "In addition ... some friends presented him with a full-length figure of a Sleeping Venus."

You might almost have thought in 1865, that you were in Massachusetts instead of Faribault. A Massachusetts traveler thought so and said it when writing to the St. Paul Press, January 18, that year. The Press printed the letter January 29. Signing himself "Minnehaha," the correspondent wrote:

"In my rambles through Minnesota, I propose to send you descriptions of the towns and whatever may be of interest. Let me begin with this town. Faribault, now 10 years old, located at the junction of Cannon and Straight rivers, has certainly a beautiful location for a town. Faribault now contains about 2,500 people and, including the township, it has 550 votes.

"A Massachusetts man can hardly convince himself that he is not in the old Bay State, as a very large proportion of the people came from that state. Pork and grain buyers are very busy, and by the number of the teams loaded with those commodities --- frequently blocking the streets --- business must be good.

The State Deaf and Dumb Asylum is located here and is under the superintendency of Prof. King... There are now 17 pupils in the institution... I must congratulate the state for such prosperous beginning of their Deaf and Dumb Asylum at Faribault. I can but express the wish that the 100 deaf and dumb children and youth in the state may soon enjoy the privileges which it affords.

"The Episcopal university is located here. The university has about 60 students... The Congregational, Methodist and Baptist societies have good houses of worship and are evidently exercising a good and extensive influence. ... The Episcopal society is putting up a cathedral for the use of their bishop. It is gothic in style, built of faced stone... It will cost not less than \$100,000, if completed according to the original plan.

"In anticipation of the cars, farming lands are rising in value and farmers in this region evidently have a bright future."

Two squibs from the annals about Minnesota communities. St. Anthony Falls Democrat, '69: "St. Peter merchants have resolved to give credit for no more than 30 days."

Same paper, same year: "The largest cargo of wheat that ever floated on the upper Mississippi was shipped on the Antelope from Winona last week, 68,000 bushels."

Minnesota press agents were scarce in 1872, but self-appointed hometown boosters were alert. The following, in the St. Paul Press, July of that year, extolled Santiago, Sherburne county, and Glendorado, across the line in Benton county:

"Not seeing any letters from this part of the state in your columns, I take the liberty of saying a few words in its behalf. Our town is on the northern boundary of the county, 20 miles from the flourishing city of St. Cloud and eight miles from the nearest station on the St. Paul & Pacific road.

"The settlement here is called by outsiders St. Francis, being on the river of that name, and consists of the two towns of Santiago and Glendorado, the latter in Benton county, and is indeed a very flourishing settlement, composed mainly of New England people. We have a sawmill, store and schoolhouses, and consider the settlement as good as can be found. The government lands are all taken up in the immediate vicinity.... The crops ... are looking well and promise a rich harvest.... We think apples can be raised here and we mean to try it anyway."

In '79 there was no place like home for this Fergus Falls editor, who wrote in his Journal:

"After six weeks' absence from home ... the editor of the Journal is again at his post ... visiting through ~~six~~ states, we have seen nothing more beautiful than our own Minnesota, and we breathed no air so pure. Her fields of golden grain are broader and in quality unequalled ... her citizens the most enterprising. From the old Keystone state to the Red River of the North we have seen no village so fair, so bright so cheering as Fergus Falls, nor one that is growing faster....

The fame of Minneapolis flour manufacture and of Red river wheat culture are challenging the attention of the entire nation.... Here is where the wheat will be grown for the world, and our water powers are to be taxed to grind the same for bread to feed the nations."

Kittson county, the northwest corner on Minnesota's map, bulges with new importance today as the first history of it is released to the public. The book, "Kittson County," is the product of the state WPA Writers' Project. O. S. Nordine, publisher of the Karlstad Advocate, furnished valuable material relating to the county's role in the World War.

Kittson's story begins far back in time. Farmers plowing their fields there have unearthed primitive tools and implements, tokens of the aborigines' passing. Closer at hand were the days of the Red River carts. Loaded with furs from the northwest, the carts were a familiar and noisy attraction in the streets of Mendota and young St. Paul. One observer described the Red River shrieker. "It is simply a light box with a pair of shafts, mounted on an axle connecting two enormous wheels . . . The whole cart is made of wood . . . The axles are never greased and they furnish an incessant answer to the old conundrum, 'What makes more noise than a pig under a gate?'"

The Minneapolis Tribune, '79, recorded action of the legislature in defining Kittson's boundaries. That same year, the Crookston Journal said: "Kittson county . . . one of the best for wheat raising and stock, is rapidly filling up with a good class of people."

Commercial progress was also noted in 1879, when the Tribune observed: "The Red Wing mills are to erect a 100,000 bushel elevator, for the building of which at St. Vincent, G. W. Chaffee, of Red Wing, has the contract." Barely twenty years before, St. Vincent had made the pages of Harper's Magazine. The scene described was a half-breed dance in the town. "Jigs, reels and quadrilles were danced in rapid succession . . . fresh dancers taking the place of those on the floor every two or three minutes. The men were stripped to shirt, trousers, belt and moccasins, and the women wore gowns which had no hoops."

Norman W. Kittson, for whom the county was named, won admiring attention from pioneer editors. In January 1852, the St. Anthony Express noted the "arrival of the Hon. Norman W. Kittson . . . in sixteen days from Pembina, per dog train of eight fine dogs and sledge. Very good time for a journey of six hundred miles, with only such a road as nature has afforded."

In '82, the Minneapolis Folkebladet printed Scandinavian correspondence from the vicinity of Hallock, "a new but attractive town." The letter concluded: "Rev. Lonne has visited the settlement a few times, and we hope to be able to form a congregation in the near future."

Kittson's peaceful development was interrupted in 1891 by an Indian scare. It began with rumors of quiet concentrations of tribal braves. Then came the story of a war dance. Fearing the worst, barricades were thrown up and isolated settlers fled from their farms. But the expected blow did not fall. And Sheriff Youngren, ordered to make an official investigation, reported to Governor Merriam: "The head chief . . . said that he was very grieved to think that the white men should think so ill of them . . . The noted dance was only their annual festival . . . Other Indians expressed themselves in like manner, and said they were afraid now that the whites would not let them come among them and trade. We reassured them, and left them in a contented frame of mind."

Early history of Minneapolis public schools was declared very difficult to obtain. An article in the Tribune in '81 said that Mrs. S. C. Winchell, school board secretary in 1876, had been at some pains to get it and found her chief source of information to be recollections of old residents, particularly Rev. E. D. Neill. The article continued:

"Before the close of 1849 the people in District 5 erected the schoolhouse the ruins of which still remain on University avenue between Second and Third avenues, S. E. This building was the first public edifice in what is now Hennepin county and was used ... also as a house of worship...

"In November, 1851, an academy was completed in the square opposite the present Winthrop school building. It was ... really the nucleus of the University of Minnesota...."

The article listed the city's public schools that year (1851) as: Washington, Lincoln, Jackson, Winthrop, Madison, Everett, Marcy, Franklin, Adams, Sumner, Jefferson, Monroe, Humboldt and the High school. It Continued:

"On the east side of the river at Minneapolis, on a commanding bluff ... stands the State University.... It was created by an act of the territorial legislature February 13, 1851.... The first building was a small wooden structure standing just above the mills, fronting on Main street, where in November, 1851, a preparatory department was opened. In 1854 the present site was purchased.

"The institution suffered greatly by the financial reverses in 1857-'8, and in 1864 a special commission, composed of John S. Pillsbury, John Nicols and O. C. Merriman, was appointed, with full authority to sell property and pay debts.... In 1867 the legislature appropriated money to renovate the building which had stood empty for nearly 10 years, and the preparatory department was

opened in October with Rev. W. Washburn, B. A., as principal, with two assistants. The university really dates its usefulness from the law of February 18, 1868, entitled 'An act to reorganize the University of Minnesota, and to establish an agricultural college therein.' "

The first kindergarten in Minneapolis, the story went on, "was established in 1875 with about 12 pupils by Mrs. E. R. Holbrook. The school was located on Seventh street, between Nicollet and Third avenues south. The schools now have increased to four, one of which requires no fees for tuition. The whole number of pupils is about seventy."

The same issue of the Tribune announced: "Gold and maroon have been selected as the college colors by the University boys."

*Evidence of Tom and Jerry
in early days*

10.

Tom and Jerry, those two merry comedians, have arrived for their annual visit. Tomorrow's news sheets will tell of crowded night spots and heady high-jinks. Grandfather, retired into graying dignity, may deny that in his day he ever knew the fellows. But the evidence of the annals is against him.

Back in 1855, the Daily Minnesotian, January 3: "New Year's Day passed pleasantly in St. Paul. All the gentlemen 'called,' and all the ladies were 'at home,' wearing their most bewitching smiles and graces. . ."

St. Paul Daily Pioneer, January 4, 1865: "Business was generally suspended, and all classes went in for enjoyment. The nice young men. . . made a number of calls. . . A few tried to drink all the egg-nogg in town. The latter class enjoyed themselves for awhile very nicely, but about dusk we saw several carried home on shutters."

Letter to the Tribune, December 29, 1874: "Noticing a communication . . . from a lady suggesting the introduction here of a custom prevalent elsewhere, the publication on New Year's morning of the names of ladies who propose to receive and the place where, I wish to heartily second her motion. The custom is too pleasant to be allowed to pass into disuse, and the waning of its popularity is due mainly to the fact that we ladies have hung out baskets instead of keeping open house."

Stillwater Gazette, 1876: "At midnight or thereabouts, supposed to be the hour for the departure of 1875 and the arrival of 1876, the bells in the steeples were shaken up lively, sending out their discordant music on the startled ear of night. Some of the boys thought of banging off the cannon at that eventful hour, but it was found on examination that no car-

tridges were to be found, and the old machine wasn't in good condition anyhow for a right down good square bang-up centennial shoot."

Tribune, 1876: "We wish everybody a good time, but we hope that in order to secure a good time they will not find it necessary to indulge too freely in the 'flowing bowl'--let no headache or calaboose bars interfere with your customary Sunday devotions tomorrow." Elsewhere in the same issue: "Hook & Ladder No. 1 and Hose Company No. 2 would be pleased to have their friends call on New Year's Day at their house on Third street. They propose to receive on temperance principles only . . . plenty of good, hot coffee and a modest lemon."

