



Minnesota Works Progress Administration:
Writers Project Research Notes.

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

Grandfather's Day

VII
Easter Sunday

Minneapolis will have plenty of eggs tomorrow, thanks to the industry of the Minnesota hen and the mysterious cooperation of the rabbit. But that was not always so. The Chronicle-Register, in 1850, lamented: "Tomorrow is Easter Sunday, but the good old custom of feasting upon eggs most of us will have to forego . . . The poultry and egg trade here holds out great inducements to down the river folks."

In '75, the Minneapolis Tribune wondered: "Is It Right to Ride to Church on Sunday?" and then dodged the question: "Respectfully referred to the conference at Stillwater next week."

At times, in earlier years, were left chewing their pencils during Lent, a Faribault correspondent of 1881 frankly admitting in the Tribune: "The Lenten season being in progress, the items of interest in the social are comparatively scarce. Dancing parties are of course given up, and other amusements are few and far between."

The Tribune, April 9, 1882, gave this thumbnail sketch of the religious holiday:

"Today being Easter Sunday, the churches throughout the city will observe the occasion with special and appropriate observances. The proper time for the celebration of Easter has occasioned no little controversy, the great mass of the early Eastern Christians celebrating Easter on the fourteenth day of the first Jewish month or moon, considering it to be the equivalent of the Jewish Passover.

"The western churches, however, celebrated it on the Sunday after the fourteenth day, holding that it was the commemoration of the resurrection of Christ. The quarrel was finally settled in 325 A. D. by the Council of Nice, which decided in favor of the western usage . . .

"As everybody knows, the most characteristic Easter rite and the one most widely diffused is the use of Easter eggs. They are usually stained of various colors with dye woods and herbs, and people mutually make presents of them . . . There can be little doubt that the use of eggs at this season was symbolical of the revivication of nature---the springing forth of life in spring . . .

"From a Christian point of view, this 'feast of eggs' has usually been considered as emblematic of the resurrection of a future life."

Fruit early became the apple of Minnesota's eye. Probably those early growers did not all visualize the proportions to which the state's fruit industry was to grow.

But many of them were hopeful guessers. St. Paul Pioneer, in 1849: "Cranberries are gathered in the vicinity of St. Paul in great abundance. Probably when the bills of export are all summed together we can show a larger export of this article than any other section of the union." In '70, the St. Paul Press: "Peaches are becoming plenty . . . from 75 cents a box to \$2.50. Apples are daily improving in size and quality . . . The best wild plums were selling yesterday for \$2.50 and \$3 per bushel."

In '71, a communication from Washington, D. C., in the Pioneer:

"I have a good item for Minnesota in the line of fruits. On visiting the rooms of the Potomac Fruit Growers' Association yesterday . . . the first table I noticed was covered with dishes of Minnesota apples and pears, exhibited by P. A. Jewell, delegate of your State Society.

"Now I have never been of the opinion your state could not grow fruit, but must confess myself altogether surprised at the unexpected display of such magnificent specimens as were on exhibition. There are on this table thirty varieties of apples, many of them very large, perfectly formed and possessing a peculiar richness of color that attracted general attention.

"The Finnish Beauty pears were more delicately colored than the apples. . . . Mr. Jewell attributes the color . . . to the peculiar atmosphere of your state, dryness and cloudless skies . . . I learn from Mr. Jewell that he has upwards of 300,000 fruit trees at his place near Lake City, a good evidence of faith in fruit growing in Minnesota."

Later that year the same paper said the state's apple crop was estimated

at from 25,000 to 40,000 bushels, adding: "P. M. Gideon, of Excelsior, was in the city yesterday with a load of handsome ones from his orchard which he readily disposed of at 5 cents each. They were Blue Peramines, and perfect beauties."

Minnesota is still going to "the front" for defense. Just eighty years ago today, on April 17, 1861, the St. Paul Daily Press said: "The proclamation of his excellency, Acting Governor Donnelly, with the special order of Adjutant General Acker, will attract the attention of all patriotic citizens this morning.

"Minnesota is called upon to do her duty in protecting the national flag... Let her respond as becomes a state attached to the Union... In twenty days our regiment will be ready for the field."

Next day, the Pioneer-Democrat said: "The town talk yesterday was not of bursted banks or of the flood...or of anything else but the call of the President for a regiment of Minnesotians to defend the Government."

May 7, the Press: "Gov. Ramsey, having completed the organization of the troops called for under the requisition of the President, left yesterday morning for Washington... The governor...has driven forward military matters with commendable energy and dispatch."

And seven days later: "The Secretary of War has accepted the First Regiment of Minnesota for three years, or during the war. Therefore 200 able bodied men will be accepted immediately to take the place of those three-months men who decline to serve longer. W. A. Gorman, Co. 1st. Regiment, Minnesota Volunteers."

May 18, the Pioneer-Democrat: "A 160-acre land warrant and \$100 bounty to 'three years or during the war' soldiers is given under order No. 15. Each company is allowed five sergeants and eight corporals. The regiment is allowed a band of 24 men, and one-fourth get pay as sergeants or engineers - \$34 per month; one-fourth at \$20 per month; one half at \$17 per month, and on discharge 50 cents for every 20 miles to travel to their homes."

Women in aid-to-defense work are also part of Minnesota tradition.

The Press reported, May 10, that same year:

"The call to the ladies in yesterday morning's papers was promptly responded to by a large number assembling at Ingersoll's Hall. An organization taking the name of 'St. Paul Volunteer Aid Society' was formed, of which Miss S. L. Williams was chosen president... A committee of three ...was appointed to wait on Col. Gorman and inquire into the wants of the St. Paul companies, embodying the most profitable outlay with reference to comfort."

Grandfather's Day.

VII

H.

*Only 3 miles from heaven
to hell. (Old Gabe)*

It is only three miles from heaven to hell, according to an Indian calculation. Still, Old Gabe didn't want to take the jaunt. His disinclination was thus related in the St. Paul Pioneer in '74:

"Old Gabe is known to almost every lumberman that ever logged on the St. Croix ... his principal occupation was carrying dispatches from the camps to the nearest stage station.... On one of these trips Old Gabe became unusually boisterous and troublesome, so that it was deemed a necessity to place him under arrest and deal him out a little morality by imposing a fine upon him, which was done according to territorial law as dealt out by Doc. Wilkes. Gabe paid his fine, and was dismissed by his honor, but instead of taking leave of the court in the usual manner, he stepped up to the judge and demanded a receipt, which was denied him. Gabe insisted upon his receipt, and overruled all opposition with the following argument: 'Gabe drunk, Gabe pays fine; Gabe die, Gabe go to heaven; tell Gabe been drunk; Gabe say, Gabe good Injun, pay Doc. Wilkes fine. Big man say, show receipt. Then Gabe have to walk down three miles to hell and hunt him all over to find Doc. Wilkes to get receipt.' It is scarcely necessary to add that Gabe got his receipt."

That same year, 1874, the Litchfield Ledger produced its own little oddity, also reported by the Pioneer: "The Litchfield Ledger regrets to announce the fact that a baseball club is soon to be organized there."

Add another oddity. New Ulm Herald, '76: "During ... 1875, 174 hearts were made to beat as 87 in this county. In other words, 87 marriage licenses were issued."

Also---Minneapolis Tribune, '84: "The editor of the St. Peter Tribune offers his paper for one year to the lady who will name the cutest verse in the Bible."

McLeod County 1st church,
1st school and 1st etc.

There were only nine grownups present, but they formed a church. A Methodist church. And there were only 15 children. But they organized a Sunday school. That was in McLeod county in 1855. Writing in 1873 to the St. Paul Press, a correspondent said in part:

"The Methodist itinerent is an omnipresent character... Penetrate the fastnesses of the western forest, emigrate to the newly found wilderness, travel to the center of barbarism, where you expect to hear only the yells of the savage, yet he is ever preceding you ... As illustrating this truth is the fact that the first sermon ever preached in this county was at Glencoe, by Rev. J. V. McKeen, a Methodist minister, September 23d, 1855. At this meeting there were nine grown persons and six children. The first Sabbath school was held September 23d, 1855, at which there were fifteen children present.

"The first election was held October 9, 1855, at which Wm. S. Chapman and James Phillips were chosen justices of the peace, John H. Smith and C. Hopkins, constables, A. J. Bell, supervisor.

"The ills of the flesh must needs be administered to in the new country, and the first disciple of Esculapius who came here for that purpose was Dr. Ripley... afterwards frozen to death in a storm...

"The first hotel was a two-story frame building, raised March 31st, 1856, and named the Pioneer House.

"The first marriage was on March 1st, 1856... the happy groom being Mr. W. B. Wilson, and the blushing bride Miss Jane S. Folsum ...

"The wants of early settlers demanded such articles as soap, candles, soda, tobacco, brogans and calico. These demands were supplied by George Hendricks, who was the first merchant of the country.

"It was supremely necessary that the young idea should be taught the mysteries of the three R's, 'Readin', Ritin' and Rithmetic'. Hence a school was opened and taught by Mrs. William Armstrong, who was the first school marm in the county."

Minneapolis got its name

Minneapolis is always interested in stories of its naming. One was recounted in the Tribune of 1884.

"Mr E. F. Cressey, editor of the Dakota Leader at Huron, was met by a Tribune reporter yesterday... As Mr. Cressey resided in St. Anthony from 1852 to 1857... the reporter asked him concerning 'auld lang syne' and received the following reply:

"In 1853, after a few scores of people had settled on this side of the river, they began to look after a name for it... All Saints it was for a day. Then some admirer of Miss Addie Hoag, now Mrs. Charles Clark, I believe, suggested Addiesville... A few Mainites thought Augusta was a good name... I was an apprentice in the St. Anthony Express office... One day, Col. John H. Stevens came into the office and said: "Bowman (the editor), can't you give us a name for our town? ...

"Bowman took a cob pipe from his mouth and said: "Well, yes, colonel; come over in the morning and I'll give you one."

"The next morning Colonel S. rushed upstairs into the Express office and said: "What you got for a name, Bowman?" Out came the cob pipe, and the editor quietly remarked: "I don't know as this will suit you, colonel, but I think it very appropriate. Minne, you know, means water; Minnehaha in Sioux is laughing water; polis in the Greek, means city. Now, as you are on the bank of the Falls of St. Anthony, and only a few miles from the Falls of Minnehaha, and your town will reach to the latter in a very few years, I thought I'd combine the two words this way--- Minneapolis - and make it the City of Laughing Waters."

"This pleased Colonel Stevens first rate, all but the letter h. At his suggestion, Bowman erased the h, making the word sound a great deal better to both of them... 'Bowman figured on the name half the night, as I know, for

he and I slept together in the office. But he frequently said, "I'll give them a name that will stick," a promise that he fulfilled."

This article was printed March 19. Two days later The Tribune added:

"Col. Stevens says that the Hon. Charles Hoag originated the word Minneapolis in a consultation with Mr. Bowman the same day the latter gentleman was requested to contribute a name for the embryo city; otherwise Mr. Cressey's version is correct."

Stevens county looked good to farmers. (Morris)

Stevens county and its present seat, Morris, looked good to one John Swainson in 1873. So good, in fact, that he was moved to write to the St. Paul Press about it.

