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*St. Paulites gather to greet
first boat of the season to come
upriver, 1859*

A thousand or two St. Paulites waited in eager, holiday mood on the banks of the Mississippi to greet the first boat of the season to come upriver. They went home disappointed, but the premature welcoming party was not without its excitement. That was in the spring of '59.

"About one or two thousand persons, on Sunday afternoon, became the eager victims of a decided sell," said the Pioneer & Democrat in its issue of Tuesday, April 19.

"It was laughable to note the interest felt by so many to see the first boat through the lake, and long before what was supposed to be the first boat had come around the bend, the levee was crowded by anxious individuals, all guessing as to what boat it was that was coming up.

"Each had their favorite named, but upon her appearing plainly in sight they all began to doubt. She was apparently too small for a regular packet. However, before the crowd could fix upon any one boat, she blew her whistle and was at once recognized as the Frank Steele, Capt. Thatcher, which had arrived Saturday night from the Minnesota river and very quietly put out in a half hour or so thereafter for a trip to the head of Lake Pepin, which circumstance was known to very few of the citizens.

"The engineer of the Rotary mill, who made the small cannon that fired the salute in the Capitol Square on the twenty-second of February, determined to salute the first boat with a booming shot and, with the assistance of a friend, took his cannon in a small boat over to a little island opposite the mill. Although disappointed in saluting the first boat, the cannon was loaded and it was necessary to shoot, which he did.

"Upon placing it in the boat to go ashore, after the two men got it, by some means

the boat capsized and the men and cannon went over handsomely into the river.

"Fortunately, the water was not deep and both got ashore without trouble, and also got out the cannon."

*Second Annual Parade of the
St. Paul Fire Dept. Sept. 14, 1859*

They were a spick and span body, St. Paul's pioneer firemen, and, when they were all dressed up, they were introduced to the mayor. The Pioneer & Democrat, Wednesday, September 14, 1859, printed this notice: "Attention, Firemen. - The members of the Minnehaha Engine Company, No. 2, are hereby notified to attend at their engine house in full uniform on Thursday, the 15th, at 12 o'clock noon. By order of the foreman. J. J. Hill, Secretary."

The ~~next~~ day, the Minnesotian carried ~~the same~~ notice with added details. "SECOND ANNUAL PARADE OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. - The Fire Engine Companies and the Hook and Ladder Company will assemble at the City Hall Square this afternoon, the 15th inst., at 1 o'clock P.M., where they will be inspected by the Mayor and the Common Council." The order of march was given: Great Western brass band, chief and assistant engineers, ex-chief and assistant engineers, board of fire wardens, visiting companies, Pioneer hook and ladder company, Hope engine company, Minnehaha engine company No. 2, Rotary independent engine company No. 1. And the route: City Hall square to Fourth street, to Fort, to Leach; back to Third, to Jackson, to Seventh, to Broadway, to Ninth, to Jackson, to Seventh, to Robert, to Fourth, to Wabasha, to Tenth, to St. Peter, to Washington, to City Hall square.

The next day's account of the affair in the Pioneer & Democrat included the statement that the chief engineer "mounted the gallery of the Minnehaha No. 2" and addressed the mayor and council. "Allow me to introduce to you," he said, "the fire department of our city and the Minnesota fire engine company of St. Anthony, as faithful and efficient a body of firemen as you will find in the length and breadth of the land." After which the mayor, Col. D. A. Roberston, also "mounted the gallery" and made a response.

The following month, in October 1859, a St. Paul paper announced: "The Minnehaha Engine Company No. 2 is to have an alarm bell hung in the cupola of their new engine house."

The bell they propose to purchase is the one formerly used on the steamer Clarion. When the boys hear its resounding tones, they will not fail to answer the call."

*"Bicycles" an old story in
St. Paul and Minneapolis*

Recent announcement of the St. Paul Bicycle Club's last ride of the season is a reminder of the long history of bicycling in these parts. More than half a century ago, Minnesota cyclists had become club-minded.

On July 4, 1883, the Minneapolis Tribune announced: "The St. Paul bicycle club will make a run from the capitol building to Minneapolis today." Then on the 20th of the same month, the club had a more elaborate outing. The day before, the Tribune said: "The St. Paul bicycle club takes the 6 o'clock train for Minneapolis tomorrow night, and from there will take a run with the Minneapolis club to Minnehaha, where a banquet will be served at the hotel. From there the clubs will go to Lake Calhoun and return to Minneapolis in time for the St. Paul club to take the 10 o'clock train home."

The bicycle's father, the velocipede, had taken St. Paul by storm many years before. On February 17, 1869, the St. Paul Press reported: "Velocipedal. - The new mode of locomotion continues to attract public attention. A number of ladies visited Armory Hall yesterday and witnessed the graceful evolutions of the most skilled 'veloce' riders. There were some pretty heavy tumbles during the day, and one machine came to grief and had to be sent off to the shop for repairs."

A week later, there was a "trial of speed" at Armory hall, causing the Press to report: "At one time three velocipedes - the Second National Bank, a prominent hat store and a dry goods establishment - were piled up in a promiscuous heap on the floor. Strange to say, no one 'drew blood.'" First prize, a silver pitcher, went to O. P. Lanpher. The following March, there was another contest for "travelers upon the inanimate animal." Again, Lanpher came in first, winning another water pitcher. Frank Johnson, second, bore off a cake basket as his trophy.

Later in March, 1869, the Pioneer observed: "Velocipedes on the street still

continue to excite the curiosity of our citizens. Yesterday, a new three-wheeled vehicle of that description. . . was out. It was a very rapid and easy mover." And in 1886, a Twin City paper judged that "Minnesota has about 300 wheelmen."

*Photographers began to
advertise 1854*

Back in 1850, there was no use in looking pleasant in St. Paul. Not if it was for the purpose of having your expression preserved for posterity. In March, that year, the Pioneer lamented: "A good daguerreotypist is needed in St. Paul."

But by 1854, the business had reached the advertising stage. From the Minnesotian: "Warning! - There is a Reaper whose name is Death; and since no man can tell when he will thrust in his sickle and cut us off from life, now is the time to have your picture taken at Whitney's Gallery, where as good a Daguerreotype can be procured as at any other establishment in the World."

The next year, the St. Croix Union announced: "G. W. Smith, the Daguerreotypist, is now in town, or rather down at the wharf, in his floating Saloon, ready to take life-like likenesses of any who may patronize him."

Progress was reported by the Minnesotian in 1856: "A New Art. - Whitney's Pioneer Daguerreotype Photographic Art Gallery, over Charley Elfelt's store, cor. Third and Cedar Sts. - Photographs are taken on paper, somewhat resembling steel engravings, with all the beauty and perfection of the daguerreotypes."

And more progress, noted by the Stillwater Gazette, in 1858: "Ambrotypes. - We spent an hour in the Ambrotype rooms of Mr. A. J. Reynolds. . . He executes the new process of transferring pictures upon leather in most admirable style."

By this time, everybody who felt like it could look pleasant for the family album, and it was not long before photography came to serve purposes other than personal. On February 8, 1877, for instance, the Pioneer Press said: "Charles Zimmerman, the popular photographer, who for so many years has made pictures of the members of the Legislature and arranged them in groups, has this year prepared perhaps the best combination that he has ever shown."

He has grouped the two branches in one frame and the likenesses are truly life-like. . .
The group has been photographed in a portable style, and in no better way could the intelligence of the State be advertised than by circulation of these pictures."

*The Pioneer helps play a
Joke on (Frosty) 1867*

She was a hot number. That is, while he was she. And the Pioneer, liking a good joke as well as the next one, let itself go in reporting this bit of 1867 fun. St. Paul laughed at the story on October 26, that year.

"A few evenings since, a youth of this city, of an innovating tendency, laid off the habiliments in which he usually adorned his fair proportions, robed himself in ladies' apparel and attended one of the temperance lodges of the city.

"There he (or she now) met a sensitive and sensible young gentleman who was very much enraptured with 'her' style of makeup and who, accordingly, obtained an introduction through a friend who was in the secret.

"The young 'lady' in brocade and fine linen was very delicate, came from the South, owned plantations and was possessed of perilous amounts of the national currency, but was in ill health and had lost her voice. She consequently could not speak much above a whisper. (Which was very fortunate for her.) She was stopping at the Park Place Hotel. The night was dark, and she was a stranger in the city. An escort would be very agreeable and, when offered, was accepted in whispered accents that ravished the young man's soul.

"Upon reaching the hotel, the parting was very tender, and the escort received and accepted a very pressing invitation to call on the following Sunday evening.

"The next day, he saw a young gentleman in the street who carried a countenance strikingly like the one possessed by the young lady he met the evening before. This fact, together with a few little pleasantries from his companions, induced him to conclude not to call on Sunday evening.

"The joke was somewhat FROSTY for the season, and has caused a large amount of

spiritual sustenance to disappear."

One guess as to the victim's name! The large type in the last sentence was in the original Pioneer article.

LIBRARY OF THE
PIONEER PRESS
BOSTON

*Tramps invaded St. Paul in
large numbers 1879*

Tramp, tramp, tramp, the tramps were tramping - an army of them. And St. Paul in the spring of '79 was not enjoying the invasion. In its issue of May 19, the Globe declared:

"There's no mistake about it, the tramps are paying this city another visit in vast numbers. The invasion began Saturday. . . Yesterday, the advance guard of Saturday was largely augmented by new arrivals. . .

"The present army of tramps seems to be on a grand old debauch. At midnight last night, there were seventeen of them in the lockup, and each one when arrested was boisterously and dangerously drunk. It has been a puzzle how these penniless vagabonds get their liquor. The explanation is easy. They make in numbers a threatening demand for liquor and get it. "

According to the Globe communique, the saloon of Matthew Kuhl, "located just at the foot of the bluff," was robbed by the Saturday contingent, the hoboes getting away with "two boxes of cigars, a caddy of tobacco and a two-gallon demijohn of whiskey."

"Among the nomads taken in yesterday," continued the report, "was an aged disciple, who wants to leave the road. He stated that the night before he had lodged with seventy-five other tramps. This big crowd had encamped around a strawstack below Langevin's place in the Sixth Ward, in the neighborhood of Red Cap Park. Another place molested by the tramps was a cave in the near vicinity of Kuhl's saloon. Saturday night, nine tramps made the cave their abiding place.

"To disperse the gangs collected at the above named places, Chief Weber organized a midnight raid last night. Officers O'Keefe, Brousseau, Cook, Hanft, McMahon and Clouse were sent across the bridge at 12 o'clock. . . At 2 o'clock word was received by the Globe

that six of the gentry had been picked up, with a squad of the force that had gone down in the vicinity of Langevin's 'hay yard' still to be heard from."