Once more the Tribune, 1878: "Messrs. Mel Eddy and Geo. Felt gave a stag card party and oyster supper on New Year's evening, at which they entertained about fifty of their gentlemen friends. It was a jolly company. The night police force were invited up to take refreshments, and it is told of a certain county official who was present that when he saw the squad of boys in blue march in, he had a very definite impression that they proposed to 'pull' the place and sought a hasty retreat."

*Newspapers for bustles
and other oddities in early news*

The following incident made something of a stir. At least, there was much bustle about it. Perhaps it should be titled "It Couldn't Happen here," from a sense of civic pride. And it didn't. But it did happen in St. Paul. The Daily Press of that city printed the story on November 24, 1870:

"Day before yesterday a handsome and fashionably dressed young lady promenaded down Third street. She wore one of those beautiful silk ornaments over her dress called panniers, bustles or something of that sort, and to give the protuberance due prominence, a few copies of a daily newspaper had been brought into requisition, the papers being placed under the pannier and held in position by a string around the waist of the lady.

"Now the wind, every now and then very ungallantly raised the silk pannier sufficiently high to expose the newspapers, so that anyone in the rear of the fair promenader could very readily read the latest news upon this novel and interesting bulletin board.

"This plan of furnishing news may be considered convenient by some, but it is to be hoped the ladies in general will not adopt the custom."

While on the subject of styles, this Owatonna item in the Tribune, 1881: "Stovepipe hats are among the latest adornments of our stylish young city bloods."

Among other annals' quips and oddities:

Tribune, '60 --- "The Detroit Daily Sneezer is a new Minnesota Journal. It would make an appropriate supplement to the Bird Island Blizzard."

St. Paul Press, '70: "A cheese factory on Mr. Ellsworth's farm in Randolph, Dakota county, is described as a 500 cow-power establishment."

"Dr. Ames yesterday successfully removed a fat tumor from the shoulder of a lady in this city. Four physicians had informed her that it could not be done without endangering her life. She is now very much inclined to think otherwise."

Tribune, '81: "A party of gentlemen with their terriers went to the kitchen of one of the hotels last night and slaughtered 48 rats. The cook attached drop covers over all the rat holes which can be instantly lowered by pulling a string. The kitchen is left quiet for a couple of hours and the rats come out in swarms. The string is then pulled, the dogs let in, and the fun commences."

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Rivalry between St. Paul and Mpls. (Railroad)

And so, for into the night - the ancient Minneapolis-St. Paul rivalry. It has appeared before in echoes from Grandfather's day, but amused researchers keep finding new barbs and shafts in old newspaper files.

St. Paul Pioneer started one of the cities' mutual tongue-lashings in '67 with: "A newspaper in a suburban village up the river objects to the name given by the directors of the Milwaukee & St. Paul railway to that road... This objection will vanish as soon as... the train office of the Minnesota Division, with car works, machine shops and all the business of the line are removed to this city."

A month later, the Minneapolis reporter for the Pioneer announced temporary pouring of oil on the troubled waters: "At Last --- We are greatly pleased to announce that the word Minneapolis has been inserted in the name of the Milwaukee & St. Paul Road. This is simply an act of justice."

More oil ---poured from both sides. St. Paul Pioneer Press, '75: "Why is not this a good time to consolidate the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis? The Minneapolis Tribune (oil adulterated): "There never was a better time... We propose to throw you a tow line in the shape of a street railway very soon, and pull you up to the Seat of Destiny."

Tribune in '79 (with the hammer out again): "St. Paul policemen are complaining that outside towns are shipping indigent cripples to that city... yet that is just what they have been doing with reference to Minneapolis."

Albert Lea Enterprise, same year, didn't help matters much: "Minneapolis claims over 50,000 population, about 10,000 more than St. Paul, and it makes the latter fellows awful mad, too. In spite of St. Paul's capital, Minneapolis with her enterprise and manufacturies is destined to outrank St. Paul."

And this (Tribune, '75) wasn't exactly an olive branch, either:

"There seems to be some hope that the legislature will decide to remove the capital from St. Paul to Kandiyohi... It will be for the best interests of the State to remove the seat of legislation from St. Paul, where it is now surrounded by every evil influence that it is within the power of man to devise. Give the poor members a chance for their lives and virtue."

Yes, far into the night!

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Minnesota Temperance Movement in early days.

Announcement that Minnesota Temperance Movement, Inc. has started a campaign for enactment by the legislature of stricter laws regarding hard liquor and definition of beverages containing more than half of one percent alcohol emphasizes that the troublesome wet-dry issue is always an issue.

Pioneer annals are full of comment on this subject. An early mention was in the Minnesota Pioneer, '49: "A division of that popular institution, the Sons of Temperance, is about to be organized in St. Paul."

Minnesota Register, same year: "The number of retail liquor establishments in St. Paul and other towns of the Territory is a LEETLE too great for... public morals. It is the subject of remark by strangers and gives us a bad name."

In '52 ---pass the halo, please ---St. Anthony Falls Express: "There is not a gambling institution, or a whiskey grocery or grog shop in town. We have no need for those who frequent such places."

But the very next year ---put that halo back ---the same Express: "A Billiard saloon has been opened... How much this will contribute to morality, temperance and industry... remains to be seen."

Hastings reached for the halo in '55. Lakeside item in Mimesotian: "Hastings is going ahead... We have one grog shop on the sly, but expect to close this up, hand and foot, after the victory of the Republican Party at the next election."

Mankato correspondence in St. Peter Courier, '55: "On the morning of the 8th [of November], the citizens turned out en masse and broke up all the liquor shops in town."

Mimesotian, '58: "Let us hear... about the free Liquor Saloon kept in... the Capitol under superintendence of the Railroad Companies to influence members of the legislature."

Minneapolis Tribune, '66: " The women of Rushford visited the saloons... and tried to persuade the keepers to turn their...liquors into the street... The fair pleaders did not succeed."

Stillwater Gazette, '66: "The annual tearing up of broken places in the sidewalks and replacing them with new plank has commenced. The walks in the vicinity of the saloons generally require mending oftener than in other places... The walks leading toward the various churches do not require repairing so often."

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Grandfather's Day.

Cummingham's comet, now visible in Minneapolis, was press-agented for some time ahead. But a story in Minnesota's annals tells of another which, while getting no advance notices, made no bones about letting its presence be known. A St. Paul paper, in consequence, was approached by anxious inquiries from Northfield and Anoka to explain what went on overhead.

The Pioneer Press, January 31, '65, said:

"On Saturday morning last just before sunrise, a remarkable meteor made its appearance which was described.. by some of our own St. Paul early risers who observed it... as a meteoric transit across the east or northeast of a luminous body like a comet, making an extensive track and accompanied by a crash resembling the breaking up of ice on the Mississippi river, and followed by a smoke which lasted some time.

"We have this morning two communications, one from Anoka, 23 miles northwest of St. Paul, and one from Northfield, 40 miles south, both relating to the curious phenomenon."

The present sky visitor appears very genteel and unobtrusive, however.

Queer coincidences crop out in the annals. The Stillwater Gazette, for instance, told a story in '77 credited to George W. Peck, at that time editor of the La Crosse Sun and a member of the Wisconsin legislature. It was none other than this same George W. Peck who later became governor of the Badger state and who wrote the classic "Peck's Bad Boy." The Gazette:

"George W. Peck of the La Crosse Sun is the victim of an unpleasant misunderstanding. He has acquired some considerable reputation in the lecture field and the people of a neighboring city were desirous of securing his services.

But we will let him explain:

" 'The papers all around here are saying I have a new Sunday lecture with a bad title... A Man in a neighboring city telegraphed me to know if I would deliver a Sunday lecture, and to answer by telegraph. I thought it was some joke of the boys. The idea of my delivering a Sunday lecture was ridiculous, so in a moment of thoughtlessness I telegraphed back: --- "What the devil do you take me for?" He telegraphed back: "All right. We have advertised you for Sunday. Subject --- What the Devil Do You Take Me For?" "

*Lydia E. Erickson, asked for
admission to the bar of Hennepin Co.*

Admission just announced of Lydia E. Erickson, Minneapolis, to the bar, along with 16 men, causes no flurry in these equal-rights days, but a woman lawyer years ago was a No. 1, Class A novelty.

First Minnesota Portia mentioned in annals was an Iowan, Martha Angle, and she rated this in the Tribune, September 30, 1876:

"On the 15th of this month the name of Martha Angle was presented to the Court of Common Pleas for admission to the bar of Hennepin county. The matter was referred to the proper committee, and if the report is favorable Minneapolis will probably boast a female lawyer. The lady is from Iowa and comes highly recommended."

When the first court was held in the territory of Minnesota, it was an occasion for social activity as well as legal. Minnesota Register, August 11, '49: "Next Monday, the first court held in our territory will commence its sitting at Stillwater, Hon. Aaron Goodrich presiding. Of course, this being something of an epoch in our Territorial history, a goodly number, aside from lawyers, judges, suitors, witnesses and jurors, will be in attendance... A grand ball is to be given by the proprietor of the Stillwater House."

August 23, same month, the Minnesota Pioneer: "On Monday last his Hon. Judge Meeker organized his court at the house of Mr. Bean, on the west side of the falls of St. Anthony... Let it be remembered in all coming time that the first inquest ever held in the second district of Minnesota was in an old grist mill."

Pioneer again, '51: "We have over forty lawyers in St. Paul."

They received publicity bouquets, sometimes, when they were admitted to practice. Red Wing Republican, October 22, '58: "Messrs Hans Mattson, C. C. Webster and Jesse H. Parker have been duly examined... and admitted to practice... They are all gentlemen of ability, and they will do the profession no discredit."

Then they started to organize. Pioneer & Democrat, '58: "An association of the members of the bar of Scott county was formed at the recent term of the District Court at Shakopee."

A bouquet in reverse. Minneapolis Tribune, '67: "THE COUNTRY IN AN AWFUL STATE --- We are informed by Mr. G. Williams, Deputy Assessor... that 51 lawyers have already taken out licenses... in this county."