"Among the many regions of interest to agriculturists, in which the state of Minnesota abounds, the Pomme de Terre valley takes one of the foremost places. This pretty little tributary of the Minnesota river... winds itself through a valley, which somewhere in the Northwest may possibly have its equal, but certainly not its superior, as regards fertility of soil... The country in this neighborhood (Morris) is settling up fast with an industrious and enterprising community of farmers. Within from 6 to 10 miles is the settlement of Scandia, consisting of several hundred intelligent and hardworking Norwegians.

"Among several farming enterprises... I ought to mention that of Hon. Geo. L. Becker. This farm is intended to contain about 1,000 acres plowed land, 200 acres natural meadows and 300 acres fenced pastures. Of the former about 450 acres have been broken this summer and will be put in wheat next spring... Including loss of time by rain storms and other interruptions, the above breaking was accomplished in 36 working days...

"The town of Morris is small but thriving. It is the county seat of Stevens county and contains few stores of general merchandise, one hardware and tin store, one lumber dealer, one blacksmith shop and three hotels, besides the buildings connected with the railroad, consisting of a very large and fine warehouse, a round house, a grain elevator and immigrant house, the latter erected by the Land Department for the temporary accommodation of arriving immigrants. In connection with the elevator, I ought to mention that, after its erection in the year 1871, there was of that year's crop brought to the elevator 900 bushels of wheat, and of the 1872 crop up to the present time over 48,000 bushels, which

will give you an idea how this region is developing. The building of a new and much larger grain house for handling this year's crop is indispensable.

"Mr. Johnson, an industrious and enterprising Norwegian, is building a fine flouring mill for water power on the Pomme de Terre, about six miles from here."

*Adelina Patti visits Mpls. in
1887.*

A top-flight prima donna, Grace Moore, will entertain Minneapolis next Sunday. In 1887, the visiting operatic celebrity was Adelina Patti. Said the Tribune on March 3:

"Madame Patti, with (her party) arrived from St. Paul today and are quartered at the West. The arrival of these great people was the signal for the usual scurrying of bell boys and a furious clanging to call bells by clerks. The Italian gentlemen were as pompous as usual in entering a hotel, and dashed at the register as one jumps at a vacant chair in a crowded barber shop.

"Mme. Patti tripped from her carriage at the main entrance all smiles, and entered the ladies' reception room to await the signal for her to ascend to her costly suite of rooms on the first floor. Mme. Patti and her attendants are stowed very comfortably in rooms just off the ladies' ordinary, where she has a dining room, parlor, sleeping room, and rooms for her maids. Besides these, a special is devoted to the use and behalf of her latest pet, a silky-haired Chihuahua 'purr,' which was presented to the Queen of Song by the wife of President Porfirio Diaz, and which she values very highly.

"It was remarked by more than one that the great diva seemed uncommonly amiable; and one gentleman attached to the company attributed it to the profits of the St. Paul concert. This was, of course, unworthy to attach to the smiles of a pretty woman... The arrangements for the concert tonight at the Washington Rink have been completed... The pledges in regard to warming the building have been kept; as the weather promises to cooperate with the furnaces there will be no lack of warmth tonight, unless the audience chooses to be cold, which would, of course, be very unlike a Minneapolis audience...

"For the edification of the ladies, it may be said that Mme. Patti will wear, amongst her other brilliants tonight, the famous gem known as the 'Faithful

Star,' which was presented to her by the Shah of Persia... She will also wear the insignia of the Russian Order of Merit, which was conferred upon her by the Czar."

Next day, the Tribune could report: "The Washington Rink was crowded last evening, as it never was before; and those who... had said, 'Nothing draws like a prize fight,' are compelled to admit that nothing draws like Petti."

Grandfather's Day.

VII

9.

*Italy in headlines of
Tribune in 1892.*

Coming events, it is said, cast their shadows before. Italy was the subject of a Minneapolis Tribune editorial on May 8, 1892. In it are curious echoes of today's news, and perhaps the tell-tale shadow of things to come.

Said the Tribune:

"The overthrow of the Rudini ministry is liable to lead to a radical change in the policy and attitude of Italy.

"In the past three years, Italy has made extraordinary endeavors to maintain her position as an equal with Germany and Austria in the Triple Alliance. Although a country of comparatively small resources, she has lavished uncounted millions upon her army and navy lists.

"Her fleet has been developed until it now stands among the first of the naval armaments of Europe. Her army has been constantly increasing in magnitude until the expense of maintenance threatened to bankrupt the peninsula.

"In order to maintain this formidable war armament in time of profound peace, taxes have been increased until they have become intolerable. As a sequence of this unwise policy, the rich Italian has become bankrupt, the poor Italian has emigrated to the Argentine or to the United States.

"Rudini's overthrow may be regarded in the light of a national protest against Italy's further expenditure to maintain her position in the Triple Alliance. Hereafter, Germany and Austria will have to foot a portion of the war bills or suffer the alliance to dissolve. William (the Kaiser) is anxious to maintain the alliance, and would doubtless counsel the former alternative. The German people is already heavily taxed, however, and will not submit to such and injustice.

"Rudini's downfall, therefore, opens the way to many and various foreign complications. In general, it will redound to the benefit of the Franco-Russian alliance, as against the triple league of Germany, Austria and Italy."

There were two ways of dealing with the grasshopper problem ^{back in the} ~~in the~~ ^{spacious} ~~spacious~~ ^{scarcity} ~~scarcity~~. One was to eat the 'hoppers, the other was to pray for their destruction. In 1876, the New Ulm Herald said:

"Yesterday afternoon Messrs. Riley and Straight determined to test the cooked locust question in regard to its adaptability as food for the human stomach . . . We found a bounteous table surrounded by the gentlemen named, accompanied by Mrs. Straight and Miss Maltby . . . We were helped to soup which plainly showed its locust origin, and tasted like chicken soup, and it was good . . . Then came ^a better cakes, through which locusts were well mixed. Baked locusts were then tried (plain 'hoppers, without grease or condiment) and * * * was pronounced an excellent dish. The meal closed with dessert, a la John the Baptist---baked locusts and honey---and . . . we can testify that that distinguished scripture character must have thrived on his rude diet in the wilderness of Judea. We believe this is the first attempt at putting the insect to its best use . . ."

The next year, 1877, Governor Pillsbury issued the following proclamation: "A general desire having been expressed by various religious bodies in this state for an official day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, in view of the threatened continuation of the grasshopper scourge, I do hereby, in recognition of our dependence upon the power and wisdom of God, appoint Thursday, April 26 to be observed for such purpose throughout the state, and I invite the people on that day thus set apart to withdraw from their ordinary pursuits in their homes and places of public worship with contrite hearts to beseech the mercy of God for the sins of the past, and His blessings upon the worthier aims of the future.

"In the shadow of the locust plague whose impending renewal threatens desolation of the land, let us humbly invoke, for the efforts we make in our

defense, the guidance of the hand which alone is adequate to stay 'the pestilence that walketh in darkness and the destruction that wasteth at noonday.' Let us pray for deliverance from an affliction which robs the earth of her bounties, and in behalf of the sufferers therefrom let us plead for comfort to the sorrowing, healing to the sick, succor for the perishing and larger faith and love for all who are heavily laden.

"Let us, moreover, endeavor to deserve a new prosperity by a new realization of the opportunities vouchsafed to us and a new consecration to those things which make for the well being of men and the glory of God."

*Polk County and how it looked
in 1873 (Crookston)*

Attention, Polk County. This is how you looked in 1873 to correspondent Hugh J. Lind, who wrote in part to the St. Paul Press:

"Not having seen anything in your ...paper in regard to our settlement (Crookston), I think it no more than justice to ourselves, and the public generally that someone should lay before the readers of your paper some facts worth remembering by those desiring to locate in a new country...

"The Red Lake River is a fine stream, affording sufficient water to float a fine line of steamers that plies between this point and Garry. Here the St. Paul & Pacific railroad crosses the river, running to Pembina, but owing to some difficulty with foreign capitalists the work was stopped last fall before being completed, therefore making this the greatest terminus of the road.

"Crookston... is beautifully located, and is laid out with the most artistic taste. Although only started last fall, it has not about forty houses, besides a number of tents, and about the same number under construction. It is generally believed that next summer will develop a commercial center of the north at this point.

"All the immense shipments for the Hudson Bay Fur Company are here transferred to the boats which carry it down the river... also a large amount of stones for the British North American large and populous provinces. Added to this is the almost inexhaustible pineries in the eastern part of the country...

"Our farming community is making strenuous efforts to come up with the expectations of the town's people, and a large abundant harvest is anticipated, as our soil is of the finest quality.

"This country is well adapted to stock raising, as we have the best grass I ever saw grown in the older states, although nothing but tame grass is raised there, but tame grass raising is unnecessary here, as nature produces a better quality...

"We are blessed with the finest kind of timber here, such as ash, oak, basswood, blackberry and elm. This country is bound to settle up fast, as the natural facilities of the country will be a sufficient advertisement, and the country offers more scope for making money on a small capital than can be found in any other part of the state."

*Mr. Shaw starts a Town
(Anoka)*

"This little bit of history," wrote a correspondent in the St. Paul Press in '73, "probably is not familiar to even the oldest inhabitant of Anoka." The writer, "L. M. F.," recalled meeting Mr. Shaw, a newcomer from Maine, some twenty years earlier; then he continued:

"It was not long before I was informed of Mr. Shaw's project to start a town, and the place he had in view was some 18 miles above St. Anthony, at the junction of the Rum river with the Mississippi. He had been informed that a very good water power existed at that point...

"During the next winter I was not infrequently a guest at the temporary home of the Shaws at St. Anthony. The name for the new town was a topic of no little interest, and the writer had something to do in the selection. It was decided to give it an Indian name. The Dakota Lexicon, just published, and of which I was the owner of a copy, was not infrequently consulted, and at length the euphonious name Anoka was decided upon for the second New England town in Minnesota.

"It was said to mean 'on both sides' when rendered into less musical English, and ... the name is by no means inappropriate, as the town is growing up and extending on either side of the beautiful but badly named river.

"This little bit of history probably is not familiar to even the oldest inhabitant of Anoka, hence I thought it might be of interest to some of its citizens, or perhaps of some value to our Historical Society.

"Judging altogether from the name of the stream (Rum river)... one would naturally infer that whiskey drinking and the like was extremely fashionable up this way. Such, however, is not a fact. Mr. Shaw and the Woodburys, who became associated with him in starting the town took a bold stand against King

Alcohol. For many years there was a constant warfare in the interests of temperance and good morals. It was a long time before liquor selling could be established here, and as a consequence we never used to hear of shooting, stabbing and murder ...

"My first visit to this part of Minnesota was soon after the site was located and building commenced. It was in the fall, and all was hurry and commotion to get things ready for winter... Today, it is quite a city in a western sense, having they claim, over 3,000 inhabitants."

The feminine brigade's annual Easter hat problem having been settled for another year, it may be interesting to note in passing that in years gone by milady was sometimes spared the trouble of picking out her own spring bonnet. Somebody else mailed her one.

The Stillwater Gazette, May 22, 1878, thus commented:

"The 'latest thing out' in the way of a spring bonnet is not materially improved in style by a journey in the mail bags. Bulky and weighty goods are liable to be piled on top of the mail sacks, and the love of a bonnet comes to hand badly dilapidated and looking like unto a cocked hat; and the receiver will just as like as not accuse the postmaster of sitting down on it - which may possibly not be the case. Postmasters are generally fastidious as to where they sit. The better way when you send bonnets in the mail to some distant female is to send them by express."