*St. Paul once had a "World's Fair"
(a dry goods store on "Ewing's Corner")
1851*

Present-day St. Paulites may be surprised to know that their city once had a "World's Fair." But it did. ~~And~~ it was so well patronized that, when the editor of the Minnesota Democrat tried to visit it, he found himself surrounded by a "crowd of fashionable ladies." This visit may possibly have caused the editor, David Olmsted, to regret having sold the property five years before. Nevertheless, he wrote on July 13, 1853:

"Ewing's Corner. - In the summer of 1849, the editor of this paper sold the property at the corner of Third and Robert streets, including about 160 feet on each street, to W. G. Ewing, of Indiana, one of the largest owners and most sagacious dealers in real estate in the Northwest.

"Mr. Ewing has always placed so high esteem upon the future of St. Paul that he has invariably refused to dispose of a foot of his town property here, although he has frequently been offered prices which to others appeared enormous.

"He has, however, given through his attorney, L. A. Babcock, Esq., leases of the ground for a period of years to such as wished to erect good buildings thereon. One condition of the leases has been that no spiritous liquors should ever be retailed on the premises, and this condition has probably had the effect of enhancing the value of his property to double the amount which it would otherwise have attained, and has made it the location of some of the most wealthy, enterprising and intelligent business men in the town.

"The first whose sagacity led him to avail himself of the prospect was Curran, the veritable elephant of the 'World's Fair,' who, in the summer of 1851, astonished the whole community with the extensive stock of fancy and dry goods which he placed there, and the low prices at which they were offered. . . The 'World's Fair,' however, has continued

to flourish, and it is now conceded by all that Curran's motto of 'quick sales and small profits' was the correct one.

"We called yesterday . . . and had it not been for the crowd of fashionable ladies which thronged his store, could hardly have persuaded ourselves that we were not in some wholesale fancy goods establishment on Broadway."

Pioneer Press celebrated Halloween in reverse, on Oct 31, 1889 the dedication of its new home

Halloween, that ancient holiday of the imps, did not cause the annual stir in early Minnesota newspapers that it does now, nor was the day dignified by such municipally managed affairs as St. Paul has at present to keep the mischievous spirits under control.

Fifty-two years ago today, the Pioneer Press celebrated Halloween in reverse, so to speak. It did not tip over any shanties, as was the custom in bygone times. On the contrary, it was celebrating on October 31, 1889 the dedication of a twelve-story building as its new home, at Fourth and Robert streets.

Said the St. Paul paper's neighbor, the Minneapolis Journal: "The success of the Pioneer Press is an example of good foundation and good superstructure. Its foundation has been the ability, reliability and character of its proprietors. Its superstructure, their unsparing and enterprising use of money in news gathering."

To mark the event, the front page of the Pioneer Press itself was half filled that day with pictures of the structure, and the forty-page special edition featured photographs of the composing room, the counting room, etc., with column after column of felicitations from near and far. Among the well-wishers were Senator M. J. Daniels, Senator W. J. Walsh of Waseca, J. Fletcher Williams, librarian of the Minnesota Historical Society, and the editors of scores of papers in this state, Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois, Montana, Iowa, Washington, New York and Nevada.

"St. Paul has the most magnificent newspaper building in the world," announced the Pioneer Press. "Chaste and simple in design, gigantic in proportion and elegant in execution, it would, as an example of architecture and an embodiment of improvements, be a proud addition to the buildings of any city in the world." And on the editorial page, it

was remarked further: "The central and most conspicuous feature of the celebration which commemorates the fortieth anniversary of the Pioneer Press is the great new building in which it is now comfortably housed. The oldest citizen feels an access of pride when he removes from the humble home which sheltered him in the beginning of his fortunes to the stately mansion he has built in confidence of an assured future for the comfort of his later years. The Pioneer Press is justly proud of the great structure at the corner of Fourth and Robert streets, from which it is issued today for the first time."

*Jacob R. Shipler forgot to keep
date with sheriff 1850*

A Ramsey county sheriff was deeply disappointed in a prisoner who promised to show up in court at the appointed time and then broke the date. In view of the situation, the Pioneer Press sagely observed: "It may be assumed with some propriety that Shipler has never been sentenced."

Doing a bit of historical research in 1876, the Pioneer Press wrote: "J. Fletcher Williams, in his history of St. Paul, reproduces the following local from the Pioneer of April 6th, 1850: 'Jacob R. Shipler, indicted for assaulting his wife with intent to kill, and convicted and sentenced to imprisonment in the penitentiary for one year, slipped away from the sheriff and escaped.'

"From an old settler in St. Paul, and one who knows more about its early history than any man living, we learn that this item is only partially correct. . . . There being no jail in Ramsey county, Shipler, after his arrest, and before conviction, had been confined at Fort Snelling. The evening of his conviction, the court instructed the sheriff to take charge of the prisoner and have him in court next morning to receive sentence.

"On the opening of court next morning, the judge instructed the sheriff, who was no other a personage than C. P. V. Lull, to bring the prisoner into court. Lull stepped to the head of the stairs, the court being held in the attic of the old American House, and called out in his peculiar, mild voice, 'Jacob R. Shipler, Jacob R. Shipler, Jacob R. Shipler, come into court.'

"The judge . . . exclaimed in a voice that made the decanters in the bar below rattle: 'Sheriff, is this the way you take charge of prisoners placed in your custody?' 'Why, your honor, ' replied the sheriff, 'Shipler promised to be here at 10 o'clock this

morning.'

"The judge, who had prepared some well-timed suggestions to give the prisoner in connection with his sentence, after contemplating the sheriff and the comical faces of the crowd for a moment, with a disgust that was never equaled except at the Chicago convention when old Abe was nominated, ordered court adjourned.

"Shipler has never been heard of since, and it may be assumed with some propriety that Shipler has never been sentenced."

*Walkathon between Sullivan &
Griffin 1879*

This was in the days of real sport. In 1879, to be exact. And the sport was the most ancient of all, plain walking. According to the St. Paul Globe's account, on May 21, the windup of this walkathon was something to make strong men collapse.

"When the Globe went to press yesterday morning," the reporter said, "it left a motley gathering at the Opera House. A few were watching the pedestrians . . . a few were quietly nodding in their seats, while quite a number had stretched themselves across the seats and were snoring loudly. . .

"Shortly after 2 o'clock, Mr. Sullivan left the track for a short repose. It was found that his feet were badly blistered. His shoes were too low, and many grains of sawdust had sifted in and chafed him. Added to his misfortunes, he had neglected to provide the necessary changes of clothing, and when he returned to the track he was obliged to don the same damp, sweaty garments he had worn through the whole evening, while his competitor appeared with fresh, dry clothes, looking as well as when the match commenced.

"Sullivan, however, was 5 miles ahead, and his backers did not despair of his success. . . By noon the distance between the two had been reduced to $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. About this time, Sullivan began to exhibit signs of giving out. . . About 2:10, just as he had completed his seventieth mile, he staggered and nearly fell, but was caught by friendly hands and assisted from the track. . .

"Meantime, Griffin continued to stride around the track . . . and after he had completed 79 miles, he retired to rest. At 6:22 o'clock, Sullivan again made his appearance upon the track and was received with loud applause. He struggled along bravely for 2 miles, when he was carried from the track in a fainting condition, completely played out. . . Griffin came out shortly after seven. . . and added 8 miles to his score. Then he retired. . .

"It would be useless, under the circumstances, to give the score. The failure of Sullivan is a disappointment to many who had backed him heavily. . ."

REPRODUCTION BOARD

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*Soldiers on furlough are not
what they used to be*

Hundreds of soldiers from the nation's new defense army are back home in St. Paul on furloughs. Scattered about the city again, they are enjoying mother's cooking and relaxing in the quiet pattern of their old civilian life. There is no disorder, for Uncle Sam's soldiers today are gentlemen.

It was not always so in the distant days of the Fifties. Then army men on furlough in St. Paul roughed things up a bit. And their pugnacity was so infectious that it even roused the battling spirit in the so-called weaker sex. On January 12, 1853, the Minnesota Democrat reported rowdy goings-on in the capital.

"Soldiers On Furlough. - Our citizens have been much annoyed lately by inebriated soldiers, who seem to have been bent on a thorough celebration of the holidays for some time. 'Foot and dragoons' have been around, and some of them so full of rum and pugnacity that they square off to fight every person that comes along.

"In addition to the fighting propensity, a perfect recklessness of life and limb, whether their own or not, is their prevailing characteristic when mounted, as their races through our streets on Sundays, to the imminent danger of the lives of the pedestrians, show.

"The other day, one of them got so uproarious as to try to knock in the skull of a quiet citizen on Third street with a dangerous weapon, and did damage it some. . . If the officers, who are all gentlemen of the first respectability, knew of these things, they would not allow their men leave of absence in such numbers. . .

"Quite a number of quarrels and fights took place on that day (the day of the skull knocking), many mistaking it for the anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans, which occurs on the 8th, and the fights were not confined entirely to those whose duty it is to

do all the fighting for the Territory and the Nation. The warlike spirit of the republic evinced itself among the women on that auspicious day to such an extent that four of them were engaged in a set-to - two on a side - and were going it strong until a strong man, acquainted with all the parties, entered the house, separated them, and persuaded them to set their hair and dresses in order, which they did, convinced that

"'Their little hands were never made
To tear each other's eyes.'"

*St. Paul looked like a city to
the Editor of the Democrat 1852*

St. Paul looked like a city "in good earnest" to the Minnesota Democrat in 1852. Giving the town the once over, the editor, D. A. Robertson, picked his own neighborhood as a sample. And he wrote in May:

"Business Progress. - St. Paul looks the business, bustling city in good earnest. . . . Take our neighborhood for example, Third street, where one year ago there was not a business house from Wabashaw down to Pressley.

"Here's our neighbor Marshall, late of St. Anthony, with a fresh and heavy stock of groceries, busy all the time filling orders.

"Mr. Walker, a young gentleman from Philadelphia, with a stock of hats, caps, cravats, etc., has just opened a store in the Democrat building and is already doing a brisk business.

"Next door, a Mr. Hall is about to open a grocery, and next to that McCloud & Co. have been doubling the size of their store and are unpacking their new arrivals of hardware.

"Opposite is LaDue & Rohrer's book store, with a good stock and thriving business. Next door is Mr. Fullerton driving away in the mercantile line, and just below Mr. Buel's store doing a brisk trade in the boot and shoe and grocery line.

"At the corner, just below, is Hichcox & Kellogg's new three-story brick, into which they will shortly remove their stock of drugs and paints from the next door.

"In the same block are Spicer's jewelry store and the clothing store of Neihaus & Brother.