Finally, they arrived at the banquet stage. Pioneer, January 21, '71: "The Dakota county bar had their first Annual Supper at Hastings on Friday last."

* * *

Grandfather is prone to refer, often longingly, to the "good old days." After recent experiences in Minnesota, he is not saying much about the "good old-fashioned snowstorms." But there are plenty of other "good olds." For instance, the good old sports. Here is a sample from the St. Paul Press, '72:

"Fun at the Fair--Among the arrangements pending for public amusement at the coming state fair is one to be called the potato game. An indefinite number of rows of potatoes, 100 to a row, will be laid on a level stretch of ground, the game to be governed by the following rules: these potatoes will be laid singly, each two feet from its predecessor, thus making the rows 200 feet long." The article goes on to say the contestants will be placed "one at each row, provided with a basket which he is to place beside the first potato, and, at a given signal, all are to commence picking up the potatoes one at a time and dropping them into the basket which remains at the head of the row. Of course a journey is made to and from the basket for every potato."

The Days of Real Safety--Tribune, '79: "Beware the dog! (Postal) carriers are not required to run the risk of being bitten by dangerous dogs in delivering mail matter. Persons keeping such dogs must call at the postoffice for their mail."

Days of Real Enterprise--Tribune, '81: "Carter & Co. have got the contract for putting electric bells in D. E. Carr's fine house on Hennepin avenue, the only boarding house in the city that has electric bells."

Days of Real Reform--Tribune, '82: "The Owatonna barbers have agreed to remember the Sabbath Day and to keep it holy."

Days of Real Gardening--Tribune, '79: "Collect some soot from a chimney or stove where wood is used for fuel, put it into an old pitcher and pour hot water upon it. When cool, use it to water your plants every few days. The effect upon the plants is wonderful."

Days of Real Discipline--Tribune, '79: "Last evening a woman known as the Queen of Diamonds got into an altercation with her husband, John Diamond, near the east side depot. An officer run the unhappy family in."

And then--Days of Real Babies--Tribune, '81: "Stillwater proudly boast the biggest one-day baby in the state. He weighs 17 pounds and points with pride to Johnnie Johnson of the fire department as his father."

*Desire to change county seats
Yellow Medicine, Grant, and Traverse
Oldest copy of the Bible*

Every once in a while, the annals show, ambitious communities here and there in Minnesota desire to change county seats. The effort of Hutchinson to become the seat of McLeod county in place of Glencoe has recently made news. Now comes a petition for a special election in Yellow Medicine county to remove the seat of its government from Granite Falls to Clarkfield. This petition, with 5,778 signers, is in the hands of the county auditor.

The move by Clarkfield boosters recalls a battle royal in Grand county back in '81, when Herman sought to wrest the honor from Elbow Lake--and won by the wee margin of six votes. Subsequently, however, Elbow Lake got the seat back. Said the Minneapolis Tribune at that time:

"Governor Pillsbury yesterday issued his proclamation regarding the removal of the county seat of Grant county from Elbow Lake to the village of Herman, in accordance with the vote thereon and the law authorizing the vote. The total vote was 439 for removal and 433 against.

"Returns also have been received from Traverse county, wherein 304 votes were cast for removal of the county seat from Browns Valley to Mendota, and 288 against."

There might be a lively tilt in Yellow Medicine, with the Clarkfield Advocate advocating the change and the Granite Falls Tribune "tribuning" against it.

Leaving the field of politics and entering that of religious literature. Does some Minneapolis household still have a copy of the ancient Bible described in an 1881 issue of The Tribune?

"There was laid upon the Tribune editorial desk today the oldest copy

of the sacred scriptures that can be found in America. It is the property of Prof. C. C. Curtiss, of this city, into whose possession it came by descent through many generations of the Curtiss family. . . . The family record in the book is written with the names of the family going back as far as 1630, when the name was written 'Turtis.' Very large sums have been offered for it at different times, but it was too precious to be parted with. . . . It was printed by John Crespin in 1568. . . . This is probably what is known as the Geneva Bible, translated by English exiles at Geneve in Queen Mary's reign, Coverdale, Goodman, Gilbie, Sampson, Cole, Wittingham and Knox."

Charles Cornell Curtiss, educator, came to Minnesota in 1869 and settled in Minneapolis in 1874, establishing a business college. He was prominent in Masonry.

V
*Home defense organized
in '65*

Defense, not only national but state, is occupying the public mind, and in Minnesota a home defense organization is being formed to take the place of the National Guard when it is away. Home defense, of course, is not new to Gopherdom. The existence of the Home Guard during the World War is well remembered. It is interesting to note what was done along this line back in '65, when home defense was organized against the Indian peril, St. Paul Press, May 9:

"As the frontier settlements are greatly excited by the late Indian murders, they will be interested to know all that is being done to aid them.

"On the 5th. inst., Adjutant General Malmros issued an order authorizing Col. B. F. Smith, of Mankato, to organize ... in addition to the mounted minute men called for by General Orders No. 4, a force of volunteer militia, either mounted men or infantry or both, as circumstances may require. The entire force organized not to exceed 600 men.

"Col. Smith's district is divided into two subdivisions, the first to consist of Blue Earth, Nicollet and Cottonwood and the second to consist of Brown, Watonwan, Faribault, Martin and Jackson counties, each subdivision to be under command of a Major.

"These troops are to be disbanded whenever the Commander-in-Chief shall direct, but while in the service they are to be governed by the rules and regulations of the army. Col. Smith is authorized to call them out and retire them as the emergency requires, without awaiting orders from headquarters."

While on the subject of soldiers, this also from the St. Paul Press, in June of the same year, 1865, tells of the first move toward establishing a Soldiers' Home, the original purpose being very different from that of the present elaborate Minneapolis institutions:

"An adjourned meeting of citizens was held at Joe Miller's office last evening to transact business relative to establishing a soldiers' home. An executive committee was appointed, consisting of Isaac Markley, J. H. Stuart, M. B. Patterson, J. P. Pond and R. H. Fitz. This committee was instructed to collect funds and carry out the object of the organization, which is to establish a soldiers' home where scattering soldiers who are constantly passing through the city may be supplied with meals and lodging during their temporary stay."

*Developments of a city (Duluth) at
The head of the lakes.*

It was a nice, snug little hamlet they had up at the head of the lakes, to judge by what Observer wrote to the Minneapolis Tribune in 1881. In fact, the Duluth correspondence was headed, "The Zenith City Right Side Up and Confident of a Prosperous Future."

The writer noted a grain elevator in existence and another going up, and went on: "Extensive improvements are making in the docks, and the facilities for handling the immense freight which will come up the lakes are already great, and there will be at this point one of the best natural and artificial ports that can be found on the entire chain of lakes. . . .

"The blast furnace on Rice's Point is now in successful operation, and its daily capacity is about 25 tons of pig metal. This furnace, by its annual consumption of wood, will aid very materially in clearing the forests around the head of the lake The lumber trade is developing into large proportions The St. Louis river has been improved during the past winter so as to float logs from its headwaters and its branches down to St. Louis bay, where the mills are located, and within the present year the growth of this trade will be enormous.

This business will grow more rapidly than the iron manufacture, but the latter branch will at no distant period make this point one of the best iron-producing markets of Lake Superior. . . .

"Real estate has felt the benefits of these developments. A large number of buildings are going up this spring, a few of them of brick and stone, but the greater part of frame One reason given for not using brick is the present scarcity of the article, there not being any on hand

"Prospect of an early opening of navigation is now the absorbing topic. . . ice extends down the lake nearly 150 miles, and is unbroken and three feet thick. . . In 1873 and 1876 it broke up early, and while solid it was driven by the northeasters to the head of the lake and jammed in fast, and did not disappear in 1873 until June 18, and in 1876 it was here until July 4, although boats came through in both years in the early part of June.

In other years the lake and harbor were open early in May, and the prospect now is good for its being so this year."

* * *

*First session of the legislature in '49
Fire destroys first capitol*

Next Monday the Minnesota legislature again will be in our midst. Picturesque and, from today's point of view, unique things are recorded in Minnesota annals as its lawmakers have pursued their legislative paths.

It all began with the first session of the Territorial legislature in '49, when the Territory of Minnesota was officially organized. That first session was held on September 3, in the Central House hotel, Second and Minnesota streets, St. Paul. In 1857 there was the almost successful attempt to transfer the capitol to St. Peter - a classic tale of frontier high-jinks. In 1893 a bill appropriating two million dollars for the present capitol was passed, settling the permanent location in the Saintly City.

What? No politics? Minnesota Register, 1849: "We do not note the result (of the first territorial election) as so many Whigs and so many Democrats to the Legislature; party politics did not enter into the contest. We hope that it will find no place in the Territorial Legislature."

What? No bank? Chronicle and Register, same year: ... A bill incorporating an Insurance Company was before the house... there appeared a great aversion to anything like banking privileges being granted any company ... Minnesota does not yet want a bank. The time may come, when a proper charter of this kind may be useful and necessary."

Page George M. Cohan! St. Paul Press, 1815: "The dome of the capitol was yesterday adorned with a new flag 12 yards long and 20 feet wide. The flag was made to order by R. O. Strong."

Then the fire which destroyed the first capitol. Minneapolis Tribune March 2, 1881: "The fire broke out at 9:15. Both branches of the legislature were busy ... and the galleries and lobbies were crowded... with a suddenness which is beyond description... the members of both branches were apprised of the fact that the building was on fire. . . . A great sheet of flame held possession of the corridor into which the main and only stairway leads. The origin of the fire is wrapped in some mystery ... The structure was worth not less than \$80,000, and contained the accumulation of years which cannot be replaced... Secretary Williams of the Historical Society took personal supervision of the removal of the valuable and not-to-be-replaced articles in his department, which were carried to the Universalist church opposite the capitol."

Min Legislative session 1855

More about Minnesota legislative sessions in grandfather's day. Minnesotian, 1855: "It would take a lot of patience to wade through this lengthy document Governor Gorman's message to the lawmakers)... He gives statistics ... takes pot shots at the 'Know Nothing' and highly praises President Pierce's administration."