Also, it would appear, masculine millinery now and then traveled by mail, for the Gazette continued:

"Plug hats and specimens of sorghum syrup should be sent in separate packages. For if the two incongruous articles should consolidate, the natural flavor of the syrup might become deteriorated, and anyone using the saccharine might think his tongue was furred."

The Gazette, still in a flighty mood on that day, gave a fashion report to Stillwater men. Some of the highlights:

"Helmet hats are no longer fashionable, they were 'too cute for anything' except an idiot. . .

"Shirts are cut lower than formerly. They will also be worn longer - without being washed on account of unpaid bills.

"Drawers are worn no longer than before; when cut up and hemmed, they make an excellent towel.

"Pants are not cut higher in the neck and not so full in the shoulder; they

will also be worn considerably at the knee by people of a pious disposition. . .

Vests will be square-toed and higher in the instep. . . Coats will be cut away at the ankle. Old Prince Alberts can be mowed down to meet the demands of fashion. . ."

As the legislature approaches the end of its session the relief problem, particularly as it affects Minnesota's larger cities, remains a debated and perplexing issue. Annals reveal that this problem, in one form or another, has beset the state's legislators during the years with persistency. In February 1875, for instance, the St. Paul Pioneer said:

"Governor Davis yesterday transmitted to the Senate the report of Gen. H. H. Sibley, chairman of the Frontier Relief Committee." In part the governor announced: "It became apparent during the month of July last that the liberality of our people would be again taxed to sustain the destitute inhabitants upon the frontier, until the legislature should meet, and especially during the two months preceding the session. * * *

The following appropriated the amounts set opposite their names: Ramsey county, \$5,000; Meeker, \$350; Pine, \$100; Goodhue, \$2,000; St. Louis, \$500; Winona, \$1,000; Douglas, \$250; Wabasha, \$1,000; Todd, \$100; Freeborn, \$500."

Actions of the state's lawmaking body and attitudes of its members were lauded and decried, the same as now. In '78, the Stillwater Gazette brought up the past: "The number of the (Stillwater) Messenger before us is March 9, 1858. This number opens with a long editorial on the 'plunder bill,' as Mr. Van Vorhes was wont to style the \$5,000,000 loan bill which had just passed the senate * * * The editor says:

" 'All honor to the Washington county senators, Messrs. Reiner and Thomas, who have stood up manfully from the first in opposition to the iniquity, facing every conceivable pressure and appliance which could be brought to bear by selfish parties to sway and control their action.

" 'A vindictive pressure may be manufactured to bear them down for the present for their manly efforts to protect the rights and virtues

of the people in after years will call them blessed, for the time will come * * * when those who are now reviled for their honest endeavors to keep the treasury and the control of the different departments of the government out of the hands of the forty thieves of Wisconsin and their associates in Minnesota will be regarded as the safe and honest conservators of the people.' "

Grandfather's Day

As the legislature approaches the end of its session the relief problem, particularly as it affects Minnesota's larger cities, remains a debated and perplexing issue. Annals reveal that this problem, in one form or another, has beset the state's legislators during the years with persistency. In February 1875, for instance, the St. Paul Pioneer said:

"Governor Davis yesterday transmitted to the Senate the report of Gen. H. H. Sibley, chairman of the Frontier Relief Committee." In part the governor announced: "It became apparent during the month of July last that the liberality of our people would be again taxed to sustain the destitute inhabitants upon the frontier, until the legislature should meet, and especially during the two months preceding the session. * * *

The following appropriated the amounts set opposite their names: Ramsey county, \$5,000; Meeker, \$350; Pine, \$100; Goodhue, \$2,000; St. Louis, \$500; Winona, \$1,000; Douglas, \$250; Wabasha, \$1,000; Todd, \$100; Freeborn, \$500."

Actions of the state's lawmaking body and attitudes of its members were lauded and decried, the same as now. In '78, the Stillwater Gazette brought up the past: "The number of the (Stillwater) Messenger before us is March 9, 1858. This number opens with a long editorial on the 'plunder bill,' as Mr. Van Vorhes was wont to style the \$5,000,000 loan bill which had just passed the senate * * * The editor says:

" 'All honor to the Washington county senators, Messrs. Reiner and Thomas, who have stood up manfully from the first in opposition to the iniquity, facing every conceivable pressure and appliance which could be brought to bear by selfish parties to sway and control their action.

" 'A vindictive pressure may be manufactured to bear them down for the present for their manly efforts to protect the rights and virtues

of the people in after years will call them blessed, for the time will come * * * when those who are now reviled for their honest endeavors to keep the treasury and the control of the different departments of the government out of the hands of the forty thieves of Wisconsin and their associates in Minnesota will be regarded as the safe and honest conservators of the people.' "

Today marks the beginning of Clean-Up Week. Although they did not then have special "weeks" for special effort, Minnesota towns of long ago were strong for civic tidiness. As early as the spring of 1854, the Minnesota Democrat was speaking sternly about community cleanliness, thus:

"The season of disease is approaching and the unusual temperature . . . is well calculated to generate in decayed matter the unwholesome gases which act upon the human system, producing disease and death. The least that the citizens of this community can do is to have their premises cleaned up."

Goodhue County Republican (Red Wing), April 1862: "We were pleased to notice yesterday workmen engaged in laying down a substantial plank sidewalk on Main street, in front of P. Sandford's law office and the stores of Messrs. Mather & Clark and Bunch. Such display of public spirit cannot be too highly commended, especially when the mud is several inches deep."

St. Paul Pioneer, May 2 1866: "We call attention to the order passed by the Council yesterday, instructing the Street Commissioner to drain the flat, marshy places in the city. * * * There is that 'dismal swamp' at the foot of St Peter street hill. Only a few hours' labor will drain it perfectly."

Rochester item in the Pioneer, same month and year, estimating the cost of local improvements: "Add the expense . . . of cleaning the streets and we shall increase the above to about \$30,000 . . . The pleasure and luxury of again breathing fresh, pure air that is not contaminated by filth that has been accumulating since the first white man visited the spot where the city of Rochester now stands will be worth the amount of tax paid, ten times ten."

Stillwater Gazette, April 10, 1878: "Beautifying and Adorning -
Everybody who is the proud and happy owner of a little sunny spot he calls
his home is busily engaged just now in building new fences, repairing old
ones, setting out fruit trees, shade trees, etc. Trees for shade are being
used of all the various kinds, hard and soft maple, elm, poplar, etc., etc.,
either variety having its peculiarly desirable qualities. During our 21
years' residence here, we have never seen so much of this kind of work
going on."

Grandfather's Day

Today marks the beginning of Clean-Up Week. Although they did not then have special "weeks" for special effort, Minnesota towns of long ago were strong for civic tidiness. As early as the spring of 1854, the Minnesota Democrat was speaking sternly about community cleanliness, thus:

"The season of disease is approaching and the unusual temperature . . . is well calculated to generate in decayed matter the unwholesome gases which act upon the human system, producing disease and death. The least that the citizens of this community can do is to have their premises cleaned up."

Goodhue County Republican (Red Wing), April 1862: "We were pleased to notice yesterday workmen engaged in laying down a substantial plank sidewalk on Main street, in front of P. Sandford's law office and the stores of Messrs. Mather & Clark and Bunch. Such display of public spirit cannot be too highly commended, especially when the mud is several inches deep."

St. Paul Pioneer, May 2 1866: "We call attention to the order passed by the Council yesterday, instructing the Street Commissioner to drain the flat, marshy places in the city. * * * There is that 'dismal swamp' at the foot of St Peter street hill. Only a few hours' labor will drain it perfectly."

Rochester item in the Pioneer, same month and year, estimating the cost of local improvements: "Add the expense . . . of cleaning the streets and we shall increase the above to about \$30,000 . . . The pleasure and luxury of again breathing fresh, pure air that is not contaminated by filth that has been accumulating since the first white man visited the spot where the city of Rochester now stands will be worth the amount of tax paid, ten times ten."

Stillwater Gazette, April 10, 1878: "Beautifying and Adorning -
Everybody who is the proud and happy owner of a little sunny spot he calls
his home is busily engaged just now in building new fences, repairing old
ones, setting out fruit trees, shade trees, etc. Trees for shade are being
used of all the various kinds, hard and soft maple, elm, poplar, etc., etc.,
either variety having its peculiarly desirable qualities. During our 21
years' residence here, we have never seen so much of this kind of work
going on."

Grandfather's Day

VII
Strikes! (1883) cigar makers & telegraphers.

16.

Strikes have long been a part of the industrial picture. Even the inter-union conflicts. According to an editorial in the Minneapolis Tribune, August 11, 1883, there was civil war among organized cigar makers. Said the Tribune:

"A Foolish Strike. While there are differences of opinion in regard to the wisdom and justice of the telegraphers' strike. . . there can be no two opinions about the foolishness of the cigar makers' strike . . . It grew out of a conflict between two unions, out of a competition and disagreement among employees.

"The Progressive union struck on account of the weekly payday in an establishment, and succeeded. The Progressives then turned upon those workmen in the same shop that were members of the International union, and insisted that they must leave the shop because they had refused to sustain the Progressive union in its strike.

"The employers refused to discharge the International men, whereupon the Progressives struck again, and the manufacturers locked out both until the unions settled the question among themselves.

A great number of the people naturally sympathize with the employee as against the employer where there is a dispute . . . regarding wages or hours. This is made manifest in the case of the telegraphers . . . but when the contest is waged between two factions of trade unionists, the general public feels no interest in the matter, and permits the contestants to fight it out among themselves, and weaken their forces if they are foolish enough to do so.

"Strikes are wasteful and annoying enough where there seems to be some cause for them, but when, as seems to be the case in the cigar makers' matter, the quarrel simply results from jealousy among the workmen themselves, the public very properly refuses to give the strikers any encouragement."

Grandfather's Day

Strikes have long been a part of the industrial picture. Even the inter-union conflicts. According to an editorial in the Minneapolis Tribune, August 11, 1883, there was civil war among organized cigar makers. Said the Tribune:

"A Foolish Strike. While there are differences of opinion in regard to the wisdom and justice of the telegraphers' strike. . . there can be no two opinions about the foolishness of the cigar makers' strike . . . It grew out of a conflict between two unions, out of a competition and disagreement among employees.

"The Progressive union struck on account of the weekly payday in an establishment, and succeeded. The Progressives then turned upon those workmen in the same shop that were members of the International union, and insisted that they must leave the shop because they had refused to sustain the Progressive union in its strike.

"The employers refused to discharge the International men, whereupon the Progressives struck again, and the manufacturers locked out both until the unions settled the question among themselves.

A great number of the people naturally sympathize with the employee as against the employer where there is a dispute . . . regarding wages or hours. This is made manifest in the case of the telegraphers . . . but when the contest is waged between two factions of trade unionists, the general public feels no interest in the matter, and permits the contestants to fight it out among themselves, and weaken their forces if they are foolish enough to do so.

"Strikes are wasteful and annoying enough where there seems to be some cause for them, but when, as seems to be the case in the cigar makers' matter, the quarrel simply results from jealousy among the workmen themselves, the public very properly refuses to give the strikers any encouragement."

The latest things that sportsmen like will be on display when the annual Northwest Sportsmen's Show opens tomorrow at the municipal auditorium. It is a show particularly appropriate in Minnesota.