"Opposite are Nichols & Conway's new office and ~~the handsome~~ store building and the handsome Gothic building built by Mr. Whitney, the upper part for his daguerrean gallery and the lower part for a book store. . .

"All the buildings on Third street, from this side of Robert to Wabashaw, with the exception of the one at the corner of Robert, Dr. Dewey's office, Dr. Barber's office, Mr. Pressley's home and the shanty and stable back of the Central House, have been built within one year! Mr. Pressley is now putting up a three-story brick adjoining his present store, and Messrs. Stees & Hunt are building another at the corner of Minnesota and the same street.

"Since we arrived here one year ago, last November, St. Paul has doubled its population and trebled its business."

St. Paul folks took their party politics seriously in the Sixties

St. Paul folks took their party politics seriously in the Sixties. Indeed, when some boys once created disorder at a funeral, it was charged by the opposition that they must be the children of Democrat parents. In its issue of October 20, 1867, the Pioneer gave its ~~inflammatory~~ opinion of the accusation.

"The Press rushes to the defense of a correspondent of that paper who, a few days ago, alluded to some graceless juveniles who disturbed a funeral as the children of Democrats.

"It says the correspondent was 'a lady,' but that is a matter of taste. A true, genuine, honest woman might censure vigorously the indecency of the disturbance of which complaint was made, but would not, while doing so, insult the sensibilities of a majority of the people of the community. That would not be ladylike.

"But the editor of the Press indorses the article of the radical termagant and makes it his own. A majority of many hundreds of the people of St. Paul are Democrats . . . They are respectable, sober, decent people. They live honest lives, they give to the poor, they are humane and many are pious. . .

"This is what the editor of the Press says of that class of his fellow citizens: 'The urchins of Democratic stripe are generally young savages, innocent alike of soap or decency, and the marks of Democratic lineage and Democratic training are just as palpable in physiognomy, bearing, manners and general appearance as are the peculiarities which enable one to distinguish a cub from a young colt. A Democrat, in fact, resembles nothing else under the sun. He can be told as far as he can be seen, and it is just as impossible to mistake the breed in man or boy for anything that lives as to mistake a wolf-whelp for

a young eagle.'

"Ordinary language cannot do justice to this wholesale libel on a great majority of the people of our city."

THE EXPOSURE BOARD

"There is more gold in the wheat fields . . . of Minnesota than in the Black Hills or in Colorado. Moreover, the soil raises children . . . and makes homes where people may be virtuous and good." The words were General William T. Sherman's.

The formidable Civil War leader who blasted his way deep into Dixie evidently believed in turning swords into plowshares. He was one of the speakers when the Minnesota Historical Society sponsored the two hundredth anniversary celebration of the discovery of St. Anthony falls, and the St. Paul Globe, on Sunday, July 4, 1880, quoted the mellowing warrior:

"I am one of those referred to by the orator of the day (General Sibley) as having come a long distance to do honor to the memory of him who discovered the falls of St. Anthony.

"I have come, moreover, to recognize the merits of this historical society and to do what I can in my humble sphere to encourage them in collecting the data not only relating to that one great adventure (Father Hennepin's discovery of the falls), but of La Salle, Marquette and all that noble body of men who, two centuries ago, roamed over this land and told their fellows of its wealth and resources, and printed books to induce others to follow in their steps, and I am glad that duty has fallen to this society. . .

"But there is one thing your orator did not touch upon, to which I will briefly advert. I am very glad, as the Secretary of War, Ramsey, said, that Father Hennepin located this great falls in the 45th parallel and not down at the mouth of the Mississippi; but still more that he did not discover any gold here. (Laughter).

"The black soil over which we have been traveling now for 800 miles is richer

far than the gold mines of California. (Applause). I, therefore, hope you young people won't be caught with the gold fever.

"There is more gold in the wheat fields, the oat fields, the timothy fields of Minnesota than in the Black Hills or in Colorado. (Applause). Moreover, the soil raises children such as we see here, and makes homes where people may be virtuous and good. If you go into a gold mine, you have to carry a pistol in one hand and a knife in the other, and, therefore, I am glad your fate has brought you to this beautiful valley of the Mississippi.

"I hope this Historical Society may live and prosper. I honor them from my heart, and have come here for that purpose."

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It may be surprising to most citizens of Fillmore county to learn that what was apparently one of the first pairs of trousers ever made entirely in Minnesota was a Fillmore product. At least, the St. Paul Pioneer & Democrat thought they were, when the treasurer of Fillmore county back in 1862 appeared in the state capital wearing them.

In its June 15 edition, that year, the newspaper said: "S. B. Murrel, Esq., the County Treasurer of Fillmore, was in town yesterday, sporting a splendid pair of pants of Minnesota manufacture. The wool was grown, sheared, spun, the cloth wove, fullled, dressed and manufactured in Preston in that county. This is the first pair of pants we ever saw that was wholly of a domestic production. The pants were neat, tidy, handsome, stout, fine and just right in every particular. It is only proper to add that Messrs. Wallace and Wheeler are the proprietors of the factory which performed the work so handsomely. They have in their establishment 100 spindles, two sets of cards, and employ eight hands who are busy all of the time."

There was "gold in them thar hills" in 1875, and Fillmore - one of the state's oldest counties, having been established by the legislature in 1853 - was quite excited about it. Like the gold fever in other parts of Minnesota, this one, too, abated. However, the prospect looked good while it lasted, and the Lanesboro Journal in the fall of '75 said: "Gold and silver have been found in considerable quantities within gunshot of this place almost, and it is not impossible that rich diggings may be found. Ten pounds of the quartz were sent to an assayer in Chicago some time since, who has given it a thorough and critical examination, and who reports that the quartz yielded at the rate of \$12 per ton

gold , \$36 silver and \$2 lead, and he says if the quartz is found in anything like large quantities it will pay abundantly to work it."

The annals show that, at least so far as lead was concerned, there were mineral prospects long before 1875. In 1853, for instance, the Minnesota Pioneer, published at St. Paul, said: "A correspondent of the Minnesotian states that deposits of lead have been discovered in the vicinity of Minneowah, in Fillmore county. Mr. Peck, of that place, is preparing to work on the prospect. . . Minneowah is improving, and settlers are coming into the country rapidly."

Preston did not win the honor of being the county seat without lively competition from Carimona. In April, 1856, the Pioneer & Democrat of St. Paul reported: "The warfare for the county seat in Fillmore county grows warm. The citizens of Carimona offer, if the county seat shall be located at that place, to erect county buildings and donate the same." Nevertheless - and this is from the Minnesotian, later that year: "At a recent election in Fillmore county to determine the county seat, Preston won the race over Carimona by a considerable majority. There were 900 more votes polled than at the Territorial election last fall, which goes to prove that the country is settling faster down that way than people imagine."

Again the Minnesotian, also in '56: "Preston Journal - This is the name of the twentieth newspaper now published in Minnesota."

Chatfield Democrat, same year: "Found - A few evenings since, at the door of a farmer near this place, a sure-enough baby, about two days old, alive and kicking. The owner of this property is urgently requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges and take the youngster away. It is generally supposed that this baby is the very picture of its father, and if he has one drop of the milk of human kindness in his soul he will at once claim his own."

Pioneer & Democrat, '57: "An extensive woollen factory is now being erected at Preston, Fillmore county. Preston is a thriving place and already boasts of one of the best flouring mills in the Territory."

Minnesotian, March 5, 1859: "One of the passengers in the Decorah stage which came near going down with the team which was drowned at the upper levee on Thursday evening was the treasurer of Fillmore county, one of the richest counties in the state. . . He had three or four thousand dollars in gold in his carpet bag, which he seized and escaped with in time."

Minneapolis Tribune, '67: "In Chatfield, it has rained eighteen consecutive Sundays."

Minneapolis Tribune, '68: "A mass meeting was held at Spring Valley, Fillmore county, last week, to devise means to rid the place of whiskey saloons."

X

It took a citizen of Sherburne county to knock the stuffing out of an old adage, and he did the job thoroughly. Like the man who tells about the giant trout he caught and has the trout to prove it, this Sherburnite had the evidence of his ingenuity. His feat was chronicled in the St. Paul Pioneer Press of December 31, 1875 - a nice little item to help along the gaiety of the day.

"Mr. Moses Pendleton, of Santiago, Sherburne county, has disproved the old saw that 'you can't make a whistle of a pig's tail' by manufacturing a musical instrument of that peculiar sort from the bristly appendage of a dead porker, which he presented to Mr. J. A. Russell, of Sauk Rapids, as a Christmas present."

Minnesota newspaper annals give a tabloid history of the steps by which Sherburne achieved its present proud place in the sisterhood of the state's counties. Way back in '51, the Minnesota Democrat said, on August 5: "Wm. R. Marshall, Esq., has laid out a new town at the mouth of Elk river, and has commenced to improve the water power there. . . The new town bids fair to become a place of considerable importance."

The following year, January 24, the St. Anthony Express remarked: "Our enterprising fellow citizen, Ard Godfrey, Esq., is going ahead with energy with his improvements at the mouth of Elk river. He has a dam already nearly erected, and his timber nearly all prepared for a sawmill to be built in the spring."

In 1856, in its issue of March 27, the Sauk Rapids Frontiersman announced that, during the previous autumn, "several gentlemen from New York selected a beautiful tract of country a short distance east of Elk River and about six miles from this place, with the

view of establishing there this season a large settlement, exclusively of New York people."

In 1864, the St. Paul Press, telling about Indian depredations, said: "They take the liberty to go into houses and help themselves . . . to what they want. Governor Swift will confer a favor upon the settlers in the northern line of Sherburne county by sending the renegades where they belong, and the sooner the better."

St. Paul Pioneer, 1865: "The branch railroad from St. Paul to Elk River is a paying institution. The net receipts for the past two months have been \$56,000, while the necessary expense of operating the road has been about \$14,000."

Members of the legislature visited Elk River in January 1866, causing a St. Paul paper to say later: "The excursion party arrived at Elk River Station about one o'clock and repaired at once to Lufkin's Hotel, where we were treated to one of the royalest feasts ever spread in Minnesota. Anybody who hasn't heard of J. B. Lufkin and the table he always sets has never traveled much on the upper Mississippi. . . Some of the legislators suggested moving the capitol to Elk River Station, or the Lufkin Hotel to the capitol."

There was another distinguished visitor that same year, the man who defined war in three words. St. Paul Press, May 31, 1866: "General Sherman made a trip to Big Lake on the Pacific railroad yesterday, and returned to the city on the evening train."

It was also in Sherburne county that a train got lost. The St. Paul Pioneer told the story in '66. "On Saturday evening, after dark, the up train on the St. Paul & Pacific road ran by Elk River Station without seeing it . . . After running eight miles beyond the station, the engineer discovered his mistake and retraced his way back to Elk River."