Passing the plums --- Democrat, 1855: "The Legislature has selected ... the proprietors of the Winona Argus, St. Croix Union and Northwestern Democrat as their printers ... friends of ... St. Paul papers made desperate efforts (to get the work) and are said to be much chagrined at their defeat."

Minnesotian, 1855: "On the assemblage of the Legislature, Governor refused to deliver his message, for the reason as was supposed that the constitution made it obligatory ... to elect a public printer and the choice of the members it was understood was in favor of a paper opposed to his Excellency. Subsequently he consented to send in his message, and then the Legislature declined to receive it on the supposed ground that they are expecting a new Governor... His message, however, leaked out and has been printed in all the papers."

In anticipation of statehood the following year, the Territory had its state legislature already elected in '57. Pioneer Democrat in December: "In the House, the machinery of Legislation was put fairly in motion. The question as to the legality of the meeting of the Legislature prior to the admission of the State into the Union was raised, but not discussed... further than to lay the motions upon the table."

o That same month, the Pioneer Democrat: "Mr. Fladeland offered a resolution, provided for the translation of the Governor's message into the Swedish language, and 500 copies were ordered printed, which was adopted."

Meet Miss Minnesota ---a new member of the sisterhood of states: Mimesotian, May 25, 1858: "The new officers of the State Government and the members of the Supreme Court were yesterday sworn into office at the Capitol. The ship of state is therefore fairly in motion." During the first recess, the capitol was "thoroughly cleansed and repaired... The basement has been purified."

June 10, 1858, Pioneer Democrat: "The ... Legislature Thursday met in joint session to hear the inaugural address of Governor Sibley."

Early criticism. Pioneer Democrat, July 1858, a letter to the editor: "The present Legislature is surely destined to signalize itself by more acts of selfish and dishonest legislation than any other which has preceded it."

Minnesota Legislature

A last backward glance at Minnesota legislatures, as one gets under way today. Sometimes, it appears, they used a yardstick to measure a man's ability. The Pioneer and Democrat in '61 announced: "D. Blakely of the Rochester Post is the Clerk elect. . . . He is rather remarkable in his physique, being about eight feet seven inches high."

There was a bad spell along in February of that year. Pioneer and Democrat: "Several House bills came into the Senate yesterday in which occurred such spelling as the following: Stearns county, written 'Sterns'; mail route written 'rout'; prima facie written 'primia facia'; etc. If they had come from some members of the House no one would be surprised, but they were enrolled bills, in handsome handwriting."

Veteran preference - Pioneer, 1863: "We respectfully suggest to the . . . Legislature the propriety of putting some of the maimed soldiers into the minor offices about the Capitol."

St. Paul Press, 1863: "It is a noticable fact that among the members and officers of both houses there is not a native of Minnesota."

An early-day junket - Pioneer, 1865: "Both houses have adjourned . . . to allow a large delegation to visit the state prison at Stillwater. If Mr. Proctor would turn the keys on them for 30 days, and keep them hard at work in the cooper's shop, they would be doing the State quite as good service as if they were engaged in tinkering with the constitution and the laws. There is a steady demand for good barrels, while the world is governed too much."

Minneapolis Chronicle, 1867: "The railroads . . . have given passes . . . to the members of the Legislature for 60 days, just the length of the session . . . If the members are to be complimented with tickets, a

Page 2.

whole year would be more complimentary."

Minneapolis Tribune, 1868: "The senate refused to send a smelling committee to St. Peter to inquire into the conduct of the insane asylum."

In 1941 the wheels of legislation are again turning. It will be some time before editors can say as did the St. Paul Press in 1866: "The Legislature has ceased from troubling and the weary are at rest."

Plagues in Gopher History

Grandfather's Day

There have been plenty of plagues in Gopher history, but Minnesota could take it. Which observation is prompted by the announcement that the State Medical Association is undertaking a "state study of colds." Early mention of a dread disease in this territory - when it really was a territory - was in the Pioneer, April 28, 1849: "The S. B. Cora arrived at St. Paul from below yesterday. Some cases of cholera reported." There were three deaths among the passengers.

Pioneer, 1852: "Many people down with dysentery and diarrhea. We never experienced an epidemic in St. Paul before."

Stillwater Messenger, December 1858: "Scarlet Fever has been prevailing . . . for some weeks past . . . A number of deaths have occurred among children."

St. Paul Press, 1862: "Diphtheria . . . is becoming prevalent in some parts of the State . . . until the Doctor arrives, temporary relief can be afforded by gargling the throat every 10 minutes with . . . salt and water."

St. Peter Tribune, 1863: "Several cases of (spotted fever) occurred here during the last week, proving fatal to each."

State Atlas, Minneapolis, 1864: "This much dreaded scourge (smallpox) has appeared . . . There is no immediate cause for a smallpox panic; still it is earnestly enjoined on everybody to be at once vaccinated."

Minneapolis Chronicle, 1867: "Measles has full sway in this city . . . Saffran and sage are in great demand. Many houses have become hospitals."

Minneapolis Tribune, 1870: "John Picket of St. Charles has lost six children with scarlet fever."

Wright County times, 1871: "There is a pauper in Stockholm who has a strange disease. He is a mere skelton, and yet eats as much as two ordinary

Page 2.

men and drinks two buckets of water every day. The county pays \$4 a week for his support."

Minnesota could take it. But grandfather intends to knock on wood and cooperate in the anti-cold-flu-pneumonia campaign.

*Meeker county out in front
in progressive publicity*

Announcement by Dr. B. S. Adams of Hibbing, president of the Minnesota Medical Association, that Meeker county has been selected for a new experiment in human tuberculosis control, puts that region out in front in progressive publicity.

There shouldn't be much tuberculosis in that section of the state if good eating counts. As long ago as 1858, Meeker settlers were bragging about their giant vegetables. The Minnesotian: "Thaddeus Webb . . . writes us that he has raised a Valpariso squash this year that weighed 73 pounds, and a marrowfat squash of 70 pounds . . . Mr. Webb raised a cucumber this year that measured 44 inches in circumference, and (a turnip) that weighed 16 pounds." That same year they put up a flour mill in Kingston.

Then along came cheese. St. Paul Press, 1868: "From the extensive manner in which the dairy business is being carried on up in Meeker county, we should judge that they have some live Yankees in that region. Mr. D. Main made . . . four tons of cheese from the milk of 30 cows."

Dixie invasion. St. Paul Press, 1868: "A correspondent of the Southwest, Blue Earth City . . . says that a whole township of people from West Virginia and Kentucky have settled in Meeker county."

St. Paul Press, 1869: The first passenger train "went through to Litchfield, where a large crowd of citizens and country people were assembled to witness its arrival."

In the St. Paul Pioneer, 1870, "Litchfield invited attention to her record of progress - "February, 1869, Howling Wilderness; August 1869, Wheat Field; November 1869, County Seat; January 1870, United States Land Office."

St. Paul Press, 1871: "The best clay in the state for making brick is said to have been found within half a mile of Litchfield."

Minneapolis Tribune, 1878: "The legislature has appropriated \$500 for a monument in Meeker county to the first five persons killed in the Sioux massacre."

Tribune, 1880: "Lightning rod swindlers have been operating in Swede Grove. The farmers think them worse than the lightning itself."

By and large Meeker has been through quite a lot, it appears, and should be in fine shape to stand the next "test."

*William Edwards Easton, editor of
Stillwater Gazette*

"The editor sits in his easy chair." And at his age, 90 years last month, William Edwards Easton, editor of the Stillwater Gazette and dean of Minnesota journalism, deserves to have the seat easy. He has held the editorial job there 70 years after having come west in '57, when Minnesota was still a territory.

Stillwater had vigorous champions even before the Gazette got under way. The following is an example. It was written to the Minnesotian in July 1854, three years before the boy Easton arrived with his parents, and contradicted an article in the St. Anthony Express which referred as a "curious looking burg" and to its men as types of the hard-fisted democracy who ignored coats and vests. The Minnesotian letter:

"Stillwater is a town of at least 800 inhabitants... From this point the St. Croix river is navigable to Taylor's Falls, a distance of 30 miles... Stillwater is the business depot of the St. Croix Valley, and we venture to say that, leaving out of view the speculating in lands and considering the legitimate business of a town, as large if not larger amount of business is done in it than at St. Anthony... Our friends at St. Anthony may squirm a little, but it is a fact that steamboats cannot ascend the Mississippi river at any time as far as St. Anthony... in this respect she is behind Stillwater, for there, as we have shown and as is practically proved, they have the advantage of constant navigation.

"Then, St. Anthony is on the same side of the Mississippi with St. Paul... Now can there be two places of any importance so near together and bearing the same local relation as St. Paul and St. Anthony? One must, at its acme, be a hamlet; and as to which, in these instances, will be the hamlet we apprehend no doubt at this date. The interests of the two places are in direct opposition and conflict with each other.

"Not so with Stillwater; the interests of the St. Croix Valley are her interests, and these in no wise conflict with St. Paul...

"Instead of being 'cooped up between the bluff and Lake St. Croix'... there are four blocks built up directly back from the lake shore, and the streets run parallel with the lake on level ground for a distance of a quarter of a mile. There are two good hotels, both of which are kept open winter and summer. Then there are three saw-mills in operation and two in process of erection... and the (St. Anthony) editor will find, too, on a more extended acquaintance with the St. Croix, that there is refinement both of feelings and manners."

* * *

*National Guard Leaves Home
Volunteers in Tennessee in 1865.*

Once more Uncle Sam has reached out and taken some of Minnesota's fighting force for national duty. The National Guard leaves the state with cheers of the home folks ringing in its ears, and nobody doubts that every man jack of them will give a good account of himself. In the matter of deportment, the Guard has a notable Minnesota example to match.

Rev. M. Hodges, writing to the St. Paul Press from Tennessee in 1865, said:

"Editors--- Permit an old man of three score and twelve years, who has been trying to preach the gospel nearly forty years, the use of a small space in your paper. As I wish to bear testimony to the general upright and good conduct of the 11th Minnesota, Infantry Volunteers, commanded by Col. James Gilfillan. They have been stationed in Summer county, Tennessee, about eight months, and have faithfully discharged their whole duty - guarding railroads, keeping guerrillas under, and keeping order in the county.