As far back as 1857, the Minnesotian recorded the call of the open. "Hunting parties are all the go. Wild pigeons are still a great attraction to those who handle a shotgun well." Nor did the war finish all the fun, according to the St. Paul Press of '62. "This lovely and classic lake (Como) has become a very popular resort . . . Almost every day one can see bathing, fishing or sailing parties there."

Pioneer, 1870 - "We mentioned a few days ago that an effort was being made to form a boat club . . . The effort has been successful."
Tribune, 1872 - "A large party of masked skaters congregated last evening at the Skating Park near the suspension bridge. The 'glittering steel' flashed in the moonlight for several hours." St. Paul Press, May 7, 1872
- "Sportsmen's Club . . . held a very interesting meeting last night, with an unusually full attendance, 27 members being present . . . Dr. Head, from the committee on badges, presented a specimen of a very neat one to be worn by the members on shooting matches."

In 1877, archery was popular among sports. Reported the Tribune: "An archery club, composed of some forty young ladies and gentlemen, has formed in this city . . . The club is provided with the best English lance and hickory bows."

The liars' contest, a feature of this year's show, suggests the subject of fish. Contestants may find inspiration in old-time examples of fisherman's luck.

Pioneer, '52: "Lieut. McKinney . . . is spending a few days here with Mr. Adams, of Burlington, Iowa, in trout fishing . . . They brought in a bushel or two of speckled trout one day last week."

Mankato Record, '60: "The largest pickerel yet caught in this vicinity was taken last week by Mr. Showmaker of this place. It weighed 31 and one quarter pounds."

St. Paul Press, '61: "Dr. C. C. Starbuck and J. M. Freeman, Esq. . . . have bravely begun the sporting campaign at White Bear Lake . . . We have to thank them for a fine pike weighing 18 pounds."

Grandfather's Day

The latest things that sportsmen like will be on display when the annual Northwest Sportsmen's Show opens tomorrow at the municipal auditorium. It is a show particularly appropriate in Minnesota.

As far back as 1857, the Minnesotian recorded the call of the open. "Hunting parties are all the go. Wild pigeons are still a great attraction to those who handle a shotgun well." Nor did the war finish all the fun, according to the St. Paul Press of '62. "This lovely and classic lake (Como) has become a very popular resort . . . Almost every day one can see bathing, fishing or sailing parties there."

Pioneer, 1870 - "We mentioned a few days ago that an effort was being made to form a boat club . . . The effort has been successful."
Tribune, 1872 - "A large party of masked skaters congregated last evening at the Skating Park near the suspension bridge. The 'glittering steel' flashed in the moonlight for several hours." St. Paul Press, May 7, 1872 - "Sportsmen's Club . . . held a very interesting meeting last night, with an unusually full attendance, 27 members being present . . . Dr. Head, from the committee on badges, presented a specimen of a very neat one to be worn by the members on shooting matches."

In 1877, archery was popular among sports. Reported the Tribune: "An archery club, composed of some forty young ladies and gentlemen, has formed in this city . . . The club is provided with the best English lance and hickory bows."

The liars' contest, a feature of this year's show, suggests the subject of fish. Contestants may find inspiration in old-time examples of fisherman's luck.

Pioneer, '52: "Lieut. McKinney . . . is spending a few days here with Mr. Adams, of Burlington, Iowa, in trout fishing . . . They brought in a bushel or two of speckled trout one day last week."

Mankato Record, '60: "The largest pickerel yet caught in this vicinity was taken last week by Mr. Showmaker of this place. It weighed 31 and one quarter pounds."

St. Paul Press, '61: "Dr. C. C. Starbuck and J. M. Freeman, Esq. . . . have bravely begun the sporting campaign at White Bear Lake . . . We have to thank them for a fine pike weighing 18 pounds."

How to keep the wolf from the door. Those facing this problem today might take a lesson from a husky chap who had to solve it in 1878. The Spring Valley Vidette told his story.

"A Norwegian farm hand (whose name we can't spell to save us), living north-east of this town, in the edge of the big timber, had a lively matinee with three wolves in which the hunter became the hunted. . .

"He started out some time after dark with a single-barreled shotgun to shoot down a wolf whose howls he could hear some distance off. . . The sounds grew plainer as he advanced, and. . . he espied the animal crouched upon a brush-heap. . . He immediately fired at it, but without apparent damage to the animal. Instead of retreating, it sprang at him before he could make the first motion at reloading his gun, and in about three seconds the snow and shrubbery were flying right and left in a fierce tussle between man and beast. . .

"At this juncture, two other wolves, evidently called by the howls of the first, appeared on the scene, and the hunter found himself engaged in a three-cornered fight. . . Clubbing his gun, the man finally planted a terrific smasher on the neck of one, laying it out lifeless, and then began a retreat for the timber edge, beating off the brutes as well as he could in the meantime.

"When the clear field was reached, his weapon was minus the stock, and he held only a bent gun barrel in his hands, having hit the trees about him oftener than the animals; but he succeeded in keeping them from doing any serious injury until he came to the open country, where he turned and ran for dear life. . . and he arrived home considerably scratched and thoroughly frightened. . .

"It has been said that the animals found in our timber will not fight, but of late there have been several instances to the contrary; and it is also evident

that their number is increasing in one or two localities, which, of course, makes them bolder. A big wolf hunt would be a summary remedy for the abatement of these midnight prowlers."

*Trees to be planted and cultivated
for windbreaks on prairies*

The Minneapolis Tribune was looking far ahead on August 12, 1883. The subject was planned tree cultivation. Quoting an exchange, the Tribune said:

"The salvation of the great new prairie empire depends in great measure on the feasibility of cultivating forests to serve its farmers as windbreaks.

"The potency of a grove of leafless trees in shielding one from the winter wind is almost incredible. Its influence on the open prairie reaches houses a mile distant. The laws of all the northwestern states favor the planting of forest trees, and the subject employs not a little of the rattling rhetoric of their numerous orators. . . .

"A few months since, a professor of Harvard University. . . pronounced these laws useless and unscientific. The learned professor announced that trees will grow where they ought to grow, and will not grow where they ought not to grow, that the great inland prairie lacks trees because it has not enough rainfall to support them, and that the laws encouraging arborculture will be futile.

"In traveling through western Minnesota, we explained this theory. . . to our fellow traveler, a teamster. . . He. . . pointed. . . toward a clump of native trees that skirted one side of a large mud lake. 'Do you notice,' he asked, 'on which side of the lake those trees stand?' 'The southeast?' 'Well, that settles it.' There are, as he afterward explained, hundreds of these lakes dotting the prairie land of Minnesota. Most of the lakes on their southeastern shores have clusters of forest trees. The reason of this is not far to reach. There are two winds there prevalent, the northwestern and the southeastern. The southeast wind is the rain bringer. The northwest is cold and dry. The prairie fires are spread by the northwest. . .

"When the prairie fires swept over the prairie they burned the young trees on all sides of the lake except the southeastern, which was sheltered by the water. There could be no more conclusive proof of the power of the prairie fires to destroy

the growth of forests, even in soil favorable to their production.

"Massachusetts may well be proud of the wealth and leisure that enables her to secure astute professors to elaborate theories that a teamster can explode between puffs of his pipe."

*Legislature elects a chaplain
1876*

There was once a time when it became a matter for official debate whether the Minnesota senate ought to be prayed for. Or whether praying for it would do any good. That was during the session of 1876. On January 5, under the heading "An Ecclesiastical Red Rag," the Pioneer Press said:

"There are a few senators upon whom the very name of a clergyman has the affect that a red rag has upon a high-strung performer in bovine gymnastics.

"Mr. Lienau, in the absence of Mr. Donnelly, is the most peppery anti-chaplain senator, and as soon as Mr. Wilkinson suggested that the senate proceed to elect a preacher to do a little praying for them, Mr. Lienau moved that the matter be laid on the table. He said that there was no law which authorized such an office as chaplain, and the legislature last winter had declined to pass such a law.

"Mr. Lienau's motion, however, was lost, only half a dozen senators supporting it, and when the election took place all voted for a chaplain except the unhappy Lienau himself."

Next day's issue reported that the upper legislative body was functioning in a seemly manner:

"President Barto introduced to the senate the newly elected chaplain, Rev. E. C. Sanders, of Le Sueur, and the proceedings opened with a fervent prayer that the divine influence may guide the action of the senate."

By and large, the personnel of the upper chamber was pretty good, if the Pioneer was any judge. A few days later, it commented:

"A sense of justice renders necessary the remark that it would be hard to gather together a more intelligent and good-looking assemblage of gentlemen. Six or eight show the frosts of half a hundred winters, or hard times, perhaps, in a sprinkling of gray in hair or whiskers. Two or three others, no doubt, would be glad if their

shining heads were covered even with silvery locks, while the great majority. . . are neat and well dressed."

But the paper was annoyed at the way things were left after one session during that year. "The chamber was in A DISGRACEFUL STATE. The litter of ballots left by the preceding evening's caucus, together with other usual debris of such meetings, reigned paramount, to the disgust of every neatness-inclined individual who was present."

Arbor Day ^{VII} observed as 21.
early as 1876.

Today, on Arbor Day, it is interesting to note previous recognition of this annual observance. In 1876, in his message to the legislature, Governor Pillsbury made the following remarks:

"I cannot forbear to express my satisfaction with the action of the last legislature for the promotion of tree culture and on the excellent results following it. . . About 1,350,000 forest trees were planted on our legal Arbor Day."

When Governor McGill proclaimed Arbor Day in 1887, he reminded Minnesotans that trees had practical value as well as beauty. The Tribune printed the proclamation:

"In conformity to a custom now well established in many of the states of the Union, I do hereby designate and appoint Saturday, the 30th day of April, 1887, as Arbor Day and commend to the people. . . its general observance by the planting of trees, vines and shrubs along the highways and on public and private grounds.

"In this state especially, with its large areas of prairies, the custom may be rendered of great advantage. Farms and other grounds may thus be not only beautified but greatly enhanced in value, and highways now cheerless and forbidding be made attractive and inviting.

"The practical results of a faithful observance of this custom must manifest themselves in a few years in a plentiful supply of timber in the state and, as a natural consequence, an increased rainfall, besides enhancing materially the value of lands.

"Nothing so beautifies the exterior of homes and school buildings and renders them so attractive as shade trees, shrubs and clustering vines about them.

"I, therefore, earnestly commend to the people of the state a general observance of the day in the manner suggested. . ."

Approval of the Governor's sentiments seems to have lingered in the Tribune. Shortly after, it expressed editorial thanks to the Park Board for park improvements. It also added a suggestion of its own for civic betterment. "Might not tennis be

properly introduced in all the parks of the city? Room ought to . . . be found for
such mild games as tennis and croquet."

VII
Minnesota Pioneer first newspaper
in the State published 4/28/1849. 22.

Just 92 years ago today, on April 28, 1849, Minnesotans were reading the first issue of the first newspaper published in the state, the Minnesota Pioneer. These are some of the items editor Goodhue gave them to read:

The steamer Crescent City arrived at New York on April 7, with 40 passengers from Chagres, France, and Havana. "The health of both places was very good. . ."

"A bill is likely to pass Parliament to enable the Episcopal clergymen, who have renounced Episcopatism, to preach in dissenting chapels without incurring penalties and costs. . ."

