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America has entered World War II via the Hawaiian route. It was back in 1898 that Uncle Sam made Hawaii a part of himself. The acquisition of the islands then was considered "a military necessity," and it was this fact, it seems, that spurred a dilatory congress, concerned with the successful prosecution of the Spanish-American War, into opening the door.

The day the senate voted the annexation resolution -- already passed by the house -- President McKinley, described in Pioneer Press dispatches as "enthusiastic" over the action, signed the resolution.

Commenting editorially on July 7, the Pioneer Press said:

"HAWAII ANNEXED. -- After weary weeks wasted in the Senate by the opposition to the annexation of Hawaii, a deluge of stale platitudes, having no other purpose than a delay and which were passed without notice or reply, they seem to have succumbed at last to the physical fatigue of their long-winded recitations, or perhaps the ardent heat of July, and yesterday allowed a vote to be taken on the joint resolution which had previously passed the House. The resolution was forty-two yeas to twenty-one nays.

"Thus, by the formal action of Congress, the Hawaiian islands become a part of the United States, and as soon as arrangements can be made, its present government will be succeeded by a territorial government of the United States.

"This event, so long delayed by an opposition based on narrow and frivolous and usually partisan objections, fulfills the expectation and the prophecies of a long line of illustrious American statesmen. The islands have been American in fact and in the ruling sentiment of the people so long that the transition to American rule will be as

natural and easy and logical as was the organization of Minnesota and North Dakota into a state.

"They have proved of such immense value to us during the present war, and events have so completely demonstrated the fact that their acquisition is a military necessity, that it is impossible to comprehend why twenty-one men could be found in the Senate to vote against their annexation.

"All the arguments since the war began have been so clearly on one side that it has not been necessary to make any further reference to them. It is enough that, henceforth, Hawaii is a part of the United States."

Probably nobody in Minnesota today is wondering who the Japanese are or what they look like. But in 1868, Twin City folk were a little hazy on the subject. When a troupe of jugglers arrived here in June of that year, one of the newspapers considered it necessary to give some enlightenment to the public.

"These Japanese," the reporter observed, "look like the pictures of human beings on tea chests, and are a very curious as well as interesting people."

Down through the years after that, the Oriental peoples became more familiar to residents of St. Paul. But always the news from the Far East remained on the confusing side, and sometimes, like today, the confusion was sinister and violent. From the Pioneer Press, January 1, 1898:

"A sudden stiffening" in the attitude of China toward Germany was "resulting in the demand for the evacuation of Kiao-Chau and leading to the belief that Great Britain is bringing pressure to bear upon Pekin. . ."

"Emperor Nicholas granted an audience to the Chinese plenipotentiary, Wang Yu, who handed the Czar a personal letter from the Emperor of China. It is there that the conversation turned on the proposed Chinese loan. . ."

"Some Russian vessels have left Port Arthur and gone into the harbor at Talien-Whan, with China's consent, the harbor at Port Arthur being too small for the movement of the Russian vessels. . ."

"From Hongkong is reported the greatest activity in the naval yards, while profound secrecy is maintained. The movements of the British fleet and its whereabouts are unknown at Hongkong. . ."

"Paris cables indicate that M. Roume, head of the Asiatic Department of the

French colonial office, is about to start on a secret mission to China, in connection with the crisis in the Far East. . ."

"Washington reports a high state of feeling in Japan over the conflagration in the Far East, shown by the press advices from Japan. . ."

Good news of 1852 - from the columns of the Minnesota Democrat Weekly:

March 10 - "During the past season, the Sioux captured five buffaloes on the headwaters of the Cannon River, some forty or fifty miles distant from St. Paul. . ."

March 24 - "A good plank sidewalk is about completed along the river bluff, from Bluff to Hill streets, and paid for by private subscriptions. Other volunteer sidewalks are in progress and contemplation, greatly to the joy and gratification of pedestrians."

April 7 - "The most valuable property in St. Paul for business locations has been selling lately at from $15 to $20 per foot. The same property on Third and St. Anthony streets was valued and much of it sold a year ago at from $4 to $8 per foot, the lots being generally 50 feet front by 150 feet deep."

May 26 - "The Winnebago payment takes place this week. That will put some cash in circulation, which will be very gratifying, as the money market is rather tight at present."

July 7 - "The steamer Black Hawk arrived here Friday evening last and left the next day at 12 o'clock for Mankato. . . She is a handsome, neat and safe craft, admirably suited for the Minnesota River trade, in which it is the design of her owners and officers to run her as a regular packet, making two trips per week between St. Paul and Mankato. . ."

August 11 - "Wagon immigrants are crossing the Iowa line into the heart of Minnesota."

September 22 - "Nutmeg Melons. - Mr. Selby, adjoining town, has raised this season a large quantity of this delicious fruit, which combines the lucious flavor of the pineapple, plantain and peach."