Then in 1872, Twin City readers were told: "Elk River has a new weekly called the Sherburne County News."

And Sherburne boasted some whoppers in the way groceries. A St. Paul journal in 1871 published a letter from W. M. H. Houlton, which told of a tomato weighing two and a

half pounds, raised by J. Q. A. Nickerson. Houlton sent the tomato to the editor, too. Also the Elk River News said in 1878: "G. E. Thomas has raised several peaches this season, each measuring seven inches in circumference . . . and apples eleven inches in circumference." About the same time, the Wright county Times reported that "John Putnam, of Big Lake, dug out a potato weighing three pounds, three ounces."

X

"Becker County or Bust!" was the slogan of the early pioneers who trekked Minnesota-ward to make that part of the state their home.

Detroit Lakes, seat of Becker county, which was established by the legislature in 1857, together with Frazee, Lake Park and the other communities there, did not get under way without an occasional setback, but they were able to report steady progress through the years and take time out to publicize their monster bear, their giant fish and a brass band that was a wonder.

The Alexandria Post, in 1871, reported: "A gentleman just from Becker county informs us that last week the Indians of the White Earth reservation, to the number of 150, broke open the government warehouse at White Earth Lake and carried off a quantity of provisions, wheat, etc. It is said in extenuation that they were starving and made this attack for the sole purpose of obtaining food, the hunting, trapping and fishing having failed in that region."

St. Anthony Falls Democrat, May 4, 1871: "On Sunday afternoon, seven teams loaded with immigrants from Wisconsin, together with fifteen or twenty head of cattle, passed through the city westward, with the significant words on the covering of the forward wagon, 'Becker County or Bust.' It is of such determined material that our far-extending frontier is being peopled."

Early that fall, the St. Paul Press had this: "Seventeen families from near Marquette, Mich., selected lands on the line of the Northern Pacific Railroad in Becker county, Minnesota, last week and are now in transit to their new homes. The committee for the colon-

ists arranged for building material to be furnished on the ground and ready for the on-the-spot festival of the people. Each family takes 160 acres."

St. Paul Pioneer, October 26, 1871: "Detroit City is the name of a new town in Becker county." Thereafter, it was called variously "Detroit," "Detroit Lake" and "Detroit Lakes."

The next year, a Twin City paper, in an article about five hundred former New Englanders residing in and near the present county seat, said: "It is intended . . . to start shoe and furniture manufactories at Detroit Lake at an early day, which, if successful, will make this place a New England town in the northwest."

Translated from Norwegian, a letter, dated 1872, from Oak Lake, stated among other things: "There is one thing that we still lack, a Norwegian blacksmith."

St. Paul Press, 1872: "A meeting was held at Detroit August 13th for the purpose of organizing a County Agricultural Society." The first officers were: "F. B. Chapin, President; D. Pyle, S. E. Van Gordon and L. G. Stephenson, Vice Presidents; W. E. Ball, Secretary; J. H. Phinney, Treasurer."

Minneapolis Tribune, 1874: "West of Perham, about ten miles, is the rising young town of Frazee city. . . The life of this town is R. L. Frazee; from him it gained its being and to him the town looks largely for prosperity. The institution of the place is Frazee's Mills, erected last fall."

St. Paul Dispatch, 1875: "The Becker County Banner is the title of a new and neat paper just issued at Detroit, Minnesota. The editor gives the following reasons for starting his paper:

- '1st - Because we want to, and
- 2nd - Because we have a right to.'

Stillwater Gazette, June 14, 1876: "A lively bear hunt in the town of Cormorant,

Becker county, on the night of the 30th ult. resulted in the killing of a monstrous black bear, whose hide measured 8 feet from tip to tip."

Then the fish story. Minneapolis Tribune, 1884: "Detroit is excited over the appearance of a fish six feet in length in the lake at that place. The fish is supposed to be a salmon."

The Tribune again, on July 7 of the same year: "Detroit, Minn., July 5 - The Hotel Minnesota, costing, furnished, \$50,000, one hundred rooms, was formally opened last evening."

And once more in that month and year, this little fling by a Twin City newsman: "Detroit is going to have a grand brass band tournament, and the citizens are fleeing to the woods."

X

Minnesota is frequently referred to as the "bread basket of the world," but there was a time when a visitor to Big Stone county complained that a five-cent meal there cost twenty-five cents. That folks sold cream by the inch there and predicted that Big Stone was destined to become the great watering place of the northwest "when Minnetonka is worn out" - these make interesting bits from the story of that section of Minnesota whose capital is Ortonville.

The county was established on February 20, 1862, but it was not until 1874 that it was organized, with C. K. Orton, Jacob Hurley and James Morrison making up the first board of county commissioners.

In October 1877, the Stillwater Gazette said: "Last week Hank Van Vorhes headed a party bound for Big Stone county in search of farms. Hank has been over that section pretty thoroughly and will prove a valuable accession to the force. The soil in Big Stone county is said to be unsurpassed. There are now over thirty from this vicinity who either have or soon will take up land in that county."

The following May, the St. Paul Globe reported: "The Catholic colony in Big Stone county has received frequent mention in the Globe as being in a prosperous condition. Many of the colonists are gentlemen belonging to this city, who have taken claims with the ultimate view of actual settlement and, for the present at least, positive improvement and cultivation of their lands. . . . These gentlemen have banded together for the purpose of improving their claims and have jointly arranged for the breakage this year of 415 acres. This will be accomplished by parties already on the ground, and next year, if Providence

favours, the Big Stone Catholic colony will have its initiatory wheat fields waving under the summer breezes. A church edifice has already been constructed on the lands, which also sensibly serves as a temporary shelter for the immigrants who are flocking in with their almost incredible hosts."

Minneapolis Tribune, '79: "D. E. Eyre, pretty well known here as a partner in the old firm of Fletcher, Loring & Eyre, is building a store at Ortonville, on Big Stone lake. Dan thinks Big Stone the future great watering place of the Northwest - when Minnetonka is worn out."

Stillwater Gazette, same year: "You can find any kind of people in Big Stone you want - Adventists, Ritualists, Sonorists. The Adventists observe Saturday as their day of rest, and it is not unusual to find two brothers, or two who are not brothers, owning jointly the same team and one observing Saturday and the other Sunday. This is a great country to get five-cent meals for twenty-five cents."

In 1879, hail brought disaster. The Stevens County Tribune wrote: "Our informant states that the hail was driven with sufficient force to take pieces of skin and flesh from the backs and sides of the cattle as large as the palm of his hand." And the Tribune told Minneapolis readers how "a man named Barton, living in the eastern part of Big Stone county . . . started to procure a harvester he had ordered. Shortly after he left home, a shower of hail destroyed his crop of fifty acres and his wife sent a boy on horseback to tell him not to bring the machine, as there would be nothing to harvest."

The following February, a Twin City paper said: "A stock company composed of St. Paul, Minneapolis and Hastings business men has been formed to establish a summer resort on the east shore of Big Stone lake, north of Ortonville."

Railroads are not noted for giving things away. But during that same February, the Morris Tribune announced that, because of the extreme cold spell in January, "the

railroad company, through General Manager Hill, gave to the new settlers in the Graceville colony, a donation of 75 cords of wood."

The next winter was also something to write home about. On April 19, 1881, the Minneapolis Tribune printed a revealing item. "The first train at Ortonville since January 26 put in an appearance on Wednesday last, and was welcomed by the entire population."

But everything was fine the following year, according to the Tribune. In September, the paper announced: "The first county fair in Big Stone county was held at Ortonville, Sept. 20 to 22. It was in all respects a success. The show of stock, vegetables and cereals was a credit to the county and a surprise to many."

The Tribune again, in 1883: "The managers of the Ortonville creamery are now paying fifteen cents per inch for cream."

On July 23, 1853, physicians of Minnesota Territory were called to gather in St. Paul and, having done so, "admitted the propriety" of establishing a medical society. The Pioneer, on July 28, announced the formation of the new medical organization.

"In pursuance to a call publicly given by the papers of the Territory, Physicians representing different counties and towns met in St. Paul, on Saturday, 23d inst., at the Court House and made a temporary organization by calling Dr. Potts to the Chair, and Dr. Anderson, Secretary. . . .

"The convention, thus organized, soon admitted the propriety of forming a medical society, and went into committee of the whole, Dr. Murphy in the Chair, when a plan of Constitution and By-laws was reported.

"A Constitution, made up mainly from those in force in Pennsylvania and Illinois, was now taken up, considered by sections, and with various additions and amendments adopted, together with a set of By-laws and the American Association Code of Ethics.

"Drs. Ames, Murphy and Mann were now appointed a Committee to select permanent officers and committees for the ensuing year; who reported - Dr. Potts, President; Drs. Ames and Murphy, Vice Presidents; Dr. T. T. Mann, Corresponding Secretary; Dr. Anderson, Recording Secretary.

"The Objects of the Society. - The objects of this Society shall be the advancement of Medical knowledge, the elevation of professional character, the protection of the interests of its members, the extension of the friends of Medical science, and the protection of all measures adapted to the relief of suffering and to improve the health and protect the lives of the community.'

"These objects are certainly very noble and, if carried out faithfully in practice,

will sustain the men who devote themselves to such a cause in the esteem and affections of the people."

There was no Racing Form for the boys to read in St. Paul in 1855. But there were races to give headaches to pedestrians and city officials. On October 16, that year, the Pioneer was perturbed over racing in the streets, fearing for both the necks and the morals of the townsfolk. It said:

"There was a race yesterday afternoon in St. Paul and, if our information is correct, in St. Anthony also. The public thoroughfares of both places were used openly and without hindrance, as far as we could learn, upon the part of the authorities of St. Paul for an action entirely in violation of law.

"There was a great crowd upon St. Anthony street and in the vicinity of the American House. Riders, booted, spurred and capped according to the usages of the turf, appeared upon the street, mounted upon spirited animals.

"Judges were called for and took their stations, and the start was made at full speed. The distance required to be traveled over was to and into St. Anthony and back.

"To those who admire the detestable vice of gambling in any of its forms or who find a plea for horse racing in the old saying 'it improves the breed,' this exhibition must have been very pleasant.

"To those who value the morals of the community, who would not have children and growing youth invited, as it were, into participation with the public display of viciousness, which ever in a greater or less degree characterizes such affairs, it must have appeared strangely out of place and very wrong.

"It is something to be thought of by our city fathers, we hope, whether the streets of St. Paul can be converted into race courses, and whether city ordinances can

be disregarded with impunity.

"It is very certain that the moral sense of the community is against it."

