



Minnesota Works Progress Administration:  
Writers Project Research Notes.

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*The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Grand Rapids*

This year, which marks the 100th anniversary of St. Paul, is the 50th of Grand Rapids, county seat of Itasca county. Incorporated in the summer of 1891, Grand Rapids celebrates its golden jubilee on July 18, 19 and 20. The event has statewide interest, and in "Logging Town," a history of the village written by the Minnesota Writers' Project for publication by the Village Council, Minnesotans may read a record of colorful and lusty frontier development .

A year before Grand Rapids came into corporate being, the Weekly Eagle, published there, saluted the village as "The Proud Young Queen of the Upper Mississippi." In part, the article declared: "'Grand Rapids people think they hold the key,' wrote a chronicler who recently visited this region, since the opening of the railroad. He was only partly right. They not only think, but they know it, and not only Grand Rapids pioneers who have so long lived on the faith that was in them, but every person who visits the region. Man never found midst the richest of nature's townsites treasures a finer natural location; for, in the midst of vast storehouses of treasures in lumber, iron mines, and rich agricultural lands, she sits right at the river's edge, by the Father of Waters, on one of the most beautiful natural water powers the eye ever saw, while gemmed about in every direction are the loveliest of lakes, really overstocked with fish of the finest of Minnesota's many varieties. . ."

By 1890, of course, the sturdy folk of Grand Rapids were well able to boast a bit. They had accomplished a lot since the opening years of the 70's, when Warren Potter set up his general store and trading post and Lowe Seavey built his "stopping place." But more than a decade before these first stakes of permanent settlement were driven, a traveler from St. Anthony, W. W. Winthrop, looked over the Grand Rapids area and was impressed with its possibilities. An account of his trip was printed in the Pioneer-Democrat on November



12, 1857:

" . . . With the assistance of his former guide, he purchased a canoe and provisions, and engaged a half-breed and a young Chippewa to paddle his canoe, etc. Passing across an arm of the Lake (Leech Lake) - 20 miles - to the mouth of Leech River, he sailed 70 miles down the stream to its junction with the Mississippi. . . thence about 50 miles down the Mississippi to Pekagama Falls, and thence two hundred and fifty miles or more to Crow Wing.

"Leech River and the Mississippi above Pekagama flow through immense fields of wild rice, abounding at this season in ducks and geese, which afford capital shooting and the best of eating to the sportsman. At convenient intervals for camping at night, the piney banks extend to the river, but generally are separated from the stream by morasses of from one mile to five miles broad. Below Pekagama, the rice fields and morasses disappear and pine forests, interspersed with elm and oak, edge to the river on both sides.

"Pekagama is the most interesting and romantic point on the Mississippi above St. Anthony. The river rushes through a narrow pass, with a bold rocky bank on the northern side, and over a rocky bed, and with a roar audible at a considerable distance. There is no distinct fall but continuous rapids for about a quarter of a mile, capable of furnishing a very great water power for future mills. . . Below Pekagama, at considerable intervals, are passed the log houses of the lumbermen; and now and then you ascertain that you are sailing by the site of some future town, such as 'Moscow,' 'Maineville,' 'Portage City,' etc. . .

"Mr. W. . . below Pekagama. . . often killed partridges on the shores, and occasionally a mink or muskrat. . . Mr. W. found the Indians always civil and friendly, and believes them to be generally so. . ."

One of traveler Winthrop's imaginary towns is now having a golden jubilee.

*Grand Rapids elects Village  
Officers June 1891*

Grand Rapids begins tomorrow a three-day celebration of its golden jubilee. Fifty years ago, when the county seat of Itasca county was incorporated, there was jubilation, too.

Said the Grand Rapids Magnet on Thursday, June 18, 1891: "Grand Rapids voted almost unanimously for incorporation Tuesday. In a few days there will be another rough and tumble fight for the village officers and afterward a short era of peace is looked for. In the meantime, it is reported, La Prairie is moving up to Grand Rapids on the run." In its next issue, June 25, the Magnet gave the results of the village election. "Grand Rapids, the liveliest little town in all northern Minnesota, is now supplied with a full complement of village officers and is prepared to sail on to prosperity more surely than ever. All this occurred at the first election, held on Tuesday, when the following gentlemen were elected: President - Michael McAlpine; Trustees - James Sherry, A. T. Nason and R. J. Breckenridge; Recorder - T. R. Pravitz; Treasurer - H. D. Powers; Justices - Geo. F. Myers and Chas. Kearney; Constables - Wm. Smith and John McDonald; Marshal - C. D. Lyon; Street Commissioner - W. V. Fuller."

From then on, the Magnet duly recorded events, weighty and otherwise, in the progress of the community. Samples of the Magnet's 1891 recording:

August 6: "The Duluth & Winnipeg began track laying above Grand Rapids. The line will be pushed across the White Oak Point reservation."

August 13: "Last week the Messrs. Sheldon, of the banking firm of Prince, Sheldon & Co., Cloquet, came here and stated it was for the purpose of organizing a first class banking institution, one that would be a credit to the town. A meeting of the business men was held at the parlors of the Hotel Pokegama. . . The necessary articles of incorporation are now on their way to the secretary of state. As soon as possible a building will be secured, and in about ninety days Grand Rapids will have a state bank with abundant capital flourishing in its midst."



August 27: "There was a recurrence on Monday night of that frightful odor which prevailed about town some time since and which it was impossible to account for at the time. It was noticed that the smell arose at train time on Monday and. . . careful investigation has developed the fact that it was all caused, in this instance as in the other, by Blaker's importation of Limberger cheese. Active measures have been instituted to prevent another season of malodorous, fever-inducing, health-prostrating effluvia; the authorities and the railroad company have combined; and if Blaker attempts to land another dose of Limberger in the village, he and the cheese will be quarantined."

September 3: "The rear of the last drive of logs for the season passed here last Friday, and the Mississippi is now clear for a number of miles. The entire drive amounted to something like fifty million and pretty well cleared up the season's cut."

September 10: "The chemical fire engine for the village arrived last week and has been subject to several trials. The first one on Monday was not considered satisfactory. Wednesday night a second trial was made. A frame building was erected, filled with highly inflammable material which was thoroughly saturated with kerosene. When fairly ablaze, a stream from one hose was played upon it, which immediately put the fire out."

September 17: "School opened Monday with 18 scholars in the grammar department under Miss Maddy, and 26 in the primary department under Miss Stilson."

October 1: "We are now truly metropolitan; we are the actual possessors of a real live Chinaman. He will hang out his washee sign in a few days, and then the boys may be seen any time running their noses up and down the hieroglyphics to try and make out how much they will owe."

November 12: "Mr. Whitcomb is now delivering brick from his first kiln. Judges of this building material say without hesitation that so far as clay, make and burning are concerned, they cannot be beaten anywhere. As the home demand for them is so great, Mr. Whitcomb will have none for shipment."

*First Postoffice in St. Paul.*

Postmaster General Walker, who last Monday visited St. Paul and viewed its impressive postoffice, would have experienced the ultimate in contrasts if he had been able at the same time to take a backward look to the days described in the St. Paul Press of February 2, 1873. The Press article, outlining the evolution of the postoffice up to that date, said in part:

"Prior to the establishment of a military post at Fort Snelling, as it was subsequently called. . . there was no attempt at mail service in the Northwest region. . . The few traders and fur company agents, the white men who occupied this vast region, received their communications from their principals and the outer world at long and irregular intervals by the hand of some trader or voyageur. When the post was established at Fort Snelling. . . mail service became a necessity. . .

"During the first three years, the mails for the garrison were carried by soldiers from Prairie du Chien. In the summer, they made the trips two or three times during the season with keel boats or canoes, also bringing supplies for the garrison. . .

"In 1842, one Henry Jackson of Galena, having heard that Pig's Eye might be a good place to trade, removed hither. . . He purchased a bit of ground at the foot of the street now named for him, and erected a cabin on the edge of the bluff. . . and went to trading with the Indians and everybody else. St. Paul soon became quite a point. Steamboats began to stop there. Occasionally strangers landed to 'look around.' There was no tavern to go to, and Jackson generally entertained them. To carry on the multifarious duties of merchant, saloonist, hotelkeeper, &c., Jackson kept enlarging his cabin until it became a regular caravansary and was the headquarters for trade, news, gossip, politics and general loafing. . .

"Of course, when mail facilities and postal service were needed by the growing



village, Jackson was the man to step forward and supply it. Nearly every boat that came along for three or four years after Jackson opened his store would bring letters and papers for persons at St. Paul's, as it was called then, and these were handed by the clerks to Jackson, who used to keep them piled up on a shelf in his store. When anyone asked for mail, the whole lot was thrown down on a bed in one corner and the party picked out what he wanted.

"By whose influence. . . a postoffice was established here does not appear, but we 'guess' H. Jackson had somewhat to do with it, as he was appointed the postmaster. The records of the P. M. General's Department at Washington show that the office was established on April 7, 1846, and Mr. Jackson's commission (was) dated the same day. . .

"Jackson conceived that some effort should be made, for appearance sake at least, to establish post official regulations and conveniences, and so set about making the first case of boxes, or pigeon-holes, that the St. Paul Postoffice ever possessed or used. Out of some old packing cases or odd boards, he constructed a rude case about two feet square and containing sixteen pigeon-holes. These were labeled with initial letters. The whole affair was awkwardly constructed, apparently with a wood-saw, axe and knife, for temporary use, and after serving for two or three years was laid aside. Fortunately, it was not lost or destroyed, and finally, after St. Paul became a flourishing city, the widow of Mr. Jackson . . . an estimable lady of Mankato, gave it to the Historical Society as a relic of early days. . .

"Hardly had he (Jackson) begun to reap the fruits of the new order of things, when his head was cut off, officially, and Jacob W. Bass appointed P. M. in his place. Mr. Bass was commissioned July 5, 1849, and as soon as he could make preparations for accommodating the office he took possession of the same . . . a small frame addition, or lean-to, alongside of the Jackson street front of the St. Paul House. . . and procured a few glass boxes or pigeon-holes, with other equipment necessary. The whole room was only as big as a sheet of paper but no doubt accommodated the business of the day. . ."

*"Sarah" writes to "Lizzie" on how  
she spent the "Fourth" etc.*

"How did you spend the Fourth?" The question has been asked often in St. Paul during the last ~~threedays~~ It was also asked on July 15, 1852, when "Sarah" wrote to "Dear Lizzie" a letter preserved in Minnesota's important public collection of personal papers and manuscripts.

"We had a heavy thunder storm here, or gale rather," the St. Paul writer said. "It blew over quite a number of houses. One lady was killed in a shanty, and one lady had her arms broken, at least that was the report. . . Chimneys blew off of Mr. Oakes house and a number of other houses. Mrs. Irvine's came very near blowing over. All that saved it was a tree. They felt it going and ran for Mr. Farrington. I went over to see her the next day. It blew over trees without number, there is hardly one standing back of our house.

"When the gale commenced I thought that I would go in the parlour and sit down until it was over. It was so dark I could hardly see. Just as I opened the door to go, the plastering was falling, the rain poured in torrents into the windows, and the house was reeling to and fro. I stepped into the dining room and then the plastering was falling, windows crashing, rain pouring in. Then I rushed for the shanty, thought it might be safer than the house, opened the door and the wind came very near knocking me down, and Ellen (she servant girl) stood there as pale as death. Think she would have done most anything that I told her to do, so I just told her to come with me and sit on the stairs. It seemed to (be) the only place in the house, it was impossible to get out doors. . . Such a looking house you never saw. I expected for a few moments that the house would go and we with it. . . I wish you could just look in and see the parlour, there is a place over the West window as large as a table gone. . . It cleared off very warm and sultry in the afternoon. . ."

Writing again in September, "Sarah" described for "Dear Lizzie" a quiet social call in St. Paul. "Emily and I went to walk this morning, went up on the bluff opposite



our house. We went into Mr. Selby's, and he took us up to see his garden. He has a beautiful garden. He told us that he picked a tomato the other day that weighed four pounds and five ounces and we saw one that weighed over three pounds, and splendid watermelons and muskmelons. Gave us a plenty to eat and a pail of tomatoes, and lent me Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Another of "Sarah's" letters from St. Paul tells of a trip to the theater. The play was given, she wrote, "at the Empire Block and there were no windows excepting in front, and the staging took those off, and all the air there was for the audience were the skylights over head. We had been there about ten minutes when it commenced raining and they closed the skylights, and it was an oppressive warm night, and they had been closed about five minutes when I began to grow faint and Sam went out with me to the door, and went for a tumbler of water for me, and when he came back I had fainted and fell upon the doorstep. He carried me back into Fonseca's store in the same building, and when I came to such a looking object you never saw. My bonnet was completely covered with mud, lamed one side of my face and had to wear a patch for more than a week. I did not attend any more theatre parties I assure you. It was the first and last."

*Salmon planted in Minnesota  
Lakes in the middle 70's*

If certain early-day plans had succeeded, Minnesota fishermen might now be arming themselves with rod and reel and stepping out in quest of salt water salmon - that is, fresh water descendants of salt water salmon. Along in the middle 70's, it seems, efforts were made to sell the fish on the idea of becoming Minnesotans.

Just where those reluctant salmon were brought from was not made clear in the newspaper accounts of the experiment, nor did the reporters reveal the exact manner of their disappearance. Perhaps they were told that the great Mississippi flowed into the briny Gulf of Mexico, and perhaps one dark night they were all up and away down the big stream.

In May 1876, the St. Paul Dispatch gave generous space to the salmon resettlement project. The following are excerpts from that publicity:

May 8 - "G. C. Burt, the landlord of the popular Mankato House and one of the State Fish Commissioners, is in the city today, awaiting the receipt from Red Wing of six thousand young salmon, which he intends planting in the several lakes between Mankato and Worthington."

May 11 - "For the past two days, Fish Commissioners Wm. Golcher and Dr. Sweeny have been busily engaged in distributing young salmon among the several lakes in Dakota county. Among the lakes supplied are Johanna, Como, Phalen, Bass on Superior road and Bass on the St. Paul, Stillwater and Taylor's Falls road. Those gentlemen have worked very hard and very energetically in furnishing all applicants with portions of the fish, and they feel greatly indebted to the several railroads having their termini in this city for the facilities afforded by them in the transmission of the fish to their destination and the courtesies extended to the Commissioners. . . Last evening, a large quantity of the fish were brought over from Stillwater and assigned temporary quarters in the City Hall,



where Mr. Golcher constructed a machine which kept them supplied with clear cold water all night, and this morning they were all alive and frisky as kittens."

May 12 - "Fish Commissioner Burt took down today another lot of young salmon of about 5,000 in number, which he will deposit in the lakes of Blue Earth, Le Sueur and Waseca counties."

May 13 - "Fish Commissioners Sweeney and Golcher will bring over another lot of these salmon from Stillwater on Monday. This supply is destined for Minneapolis, from whence they will be distributed through lakes Calhoun, Harriet and all the other lakes in the vicinity of that city."

May 16 - "Fish Commissioner G. C. Burt of Mankato is again in the city and will go to Red Wing tonight for another lot of young salmon which he designs taking to Faribault and Freeborn, and planting in the lakes of those counties."

May 29 - "Young salmon two or three inches long have been caught recently in the Vermillion, in the town of Eureka, Dakota county. They came from Lakeville lake, where they were planted last year by the Fish Commissioners."

*Minnesota called upon to do her  
duty to protect her National Flag.  
1861*

April 1861 - the Union was threatened. On the 14th, Fort Sumter surrendered to the Confederate forces. The same day, before President Lincoln's official call for volunteers, Governor Ramsey of Minnesota, then in Washington, offered a thousand men to the national government. And on the 17th, following Lincoln's call, the St. Paul Press said: "The proclamation of. . . Acting Governor Donnelly. . . will attract the attention of all patriotic citizens this morning. Minnesota is called upon to do her duty in protecting the National Flag and the National Capitol from the assaults of invading traitors. . . In twenty days our regiment will be ready for the field."

Minnesota rose swiftly to "her duty." During the rest of that fateful month, the St. Paul Press reported fully the progress of the state's war effort.

April 17 - "The city was gay yesterday with Star Spangled Banners hanging out from the engine houses, public buildings, printing offices, stores and private dwellings. The article of bunting was in extensive demand and early in the day a yard could not be had except that already made into flags. . . The ladies were out shopping, amid all the wind and dust, but all they inquired for was bunting."

April 19 - "The volunteering business went on briskly during the day at several places of rendezvous. Three, and perhaps four, companies, including the Pioneer Guards, will have their ranks full in a day or two."

April 21 - "The first company raised under the requisition proves to be Adjutant General Acker's. . . This company comprises the flower of the young and vigorous men of St. Paul."

April 23 - "Several volunteers from the country, including points within thirty miles of St. Paul, in Dakota and Scott counties, arrived in the city yesterday and enrolled themselves under the Star Spangled Banner. Six stalwart fellows from Pine Bend were among



the number. They made straight for the Pioneer Guard armory. Good for Pine Bend! It is a village of only fifteen families."

Patriotic fervor did not slacken, the quickening tempo of the time being evident in random newspaper items of the next few weeks.

- "At the regular meeting of the St. Paul Lyceum, held at their hall on Jackson street last evening, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: Resolved, That this club do now adjourn for the purpose of volunteering for the defense of their country."

- "Dr. S. F. Rankin, of St. Anthony, tenders his services without charge to the families of volunteers during their absence in the defense of the flag of the Union."

- "The Secretary of War has accepted the First Regiment of Minnesota for three years, or during the war."

- "The banner proposed to be presented by the ladies of St. Paul to the First Regiment of Minnesota volunteers has been received from Philadelphia and is very beautiful. Its texture is blue silk, on one side the arms of the United States and on the reverse the escutcheon of Minnesota."

- "The State Board of Surgeons for the examination of applicants for appointments in the Minnesota volunteer regiments meets at the Capitol on Tuesday."

- "The blockage of the coast of South Carolina has had a marked effect upon the price of rice. That article has gone up from 4 and 6 cents to 10 cents per pound in (St. Paul), and will probably attain a still higher price."

- "The Volunteer Aid Society met according to appointment, on Monday afternoon, and proceeded immediately to business. Willing hearts and ready hands entered into the work with zeal and energy, and busy fingers flew rapidly, preparing havelocks for the Regiment, which has so suddenly been called to the field of action. The rooms were filled to overflowing, and it was suggested that we meet at a public hall. . . . Hours from eight in the forenoon to seven in the afternoon. S. L. WILLIAMS, Pres't."

*Minnesota Remembered The  
Maine.*

Suddenly there was an explosion in the harbor at Havana, and where the United States battleship Maine had been at anchor there was only wreckage. Minnesota of 1898, like the rest of the country, took up the slogan, "Remember the Maine!" and once more stepped forward to do its bit in the crisis.