"While they have been a protection to the citizens, they have respected their persons, property and homes. I have not heard a word of complaint against them. All the citizens from Gallatin to Mitchelsville, twenty miles, are ready and willing to testify to their honest and gentlemanly conduct and high soldierly deportment... It being so rare that an entire regiment are honest, I wish to publish to the good people of Minnesota that the 11th Minnesota have distinguished themselves. This is no fulsome panegyric but a plain statement of facts that hundreds would be ready and willing to testify to."

It is not to be presumed that the members of the First Heavy Artillery were "cake eaters" as we understand the phrase today. But -

St. Paul Press, the same year, '65: "One hundred men of the First Heavy Artillery will arrive this morning (June 28) on the Northern Belle, and as they are to be entertained at the Soldiers' Home, it is highly necessary that contributions be sent in ~~early~~ this morning.

"At a late hour last night, several pies and cakes together with some puddings and a few other articles had been sent in, but not sufficient... It is earnestly to be hoped that our citizens will not fail to bring or send... eatables such as pies, cakes, butter, milk, and, in fact, anything that will gratify the palate."

*First Postoffice in Minnesota
and others.*

Attention Postmaster Coan - a centennial idea for your organization! This year will round out 100 years since the establishment of the first postoffice in Minnesota. That was at Point Douglas, at the mouth of the St. Croix, in July 1840.

As early as the 1820's, of course, Fort Snelling had a postal service of its own between there and Prairie Du Chien. But that was a military matter.

Before St. Paul was raised to the dignity of a postoffice town, steamboat captains used to leave mail at Henry Jackson's general store. When Uncle Sam ordered an honest-to-goodness postoffice in that community in April 1846, the store continued to be the location and Jackson was named postmaster. Stillwater got its first office a few months earlier, in January.

St. Anthony became a postoffice town in 1849, and Ard Godfrey was first postmaster. Minneapolis, St. Anthony's aggressive neighbor across the river, had its first appointed postmaster in 1854, Dr. Hezekiah Fletcher. It was more than a year, however, before the government extended its delivery route to Minneapolis. Meanwhile, Dr. A. E. Ames assumed the task of bringing the mail over from St. Anthony, sometimes in his hat.

Once the thing got under way, "more and better" postoffices appeared, as population increased, although there was an occasional setback to the development. For instance, the Press in '64 recorded that the assistant postmaster general, refusing a request from the legislature for tri-weekly service between Rochester and Mower City, said: "The alleged necessity ... does not appear."

In 1868 the St. Paul Press announced: "In 1853 Minnesota had four post-offices. Now she has 538."

There was a veritable spasm of postoffice establishment in 1878, the Minneapolis Tribune recording, among others:

"Bird Island, Renville county ...; Hale, McLeod county ...; Lisbon, Yellow Medicine county ...; Little Texas, Morrison county ...; Norwegian Grove and Leaf Mountain, Otter Tail county ...; Scandia, Washington county ...; Holy Cross, Clay county ...; Morse, Lincoln county ...; Germania, Mower county ...; Vaaler, Lac qui Parle county"

In '71 they made whoopee for a new postmaster. Tribune: "Capt. Harkins, the new postmaster at Rochester, received a serenade from his friends on the evening the news of his appointment came. He is a popular soldier, lost an arm at Chicamauga."

Magicians in early days.

Now you see it, now you don't. It's the same old game, only streamlined for moderns, and they were streamlined mystery makers who gathered in Minneapolis recently for a dinner of the society of Minnesota Magicians.

Before state newspapers began to record the feats of prestidigitators, there was awe in the presence of the unexplainable. Such an event was set down in a letter, dated 1844, written in French by Father Ravoux, pioneer Minnesota priest, to Bishop Loras of Dubuque. "Some traders among the Indians had been waiting several days for a boat loaded with varied merchandise. One day they said. . . let us go and consult the oracle, he will give us some news of the boat. The oracle was an old savage who was accepted as a sooth-sayer. They agreed to give him a present and betook themselves to his lodge. . . The oracle put himself in a state of communion with his spirits. . . Then he announced to the traders that the boat had not been able to move forward because of the wind which was too strong, that on the morning of the next day they would see it appear. . . The next day the traders assembled. They were astounded to see that everything the old savage had told them was the truth. Two witnesses of this happening described it to me."

One of the first entertainment events of record in the state involved magic. Minnesota Chronicle (St. Paul) 1849: "The American Fire King will gratify the citizens of this place with an Exhibition of His Power to withstand a very high degree of Heat, at the American House, on the evening of FRIDAY, July 6th, at early candle-light, by performing the following experiments: 1. By eating burning sealing-wax. 2. By eating live fire coals. 3. By drawing a red-hot iron over his face, hands, hair, &c., &c. 4. By drinking boiling brandy. 5. By eating molten lead. 6. By emitting a Burning Flame from the mouth. . ."

Sleight-of-hand artists, illusionists and ventriloquists were popular in the state throughout the Sixties. "Signor Blitz" of Philadelphia, featuring a troupe of "learned canary birds," pleased audiences in St. Anthony and Minneapolis in 1860. Professor Kahr, "King of Conjurers," gave a demonstration in Minneapolis in '64. M. Hartz was a sensational attraction at the Pence Opera House in the summer of '68.

Of Hartz's performance the Tribune said: "The instantaneous growth of flowers and the floating head were the most prominent features of the entertainment. . . . The facility with which Hartz would gather silver quarters from the air or spin half-dollars from the tip of his magic wand was pleasant to contemplate. . . . The silk hat from which so many articles of tin ware were taken was indeed a fertile one, covering several tables with its contents, among which were half a dozen Chinese lanterns, trimmed and burning, and a hoop skirt made by an apprentice. . . ."

Carnival season again.

It's Minnesota carnival season again. St. James leads off, with King C. A. Torkelson presiding over the three day fete starting January 24, and all Watonwan county is expected to gather at the county seat for the doings. Next comes St. Paul's big annual winter sports affair.

It was in 1885 that George Thompson, newspaper editor, started the carnival idea in the state capital. The first event was held next year, 1886. The city's latter-day celebrations last a week, but the opening one was a whole month long, beginning February 1.

The Pioneer Press issued a special carnival edition January 31. Next day the paper, describing the ice palace whose offspring have done so much to make the St. Paul carnivals famous, said:

"The palace itself is ... illuminated by electric lights from foundation to turret.... Two evenings have been set apart for the storming and repulse of the castle, when the forces engaged will use rockets and roman candles. The (carnival) association has procured 20,000 ten-ball candles."

Next day, February 2, the paper said the palace's formal opening "was the occasion of a monster torchlight parade, in which 5,000 uniformed members of various local and visiting toboggan, snowshoe, skating and curling clubs took part.... The opening of the ice palace was the beginning of the winter carnival, the first in the history of the northwest, and means the inauguration of a season of entertainments, receptions, balls, masquerades and winter sports.... Prominent among the indoor entertainments is that of the Snowshoe Club of Winnipeg.... Houses along the route of the parade were decorated ... front windows were illuminated, candles, gas jets and electric lights being brought into use."

What the boys wore was reported with gusto. For example: "Mayor Rice was bundled in fur garments and a fur cap ... President (of the association) Pitch wore a heavy fur coat over his carnival costume which consisted of a handsome blue and white blanket jacket ... with blanket knee breeches, blue stockings, moccasins and a red toque."

"This evening's program," the story went on, "will include a promenade concert at Carnival Hall.... Ladies will wear afternoon costumes with bonnets, while gentlemen are expected to appear in full evening dress."

In the February 4 issue, the arrival of the king was proclaimed: "The magnificent sleigh Nightingale, fitted with white fur robes and drawn by 10 white horses ... waited.... The train from the north pulled in ... Borealis then alighted and took his seat in the royal chariot, looking every inch a king."

*Grand Rapids, capital of
Itasca county*

Announcement of incorporation of a unique foundation by Charles K. Blandin to promote the welfare of the people of Grand Rapids, Minnesota and vicinity focuses public attention upon the lively capital of Itasca county.

As late as 1870, a trip by water to the site of Grand Rapids was news. A Little Falls letter to the St. Paul Pioneer commented: "The new steamer built by Capt. George Houghton ... to run between Little Falls and Pokegama Falls ... passed up to Little Falls and got over all safe without any trouble save a little hard work ... Capt. Houghton displayed a great deal of coolness and caution in managing his boat in dangerous places."

A disaster was recorded by the La Prairie Magnet on May 7, 1891: "Fire seized upon the village of Grand Rapids at 2 o'clock Wednesday morning, and left nothing but charred ... ruins on that portion of the main business street where had stood the Hohmson House and McAlpine's saloon ... The Pokegama hotel, across the street, was badly scorched."

On June 11, same year, the Grand Rapids Magnet reprinted a tribute from the Duluth Daily News. "This place ... was originally a trading post and lumber supply point.... With the building of the Winnipeg road, it became at once the depot of supplies and general distributing point for the lumbering operations of the upper Mississippi river ... Grand Rapids has an excellent school house, court house, Presbyterian church and a Catholic church soon to be built ... and a \$12,000 hotel just opened, containing 62 rooms for guests, and which will be conducted in a first class manner. It has excellent water power, one saw mill which though small is the beginning of a manufacturing industry which promises to become one of the leading features of the place. Arrangements are being made to secure the location of a pulp mill.... Its healthful climate ... its air laden with that resinous quality peculiar to pine and spruce regions,

is peculiarly adapted to the relief of those who are suffering from pulmonary or catarrhal affections; while its pure water ... exercises a most invigorating effect upon those of bilious temperaments...."

June 16, 1891, according to the Magnet of two days later, "Grand Rapids voted almost unanimously for incorporation," and looked forward to "another rough and tumble fight for the Village officers...."

Four months later, the Magnet reported progress in a lighter vein. "Now we are truly metropolitan; we are the actual possessors of a real live Chinaman. He will hang out his washee sign in a few days, and then the boys may be seen any time running their noses up and down the hieroglyphics to try and make out how much they will owe."