Nothing is sure but death and taxes and the bag-crackler who sits next to you in the movies. The thirty-fourth National Conference on Taxation is now in session on the university campus and in St. Paul, and their deliberations will echo much earlier discussions in Minnesota of how to pay the public expenses.

In 1879, the Stillwater Gazette nodded in the direction of high finance. "Any of you fellows that are anxious to make a Christmas gift to Uncle Sam might pay off the national debt. It's only \$2,016,049,728."

But newspaper talk about taxes was old stuff long before 1879. In 1851, for instance, on May 15, the Pioneer listed property being sold for non-payment of taxes in an advertisement signed: "C. P. V. Lull, Sheriff & Collector of Ramsey county, Minn. Ter'y., St. Paul."

Three years later, the Minnesotian announced: "The city assessors have completed their labors, and the amount of taxable property within the corporation is over a million and a half dollars! Upon this the city is allowed to levy for general purposes a tax of five mills upon the dollar - enough for all practicable purposes, certainly. Five years ago we made a loud crow over the fact that the value of all taxable property in the Territory amounted to four hundred thousand dollars."

A "Tax Payer" squawked in 1857. Writing to the Minnesotian, he asked: "Why is the system of wholesale improvements now going on, with an increased stringency in the money market, persevered in and increased? Is it not enough to deter capital from being invested, and may we not expect to be overburdened with taxation, with the prospect of hard times to property owners?" The writer particularly protested an "expensive sewer" in process of erection on Robert street."

In 1859, the Red Wing Sentinel called for a special session of the legislature to consider "a special State Tax to meet the interest accruing on the Railroad Bonds," declaring that "the only means now left to raise the credit of the State." To which a St. Paul paper replied: "This is taking the bull by the horns. Will not the Railroad organs in this city now take hold?"

That same year, the Minnesotian reported: "We hear of much distress being inflicted upon the people of the interior of the State from the effort of the Tax Gatherers to make the amount of their duplicates off the personal property of the tax payers. Horses, cows and property necessary to the carrying on of their farms and the subsistence of themselves and children are being seized and brought to forced public sales, at which the property is most shamefully sacrificed from their being no money in the country wherewith to buy it."

History repeats. The Crimea is a fateful name in today's headlines. In 1855, in different circumstances, it was also in the columns of the Pioneer, and the Pioneer believed that issues larger than the military campaign were being decided on the Russian peninsula. Europe was soon to become all cossack or all republican. Said an editorial on June 4:

"When the allied powers determined upon the war with Russia, the whole civilized world instinctively referred to the declaration of Napoleon that in fifty years Europe would be either republican or cossack. It was, when uttered, deemed a wild and careless saying, spoken more for effect than anything else by a man to whom the entire continental power seemed at one time promised, and who lived to see that promise rendered less than nothing - his very efforts to encompass it being made the reason for inflicting upon him at the close of his life such indignities as only the jailer at St. Helena, Sir Hudson Lowe, could find hardness of heart and nerve enough to inflict. . .

"The war in the Crimea has already given to the democratic principles of republicanism an impetus, in England especially, the result of which cannot now be estimated. It threatens to subvert the ancient institutions of the land, to break down titles and caste, and merge the 'privileged few' who have been so long regarded by our transatlantic neighbors as a superior order of beings into the mass of the untitled many, who possess the mind, the wealth, the energy and the spirit which belong to the true glory of a nation. . .

"England and France deemed themselves invincible against the world when they recently united in arms, either on sea or on shore. . . A deep shame rests upon both these great powers, for they have been held at bay. . . The prestige of quick success in their present campaign created by their past history is utterly gone. . .

"The war of the Crimea has sealed the fate of the English aristocracy, and, in spite of deep-rooted prejudices, of ancient family associations, of tremendous wealth, it will go down before the strength of public opinion, backed as it is already by the middle class, in which is embodied the real strength and power of old England.

"All things tend to show that ere long Europe will be either republican or cossack. England will be republican."

Seventy-five years ago this month, in October 1866, St. Paul was enjoying quiet autumn days.

Sugar-cured ham was listed in the market at 27¢ a pound, tub butter at 22¢ a pound, eggs at 21¢ a dozen, potatoes at 40¢ a bushel, apples at \$5.50 a barrel. Among the songs being sold in the city were: "She Sang Among the Flowers," "I'll Meet Thee in the Lane," "Too Late to Marry," "The Splendor Falls on Castle Walls" and "Touch Not the Fair Cup Tho' It Sparkles." The St. Paul Library Association sponsored a lecture by Professor Oscanyan, who spoke at Ingersoll's Hall on "Turkey - education; shopping in the bazaars; flirting and courting; marriage, divorce, &c. &c. . . a new phase of Oriental life but little treated of in books of travel, and cannot fail to give satisfaction."

The Daily Press sent a special correspondent to Rochester to cover the Minnesota State Fair there. The firemen had a parade. A dancing school was opened by Mr. L. Seibert, who, the Daily Press stated, was a person "in every respect capable of teaching all of the dances now in vogue in our eastern cities."

There was some excitement. The stable of the International House went up in flames. The Pioneer called for a pest house after "a family living on 7th street, back of the City Hall," were taken sick with small-pox and the neighbors "took them outside the city and left them in the swamp near the Lake Como Road in a rude and hastily constructed hut." Because streets were poorly lighted at night and citizens were "doomed to feel their way about, like blind men, expecting every minute to break their necks," the Pioneer said: "We wish light and must have it!"

But for the most part, it was the kind of month when the Pioneer could write with untroubled satisfaction: "We met a party of immigrants on Third street yesterday, direct

from near Lafayette, Indiana, having come all the way in wagons, making the journey in about a month. There were about twenty in the party, four or five of whom were able-bodied men . . . well provided with stock and means for settling. They stopped in at the Pioneer office to get some of our papers. Indeed, it was some numbers of the Pioneer that happened to stray into their neighborhood . . . that first attracted their attention to this state. We bid these hard-fisted yeomanry a thousand welcomes."

"The peltry trade in the Territory" was diminishing in 1854, according to the St. Anthony Express. But it seems that there was still plenty to be said about the bear and the buffalo.

"Bears are found in considerable numbers," the paper reported. "Some of the citizens of this vicinity generally have one or more of these pet playthings on hand for the entertainment of children and strangers. They are a saucy looking and boorish acting brute, seeming to have little regard for the due observance of the ordinary courtesies and civilities of good society, but an uncivilized Bruin allows his passions to get the better of his judgment on slight provocation, and in such cases will incontinently bite, scratch or hug whatever may be within his reach. He can, therefore, be hardly considered a desirable parlor companion and his hide is the most valuable part of him. The black bear is by far the most numerous in the Territory, but few of the grizzly species being found. An average skin is worth five dollars - a very good one (she bear) from six to seven. They are principally used for saddle housings, and harness trimmings and sometimes for sleigh robes."

In contrast to the "boorish" bear, the buffalo was the monarch of the plains. "Immense herds of these animals," said the Express writer, "range the vast prairies extending from the Mississippi to the Missouri. The luxuriant meadows furnish them with abundant subsistence the year round. . . . Incredible numbers, amounting, as was estimated, to several hundred thousand in a drove, were seen by Gov. Stevens and his party, the last summer, on his survey of the Northern Pacific Railroad route. Two days were required to pass some droves, from which it may be inferred that they were from forty to fifty miles in length, extending on either side as far as the eye could reach. Some of the mules and horses getting mingled in the droves, it was found impossible to retake them and they were lost. The

existence of these tremendous herds adds a new feature of interest to the northern route. Only think of the amateur sportsman thundering over those boundless prairies at the rate of forty miles an hour, and picking off with his rifle a score or two of fine bulls without leaving his seat in the cars! It would be a rare sport, and thousands of English Cockneys will be over to enjoy it within the next five years - if the road is built."

X

25.

There were no community chests in 1879. However, Minnesotans then were taking steps to coordinate the state's various welfare activities. On October 24, 1879, the St. Paul Globe reported the "Union Movement for Dispensation of Alms."

"The convention of public charities was held yesterday . . . consisted of representative members of the several local charities in this city, Minneapolis and such other places throughout the state as pleased to participate. The convention was called at the suggestion, and held under the auspices, of the St. Paul Relief Society. The object was to harmonize the workings of the several institutions by creating a reciprocal union of interests between institutions as well as localities, and by the adoption of such a system to better the economy of the whole management . . . The convention was called to order by the Hon. H. M. Rice . . .

"The committee to which was referred the duty of summarizing the results of the conference of charities would respectfully report that:

"First - The conference held served to bring out what was being done of a benevolent and charitable nature in this city and Minneapolis, and are gratified to find the work so wisely systematized and so economically managed.

"Second - They also find that the ends sought by these various agencies in assisting the deserving poor, befriending the homeless, saving the fallen and caring for the sick are, in the main, secured and show harmonious working, each filling a field unoccupied and doing successfully a necessary work.

"Third - They also believe that these societies reduce street begging and vagrancy, and diminish taxation by saving those they care for from becoming paupers or criminals.

They also prevent from 'going on the town,' with all its perils and disadvantages, those for whom their discriminating kindness more comfortably provides, by means of which the subjects are enabled to return to a respectable and independent life.

"Fourth - They take pleasure in commending to the most generous support of the St. Paul public their various charitable societies, which your committee deem worthy of being cherished with civic pride.

"Fifth - They also beg in all seriousness to suggest to our citizens that indiscriminate giving to beggars encourages pauperism . . . and that the truest and wisest charity is to refer them to those in charge of the latter . . . In no other way can imposture be prevented and tramps or persistent vagrants be exposed. . ."

"Strange as it seems" - curious clippings from Minnesota newspaper annals:

St. Paul Press, '71: "Under any circumstances, it is scarcely the proper thing for a man to drive a sleigh at the rate of six or seven miles an hour without making some sort of a demonstration. Ring the bells, or look out for these noiseless cutters."

Pioneer Press, '76: "They were sowing wheat on Jackson street last week."

Pioneer Press, '77: "The poundmaster has declared his intention to enforce the ordinance in regard to cows running at large within the city limits. If he succeeds, he will do the biggest business of any man in the city."

St. Paul Globe, '78: "The telephone entertainment at the House of Hope will be on Friday evening, March 8 . . . and will be the first public exhibition of the telephone at St. Paul."

Minneapolis Tribune, '78: "A sign on Washington avenue and very near police headquarters reads - 'Safe-opening, lock-picking, key-fitting and general burglarizing done to order.'"

Globe, '79: "Among the curious attractions noticed by a Globe reporter . . . was the half-formed lady, to be seen at No. 50, West Third street. The exhibition is one of the most perfect scientific optical illusions ever given in St. Paul, and should be seen by all citizens."