Sentiment was not altogether unanimous for war with Spain. But the Pioneer Press, on February 25, spoke out boldly on the issue. "It is hard to imagine why several newspapers of admitted intelligence, among them the Chicago Tribune, should devote any part of their editorial space to such an astonishing statement as that there is universal agreement that if the calamity (the sinking of the Maine) was the result of an accident, carelessness, spontaneous combustion or any other cause on board the vessel, and due to our own seamen or officers, there would be no responsibility upon the Spanish government.

"There is also 'universal agreement' that if Queen Victoria should die of old age, Great Britain could not hold the United States responsible."

The editorial quoted authority to prove that Spain was responsible for the safety of vessels in her harbors.

Congress declared war during the third week in April. St. Paul was ready before Spain took action in the face of U. S. belligerent resolutions. On April 19, the Dispatch reported: "Recruiting at the armory up to noon was comparatively dull. . . with the exception of Company D. That company enrolled John S. McClure of the Dispatch; W. E. Harrington, 230 East 10th street; L. P. Larpenteur, 55 Tilton street; G. G. Dickerman; W. J. Thone, 478 Cedar street; J. M. C. Johnson, 880 Clark street; D. W. Moran, 280 Fuller street; Nicholas Remakel, 638 Thomas street."

After this beginning, the response was no longer "comparatively dull." Two paragraphs from late April issues of the Dispatch indicate the extent and spirit of Minnesota's



participation in the national war activity.

April 28 - "The railroads running into St. Paul will tomorrow bring into the city the companies from the country districts making up. . . the three volunteer regiments. The companies from Zumbrota, Red Wing and Winona will fill eight passenger coaches and a baggage car. A train of like size will bring the contingent from Faribault, Spring Valley and Austin. . . The St. Paul & Duluth will bring two companies from Duluth in a special train. . . The Great Northern, the Northern Pacific, the St. Paul & Omaha and the Minneapolis & St. Louis will also have special trains." By these several roads, companies from various Minnesota points would be arriving, the Dispatch continued, the number of companies from each locality being as follows: Duluth, 3; Winona, 2; and one each from Faribault, Austin, Red Wing, Zumbrota, Spring Valley, Stillwater, St. James, Blue Earth, New Ulm, Albert Lea, Waseca, Fergus Falls, Princeton, Long Prairie, Anoka and Crookston.

April 29 - "The city was hung with flags; not the festal display of patriotism which wrapped the buildings when the peace of the republic rested on the Grand Army, but great flags proclaiming convincingly that Minnesota 'remembers' (the Maine). . . At the armory, near Smith Park, the men were lined up and given rank. Then at the Capitol, another regiment gathered and the old statehouse has never looked down upon a braver promise than shone from the glitter of gold and the gleam of blue. . . If from the corners of the Capitol campus the cannon of the Civil War stood, telling the stories of dark days and bitter battles, did not the Stars and Stripes forever wave from above, saying, 'We cannot fail!'"

Minnesota's World War I efforts are within the memory of most of the St. Paul citizens who now again are part of a national defense program. Some among them will recall that night in 1917, when they were sitting in the Shubert theater and remember the call from the stage, "All good Americans stand up!" while the orchestra played "America."

*Notes on War with The Indians  
in Minnesota*

"There shall be wars and rumors of wars," said an ancient writer. With heavy regularity, these words have been repeated by men and nations. And as Minnesota now watches a war and listens to the rumors of closer conflict, Minnesotans recall how their state has played a long and honorable part in earlier national emergencies.

Minnesota, as a state, missed active participation in the struggles of 1776, 1812 and 1847, but veterans of the two latter wars were among those who helped in its pioneer development. From the earliest days of its settlement, though, Minnesota kept its muskets handy for the recurring skirmishes with the Indians. It had its wars of nerves, its lightning attacks, its panic flights of refugees from the Sioux frontier. As late as 1898, St. Paul papers were reporting a bloody clash at Leech Lake. Many years before, they began the lengthy record of the Indian wars.

From the ~~Minnesota Register~~ *Pioneer & Democrat*, 1849: "There are, at this time, no dragoons at the Fort - the recent force there. . . having left some weeks since on a tour to the Red River of the North, to be absent several months. The Winnebagoes, aware of the fact, are prowling about this part of the country, far distant from their homes, committing depredations upon property. . . The care about as much for an infantry soldier as they do for a musketo; and unless the agent can contrive some way to keep them at home, we will have to call upon Mr. Crawford to send us some dragoons."

*Pioneer & Democrat*, 1857: "Lieutenant General Scott has issued a general order narrating the exploits of certain portions of the army on the frontier, and giving proper credit to men and officers. We quote the conclusion of the order - 'Brevet Major T. W. Sherman, Third Artillery, who in August 1857 marched on short notice with his battery from Fort Snelling to the Indian agency at Yellow Medicine, Minnesota, and by his promptitude, judgment and firmness preserved the country from a war with the Mississippi tribes of the Sioux nation. In this connection, Second Lieut. William C. Spencer, Second Infantry, is



commended for his gallant bearing on the occasion of his demanding, alone, the Indian murderer from the armed warriors of the tribe."

Pioneer & Democrat, 1859: "From letters received here yesterday, it appears that the Indians are giving some trouble to the settlers in Douglas county. . . Since the withdrawal of troops from Fort Abercrombie, the Indians have become bold and lawless, stealing and carrying off the property of settlers, and driving off their cattle. . . the bridge beyond Alexandria, built by the settlers and the Minnesota Stage Company, has been burned. The settlers in that neighborhood are much alarmed, not knowing at what hour the savages may steal in upon them. . ."

Same paper, 1862: "(An order from the Adjutant General) - All officers in command of detachments or companies of troops advancing or attempting to advance against any Indians on our frontier at war with the Government of the United States will, by force or otherwise, seize upon and take all suitable and necessary horses, saddles, bridles, harness, wagons and other vehicles, steamboats, ferryboats, barges or other means of transportation, giving to the proper owners thereof the proper receipts and vouchers therefor."

The Sioux uprising of that year, 1862, the climax of Minnesota's struggle with the formidable Sioux nation, caused alarm even in the city of St. Paul itself. The course and result of the uprising are too familiar for retelling. For a long time afterward, it made news in columns already filled with reports of the greater war between the states.

Pioneer & Democrat: "The Renville Rangers, Captain Gorman, who fought so gallantly side by side with the Third Regiment at the battle of Wood Lake, we regret to say was disbanded at Fort Snelling. . . The case of these men was one of peculiar hardship. They . . . fought all through the Indian campaign, some of them sacrificing their lives and others being severely wounded. . ."

St. Paul Press: "J. C. Wise, of the Mankato Record, has published a fine quarto engraving of the execution of the 38 Indian murderers. . . The view is a correct and finely executed one. . . everyone should possess a copy."

*Celebrations in St. Paul*  
*1883*

Lent came early in 1883, and apparently it was not without a touch of irony that the Minneapolis Tribune, in its issue of February 18, gave considerable space to St. Paul's social doings. "The social element of the saintly city," the article said, "is at present in a condition of extreme repose. In the midst of a whirl of gayety, the season of Lent with its rigid (?) rules has interposed and enforced a cessation of the pursuit of those pleasures which endure 'but for the moment.'"

The reporter then went on to detailed enumeration of lenten jollifications in St. Paul:

"The Expressman's Union will celebrate Washington's birthday by a hop at Pfeiffer's Hall.

"The Jolly XX Club will give a private masquerade at Siebert's Hall Friday evening next.

"The German Society have arranged for a complimentary entertainment to be given to the Legislature the latter part of this week.

"Lodge No. 2, I.O.O.F., will give a grand ball on Wednesday evening next at Turner's Hall. Seibert's orchestra has been engaged to furnish the music.

"On Thursday evening the St. Paul Social Club gave a dramatic entertainment followed by a dance at Standard Club Hall on Jackson street. . .

"The Swedish Society Vega gave a grand masquerade ball last evening. . .

"The Once-a-Week Club brought its third season to a close last Wednesday evening by a masquerade. . .

"The X. L. Society of Plymouth Church assembled in the church parlors last Tuesday evening to listen to some music and the reading of a paper by Miss Evans of Northfield on 'Michael Angelo.' Miss Evans held the audience for an hour with her careful and dis-



criminating account of the great poet-artist and his masterly works, which she characterized with rare artistic perception. . .

"The preparations for a grand reception on the evening of the 22d at the Capitol are progressing under the superintendence of Col. Allen. Fifteen hundred invitations have been issued to prominent people all over the state, and large numbers of acceptances have been received. The evening promises to be one of the most brilliant in the history of the capital city. The Governor's room will be decorated with a profusion of rare flowers. The guests will be received in this room by Gov. Hubbard and wife, assisted by Senator Sabin and wife, Gen. Sibley and Mrs. Huntington of Chicago, a sister of the Governor's.

"Refreshments will be served in the library, from 9 to 12 o'clock. . . The floor of the Representative Chamber is to be covered with canvas and dancing will probably be done here. . . Every arrangement for the care, comfort and entertainment of the guests has been made that can be devised, and the occasion will probably be the most enjoyable . . . of the kind yet held in the state."

*The first Impression of a corn-fed  
Kentuckian of St. Paul. 1875*

He was from the blue grass country, but there was nothing blue about his feelings regarding St. Paul. The Pioneer Press, July 3, 1875, printed a communication from him, calling it "The First Impressions of a Corn-fed Kentuckian."

"As the train rushes northward from Chicago, the air grows keener, as though it had wandered over the crests of far-off icebergs; the grass and foliage become a deeper green, they look as fresh and cool as if just washed and bedewed by sweeping showers. The water of the streams and lakelets grows bluer than one can describe. The general effect is that of delicious coolness and invigoration. . .

"St. Paul startles one. It looks as though some strange power had suddenly manufactured a large city and set it down fresh and warm upon these bluffs. Everything has a new look. The buildings of massive stone look as if just emerged from the chisel and mallet; there is no dirt to foul or bestain them. The people generally have the same fresh look. There is no coal smoke to smirch the collars and bosoms of the men, or dainty and pretty undergarments of the women. This is a comfortable feature of the place. The ladies especially enjoy it, and show their feet and ankles with the consciousness of clean stockings and a spotless melange of frills and embroidery.

"The people are extremely hopeful of the future. They have not the impudent effrontery and bombast of Chicagoans, nor the ridiculous disdain of Cincinnatians, but there is a calm adhesion to the belief that the future of the northwest will be just here on the bluffs. Indeed, many of them believe firmly that Seward's great prophecy will certainly be fulfilled in the course of time. When Mr. Seward made his great speech in front of the capitol in 1860, he declared that the future capital of the United States would one day be located at St. Paul. Perhaps this was a little sly unction of flattery on the part of Seward; but however that may be, the city is evidently destined to remain the



leading city of the northwest. . .

"There is a charm about these amphitheatric bluffs which engirdle the city, sprinkled richly with some of the most beautiful residences in the country. The green hills roll up on all sides like billows suddenly stilled, and in the peculiar light and affluence of a Minnesota sunset the scene is magnificent in the extreme. You can drive for miles along a grand avenue which overlooks the city, through well kept parks and by lordly residences which cannot be surpassed in the older sections of the country. The Mississippi, emerald-isled and broad-bosomed, sweeps down within the valley below. . .

"There are more cheerful people here than one would imagine. Money is scarce, but there is a prospect for excellent crops. . . As the population of St. Paul has increased 15,000 during the last five years, there certainly is reason for some degree of cheerfulness. The latest and most accurate computations make the population fully 36,000. . .

"There is a surprising amount of piety in the town. The churches are numerous and meet you at every turn. . . Two of the most prominent Presbyterian ministers in the city, the Revs. Breed and McKibbin, both at the head of influential churches, are enthusiastic leaders of the baseball business. Mr. Breed is president of a club, and Mr. McKibbin is a pitcher to another organization. They both play regularly with the boys, and it is said that their presence has had the effect of modifying somewhat the profanity in which it is the wont of baseballists to indulge. These muscular divines are very popular. . ."

*New bells for the Church of the  
Assumption + musical activities  
in St. Paul 1874 + 5*

When St. Paul bade farewell to the old year of 1874 and welcomed young 1875, there was a new voice added to the celebration that had not been heard before. This voice was that of the new bells of the Church of the Assumption, which were rung for the first time that New Year's eve.

Said the Pioneer on December 27, 1874: "The new bells for the Church of the Assumption - the Ninth street German Catholic church - the arrival of which has heretofore been mentioned in the Pioneer, are attracting much attention and are universally admired, both for their tone and finish.

"The new bells are three in number, which, added to the old one, will make a chime of four. Their weight is 3000, 1200, 800 and 500 pounds. The largest and smallest were presented to the church by the Catholic Benevolent Society of this city. The largest bears the inscription 'Peter,' and the smaller 'Clement's,' in honor of Father Clement for whom it was purchased.

"The other new one, and the second in size of the four, was purchased and presented to the church by Mr. Joseph Hahn, and is inscribed 'Joseph.' They were manufactured at St. Louis, at a cost of some \$2500.

"These bells will be consecrated this afternoon at 4 o'clock by Right Rev. Bishop Grace. During the coming week, they will be placed in position in the towers of the church, and it is designed to ring the chime for the first time at 12 o'clock on New Year's Eve, ringing the old year out and the new year in."

It was not inappropriate for St. Paul to ring 1874 out with music, for the city had been paying respectful attention to its music all through the year. Newspaper reviews were appreciative and encouraging.

Pioneer, March 15: "Jackson Street Sabbath School. - For a long time, Mr. W. S.



Wilson has been engaged in teaching the S. S. scholars of this church the art of singing, and has brought them to such a degree of cultivation that they have decided to give a musical entertainment. . . From what is learned of the entertainment, it will be one of the most agreeable concerts of the kind ever given in the city."

Pioneer, April 8: "Musical Society. - The last concert of the 11th year of this popular institution took place at the Opera House last evening and was fully up to the established standard of excellence. . . The sagacious Director, Geo. Seibert, has in this series succeeded most admirably in suiting the public taste, and by a judicious combination of the classical and popular styles has made a long stride in educating the musical taste of the community. While his classical selections have never been so heavy as to be tiresome to a miscellaneous audience, his lighter pieces have never been of a character to offend the ear of the most exacting musical epicure."

Pioneer, June 6: "The people of this city will be pleased to learn that the Rice Park concerts are to be renewed this season and that they will be commenced tonight at six o'clock promptly. . . The park is more than usually pleasant and attractive this season, and beyond doubt the attendance will be much greater than ever before. The band has had for some time in practice a number of late and very beautiful selections from the most popular composers."

Champions of musical activity, the reviewers were quick to speak out against those who failed to support what was musically good. The Dispatch, for instance, declared on December 4: "It is honest praise only to say that Miss Corbett's concert last night was in every respect an elegant, enjoyable and first class entertainment; and we are equally honest in our conviction that the slender attendance under all the circumstances was simply disgraceful. If the performers had announced an exhibition of. . . coarse ribaldry . . . we are constrained to believe that the house would have been packed from parquette to gallery."

*Younger Brothers at Stillwater  
penitentiary.*

"I was shot quite to pieces. Here in the face, in the neck here, behind the ear, and through my shoulder. There is a ball still in my head, and one in my breast." Cole Younger, once America's Public Enemy No. 1, was speaking. The highlight of the 1883 legislative tour of Stillwater penitentiary, this visit with the Younger brothers was reported in a Twin City paper of February 11.

"Of the prison celebrities, those life-term convicts, the Younger brothers, came in for a large share of attention. . . Their cells, which are on the ground floor in the second corridor, were surrounded continuously by a crowd of visitors. The chief interest to those familiar with the story of their crimes was in seeing how they bear their imprisonment, which has now ended the sixth year of their sentence for life. Cole, Bob and Jim, the three, occupy continuous cells, as they have for years, but are accorded no more privileges as to communication with one another than if unrelated. Cole was the only one in his cell, the other two being at work. . . He appeared to be in poor health, although of a naturally vigorous constitution. His close clipped hair, showing quite a sprinkle of gray, suggested that he was upwards of 45 years old. 'I am past 39,' he said to such a suggestive remark. . .

"A visitor out of his sight answered an inquiry whether he wished an introduction, that he was adverse to simple curiosity hunting. Younger caught the words quickly and said, 'Some one says he doesn't want to look at me just out of curiosity. Oh, I don't mind that. I'm used to it, and I used to go to see curiosities myself when I was a boy. . .'

"'There isn't a requisition for me in existence, that I know of,' said he. 'There was, I believe, an indictment or two against me at Northfield, but they found that two clerks were the only persons in the bank where the cashier was killed. . . I never had a trial except in name. I was sentenced without a real trial. . .'



"How long are you in for?" asked a visitor, who, crowding up, had popped the same question to probably a dozen prisoners. 'For life,' was the answer, in a tone of peculiar resignation.

"At the moment, the dinner bell struck, and the prisoners came thronging in from the shops, each passing quickly and quietly to his cell. Among them came the Youngers, Robert and James. . . Robert seated himself with his back to the visitors, but James seemed to forego his dinner to pick up a few crumbs of talk with the bystanders. His voice has the same affection noted in Cole, which being suggested, he replied, 'The shot here in my mouth, and the one in my neck, is what's the matter with my voice'. . . 'I got 12 different shots,' he said, and he went over them in detail.

"On the whole, you seem to stand it pretty well.'

"I don't weigh as much as you think,' he replied, as if confessing that he looked as if he fared pretty well. 'I don't weightbut 149 pounds. I used to weigh 165.' He looked as if he would approach 190.

"You seem to have reading matter.'

"I have plenty to read - books and papers.'

"Prison dinner was at this moment served, being set in through the cell doors in tin trays, which were rapidly trundled along the corridor floors. The repast consisted, as a rule, of good, wholesome looking bread, coffee in a brightly scoured tin cup, and other food in a tin dish of three compartments, one containing baked beans, another with cooked meat, and the third a single raw onion.

"The Younger boys, if not other prisoners, seemed to have an addition of some nicely browned potatoes."

TX  
*Inspection tour of the State Prison  
at Stillwater by legislators and party  
1883*

-13

Penitentiary inspection trips by legislators nowadays are solemn affairs compared to those of years gone by. In 1883, the Minneapolis Tribune described one of these tours, calling it "A Delightful Junket." In part, the story said:

"The legislative recess enabled a large party of the members, senators and their ladies, to accept the invitation of the Joint Committee on State Prison to visit that institution at Stillwater yesterday. A number of the party who had been in attendance at the Nicollet House reception to Senator-elect Sabin, in Minneapolis, went down to St. Paul in the morning, where the St. Paul & Duluth railway furnished a special train, which, without mishap or event, landed the party at Stillwater about 11 o'clock.