And the Magnet again, on November 15, 1892, "The county seat fight in Itasca county between Grand Rapids and La Prairie has been won by Grand Rapids by a large majority, and that town is now bound in the near future to become one of the best in the State...."

Taxes. (Dodge & collector)

Taxes are again in the news. Indeed, taxes have always made lively news in the Minnesota press. For instance:

Lake City correspondent of the St. Paul Pioneer, '66 - "We have had enough snow to blockade roads... but not enough to keep the tax gatherer from our town. This functionary came from Hyde Park day before yesterday, but only escaped burial in the snow by calling to his assistance some farmers and paying them a good round sum for breaking and digging a way through for him. Some folks were ill-natured enough to wish that he and his books had been lost in the snow drift. But here he is, safe and sound..."

St. Paul Press, '64 - "A person in lower town who has 14 babies was dreadfully alarmed yesterday on being told that the new Revenue law taxed babies - but recovered on learning that congress had exempted stock on hand."

Minneapolis Tribune, '67 - "We are informed that one of the prominent lumbermen of our city returns a gross income of \$89,000, \$75,500 of which is taxable. We believe there are few if any incomes of an equal amount reported in the Northwest, outside of Chicago."

St. Anthony Falls Democrat, '70 - Minnesota paid a tax of \$87,138.14 on incomes for the year ending June 30, 1869. More than this amount is stolen every day from the government."

Minneapolis Tribune, '71 - "The assessment lists of Dodge County show some curious figures. The aggregate of personal property is \$448,912. Some of the articles of personal property are assessed at ridiculously low figures. The average value of carriages is \$42.02. There are 78 watches owned in the county and these are rated at an average value of \$11.93. There are 34 pianos in the county having an average valuation of \$60.11. Dodge county is well named!"

Minneapolis Tribune, '79 - "Fillmore county has 147 persons who pay personal property tax of \$25 and upwards, and the Preston Republican thinks there are at least as many more who ought to pay as much."

Tribune, '80 - "ANOKA, May 12. - The annual lying match will commence next week. That is the time our assessor begins his work."

*The St. George's Society of St. Paul
celebrated its fourth annual reunion
in 1869*

Hands across the sea with Britain is not a new gesture in Minnesota. In 1869, on January 29, the St. Paul Daily Press described a pioneer manifestation of goodwill between the English speaking peoples.

"The St. George's Society of this city celebrated its fourth annual reunion last night at the Merchants' Hotel. The preparations had been made upon a grand scale and in anticipation of a large attendance. In this they were by no means disappointed, for at an early hour carriages began to roll in loaded with guests.

"The parlors and suites of rooms along the hall on the second floor were soon alive with a moving throng of ladies and gentlemen interchanging pleasant greetings and preparing for the coming festivities. The Great Western Band occupied the large room in the Ladies' Ordinary, which soon became filled with promenaders. The walls were decked with St. George colors and English flags, with a few stars and stripes.

"The crowd of guests kept increasing until all the rooms and halls were so full that locomotion was next to impossible. Fat aldermen, lank politicians, florid John Bulls, blarneying sons of Erin, square-toed, lantern-jawed Yankees and plethoric Germans were commingling in a heterogeneous mass that might readily have been mistaken for a section of the Paris Exposition instead of a simon-pure collection of St. Georgers...

"At about 9 o'clock the dining hall entrance was thrown open and the long procession of gentlemen and ladies filed into the room and were accommodated with seats at the various tables loaded with substantials and choice delicacies...

"As soon as grace was pronounced the whole company 'fell to' in a manner which showed their appreciation of the landlord's skill in catering as much as their love of St. George or 'any other man." Oysters hot and oysters cold, oysters stewed, scalloped, fricassied and fried, flew thick and fast....

"The first (toast) was 'The President of the United States', which was briefly responded to by Mr. R. A. Kemp. This was followed by music and a song, 'Red, White and Blue,' by Mr. George Exley. The second toast was 'The Queen,' responded to by Mr. Alfred Moore, in which he complimented Victoria as an exemplary mother, a true woman, and a model Sovereign who has never been impeached.

"'Our Native Land' was next given....

" 'Our Adopted Country' was responded to by Mr. George Exley."

The program concluded with The Star Spangled Banner, and the sentiment

"Peace on earth, good will toward men," responded to by Rev. Mr. Pope.

Business is business! It pays to advertise

Business is business! - True, some of grandfather's business undertakings seem a little odd today. But he knew what he was doing, and he knew that it paid to advertise.

"Mons. Benjamin Lessard respectfully informs the citizens of St. Anthony and vicinity that he has recently arrived from Canada, where he has just completed his French and Latin studies. He proposes to give instructions in French and Latin, as shall be required, for the coming year . . . Being already acquainted to some extent with the English language, he hopes in two or three months to be able to teach English classes also with profit." - St. Anthony Weekly Express, November 15, 1851.

"C. H. Schmidt recommends to the public his services in repairing Umbrellas and Parasols; in turning Billiard Balls over again, and in coloring them; in making fine artificial work from bone and ivory to order." - Pioneer Democrat Daily, July 2, 1861. ✓

"G. W. Smith, the Daguerreotypist, is now in town, or rather down at the wharf, in his floating Saloon, ready to take life-size likenesses of any who may patronize him." - St. Croix Union, September 22, 1855. ✓

"Mr. J. A. Lemmon is now in his new quarters, displaying a general and exceedingly tasteful assortment of goods, embracing everything in the mercantile line, from the most comfortable shag surtout to a five dollar cambric handkerchief..." - St. Anthony Express Weekly, November 19, 1853.

"Persons who have feather beds should put themselves in the hands of C. M. Grove & Bro. . . they propose to clean feathers and make them perfectly clean and sweet." - Goodhue County Republican, May 6, 1864.

Grandfather's lady friend also pitched in Mrs. Oglesby of Mankato, for instance, announced in the Weekly Record of May 23, 1868 that "she will bleach bonnets at the rate of fifty cents each." And a lovely go-getter of Minneapolis advertised in the same year: "Those wishing hair jewelry for holiday gifts will please bring their hair as soon as possible to Miss Hartson, where they will be sure of having the same hair braided . . . Diamond dust at Miss Hartson's." ✓

Come to Minnesota this summer! It is a hearty invitation, but not a new one. Minnesota's latch string was out long before the current drive to increase the legislative appropriation for the State Tourist Bureau.

In 1856, the St. Paul Pioneer-Democrat said: "We are informed that Mr. A. M. Benson has fitted up a sail boat and fishing boats on Pleasant Lake, for the accommodation of pleasure parties."

Pioneer-Democrat, 1861: ". . . this lake (White Bear) has been for five years the home and quarters of invalid visitors . . . sportsmen and pleasure seekers."

Taylor's Falls item in the Pioneer, 1866: "It is fast becoming known that in point of health Taylor's Falls has no superior in the Northwest, and the beauty of its scenery is without a rival in Minnesota." The article reported that summer visitors were arriving by every boat.

Pioneer, 1866: "The St. Louis packets for several days past have had among their passengers the vanguard of a host of summer visitors . . . We refer to Southern people . . . who used, before the war, to spend the hot weather in Minnesota."

Frontenac item in the Pioneer, 1868: "This pleasant summer resort (Lake Side hotel), on the romantic shore of Lake Pepin, will be open for visitors until . . . the shooting and fishing season closes."

And under the heading "Minnesota Summer Resorts," the Pioneer quoted the New York Herald in 1870: "The new road connecting Lake Superior and St. Paul is lined with seven or eight new summer resorts, which are already appealing to the patronage of travelers making the 'grand tour' of the Northwest." After extolling Bald Eagle Lake as "lonely, wild and interesting," the story continued: "Green and Chisago Lakes are so located that the hotels and Chisago City stand between them. Rush Lake is 54 miles from St. Paul, and Trout Lake 150 miles. The latter is famous for the fish from which it takes its name. There are a number of other lakes along the line of the road, but the most

famous resort of all is the 'Dalles' of the St. Louis, near Thomson station. The St. Louis river, in a distance of four miles and a half, falls 450 feet by a succession of rapids and cascades."

Welcome, stranger! You'll like Minnesota.

*Notes from the scrapbook;
man who didn't keep date to die.
A minister who cut it short.
City in darkness*

There was a man who didn't keep a date to die. There was a minister who cut it short. Also a gas company that put a city in darkness because it didn't pay its light bill. Picked from Minnesota annals:

Minnesota Weekly (St. Paul), '54 - "The German who was sick yesterday in the third ward and for whose use a coffin had been prepared is now convalescent and has returned the coffin with thanks to the Board of Health."

Minneapolis Tribune, '82 - "Six divorces were up in special term yesterday and only one marriage license was granted. Times are certainly changing."

Minneapolis Tribune, '82 - "Duluth has a minister who can preach a most excellent sermon in 10 minutes. It is hardly necessary to say that he is very popular."

The early blackout. St. Paul Pioneer, '66 - "The city was in darkness last night. Not a street lamp shed its glimmering rays over the ... city. The explanation is that the Gas Company have shut off the gas until the city pays that little arrearage of \$15,000. Kerosene lanterns will be in demand now."

Frank journalism. Tribune, '81 - "The 'Gossip About Town' column on page 6 ... is obliterated in this Tribune. The news is very dull."

St. Paul Press, '64 - "The police have been furnished with heavy locust clubs with instructions to use them liberally on anyone who resists arrest. They contain an indefinite amount of headaches."

St. Paul Press, 1869 - "John A. Stees, the undertaker, has just received from Cincinnati, Ohio, a splendid new hearse. It is the finest thing of the kind ever brought to the State, and cost \$2000. The sides are of large French plate glass, and the mountings are all silver with handsome black and white funeral plumes. It is arranged to go on wheels or bobsleds..."

V
*Agriculture: a huge job in
Pioneer Days*

36.

This is Minnesota's forty-first annual Farm and Home Week, with hundreds of agriculturalists gathered at University Farm. Today large considerations of policy occupy the professional farmer's attention. In former times, when there were only county farm clubs, such questions as whether raising small grains exclusively was injurious to the land and whether more stock farms and smaller wheat averages were desirable engrossed the crop raisers. In 1869 the Stillwater Republican recommended that farmers "quit wheat and raise beans."