"The California Emigrants," an article copied from the St. Louis Organ.

"The New Governor of Minnesota - His Life and Character," a sketch of Alexander Ramsey by correspondence from Pennsylvania.

The text of "An Act to establish the Territorial government of Minnesota."

An editorial on St. Paul. "This town, which was but yesterday unknown for the reason that it had then no existence. . ."

"St. Paul School - Miss Harriet E. Bishop will commence the next Term of her School on Monday, the 30th day of April. All whose School bills are unpaid, will be expected to make immediate payment."

A discussion of amusements by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher.

The death at Fort Snelling of "Mr. James Steele, aged about 22 years - a young man of high promise."

Supplies for sale at Freeman, Larpenteur & Co: "Sperm, Tallow and Star Candles"; "50 bbls old rectified Whiskey"; "Nails, best Boston manufacture"; "20 bbls St. Louis sugar house molasses."

An apology. "On our last page, several errors will be found today, which occurred through a neglect to read the proof-sheet of that page."

*Minnesota waters not yet
subdued by modern engineering*

The great waters of Minnesota have not yet been subdued by modern engineering. The United States weather bureau on Thursday issued flood warnings, forecasting trouble between Aitkin and Little Falls and urging farmers to move their livestock to higher ground.

Since pioneer days, men have been called on to do battle with the rivers of the state when they got out of hand. As far back as 1850, the Chronicle & Register carried an item of spring alarm: "The bottom lands adjoining Fort Snelling and Mendota were completely inundated by Monday night. . . The rise already is greater. . . than at any spring freshet since 1832."

Six ~~months~~ later, the Minnesotian: "The renowned city of Henderson is suffering some by the flood in Minnesota. The people up there go about in canoes and skiffs to transact business with their next door neighbors."

St. Anthony note in the Pioneer & Democrat, 1859: "Spirit Island. - This picturesque island, located in the middle of the river just below the falls, has been despoiled of about one-third of its former proportions. . . The whole of the upper bridge, connecting St. Anthony with North Minneapolis, has floated off from the piers."

Pioneer & Democrat, 1859: "There is not a house in West St. Paul out of the water. Most of the residents have deserted their buildings. . ."

Minneapolis Tribune, 1876: "A number of bridges on the Winona & St. Peter road were badly damaged during the late flood. . . The affect of the flood at Minnesota City is thus described in the columns of the Winona Republican: 'For a mile or more east of the city the fields and railroad tracks are piled with great blocks of ice. . . Houses, barns, fences lay in heaps of ruins, half covered with the ice and debris which were swept down by the flood.'"

Tribune, 1882: "Human eye outside the Mississippi valley in the south never

looked upon a scene of greater desolation than is seen all about St. Vincent, Pembina and Emerson. . . Stores and private house, all present the enlivening prospect of swimming to them or going without the necessities and luxuries of life. In the livery stables, the horses (what few are left) stand body deep in the rushing water. . . The flood at this point is about 18 miles wide."

Minnesota's fishing season opens.

Minnesota's fishing season opens today, with the wily trout as first target. From now on for some weeks, lakes and streams will be haunted by the nimrods, and nights will be too short for the anglers' long-spun tales.

Gopherdom has long prided itself on its fish. In 1866, the Pioneer said: "Minnesota is not only the healthiest and most productive country in the world, but it is diversified with the most beautiful landscape scenery and contains within its limits a greater number and prettier lakes. . . . As to the item of fresh water fishing, the world can't beat it. Every stream is full of trout, and many lakes are teeming with pickerel, bass and perch. A young lady of this city caught at Lake Como just out of the city limits the other day a pickerel weighing 18 pounds, and we have been informed that another fish of the same species was caught there only a week or two since which weighed 22 and $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds."

Fishing early became so important a phase of Minnesota life that the legislature took steps to supervise it. St. Paul Dispatch, 1874: "The three fish commissioners provided for by a bill in the last legislature have been appointed by Governor Davis. They are Mr. David Day, ex-Governor Austin, and a Mr. Latham of Lake Minnetonka. These commissioners receive no salary, but are allowed \$500 for expenses."

The Dispatch in 1875: "There is today a very attractive exhibition of fish at the Capitol, from Watkins' trout ponds at Red Wing and from the fish preserves on Hon. Edmund Rice's homestead in St. Paul. Mr. Watkins' exhibition includes specimens of the 10,000 salmon hatched in his ponds last fall and which are to be placed in the lakes of this state and in the Red River of the North, also two year old and yearling trout. . . ."

In the following month, March, the same paper reported a finny crisis:

"The severe cold has frozen the ice on the lakes so thick that to obtain air the fish

have been forced to crowd to the inlets of streams, where the warmer water comes in and keeps the air holes open. The fish have swarmed to the openings so thick that on Cannon Lake, Wednesday last, they were thrown out with pitchforks by the sleighload. About ten tons, it is estimated, were thus caught."

*Music added to the 3 R's in
public schools*

Occasionally, grandfather grows testy on the subject of modern frills in the public schools, and mutters that in his day the three R's were plenty good enough and the youngsters turned out all right. But not everybody agreed with grandfather. In his own time, annals show, music blazed the way for innovations.

St. Paul Press, 1873: "The various public schools of the city have preserved the practice for the past few years of renting a musical instrument, and enlivening the pupils with music once a week regularly, and having it always on special occasions whenever visitors were present or the examination exercises were being carried through.

"At a recent meeting of the Board of Education, it was voted to purchase four musical instruments for the special use of the Adams, Jefferson, Madison and Franklin schools, which vote of the Board has been complied with. . .

"The question has been asked by several members of the Board. . . whether it would not be better to have music each day as a part of the regular exercises, instead of having it only once a week as a sort of luxury. Quite a number of prominent educators have expressed the opinion. . . that music should be made one of the regular branches, and be as much a part of the school training as geography or any other branch. They claim that it would come in as a sort of relaxation and change, give better feelings to the pupils, and teach them the elements at least of what is regarded as an accomplishment.

"Of course, the musical instruction from the teachers would only be confined to the first principles, and would be an attempt rather to awaken in the child musical emotions than to teach the higher grades of the art."

Grandfather is also out of step with the records, when he asserts that the drug store of his day, unlike the one now at the corner, stuck to drug selling. An 1878 advertisement in the Stillwater Gazette: "If you want glassware, if you want oils, if you want lamps of any kind, if you want lanterns, if you want fine wines and liquors

for medicinal purposes, if you want brushes, blacking, hair, horse, flesh, teeth, nail, paint, whitewash. . . if you want anything in the fishing tackle and sporting line. Go to the City Drug Store."

Hamline University destroyed by fire 1883

Minnesota's pioneer educational institutions have not all had smooth sailing. Indeed, many of them now flourishing had to battle to survive. Hamline University, for instance, had money troubles and fire. The latter was described by the Minneapolis Tribune on February 8, 1883.

"The rumor on the street yesterday morning that Hamline University was in flames unfortunately proved to be true. The university is situated on the Manitoba shortline, nearly half way between St. Paul and Minneapolis, and was built and is controlled by the Methodists of the state.

"The discovery of fire was first made at about 9:30 A.M. by passers by. Directly afterwards, a sheet of flame burst from the roof and a general alarm was given. The professors and students at first made an effort to subdue the flames. . . Seeing that nothing could be done to check the progress of the fire, the inmates of the building wisely bent all their energies to saving the furniture and personal effects of students and professors. . .

"The carpets, furniture, piano and library - consisting of 1500 volumes - were piled up in heaps upon the frozen ground, and then the crowds which had gathered watched the fire slowly demolish the building and finally burn itself out. The university was a five story yellow brick structure, 50 x 122, built some ten years ago at a cost of \$55,000. Recently a second building, adjoining the one burned, had been erected. This is known as the Ladies' Hall and was unharmed; it contained accommodations for 60 girls. The university contains at present 100 students, mostly male.

"The origin of the fire is a mystery. It was heated by a steam furnace, and the only fire in the building was that in the basement. The theory is that a defective chimney was the cause of the conflagration.

"Mr. E. F. Markle, treasurer of the board of trustees, states that the building cost \$55,000 and the insurance is \$25,500. . .

"Last evening, Bishop Foss said that a general meeting of the trustees would be soon called, when decisive action would be taken. . . the studies of the students would in no way be interrupted, as the contents of the burned building had been substantially saved and recitations would be held in the Ladies' Hall. . ."

There was a time when a president and a former president of the United States visited Minneapolis, and the president, though "hardly expected," was "instantly recognized." This in contrast to the fanfare that accompanies a presidential trip nowadays. The occasion was the completion of the Northern Pacific, in September 1883.

The Tribune, describing the "stupendous" event, said in part:

"All the forenoon (September 3) the crowd was increasing; train after train landed its loads at the depot . . . By noon Washington, Nicollet and Hennepin avenues were black with humanity, and still the crowds came surging on. The tops of the adjacent buildings were crowded, standing room was at a premium, the windows of the stores . . . had long ago been rented, as high as \$20 having been paid for seats.

A little before 1 o'clock, "the reception committee accompanied by the militia, the Zouaves, police and citizens in carriages, went to meet the distinguished guests. Soon the cheering, the music, and the glistening of bayonets of the soldiers could be seen and heard in the distance and the masses around the Nicollet House knew that the party was coming. First came Danz's band, then the militia, and then the carriages containing the guests and their entertainers. Seldom has a more distinguished party been seen.

"In the first carriage was seated the president of the United States (Chester A. Arthur), President Villard, Hon. George A. Fillsbury and Hon. W. D. Washburn. President Arthur was hardly expected, but the crowds instantly recognized him and then the cheering began . . .

"Then came General Grant (ex-president), who was also vociferously cheered, Gen. Sheridan, Hon. Wm. Evarts, Secretaries Lincoln and Teller, Hon. Carl Shurz and scores of distinguished men, both native and foreign.

Page 2.

"President Arthur and General Grant were escorted to the seats of honor on the grandstand, and beside them sat or stood the members of the party.

"The president was dressed in a light gray suit, wore light brown dogskin gloves and a white stovepipe hat."

With Fort Snelling once more to the front in national defense, the following extract from an article in the Minneapolis Tribune of '82 is interesting. It was dated "Fort Snelling, Dec. 9," and was "from our special correspondent":

"All the romance of border history and the tragic story of Indian warfare cling to its time-stained walls, and the names of countless gallant soldiers and noble women have become associated with its own in the 60 years its quaint old battlements have towered aloft in the picturesque valley, as inspiring as any Drachenfels or Schonberg by the German Rhine; and it stands yet, in the evening of the nineteenth century, like a living sentinel, rehearsing to us in silent language tales of the brave voyagers and the self-sacrificing fathers of the mission who passed within range of its guns or rested beneath its sheltering roofs.

"The plan of the original fort seems to have been that of a rhomboid, one of the acute angles lying on the cliff and the adjacent sides cresting the banks of the Mississippi and Minnesota respectively. These sides were protected by castellated walls, terminating in half-moon bastion at the angle, and that on the south or Minnesota side having its other extremity in a polygon tower, still standing . . .