"An hour was very pleasantly spent in looking through the works of Seymour, Sabin & Co., which are included in the prison enclosure, and in which the state convict labor is employed. Senator Castle acted as guide. . . It looked strange to see the honest, industrious laborers work side by side with the state's criminals. Usually the convicts at work wear only pants of stripes and a gray shirt, the remainder of the striped suit hanging on hooks about the compartments or thrown over some piece of machinery, or upon a pile of work. But whichever way the eye turned, there was the same inharmonious reminder. . . It was a pleasure to note throughout the departments several G.A.R. veterans on duty as guards and doorkeepers. . .

"To the Sawyer House the party were turned by Senator Castle, to whose ability as an entertainer all were placed under obligation for a delightful day. For dinner here, with tables set apart for the party, an excellent and ample dinner was served. Senator Castle presided at one of the tables, with Miss Woodward of Minneapolis opposite, and on his right and left some of the brightest and most amiable of the party, ladies and gentlemen. The senator is a delightful companion and never at a loss for social resource and



response, witty or pointed.

"A sleigh ride about the beautiful city of Stillwater was an after-dinner treat.

"The office of the prison warden and that of Seymour, Sabin & Co, was, after the drive, again made the rendezvous of the party for the return. . .

"There are about 280 convicts in the prison. The prison has a library of over 1000 well selected volumes. There are six women only in the prison, but four of them are serving life sentences. . .

"The social condition, habits and education of the convicts is noteworthy. Eight are widowers, 85 married and 190 unmarried. Only 35 out of the whole number are unable to read and write, nearly one-half are perfectly temperate in their habits, while all but 26 use tobacco. . . Of crimes of the convicts, the largest number, 81, is larceny, and the next, 46, for murder. . . Of the nationality of the convicts, 181 are native and the remainder foreign-born. Of the natives, 39 were born in New York, 26 in Illinois, 17 each in Minnesota and Ohio, 16 in Pennsylvania, 11 in Missouri, and 10 in Wisconsin. . . Of ages of convicts, 1 is over 70, 2 between 40 and 50, 71 between 39 and 40, 68 between 25 and 30, 75 from 20 to 25, and 25 are under 20 years of age. . .

"The party were under obligation to Warden Reed, Capt. Taylor, the hall guard, and physician W. H. Pratt for personal attention during the day. Warden Reed insisted on the ladies taking tea at the prison while waiting for the train. The special train was able to get off at 6 o'clock. Messrs. Seymour, Sabin & Co., with wise forethought, sent a shoveling brigade of their workmen, by whose aid the special was able to get to St. Paul at 8 o'clock."

*Another new Dress for  
The Oldest Minn. Newspaper  
The Pioneer Press*

The easy-reading new dress in which the Pioneer Press-Dispatch has just appeared does not mark a precedent in the long program of forward steps taken by this oldest Minnesota newspaper. As long ago as 1877, the Pioneer Press did the same thing - appeared in a new dress and at the same time installed the latest thing in printing presses. Compliments from other state papers were many and enthusiastic.

Rochester Post: "The St. Paul Pioneer Press has appeared in a new and handsome outfit of type and other appurtenances, and in the new dress makes a truly creditable and presentable appearance. Besides, in point of editorial management and ability, it is without a rival in the Northwest."

Sauk Center Press: "The Pioneer Press has lately been put in a new dress, and is now printed on a press with a capacity of 10,000 impressions an hour, the fastest press west of Chicago."

Hokah Blade: "This great paper has assumed a new suit and, if such a thing were possible, they are trying to outdo themselves. It is without doubt the best newspaper west of Chicago, ably edited and full of enterprise."

Faribault Democrat: "The Pioneer Press reaches the people of Minnesota from twelve to twenty-four hours earlier than any other paper, and, therefore, has a free and uncontrolled field - an opportunity not enjoyed by any other newspaper in the United States."

Chaska Herald: "We have received the wall map of the United States issued by the Pioneer Press to its subscribers. It is a very neat, costly and valuable map. We advise those of our readers who wish a good metropolitan journal to subscribe for the Pioneer Press without delay."

Albert Lea Standard: "We extend our congratulations to the Pioneer Press for its evident prosperity, as shown not alone in its new four-cylinder press, the largest



north or west of Chicago, but in its growing popularity. The advancement of that paper, both in material wealth and commanding influence, makes a brilliant record."

Preston Republican: "The Pioneer Press has donned a new and beautiful dress, and it looks as handsome as a picture."

Northwestern Chronicle: "Certainly the enterprise of our St. Paul contemporary is creditable to Minnesota and deserves success. It requires journalistic genius and pluck to present such a paper to its patrons in this restricted and frigid atmosphere."

Austin Transcript: "The Pioneer Press is now a marvel of neatness and mechanical skill and accuracy. The perfection of physical appliances was needed not more to meet the public demand than for the purpose of symmetrizing the intellectual and mechanical departments of the paper. The Pioneer Press has long been regarded as the ablest daily northwest of Chicago, and in some respects as possessing better editorial talent than any to be found in that city. The recent purchase, therefore, of numerous pieces of the most perfect machinery is but a suitable finale to the series of efforts by which the paper has been made immensely powerful and popular."

Goodhue County Republican: "The Pioneer Press has been obliged to procure a four-cylinder press. . . to work off the editions in time. In order that it may include the latest news, the paper cannot go to press till several hours after midnight, and then the papers must be ready to go out on all the morning trains, and into the carriers' hands in St. Paul and Minneapolis at daylight. . . The managers seem to intend to make rivalry difficult, if not impossible."

St. Cloud Journal: "The Pioneer Press comes out in a new, handsome dress throughout, and is printed in a new four-cylinder How press, capable of striking 10,000 copies per hour. This is first class western enterprise, and shows what pluck, energy and ability will do, and how virtue hath its reward."

"Can-can" A Theatrical Troupe  
were compelled to behave Toward  
in Mpls 1875

The new administration of the Mill City says that "the lid is on," that the town is "tight and will stay tight." In 1875, Mayor Wilson of Minneapolis said much the same thing. So St. Paul had all the fun. And thereby hangs the story of the Can-Can.

Said the Pioneer of St. Paul in February of that year: "Who Enjoyed The Can-Can? City Fathers, Professionals, Merchants, &c. - There is magic in the word 'Can-Can,' which bears a strange charm to masculine ears, and for the past fortnight the male element of St. Paul has been on the 'qui vive' (a French term which, translated, means the 'ragged edge') in expectation of an exhibition of the greatest splendor and license, as far as the exhibition of the charms of the softer sex are concerned. . . .

"The appearance of the house during the first performance was most interesting. Scarcely a face could be seen, on account of the opera glasses, and it seemed singular how so many persons who were accidentally detained downtown could have had so many optical instruments at hand.

"Those who were not provided with glasses improvised spy-glasses with their hands of programmes, and several indigent individuals in the gallery even used bootlegs for magnifying tools.

"The performance, judging from the applause bestowed and the flattering comments, must have been fine, and on another occasion the Pioneer man hopes to find a position from which to witness it."

But official Minneapolis wasn't having any such goings-on. The Tribune of February 22 explained why to its readers.

"The company of itinerant men and females who are traveling around the country and gathering in the almighty dollars on the strength of no talent and very much obscenity did exhibit in this city last evening. . . (but) were compelled to behave as decently as the performers at ordinary minstrel shows or circuses. . . . The bad odor that follows



them. . . 'smelt to heaven' while they were at St. Paul. Mayor Wilson sent an officer to the latter city to take notes. The company had 'full swing' - which isn't slang in this instance - in St. Paul, and fairly struck bottom for the male modesty or official dignity of that city and found nothing. The valiant chieftain had his modesty shocked, and reported as much to the Mayor, who immediately plunged his pen into veto ink."

According to the Tribune, it was to the Chief of Police that Mayor Wilson wrote, instructing him to forbid a Minneapolis presentation. Chief Noble, in turn, so informed the management of the Academy of Music. And the managers of the theater "came post haste. . . and humbled themselves before the Mayor," offering to "submit to any alteration in the programme."

"'Very well,' says the Mayor, '. . . officers will be established in the hall' - the entire force volunteered at once - 'and the first show of gross indecency will be the signal for the arrest of the whole company.' Pretty hard articles of agreement for managers, who know that it takes whiskey with water to make the latter palatable, and without the Can-Can their bacchanalian dance was the most insipid of frog-water. But they signed, and kept their agreement."

The performance, thus cleaned up, was, in the opinion of the Tribune reporter, neither "bad enough to be 'good,' in the acceptance of the audience, nor 'good' enough to be bad."

St. Paul had reason to find the episode more amusing than edifying. But a Minneapolis correspondent of the Pioneer spoke out firmly. "After all, Minneapolis maintains her respectability."

*Public Feminist No. 1 & No. 2  
(Susan B. Anthony) & (Elizabeth Cady Stanton)  
gives lecture in St. Paul and Mpls.*

On the evening of November 30, 1869, the rising young feminine generation of St. Paul missed some well prepared advice. That advice, had it been available, would have been given by Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the nation's Public Feminist No. 2 of the era. But the trunk containing the speech, "Our Young Girls," was carried on to Minneapolis, so Mrs. Stanton just talked on "general matters." The affair was reported in the Pioneer the next day, December 1.

"The Opera House has seldom, if ever, been filled with a more select and intelligent audience than that which assembled last evening to listen to the opening lecture of the season by Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

"This distinguished lady has acquired a world-wide reputation both for her writings and lectures, and our citizens naturally felt almost as much curiosity to see as to hear her. Mrs. Stanton's appearance disappointed many. . . Very few of them were prepared to see a person apparently so well advanced in years. She is of medium stature, has a rather pleasing and good-natured countenance, a fine large head around which her hair curls in almost snowy whiteness. Very little of that masculinity is visible with which those who know her only by reputation have invested her. On the whole, she has a soft, womanly, motherly, if you will, look about her, which at once wins the heart of her audience, producing such an effect as her easy, conversational manner of speaking by no means dispels.

"On coming before the audience, Mrs. Stanton stated that, by mistake, her trunk, which contained the lecture she was advertised to deliver, viz., 'Our Young Girls,' had been sent to Minneapolis, and she would be obliged to inflict upon her hearers a talk upon general matters. . .

"She paid a high compliment to Minnesota upon what she termed its advanced



legislation in recognizing the rights of women. One step more was needed, viz., giving women the right of suffrage. She denied the repeated argument that the majority of women did not ask the right to vote. She never saw a woman yet but who, when informed of the dignity and power of the ballot, desired to vote. It is for the best interests of the state to invest women with the ballot. . . She spoke of the unjust and selfish legislation that has been conducted by men, and claimed that the influence of women would have a tendency to purify our national affairs."

It was in February 1878 that Public Feminist No. 1 came this way. Susan B. Anthony was found by the reporters also to be past that first alluring bloom, but she could talk enough for half a dozen women half her age. The St. Paul Globe was impressed as much by the quantity of her talk as by its quality. In part, the paper said:

"A very large audience greeted Susan B. Anthony at the Opera House last night, and the listeners were well entertained. Miss Anthony is upwards of fifty years of age, and has not the attraction of beauty which goes far to entertain an audience, but she interests her hearers by her force and earnestness. She speaks with great ease and rapidity, and in her two hours' lecture must have talked at least five columns of the Globe.

"The lecture was an earnest and forceful appeal for the adoption of the sixteenth amendment to the Constitution, giving suffrage to women. She contrasted the degradation of the colored race previous to the adoption of Negro suffrage with their present condition and claimed that women could never obtain fair compensation for her labor or equality with men before the law until the ballot box was placed in her hands. It was her mission (Miss Anthony declared) to educate the women of the country up to securing this great right. Her references to both the Democratic and the Republican parties were anything but complimentary, and she expressed especial contempt for Carl Schurz."

*Notes from the Scrapbook*  
*Blue glass to cure ailments, Box elder sap*  
*for molasses etc.*

If a St. Cloud judge's dream had not come true, a St. Paul salesman would have had to make a hurried trip to the judge's office to open his safe. That was in the Seventies, the same decade that found St. Paul citizens buying up blue glass to cure their ailments, when the legislature was being asked to buy a balloon contraption for killing grasshoppers, when molasses was being made from box elder sap. These are some oddities from the newspapers of that decade:

Pioneer Press, '74: "A young man who is ambitious to become a barkeeper called yesterday at the circulating library in lower town and inquired for 'How To Mix Drinks.' The unsophisticated youth in charge searched in vain for it and finally suggested. . . 'Ten Nights In A Bar Room.'"

Pioneer Press, '75: "Triumph of Wood Pavements. - As nearly as can be judged by present appearances, the wooden pavements of St. Paul are an eminent and assured success. Certain it is that their neatness and cleanliness have at last shamed their enemies."

Dispatch, '76: "The General Passenger Agent of the Northwestern road has offered as a premium for the man and woman who plant and keep living the greatest number of trees in Lyon county a free pass from Marshall to Chicago and return."

Redwood Falls Gazette, '76: "Mr. D. Watson has shown us a sample of syrup made from the box elder, which is very clear and palatable. It is made like maple syrup. Mr. Watson says the box elder grows rapidly, and it would pay farmers to cultivate it for molasses."

Pioneer Press, '77: "C. H. Leinau, the Senator from Carver, introduced a bill in the Minnesota Legislature, offering a thousand dollars as prizes for machines or inventions for destroying grasshoppers. . . Following is a plan submitted by a



gentleman from Waterloo, Nebraska. . . 'With the aid of the state governments or the general government, or both, I propose to stretch a line of network attached to balloons, the balloons to be about one fourth of a mile apart; the balloons to be anchored, that they may be let up to any given height, the lower edge of the netting to be fastened to the ground. The balloons would be inflated in the morning. . . one inflation per day being sufficient. The 'hoppers, on striking the network, would fall to the ground, and in five hours' time I would have a mass of 'hoppers miles in length and many feet in depth.'"

Pioneer Press, '77: "Everybody is buying blue glasses to test General Pleasanton's theory about blue rays curing disease. A number of persons have put in blue glass in their windows, and a wholesale druggist stated yesterday that he had sold nearly his entire stock, so sudden has been the demand."

In '79, the St. Cloud Times related that Judge Evans of that city had gone to his office on Christmas Eve with his little daughter, had opened his safe, and then had "turned the knob of the combination lock to a certain point, as was his custom." But while the Judge's attention was diverted, "the little girl began playing with the knob, turning it around several times." As a result, the safe was locked. Moreover, the judge could not remember the combination and thought that the paper on which the figures were written was inside. Continued the Times:

"He went to bed that night, wondering how he could get the vault open and concluded that he would have to send to St. Paul for Miles, the salesman. He went to sleep and dreamed that he was in his office, that he opened a drawer in a certain desk, and there found the combination. . . Next morning, upon entering his office, he remembered his dream and, going to the drawer, he found therein the combination of the vault."

*Theater Managers used gifts to lure customers to box-office as early as the 60's*

It is no longer a novelty for the neighborhood movie house to give free china-ware to the ladies. But long before there were movies, theater managers were using gifts to lure customers to the box-office. And a present on the house in the Sixties was often something that required a dray to carry home.

In December 1868, the Pioneer announced: "Grand Opening of the Gift Soirees. Magique by the Original Fakir of Vishnu. - One hundred and fifty presents will be distributed to the audience each evening. A grand family and scholars' matinee will be given on Friday afternoon, December 25, at which every child attending will receive a present worth from ten cents to one dollar, in addition to the regular distribution of one hundred and fifty presents, the same as in the evening."

The Fakir's press agent was vigorous, the newspapers were cooperative, and St. Paul citizens were worked up to a fine pitch by the time the Pioneer reported on December 23: "The Fakir of Vishnu and troupe arrived in the city last evening, and will make their first appearance (at the Opera House) tonight. A good treat may be expected both in the performance and gifts. One hundred and fifty presents will be distributed tonight, the principal one a valuable sofa which may be seen near the Postoffice during the day. Reserved seats may be obtained at Munger's music store."

December 24: "The Opera House was crowded last night to witness the opening performance of this far-famed wizard. The various tricks were well executed, and elicited the unbounded applause of the audience. Mr. Rollin Lampher was fortunate enough to win the sofa."

December 30: "Last night was the closing night of the performance of this gentleman, and the house was well filled. There was considerable amusement amongst the audience at the distribution of prizes. Mr. Hurm won the principal one, a silver set."



From St. Paul, the Fakir went to the Pence Opera House in Minneapolis. During his engagement there, customers won, among other things, sofas, tea services, an "elegant chamber set" worth \$88, and a "hoghead partially filled with ivory."

A year later, in December 1869, Professor Martino began a St. Paul booking at Ingersoll Hall. His gifts were even more imposing than those of the Fakir. Said the Pioneer on December 10:

"We have never seen Ingersoll Hall crowded to that extent as it was last evening, to witness the opening performance of the great magician, Professor Martino, and we may add that we never saw an audience more highly pleased and delighted. This celebrated illusionist and ventriloquist occupies justly the highest position in the line of his profession. From 7 o'clock in the evening until 10, he delighted, amused and amazed his large audience with specimens of skill, many of which were truly wonderful and all of which were superior to any we have ever witnessed in this city. . .

"At the close of the performance came the distribution of prizes among the lucky holders of numbered tickets. The presents were numerous and all of them were useful and many of them valuable. The principal prize, a splendid parlour lounge, was drawn by Samuel Peterson, residing on Temperance street. Our lucky young friend, Charley McIntyre, drew a portable sawmill and is ready to take orders this morning. . . The principal prize tonight is a magnificent black walnut dressing bureau."

The week before, Professor Martino had played Minneapolis. Among the gifts won by Mill Citians, the following were listed by the Minneapolis Tribune: a dressing case, a bedroom set, a watch, a \$20 gold piece, a rocking chair, a camp stool, a lamp, a tub, a sack of flour and a dressed sheep.

*Food for the Army Today  
& Yesterday.*

Experience is a great teacher, and Uncle Sam has been learning through the years the truth of what Napoleon said about an army and its stomach. In the present defense emergency, Washington insists that the army is setting, and will continue to set, a table as good as mother's. That was not always the case in the past. For a long time, army eatables have been discussed in Minnesota newspapers.

In 1851, Fort Snelling soldiers could raise their own green stuff, if they chose. The Pioneer, that year: "By direction of the War Department, we learn that the soldiers at Fort Snelling are indulged in the privilege of farming upon a garrison farm, and each soldier receives half the crop or its equivalent."