November 10 - "B. E. Messer, Esq., will give a course of instructions in vocal

music, the first lesson in the Court House on Saturday evening next. . . This will afford our young folks an innocent, rational and healthful recreation."

One March day, in 1878, the ladies of St. Paul decided to do something about the school question -- if there was a school question. Anyway, they made up their minds to hold a meeting. And no menfolks were wanted. However, a Globe reporter was finally allowed to pass, and the next day he wrote:

"About 200 of the representative ladies of the city met at Association Hall yesterday afternoon for the purpose of discussing the school question. The meeting was organized by the election of Mrs. Anderson as president and Mrs. Brown secretary, after which Mrs. Van Cleve led in prayer.

"The meeting was held with closed doors, and the Globe lived in terrible suspense while a vote was being taken as to the propriety of admitting men to the convention -- especially those horrid reporters. A look of innocence and meekness finally carried the day, and the Globe was admitted just as Mrs. Van Cleve had commenced a speech. She thought the subject of woman's voting an important one and not to be laughed at and talked about in a sneering way. God had called women to vote. . .

"Mrs. Brewster, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Bassett and others then tried to introduce the subject of the Bible in the schools. . . but a number of ladies, more sensible and liberal in their views, called attention to the fact that the subject was irrelevant. . .

"On motion of Mrs. Prior, it was decided that a delegation be appointed to attend the nominating convention (for members of the school board). The question of the authority of such delegation was then raised, it being decided that there was no law upon the subject and that the courtesy of the gentlemen would have to be depended upon. . .

"Mrs. Hanscom thought . . . scholars were taught music, drawing and some things which poor people could not afford. . . Other ladies differed with Mrs. Hanscom, and be-

lieved music and drawing among the most important studies. . .

"The delegation was then instructed to support the present school system in any action that they might take. The president then attempted again to jerk the Bible into the convention. . . While vainly endeavoring to get the convention to endorse the Bible, the convention ruled her out of order and adjourned sine die."

It took a cow to restore peace when the spectators fell to fighting at a pugilistic exhibition in a barn near the Ramsey-Hennepin line. The contest, between Fred Webber, St. Paul, and Patsey Mellen, Minneapolis, was to have come off in St. Paul but, because of an ordinance against prize fighting, was stopped by the police.

Said a Twin City sports writer, December 8, 1884:

"Any curious or inquisitive person taking a Sunday's airing in the suburbs might have stopped yesterday afternoon and inquired what was to pay, when he saw about 200 pedestrians. . . trudging through a dreary waste of snow toward an old barn in a lonely looking neighborhood, not far from the line of Ramsey and Hennepin counties. . .

"Once past the door, he would have found. . . a squared circle. . . having within its limits two men in the prime of life and condition, facing each other at the beginning of a contest to determine their relative muscle, skill, and ability in the famous modern way, a hard glove fight. . ."

In the fourth round, a cry went up that Mellen had fouled Webber. Then:

"The crowd broke into the ring. . . The referee was tackled by an infuriated Mellen man, and the two clinched, rolling over the ropes into a stall, where they had it, tooth and toenail, until their friends parted them. While this was in progress, two others fell foul of each other and had it out like little men. Another valiant pair had a fight all to themselves, until they stumbled into a stall where a cow was tied up. But even with her hands (so to speak) tied behind her, she proved more than a match for two of them, and brought about a treaty of peace in short order. . .

"Viewed from a pugilistic standpoint, the fight was not a success. There was

too much of brute force and too little of scientific sparring. Of the referee it should be said that he knows about as much of the Marquis of Queensbury or any other pugilistic rules as he does of the domestic arrangements of the king of the Cannibal Isles. . ."

Go fishing on Sunday? Perish the thought! Fishes, it is true, do not know any better than to snap at a bit of bait on the Sabbath. But for decent Minnesotans, reared "in the light of the nineteenth century," there was no excuse for giving them the chance to bite. On July 13, 1878, the Pioneer Press told the story of a Sunday "fish jerker."

"TAKING THE SCALES FROM HIS EYES. - The innocent little fishes, and big ones too, being unprovided with almanacs, will bite on Sunday, but that is no reason why, in the light of the nineteenth century, people should go fishing on Sunday, violate the commandments and leave their neighbors' gates open!

"Such is the opinion of Michael Ryan, who lives near Crystal Lake. M. M. Chatfield is Michael's neighbor, and delights in fishing on Sunday. He has been accustomed to cross Michael's premises, it seems, to reach the lake, and was by no means particular about shutting gates after him. Michael alleges that he protested to no purpose, Chatfield assuring him that he would 'go a-fishing when he pleased.'

"So Michael trolled in to see Judge Cooley about it. The court was dumb with astonishment at the tales of those Sunday fishes which Michael did unfold. To think that a Crystal Laker would go fishing on Sunday -- and leave all the gates open!