"The Tribune correspondent cannot say at this writing how many of these old buildings, if any, were standing in 1820, but it is apparent from the following extract of a report written by Gaines in 1827 that neither the old tower nor half-moon bastion was then standing . . . He says:

" 'The work may be rendered very strong and adapted to a garrison of 200 men by removing one-half of the buildings, and with the material with which they are constructed building a tower sufficiently high to command the hill between the Mississippi and St. Peter (Minnesota) rivers, and by

a block house at the extreme point or bow of the cliff, near the commandant's quarters, to secure most effectually the banks of the river and the boats of the landing.' As a strategic point, Snelling is an important post. By means of the great trunk lines centering at the Twin Cities, troops can be dispatched immediately in any direction . . .

"Great improvements are talked of, and if carried out this may become a 10-company post in the near future . . . "

Grandfather's Day

With Fort Snelling once more to the front in national defense, the following extract from an article in the Minneapolis Tribune of '82 is interesting. It was dated "Fort Snelling, Dec. 9," and was "from our special correspondent":

"All the romance of border history and the tragic story of Indian warfare cling to its time-stained walls, and the names of countless gallant soldiers and noble women have become associated with its own in the 60 years its quaint old battlements have towered aloft in the picturesque valley, as inspiring as any Drachenfels or Schonberg by the German Rhine; and it stands yet, in the evening of the nineteenth century, like a living sentinel, rehearsing to us in silent language tales of the brave voyagers and the self-sacrificing fathers of the mission who passed within range of its guns or rested beneath its sheltering roofs.

"The plan of the original fort seems to have been that of a rhomboid, one of the acute angles lying on the cliff and the adjacent sides cresting the banks of the Mississippi and Minnesota respectively. These sides were protected by castellated walls, terminating in half-moon bastion at the angle, and that on the south or Minnesota side having its other extremity in a polygon tower, still standing . . .

"The Tribune correspondent cannot say at this writing how many of these old buildings, if any, were standing in 1820, but it is apparent from the following extract of a report written by Gaines in 1827 that neither the old tower nor half-moon bastion was then standing . . . He says:

" 'The work may be rendered very strong and adapted to a garrison of 200 men by removing one-half of the buildings, and with the material with which they are constructed building a tower sufficiently high to command the hill between the Mississippi and St. Peter (Minnesota) rivers, and by

a block house at the extreme point or bow of the cliff, near the commandant's quarters, to secure most effectually the banks of the river and the boats of the landing.' As a strategic point, Snelling is an important post. By means of the great trunk lines centering at the Twin Cities, troops can be dispatched immediately in any direction . . .

"Great improvements are talked of, and if carried out this may become a 10-company post in the near future . . . "

Minneapolis today begins to be host to the Minnesota Funeral Directors association. This business has kept pace with modern ideas and new techniques, and, even in the mass burials of these war days, as much respect as possible is shown the deceased.

The St. Peter Tribune of January 23, 1863 reported tragically sudden filling up of burial lots: "We are informed by Klein & Brother, the undertakers of this place, that the total number of persons in the cemetery since the 18th of last August foots up to the astonishing total of 127, or more than during the entire previous history of St. Peter. Of this number 20 were residents of the town, 60 were children, and the balance over 21 years of age. This record has been made since the (Indian) outbreak, and is directly attributed to it, resulting as it does from wounds, or exposure, or confinement in crowded and poorly ventilated rooms."

The Sioux outbreak of 1862, to which the St. Peter newspaper refers, was climaxed by a mass burial. The hanging of the 38 Indians took place at Mankato on December 26. The Goodhue County Republican, appearing January 9, 1863, described the interment:

"The bodies were cut down, placed in four army wagons . . . and were taken to the grave prepared for them among the willows on the sand bar nearly in front of the town. They were all deposited in one grave, 30 feet in length by 12 in width, and four feet deep, being laid on the bottom in two rows with their feet together and their heads on the outside. They were simply covered with blankets and the earth thrown over them."

The Minneapolis Tribune, February 22, 1864, reported progress toward more dignified obsequies. "The State Undertakers' Association, formed Wednesday, reconvened and adopted bylaws. Messrs. Wm. Damphier of

Page 2.

St. Paul, J. N. Douglass of Anoka, and C. H. Burt of Stillwater were elected delegates to attend the National Convention of Undertakers to be held at Chicago in October next."

*First Steam Boat on the St. Croix
and other Transportation*

Minnesotans living along the picturesque St. Croix may not know who first navigated it by steam. But some of them have been wondering off and on for years. And the Stillwater Gazette, in 1878, thus went into the subject:

"The First Steamboat on the St. Croix---There are many vexed questions in reference to the first arrivals in this section, and probably always will be. And now there's a dispute about the first steamer that ever troubled the waters of the St. Croix. L. W. Stratton, in a letter to the Osceola Press, says that he made the passage on the first boat on these waters, the Palmyra, July 15, 1838, and at that date 'there was no vestige of improvement below Taylor's Falls, and there a coarse log cabin, and the same at the Falls of the St. Croix.'

"The writer further says: 'A Mr. Nason built and occupied a shanty just below Marine some time during the fall of 1838, and the 12th of December, 1838, myself with a comrade walked from St. Croix Falls to Nason's on the ice, and the next day cut the first tree and built a cabin at Marine, on the upper side near the falls, and cut steamboat wood, being the first wood prepared for boats above Prairie du Chien.'

Another early transportation item of a different sort. The Dispatch, in '74, announced: "A dog carries the mail between the state line near Marshall and Two Woods, Dakota. The mail sack is tied about his neck and he carries it with safety and dispatch---which is more than Uncle Sam always does."

Telegraphic transportation in '73 was beaten by something even swifter, according to another item from the Dispatch: "Mrs. William Skinner of Worthington, on the night of the 25th (October), dreamed of a telegram announcing the death of her brother in Wisconsin, and was so impressed by the dream that she started next morning for his home. That afternoon, the very telegram she dreamed of was received for her at the Worthington office."

*Traffic safety a problem before
motor cars*

Safety first! Tonight Governor Stassen will present safety awards to Minneapolis, other towns and counties and local organizations for outstanding 1940 achievements in public safety.

Traffic safety became an intensely live issue with advent of the motor cars. But it was a problem even before that, as Minnesota annals show. In 1873, the St. Paul Dispatch said: "Eight miles an hour is the limit in Minneapolis, but owners of fast nags are endeavoring to have Hennepin avenue exempted and used for racing purposes. In order to manufacture public sentiment, forty to fifty leading citizens were arrested yesterday morning for fast driving... They demanded a jury trial and a number propose to show that the mayor (Brackett) urged them to trials of speed and secretly stationed policemen to time them with stopwatches. They don't object to having the ordinance enforced to the letter, but object to having any such trap sprung."

The predecessor of today's noisy auto horn was the "merry merry sleigh-bell." It appears there were fashions even in these, for the Tribune, in 1882, said: "Our forefathers knew of no better way to warn folks of their approaching sleighs than by the noise caused after they had fastened a number of small bells on a leather band and encircled the horse therewith. There are those who will aver that no better way has yet been discovered, while others favor the plan of attaching bells to the under side of the shafts... In the first place it costs less, while it is quite as effective as the older fashioned arrangement. Then, too, the sound is more musical, or in other words, accords better with what modern folks regard as pleasing to the ears. The string bells (those that encircle the horse) are necessarily small and their tones are shrill. The shaft chime, on the other hand, is made up of larger bells, and the sound they give out is greater in volume and mellower.

"But still, notwithstanding the obvious desirability of the shaft chime, the harness men are obliged to keep some of the other bells in stock, as the demand for them has not yet ceased altogether."

*Pope county only a "paper-county".
Elk River well beyond the "paper" stage
in 1874.*

Only a "paper county" - that was Pope county, according to the St. Paul Pioneer in an 1866 issue, until the folks got busy at a meeting in Stockholm that year. When the Pioneer called it "paper," it meant that Pope county existed only in the records.

"We met a gentleman at the (state) Executive Department yesterday, with a petition from citizens of Pope county for the organization of that county. A meeting of settlers was held at Stockholm last week, where the petition was prepared. He states that although Pope county, which has hitherto been only a paper county, had only a few families last spring. there are now 150 voters...and from 600 to 700 population, so rapid has been its settlement from this year's immigration.

"Pope county...is three-fourths rich prairie, the balance timber lands, interspersed with lakes and all well watered. It is fast settling up with industrious Swedes and Germans, and will ere long be one of our richest frontier counties. The governor has appointed commissioners to organize the county."

Elk River was well beyond the "paper" stage in 1874. Still it was given a boost by one of the Twin City papers through its Sherburne county correspondent.

"Thirty-six miles from St. Paul, on the branch line of the St. Paul & Pacific railroad, is located the flourishing village of Elk River, the county seat of Sherburne county...The improvements last year foot up over \$46,000... There is one weekly newspaper...They have a public library and a flourishing lodge of Masons.

"Mr. H. Houlton is the largest dealer here. He has a large store of general merchandise, also a stem sawmill, handling over 2,000,000 feet of lumber annually...Messrs Mills and Houlton have a flouring mill with six run of stone, run by water...Mr. H. Gray has a large furniture factory, run by water... A good article of brick is made here. Wood can be had at from \$2 to \$3 per cord, and village property for actual settlers can be had at reasonable rates. There is a large percentage of Swedes and Irish in the county."

33.

VIII

Late Major F. T. Steele whose grandfather's activities were always news in early newspapers

Dispatches to the Tribune have announced the death in San Diego of Major Franklin T. Steele, grandson of Franklin Steele, whose name is synonymous with the foundation of Minnesota territory and state. Major Steele's passing recalls the large-scale activities of his grandfather, activities which were always news in the early press.

Minnesota Pioneer, '50: "Building at St. Anthony has steadily progressed. . . Mr. Steele has refused \$200 per acre for that charming island which with the eastern shore of the river makes the capacious inclosure into which logs are driven to await their turn to be sawed."

Minnesota Democrat, '51: "A bill has been passed to grant to Franklin Steele the right to establish a ferry across the Mississippi, near the Falls of St. Anthony." Same paper, same year: "Franklin Steele, Esq., has donated as a site for the University, about four acres of land on the rising ground back of the St. Anthony mill."

St. Anthony Express, '52: "A great Supper and Ball was given in honor of Mr. Franklin Steele, Esq. . . Mr. Steele was one of the first citizens to settle in St. Anthony, coming here fourteen years ago." Same paper, same year: "On last Saturday, F. Steele, Esq. purchased the right, title and interest of A. W. Taylor, Esq., to the property at St. Anthony, comprising one half of the whole."

Minneapolis Tribune, '71: "The deed conveying to Mr. Franklin Steele all of what is known as the Fort Snelling reservation, except 1500 acres, was received from Washington on Wednesday. Mr. Steele is in New York City."

Tribune, '72: "It is a matter of congratulation to all the people in this part of the State that our famous little Falls (Minnehaha) have at length come into the possession of parties who are determined to give the lovely spot that prominence as a summer resort which it so richly deserves. The falls and its lovely surroundings are now owned by Messrs. Franklin Steele and George Lincoln."

Tribune, September 12, 1880: "A large number of friends visited No. 10 Grove Place, Nicollet Island, yesterday, to view for the last time the remains of Hon. Franklin Steele. Funeral services will occur at the above named residence at 4 o'clock this afternoon, to which all friends of the deceased are invited. . . Mrs. Steele and friends will arrive from the East this morning, and the body will be forwarded to Washington, D.C. by the through eastern train to-night."