Ten years later, there was a complaint about fort food. The Pioneer, in '61, quoted a communication from W. B. Leach, Adjutant, to Eustis & Lamb, provisioners: "The men under my command have made, and still continue to make, frequent and grievous complaints that the food furnished by you is of an inferior quality and not properly served to them. This can in no manner be tolerated by me, and if further complaints of a like nature are made to me, your contract will be revoked by a court of inquiry."

A busy baker in St. Paul found a silver lining to the Indian war clouds of 1862. Said the St. Paul Press, that year: "Mr. William Gies, baker of lower town, has a contract for ever so many thousand pounds of hard bread for the supply of the soldiers who have gone to fight the Indians. He is turning it out very rapidly, running his ovens night and day."

The Spanish war was marked by a food scandal that, for a while, occupied almost as much space in the dailies as did the war itself. Public indignation was reflected in a minor item printed in the Pioneer Press on July 9, 1898: "Capt. A. O. Powell's company of engineers was sent on its way to Fort Sheridan last night well fed. . . at



the farewell supper given to the troops by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Commercial Club. . . . The attentions were directed toward providing those things that would best appeal to a soldier's appetite." And the headline was: "Their Last Square Meal!"

The army food scandal of 1898 had many and allegedly sinister ramifications, which finally led the Pioneer Press, on August 21, to comment editorially on the situation:

"Fix The Responsibility. - It is so easy to become the victim of unfounded or exaggerated charges against particular individuals when matters go wrong, that the abuse that has been heaped upon Secretary Alger has not been echoed in these columns. There is no intention to depart from that rule, either to join in the attack or the defense. It is, however, a fact that, as head of the War Department, General Alger has been for some weeks the subject of almost daily assaults in the columns of the press of the country.

"If the animus of these assaults could be considered merely partisan or personal, they would be unworthy of any attention. But, including as they do some of the fairest and most conservative papers, without regard for political affiliation, the matter is serious enough to warrant consideration.

"Secretary Alger may or may not be guilty of prostituting his power of appointment. . . to his own political ends. . . All that is actually known is that there was a general breakdown and a series of egregious blunders for which someone or something is responsible. . . But whatever the cause, it should be located and corrected. And that speedily, so that those who remain under arms may no longer be compelled to put up with unnecessary discomforts or to contend against possible dangers.

"If Secretary Alger is not responsible, he can easily clear his skirts by demanding an investigation or, better still, by reorganizing the bureaus complained of."

*Minnesota has in its time been a geographer's nightmare and still is a headache to a map-maker.*

The swift territorial changes of today are a headache to map-makers. What is now Minnesota has also in its time been a geographer's nightmare. Senator James G. Blaine, speaking at the Minnesota state fair in 1878, outlined the history of Minnesota's jurisdictional changes. As reported by a Mill City paper, Blaine said, in part:

"Viewed historically, that which now constitutes the state of Minnesota has had as many and as rapid changes in its sovereignty as an disputed territory in Europe, fought over by armed hosts set in motion by the ambition of kings or the jealousies of rival races of men.

"This fair land was under the dominion of France during the reigns of Louis XIV and his great-grandson - had Iberville who led the French colony to Louisiana for its first governor, and Bienville who founded New Orleans for its second; was pawned by the regent Orleans. . . and with other territory. . . became the shadowy foundation in Paris a hundred and sixty years ago of a far greater monetary credit than it could have today in the same financial market with all its improvements and its great intrinsic value.

"Again, it came under the dominion in part of George III of England, who was compelled to yield his right to your soil by the treaty of 1783 and to withdraw the last redcoat by the treaty of 1795.

"For thirty-seven years, all on the west side of your dividing river was attached to the Crown of Spain during the reigns of the third and fourth Charles, and given up by the latter in the year 1800 to France, when for a period of three brief years the larger half of Minnesota had Napoleon Bonaparte for its sovereign ruler. The First Consul always did business on the basis of hard cash, and he transferred the French possessions in America to the United States for fifteen million dollars. . .

"But these changes of European sovereignty over the soil of Minnesota are not



more striking or strange than the rapid transformations of its government since it came under the sovereignty of the United States. It comes to us as forgotten history, when we recall that the eastern half of your state was claimed during the Revolutionary struggle as part of Virginia by no less a governor than Thomas Jefferson; when as part of the Northwest Territory, the gallant but unfortunate Arthur St. Clair was its chief executive; when as part of Indiana, William Henry Harrison, frontiersman, soldier, statesman, was made its governor at the age of twenty-seven years; when as part of Illinois, the large-framed and large-hearted Ninian Edwards ruled over it, appointed thereto by Madison at the personal request of a 'young Senator named Clay'. . .; when as part of the Michigan territory, Gen. Lewis was its efficient, honorable and careful executive; when as part of Wisconsin, the chivalrous and courageous Henry Dodge was its popular governor. . .

"The section of your state west of the Mississippi. . . when sold to the national government by Napoleon. . . became part of the organized territory of Louisiana, changed very soon to Missouri. . . Afterwards, Minnesota formed a part of the magnificent and rapidly growing territory of Iowa, which so soon took on the stature of a full-grown, vigorous commonwealth.

"Iowa and Wisconsin having been admitted as states, their territorial remainders naturally formed one government, and so in 1849 the territory was organized. And then for the first time since our government acquired Louisiana from France, with the exception of a brief period under the old territorial organization of Michigan and as equally brief a one under that of Wisconsin, Minnesota on both sides of the river was organized under the same government. . ."

*Dan Emmett composer of "Dixie"*

"Dixie" is no longer a strictly southern musical property, but has long since become one of the thrilling tunes that belong to the whole nation - which calls up the fact that an anniversary has gone by, unnoticed and practically unknown. On June 28, 1904, death came to the composer of "Dixie." That composer was, in a way, one of St. Paul's adopted sons.

Dan Emmett was one of the earliest blackface minstrels, organized the first traveling minstrel troupe in the United States in 1843, and introduced American minstrelsy to Europe. Written originally for one of his shows, the "Dixie" manuscript, it is said, was submitted by Emmett to a St. Paul music publisher for criticism. The publisher, agreeing with posterity, said it was good. But neither the song nor the composer measured up to the standards of Lafayette Emmett, onetime chief justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, for chief justice Lafayette was a brother of minstrel Dan. The Minnesota Republican, in 1858, assured its readers that Dan and his troupe were "uniformly not only charming and accomplished singers but real gentlemen in all their deportment." However, the chief justice may well have shared the general prejudice of society's pillars against such performers, for the story is told that, in order to dissociate himself from Dan, Lafayette sheared the final t from his family name.

A brother's displeasure was not the only difficulty with which Dan Emmett had to contend. There were also the Minnesota lumberjacks. During the 1858 engagement of his Melodeon Minstrels in St. Paul and Minneapolis, Emmett had an encounter with the brawny "Red Shirts." It happened in Minneapolis, and the Gazette told the story on July 6.

"On Friday evening last, while Emmett and Lombard's troupe of minstrels were going through with their performance at Woodman's Hall, a body of lumbermen. . . hailing from St. Anthony, came to the door of the hall and asked for free admittance; the ticket seller



would not comply with their request. Upon the ticket seller refusing to allow them to pass free, they became highly excited and swore that they would go in, anyhow. They made a rush and succeeded in forcing their way past the ticket seller and Constable Bergman, who stood nearby, and rushed upstairs. Word had previously been sent upstairs of an anticipated difficulty, and the doors were closed and fastened to prevent the entrance of the mob. The lumbermen were foiled. They endeavored to force the door, but did not succeed. In the meantime, the citizens in attendance at the concert, upon hearing the noise and divining the cause, made preparations to resist the entrance of the outsiders by arming themselves with clubs; but fortunately, their use was not required.

"The mob, hearing the preparations for resistance, probably thought discretion the better part of valor and concluded to leave, which they did. The concert was then proceeded with."

A few days later, Dan Emmett was "home again" in St. Paul. His front page advertisement in the Pioneer & Democrat proclaimed:

"Melodeon, formerly Irvine's Hall. Messrs. Daniel Emmett and Frank Lombard, proprietors. . . Home again for Three Nights! Max Irwin, the colored and eccentric Brothers Bones and Tambo, and all of the Old Favorite Troupe! . . . Negro songs, dances, jokes, and burlesque afterpieces. . .

"Admission to front seats, 50 cents; seats in the rear, 25 cents. Doors open at a quarter to 8 o'clock; curtain rises at eight and a half o'clock.

"Good order preserved, and no improper characters admitted."

*New buildings well publicized  
in early days. (Clarendon Hotel)*

When St. Paul was getting into its stride as a city, every sizeable new building that sprang up was hailed by the press. In 1876, the Dispatch greeted two, among others, that may have a part in the memories of older citizens.

One of these was announced in the issue of May 1, as follows:

"A SPLENDID BLOCK. CAPTAIN GEORGE BENZ'S NEW STORES AND DWELLINGS. - Among the many capitalists of this city who have put their money into permanent investments calculated to add to its material wealth, it is only justice to mention the name of Mr. George Benz, one of our pioneer merchants and most popular citizens. Mr. Benz, with a business eye to the future of St. Paul, has erected a magnificent brick block of three stories on the corner of Market and Fifth streets, directly fronting Rice Park. The first floor is divided into three stores, which are being fitted up in first-class style and are admirably suited either for dry goods or grocery establishments. . .

"The whole upper portion of the block is fitted up for family residences, to which it is admirably adapted. All the modern improvements have been introduced, water, bathrooms, &c., and, to sum up, all the rents have been fixed at such a figure as to be within the reach of men of moderate means. Taking all this into account, with the central position of the building, it offers advantages for working men and storekeepers which cannot be excelled in this city."

The other took its newspaper bow on May 9, under the heading, "THE CLARENDON."

"Lewis' block, corner of Wabashaw and Sixth streets, which has for some time past been undergoing extensive alterations, was yesterday opened as a hotel. It would perhaps be difficult to find a location better adapted in every respect for a first-class hotel than that occupied by Lewis' block, situated as it is contiguous to the public buildings - custom house and post office, the courts of law, city and county, and the capitol. Its position, too, is particularly conducive to healthiness, for its



elevation and peculiar construction give the building, as far as fresh air, light and extensive views are concerned, every advantage of perfect isolation - the prospect from every window, especially on the third floor, is broad, distant and picturesque.

"The entrances to the hotel are both on Wabashaw street - that for ladies by a private door and a wide, handsomely carpeted staircase leading to the second floor, while the general entrance is through the office on the first floor, from which open the reading room, handsomely carpeted and furnished with substantial and comfortable library chairs and ample desk accommodation; the dining hall fitted up with ten solid black walnut dining tables, each accommodating ten guests; the buffet, sideboard or carving room; the cloak and trunk room; lavatory, etc.

"In the basement are situated the culinary and laundry apartments. On the second floor, reached from the office by a wide sweeping staircase, are situated the ladies' parlors and reception rooms, and some twenty apartments en suite and single, all elegantly furnished in black walnut and richly carpeted. On the third floor, the rooms are similarly furnished to those on the second, and on each of these floors is a bathroom supplied with hot and cold water. . .

"In selecting a name, the proprietor could not have hit upon a happier idea than the Clarendon. It has always been a favorite with first-class hotels, both in this country and in England. . .

"At the opening yesterday, some seventy guests sat down to a most substantial and well served dinner, the proprietor priding himself more upon the wholesomeness of his viands and excellence of his cookery. . . than in the multiplication of unpronounceable and unsatisfying, dyspepsia-creating dishes of other establishments. He wishes the Clarendon to be a home to its guests - elegant, well appointed, almost luxurious, yet a home."

*St. Paul City Parks*

During the recent hot spell, St. Paul citizens appreciated their parks and had reason to be glad that the city has for so long been park-minded. Back in 1883, a Minneapolis paper described at length park improvements in the capital.

"Another park will be added to St. Paul's breathing places. It is the whole of Block 9 in Kittson's addition, bounded by Ninth, Tenth, Locust and Willius streets, and fronting north on the intersection of Lafayette avenue and Grove street. The price of the block is about \$30,000, of which the city pays one half, the remainder to be raised by subscription. Of this, \$12,000 has been subscribed, and the rest must, of course, be easily raised. This block has already been used for a private picnic ground and has on it numerous trees in good condition, so that it will be a matter of less expense to render it fit for public use than some of the other new parks. It will, however, be embellished with flower beds, lawns and fine walks, and a fine statuary fountain. . . This addition will be christened Lafayette Park.

"Rice Park, opposite the City Hall, which was repaired last year, will have new embellishments this. The display of flowers in beds and vases will be increased three or fourfold. Of the vases there will be four, large in size and tasty in design. The figure of a boy and swan has already been placed on the fountain and forms a pleasing ornament. The 60-foot mast for electric lights is in position, ready to be raised. It will support four lamps, which with the four at the park corners will well light the surrounding streets. Another ornament of this park will be a fine specimen of a petrified stump. . .

"In Irving Park, the walks are being widened to 25 feet and will be graveled, and the land is being filled in so as to make a slight elevation in the center. . . A new and ornamental flight of steps will take the place of the present approach from the



south side. . .

"In Summit Park, the work of tearing down the old buildings and removing the trees and shrubbery is being pushed rapidly; new paths are being laid out, and new trees will be set. A vase 10 feet high, costing \$400, will be erected in the center of the square. The park will be enclosed by no fence, and between the sidewalk and the roadway of the street, separated from it by a heavy stone curb, will be a lawn set with trees, which will add much to the extent and appearance of the square.

"It is possible that the square left by Wm. Dawson in West St. Paul will be improved this year.

"Not much will be done in Come Park beyond setting out trees. The committee desires to establish a greenhouse in that neighborhood, the work on which can be done by inmates of the work-house. . .

"When the city was laid out, numerous small triangles were left at the intersections of three streets, which the committee are trying to secure and on which can be placed seats and fountains, with, perhaps, vases and beds of flowers. One of these is at the corner of Mississippi and Broadway. The committee has already obtained this for a park, and will place in its center a fine fountain with eight parts from which water will flow into convenient basins for watering horses. The crown of the fountain will be an iron statue, 'The Bad Boot,' which represents a boy with one foot bare, holding aloft an old boot, from the gaping toe of which a stream of water issues. . .

"The committee. . . gapes enviously at the river bluff in front of Mr. P. H. Kelly's residence on Dayton's bluff. If this could be secured, it would keep for the public one of the finest views in the city. . ."

*Street lights not lit because  
of rain 1875*

The streets might be dark, but what was the municipal lamplighter to do when he could not strike a match on his rain-soaked pants? The problem was discussed by the Pioneer Press in the fall of '75.

"There has been more or less said about gas for some days past and the fact that the street lamps were not lighted, and Superintendent Rollins explained that it was because of the rain, you know - the lamplighter scratches his matches on the behind leg of his pantaloons, and when that behind pantaloons leg got wet he couldn't scratch matches anymore, and had to go home. That was bad enough, but it was a great deal worse last evening, for the whole city was in darkness. About the time people wanted to light up, there was no gas in town, and they were left to suspect that the behind leg of those pantaloons had been ground up at the gas works and shot into the mains.

"It was amusing to see everybody rush out after candles and candlesticks, expressing their liberal league opinion of gas, anyhow! One young man was on the streets with a lighted candle looking for Superintendent Rollins, but couldn't find him. About the time that all hands had squandered their money in providing themselves with candles, the gas came. It winked and blinked for a few moments and then burned respectably, and although we have heard no explanation of the affair, we are fully convinced that the behind leg of the lamplighter's pantaloons was at the bottom of all the trouble.

"P.S. - Parties who were forced to invest in candles. . . will be pleased to know that their candles and candlesticks will be redeemed by Superintendent Rollins upon presentation at the gas company's office this morning. Ten percent premium if not presented until after dinner. Could anything be more fair and honorable?"

Apparently, there was nothing the police could do about all this. Anyway, there were plenty of other community tasks to keep the force busy. In 1878, the St. Paul



Globe said:

"Apropos of cutting down the wages of policemen, a few statistics of some of the services of the force may not be out of place. During the year 1877, the police discovered no less than 139 store doors carelessly left unlocked, which were guarded until the owners were notified and probable thievery averted. This work has necessitated the performance of extended pedestrianism to all parts of the city, rain or shine, over and above the customary beat-walking.

"In the same period, 38 fires were extinguished by the officers, without calling out or alarming the fire department.

"Within the same time, 68 children were restored to their homes by the police.

. . .

"Now, all these incalculable services are 'unhonored and unsung,' the report of their accomplishment never attracting public attention, as, excepting in a very few isolated cases, they never find their way into the columns of the press.

"The work, however, has steadily, silently, effectively progressed, the memoranda at police headquarters, seldom pried into even by curious eyes, bearing the only record of the performance, which is none the less meritorious because of the quietude attending it."

*Ice boat arrived at  
St Paul 1877*

The calm of the Sabbath in St. Paul was broken and religious services interrupted by "shrill and oft repeated whistles." Crowds hastened down to the river landing. And no wonder. For that 1877 ice boat was something to see. The Pioneer Press reported the event on February 6, calling it "A Big Thing On Ice."

"On Sunday afternoon," the paper said, "when most of our people were engaged in religious services and feeling correspondingly solemn, they were startled by shrill and oft repeated whistles that did not indicate either a fire alarm or the arrival of the 'first boat.'"

"Pretty soon a sagacious individual said, 'Here comes the ice boat,' and sure enough, upon repairing to the elevator dock, the said boat, about which so much has been said, came clawing along the river at the rate of seven miles an hour. The boat was full of people, and Jim Rhodes roosted on the safety-valve, having found no other seat for his anatomy.

"The otherwise quiet city was suddenly full of life, and soon the elevator dock and the ice adjoining were black with people who wished to see the real 'St. Croix Grasshopper.' Mr. Mower, the proprietor, did not ride in the cab (no free ticket) but preferred a team, but his face beamed with satisfaction when he saw the craft safely moored at the landing.

"The boat will lie here a day or two in order to make some necessary changes in the machinery; the engines are too small to drive the wheels, and the latter have to be changed from a fixed to a movable basis to accommodate the boat to different depths of snow. The 'palace car' attached to the motive power sled is not all that could be desired, as its equipments are not palatial by any means. Pine sides, tamarack fittings and a general uncertainty of passengers as to how soon they would break through the ice and go to the bottom completes the make up. It is evident that the concern needs



numerous improvements, for as it now is, in case the forward part (the heaviest) breaks through the ice, the whole outfit will surely go to the bottom to hunt for pickerel and another air hole."

A month earlier, the Pioneer Press looked into another matter of local interest. It suspected that St. Paul was on the way to becoming the "smoke capital" of the country and reported its findings on January 23.