"He issued a warrant for Chatfield in less'n no time, and in obedience thereto that sinful individual appeared before him yesterday. The offender had supposed that no law, human or divine, could prevent him from snatching whales out of Crystal Lake on Sunday.

"The court took the scales from his eyes by fining the Sunday gate-opener and fish-jerker $1 and costs, a total of $7.75. Sunday fishermen, please take notice and shut the gates accordingly!"

"The President has laid before the Senate a treaty between the United States and Russia, which embraces the cession of sovereignty to our government of Russian America, which contains an area of nearly 400,000 square miles of territory. . . The climate is represented as too rigorous to admit of agricultural operations, and the intrinsic value of the territory is derived from the product of its fisheries or of the chase. . . This important treaty has caused much excitement in Washington, particularly in diplomatic circles, and it is intimated that protests against the cession may be expected from the British government." Thus, starting with the Pioneer's report on March 31, 1867, began a long term of interesting reading for St. Paulites. Sometimes it was amusing, more often it was bitter, and it ended in the purchase of Alaska.

On April 3, the Pioneer wrote: "A telegraphic dispatch this morning says the fate of the Russian treaty is problematical, 'it being a piece of Mr. Seward's diplomacy.' So a measure that will give us. . . incalculable advantages may be lost because Mr. Seward had a hand in it. This is radicalism, pure and simple."

So St. Paul gave its approval to the Alaska pact, while the fight raged in the upper chamber of congress and in the newspapers up and down the country. Diplomatic skulduggery was hinted, political "gravy" was mentioned. Secretary of State Seward himself was accused of having a personal interest in the deal for the Russian "icebox." Horace Greeley was quoted by the Pioneer as saying that Seward's "costly dinners" in Washington consisted of "roast treaty, boiled treaty, treaty in decanters, treaty garnished with appointments to office, treaty clad in furs, ornamented with walrus teeth and flopping with fish."

The story was ended in the Pioneer on August 2, 1868. "The warrant for the pay-

ment of the purchase money for Alaska, $7,200,000 in coin, was (yesterday) signed by the Secretary of the Treasury, and transmitted to Baron Stoeckel. . . The following receipt was given. . . 'His Majesty, Emperor of all the Russias, does hereby acknowledge that he received at the Treasury Department, in the City of Washington, 7,200,000 dollars in coin, being the full amount due from the United States to Russia in consideration of the cession by the latter power to the former of certain territory, entered into by the Emperor of all the Russias and the President of the United States on the 30th day of March, 1867. -- Stoeckel.'"

The Minnesota Historical Society is the oldest cultural organization in Minnesota, founded in the same year that the territory was created. That the activities of the society would be appreciated by future generations was the hope, since fulfilled, expressed by the St. Paul Chronicle & Register, Saturday, January 5, 1850, in describing the society's first public session.

"The first public exercises of the Minnesota Historical Society," said the paper, "took place at the Methodist Church, St. Paul, on the 1st. instant, and passed off highly creditable to all concerned. The day was pleasant, and the attendance large.

"At the appointed hour, the President and both Vice Presidents of the Society being absent, on motion of Hon. C. K. Smith, Hon. Chief Justice Goodrich was called to the chair. The same gentleman then moved that a committee consisting of Messrs. Parsons, Johnson, John A. Wakefield and B. W. Brunson be appointed to wait upon the orator of the day, Rev. Mr. Neill, and inform him that the audience was waiting to hear his address.

"Mr. Neill was shortly conducted to the pulpit, and after an eloquent and appropriate prayer by Rev. Mr. Parsons and music by the band, he proceeded to deliver his discourse upon the early French missionaries and voyageurs into Minnesota. . .

"After some brief remarks by Rev. Mr. Hobart upon the objects and ends of history, the ceremonies were concluded with a prayer by that gentleman. The audience dispersed, highly pleased with all that occurred.

"The occasion owed much of its interest to the presence of the Sixth Infantry band now stationed at Fort Snelling. . . We have never heard a band anywhere that appeared more complete masters of their profession, the celebrated Styermarkich not excepted.

"The Society has a most auspicious commencement. Let it be carried forward energetically, and its good results will be felt and appreciated by generations that will occupy our place in centuries to come."

St. Paul is on the eve of a war Christmas. As in another comparable emergency, the Civil War, the traditional joyousness of the day will be subdued.

Christmas day, 1862, found the Pioneer limiting its holiday reference to a poem, "The Nativity." The rest of the paper was filled with weighty, ominous matter -- "Rebel Raid in Kentucky," "Serious Charges Against a Congressman," "Citizenship of Negroes," "Destruction of Railroad and Telegraph Lines at Goldsboro." A rare note of gayety was the announcement that, after the performance of "The Old Federal General" at the German Theater, there would be "dancing and a good time generally." That and the reminder that children's programs were to be given in the German, Market Street and Jackson Street Methodist churches and at the Central and First Presbyterian.