VII
*Minnesota laundrymen get together
isn't a mere convention*

Nowadays, when Minnesota laundrymen get together, it isn't a mere convention. It's the Minnesota Institute of Laundering, holding a Thursday-Friday session this week in St. Paul.

When detached cuffs were the style, annals of 1870 show that it cost 5 cents to have them laundered. And one laundryman at least felt strongly about doing business "on the cuff." Warning in his advertisement in the St. Paul Daily Press: "No Articles Delivered Until Paid For."

In 1870, the City Laundry of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Westbrook announced "fluting and crimping done in the best possible manner." Mrs. G. L. Kandall promised in the Mankato Weekly Record of the same year that she was "prepared to cleanse white or colored kid gloves and restore them to their original softness." Satisfactory washing and ironing was also guaranteed by Mrs. Thomas Pigeon of Mankato. "Done on short notice," she said in the Record.

"A New Enterprise" was noted in the Daily Press of 1872: "The St. Paul Steam Laundry Company invite the attention of the public to their excellent facilities for executing with neatness and dispatch the finest laundry work in the Northwest."

Stillwater housewives had a task lifted from them in 1875. Reported the Gazette: "Messrs. Gupstill & Jones have just opened an establishment for renovating feathers, cleansing mattresses, etc. . . . The cleansing and drying are done entirely by steam." The Gazette also revealed competitive invasion of the laundry field in Minneapolis: "A delegation, consisting of three of the 'heathen Chinese,' has located in Minneapolis and opened up in the 'washee' business."

Minneapolis Tribune, 1878: "The scarcity of good Scandinavian girls is attributed to the Cascade Laundry. They employ so many of them there and will have no other. The girls make from six to ten dollars a week, and have their evenings and Sundays to themselves. Johnnie will put on more in a week or so."

Experienced ironers were wanted in Minneapolis in 1880. Also beginners. "A young man to learn to iron collars and cuffs" could "earn \$8 to \$10 per week." Three years later, speedy service had become a selling point in the business. O. N. Lung's advertisement in the Tribune: "Do all kinds of family and fancy washing. Will return work in two days."

Seizure by the federal authorities in Minnesota of permanent waving appliances "suspected of being dangerous" serves to underscore the vast development of the beauty industry since those days when grandma grabbed the curling iron, twisted her locks and called it a day.

Even grandma's beautifying, though, was not all done before the family mirror. Announced the St. Paul Daily Press in 1864: "Thomas Hall has just opened a Hair Dressing Shop in the basement of Ingersoll's Block. . . An apartment for ladies only is connected with his shop. Hair curled and ornamented in the finest manner." Grandma's husband had been given professional assistance with his coiffure years before. In 1856, J. G. Scholer called attention in the Pioneer & Democrat to his "Hair Dressing Saloon" in "The City Bath Rooms, under the Post Office."

Hair was prepared by early-day experts for household as well as personal adornment. Pioneer & Democrat, 1856: "We were shown yesterday several specimens of ornamental hair work, manufactured by Messrs. Reese and Sommer of this city. This is the only establishment of the kind in Minnesota, and judging from these specimens of their work, we see no reason why persons should not patronise home manufacture in this instance in preference to sending to New York or elsewhere." Hair jewelry was part of this fashion. Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Tyner advertised their handiwork in the Mankato Weekly Record in 1868: "The undersigned wish to inform the public that they are engaged in the manufacture of every description of hair jewelry. Also switches, curls, &c., made to order and kept constantly on hand, . . . We will buy good human hair."

Then there was the vogue of the hair chain. Stillwater Gazette, 1871: "Ladies, if you want a nice present for your husband or friend, go to Mrs. Stephen's on Second Street, and have a nice hair chain or some other ornament made."

In 1864, L. P. Franklin ran an ad in the Daily Press calculated to make a Red-skin reach for his tomahawk: "Five Hundred Dollars Worth of Human Hair Wanted. . . Wigs,

bands, switches, &c., made to order at short notice. Country orders by Express promptly attended to."

News from Warroad is that the Northwest Angle, northernmost tip of the United States, is coming out of its annual winter isolation, the vessel Resolute having left Warroad with mail, freight and passengers for Oak Island, Pennasse and Angle Inlet.

The Northwest Angle - Lake of the Woods county - does not figure extensively in early newspaper annals, because the county itself was not formed until 1922. But Minnesota navigators farther south have long battled with the ice. For instance, the Minneapolis Tribune, in April 1872, reported: "Capt. Sam Pointer went up to St. Peter last week for the purpose of getting the steamer Mankato, which was snagged there last season, ready to take away. . . he found her frozen to the river bottom."

Same paper, December of the same year: "The propeller Arcadia arrived at Duluth last Saturday with a cargo of salt. The salt probably melted the ice as she came up the bay."

St. Paul Pioneer, 1873: "The Red River froze over on the night of Oct. 27, very unexpectedly to all. All three of the boats belonging to Kittson's line got caught. The Dakota. . . was froze in at Goose River. She had on board about 150 tons of freight and 40 passengers. The passengers were forwarded to Fort Garry by teams, and the freight was banked to await transportation overland. The Selkirk is frozen in at Moorhead. . . There are also some 40 flat boats frozen in between Moorhead and Fort Garry. . ."

Minneapolis Tribune, April 10, 1875: "An ice gorge at Dunham Island, not far from Shingle Creek, which is about three miles above the city, broke at 9:30 yesterday morning. . . The irresistible mass first struck the steamer City of Minneapolis, which. . . was standing high and dry on the shore. . . Several of Dean & Co.'s boom piers were crushed to pieces. The Pacific Mill booms were broken and most of the logs therein. . . carried with the debris over the Falls. . ."

Stillwater Gazette, November 1875: "The G. B. Knapp continues its upstream trips at the imminent risk of being frozen in on any one of them, continuous pouring in of large quantities of freight tempting the hazardous undertaking."

Tribune, November 1881: "The last two trips of the season will be made on the 12th and 20th inst., by the steamer Manistee of the Lake Superior and South Shore line . . . Shippers should govern themselves accordingly."

VII

*George A. Brackett proposed a plan
for sprinkling streets.*

In the spring, the city dweller's fancy turns to - among other things - sprinkling. Nobody, it seems, has ever objected to lawn sprinkling. But in 1879, a proposal to sprinkle Minneapolis streets roused bitter opposition. The Tribune commented:

"It seems impossible to project or undertake any public improvement without raising a howl from some narrow-minded or jealous objector. . .

"When our enterprising and public-spirited citizen, George A. Brackett, proposed to the council a short time ago a plan for the effectual sprinkling of the streets, the class above alluded to raised its usual howl, accusing Mr. B. of attempting to put up a job on the city and to secure a monopoly out of which fabulous sums might be made. . .

"His purpose was to institute a series of experiments with hose, at his own expense and risk, and to adopt whatever proved the most efficient and economical plan, and when this was ascertained to fix the charge at a sum sufficient ~~to offset the charge~~ to cover the cost and interest on the outlay.

"The plan in his mind was this. . . Take 500 feet of hose in two sections of 250 feet each, joined by a 'Y' at the hydrant attachment. Each piece of hose would reach the length of a block. Two men, operating this hose, could sprinkle four blocks. . . It was proposed that the work should be done at night. As soon as four blocks were wet down, the hose would be moved, on a hand cart reel, to another hydrant and four more blocks sprinkled. It is believed that two men could sprinkle four blocks each half hour, and thus in the course of the night get over the greater part of the business portion of the city. It can be seen that the expense of such sprinkling would not be heavy. . .

"Mr. Brackett is sensitive, and the howl raised about his ears has caused him to withdraw his proposition. . . The plan, however, is open for others to try, or for

the city itself to experiment with under the direction of some competent official. . . .
The sprinkling. . . would, aside from the comfort afforded, save the city money in
street repairs, and the occupants of adjoining property large bills of expense in
cleaning, painting, wear of carpets, etc. . . ."

Owatonna, prosperous seat of Steele county, has something to celebrate this merry month of May and is going about it in a big way. The occasion is the seventy-fifth anniversary of the pioneer First National Bank of Owatonna. The historical exhibit, an announced feature of the celebration, should stir interest in Owatonna beginnings such as those preserved in annals of the early Minnesota press.

"Already," said the Minnesota Democrat in 1855, "there are two stores doing a good business, blacksmith shop in operation, public house and sawmill in process of construction. The first settlement in this section of the country was made by A. B. Cornell and Wm. F. Pettit, with their families, the first day of July, 1854."

By 1866, Owatonna had a newspaper, from which the St. Paul Press reprinted a significant item on April 3. "The Owatonna Plaindealer says a new National Bank has been established at that place by Mills, Follet & Co., bankers of Hastings."

Perhaps the presence of the bank had something to do with it. Anyway, two months later, the Pioneer was reporting a boom. "Owatonna is a regular bee hive. Buildings and business stand out everywhere. Our musical friends (singers from St. Paul) encountered on their trip three wagons laden with wheat coming into Faribault, Dundas, Northfield, &c., and a caravan of lumber wagons going out to Owatonna. Sixty-three were counted on Tuesday as they passed in the stage."

All in all, 1866 was a busy year in Owatonna. For instance -

May 4, from the Pioneer: "The Winona and St. Peter Railroad is being pushed to completion very rapidly west of Kasson, and Owatonna will shortly have the honor of being its temporary western terminus."

May 12, the Pioneer: "OWATONNA. . . Strong efforts are being made by our best citizens in the line of temperance reform. The Lodge of Good Templars numbers over one hundred members, and the number is increasing almost daily. . ."

June 17, the Pioneer: "Business blocks, to accommodate about a dozen stores, one hotel building and a boarding house, are now being built at Owatonna. Lowth & Howe are erecting a building 40 x 70 near the corner of Cedar and Monroe streets for an iron foundry. It is built of stone and gravel which is formed into cement."

Eighty-three years ago tomorrow, on May 11, 1858, Minnesota was admitted to the union. The Minnesotian, on May 18, printed a dispatch from Washington: "Before this reaches you the telegraph will doubtless have called out the deep-mouthed cannon to inaugurate the advent of the union of Minnesota with the sisterhood of states. . . Here is born a new state, an independent sovereignty, created without a jar or single convulsion. If men were but true to their country and endowed with but a moderate degree of honesty, there is no reason why our government should not last forever."

Already, on May 14, the Minnesotian had printed the good news "obtained from the Dubuque Express and Herald, brought up by the Grey Eagle." The vote on the admission of this thirty-second state was, so the paper stated, 157 to 38.

On the same day, May 14, with the tidings further corroborated by word brought on "the steamer Milwaukee," the Minnesotian gave editorial expression to its satisfaction. "We are a state of the Union. No longer 'outside barbarians,' we are within the Chinese wall of the confederacy and have donned our freedom suit. There are some patches needed over some of the rents, and renewing of some of the seams, in our gaberdine called the State Constitution - perhaps an entire garment will be ere long required; but we are rejoiced that we occupy the position henceforth in which we can wear what clothes we please, much or little, gay or grave, and Uncle Samuel has no business to interfere, especially as we pay, or promise to pay, for them ourselves!

"It is a great responsibility we have assumed before the nations, the attitude in which we have placed ourselves as one of the empires of the world. It is a rather unpropitious moment also for 150,000 people to take upon themselves so onerous a business; but there is no escaping the consequences of our own act, and we must address our minds firmly and determinedly to fill our destiny in an honorable manner, and pay our way like honest folks whatever may betide.