"The general government, a few weeks ago, found it necessary to appoint an inspector of cigars and tobacco at St. Paul, to take charge of that branch of the trade which looks to exports to Manitoba and other foreign countries. The shipments of cigars to Manitoba from St. Paul are growing larger every year, and the trade promises to develop into large proportions.

"As a matter of curiosity, the reporter of the Pioneer Press yesterday looked over the books of Revenue Collector Bickel, of the second district, where he discovered that the receipts from cigar stamps for 1876 amounted to nearly \$30,000, which covered the manufacture of four millions, two hundred and thirty thousand cigars. A further glance at the books of the collector showed that of this number about three-fourths were manufactured in the city of St. Paul alone, leaving only a fraction over a million to be manufactured in Red Wing, Hastings, Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Stillwater and all the rest of the cities and towns of the district. Over thirty persons and firms in St. Paul are engaged more or less extensively in twisting tobacco leaves into cigars."

*St. Paul joins hands with  
Winnipeg.*

It was a long way from St. Paul to Winnipeg, and complicated puzzles had to be solved before a railroad connected the two cities. The final linking of Minnesota with its Canadian neighbor was a significant event, anticipated by the St. Paul Globe in an article published on April 1, 1878 - "ST. PAUL TO JOIN HANDS WITH WINNIPEG. And Also To Clasp Alexandria And Intermediate Points In Fond Embrace."

"Soon after the adjournment of the Legislature, Messrs. N. W. Kittson, J. J. Hill, Edmund Rice and R. B. Galusha left for the east upon business connected with the construction of the extension lines of the St. Paul & Pacific road. These gentlemen returned yesterday morning, having visited New York, Washington, Montreal and other points and conferred with the Canadian parties interested in the St. Paul & Pacific enterprise.

"While the legislation which was sought for by the new owners of the St. Paul & Pacific was pending, there were plenty to say that no matter what laws were enacted there would be no immediate railroad building. In common with all other citizens, these croakers will be glad to learn from the Globe that they were mistaken. A Globe reporter interviewed Mr. Hill yesterday afternoon and learned that the result of the trip of himself and associates was highly favorable, and that work on the line from Melrose to Alexandria, and from Crookston to St. Vincent will be commenced at once and pressed to an early completion.

"It is expected that the cars will be running from St. Paul to St. Vincent by October. By the same ~~time~~, the Canada Pacific will be built from Winnipeg to the boundary line, and all rail communications will thus be established between St. Paul and Manitoba. This will be a great event for both Minnesota and the British possessions. It links the two countries together and allies their interests still more closely."



In the same issue, the Globe paid its respects to the Northern Pacific.

"Noticing the immense crowds daily congregating in the office of the Northern Pacific land department in this city, a representative of the Globe was induced to make inquiry of the cause thereof with the view of laying before its many readers a brief account of the business of the department, and also an idea of the amount of immigration now finding its way to the fertile prairies along the line of the road. . .

"After a brief investigation, it was ascertained that during the months of January and February last passed the company's land sales amounted to 55,376 acres. These months, however, hardly afford a fair idea of the immense amount of business transacted in this line, as there is generally very little being done in the winter months in comparison with the spring and summer. For the present month (March), the books have not been written up, but the sales, it is safe to say, will fully equal those of the past months.

"But the most encouraging feature. . . and that which promises so much for the future interest of the road is the number of persons making purchases of land and thereby becoming interested in the welfare and property of that section of the country and of the road. But few sales are made in large tracts, the greater portion of the sales being in lots of 640 acres and less, and, as a rule, to parties who will at once settle upon and improve their purchases.

"The immigration to these lands is already assuming the appearance of a rush . . . and early as it yet is in the season, over a thousand people have passed through the St. Paul office for different points on the line. . . Most of the people are newcomers. . . and they all report that 'there are lots of people from where we come that will be here as soon as the spring fairly opens, and we want to get in before the crowd.'"

*Things the Streets of St. Paul  
have seen in their time*

The streets of St. Paul have seen in their time many things, some important, some merely curious or amusing. But even trivial items, reported in the daily routine of the city press, were often signs of the period in which they occurred. A few samples from the early newspaper annals:

Minnesota Pioneer, 1850: "Why do not our city 'fathers,' the President and the Council of the Town of St. Paul take some means to abate the nuisance of the firing of guns in the street? It is very annoying to the citizens, especially on Sunday."

Minnesotian, 1857: "Pembina-ans. - The odd looking chariots of these long-haired, tawny, nondescript sons of the North still travel through our streets, the usual propelling power being an ox in gears or a shaggy pony. St. Paul is a singular place. Alongside the elegant and luxurious, silent running coach from Troy or Albany creaks and rocks the ironless, unpainted Pembina cart. Extremes meet. Ignorance and refinement, rudeness and elegance."

Minnesotian, 1858: "We saw on Saturday, passing through our streets, a ~~chaudy~~ <sup>cade</sup> of sturdy agricultural emigrants, with all their plunder and implements. First came a wagon of heavy freight, drawn by four yoke of oxen, and from the end of the wagon protruding the long beam of a breaking plow. Following this were several cows and calves and two sheep; then another wagon, drawn by two horses, containing household articles and a coop of poultry tied on the rack. The rear was brought up by several horses and colts, driven by a pedestrian, at whose heels trotted two patient canines. We'll bet on that crowd - they are the right kind of stuff."

St. Paul Press, 1861: "We saw a Sioux Indian in the street yesterday, offering for sale the scalp of a Chippewa. It was purchased by a gentleman from New York for \$3."



Pioneer & Democrat, 1862: "We noticed several bright-eyed youths yesterday, sadly disfigured by spectacles and goggles, and also quite a number who hobbled along with canes in their hands. Come, boys, it's useless to play those old dodges. Spectacles, goggles and, we may add, trusses are played out about this time, and you can't humbug the inspecting surgeon (for the Union army draft). Toe the mark like men, or disguise yourselves with crinoline at once."

St. Paul Press, 1865: "A few miserable fellows are working out their sentences in the chain gang, and were yesterday employed on the streets under the charge of a policeman. It is a sad and humiliating spectacle, this thing of chaining and driving human beings, and it were to be wished a more rational and elevating means could be devised for straightening the crooked ways of erring mortals."

St. Paul Press, 1870: "Day before yesterday, a handsome and fashionably dressed young lady promenaded down Third street. She wore one of those beautiful silk ornaments over her dress called panniers, bustles or something of the sort, and to give the protuberance due prominence, a few copies of a daily newspaper had been brought into requisition, the papers being placed under the pannier and held in position by a string around the waist of the lady. Now the wind, every now and then, very ungallantly raised the silk pannier sufficiently high to expose the newspapers, so that any one in the rear of the fair promenader could very readily read the latest news upon this novel and interesting bulletin board. This plan of furnishing news may be considered convenient by some, but it is to be hoped the ladies in general will not adopt the custom."

*German Society contributes  
to St. Paul.*

Out of many peoples, one people; out of many cultures, one culture - that is the miracle and the strength of America. Minnesota has had its full share in this creation, and St. Paul, among Minnesota communities, has been a notable melting-pot. The Germans, for instance, have made a large contribution to the development and character of the city.

Thirteen years after its founding, in 1854, St. Paul possessed an incorporated German Reading Society, whose object, according to the Pioneer & Democrat, was "the establishment of a library, the opening of a reading room, and the promotion of education among its members, with social pleasures of an intellectual character, of which music and the drama are considered important adjuncts." On August 1, 1859, the Minnesotian announced the "raising of the frame" of the Society's hall at the corner of Pine and Exchange streets. The building was, the papers said, "the best in the city for lectures, concerts, or dancing parties, or for any public assemblages."

During the years that followed, the German Society's hall appeared frequently in St. Paul news columns. On November 10, 1859, citizens of all nationalities gathered there to honor the poet Schiller. On April 23, 1861, a meeting of another sort was reported by the Daily Press. "The lower floors and the galleries were packed with one dense mass, and when the American flag was unfurled by Mr. Mainzer, the applause and cheers were such as shook the building from foundation to turret stone. . . . The committee on resolutions. . . reported a set of strong resolves, the spirit of which was that the Germans of St. Paul will sustain the Union, the Constitution, and the enforcement of the laws in every state of the Union."

In the American Centennial year, 1876, the German Society dedicated its new Athenaeum building. The Dispatch headlined the event in its issue of September 5.



"The audience at the Athenaeum last night was simply immense, every part of the capacious building being crowded. . . and a magnificent sight did the new Athenaeum present, with its delicately tinted and artistically frescoed walls, enclosing a sea of beautiful faces and billows of gay costumes. Notwithstanding the great concourse of people, the house was delightfully cool during the entire evening, proving that the ventilation has been a matter of judicious care; while the progress of the performance showed to a demonstration the unusual excellence of its acoustic properties. . .

"The great audience last evening was from the first in excellent humor. . . The major part of the immense concourse consisted of German citizens, their wives and daughters, who all seemed proud, as they well might be, of their splendid temple of Apollo and Terpsichore, and the Centennial Inauguration entertainment was well worthy of the building, and the German societies have every reason to be proud of that, too.

"The programme was opened by Seibert's full orchestra, who from the stage played with characteristic exactness a grand festal march (from) Faust, after which the president of the German Society, Mr. Meyerding, read the inaugural address, giving a succinct history of the Athenaeum and urging the people to support the society in the future as they have done in the past. . .

"At the conclusion of the concert, the hall was rapidly cleared and preparations were made for the ball, and it was not till now, as the couples promenaded the splendid floor, that an adequate idea of the number, beauty and elegance of the fairer half of the audience could be obtained. Vast as the floor is, not more than one third could waltz at the time. The music for the ball programme was unusually fine, and performed by a full orchestra of some eighteen pieces. A more brilliant or enjoyable ball was never given in this city.

"Of course, comforts for the inner man were not neglected, and the excellent kitchen of the Athenaeum bountifully provided the delicacies of the season."

*Growth of St. Paul in the 50's*

Not all of the passengers who came upriver to St. Paul in its first years could visualize the future of the young city. One traveler, noticed by the Pioneer in 1851, "refused to go ashore at all, saying that he could see enough from the boat to satisfy him that St. Paul was not even half as much of a town as St. Louis."

Four years later, he might have been more interested, for, on April 28, 1855, the Pioneer reported: "There were six boats at the levee yesterday, and it was covered with goods and people and carriages, &c., in most admired confusion during the entire day. We took a look at the heterogeneous pile and noted down the following in a minute or so: - a small mountain of chairs, any quantity of furniture of all kinds, steam engines, baggage, pile upon pile; and their owners, men and women and children waiting for an opportunity to remove it and go still further into the heart of the North-West; wagons and horses, fine carriages, glass-ware and crockery, Shanghai chickens and pianos, iron in sheets, bars and wire, stoves, dry goods, liquors, young trees, flour, coffee, salt, soap, shovels, groceries, etc., etc., etc., and this is but a tithe of the list."

The gentlemen from downriver did not care to go ashore. But plenty of other folks had. And putting their homes and their town in order bit by bit, they got along all right.

They tried to keep the streets tidy. Chronicle & Register, December 22, 1849: "It is uncharitable to turn out the juvenile swine of our town this cold, frozen weather to shift for themselves. Yet many of our citizens are guilty of this charge, and their neighbors are compelled to suffer the annoyance of the swinish multitude eating and sleeping about their doors."

They built a school. Pioneer, March 6, 1850: "There was a (sewing) society



called the St. Paul Circle of Industry organized in the winter of 1848, composed of Miss Bishop, Miss Jackson, Mrs. Bass, Miss Harriet Patch and Mrs. Irvine, from the proceeds of whose labor the first school house in St. Paul was in part built."

They took the first steps toward a water department. Pioneer, July 5, 1849: "Within the present week, the citizens of St. Paul have erected in the lower square a pump. Of course, nothing could be more desirable, or to the city more appropriate."

Sometimes meat was scarce. Pioneer, April 25, 1850: "Yellow-feet ducks are coming in plenty, at twenty cents a pair. There is just now no other fresh meat in market." But they had an ice-house. Pioneer, January 2, 1850: "Mr. Dayton, proprietor of the upper warehouse, is excavating an extensive ice-house in the bluff below St. Paul. The rock in which the excavation is made is a kind of sandstone, which will serve as a natural refrigerator." They had an iceman. Pioneer, June 13, 1850: "We are pleased to see that ice is taken around over the town for sale, regularly every morning. Ice is not merely a luxury, it is an indispensable comfort in hot weather. To preserve it through the day, if you have no refrigerator, place it in a barrel of sawdust." And they had something good to put on ice. Pioneer, August 15, 1850: "Watermelons are plenty in St. Paul, at from twenty to forty cents apiece."

There was little demand for undertakers, though the Chronicle & Register did, on April 27, 1850, admit grudgingly the death of three citizens within a period of eleven months, "one from delirium tremens and the other two from consumption."

But there were weddings, and the printers kept an eye on newlyweds. Chronicle & Register, January 5, 1850: "With the latter (a list of wedding announcements) come some of the 'Wedding fixins,' for which the printer is always thankful. No married couple ever prospered if they forgot the printer in the excitement of their hilarities. This is a historical fact."

*Championship Croquet match  
played at White Bear 1878*

"Presbyterian Billards" was what the St. Paul Globe called a championship croquet match in 1878. The event was reported on August 9, as follows: "The lawn in front of the Williams house at White Bear Lake was the scene of an exciting contest between two scientific croquet players yesterday. The match has been on the tapis for some days and much interest was manifested in it by lovers of the game. At 9 a.m., the ground was marked off by a cord stretched tightly on four pegs and the wickets were placed in position, being arranged in a decidedly novel way so as to make the game far more difficult.

"The players banked for choice of shot, and it fell to the lot of the Florida champion to lead off. The heat during the morning was intense, and the players hung their handkerchiefs up to dry and sent for a fresh supply and nearly exhausted mine host Williams' supply of lemons. At dinner time, the game stood two games and nine wickets in favor of Florida, and the New York backers looked doleful. After dinner, however, the New York champion braced up and in the first game scored an easy victory, making nine wickets more than his adversary. He also won the second, and, the games now being tied, the excitement grew intense. The last game was hotly contested, first one and then the other being ahead, and toward the close the players were still more stirred to mighty deeds by the fact that a prepossessing young lady stood with a beautiful buttonhole bouquet in her hand, ready to award it to the victor.

"The game was finally won by the New Yorker and the flower pinned on his coat by fair hands. He declares he will preserve the flowers in wax in memory of the donor and a jolly day's sport at White Bear Lake."

Rivalry, considerably less jolly, marked the beginning of the St. Paul - Minneapolis sporting contests. In 1878, the St. Paul Globe suggested that intercity



baseball matches might be "attractive and remunerative." The paper said: "A strong amateur baseball club is about to be organized in St. Paul. And why not? There is abundant material in the city for a club, which, with the practice that could be had without any interference with business, would be able to make it lively for the best clubs in the country. There are George Allen, Ahern, McKibbin, Frost, the Berkman, Scotty and many others. To make such a move successful, Minneapolis ought to go and do likewise. Like St. Paul, that city has plenty of good material. Both cities have good grounds, and with such clubs as might be organized, a series of games might be played, alternating between the two cities, that would prove attractive and remunerative and would undoubtedly result in visits by some of the best clubs in the country."

Perhaps the Globe had forgotten what the Minneapolis Tribune said four years before. "A game of baseball was played in St. Paul yesterday between the White Shirts of this city and the Unions of St. Paul. On the Fourth of July, the latter club was beaten and this was a return game. . . . The usual hostile feeling towards anything from Minneapolis was exhibited, for any time that the White Shirts tried to catch a ball, the crowd would yell in order to disconcert the player."

In 1878 also, the Globe supported St. Paul's gunners. "The St. Paul Sportsmen's Club returned from Stillwater last evening in glee at having won the state badge from foemen worthy of their steel, after the finest and closest pigeon shooting match the state has ever witnessed. Now that they have obtained the badge, the members of the club unitedly declare it shall stick. It may be added that the guns manufactured by Kennedy Brothers of this city were acknowledged to take the lead in shooting qualities."

But the next year, when St. Paul and Minneapolis met on the range, there was trouble. Again the Tribune protested. "One of the crack gun clubs of St. Paul attribute their defeat to shells being tampered with, and set up a howl in accordance. The story would have been different if the Minneapolis club had been defeated."

*An allusion to the Social  
evil*

It is a problem as old as the oldest human community, and, as in all growing American cities, it came up in St. Paul for public debate. A "Letter to the Editor" by a St. Paul citizen in the summer of 1885 reveals the temper of the discussion.

"An allusion to the social evil, which appeared in Mr. Rice's message published a few days ago, recalls the fact that the mayor of St. Paul is an advocate of the regulation system - a scheme substantially the same as that which a few years ago was smuggled through the English parliament as the contagious diseases acts and which, under various specious coverings, has made its appearance, although without success, in several of our state legislatures.

"The lowering of the standard of manhood which this system bespeaks, the degrading example which its advocacy places before our boys, the humiliating conclusions which its maintenance involves, and the insult to women which it offers, constitute my apology for dealing with a subject so distasteful.

"Mayor Rice says that in many localities the social evil 'has been licensed and wisely placed under medical and police supervision,' and that in some of these cities 'large revenues have been derived to the public from this source.'

"In this, Mayor Rice is not altogether wrong, for we find that in Greece, under Solon, women were purchased with the public money for the purposes of prostitution, and that the amount obtained thereby was considered a legitimate source of revenue to the State and was used to build temples for public worship. We had hoped, however, that the laws of Solon had been outgrown; but by the light furnished us by the advocates of this system, we are enabled to perceive our mistake.

"The regulation system, which Mayor Rice advocates, recognizes the principle



that inherent in the masculine nature exists a necessity for prostitution and seeks to provide for such necessity by legalizing a convenient, secret and safe means for the gratification of the animal instincts in man, while women of the same class are subjected to publicity and to outrages too indecent to mention that dissolute men may be shielded from the legitimate consequences of their own evil deeds.

"If the proposition be true, that such a necessity really exists in the nature of man, then the logical conclusion is that a sufficient number of women to meet this natural demand must be jostled into the ranks of prostitution, and, although at the present time women may not be actually bought and sold for the purposes named as they were in ancient Greece, so long as men control most of the wealth and manage all the conditions by which the female sex is surrounded, if they choose to build houses for purposes of prostitution and then protect them by law, thereby admitting the necessity for vice, certainly they can keep the condition of women such that these houses may be readily filled.

"Mr. Rice thinks that, if it were possible 'to reconstruct human nature,' something might be done to extinguish this evil; but as this is impossible, he would 'treat it as a practical question.' But let us see to what extent the system which he suggests has proved a practical solution of this problem.