In 1863, the Pioneer columns contained two brief mentions of Christmas on that date. One reported a church event. The other: "A gentleman from the country yesterday, with his daughter on Christmas shopping intent, tied his horse across the public sidewalk in front of Davenport's, was arrested. . . and fined $1 and costs." The Pioneer & Democrat Weekly printed Lincoln's call for more men, said Minnesota's quota was 3,000, and added that if that number was not raised by January 5 "draft shall commence on that day." It also reported the destruction by fire of the old American House. "The man who is always on hand," it commented, "at a fire to carry tongs and shovel downstairs and throw mirrors out of the window made his appearance, carefully carrying bed clothes, while he tumbled a valuable bureau downstairs to crash itself to fragments on the street."

In 1864, the Pioneer & Democrat made its nod to Christmas with a children's story, "Angel's Visit." The Daily Pioneer featured the news that "fourteen men were

killed, seventy-six wounded as the Eighth Minnesota engaged in battle at Murfreesboro" and printed a list of casualties suffered by the Seventh Minnesota at Nashville. But the Pioneer took a hurried glance at the day -- Christmas that year fell on Sunday -- and said: "We tender our readers not merely the compliments but the best wishes of the season. As Monday will be the general celebration as a holiday by telegraph operators and printers, as well as the rest of mankind, we shall issue no paper on Tuesday morning. Should important news transpire, we will issue an Extra Tuesday forenoon."

Some man or "thing in man's shape" got into the old Jefferson school early one July morning in 1866 and burned the place, as the Pioneer viewed it, out of "pure cussedness." The fire department was called, but the school could not be saved because of its location, so the firemen joined the spectators and watched the blaze.

It was "an outrage on the public" to have the school there anyway, so far off, the newspaper declared, and later it suggested transforming the Market House, Seventh and Wabasha, into a school to replace the Jefferson. The building that burned was on Pleasant avenue, not far from the site of the present Jefferson school.

The Pioneer's July 1 headlines:

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE

Jefferson School Destroyed;
Loss $15,000

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The Work of an Incendiary!

And the story:

"This morning, about 1 o'clock, the Jefferson Schoolhouse was discovered to be in flames. The alarm was given, and the Department turned out, but it was evident that, from the location of the building, nothing could be done to save it, and no attempt was made. The flames soon gutted the building, leaving only the bare walls.

"Jefferson Schoolhouse was built in 1858 and dedicated in November of that year. It cost about $8,000 but could not be built now short of $15,000 or $18,000. It is insured, but not for more than about one-half or one-third of its value.

"The fire was clearly the work of an incendiary, some base wretch not fit to live. What his motive could have been, it is impossible to tell. It must have been pure cussedness. The man, or the thing in man's shape, who will burn a schoolhouse is the meanest of criminals.

"The house will probably be rebuilt during the summer vacation, but if it is, we hope it will be in a more central and convenient spot. The location on the present site was an outrage on the public."

St. Paul owed much of its early progress to its newspapers. That fact was emphasized in an 1852 article in the St. Anthony Express, which the St. Paul Pioneer, on April 1, regarded as worth reprinting.

"The St. Anthony Express illustrates the power of the press in building up towns by the following remarks, which are partly true concerning the press in our town:

"'St. Paul, almost from her first settlement, has supported one, two and three weekly papers. She became at once known in every section of the Union. Her name was everywhere mentioned, her praises everywhere sung. Probably there are not a dozen persons in the territory who, previous to their arrival, had not read and heard much of St. Paul, and not one-tenth of our population knew anything of any other place. Minnesota was represented as a paradise, and St. Paul the core, the essence, the concentration of all its beauties and excellencies. She has created for herself a name and reputation co-extensive with the bounds of civilization.

"'How has this been accomplished? Not, surely, by private and individual effort, but by the newspapers. These have been scattered broadcast over the land, have been perused by thousands, and more or less of their contents transferred to other papers throughout the Union.

"'Whether she realizes it or not, St. Paul owes no small share of her reputation abroad to her newspaper press, and especially to those first published. To her newspapers she chiefly owes whatever prestige of greatness she now enjoys. Three weeklies are now published in that village, and if the public will support them all, their enterprise richly deserves the fullest measure of success.'"

To this tribute from upriver, the Pioneer added:

"Without arrogating too much of this praise to the Pioneer, the first press ever brought to Minnesota, we may say with truth that newspapers have done much for St. Paul. So far as laborious industry and patient toil and scrupulous truth can entitle any press to such praise, we know the Pioneer deserves a share of it. . .

"Our presses have been instrumental in bringing people to Minnesota. . . Then it is that we take hold of the man and help him, if he is the right sort of a man, and he in return helps the Pioneer. That is the whole story in brief."

The territory of Minnesota had its own "noble experiment" in the Fifties, and it made "dry" reading for a while. But at the general election that followed, the people changed their minds and voted for territorial irrigation.