Agriculture was really a huge job as the Minnesota Pioneer in '52 described "the farm of Mr. Larpenteur": "With the help of his two sons... he has put in... 30 acres of oats, a dozen acres of corn, 10 acres of potatoes, an acre of beans,... and a large field of wheat, beside cultivating a large garden and splitting out the rails for, and laying up, more than a mile of rail fence... We forgot to mention... the raising of swine, the raising of 12 calves, and the rearing of hundreds of chickens, guinea hens and turkeys."

Overlooking a bet. Minnesotian, '54: "It is an interesting fact that these lands, adjacent to St. Paul, which were passed over by the first occupants of farming lands in this vicinity as unfit for agricultural purposes are now being practically proved to be as productive as tracts which were formerly regarded as the garden spots of this region. We find that the 'sand hills'... which were sneered at... are now being cultivated."

Demand for publicity in '57. Pioneer Democrat: "Very much good might be accomplished if our farmers would give their experience through the press."

Democrat Weekly, '57, reporting on Cannon Falls: "A Real Minnesota Farmer---Mr. Daniels, we believe, was the first one who commenced opening a farm on a large scale. His land is on the north side of Big Cannon... He has now 320 acres enclosed."

Minneapolis Tribune, '71: "The Farmers' club in Rice county has adopted a resolution 'that the continued and exclusive raising of wheat and other small grains is injurious to the land and unprofitable to the farmer, and that mixed husbandry is the most profitable.'"

Tribune, same year: "The agricultural society of Steele county have noted that more stock and smaller wheat averages are desirable among their farmers."

Modern farmers have learned to put up their political fences. And to pull political wires. As for wire fences---

"St. Paul Press, '72: "The Winnebago Advertiser says that wire fencing is not a success in Minnesota. Three-fourths of the farmers who have tried it are disgusted with its use."

*Excelsior!**A town grown from a poem.*

A town grown from a poem. Minnesota has one - Excelsior. And in a way, 1941 is a centennial year for her, since it was just 100 years ago that Longfellow wrote the poem from which Excelsior takes her name.

It was in November 1852, eleven years after the youth with the banner had been given to the public, that the Excelsior Pioneer Association was formed in New York City "to remove th Minnesota Territory next summer." They knew exactly what they were doing, having sent a representative that summer to inspect the Minnetonka site. It "cannot be surpassed by any other locality in the country" the Association declared, "for healthfulness of climate, fertility of soil, beauty of scenery and nearness to markets.... The whole country, in fact, possessing almost everything that the heart of man could wish for."

The settlers came west in 1853. That winter, they named their settlement Excelsior. From then on, it moved forward. Excelsior was organized as a town in 1858. By 1876, the Lake Minnetonka Tourist, published in Minneapolis, was able to confirm the optimistic vision of the Association:

"The town of Excelsior is the largest in point of population of any on the lake. It contains a hotel capable of accommodating over one hundred guests, a number of boarding houses fitted up with especial care for the demands of summer visitors, a post office, three well filled stores, a shoe shop, meat market, livery stable, rustic chair factory, grist mill ... two churches, public schools, etc.

"The site chosen for the town seems peculiarly adapted for a summer resort ... a beautiful gravelly beach extends the entire length of the town, and here and there along it may be seen piers or wharves.... With an eye to the future, the town has set apart about eleven acres for a park on the point between Gideon and Excelsior bays, known to the residents as 'the commons.' ... We cannot close without referring to the social characteristics of the inhabitants. Being largely composed of Eastern people, we find them refined, intelligent and generous, as well as industrious and temperate.... Excelsior is noted for its free-handed, hearty hospitality, and those who remain long enough to become acquainted with its citizens and participate in the pleasures of their home circles never depart without regret, and recall the visit as one of the pleasant occurrences in their lives.

"Visitors can reach Excelsior by steamer from Wayzata, where they make connections with regular trains on the St. Paul and Pacific road, or by stage from Eden Prairie...."

Mpls. Symphony Orchestra

Announcement that Dimitri Mitropoulos has decided to remain as conductor of the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra despite a flattering eastern offer heartens local music lovers and augurs well for the future of the famed organization. The orchestra's present preeminence results from long dedication to the best in musical performance, from its first appearance, November 5, 1903.

Reporting that initial concert, the music critic of the Minneapolis Tribune said on the following morning:

"Minneapolis heard its Symphony orchestra last evening for the first time, and judging from the few weeks of rehearsal the orchestra of 50 men will be one that in every manner carries on the ambitions of the director and concert master.

"The audience, which was of exceptional size, combined the most fashionable and the most musical people of the two cities.... Mr. Oberhoffer as director and Frank Danz as concert master have been nobly supported in their efforts to present a well balanced assembly of artists by the artists themselves, who have worked with success of the most pronounced type for their guiding star.

"The numbers ... were: Prelude to the Meistersinger, Wagner; Symphony in B minor, Schubert; Liszt's symphonic poem, Les Preludes; Moszkowski's Serenata, and the Aragonaise from the ballet suite in Le Cid, Massenet; and Rossini's overture to William Tell.

"Madame Sembrich sang the aria from Traviata, Verdi, and the waltz aria of Johann Strauss; 'Fruehlingsstimmen,' with orchestra accompaniment; and a group of three songs with piano accompaniment, 'Der Nussbaum,' Schumann, 'The Lass With the Delicate Air,' Arne, and 'Staendchen,' Richard Strauss.

"The instruments played in unison and harmony that brought well rounded climaxes.... The Moszkowski number was given feelingly, and technically faultless.

"Madame Sembrich ... was compelled to respond to two encores, and at the closing number a burst of applause called her again and again before the audience. In her numbers last evening an impression of reserve power was received that made one long for a song that would call forth the full glory of her splendidly handled voice.

" 'Ah fors' e lui', the aria from Traviata, revealed the beauty of her upper register, and her high notes filled the hall.... Schumann's sweet little song "Der Nussbaum" gave an opportunity for the display of the deepest tone qualities."

St. Paul celebrated 100th birthday.

St. Paul's celebration of her hundredth birthday gives significant interest to a letter from Father Lucian Galtier to Bishop Grace of St. Paul. Excerpts from the historic missive written at Prairie du Chien on January 14, 1864:

"On the 26th day of April 1840, in the afternoon, a St. Louis steamboat, the first of the season, passed (Dubuque), bound for St. Peter (Mendota) and Fort Snelling. Rt. Rd. Dr. Loras (Bishop of Dubuque) immediately came to me and desired to send me to the head of the Mississippi navigation... The steamboat landed at the foot of Fort Snelling..."

In the months that followed, Father Galtier knew the hardships of his wilderness mission. He also saw the forcible expulsion by the fort authorities of the handful of settlers on the military reserve. The letter continues: "It was fit for me to visit occasionally these forsaken families. At least it became necessary to choose a suitable place for a church, where the spiritual wants of these scattered families should be supplied. Three different points were offered... I was truly looking ahead and for the future as well as for the present time..."

"Now Mr. B. Gervais and Vital /Guerin/, two good and peaceable farmers, had the only spot that appeared likely to be most convenient. They both consented to give me the ground necessary for a church and a garden together with a small graveyard. I accepted on the bank of the Mississippi the east extreme part of /Vital Guerins'/ claim and farm and the west side touching said line and given by Mr. B. Gervais. The opposite side along the Mississippi was still occupied by the Indians..."

"In 1841 and on the month of October, on the joining ground given to me by Mr. Gervais and Vital I caused some logs to be cut, prepared and put up, and soon after a poor church of logs was built and fitted so as to recall the stable of Bethlehem. Now the nucleus of St. Paul was formed. On the first day of November 1841, I blessed the new basilica, smaller, indeed, than that of St. Paul at Rome...but in this as well as in the other good hearts could expand without limits... This church remained thus dedicated to St. Paul, and I expressed the wish to call the place by no other name. Already I was residing at St. Peter, and as the name of Paul is generally connected with that of Peter, the gentiles here being well represented in the persons of the Indians, I called it St. Paul. Henceforth we would call him our protector, and for apostolic life could I desire for a better pattern?

"St. Paul as applied to a town or city was well appropriated. This monosyllable is short, sounds good, it is understood by all Christian denominations..."

St. Paul Y. M. C. A.

The St. Paul Y. M. C. A. is now in the midst of a lively membership drive, the teams daily reporting new recruits. Solicitors might well tell prospects of the good works done by the early branches in Minnesota. The Y of yesteryear carried its activities in such directions as giving relief to the poor, furnishing reading matter to lumberjacks and seeking law enforcement ordinances.

A first move toward Y organization was reported in the Mimesotian, July 23, 1856: "Feeling the importance of bringing out a more general, as well as systematic embodiment of the religious influence of the Christian Young Men of the several denominations in this city, the Young Men of St. Paul unite in sending out this call for a meeting of all Christian Young Men under 45 ... to consider the propriety of establishing a Young Men's Christian association ... to be held in the First Presbyterian Church on Monday evening next."

From then on the history of the institution in this state is one of steady progress. St. Paul Pioneer Democrat, '58: "The first of a series of Sunday evening discourses, under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A., will be delivered on Sunday evening, Jan. 10 ... at Irvine Hall, by Rev. E. D. Neill.

St. Paul Press, '61: "A package of religious papers ... will be ... made up and sent to the soldiers at the Fort each Saturday morning."

Chronicle, '66: "The Y. M. C. A. of Minneapolis has begun its career, and to that we look for a purifier which shall cleanse our community."

Minneapolis Tribune, '67: "Yesterday, immediately after the noon prayer meeting, the Y. M. C. A. held an adjourned meeting to hear the protest prepared by the Committee appointed ... to draft ... an instrument to be presented to the city council ... before their final action on the motion to appeal the Sunday Liquor Law."

Goodhue County Republican (Red Wing), '68: "The Northfield Y. M. C. A. have sold over 100 season tickets for their course of lectures."

Tribune, '68: "... we hear that the Y. M. C. A. of that city (Winona) are doing good work in alleviating many cases of suffering."