"A bill to license the social evil has been introduced in the District of Columbia, and once in the state legislature of Pennsylvania. The introduction of this system has been recommended also by a committee on crime of the legislature of New York, where it had twice before been introduced. So far as I know, this scheme has never been in active operation in any city of the United States, except at St. Louis, where, because of the increase of prostitution resulting from it and the insulted dignity of St. Louis women, it has been abolished. . . E. B. G."

*Prize fighting considered a  
disgrace upon our civilization*

St. Paul slugged its way into disfavor with a Mill City editor in 1885. But before the echo of the editor's blast had died down, he found that Minneapolis, too, had had a part in the fisticuffs.

The Minneapolis Tribune opened fire on June 22, 1885: "Another prize fight occurred yesterday in St. Paul, this time well within the city limits, in a barn at Merriam Park. On another page the Tribune publishes a full statement of what occurred, without any softening or exaggeration of the facts, as we believe it to be the duty of a live and conscientious newspaper in any community to set before its readers a plain, unvarnished tale of whatever occurs in their midst that is noteworthy - whether for its virtues or for its evils.

"Prize fighting is an offense against the law, an offense against decency, and an offense against the canons of Christianity. It is a thing which should have no place in these later years of the nineteenth century, and which every community claiming to be civilized should do its utmost to uproot. The man who shrinks from exposing crime when he sees it is of kin with the lawbreakers. That organ professing to be an exponent of the popular opinions of its locality, which fails to expose and condemn in fitting terms any breach of the laws which should govern the community in which it is published, comes short of its proper duty. Ignoring crime will never put an end to it. . .

"St. Paul may not consider that it has yet arrived at a moral or social position in which prize fighting is out of place. But Minneapolis emphatically has. In the moral tone of our better citizens there is nothing in harmony with such brutal pastimes. We know that the mass of our citizens would be shocked to hear that a prize fight took



place in the city. . . The Tribune, therefore, both in its capacity as an enterprising news gatherer and in pursuance of its aim to help the city to maintain itself pure, will keep its readers informed of whatever it considers that it is to their interests to know."

The Winnebago City Press-News agreed with the Tribune that St. Paul had really gone too far this time. "St. Paul had a brutal prize fight last Sunday. The parties were permitted to nearly kill one another, and no arrests were made. St. Paul is becoming a very moral city!"

The next day, June 23, the Tribune resumed the subject, but had to admit that Minneapolitans had not altogether "maintained themselves pure." At much less length than the day before, it said: "St. Paul and Minneapolis seem to have joined the number of those cities who patronize Sunday slugging matches. Last Sabbath, some six hundred citizens went down the river some six miles below St. Paul to see two brutes in the shape of men slug one another. The officials seem to have taken no precaution to prevent the occurrence. It is a shame and a disgrace upon our boasted civilization that such things are allowed."

The episode was closed for the Tribune on the following day, when it made its final report. "J. F. Dormer, the Minneapolis pugilist, and Patsy Mellen, the referee of the fight last Sunday at Merriam Park, were both fined yesterday in the St. Paul municipal court \$25 each or thirty days in the workhouse. Patsy was finally let off on the payment of \$15, and Dormer is still in durance vile, thinking over the problem of how to raise the \$25."

*Street improvement in St. Paul  
1883*

Traffic congestion at the Summit avenue curve, just below the cathedral, is one of the perennial problems of St. Paul. Back in 1883, there was a tie-up at the same point, none the less vexatious because it was temporary. Under the heading, "THE SELBY AVENUE CROSSING AT SUMMIT AVENUE," the Pioneer Press of July 22 had this to say:

"The street railway company is making good progress toward the completion of its new Selby avenue and Fourth street electric line. And it is gratifying to see that the work of construction of asphalt paving on and between the tracks is being done in a first class manner. It is hoped that it may be able to fulfill the expectation of opening the entire line to traffic by August 1, for the long embargo on the traffic has occasioned heavy losses to every business concern on the street, and every day's delay costs them large sums of money.

"But the company, during the progress of the work, has at least maintained temporary crossings on all of the torn up streets except one - and that is a very important one - Summit avenue. For a time, a bridge was maintained at the Selby avenue crossing over the excavation for the counterweight device. But for eleven days, this has been closed to travel, making necessary a wide detour of about a mile for carriages destined to any point on Summit avenue between Dayton and Farrington avenues.

"As Summit avenue is the great thoroughfare for carriages and bicycle travel, this keeping it closed so long is a great inconvenience not only to the residents of this section of the avenue and of the lateral streets but to the whole public.

"This was, perhaps, unavoidable. A bridge across the tracks there might have hindered and delayed the work of constructing the counterweight conduits now in progress. The Pioneer Press has, therefore, refrained from giving expression to the public



impatience and in some cases of individual exasperation at the delay in furnishing a crossing for vehicles at that point. But it is hoped that the company will, at the earliest possible moment, construct such a crossing and give evidence that it is not disposed to obstruct travel on this great thoroughfare a moment longer than is necessary."

On Dayton avenue, mentioned above, they were growing onions in '62 and organizing a church in '74. Thus did time march on on Dayton.

St. Paul Press, September 24, 1863: "J. W. Selby has a field of a little more than an acre on Dayton avenue, on part of which he has raised about 300 bushels of onions. As onions are \$2 a bushel, the proceeds are about \$600, and the profit more than \$500."

St. Paul Press, April 21, 1874: "A New Church. - A very interesting meeting was held in the new Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church on Sunday. After a sermon by Rev. Mr. Mattocks, the church was organized with a membership of twenty-three. Hon. S. K. R. McMillan, W. C. Wilson, and I. A. Gilbert were elected elders. Hereafter, services will be held regularly every Sunday, and a pastor will be called as soon as the way seems open. This new church is located at the corner of Dayton avenue and McKubin street, and, while not an imposing edifice, is a very neat and handsome building."

*Removal of the State Capital  
from St. Paul.*

When the territorial legislature of 1857 moved to transfer the capital from St. Paul to St. Peter, the territorial press rose in revolt against the action. On February 21, 1857, the Pioneer & Democrat reprinted items from this editorial opposition.

Stillwater Messenger: "When the proposition for the removal of the capital of this territory from St. Paul to the town of St. Peter was introduced into the legislature, we did not suppose the act was contemplated with any degree of seriousness. We looked upon it as a stroke of policy on the part of the St. Peter Company, merely to bring their town into notoriety and create a demand for town lots and real estate in that vicinity. . . A bill has already passed the Council by a vote of ayes 8, nays 7, for that purpose. . . We hope there is enough of justice in the House to arrest this bold and daring measure."

Owatonna Register: "Much excitement is now being had in reference to the location of the capital of our future state, and interested parties are straining every nerve to get it at their particular point or town. . . Not one of the present legislative body was elected upon the issue. No talk was had that the matter would be brought forward; consequently, our delegates are not prepared to express the wishes of the people in that respect. . . For ourselves, we are free to say we do not believe that justice will be done our future state by the capital remaining at St. Paul, but we do know that other points are just as centrally located as St. Peter, and to give that point the undeserved prestige of a location by the legislature, even temporarily, we deem to be unjust and wrong. . ."

St. Anthony Republican: "As a grave measure of public policy, we more than half incline to wish the capital away from St. Paul, for the sake of rendering our lawmakers more independent of outside pressure from the corrupting influence and ever



clamorous selfishness of a large town. Still, it is not exactly clear that St. Peter is the most fitting location. . . (and) we dread. . . an element of distraction which will prevent a wise and judicious settlement of those infinitely higher questions of state policy upon which we shall be called to act during the present year."

Shakopee Advocate: "This measure, at first supposed to be a huge joke, now assumes the appearance of a stupendous reality. . . Such is the omnipotence of city lots! The whole movement is a transparent scheme of speculation by the proprietors of the town of St. Peter, who hope to effect large sales of their property by artificial prestige created by the passage of the act. It is a magnificent scheme of speculation, and nothing else."

St. Anthony Express: "We have never doubted but that sooner or later the capital must be removed from St. Paul, but we think the movement at present is premature, to say the least. As we are on the eve of being admitted a state. . . it would be far better to have the question undisturbed until our state organization is perfected."

Rice County Herald: "We perceive that the bill for the removal of the capital . . . has passed the Minnesota legislature and only requires the signature of Gov. Gorman to complete the most pointed insult that has ever been cast on the good sense of our people. Are not the people proper judges where their capital should be located? Have they empowered their representatives to act on this question at all? And in acting on it, without the people having a voice in it, have they not cast an insult upon their constituency, and doubly so by totally disregarding their wishes? . . . Let the people's rights be seen to and guarded with a zealous eye, and when their interests are trampled on. . . let those representatives be left at home to wither beneath the contempt of their constituents, whom they have betrayed. Let those that voted for that measure be singled out. Let them be marked as men. . . in whom no confidence can hereafter be placed."

*Art was a luxury in early  
St. Paul.*

Art was a luxury in early St. Paul. But there were artists of one sort and another among the pioneering folk who built the city.

In the Chronicle & Register, September 1, 1849, an artist called attention to himself in a paid advertisement: "ADOLPHUS HOEFFLER. Portrait and Landscape Painter. Will be pleased to receive his friends at his studio, opposite Mrs. Pearces', at any hour during the day. Orders thankfully received and executed on reasonable terms."

Architecture came in for critical comment by the Pioneer in April 1851. "The Presbyterian church on Bench street now flings its spire up like the cornuted tail of an alligator. The spire is too short, but is far preferable to the square docked steeples of the other three churches. We learn that the stained glass of 'the early pointed style' for the Episcopal church came by the Nominee." And mural art was given a nod by the same paper in December of the same year. "Mazourka Hall. - The proprietors are getting this hall adorned with classic paintings from the prolific brush of Mons. Schinotti, representing the Nine Muses, and several respectable celestial ladies of the Pantheon, especially Diana."

Further art reporting by the earlyday press of St. Paul:

Daily Democrat, 1854: "In B. Cooley we see the future of him becoming a great artist. . . The portraits of such men as Gov. Ramsey, M. S. Wilkinson, Judge Cooper and many others can now be seen in his studio. These pictures exhibit the unmistakable evidence of genius, and show the high degree of skill attained by the artist."

Pioneer, 1855: "Abram S. Elfelt, Esq., in the upper town, is drawing all the St. Paul world and its wife to his store, opposite the American House, to see a curious combination of scenery, mechanism and moving figures. . . In the foreground, a full-rigged ship is tossing upon a troubled sea. . . On the left, is a moss covered tower,



from the top of which the hands of a windmill revolve - and its foot is an undershot water wheel which goes round and round as if it has really an earnest work to do. On the right is an old church with a balcony in front, in which are figures of a monk and nun, and in the tower above is placed a clock which runs nineteen days and strikes the hours and half hours. The middle ground is spanned by a bridge over which locomotive engines with trains of passengers rush rapidly. . . A powerful and melodious musical box completes the attractions of this beautiful specimen of mechanical ingenuity. "

Pioneer, 1864: "The friends of Capt. Charles Koch have caused Mr. Peter Winnen, wood carver, to cut a head board for the grave of the Captain. . . Upon the head board are represented crossed swords and joined hands encircled with a wreath of laurel and oak. Another wreath is to encircle the inscription of name and rank, while the top appears as if hung with drapery. When finished, the board will be painted to resemble marble, and sanded. . ."

Pioneer & Democrat, 1864: "F. M. Johnson, agent for Wheeler & Wilson's sewing machines, has had put up for a sign in front of his establishment duplicate paintings in oil, representing a lady at work at a sewing machine. The paintings are on canvass, properly protected, and are well executed."

St. Paul Press, 1868: "A remarkably lifelike portrait of Gen. W. T. Sherman, painted by M. W. Clark, the artist, can be seen at his studio in Ingersoll's Block. The painting is life size, full length, and the features, color, position and drapery are so perfect that the figure seems to stand out lifelike from the canvass. Mr. Clark being personally acquainted with Gen. Sherman, possessed an advantage which he has so improved that Sherman pronounces it the best portrait of himself that has ever been painted. We understand that this splendid painting is to be taken to the Capitol in a day or two to be placed on exhibition. . . It is to be hoped that this valuable painting may not be permitted to leave the state."

*Copy of Treaty for Fort Snelling  
planted under oak tree in bottle*

A copy of the treaty that transferred to the government of the United States a major part of the site of the present Twin Cities was stuck into a bottle and hidden under an oak tree for safekeeping. That was in 1805, and years afterward the bottle was found.

Major Lawrence Taliaferro, Indian Agent at Fort Snelling from 1820 to 1840, recalled the bottle incident in a communication to the Pioneer & Democrat in 1856. "In 1805," Taliaferro said, "(Lieutenant Zebulon) Pike procured from the Sioux a cession of nine by eighteen miles, wintered his men below the Sauk Rapids, and returned to St. Louis in the spring of 1806. In the spring of 1820, Colonel Snelling relieved Lieutenant Colonel Leavenworth from command of what was then called Fort St. Anthony, though not a stone had been set for the permanent work. . . In excavating the foundation of the circular battery in the rear of the commanding officer's quarters, at the foot of a small oak tree a workman found a black bottle, and upon being placed in the hands of Colonel Snelling, it was found to contain a synopsis of the grant made to the United States by the Indians."

This primitive method of preserving a treaty is but one of a legion of "primitives" that mark the early stages of Minnesota's development. One, in 1864, affords a striking contrast to the way in which a message from the president is now heard in citizens' homes at the very moment he is speaking. Said the Pioneer, that year: "The president's message was delivered yesterday noon to congress, and we have the pleasure of presenting it to our readers this morning, complete. It is the first message that ever was telegraphed through to St. Paul on the day of delivery. The feat was attempted last year, but failed on account of a break of the wire. Mr. Squire, the excellent



operator, has given us a readable and, we doubt not, a correct version. If there is anything not entirely clear, the fault lies with other operators, or perhaps the author."

The Merchants' Hotel blazed a trail in '65, and the Pioneer reported the event. "Mine host Shaw, of the Merchant's, has just got a new cooking range in operation, which for a hotel is a little the neatest and most convenient we ever saw. It cost \$600, but the way it fries, stews, roasts, bakes and does other things up brown is a caution. It was made in Cincinnati and is a recent patent."

In 1877, Mr. Bell's new gadget was making history in the Twin Cities. Minneapolis accused St. Paul of being slow in adopting the interesting contrivance. But on March 3, 1879, the Tribune was able to announce: "UNITED AT LAST. St. Paul Calls on Minneapolis by Way of the Telephone, and a Pleasant Talk is the Consequence. Sunday Morning Compliments." In part, the article said:

"Yesterday noon, the editorial room telephone sounded, and without thinking of the wickedness attending a telephone talk on the Sabbath, the writer answered the signal. It came from Mr. Watson, in the main office, who stated that telephonic connection had been secured with St. Paul, and that Mr. Ryan, the telegraph operator, desired to talk with the Tribune. Barkis was willin', and the connection being made perfect, the conversation started. Every word came clear as a bell, quite as distinct as though Mr. Ryan were in an adjoining room instead of ten miles away. The batteries worked to perfection, and so precise was the wonderful telephone that every syllable came over the wire well sounded, and every vowel remarkably distinct. . .

"Thus commenced, progressed and ended the first extended conversation ever held between Minneapolis and St. Paul by word of mouth with the conversing parties ten miles distant. The establishment of this line of telephone will prove a great convenience to both cities, and will save many trips by rail."

*A pen something a more fearsome  
weapon than a sword*

During the days of Editor Goodhue's rule, editorial comment in the Minnesota Pioneer went far to prove that the pen is sometimes a more fearsome weapon than the sword. For instance, the editorial of January 16, 1851 on "Absentee Office Holders."

"While we regret the continued absence of a U. S. Marshall and a judge of the 2nd district from Minnesota, we would not be misunderstood to lament the absence of A. M. Mitchell and David Cooper, the incumbents (often recumbents) of those two offices. It would be a blessing if the absence of two such men were prolonged to eternity. In the present scarcity and high price of whiskey, their absence may be considered a blessing.

"The loss by these men of poor washerwomen, laundresses, barbers, tailors, printers, shoemakers and all persons with whom that sort of men make accounts is quite as large already as ought to fall to the share of the poor people in the Territory. We never knew an instance of a debt being paid by either of them, unless it were a gambling debt - and we never knew an act performed by either of them which might not have been quite as well done by a fool or a knave. We never knew either of them even to blunder into the truth, or to appear disguised, except when accidentally sober, or to do anything right, unless through ignorance how to do anything wrong, nor to seek companionship with gentlemen as long as they could receive the countenance of rowdies.

"Since the organization of the Territory, Mitchell has not been in it long enough by a continued residence to be entitled to vote; yet he has been long enough here to be known as a man utterly destitute of moral principle, manly bearing, or even physical courage. . .

"As for Judge Cooper, besides lacking a residence at Stillwater, at least ever since last May, he has neither there nor anywhere else any attachable property that his officers can find. He has land claims, to be sure, which he has some way got in possess-



ion, on one of which he has obtained the construction of a cabin, for building which he yet owes. He left Stillwater, owing a large amount for postage, owing stores, groceries and tradesmen of every description. He is not only a miserable drunkard, who habitually gets so drunk as to feel upward for the ground, but he also spends days and nights and Sundays playing cards in groceries. He is lost to all sense of decency and self-respect. Off the bench he is a beast, and on the bench he is an ass, stuffed with arrogance, self conceit and a ridiculous affectation of dignity. . .

"We have uttered truths here, good wholesome truths, for the proof of which we stand responsible. It is our habit to tell facts and nothing else; and we have some more facts, 'a few more of the same sort left.'

"Will the administration keep infamy upon stilts here? clothe drunkards, black-legs and unprincipled rowdies with political power? put a premium on vice by placing profligatesvagasbonds in office? Again we say, we do not complain that A. M. Mitchell and David Cooper are habitually absent at Washington. . . but we do complain that we have not a marshall and judge of the 2nd district, whose absence is not a blessing to Minnesota. We have had enough officers who are daily liable to arrest under the Vagabond Act - who never set a good example, perform an honest act, or pay an honest debt.

"We can endure much without complaint. It is less the need of a marshall and a judge that we complain of than of the infliction of such incumbents. Feeling some resentment for the wrongs our Territory has so long suffered by these men, pressing upon us like a dispensation of wrath, a judgment, a curse, unequalled since the hour when Egypt went lousy, we sat down to write this article with some bitterness; but our very gall is honey to what they deserve."

*St. Paul grows under the  
watchful eye of Mpls. press*

The policy of the good neighbor has sometimes not been elastic enough to stretch from the one twin city to the other. Nevertheless, Minneapolis has always known about the little acorns and the great oaks and has frequently recorded ~~propagating~~ plantings in St. Paul.