It was in 1852 that the legislature passed a dry act for submission to the voters. Said the Pioneer, April 8: "The result of the vote of Minnesota last Monday on the proviso for adopting the 'Maine Liquor Law' here was yes by a decided majority. The law will, therefore, take effect on the 1st of May next, and every good citizen will cheerfully obey and cordially and zealously support it.

"This being the general disposition of those who voted against the law, as well as of those who voted for it, we have no reflection to make whatever, but we cordially invite all now to unite for the support and supremacy of the law."

Partial results of the voting were given. Majorities for -- St. Anthony, 82; Cottage Grove, 40; Mendota, 33; Stillwater, 92; Point Douglas, 11; Marine, 22. Majorities against -- St. Paul, 12; Little Canada, 42. Despite St. Paul's negative majority, Ramsey county supported the act, 528 to 497.

A further expression of St. Paul newspaper reaction: "The noble women of St. Paul prepared a superb banquet for all at the Hall of the Sons. . . In the evening, the four church bells pealed the merry chime of victory in Minnesota over the deadliest foe to human society and human happiness that ever desolated a state or a territory."

And another: "We notice the passage of this law particularly because it is very important for every immigrant to know and to understand that, hereafter, there is no great civilizer, whiskey, in the territory, and we should dislike to see those to whom liquor is

essential as an ingredient of comfort or of life come here to suffer by being deprived of their liberty.

"Those whose liberty is not confined in bottles, casks and decanters will suffer far less inconvenience by making Minnesota their home, and we cordially invite them to our rich land, our charming forests, our pure lakes and rivers and our invigorating climate, to make their homes."

At the next general election, territorial prohibition was repealed.

What to give Her for Christmas? What to give Him? St. Paul stores right now are full of suggestions. But they have overlooked a few gift ideas. How about some fine false hair - curls, bangs or braids? Or some bachelor's hair dye? Or a chrome or two? Or a sugar toy? Or an Albany cutter? How about a Forget-Me-Not album?

Early-day merchants in the city gave plenty of helpful Yuletide suggestions. In 1851, for instance, W. S. Combs informed the public through the Pioneer of his readiness to sell "a beautiful collection of albums - the Jenny Lind, Floral Gift, Memento, Sacred, Forget-Me-Not."

At D. C. Greenleaf's, "near the postoffice," the Pioneer ad columns in '66 announced these Christmas showings: sardine forks, salt spoons, pie knives, tobacco boxes, solid gold keys, Seth Thomas clocks, ice pitchers and spectacle cases. Another display announcement lauded a "Bachelor's Hair Dye - the Best in the World." The St. Paul Variety Store, 163 Third street, wanted folks to buy "fire and burglar-proof safes, double cylinder," which it thought would be just the thing for Christmas. T. J. O'Connor, "one door above the bridge," would make holiday daguerreotypes "cheaper than the cheapest."

For the festive board there was offered "hygienic wine," described as made from "pure sherry" and "not intoxicating in the least." Thomas Ashton had for sale "4 Portland cutters, 2 New York cutters, and 2 Albany cutters."

Taylor & McLaren, 218 Third street, having, as they admitted, purchased their goods "during the late panic," were able to offer outstanding bargains. Recommended were their "balmoral skirts." It was Montfort & Co. who called attention to their sugar toys at 217 Third street. You could choose there from "sixty varieties," all from the

"celebrated establishment of Henry Maitland."

L. P. Franklin, the wig maker, caught shoppers' eyes with "Human Hair! Curls, bangs, long braids." Walter Webb & Co. were sure there could be no complaints about the quality of their bottled liquors; all were "suitable for family use" and endorsed by "Doctors Willy & Hand, J. H. Stewart, A. G. Brisbine, and Whorton & Murphy."

The next Christmas season, in 1867, M. N. Kellogg, 196 Third street, advertised "a new arrival of that choice molasses candy of all flavors," also "sleds, baskets and bird cages." R. W. Ransom, Fourth and Jackson, announced in the Press: "Beautiful Swiss stereoscopic views, choice American stereoscopic views, fine Italian stereoscopic views" and "a few choice chromos still on hand."

Perhaps there was a bit of lobbying going on, lobbying masked by feminine wiles and "toilets rich and variegated," when St. Paul turned out in 1881 to greet the state legislature. But if there was method in the gala affair, it was artfully concealed. On February 23, the Globe reported:

"The reception given by the citizens of St. Paul to the members of the legislature at new Market Hall last evening drew out one of the most select and fashionable assemblages ever gathered in a public hall in this city. . .

"The hall was tastefully decorated for the occasion. The stage, upon which the orchestra was stationed, was hung with the national flag. . . The chandeliers were profusely decorated with American flags, and each side jet was flanked on either side with red, white and blue emblems of republican liberty. Festoons of evergreen depended from the ceiling. . .