Tribune, '68: " 'Send us something to read' is a message that comes from every lumberman's camp. The ... Y. M. C. A. will forward to the pine-ries papers, magazines ... left at the room of the association."

Tribune, '70: "Gas was used first in the Y. M. C. A. room yesterday!"

*Messages and News not enjoyed in
living room in early days*

Seated cozily in his living room, Mr. John Minnesota heard the president of the United States deliver his inaugural message to congress the other day. John Minnesota heard the words the instant the words were spoken. But 'twas not always so. In 1858 grandfather got a president's message by wire by way of Prairie du Chien. St. Paul Pioneer Democrat:

"Telegraph News Telegraphed to Prairie du Chien Expressly for the Pioneer and Democrat---The president of the United States sent in a message to the House of Representatives today, accompanying the Constitution of the State of Minnesota."

Folwell's History of Minnesota cites the same paper in '60 and '61 and the Atlas and Falls Evening News of '60 as authority for the following: "For many months newspapers were compelled to apologize for the absence of telegraphic news because the wire was down or because there had been a thunderstorm or a sudden thaw, and in one instance because of some mysterious influence of moonbeams on the electric current."

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Minneapolis Tribune, 1863: "The message of President Grant, which we print in full, occupied seven hours in transmission by telegraph, the concluding portion being received at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock this morning. By the imperfect working of their wires, one more repetition than usual was required to transmit from Washington. The lateness of its reception and the demands upon our space both preclude comment today, and are the cause of later delivery to a portion of our subscribers, whose indulgence we solicit."

Grandfather Minnesota wouldn't have been able to keep abreast of Herr Hitler's swift movements before 1858. Minnesotian, that year: "A meeting of the Committee of Arrangements for the celebration on Wednesday, the first of September, of the successful laying and working of the Atlantic Telegraph Cable was held at the Council Chamber."

Same paper, later that year: "News from Europe in two days to St. Paul! Five thousand miles passed over in 48 hours! ... Is it all real, or merely a dream?"

Goodhue County Republican (Red Wing), 1860: There will be a public meeting of the citizens ... of Red Wing ... February 18 ... to take measures to cooperate with St. Paul and other river towns for building a line of telegraph from La Crosse to St. Paul."

Thus a dream became a commonplace. The miracle of radio occurred. And the president spoke in the livingrooms of Minnesota.

*Minnesota, one of the nation's leading
flax-producing states.*

Minnesota, one of the nation's leading flax-producing states, has suddenly experienced a boom in that industry. Cigarette paper, formerly imported from France, is needed and can be made from flax tow. So factories which turn flax straw into tow in Minneapolis, Duluth, Winona, Leroy, Crookston and Red Lake Falls are reported to be working at top capacity.

"The soil of the Territory of Minnesota is said to be admirably adapted to the cultivation of flax," said the New York Journal of Commerce as far back as '51. "Some enterprising capitalists at the East have invested \$30,000 in a flax and cordage manufacturing establishment at St. Paul."

The next year, E. F. Hovey of Little Falls, N. Y. gave flaxseed to J. W. Selby of St. Paul for experimentation, and the St. Anthony Falls Express said "We have a specimen of the flax raised by Mr. Selby in our office, and have taken pride in showing it to hundreds of strangers. We feel that if our farmers will turn their attention to the growth of flax a manufactory will be speedily established."

In '64, the St. Paul Press reported "The Norwegian population in Carver and adjoining counties have raised considerable flax... and are intending to manufacture it themselves, having been skilled in the production of domestic linens in the old country."

In '67 a Minneapolis item in the St. Paul Pioneer announced that Hennepin county farmers were to try flax raising and "we sincerely hope the experiment will prove a success, as the raising of flax will in time be a paying business."

Farmers' Union, same year: "Hon. Mr. Bryant, from Wabashaw county, stated at the recent meeting of the State Agricultural Society that he has been extremely successful with the cultivation of flax. He raised the past year 20 bushels to the acre."

Pioneer, '71: "The flaxcrop of Dodge county is nearly ready to harvest. It consists of about 1,200 acres."

Tribune, '72: "The entire product of the flax straw in this State is converted into spinning and upholstering tow."

Watching the mercury in shivering apprehension, Grandfather likes to recall June breezes and hammocks and perhaps a girl who now is not Grandma. Like the June idyll described in the Tribune in 1881. After a tour of Minneapolis' picnic spots:

"A Tribune reporter counted 35 picnic parties numbering from 5 to 15 people in each, at both lakes (Calhoun and Harriet)... The change from a hot city...to a cool place amid old trees with wild flowers dotting the moss carpet, and fresh breezes coming in from the water, was indeed pleasant...

"The joy of a hammock in the deep cool of the green woods can scarcely be estimated in cold words. Yesterday at precisely 11 o'clock A.M. the writer accidentally came upon a scene which for tenderness and sylvan beauty has seldom been equalled. They were in a hammock--she half reclining with one dainty booted foot hanging over the side, her eyes gently closing and opening to the slow swing of the hammock, while she pulled a rose to pieces with a hairpin.

"He was seated across the foot of the hammock, his toe touching the emerald vegetation, his left hand waving a Chicago, Burlington & Quincy fan, and in his right hand a copy of 'Lucile,' from which he was reading. Just once did he pause in his pleasant task, and leaning over slightly his lips touched hers in one long love-kiss, and the drooping blue eyes opened wide for a moment, then closed again.

" 'Lucile' was continued, and the robins and brown thrush--for a moment silent in their sweet amazement--resumed their song, while the gaslight green waters of Harriet lazily washed upon the shore.

"And on Monday ... she will report at her schoolroom and take up the thread of daily care, forgetting, perhaps, the hammock, 'Lucile,' the kiss, the rose, but not the hairpin. A woman never forgets a hairpin--it is ever useful when buttoning a shoe and supplying the place of a suddenly missed waistband button, up to picking teeth after a tea-fight.

"And he? His role today as he measures off 45 yards of silk for a dress, will be quite as fascinating as before, and maybe tonight he will be reading 'Lucile' to another hammock occupant."

The hold-for-ransom racket is by no means a modern idea.

The hold-for-ransom racket is by no means a modern idea. Minnesota annals of 1877 reveal an instance of the meet-me-in-a-secluded-spot game. Minus the modern refinement of abduction. The story was copied by the Stillwater Gazette from the Rochester Post in May of the year named:

"On the 28th of February last, the residence of Mr. James Fitzpatrick, containing \$70 in cash and ... deeds, mortgages and promissory notes to the value of several thousand dollars, was taken... Last Tuesday morning ... Fitzpatrick was aroused from his slumber by violent knocking at his door ... encountered a man, a total stranger, who desired him to step out to the door with him. This Fitzpatrick declined to do, and the stranger then walked into the house...

"He informed Mr. Fitzpatrick that he had been sent to him by the parties who had his stolen notes ... to ascertain how much money he was willing to give to recover the papers... A bargain was effected ... by the terms of which Fitzpatrick was to give \$110...

"The place where the two were to meet to make the exchange was ... on the Salem road, a few rods south of Mr. Adam Stenger's Centennial Beer Garden... The time selected ... was 10 o'clock in the forenoon... Providing himself with the stipulated sum ... he started... He saw his strange night visitor a few rods away from the highway... The two men went together ... to a spot ... near another road but little traveled... The stranger requested Fitzpatrick to lay down the money... Fitzpatrick declined to do so, but put down \$60, which the stranger counted... Fitzpatrick refused to put down any more money until he had counted the notes...

"There was about this whole affair a grim and provoking coolness ... which calls to mind ... stories of old brigands, highwaymen and professional robbers... On being asked by Fitzpatrick how he came to know him ... the stranger replied that he had been pointed out to him on the streets by his employers, and that they had also informed him of the location of his residence. He assured Fitzpatrick that he had no unfriendly feeling ... he was simply acting in a business matter and desired to conduct the affair in a mutually friendly manner.

"An effort was made to capture the man by the deputy sheriff ... but bunglingly failed."

V

45.

Bowling in Minnesota

Ever smoke a \$10 cigar? Or even see one? Henry Martin, Sr. of St. Paul, grand old man of Minnesota bowling, has one he won't sell at any price, although offers up to that sum have been made. It dates from 1918, when the Aquilas of St. Paul won the national bowling championship and cigars named for the victors were passed out.

There was another St. Paul team that won the national championship, the Flor de Knispels, in 1913. The national bowling congress was held in that city both in 1913 and 1918 and comes again this year for a March 13 - April 28 tournament. Five thousand teams of six men each are registered. Already Minneapolis bowlers are in practice, among them Bernie Bierman, Golden Gopher coach.

Time was when bowling did not enjoy the high repute it does today. At the recent annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society, Dr. Phillip Jordan of Miami University recalled the days of the 1850's, when "a moral code was imposed on the territory" of McLeod county condemning bowling and some other recreations.

In 1849 the Minnesota Register advertised: "Bowling Saloon---Frank Roberts, of Stillwater, has constantly on hand a supply of Oysters, Sardines, Lobsters, &c."

In '51, the Minnesota Democrat: "Next Thursday, (May 1), the New Bowling Saloon of Alex Cloutier, at St. Anthony, will be opened."

Along in '68, the St. Paul Press announced: "St. Cloud has 18 beer saloons, three billiard saloons ... and one bowling alley."

An old name for the sport was ten pins. Minneapolis Tribune, '75: "Ten dollars in gold for the best game of ten pins this month at Chas. G. Hillman's, 115 Washington Avenue South."

"Dean" Martin also keeps in his scrapbook a clipping from the St. Paul Globe of October 7, 1894 which gives an idea of the standard of the ball rollers then:

Grandfather's Day.

"Considering the great number that are finding amusement, as well as healthy exercise, in the Foley bowling alleys, and the few that are able to touch the 180 notch or better (the standard heretofore set by the Globe), it has been concluded to slightly abrogate this limit. It has accordingly been reduced to 170 pins, which will be the standard of excellence hereafter."

Annals show the Flor de Knispels won their championship in 1913 with a total of 30,006 and the Aquilas five years later with 3,022.