Tribune, '86: "A horse on roller skates, such is the attraction on the bills at the Washington rink . . . The horse is Dolly . . . She is undoubtedly the only horse in the world which has ever mastered the rollers."

Tribune, '86: "We have a full line of mourning parasols, with tape fringe and crepe trimmings. Hale, Thomas & Co."

Tribune, '86: "There is a lady in Stillwater, 58 years old, cutting a third set

of teeth. They are small and white, but not remarkably useful."

~~Titmouse~~, P+882, "A novel and attractive departure in the manufacture of confectionery is brought to light in the translucent picture candy (flat pieces of candy stamped with story-book characters or landscapes) . . . The products of such skill will of course be popular with the little folks, who can buy illustrated editions of Mother Goose in their candy and, after satisfying the eye, reap an additional reward for the pennies spent in satisfying the stomach."

X

27.

There was only one horse in all Cook county - or so the county auditor said - and that was in the horse and buggy days, too. Furthermore, in that year of 1883, Cook county possessed only five cows, and but one was an aristocrat.

But the county had other things to cheer it up. A colorful and important history reaching back to a time before the Declaration of Independence, unsurpassed natural beauty, a silver bonanza, and a nice lighthouse from its Uncle Sam.

Away back in 1856, the St. Paul Pioneer & Democrat had this to say: "Since the first settlements around the head of Lake Superior, the pioneers have devoted much of their time to prospecting for copper and other minerals, and, with few exceptions, but little was done in farming and other local business. This season opens with more cheering prospects. . . The propeller Manhattan, on her trip of the 29th of May, took to Grand Marais and Grand Portage supplies and settlers; and the steamer Superior, Captain Jones, on her last trip here had on board the heads of about fifteen families, horses, wagons, cattle, etc. . ."

The lighthouse broke into the news the following month, when the St. Paul paper reported: "Mr. Rice, under date of the 11th (of August), informs us that the House has passed a bill appropriating \$6,000 for a lighthouse. . . at Grand Marais, Lake Superior."

In 1874, on November 19, the St. Paul Pioneer recorded a milestone on the north shore. "By an act of the last legislature, a new county under the name of Cook was created by dividing Lake county, commencing at the range line between ranges two and three west of the fourth meridian, the north half to be the new county. This act was

ratified by the voters of Lake county on the 3rd inst., and the new county consequently has an existence."

Then came the silver. The Minneapolis Tribune gave its readers the news on August 6, 1879. "It is reported that Gen. Baker has struck a silver bonanza on the north shore of Lake Superior, 36 miles due north of Grand Marais. If the reports of the richness of the ore and the extent of the treasure-bearing rock are confirmed, we may ere long see a new Leadville boom up in that northern wilderness. Now won't someone strike some inexhaustible coal veins somewhere within reach?"

In 1881, the Tribune contained this information: "Articles of incorporation were filed by the secretary of state as follows: The Brule River Improvement Company, which has for its object the improvement of that stream in Cook county, Minn. The incorporators are E. H. Hammond, A. M. Morrison, H. B. Moore, G. F. Sexwith and J. B. Scovell. The capital stock is \$25,000."

It was two years later, in 1883, that Cook county's lone nag and five bossies were given publicity in a Twin City paper of August 2. "The statistical returns from the auditor of Cook county were received by the secretary of state yesterday. They are chiefly remarkable for their meager showing. No grain or farm products are reported as growing in the county; and the whole reports consist in the enumeration of five common milk cows, one of fine blood, and one horse."

Silver bobbed up again in 1884 in a dispatch from Duluth. "There have been new and somewhat startling developments in the North Shore Silver Mine, recently opened on Temperance River, seventy-five miles from Duluth, it turning out a rich rock vein, and has been opened five or six feet wide. The shaft has been sunk forty feet, and 800 tons of rock have been taken out. Already the mine pays. Assays show the remarkable yield of

\$200 worth of silver and copper per ton, and it promises to be a regular bonanza. Other mines are being opened up and prospected in this region, which promises to be one of the richest in the country."

The silver boom died. But Cook county remained rich in wealth that was not buried in the earth.



St. Paul had no slot machines or "14" games in 1858. But there was gambling, and efforts of the town's police to catch up with the gamblers of that period sound much like present-day happenings in the Twin City area. The Pioneer & Democrat of September 16, 1858, told a story of thwarted justice on the gambling front.

"On Saturday evening last, several of our policemen made a descent on a gambling house located on Bench street below the old Central House, which in former times was a fashionable and favorite place of resort for the sporting fraternity of this city and known as the La Belle Saloon. Time, however, has had its effects upon this institution, as well as everything else, and recently it has been occupied as a gambling house."

The paper went on to explain that "Officer Parker" was asked to get into action against the establishment and that he "immediately procured assistance, but upon arriving at the place found that his informer had turned traitor, given the alarm, and the entire crowd had decamped for parts unknown." The account continued: "Not being entirely discouraged by the first unfortunate experiment, the officers resolved to try again, and determined on Saturday evening as the time for the second visit to the den of dark iniquity. In accordance with their resolution, they went there, and their appearance on the premises was the signal for a stampede which is described by the beholders as terrific in the extreme.

"Windows were knocked out, plastering kicked from the walls, and the well known beauty of the furniture and gambling utensils was badly disfigured during the excitement. The officers succeeded in capturing five of the occupants, who were tried before Judge Simons yesterday; but the testimony being insufficient to prove their participation in the scientific and noted games, they were discharged.

"The den has been an abominable nuisance for a considerable length of time, and

we are happy to record a single step toward its abatement, and hope the house will ultimately be vacated or used for more respectable purposes."

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Because 1941 is not an even-numbered year, the state's deer hunters will not be abroad this fall in Roseau county. But they will be waiting for next year's sport. Back in 1884, things were different. A correspondent for the New York American Field wasn't at all sure that there was anything worth a hunter's powder up in "this unexplored section!" Certainly, he wrote, "the Indians are content with a moderate meat supply." Nevertheless, he thought his first impression might be wrong, for he concluded his report: "I have seen several carcasses of moose. . . Parties who have visited Roseau lake and vicinity in September report tracks of all sorts everywhere in great abundance, but dense foliage prevents view of the animals themselves."

Only a decade later, Roseau county was able to speak for itself, and it had a good bit to say. On July 26, 1895, the Roseau County Times, published and edited by Roger J. Bell, made its appearance.

Under the heading "Roseau Resume," it said of the county seat: "The village of Roseau. . . is beautifully situated upon the banks of the river of the same name. Jadis, its former postoffice name, was practically located for a townsite three years ago and was laid out by J. H. Sanders and Rudolph Jacklin. The village has a splendid farming and stock country tributary on all sides for many miles. The Roseau valley is rich in soil and beauty. The natural topography of the country will not admit of a town being built up within miles of the county seat, and the village promises well with all its natural and present advantages."

In the same issue, the paper listed the tradespeople of the settlement. "Mr. Rudolph Jacklin," it remarked by way of introduction, "erected a large sawmill nearly

three years ago, and this, with the merchants locating on the present site of the village, gave permanency to the establishment of a village, and about a year ago its growth became rapid and we now have a respectable, wide-awake business place.

"Bendix Holdahl, general merchant, practically succeeded the firm of O. P. Larson & Co., January 1, 1895. O. P. Larson & Co. established their business here about six years ago.

"Sjoberg Brothers commenced business five years ago. Their trade has increased and the firm has made money. They carry a \$12,000 to \$15,000 stock of general merchandise, do quite a lumber business and raise stock.

"Jacob E. Lindberg is one of the oldest merchants of the place and, besides doing a general merchandise and lumber business, carries on a farm and raises stock.

"T. H. Durgin is a new merchant, locating at this place last spring. He is a hustler and hails from Parker's Ferry, Minn.

"The village has three well-regulated and orderly licensed saloons, all of them highly doing a business in which no complaint is heard.

"The furniture line is represented by G. Homme & Co., and a well-stocked drugstore is conducted by the same firm.

"J. U. Skoglund, the merchant tailor, does a good business in his line.

"The only butcher shop in the village is owned by Mr. P. Dahlquist and presided over by John Miso.

"The Hotel Roseau is under the direct management of Mr. Scott Riddell, of the firm of Riddell & Nelson."

The Times, in the same initial issue, reported that the board of county commissioners had "proceeded to fix and determine the boundaries of a new town and to name the same Barto, and designated the dwelling house of Michael Barto as the place for holding the first town meeting."

Two years later, Roseau county was giving its studied opinion on statewide politics. Said the Roseau Plaindealer: "The Twin City papers speak of Hon. Halvor Steenerson as the gentleman who will receive the appointment of United States district attorney. The Plaindealer thinks a better choice could not be made."

By 1901, the county was well enough along to be able to relax goodhumoredly over more trivial matters-- the curious goings-on of Warroad youngsters, for instance. "A juvenile secret society called the 'Band of Mercy' was instituted here last week," announced the Warroad Plaindealer on January 10, that year. "Blanche Durham, Lisle Moody and Frank Guhl seem to be the chief promoters. The members of the new order have fitted up Durham's butcher shop for a lodge room."

Ancker hospital is a symbol of St. Paul's civic enterprise and an enduring tribute to the physician whose name it bears.

One of the steps in the evolution of the present institution was an extended tour made by Dr. Arthur B. Ancker to study the hospital facilities and practices of other cities and the subsequent comprehensive report submitted by him to the Board of Control. On January 3, 1887, the Pioneer Press published the report, which said in part:

"Leaving St. Paul November 19, I visited and inspected during the ensuing five weeks all of the more prominent hospitals, children's homes, foundling asylums and institutions of a kindred nature in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, St. Louis and Chicago. . . As a result of information thus acquired, together with several years' experience in this city, I would first recommend the acquisition of more territory at the present location of our city hospital, a location that will in every particular compare favorably with the best that I have seen or know of in the United States. . .

"That we must have more hospital room is demonstrated by this fact alone: during the month of December, the hospital has been so overcrowded that we have been obliged to make as many as eight, and never less than three, beds on the floor of the wards to accommodate our patients.

"On each side of the administrative building there should be erected an isolated building connected with it by an enclosed corridor to be used as ward buildings. This is known as the pavillion plan, and it is in accord with the latest and most approved ideas of hospital construction. Not only should the medical cases be separated from the surgical, but suitable provision should be made for classifying diseases according to their special

peculiarities. There should also be wards devoted exclusively to the treatment of lying-in women and children. . . I feel that I cannot be too emphatic in urging the necessity of setting aside at least four small wards in which may be placed, at the discretion of the examining physicians, persons alleged to be insane.

"There is always a considerable demand for accommodation by invalids ready and willing to pay for private apartments. The income from this source would aid materially in decreasing the cost of maintenance to the public. . .