"The scene on the floor of the hall was one of rare enchantment. The toilets of the ladies were rich and variegated. . . Where all were so becomingly dressed, it would be invidious to particularize. Suffice it to say that both the entertainers and entertained displayed taste without ostentation, richness without vulgarity, brilliancy without tawdriness. . .

"At 8 o'clock, Seibert's orchestra, fifteen strong, began a grand overture, to the music of which the guests began to arrive. The reception committee and the committee of arrangements appointed by the Chamber of Commerce, together with their wives and daughters, were on hand. . . By the time the first quadrille was called at 9:30, there were nearly 1,000 persons present. Gov. Pillsbury, with Mrs. D. A. Montfort as his partner, led off in the first quadrille. . .

"To spread a lunch for so large a company was no small task, and to serve all

expeditiously without crowding or discommoding them in the least was an art which few can command. Col. Allen, of the Merchants Hotel. . . proved himself master of the situation. The dining room had been fitted up with eight long tables covered with snowy linen, upon which were arranged fruits, flowers, confections and delicacies of every sort. . . while heaping plates of the more substantial trophies of the culinary art -- cold fowl, meats, salads, etc. -- tempted the palates. . .

"The humblest person present received the same consideration as did the wealthiest and most distinguished."

Beer flowed "as freely as water," and the waste might have been great had it not been for the alert and thirsty citizens who crowded around the scene of the brewery horses' runaway. Oddly enough, too, it all happened on Temperance street.

Said the St. Paul Globe, June 9, 1879:

"The Brewers' Convention at St. Louis fully demonstrated last week that beer was a temperance beverage, and it must have been on this account that the devil seemed to take possession of Yoerg's brewery team as they struck Temperance street Sunday morning. At all events, the team concluded not to be temperate, even if the beer they were transporting was as mild as lemonade.

"The animals had no sooner set hoof on Temperance street than they began to paw and prance as if possessed, and in less time than it can be written they were cavorting in the direction of Tenth street, at a rate of speed that would have distanced the best record of Barns. Their instinct seemed prompted by an unaccountable desire to get away from Temperance street at all hazards, and in place of turning the corner at Tenth street, they ran directly into a fence in front of No. 124.

"The momentum could not have been increased had they been shot from a gatling gun, nor could the fence have been more demolished had it been struck by a simoon or battering-ram. For two minutes after the collision, the air was filled with descending beer kegs, which looked as if they had been shot skyward as attachments to half-primed rockets.

"As to the beer, it sizzled and flowed as freely as water, and no doubt much of the precious fluid would have been wasted had it not been for the adventitious appearance of the representatives of the double-ender and the twilight luminary, whose capacity for

storing the horrid stuff away was almost phenomenal.

"The driver thought it necessary to invoke the aid of the police to gather up the kegs, as he could not make them tally, but he finally found an empty one which the neighbors had absorbed. . . and the driver was consequently obliged to take the empty prize."

One hears frequently of the "dictates of fashion." Fashion was also busy at the business of dictating in early-day St. Paul, and the editor of the Globe didn't like it. So on December 28, 1879, he wrote:

"In this year of grace, the world seems to be more than ever governed by fashion. . . One might as well be out of the world as out of fashion. . . It is a very despot, ruling with a rod of steel, and even the bravest men and women seldom dare to brave its edicts.

"Fashion in dress. . . is as imperative in the wilds of Africa. . . as it is in America, where. . . those who have to pay the piper are themselves almost as particular about the cut of their coats and the shape of their hats as are the weaker vessels. . .

"The fashions in eating and drinking are both expensive and useless. Every family must have certain viands on their table on certain days and at certain meals. All who partake gorge themselves with strong tea and coffee, highly seasoned meats, indigestible relishes and entrees, and finally with confections and pastry, and as a consequence we are becoming a nation of dyspeptics. . .

"The fashion in amusements is becoming most pronounced of late. . . In St. Paul especially has the opera become fashionable. No matter how lacking in merit a company may be, it is certain to be greeted with crowded houses provided it is fashionable. There is another set that seems to think that Negro minstrelsy is just the thing. . .

"There are others who affect literary and dramatic entertainments. . . If one doubts that there is a fashion in reading, let him visit the public library and examine the condition of the books upon its shelves. He will find the trashy books of Mrs. Holmes, Miss Braddon, Ouida, and others of like character well thumbed and worn. . .

"Fashion dictates. . . While some of these fashions are comparatively harmless,

others are productive of physical distress, mental incapacity and moral ruin. It would be well for moral philosophers to consider this question of fashion a little more seriously than it has yet been considered, and devise remedies for those habits that are proved to be injurious."

Maybe an Odd Fellow came along and spoiled the scheme. But it was a good idea while it lasted. Anyway, "Bohemian Girl" thought so when she disclosed her plan for an old maids' colony to the editor of the St. Paul Globe, March 29, 1878.