On February 11, 1883, a Mill City newspaper noticed an interesting birth. "On the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Short Line, half way between the two cities, a station has been built and a suburban town is being started. The location is a fine one, and J. L. Merriam, the proprietor, is doing everything possible to bring in a good class of people and buildings. Lots are sold only under contract to build a house worth not less than \$1500. A rate of fifteen cents to either city and return has been secured to residents. Twelve houses already have been contracted for, and indications are that more will follow."

Two years later, on November 17, 1885, the Minneapolis press greeted another husky St. Paul baby. "The St. Paul Ice Palace and Winter Carnival Association filed articles of incorporation yesterday for record in the register of deeds office. The capital stock is fixed at \$15,000, and the general nature of the business of the association. . . will consist principally of tobogganning, snow-shoeing, skating, sleighing, curling, holding concerts and entertainments of every description, and to erect buildings. The persons forming the association are: George R. Finch, George Thompson, W. A. VanSlyke, V. W. McClung, Albert Scheffer, A. S. Talmadge, A. Allen, H. S. Fairchild, Dennis Ryan, T. L. Schurmier, D. R. Noyes, L. H. Maxfield, J. T. Odell, W. H. Dixon, W. H. Fisher, H. C. Inis, L. F. Kimball, F. B. Clark, John Summers and R. DuPuy. The same gentlemen constitute the first Board of Directors."

Minneapolis missed an example of St. Paul enterprise in 1876. But it was



fully reported in the Dispatch of August 19, under the heading, "DEDICATION SERVICES. HOUSE OF HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH."

"This influential and popular church of nearly 400 members was organized December 22d, 1855, with four members, occupying a small chapel on Walnut street for the first time December 28th, 1858, and its present building December 26th, 1869.

"Rev. E. D. Neill was the founder of the church, while Rev. F. A. Noble may justly be said to have originated the movement, now so signally, through the efforts and influence of Rev. David R. Breed and those associated with him in the church, crowned with success.

"The building, one of the finest in our city, has been erected at a cost of \$56,000 and the organ placed in it at a cost of about \$5,000 more. The church is now entirely free from debt, enough money having been pledged by individual members to remove all the indebtedness, and tomorrow it is to be joyfully dedicated, a free gift to the service of the Almighty God. All the other Presbyterian churches of the city unite in the services of the day - a great day - and one to be remembered not only in the annals of the Presbyterian church but also in the history of our city.

"The order of exercises for the morning service will be: Organ Voluntary, 'Te Deum Laudamus'; Invocation, Rev. Wm. McKibben; Anthem; Reading Scriptures, Rev. M. D. Edwards; Prayer, Rev. H. A. Boardman, D.D.; Thanks Offering; Hymn; Sermon, Rev. Edward D. Neill; Anthem; Financial Statement, G. H. Bigelow, treasurer; Presentation of Building by the Board of Trustees, Dr. J. H. Stewart, president; Responses and Dedicatory Prayer, the pastor; Dedicatory Hymn; Benediction.

"In the evening the exercises will be as follows: Voluntary; Anthem; Reading Scriptures, Rev. N. W. Cary; Hymn; Prayer, Rev. D. C. Lyon; Collection, for fireproof building of the Presbyterian Historical Society; Hymn; Historical Sermon, the pastor; Prayer, Rev. J. G. Riheldaffer, D.D.; Hymn; Doxology; Benediction."

*Goodhue's Judicial Opinions of  
Two Judges in St. Paul 1851*

James Madison Goodhue, Minnesota's first newspaper editor, held strong opinions on a number of subjects and expressed them with devastating clarity. For instance, he had his own opinion of "Judicial Opinions," and in his Minnesota Pioneer, on December 18, 1851, he let St. Paul know how he felt.

"In the celebrated case of 'Bullum vs. Boatum,' it was laid down as an axiom that 'law is as nice as a new laid egg.' We infer that law opinions, therefore, are like pullet eggs, the fresher the better. There is nothing like getting them fresh from the Bench.

"Judges are so plenty in Minnesota that every week produces an 'opinion.' Last week, our Bench was as prolific as old Grimes' hen, and dropped two opinions on Saturday. One Judge had scarcely come cackling off of the columns of the Minnesotian (case of Taylor vs. Steele) before here comes another Judge, 'cut-cut-cut-cuttyca day-cut!' from the columns of the St. Anthony Express, having just deposited a fresh laid opinion in the case of the U. S. vs. Sergeant McIntyre. What with nidification, laying and incubation, our Judiciary is as lively as a patent henhouse in March. In fact, there is so much competition in Minnesota for judicial business that the Judges have to contrive all sorts of shifts and expedients to get anything to do.

"Meeker has pretty much the monopoly of cases in Benton county, and Cooper on the St. Croix; but here in St. Paul, it is considerably divided between Goodrich and Fuller. Goodrich came first and has got tolerably well established, but Fuller is getting the most of the business at chambers. We do not learn that their competition has yet reduced the price of law, although suitors may now have the advantage of choosing which of the Chief Justices they will employ.

"But the business of a Chief Justice in St. Paul is really not more than one



Judge might do; and we have always wondered why ~~Fuller~~, finding the Bench in St. Paul 'so full it could not be no Fuller,' did not set up court in St. Anthony, where they have not so much as a Judge of Probate, and where the smallest favors in a judicial way would be thankfully received. Mr. Fuller brings strong recommendations for the Bench from President Fillmore, but no stronger than Goodrich brought from President Taylor. No doubt they may both be very good men and might both make good Judges; but Minnesota and St. Paul no more need two Chief Justices than a dog needs two tails.

"'In a multitude of counsellors there is safety'; which is at least an excuse for having forty lawyers in St. Paul; but the Bible nowhere recommends a multitude of Judges. Still, as when there are two butchers we get a larger shinbone or more links for a shilling, or as when by the competition of two bakers in town we get larger loaves or more crackers or crumpets for a quarter, justice is bound to fall and legal remedies to be reduced in price by multiplying Judges, so that suitors can afford soon to take regular supplies of Law and Equity as it is peddled out, running up a score with the Bench as they do with the butcher and the baker; and 'opinions,' like eggs in April, will finally fall down to a bit a dozen."

*Indian dances, firewood, watercarts & high  
cost of cows, matters of interest to St. Paul  
in the 50's*

Sioux begging dances, firewood, the annual food panic, watercarts and the high cost of cows - these were matters of interest to St. Paul in territorial days and were newsworthy items of the early press.

Chronicle & Register, September 29, 1849: "On last Saturday, our town was visited by almost the entire population composing the two lower bands of Sioux Indians (Wabashaw's and Red Wing's), on their way to the payment at Fort Snelling. They came in their canoes, a fleet of some eighty or ninety vessels, laden, besides men, women and children, with dogs, cooking utensils, buffalo skins forming the covering of their tepees, &c. They called a halt opposite the lower landing. . . and erected. . . an Indian village numbering five hundred inhabitants. . . The warriors betook themselves to their toilets, and presently made their appearance in our streets, stripped and painted for the 'Begging Dance.' This is a dance performed in front of the doors of the citizens and the store houses of merchants and traders, the Indians expecting, by way of compensation, a barrel of flour or pork, or anything in the way of provisions that the person victimized may choose to give. The dancing was kept up till dark, when the braves returned to their quarters. . ."

Chronicle & Register, March 23, 1850: "If the present snow should go off with a rain, that firewood on the bottom below the Landing might be carried by the current of the Mississippi beyond the reach of a writ of replevin. St. Paul could ill do without it next summer, and we would not like to see it go off under any circumstances. Say what you will of the legality or illegality of cutting this wood on the Indian lands, we hold that the owners, by engaging in the enterprise, have added more to the comfort and convenience of our citizens than they ever can be repaid for."

Minnesotian, November 3, 1854: "It is customary, annually about this period,



for certain croakers and quid nuncs about St. Paul to become possessed of great bodily and mental fear - apparently - that half the people will starve to death before opening of navigation; that there is not half enough flour, a quarter sufficient only of pork, scarcely any beef at all, and potatoes in too small a quantity to carry us through the winter. . . We hazard not to predict that. . . there will be flour, and no want, at reasonable rates. The country is also well supplied with hogs and beef cattle, as well as potatoes and all kinds of vegetables and grain suitable for man or beast. Provision panic makers may as well quit their trade. Their day has passed in Minnesota."

Pioneer & Democrat, August 21, 1856: "We observed yesterday for the first time a new watercart upon the street, dispensing ~~spating~~ water to the thirsty denizens of Third street. It was quite an unique affair, being mounted on a two-wheeled vehicle expressly constructed for that purpose. It is a decided improvement on the clumsy water-carts usually driven about the city, and is under the management of the former wheelbarrow man, who supplied his customers with water by the means of that common. . . one-wheeled conveyance. Of course, he will do a good business."

St. Anthony Express, June 9, 1855: "We learn that three hundred new milch cows were landed in St. Paul during the last week. Children may now have plenty of milk, though a poor man stands a poor show to obtain a cow. Anything that has two horns, a tail, four teats and four legs cannot be bought for less than fifty dollars. Cows have brought double that sum. . ."

*National emergency of the 60's -  
often read like the news of today.*

A state of national emergency causes inevitable dislocations of the ordinary routine of civilian life. During the great emergency of the Sixties, Minnesota experienced a variety of abnormal complications in everyday existence, and those annals of yesterday often read like the news of today and of tomorrow.

Pioneer & Democrat, July 1, 1862: "Notice is hereby given that the Poll Tax of \$1, levied by the State for the purpose of meeting the liability incurred by the State in assuming its quota of the Federal Tax authorized and required by act of Congress, is now in my hands for collection; and the patriotic citizens of St. Paul are invited to call at once and pay the same. CHAS. A. MORGAN, City Treasurer."

Pioneer & Democrat, August 10, 1862: "No Person Allowed to Leave His County, His State or the United States Before the Draft. - The order of Secretary Stanton is the most stringent of any that have been issued since the commencement of the war, and literally places all those liable to a draft under martial law at once. They are not allowed to go into a foreign country or to leave their respective counties or states until the draft has been made, under no less a penalty than being arrested and conveyed to the nearest military post and placed on military duty for the term of the draft without recourse to the habeas corpus for release."

Pioneer & Democrat, August 31, 1862: State Fair Postponed. - 'I am instructed by the managing committee of the State and Ramsey County Agricultural Fair to give notice that, in view of the intense distraction and excitement of the public mind resulting from the recent appalling events on our western frontier, and of the depletion of our population by the military levies for home and national defense, the fair will not be held this year. A further reason for this decision is that Hon. Horace Greeley, who had been engaged to deliver the annual address, has requested to be excused this year in view of the present critical position of affairs before Washington. . . J. A. Wheelock,



Secretary, State Agricultural Society.'"

St. Paul Pioneer, November 15, 1862: "A number of the craftsmen in this city, we are informed, are organizing for the purpose of obtaining higher wages, which are claimed on the ground of an increase of the cost of the necessaries of life."

St. Paul Press, April 19, 1863: "The crowded condition of the city, the abundance of money, the increasing trade with the interior, and the large expenditures for the army in our midst have given business a great impulse, and stores have been in demand. The finest class of Third street stores - new, with all modern improvements and large fronts - rent readily for \$1200 this season. . . The increase of rents has been more strongly marked in dwellings than in business houses."

Stillwater Messenger, April 26, 1864: "Advancing. - Not the Grand Army of the Potomac, credulous reader, but sugar, butter, coffee, cotton cloth and dimity, and every article of luxury or necessity seems to be going up, up, till we begin to wonder if this unparalleled inflation of prices will ever stop."

St. Paul Press, June 3, 1864: "The anti-luxury reform is spreading. The noble women of our Northern cities are taking hold with an earnestness and zeal that can scarcely fail to communicate the generous impulse of self-denial to every decent and loyal home in the land. If it could accomplish what it proposes and introduce a general abstinence from articles of luxury of foreign production, and a general economy in the style of dress and living throughout the country, it would not only add many millions to the national wealth, diminish by so much the drain of gold to foreign lands, and so the better enable the nation to carry on the war to a triumphant and prosperous conclusion, but every dollar thus saved will be certain to be invested in the development of the national resources."

*Accounts of the minor obstructionists who  
are usually out of step in the parade of progress*

In the parade of progress, some one is usually out of step. Individuals, reluctant or hostile, have often taken a stand in Minnesota against innovations and improvements, and accounts of the minor obstructionists are among the more amusing of the state annals.

In 1877, a correspondent in the Stillwater Gazette came out firmly against the fixed washstand for bedrooms. "This machine," he wrote, "is useful enough in public places, in hotels and restaurants, but ought to be banished, both for sanitary and aesthetic reasons, from our domestic life. Leaving out of view the expense of plumbing arrangements, their liability to get out of order, the frequency with which they get stopped up, the freezing in winter, and all the evils water and drain pipes are heir to, I believe it is now admitted that the drain pipes are the source of a great deal of the disease of our cities and even of our country homes. Convinced of this and seeing no certain way to prevent the evil so long as drain pipes are allowed in bedrooms, many people nowadays are giving up fixed washstands altogether, and substituting the old fashioned arrangements of a movable apparatus, the water brought in pitchers, and the slops carried bodily away in their native slop jars. . ."

On December 13, 1871, another Gazette writer recorded disapproval of the new coal-burning stove. "A neighbor of ours says the only objection he has to the modern coal stove is that, unless you employ a competent engineer at a regular salary, some member of the family not thoroughly up in its management is liable, in a spasm of officiousness, to turn the wrong 'dufunny' the right way, and either drive the entire household out of doors with the heat or put the fire out entirely."

A group of St. Paul women, according to the Press of August 1871, stood in the way of a civic cleanup. "The women occupying the shanties on Wacouta and Fourth streets



positively refuse to move in obedience to the commands of the police, and some of the force were trying to swear out complaints against them yesterday. Thus far, Biddy has the best of the battle."

Water for St. Paul animals struck a human snag in July 1872. "It seems that the reasons for the delay of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in the erection of drinking fountains or troughs in this city is a difficulty in making an arrangement with the water company to supply the requisite fluid. The matter stands in this wise: the water company is quite willing to furnish water, free of charge, for legitimate use in these troughs, but, quite probably, is unwilling to allow them to become general free public reservoirs, where the whole neighborhood can steal its water. . ."

Even personal tidiness and good manners met with opposition in 1874. Said the Pioneer on January 11: "This town is infested by a considerable number of little boys who appear to have nothing else to do except to waylay in pairs any decently dressed, well-behaved boy. The better dressed the boy is, the more sure he is of being beaten and bruised by these good for nothing little ruffians. Yesterday afternoon, a little boy was going up Wabasha street in a quiet manner, and was suddenly and unexpectedly assaulted by three rough boys. He received two or three blows in the face and considerable blood flowed from his nose in consequence thereof. As soon as the boys struck their victim, all fled as fast as their legs could carry them around the corner into Third street. . ."

*Curious survivals of custom and belief  
Duelling & Witchcraft*

Among the annals of Minnesota are recorded curious survivals of custom and belief - even duelling and witchcraft.

On September 9, 1865, the St. Paul Pioneer described a duel at St. Cloud. One young man, it appears, had called another a liar, so it was arranged that the two "should shoot at each other" on a Sunday afternoon. "The heroes met at the appointed time, the ground was measured, and amid an awful silence the blood-thirsty antagonists took their positions. The seconds then carefully loaded the unerring pistols - Colt's late patent navy revolver, ugly looking things even in the hands of children but terribly dreadful in the hands of Young America when avowed to vengeance by some unlucky word, and doubly so on this occasion, you could see it in their eye. Colt's late patent revolvers, manywise, being loaded in due form, they were handed to the heroes, who received them with firm (?) grasp and announced themselves in readiness to begin the dreadful fray.

"The seconds stepped to a safe distance (they had seen heroes fight before), and at the word both parties fired. Then there was a silence more terrible to the friends of the would-be assassins than 'confusion worse confounded.' Had both balls proved fatal, and did they stand as if held upright by a determination on the part of each not to fall unless the other did even if 'life's fitful fever was over?' Not a groan is heard, not a muscle is seen to move. Agitated beyond endurance, the seconds of No. 1 rush towards him and exclaim, 'Are you hit?' and an audible answer is heard in these words, 'Not by a d--d sight! What did he shoot at? I shot in the ground.'

"This answer seemed like coolness frozen over, and it was concluded by principals and seconds that satisfaction had been duly rendered, and mutual explanations took place, followed by several gallons of lager beer."

In 1872, on September 26, the Red Wing Argus published a story, grim in detail



and serious in implication, under the heading "Extraordinary Superstition."

"We reserve the full names of the parties concerned in this affair," the paper said, "on account of their respectable connections, and because the whole matter is likely to come before the courts in criminal and civil suits commenced by the friends of the party aggrieved, the alleged witch."

"In one of the interior towns of this county (Goodhue) resides Farmer A. and wife, who recently had in their employ a young woman from Mazeppa. The infant child of Mr. and Mrs. A. was sick, as was also Mrs. A. herself. Unfortunately, the husband and wife and some of their friends came to believe that the baby and mother were bewitched by the servant girl. Accordingly, they determined to subject the girl to an examination, the examiners and witnesses being Mr. and Mrs. A., Mrs. S., and Mr. and Mrs. Y. During the examination, which was by questions only and was held in a locked room. . . they were determined that she should confess herself to be a witch and that by her evil powers she had made the baby and mother sick."

The inquisitors, the article went on, took a pan filled with a noxious liquid, "placed it. . . over the fire to boil, and held the girl so that she must inhale the fumes arising from it, to drive the devil from his possession of her body. While the liquid was boiling hot and the excitement of her tormentors was at its height, the person holding her. . . forced her face down into the pan so that her lips were scalded. Finally, the girl's fear forced her to confess that she was indeed a witch, and after a little more ill-usage. . . she was suffered to go free and made her way safely to her home. . .

"The poor baby is dead, and possibly its more unfortunate parents are firm in the belief that it was killed by witchcraft."

*Two days once celebrated forgotten  
"Forefathers' Day" - "Emancipation Day"*

The annual celebration of Independence Day is an accepted fact among Twin City citizens of all ages. But few remember two other Days that were once celebrated yearly in St. Paul and Minneapolis - Forefathers' Day and Emancipation Day.

In 1866, Forefathers' Day was already on its way to being forgotten. Said the Pioneer: "Today, December 22d, is the 246th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers on Plymouth rock. This anniversary used to be celebrated with great spirit in St. Paul a few years ago, but of late it has been allowed to pass without any notice. We regret this, as events of such importance should always be duly commemorated.