"For all these improvements - and I do not believe that I can overestimate the importance and necessity of the least of them - I would recommend that the legislature be petitioned for an appropriation of \$100,000."

When is a settler an "old settler"? They had them in St. Paul as far back as 1859, when the Pioneer & Democrat, on June 9, reported an old settlers' meeting and banquet. The account said in part:

"This association, composed of men residents within the bounds of Minnesota prior to January 1, 1850, held its annual meeting at the capitol on Wednesday afternoon. . . In the evening, the members, some thirty or forty in number, partook of a banquet prepared by Col. Belote of the Merchants' Hotel. A number of lady members of the association, who may be styled old settlers without any reflection upon their age, were also present.

"Old Settler Sibley, the late president of the association, occupied the head of the table with Old Settler Oakes at the foot. They managed to keep the other old chaps in tolerable order.

"Strange reminiscences of past junketings within the precincts of the Merchants' must have flitted through the minds of many of those present, in comparing the ample feast prepared with the rations dealt out in the golden age of '49. Then the Merchants' was a small house, crowded to its utmost capacity with men of every nationality, description of dress and shade of personal cleanliness. The accommodations for the comfort of the inner man were such as may be found probably at any log house of entertainment on Red River.

"That universal staff of life out west, hot, indigestible biscuit, rancid pork, bacon of an uncertain age, coffee without milk and bread without butter, made up the bill of fare. If travelers fared badly in substantials, those prone to indulge in the 'rosy' deserved to be more deeply pitied; they had to drink Indian whiskey. How forcible the comparison from the dinner set out on Wednesday evening, the reader may judge for himself."

The paper then printed the evening's menu, which included: oyster and lobster

soup, trout, perch, pickerel, bass, ham, corned beef, tongue, leg of mutton, chicken, pork, roast beef, veal and pigeon, onions, carrots, peas, tomatoes, parsnips, baked potatoes, cucumbers, cauliflower, beets and lettuce, cherry, gooseberry, raspberry and strawberry pie, three flavors of ice cream, rum jelly, charlotte russe, custard, dates, raisins, lady fingers, a variety of cakes, coffee, tea and chocolate.

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It was 449 years ago tonight. The moon in its last quarter rose over the Atlantic at about midnight. The crews of the three battered vessels plunging through the waves did not sleep during those hours. The next day, October 12, they were to see a new world.

This picture was drawn by Rev. E. D. Neill, pioneer Minnesota preacher, educator and historian, on the evening of October 11, 1892. He was addressing the Loyal Legion at a meeting which marked St. Paul's observance of the four-hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America. The following day, the Pioneer Press reported: "Last evening, the silver-haired companions of the Loyal Legion of Minnesota, in keeping with the enthusiastic and prevalent spirit of the day, honored the name and deeds of Christopher Columbus."

Reviewing Neill's speech, the article continued: "In opening his address, he called attention to the almanac prepared by Regiomontanus, the astronomer, of which there was on Recorder White's desk a copy, with its original clasp and binding, printed in A.D. 1484 at Venice, and from which it can be ascertained that about midnight of the eleventh of October, 1492, according to the Julian notation then in use, the moon rose at the last quarter. 'That night,' said Dr. Neill, 'neither Columbus nor his sailors slept. They were on the tiptoe of expectation. For the next morning (Friday) they would touch land.'

"Dr. Neill stated that, while Columbus did not claim to have originated the idea that there was land beyond the Atlantic ocean, he could rightly claim to have been immeasurably above the navigators of his age, for he had been the first to see the land of which others had only dreamed."

Also on the Loyal Legion program was Federal Judge Caldwell of Arkansas, who spoke in another vein. According to the Pioneer Press: "'Well, boys,' said the handsome jurist from the far south, 'I have been highly enlightened by the various remarks about

Columbus. But to tell the truth, I have been a little disappointed in the old boy and incline to the belief that he has been highly overestimated. If someone were to write a book on the mistakes of Columbus, it would be a bigger volume than Ingersoll's Mistakes Of Moses. Columbus is not entitled to the great credit that has been given him. Why, any man with half an eye could have discovered this great country. The great mistake Columbus made, for which the men of the great Northwest will not forgive him, was that he discovered the country at the wrong end. He should have come by way of Duluth, and planted the Spanish flag on Summit avenue!

"Who, then, discovered the great Northwest? Why, that old, weatherbeaten, hardy mariner, Knute Nelson of Norway, and that horny-handed Irish king, Ignatius Donnelly. Well, in consequence of their work, I understand that each of the gentlemen is to be elected governor. Twenty friends of Nelson have informed me, confidentially, that he is to be elected, and an equal number of Donnelly's supporters have told me the same thing concerning him."

The child actor seems to have a permanent place in the interest of the American public. Back in 1857, St. Paul took to its heart a little visiting star named Master Moses, described by one reviewer as "a little shaver thirteen years old and about as big as a pepper box."

On September 22 of that year, the St. Paul Dramatic Association invited Master Moses to appear in a benefit performance for himself, and two days later the Pioneer & Democrat said: "Some of our readers may want to know who is this Master Moses. We believe he is an orphan boy, born upon the shores of time and fallen into the hands of those who have for years been connected with the drama. . . Naturally gifted with the requisite imitative and expressive faculties necessary for success as an actor, his education has been with that point in view. In this country, where novelty will always attract greater crowds than the performances of cultivated and full-grown genius, a style of performances in which children figure as the prominent characters has for several years been in vogue. . . The precocious talent of Master Moses brought him forward in public representations; and his acting, being so superior to boy's play and of a character to sink the youth entirely and place his performances on a par with the most finished tragedians, his name gave promise of future glorious triumph. Master Moses' forte is tragedy, and it was his unrivaled performance in 'Richard III' that attracted public attention in St. Paul so prominently to the youth. . .

"Well, the benefit came off, and. . . Master Moses appeared as Shylock, in the trial scene of the 'Merchant of Venice,' and as Richard III, in the last act of that tragedy. Both performances were of a phnaxcter giving a just conception of the youth's extraordinary powers. . ."

During the same month, a Minneapolis reviewer saw Master Moses play 'Hamlet,'

'Macbeth' and 'King Lear' and observed: "It seems a pity to us that such a precocious lad cannot be put under tutors who will educate him to be a man, instead of being locked into the stifling greenroom and there taught to mimic the contortions of some crazy and corrupt ideal, inhale the hot air of artificial culture, and live through all this earthly pilgrimage a life that is not his own."

Ole Bull brought Minnesota its earliest first-class concert group, and the show was stolen from the Norwegian master by one of his supporting soloists, Adelina Patti. Said the St. Paul Pioneer & Democrat on July 17, 1856:

"On Tuesday, notwithstanding the warmth of the weather, a very large audience, made up of the beauty and intelligence of our city, was in attendance at the Representatives' Hall in the Capitol, to listen to the melodious performances of the justly distinguished musicians composing Ole Bull's troupe. . . It was at once a fitting compliment to those who were to entertain them and to their own good taste and judgment, for an opportunity of hearing such musical celebrities does not often present itself so far north as this. . .

"The arrangements for seating the audience were such that no confusion prevailed, each gentleman and lady having a seat numbered corresponding to the number they held, to which they were conducted by Ushers acting under the direction of the Agent. In this way, each one was quietly seated in a seat chosen by him or herself.

"Signor Morino, for some reason, was not present. His non-appearance was apologized for by Ole Bull, who said, in conclusion, the little witch, Adelina Patti, would endeavor to sing the audience into as good a humor as Signor Morino could possibly have done had he been present; a promise which Mademoiselle Patti abundantly redeemed, and we believe the absence of the Signor was rather a subject of congratulation than disappointment to the auditors, as by it they were permitted to listen to the sweet birdlike warblings of Mad'lle Patti oftener than they would have been had the former not been absent.

"When we pronounce the music of a high order of excellence, we rely more upon the good judgment and musical taste of some of our friends than our own; but as poor a judge as we are of the 'divine harmony of sounds,' certainly we must come to the conclusion that the execution of the various pieces fully merited the repeated bursts of applause by which the performers were greeted.

"The feature of the concert which we admired the most was the singing of the young prima donna, Mad'lle Patti. To those of our readers who were not present, we can convey no adequate idea of the full, rich, liquid melody of her voice as it ran clear and lingeringly around the room. Her rendition of the familiar song, 'Home Sweet Home,' was at once touchingly sweet and beautiful and was received with delight by the audience, but that delight was doubly augmented when the silver tones of her voice were heard in the celebrated 'Echo Song,' as sung by Jennie Lind, the execution of which carried the house by storm and convinced the most skeptical that she was a musical prodigy.

"The performers on the piano and cornet-a-piston and, last though not least, Ole Bull himself on the violin demonstrated completely that an eminent degree of perfection may be attained in music by those gifted with a love of the 'divine art'. . ."

Cheerfulness has always been evident in St. Paul. But some of the good cheer, "tier after tier" of it, could be seen only by invitation. The Pioneer Press had such an invitation in 1875.

"The visitor to the city who comes from the large level cities of the country might be pardoned for not displaying any great degree of astonishment at the magnitude of the warehouses in which wholesale business is conducted if he judges of their extent from the exterior, for there are many buildings on Third street, backing on the bluff, which have but two or three stories above the street but which are in fact five or even six stories in the rear.

"A reporter of the Pioneer Press had been through the cellars and sub-cellars of many of the great jobbing establishments of the city and had heard of the mysterious subterranean vaults of the old and popular liquor house of Benz & Becht, No. 193 Third street, hence he cheerfully accepted an invitation to make the tour of the establishment. . .

"Passing through the salesroom, past the spacious office, the elevator is reached, and descending by this or the stairway, the visitor finds himself in a lofty apartment, at least fifteen feet high, where tier after tier of fine goods are piled. Still descending, he arrives in another vast apartment, and this is on a level with the street in the rear although many feet below the pavement of Third street. This storeroom is also crowded with goods, among which he follows his guide by the light of a lantern to the remote end, where he discovers the massive doors, which, swinging open, usher him into the vast cave which has been excavated in the solid rock.

"He passes by row after row of large butts of wine, casks of the choicest brandies, whiskies, gins, etc.; pile upon pile of cordials, champagne and fine imported goods. These vaults extend 175 feet, are 9 feet high and 11 feet wide, and are indeed a curiosity

worthy of inspection. The temperature in them is so even that it does not vary more than 2 or 3 degrees from the hottest day of summer to the coldest of winter.

"Passing along to a point below the further side of Third street, the reporter seated himself between these four walls of solid rock, and in his habitually inquisitive manner propounded the interrogatory, 'What occupies all of this space?'