"Hail, therefore, to the state of Minnesota! We predict that the next nine years will see her with probably half a million of people dwelling happily upon her smiling plains, and with a tenfold greater advance in wealth, manufactures, agriculture, the mechanic arts, and in all the other elements which contribute to mental, material and national greatness! So may it be."

Today the Minneapolis Y. M. C. A. celebrates its seventy-fifth birthday anniversary and pays tribute to Russell Herman Conwell, who conceived the idea of organizing the local association. A famous lecturer in his day and founder of Temple University, Philadelphia, Conwell came to Minnesota fresh from Civil War battlefields and proved to be handy in several practical directions.

In 1865, he was president of the Minnehaha Skating Club and headed popular skating parties on the Mississippi. The Daily Press, in December of that year, urged public support of the club. "All lovers of skating must contribute to the fund (for clearing snow from the river ice). Go to Conwell's real estate office, sign the membership roll, and contribute to the general fund. Hurry up for Christmas."

How well Minneapolis skaters responded to the invitation is indicated in a further item the next month. "A meeting of (the Minnehaha Skating Club) was held Saturday evening at R. H. Conwell's office. About thirty members were present. An extra tax of one dollar was laid upon members and the price of tickets raised to two dollars. . . . It appeared that 300 tickets had been sold, and that twenty dollars were left in the treasury, the balance having been expended in labor, implements, &c."

Still, the skating club was a mere sideline of Conwell's activities. Real estate and law came first. He was also instrumental in founding the Minnesota Editors' Association, being himself an active journalist here. On February 8, 1868, the Tribune commented on the first issue of Conwell's weekly, Star of the North: "It is a five column, eight page paper, presenting a very handsome face, giving due attention to editorial, state and general news, and well arranged editorially and mechanically."

Meanwhile, Conwell's Y. M. C. A. had come into being. Its beginning was warmly applauded by the Chronicle on October 3, 1866: "There is something about such an association which elevates and purifies the principles and morals of a city even

when the young men have merely associated together and taken no further action. . . The Young Men's Christian Association of Minneapolis has begun its career, and to that we look for a purifier which shall cleanse our community and awaken to new life and zeal those who now forget all good in the eager pursuit of riches."

VII
*Redwood County called to the
attention of the rest of the state
1883*

Redwood county had come a long way in 1883, when a writer for the Minneapolis Tribune called it to the attention of the rest of the state.

It had, the article reported, "a population of about 6,000 persons." It was "almost entirely undulating prairie, diversified by lakes and streams, which add to the beauty of the country and enhance in an incalculable degree its value for agricultural purposes." Its dairy industry was flourishing, many Redwood farmers "receiving \$1 per day for surplus cream without any actual outlay except the original price of the cow."

Redwood county, the article continued, "has two creameries and five flouring mills, all paying investments, and run to the fullest capacity. The value of personal property is \$400,000, and the full value of real property not short of \$2,000,000. . .

"Redwood Falls. . . is located on Redwood river and has a population of about 1,200. At present, the Minnesota Valley branch of the Northwestern system has its terminus at this point. . . It differs from an ordinary prairie town in that it has excellent water powers, furnishing very desirable facilities for manufacturing enterprises. There are six water powers on the Redwood river within half a mile of the town, three being inside the corporate limits. . .

"The residents have manifested a genuine concern for the cause of education by the erection of a large brick school building, commodious and well appointed in every apartment, at a cost of \$15,000. . . The religious organizations are strong and active and include the following: Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Catholic and Christian. Regular pastorates are established, and the church edifices are creditable to the community and people who erected them. . . Redwood Falls has several organizations of a benevolent and social character, a local journal brimfull of county news, the county buildings and other useful if less important features. The town is headquarters of the Redwood County Improvement Society. . .

"There are not less than 70,000 acres of state lands for sale in the 20 townships of Redwood county. Terms of sale on state lands require 15 percent of purchase money to be paid at the time of sale; balance can be paid any time, or run 30 years at 7 percent interest. . ."

Mr. Thomas Nast handled without gloves by critics through the press.

The old-time critic, when he felt like it, was apt to handle public entertainers without gloves. A St. Paul ^{Dispatch} reviewer of 1874, for instance, didn't care for Thomas Nast, the celebrated cartoonist, and he said so at length.

"How the Little Fellow Gulls the Public. - Mr. Thomas Nast, who delights in caricaturing the shortcomings of those who differ with him politically, appeared at the Opera House last night to deliver a so-called lecture. He is a short, stunted little fellow, very much resembling the cartoons of himself which his vanity leads him to insert in about every other number of Harper's Weekly. The reason why he calls his performances a lecture is because it is in no sense of the term a lecture. He is as barren of ideas as his meanest cartoons have been of decency.

"Capt. Castle. . . introduced him very briefly, as though he was ashamed of the task, and the little fellow started his machine. . . He commenced with the assertion that man is the only laughing animal known; and after using as many as fifteen or twenty words to elucidate this proposition, he proceeded to draw a man with his mouth wide open to indicate where the laugh came in. . . with a highly original remark about Darwin, he proceeded to draw the face of a monkey as a representative of a serious animal. This covered the first sheet of drawing paper.

"The highly original Nast then read a few newspaper jokes and informed his audience that this is a great country for jokers (he forgot to say that his attempt to lecture was a most serious joke). . ."

Nast's final effort was "a picture of himself in his night shirt, with a candle in his hand, going to bed. He labeled this 'Good night to all' and fled the platform to the great relief of the audience. There was but little laughter and scarcely any applause during the hour and a half performance.

"His lecture showed a painful scarcity of brains, and his drawings were only

remarkable in the rapidity with which they were put on paper. When it is considered that he practiced indefinitely upon them before starting on his tour, and that nearly every night for four months past he has drawn the same pictures, his rapidity was not surprising. . ."

St. Paul

Today Minneapolis and the rest of the nation ^{have recently} will observe National Hospital Day. Such observance is unusually fitting in Minnesota, whose record in the continuous battle against the ills of body and mind is known far beyond the boundaries of the state.

In 1852, the St. Anthony Express said: "We notice that Mr. Moloney has presented the petition of Dr. A. E. Ames of this place for a grant of public lands to the Territory of Minnesota, out of the Sioux lands when purchased by the general government, in quantity sufficient to build an asylum for the blind, deaf and dumb, and lunatics of said Territory."

A little later in the same year, the Minnesota Democrat (St. Paul) announced a project which, it was thought, might attract health seekers from the south. "Messrs. Rey and Carlloz have commenced building in the upper town. . . a large, four-story stone building for a hospital. It will be under the superintendence of Dr. Carlloz, a French physician of distinguished eminence. . . The hospital grounds embrace several acres, the munificent donation of our generous and enterprising fellow-citizen, H. M. Rice, Esq. The grounds will be drained and laid out tastefully in walks, arbors, gardens and lawns."

Two years later, the Minnesotian reported substantial progress. "The hospital in process of erection by the Catholic community will, we are informed by Bishop Cretin, be completed so far as to be susceptible of use by the first of July."

But there was still no institution for the insane in 1864. And the Pioneer complained: "Joseph Neuser, an insane man who has been confined in the county jail for a year past, of late gives great trouble. . . being violent at times and possessed of great muscular strength. Mike Denan, the well known athletic rough, who is also confined in the jail, is no match for the insane man and it requires. . . two or three others to hold Neuser while his cell is being cleaned. It is to be regretted there is not some establishment in the state properly fitted. . . for the care of such cases."

In the interests of public welfare, sometimes the means were justified by the end. Or so it would appear from an item in the Stillwater Gazette, December 1875: "Saloon keepers will be interested, if not pleased, to know that the supreme court has decided that the tax upon them of \$10 for the establishment and maintenance of an inebriate asylum is constitutional."

*Minnesota Territory organized by
Gov. Alexander Ramsey 1849*

Bearers of election returns from the several polling places to the office of the secretary of state in St. Paul were allowed five cents a mile for the trip, going and coming. That was when Minnesota territory was organized, and the sum was prescribed by the newly appointed first governor, Alexander Ramsey, in his proclamation of territorial organization, dated July 7, 1849.

The room in which the proclamation was written was described years later, in 1882, in ^{a Twin City paper,} the ~~Minneapolis Tribune~~. It was, the article stated, a small log cabin at Third and Jackson streets, "small but well lighted by a casement of glass and sundry openings between the logs. There were no chairs. . . there was no space for a chair. . . Furniture comprised one bed, one stand and two trunks. Governor Ramsey sat upon one of the trunks and wrote his proclamation upon the stand."

The Minnesota Register, July 14, 1849, a week after the signing, printed the text of the proclamation. Quoting the act of congress establishing the territory, Ramsey continued:

"I hereby order that an election be held on Wednesday, the first day of August next, by the qualified voters of the territory of Minnesota, who shall choose by ballot one delegate. . . in the (national) house of representatives. . . and councilors and representatives (for the territorial legislature). . ."

After listing the local legislative districts, the governor went on:

"There shall be allowed out of the territorial treasury to be paid. . . to the several judges and clerks of election a compensation of \$2 each, and to the person carrying the poll books from the places of election to the secretary's office, the sum of five cents per mile, going and returning. . ."

"The persons elected to the council and house of representatives will meet in legislative session on the first Monday, being the third day of September next, at the

house provided for the purpose at the corner of St. Anthony and Minnesota streets, in the city of St. Paul."

Governor Ramsey had arrived in Minnesota on May 27, just ninety-two years ago today.

*The future of man in a
mechanized world*

The future of man in a mechanized world is no new subject for speculation. In 1879, a writer in ^{the} Minneapolis ^{paper} Tribune gave thought to the Machine Age. "The progress of invention during the past twenty-five years," he wrote, "has been so rapid and remarkable that people have. . . ceased to marvel. . .

"Men not visionary even now look forward to the time when. . . manual labor will be removed by science and mechanics and in due course will dawn upon the earth a halcyon age, in which all hard work of whatever nature will be done by machinery and the only exertion required of human beings beyond a few light tasks connected with the care of the person and personal belongings will be the intellectual one of directing the operations of mechanical contrivances. And even this may be reduced to a minimum. An English spinner is said even now to have invented . . . a machine which will run from one week end to another without supervision. . .

"It may be that the time will come when the same principle of automatic action can be applied not only to all processes of manufacture, cultivation of the soil and harvesting of crops, but to the most severe of household tasks; that the supplies of the butcher, the baker and the grocer will be brought to the house by pneumatic tubes or endless carriers, that automaton arms will seize them, dress them, cook them before a self-igniting fire upon a self-acting range, and serve them upon a table that sets itself, to which the household will be summoned by a bell that is endowed with a mysterious automatic intelligence which causes it to ring when dinner is ready. By similar processes, the house may be swept, the beds made up, and the dirty linen gathered, washed and ironed. . .

"The question that interests the . . . economists in relation to this huge progress of inventive energy and skill is the affect. . . upon the working masses. . . during the transition period. . .

"Suppose, for instance, that a successful traction engine. . . should be

produced. The number of horses in use would soon greatly diminish, and this would similarly reduce the demand for horse-shoes, horseshoe-nails, curry combs, harness, wagons, carriages, etc. and throw a great many employed in these industries out of employment, all of whom could not be reemployed in manufacturing and running the traction engines. . . With the progress of invention, all kinds of employment must gradually grow more difficult to obtain. . ."