"We have not a drop of Plymouth blood in our veins, but always heartily joined in the celebration of the Landing of the Pilgrims, because it was one of the important that ought to be celebrated in this country and not forgotten as seems to be by the degenerate sons of the sires of those days. To our taste, there is no more interesting passage in the world's history than the settlement of New England and its progress for 150 years afterward. We never tire of reading about it. And yet, what chance is there for even the descendants of the men of New England to learn the history of those colonies? Our St. Paul library, founded and carried on by New England men, has scarce half a dozen volumes which the student of New England history can peruse. . .

"We do not mention this to find fault in any way, but regret that so little is thought of the founders of the American nation that their history can scarcely be found in our midst, and that the day called 'Forefathers' Day' above all others should pass without notice or comment."

Emancipation Day, August 1, reported year after year by the newspapers, was celebrated by the Negroes of Minnesota not in memory of Lincoln's proclamation but to



commemorate Britain's freeing of the slaves in her West Indies possessions. "That noble and generous act," said the Minneapolis Tribune some forty years after the event, "took so deep a hold upon the Americans of African descent that it is likely forever to remain their national holiday, in spite of the much more stupendous scheme of emancipation which took place under Lincoln."

Of the 1870 celebration, the St. Paul Press said: "Yesterday being the anniversary of the emancipation of slaves in the British West Indies, the colored people of St. Paul, as in former days, made the occasion one for a general holiday. All the livery teams were brought into requisition. . . During the day, a picnic was the principal object of interest, and thither men, women and children flocked, intent upon having as good a time as possible. A large number of ladies and gentlemen of the white race were present. . .

"The grounds were beyond the upper limits of the city. A meeting was organized, prayer was offered and speeches made. Mr. A. W. Redmond closed the intellectual part of the entertainment by a speech, in which the topics of education and temperance were forcibly handled and illustrated in a manner which was generally appreciated.

"After these exercises, the ladies and gentlemen. . . danced away the fleeting hours until their appetites caused them to desist for the purpose of doing justice to the feast of good things which awaited them at the well filled tables. . . The day speedily wore away, and in the evening the festivities were wound up with a ball and banquet at Irvine's Hall."

*St. Paul Capital of Minnesota*  
*1766 ?*

Ten years before the Declaration of Independence, there was a "great legislative session" on the future site of St. Paul, and "thus early," concluded an article in the Pioneer & Democrat of 1859, ~~was~~ Saint Paul the capital of Minnesota!"

"One fine morning in November, 1766," said the writer, "a keen and practical Yankee, the forerunner of all the Yankees in this part of the world, stepped into St. Paul near where Hennepin had landed three generations before. It was Brother Jonathan Carver, fresh from Connecticut. . .

"Jonathan's landing was at the foot of Dayton's bluff, as it is now called, and this account of the discovery made there is the first memorial which links the site of St. Paul with the traditions of the Dakotas: - 'About thirteen miles below the Falls of St. Anthony, at which I arrived on the twentieth day after I left Lake Pepin, is a remarkable cave of amazing depth. The Indians term it Wakonteebe (Wakan-tipi), that is the dwelling of the Gods. The arch within is near fifteen feet high and about thirty feet broad; the bottom consists of fine clear sand. About thirty feet from the entrance begins a lake, the water of which is transparent, and extends to an unsearchable distance, for the darkness of the cave prevents all attempts to acquire a knowledge of it. . . I found in this cave many Indian hieroglyphics, which appear very ancient, for time had so covered them with moss that it was with difficulty I could trace them. They were cut in a rude manner upon the inside of the wall, which was composed of a stone so extremely soft that it might easily be penetrated with a knife. . .

"At a little distance from this dreary cavern is the burying place of several bands of the Naudowesse (Sioux) Indians. Though these people have no fixed residence. . . yet they always bring the bones of the dead to this place, which they take opportunity of doing when the chiefs meet to hold their councils and to settle the public affairs



of the ensuing summer.'

"Trophoneus has dried up. The 'dwelling of the Gods' or what remains of it is now a root-house, where Mr. Dayton will, we doubt not, be glad to show the curious visitors to what base uses we may come at last. The brittle wall has crumbled and broken under the frosts of a century, ~~and~~ little of the original cave was left before the Gods gave place to vegetables. In 1807, the present mouth of the cave was so covered up, says Mr. Neill, 'that Major Long was obliged to creep in on all fours.' In 1837, the mouth being closed by limestone debris, Nicollet worked for two days to effect an entrance, and confirmed the accuracy of Carver's description. A Chippeway warrior made a long harangue on the occasion, threw his knife into the lake as an offering to Wakantibi, the Spirit of the Grottoes. . .

"Carver explored the country above St. Anthony as far as Francis River and made a voyage of two hundred miles up the St. Pierre, and on the first of May, 1767, returned to the Great Cave, where he officiated as the first representative of the Anglo-Saxon population in the great annual legislative session of the Dakota bands, and made the first speech ever delivered by a Yankee in St. Paul, and a great deal better one than has been delivered by any Yankee since. . .

"Thus early was Saint Paul the capital of Minnesota!"

*Pierre Parrant founder of  
St. Paul*

"We consider it an irresistible proof of the natural advantages of St. Paul that it survived the swinish origin of its first name." Thus wrote the Pioneer and Democrat of 1859, telling the lively story of Pierre Parrant, the disreputable "Pig's Eye," whose nickname once identified the coming capital of Minnesota.

About 1838, according to the newspaper historian, "there happened along an old Canadian voyageur from the Missouri, a gross, ill-favored, one-eyed miscreant, on his way to Sault Ste. Marie. The position of the affairs here interested him. . . a sphere where he might indulge his taste for mercantile pursuits without the disagreeable formalities of a Government license. He decided to go one eye on it at least. He went, and Sault Ste. Marie lost a valuable citizen and St. Paul gained its founder.

"He made a claim first at Fountain Cave, which he sold in three or four months to Vital Guerin and one Beaumette, and then in the current summer, on the spot now occupied by Louis Robert's house on Bench street, laid the first stone, or the first log at least, of the future city of St. Paul. It was Parrant who laid it, the picturesque Parrant, the original Pig's Eye. . .

"It must be confessed that it was not any comprehensive view. . . which influenced Parrant's selection of it. It is not recorded that, like Hennepin or Carver, he had any prophetic views of future intercourse with China or the Gulf of Mexico. In fact, he regarded the head of navigation on the Mississippi as simply a commanding position for selling whiskey to the Indians, beyond the jurisdiction of the Indian Agent or the Fort officers; and the Mississippi, which rolled before his door and whose mighty volume inspired Carver with sublime prospects of commerce with the tropics, was looked upon by Parrant in a commercial point of view, it is true, but as chiefly valuable in improving the quality and quantity of his whiskey. . .



"We have said that Parrant had but one eye. He had another, but such another! It was a marble-hued, stone-blind eye, with a sinister white ring around the pupil, glaring glassily above his pug nose and porcine chaps - the primal Pig's Eye.

"Edmund Brisette, a clerkly Frenchman for those days, who lives, or did live a little while ago, on Lake Harriet, was one day seated at a table in Parrant's cabin, with pen and paper, about to write a letter for Parrant (for Parrant, like Charlemagne, could not write) to a friend of the latter in Canada. The question of geography puzzled Brisette at the outset of the epistle. Where should he date a letter from a place without a name? He looked up inquiringly to Parrant, and met the dead, cold glare of the Pig's Eye fixed upon him with an irresistible suggestiveness that was inspiration to Brisette.

"He dated the letter from Pig's Eye; an answer in due time came to Pig's Eye - and Pig's Eye was immortalized. . .

"Parrant - God rest his soul! - has gone, they say, to glory, or to other parts unknown. He has gone up. . . we hope vanished, to a seat among the Cyclops and pristine gods, in a blazing apotheosis of pig's eyes. If anything mortal of him remains, the sacred ashes should be transplanted to the rear of Robert's cottage - the site of the first house in St. Paul, and a monument erected to the glory of its builder. No epitaph could do him justice. . ."

*Territorial Fair held  
in Mpls. 1855*

Once again, Minnesota is State Fair-minded, and when the big annual show opens tomorrow morning, the Como Avenue front will share page one space with that other front in the Ukraine.

When the great exposition was getting under way as a permanent Minnesota institution, however, it did not receive the same newspaper publicity that it does now, nor the same official and public support. For instance, at the annual meeting of the Territorial Agricultural Society in January 1855, it was decided to hold a territorial fair the following September. But the backers were unable to raise enough money, so combined with the Hennepin County Agricultural Society for a joint event in October. The resulting Fair was hailed as "successful," since "about 2,000 persons attended!" and "many ladies were present."

On October 6, the St. Paul Pioneer made a formal, if modest, announcement of the Fair. "We are requested to state that the Territorial Agricultural Fair will be held at Minneapolis on the 17th and 18th days of this month, without fail."

On the 17th, the Pioneer was more expansive. "The annual meeting will be commenced today, and we are glad to know there is every prospect of a full attendance. Such exhibitions as these are much needed in Minnesota. Many of the stories that have gone abroad concerning her productive ability have been considered as almost fabulous, and it is by such a demonstration as this show offers the opportunity to make that the doubt can be reduced to conviction.

"They serve another good purpose, by bringing farmers and those interested in agriculture from various portions of the Territory together. The interchange of views and the information naturally arising from such intercourse cannot but be beneficial to the best and most substantial interests of the Territory.

"We hope that some means will be taken to secure a report from each county con-



cerning its soil, products, etc., and that the Society will at an early period publish it for general information. Such a book would be invaluable for circulation abroad. We urge our citizens to sustain to their best this Territorial Society. Its beginning may be small, but the consequences to flow from its action are of immeasurable good to Minnesota. Years hence, we shall have occasion to be proud that at so early a period of her existence as this Minnesota established and maintained a Territorial Agricultural Society."

The following day, October 18, the Pioneer returned to brief reporting. "The Territorial Fair. - This interesting event took place yesterday, and many people went to Minneapolis to witness it. The display was creditable, and, all the circumstances being considered, the Society may be considered as having done admirably."

In the years following that Fair of 1855, when a lady in a "black bodice and blue habit" won first prize for horsemanship and the display of vegetables "astonished even the natives," the successive shows had no fixed location. It was in 1885 that the present grounds were chosen as the permanent site for the Fair.

In a report of a meeting of the State Agricultural Society in January of that year, the Pioneer quoted Mayor O'Brien of St. Paul:

"The county of Ramsey tenders to this Society its poor farm, embracing 210 acres. . . The property has become too valuable for the purposes of a poor farm. We have selected this Society to become the depository of that valuable property, in trust for the State of Minnesota. . . We propose to give you \$200,000 worth of land and buildings (Applause). You can plant your home."

The Society accepted, the legislature passed a bill approving the deal, and Governor Hubbard signed it.

*President Hayes visits St. Paul  
during the Fair 1878*

Charlie McCarthy, headline personality at the opening of the State Fair today, is only one of a long line of distinguished visitors who have attended the yearly Minnesota exposition. At the Fair of 1878, it was President Hayes.

Said the Pioneer Press on September 6 of that year: "The fourth day, President's Day, of the Minnesota State Fair was a great success, the greatest day that will dawn on the city of St. Paul or the state of which it is the capital and metropolis in many a day to come. Fifty thousand men, women and children swarmed into the spacious grounds of the State Fair Association, and enjoyed a day of unparalleled interest and excitement. The principal event of the day was the presence of the President of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes."

In another article, headed "The President's Ovation," the Pioneer Press said: "The city of St. Paul, the political and commercial metropolis of the Northwest, is familiar with great events, the city itself being a wonderful illustration of greatness, considering that men in the prime of life in our midst have seen it grow from nothing to its present proportions, but it has never before been the central figure of so grand an occasion as that which celebrated the visit of the President of the United States to its borders yesterday.

"The event will stand out for many a day as the most notable one in the history of the city, that the President of the United States, the embodiment of the greatness and power of the American Union, honored the city of St. Paul with his presence. . .

"Language would fail to give any conception to those who were not present of the multitude of people that swarmed along the line of central Third street and thence around the streets flanking the residence of Governor Ramsey, where President Hayes



spent several hours of the early morning and where the grand procession of escort was formed into line. The Third street pavement was as clean as a floor, and the decorations were all that taste and liberality of expenditure could make them. . .

"Promptly at 5:45 yesterday morning, the Reception Committee met at the depot at the foot of Sibley street. Ex-Governor Ramsey, Ex-Governor Davis, Ex-Governor Marshall, General Gibbon, General McLaren and President Finch of the Agricultural Society were on hand as this committee. Even at this early hour, a large crowd was gathered at the depot."

After a short welcoming speech by Governor Pillsbury, "the Minnesota veterans drew up in front of Ex-Governor Ramsey's place. Before he appeared, some of the veterans struck up 'John Brown's Body,' the whole line taking up the chorus and making the street resound with the music. The President, appearing at the window, loud shouts of 'Hayes' went up. . . He appeared with General Gibbon and walked down to the sidewalk amid deafening cheers. Standing on the curbing, he addressed the soldiers as follows:

"My friends, you all understand that this is not the time to make a speech and I must not make one, but I must express my pleasure at meeting you, the gallant survivors in that great struggle in which you did so much to uphold the honor and dignity of the old flag and to save the country. I should be glad to take each of you by the hand, but, as the time is now pressing, I must thank you for ~~this pleasure~~ and bid you farewell."

Speaking at the Fair later in the day, the president said in part: "I wish to make my sincere acknowledgments to the Governor of Minnesota, Governor Pillsbury, to the Mayor of St. Paul, Mayor Dawson, to the President of the Minnesota State Agricultural Society, Mr. George R. Finch, and to those associated with them and to the people of the state whom they represent, for this kind and generous welcome. I know that nothing I can say or do will be a fitting and adequate return for your kindness. . ."

*Paris occupied  
1871*

"When good Americans die, they go to Paris" was a pre-war saying that suggested humorously the traditional American regard for the French capital. In these past months, despite the ambiguous maneuverings of the Vichy government, United States sentiment has again been shocked by the occupation of Paris. Again, because it has happened before within the time of Minnesota's newspaper history.

On January 29, 1871, the St. Paul Pioneer said editorially:

"Doomed Paris. - Paris, the city of luxury, the beautiful home of Europe's idlers, yet makes her heroic sacrifice, fighting, starving, waiting for the rescue that she hopes may come from the armies of France outside her walls, but whom quick-following disaster and the battlefield's slaughter have rendered helpless to do aught but die for her in ineffectual struggle.

"The end must come speedily for long-suffering, war-worn and famine-stricken Paris. The tri-color and the eagles must be run down, and the flag of the conqueror will float from the summit of the Column Vendome, memorial in pictured bronze of the victories of the great Napoleon; from the roof of the imperial galleries of the Tuilleries, storied with the memories of the great monarchs whose triumph in war and peace illumine the pages of French history all down the past three hundred years; from the Pantheon, dedicated in a vain consciousness of an invisible prowess 'to all the glories of France'; even from the Arch of Triumph, sculptured with the allegories of victory and of the great deeds of the home-born masters of France.

"And when the time has come, there will be men who will wish that their city had been destroyed rather than that all these monuments of an heroic past should bear the hated emblems of conquest, than that this people should drink so deep from the bitter



cup of humiliation. Such must be its gloomy fate. Dissensions and famine within, defeat without, and the unyielding purpose of the beleaguered host to march with triumphant music through the opened gates must soon terminate the siege; and gallant Paris, splendid Paris, the conquered city of the young republic, will lie helpless at the feet of the imperial William. May he be as magnanimous as he was victorious."

There was a postscript to this editorial: "Later. - The intelligence contained in the special dispatch to the World, embraced in our dispatches, seems to leave no doubt that the capitulation of Paris has actually taken place. The terms given embrace a separate peace, but whether such a result will be immediately secured is extremely doubtful."

The late dispatch referred to in the editorial read as follows: "Versailles. - The capitulation of Paris has been signed. The terms are the surrender of the garrison and the summoning of the National Assembly. . . The capitulation involves peace, the cession of Alsace and German Lorraine and part of the fleet, a money indemnity to be guaranteed by the municipalities, a portion of the army to return home, and the war to cease."

*True Time at last a  
reality 1861*

If you were late for that appointment in early St. Paul, you might truthfully blame it on your timepiece. But not after 1861, for on August 16 of that year the Pioneer & Democrat reported that "True Time" was at last a reality.

"Although there are many fine watches and clocks in Minnesota," the paper said, "the owners of them have heretofore been contented to run them on uncertainty, because there has been no way of obtaining the exact time nearer than a noon mark, which may be some seven to ten minutes from the exact time. This difficulty has now been remedied, so far as St. Paul is concerned, by Mr. D. C. Greenleaf, who has at great expense just obtained a fine astronomical transit of twenty-inch focus, two-inch aperture, five hair lines, which is now mounted in the true meridian. By a series of observations on high and low stars, in conjunction with the sun, this instrument readily determines time to the fraction part of a second, and will consequently be the standard of time for St. Paul and vicinity. . . Arrangements will be made to telegraph the time to other towns."

Mr. Greenleaf may have been stirred to do something about the town's time nuisance during a conference called to discuss the subject in February 1856. In that month, the Pioneer & Democrat declared: "Great inconvenience has been experienced in St. Paul, owing to the want of standard time. Usually, upper and lower town time differs five, ten and even fifteen minutes, each section persisting in the correctness of its own regulator. To obviate the inconvenience resulting from this difference, we see that Ald. Becker has introduced, and the Council adopted, a resolution requesting Messrs. Illingworth, of the First, Spicer, of the Second, and Greenleaf, of the Third Ward, to confer together upon the subject, for the purpose of fixing upon some standard which will regulate time in different parts of the town!"

Other nuisances of 1856 were pointed out by the St. Paul press. On July 10,



for instance, the Pioneer & Democrat rejoiced over a "Nuisance Abated." The City Council, it said, "has passed an ordinance prohibiting owners of droves of cattle in future from herding them on vacant lots throughout the city, as they have formerly been doing. This is right. This practice had become a perfect nuisance to the city, and we are glad that a stop has been put to it."

On November 26, the same paper commented on another nuisance about which the City Council had little or nothing to say.

"The Mails. - For the last four or five days, we have been without a mail from the East. On Thursday last, the Northern Belle came up as far as Red Wing, where she discharged her passengers and freight. To that point she brought an Eastern mail. The next day, the Alhambra came up, took on the mail left by the Belle at Red Wing, and came up as far as Hastings, at which place she left both mails, where they have remained ever since.

"Yesterday afternoon, Postmaster Cave informs us, he sent down one of his own teams, in charge of one of the clerks in the Post Office, to bring up the mail from Hastings, with directions to drive during the night in order to reach here this morning. So, early this forenoon, we expect to get a peep at the news from the East."