"I came out to Minnesota to establish a colony. . . But I propose to take a new departure, to organize my colony from the surplus women, to colonize the old maids. . . Well, why not? Is there any reason why this large and respectable class should continue to hang on the coat tails of fathers, brothers, uncles or other male relatives, supplicating protection from bug-a-boos?

"Why should they not colonize? They can buy lands cheap, grow rich and prosperous, and if they must be spinsters, be at least comfortable old girls with bank accounts, or at least have money to put away in the safer receptacles of stockings or tea-pots. . .

"I understand that there is a plantation of Odd Fellows out on the St. Paul & Sioux City road, and if we take up a tract in the vicinity we will have a grand opportunity to get even with them. . .

"So long as we stay hangers-on at home, no matter how useful we may be or how hard we work, we are supposed to be waiting for a husband, to have failed in the business, and are looked upon as any other failure. We want to start out on our own responsibility, to go in and win our way on our muscle. When we attain success, we can afford to buy a husband, if we want to."

On her way west, "Bohemian Girl" said, she stopped at Madison, Wisconsin, and:

"There was a bill before the Legislature providing for an appropriation for old maids. I watched that bill anxiously and lobbied for it. . . but the bill did not pass. . ."

"When I came to Minnesota. . . I turned my whole attention to colonization. . . My colonization plan is novel, I admit, but it is reasonable. It is one of the necessities

of the age. . . St. Paul, the capital, is a wonderfully progressive place. Some of the leading gentlemen of the city, bachelors and widowers, think it quite proper for a lady to ask a gentleman if he will have her. I am not certain that they always answer, 'Yes,' but I do know that some of them do not hesitate to answer that they are in the market.

"Altogether, the future of my colony for old maids looks bright. . . My headquarters will be in St. Paul, where I shall be glad to hear from anyone who wants to join our band."

It was the day after the Fourth of July, 1880, that the St. Paul Globe announced it had received from "M. Cummins, No. 2 Cedar street" an 1850 issue of the Minnesota Chronicle & Register. Browsing through the old paper, the Globe found that:

"The ladies of the Methodist Episcopal Sewing Society were to hold a fair at the church, beginning July 3, at 7 P.M. - the first affair of the kind in St. Paul."

The following appointments were made by Governor Ramsey - "A. R. French, auctioneer for the county of Ramsey; Frederick K. Bartlett, notary public and master in chancery, Stillwater, Washington county; John W. North, notary public, St. Anthony, Ramsey county; Charles R. Conway, notary public, St. Paul, Ramsey county."

"There was to be a celebration of the Fourth at the Falls, and a dinner and dance at John Morgan's spacious halfway-house on the Stillwater Road."

"Dr. Jarvis is mentioned as having taken a daguerreotype of the editor."

"The proceedings and resolutions of a special meeting of St. Paul Lodge No. 2, I. O. O. F., June 20th, relative to the death of Bro. John Rumley, are signed by B. W. Lott, N. G. and Ben. W. Bronson."

"L. S. Parker, St. Anthony Falls, offered to raft lumber from the falls to St. Paul, and deliver it at the landings for $2.50 per thousand."

"R. W. Kirkham, brevet captain and regimental quartermaster, acting commissary of subsistence, Fort Snelling, advertised to let contracts for corn, oats and hay for supply of the post."

"A. R. French had his saddle, harness, trunk and carpet-bag manufactory on Third street."

"Col. Nathan H. Hale, next door to Charles Care's saloon, followed his regular

profession, shaving, hairdressing, shampooing, etc."

"R. B. Johnson kept the boarding stables attached to W. E. Hartshorn's Minnesota House in Stillwater."

"Dr. N. Barbour, whose office was on Third street, selected his remedies principally from the vegetable kingdom, and expected cash for all medicines sold at his office."

The Pioneer Press recently remarked that modern drugstores get only 34% of their receipts from the sale of drugs. Some of Minnesota's early-day druggists also went far outside the field of drugs in stocking their establishments. One St. Paul drug shop, indeed, was said to have a mummy.

In 1849, according to the Minnesota Chronicle, Dewey & Cavilier, wholesale and retail druggists of St. Paul, had on their shelves what they were expected to have: "anti-bilious, cathartic, vegetable and ague pills, Coxe's hive syrup, Stoughton's bitters, Burgundy pitch," Thompson's eye water, castor oil, nutmeg manna, paregoric, and nerve and bone liniment. But they were also prepared to "dispose of at the lowest prices" a full line of "paints, oils, glass, varnishes, and dye-stuffs."

Business was looking up in St. Paul drug circles in 1851. Pioneer, December 25: "There are three drug stores in the lower end of our Corporation. Messrs. Kellogg & Hickox will administer the fourth one as soon as suitable preparation can be made for it in the upper end of town." By the next year, even the physicians were running drugstores. Said the Minnesota Democrat: "Doctors Jarvis and Day have formed a co-partnership for the transaction of the drug and medicine business."