"First the guide told of the stock of domestic goods. There were the delicate Catawba wines. . . then followed the delicious California wines, including the finest of Hock, Angelica, Muscatel, sherry and port. Of whiskies, there were those of all the most celebrated distilleries in the country. . . all of which are sour-mash and copper-distilled. The stock of this house is undoubtedly the largest ever brought to the Northwest by any one firm."

The Minnesota calendar of the 70's was marked by several major misfortunes - a great blizzard, a national financial panic, a grasshopper plague, and a mill explosion - all of which had an effect on the prosperity of the state and on public optimism. The bad times were not over in 1875. But the newspapers of Minnesota remained undiscouraged. On November 27, 1875, for example, the St. Paul Pioneer Press felt that the tide had turned.

"The Business Revival. - Some two months ago, or a few weeks after the harvest, the Pioneer Press predicted as a consequence of the abundant crops and the good prices which were assured for it a great revival of business activity in this city, some significant premonitions of which were then noted in the large and rapid increase in the wholesale trade and in the marked and unusual promptitude with which collections were made. . .

"The unexampled activity which then marked all branches of the wholesale trade in this city has continued ever since, with a very large increase of sales and collections over those of any previous year. . .

"Nearly all our merchants are now prospering as they have not for years before; their sales are heavier and their collections more prompt and satisfactory than at any time for two or three years. The different branches of industry, which have been suffering more or less of the depression which has prevailed, are beginning to feel the impulse of the tide of vigorous prosperity which now booms abundantly in nearly every channel of trade, and though the winter is almost always a season of comparative torpor in our high northern latitudes, which is not favorable to outdoor occupations, it is now safe to say from the indications of a healthy and vigorous vitality in all legitimate business which are shown on every hand, that the present winter will be an exception to the rule and

that the coming spring and summer, when more than three-fourths of our crop will go forward to market, will be a season of unprecedented prosperity.

"It was a leading banker who called our attention yesterday to the predictions of the Pioneer Press two months ago, and his assurance that the commercial business of St. Paul was never in so prosperous a condition as now was confirmed by inquiries among several firms in different branches of trade."

"An event not likely to occur again in half a century" - that was the judgment of the St. Paul Press on the gala opening of the Opera House on February 22, 1867.

The Pioneer agreed that the theater was a wonder. "The elegant temple of art which has been in progress now nearly a year is completed and readied for use," the paper said, "adding another to the institutions of our city in which one feels a local pride, and furnishing us with an elegant and commodious place of amusement in which every one of our citizens looks forward with anticipation of many happy evenings to be spent within its walls. . . . The location of the Opera House is a most judicious and fortunate one. It fronts on Wabashaw street, now considered one of the central avenues of the city. The building is contiguous to Third street, far enough removed from its noise and crowd and yet convenient to it in case that street should be selected as the line for the street cars - when we have them."

But the Pioneer reviewer turned thumbs down on the dedication program. "The concert," he regretted, "was not up to the usual standard of the St. Paul Musical Society. . . . The light at best must have been bad, and, with the perpendicular green of the scene at the rear of the stage, the St. Paul Musical Society entered, attired in black, like weird shadows in the woods at twilight. So dirgelike was the movement that, had one not consulted the program, Handel's 'Dead March' from 'Saul' might have been justly anticipated. . . ."

A large delegation from Minneapolis attended the opening, coming down to St. Paul by special train. And Minneapolis reporters found the whole event a triumphant success. Indeed, the fun went right on after the performance was over. By 11 o'clock, the Minneapolis crowd was aboard the home-bound train. It puffed out of the capital depot. And then, "a mile below Mendota, the train came to a dead stop, and the engine was found

to be off the track. . .

"All prepared to make the best of the situation, and merriment increased. But gaunt famine stalked in, and a campaign was planned on Mendota. The elite of Minneapolis stormed the town. The inhabitants closed their doors and barricaded the windows, but all to no purpose. Mendota fell, and the foraging party came in with bread, crackers, much beer, a little water, cod fish, herring, Yarmouth bloaters, pickled and canned peaches."

"Did we have any fun?" a stranded newspaperman asked. "Fun is no name for it! There lay the crowd, developed, expanded, hilarious, making the very atmosphere gleeful; and there lay the engine. . . After a stay for three hours, a new engine ran the train back to a switch, and from thence up to our city at 4 A.M."



"FE, FI, FO, FUM" - it was a great murder mystery, while it lasted. And it was dramatically reported in the St. Paul Globe of December 13, 1878.

While a Globe reporter was at police headquarters, word came that a corpse had been found at Lake Como. The reporter hastened there, arriving just after the coroner and "Undertaker Gross." A farmer, Joseph Robertson, explained that his son, "looking for muskrat runs," came upon a box stuck in the lake ice, and the box, when opened, showed the "ghastly remains of a human being." There was a bullet hole through one of the hip bones, and the lid of the box was marked "Sheffler & Co., Wholesale Druggists, William Street, New York."

The coroner removed the bony puzzle to the morgue. Then, the story continued, "the Globe man had an idea, and started to follow it up. Finding Dr. Murphy, a few sentences sufficed to show that the great, mysterious and bloody tragedy was about to be revealed with all its blood-curdling horrors. The doctor hurried without delay to the jail, descending to the basement and groping his way along a dark passage till he came to the heating furnace and found busily at work with the skeleton Dr. Mattocks and the coroner.

"Dr. Murphy - I am much obliged to you gentlemen. . .

"Dr. Mattocks - What do you mean, doctor?

"Dr. Murphy - Why, that is my old friend, Charley Pitts, one of the Northfield robbers.

"Dr. Mattocks - You are joking.

"Dr. Murphy - Indeed, I am not. More than two years ago, a pupil of mine, Fred Hoyt, took him out to the lake and deposited him there. He packed him in a box he obtained from A. J. Wampler, the druggist. Hoyt went to Texas soon after and has not been home since, and so Charley Pitts has remained up at the lake all this time. You see, gentlemen, there is

one of the bullet holes where Pitts was shot. . .

"Coroner - If you are not joking, doctor, come here at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning and swear to that statement, and that will end the matter and I will bury the bones.

"Dr. Murphy - Not much, you won't. You may sit on them as long as you like; but when you get through with them, I want them. They are mine.

"Coroner - They belong to Ramsey county.

"Dr. Murphy - I will replevy them. . .

"Reporter - We missed the hair in the box. Perhaps you can explain that?

"Dr. Murphy - His scalp is in my office. I removed his skin.

"Reporter - Did you do the dissecting?

"Dr. Murphy - Some of the young fellows hacked him about."

And thus, concluded the Globe, "ended the mysterious tragedy of Lake Como."

The assassination of President Lincoln is one of the most familiar tragedies of American history, and many remember the days when President McKinley, victim of another assassin, was sinking into death at Buffalo. But the slaying of a third United States president, James A. Garfield, is less often recalled.

On September 20, 1881, the Pioneer Press carried the news of President Garfield's death in black-bordered columns, with one of several headlines declaring, "The Wretched Guiteau In More Imminent Danger Of Lynching Than Ever." The paper's dispatch from the east, dated the night before, announced that "Dr. Bliss was summoned. . . said at once that the patient was dying, and directed that Mrs. Garfield be called, also the doctors. He remained in a dying condition until 10:35, when he was pronounced dead."

On the editorial page, under the title "He Is Dead," the Pioneer Press joined the nation in its expression of grief over the untimely passing of the chief executive. In part, the editorial said:

"A nation mourns its dead. Today a people, tossed for months upon the waves of alternating hope and fear, are brought at last to face the dread reality. . . The last words have passed the lips that opened but in love and wisdom for the millions who hung upon their utterance. He is dead. The shock which those words always bring, but which they carry with a force known at no other time when spoken of the nation's chosen one, is changed in character but is not lessened by the ordeal of the weeks now past. . .

"It is enough that he is the nation's martyr, but it is not all. The generations yet to come will be taught to look upon him as the stainless patriot. . . Eyes will be wet with tears over the plaint of the aged mother, when the man, who was still her baby, was

brought low to the dust of death.

"If, when we have laid him away, committed to that sleep beyond which no man knoweth. . . and once more gone upon our selfish, struggling, indifferent, busy ways, there shall spring from the lessons of the great man's life the roses and lilies of beauty and the sturdy oak of strength to beautify and buttress the nation that is yet to be; if the foul wrongs against which he fought and which sent home the bullet and spread the venom through his veins shall perish forever underneath the ruin they have wrought; if these be the mysterious courses of the destiny against whose cruelty we this day rebel, then James A. Garfield, the worker, patriot, hero, statesman and nobleman, the people's idol, shall not have died in vain."

The women of St. Paul have always been conscious of their responsibility toward the youth of the city and the weak and unfortunate members of the community. A worthy predecessor of the Y. W. C. A. in the field of social service was the Woman's Christian Association, whose activities were reported in detail by the Pioneer Press on March 1, 1877.

"The tenth annual meeting of the Woman's Christian Association of this city was held at the First Baptist church on Monday afternoon, and, from the reports submitted by the officers, many interesting facts have been obtained.

"The principal work of the association is described as the systematic visiting at the homes of the sick and destitute by the visitor, Miss Emily Gray, whose kindly ministrations have proved a blessing to thousands during the six years of her labor among them. Members of the association have also visited the sick, and many destitute people have been supplied with food and clothing.

"Another important branch of the association work is the Industrial School, which holds its sessions weekly on Saturday afternoons during the winter season at the rooms of the Y. M. C. A. Here poor girls are taught to sew, the association allowing the pupils to retain the garments which they make and supplying the material to those who are not able to furnish their own. . .

"The school now numbers 147 pupils, ranging from 6 to 16 years of age. . . Twenty-five teachers are required, and young ladies might find a field of usefulness in this school.

"About four years ago, the ladies of the association had faith to believe that they might save many young girls from temptation by throwing around them the refining influences of a Christian home. A desirable location has been secured. The treasurer of the

home, Mrs. M. M. Harris, reports the sum of \$686.76 now in the treasury. In addition to this, there are pledges of several hundred dollars more, partly in money and partly in material to be used for the building. The sum of \$1,300 was subscribed at the public meeting held in April, most of which was used in paying the indebtedness on the lot.

"The treasurer of the Woman's Christian Association, Mrs. W. M. Harrison, submitted her report, showing that the receipts and disbursements up to February 27th, 1877, amounted to \$790.06. . .

"The following is a list of the officers and directors elected for the ensuing year: President, Mrs. Dr. Hance; Vice Presidents, Mrs. Dr. L. Butler, Mrs. Dr. Lindley; Recording Secretary, Mrs. C. G. Goodrich; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. A. C. Morgan; Treasurer, Mrs. W. M. Harrison; Auditor, Mrs. M. M. Harris."