At Red Wing, the Goodhue County Republican stated in 1861, "Messrs. Mather & Clark" were established "in one of the commodious stores" on Main street, where they had "a very large stock of drugs, medicines. . . cigars, tobacco, perfumes" and a "complete assortment of fancy articles." At Cannon Falls, in 1867, the Clason drugstore also kept groceries, boots and shoes.

Then in 1876, recalling St. Paul druggists of "twenty years ago," the Pioneer Press wrote: "William H. Wolf was in the store R. O. Sweeney now occupies. . . Mr. Sweeney

is a man of fine scientific achievements and president of the Academy of Natural Science. He has a perfect museum in his store. . . Some do say that he has preserved Old Betts, the celebrated Indian woman, said to have been 120 years of age, as a mummy. If he has done so, it will no doubt be in the highest style of art, and she will probably look as well if not better than she did living."

Nowadays it's almost all over, even the shouting, when daylight comes on the new year, for Father Time's "blessed event" is largely celebrated in the cafes the night of December 31. Of course, in their time, though they may like now to deny it, St. Paul's granddaddies were frequently "carried home on a shutter." But the special mark of the day in early St. Paul was the New Year's social call.

Visiting your friends on New Year's day and receiving from them cakes, wine and a kiss, was a French custom popular in St. Paul's first years. There is no doubt that it was a pleasant custom. But it had its drawback, too. The Sioux, it is said, considered it one of the white folks' more enticing ceremonies and took to making New Year calls themselves on abashed pioneer householders.

Perhaps it was the prospect of these Indian visitors that made St. Paul kiss-conscious in the days before January 1. In any case, the Chronicle & Register, in a holiday issue of 1849, considered kissing of sufficient local interest to be worth a paragraph of explanation. "The pleasant invention of kissing," it said, "is the offspring of temperance. When wine was prohibited by law to the women of Rome, male relatives had the right of ascertaining by tasting the lips of their sisters and cousins whether the forbidden liquor had passed in. Who has a cousin who wishes to know if she has broken the law of Rome?"

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

In 1879, the Globe published these names, among others, of St. Paul ladies who would be "at home" on New Year's day: Summit avenue -- Mrs. Edward H. Cutler, assisted by Mesdames Henry Hale, George L. Becker, Edward Corning, Fred E. Bird; Dayton avenue -- Mrs. David Day, assisted by Mesdames Edward Rogers, Charles Moore, Charles Morris and James Beales; Arundel street -- Mrs. C. W. Briggs, assisted by Mrs. M. Dana, Mrs. G. G. Sanborn, Mrs. A. G. Foster, Mrs. Woodward; Marshall avenue -- Mrs. Lyman D. Hodge, assisted by Mrs. S. L. Davis and Miss Anna Granger; Grove street -- Mrs. C. C. DeCoster, assisted by Mrs. J. H. Horton, Mrs. Jerome Platt, Mrs. E. F. Powers; Eighth street -- Mrs. John S. Prince, assisted by Mrs. H. G. O. Morrison, Mrs. Major Charles J. Allen, Mrs. F. Bancroft, Mrs. General M. R. Morgan, Mrs. G. A. B. Shawe.

"New Year's day passed pleasantly in St. Paul," remarked the Minnesotian in 1855. "All the gentlemen called, and all the ladies were 'at home,' wearing their most bewitching smiles and graces, and having their bounteous boards spread with all the luxuries of the land. May we live to pass many more such days!"

In 1865, according to the Pioneer, "the nice young men" of St. Paul were also beating a New Year's path to the ladies' doors. However, the paper reported, "a few tried to drink all the egg nog in town."

January 1, 1876, was a day nationally significant, the opening of the hundredth anniversary of United States independence. So on December 31, 1875, the Dispatch printed a proclamation by St. Paul's mayor, James T. Maxfield: "In accordance with the programme being adopted throughout the country, I recommend the ushering in of the centennial year by the general ringing of the bells of the city, at 12 o'clock tonight, and also the general display of bunting tomorrow. Persons in charge of the public bells of the city will see that this recommendation is complied with, and it is hoped that the churches will join in ringing in the centennial year."

The next day, the Pioneer Press reported that there had been at midnight "a ringing, rattling and clattering, and more noise and hubbub than ever before. It sounded as though each bell in town had forty tongues, each one ringing a different tune from its neighbor. . ."

"Ring out, wild bells," the Pioneer Press said in another article the same day. "Ring out the old, ring in the new. . . It is a notable event, which is likely to happen but once in the lifetime of any American citizen, to wake up alive on the first morning of the second century of the republic to the proud consciousness of being the citizen of so

old a country, and the moss-grown monument of so respectable an antiquity. . .

"Minnesota contains in 1876 a population greater than that of any state in the Union a hundred years ago, and Minnesota at that time was a thousand miles beyond the most advanced frontiers of civilization. . .

"And we have only space left, without going farther into this subject, to wish for all our readers a hundred happy new years of prosperity and peace."