



[Michael J. and Jennie B. Dowling papers](#)

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M I N N E S O T A

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Age (Minn.) Index
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

MICHAEL J. DOWLING

By the death of Michael J. Dowling, of Olivia, which occurred in a St. Paul hospital Monday, the state lost one of its foremost and most useful citizens. Dowling had been an inspiration to the unfortunate cripples in many lands. He lost hands and feet in a blizzard in early childhood. Without parents he got thru college and became independent. His death was caused by lecture tours in this country and England, taken to cheer up world war cripples and show them that they were not down and out. He was 55 years of age and had he lived, might have been given high political honors at some future time. A statement recently made by him shows how he viewed life. He said:

"I believe I have proved that being a cripple is more a state of mind than of body. There is only one really insurmountable handicap, and that is the loss of the inner power we call the mind. A man may be worth \$100,000 a year from his neck up and a dollar from his neck down. Why shouldn't I live? Life is just as rich for me in things as for any man. Handicap? Handicap is just a chance for good, hon-

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Albert Lea, Minn. Tribune
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921

**"MIKE" DOWLING
IS DEAD TODAY**

Olivia Banker Who Won Fame,
Without Legs or Hands, Suc-
cumbs To Heart Disease
Brought on By Lecture Tours
To Help Others Afflicted Like
Himself.

(By Associated Press.)

St. Paul, April 25th.—Michael J. Dowling, Olivia, Minn., banker and business man, who won international fame for his success despite the loss of both legs and hands in boyhood, died early today at a local hospital from heart disease. He was fifty-five years old. His efforts to help others similarly handicapped in life, brought on his death through his exertions on lecture tours. He had been failing steadily during recent months and was taken to the hospital two weeks ago. His family was at his bedside when he died. The funeral will be held at Olivia, Thursday afternoon.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Albert Lea, Minn. Tribune
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

**M. J. DOWLING
WAS BURIED IN
OLIVIA TODAY**

Body of Internationally Known
Minnesotan Lay In State, View
ed By Thousands of Mourners
Today.

(By Associated Press.)

Olivia, April 28th.—Thousands of persons joined with Olivia today in paying final tribute to Michael J. Dowling, internationally known resident of this city, who died in a St. Paul hospital last month after a brief illness.

There was many a tear dimmed eye in the long slowly moving, silent column that wound through the rotunda of the Renville County court house for three hours to view the body that lay in state there from ten a. m. to 1 p. m. today. From the Court House the body was taken to the family home for funeral services at 3 p. m. It was the family's wish that there should be no church services. They wanted to take the husband and father from his old home directly to his last resting place in the city cemetery, just three quarters of a mile west of the town.

Around the drab gray casket in the court house rotunda eight members of the local Post of the American Legion stood as a Guard of Honor—mute tributes to the man who had done so much to bring hope to their buddies who had lost a limb or more in the war over there.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00138

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Alexandria, Minn., News
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1921

Entered at the postoffice at Alexandria, Minnesota, as second class mail matter

Foreign Advertising Representative
THE AMERICAN PRES-ASSOCIATION

The death of Michael J. Dowling of Olivia last Sunday marked the loss to this state of one of its most remarkable citizens. Mr. Dowling will be well remembered in this community since he gave the address of the day on Armistice Day, Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of that memorable event. To the casual observer Mr. Dowling would have appeared as the normal successful business man, but in reality he had achieved prominence in spite of some of the greatest of physical handicaps. His legs were gone below the knees, one arm extended only a short ways beyond the elbow, and on the other arm there remained but the stumps of two fingers. Mr. Dowling was one of the candidates for the Republican nomination of governor at the last convention. He showed his greatness of character and his love for his state at that time by withdrawing in favor of J. A. O. Preus. His untimely death was brought about through his arduous services in behalf of the crippled and maimed soldiers of the recent war. His life should be an inspiration to every citizen not only of this state, but of the nation.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Appleton, Minn., Press
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

M. J. Dowling of Olivia, Cripple and Optimist Is Dead

Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, banker and business man, who won international fame for his success despite the loss of his legs and hands in his early boyhood, died early Monday at St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul. He was 55 years old.

Mr. Dowling was known personally by many residents of this section, having made many visits to Appleton.

Mr. Dowling's name went before the Republican gubernational elimination convention in St. Paul May 8, 1920, and he was given the endorsement of Swift county republicans. In spite of efforts of politicians to swerve these votes from him, this delegation remained true to him, until Mr. Dowling withdrew in favor of J. A. O. Preus.

His efforts to help others similarly handicapped in life brought on his death which was caused by heart disease superinduced by the exertion of his lecture tours.

He had been failing steadily and had been at the hospital two weeks. While the end was not entirely unexpected by his immediate family the news of it came as a shock to the general public as the seriousness of his condition had not been made known.

At the age of 14 years, Mr. Dowling was invalidated by the loss of both legs and both hands. He fell from a wagon in a blinding blizzard. Two men who were sitting in the front seat did not know in the storm that the boy was missing. After walking for hours, he found a hay stack, crawled into it and fell asleep. The exposure necessitated the amputation of both legs below the knees, the left arm below the elbow and the greater part of the right hand and thumb. Parentless and helpless he became county charge but soon found a way to help himself. He bargained with the county commissioners who became interested in his case and sent him to Carleton college. Since then his rise had been rapid.

The funeral was held yesterday afternoon at Olivia and was attended by people from all parts of the country.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00139

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Bellenlaine (Minn.) Herald.
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

Mike Dowling, the Olivia banker who died Tuesday, was one of the most conspicuous examples of the fact that you can't keep a good man down. Born in poverty and thru childhood accident deprived of both legs and hands, he made of his life a success, attained wealth and fame, and became so prominent that he was known internationally. His death at the age of 55 was due to overtaxing his energy following a lecture tour in England.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Bellingham (Minn.) Times
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

and The Bellingham Times \$2.00
The total price of all for one year is \$8.45. Send or bring \$6.00 to The Times office at once and we will send you all five for a year. These can be either new or renewal subscriptions.

People all over the state of Minnesota are mourning the death of M. J. Dowling of Olivia, which occurred Monday at the St. Luke's Hospital in St. Paul. Mr. Dowling had been suffering with heart disease for the past three months, and this combined with over-exertion was the cause of his death. Mr. Dowling was a remarkable man and beloved by all who knew him. Without a doubt, he would have been honored with some high position in the state or nation if he had lived. He devoted a great deal of his life to cheering crippled people, he himself having been without arms or legs since he was 14 years of age. He always maintained, however, that he was not a cripple and he could do nearly anything that any ordinary person could do. He was recently honored by having a school in Minneapolis named after him, the Michael Dowling School for Crippled Children."

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

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Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Belleplaine (Minn.) Herald.
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

MICHAEL J. DOWLING PASSED AWAY

A Minnesota Man Who Won World-Wide Fame

St. Paul—Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, known as Minnesota's optimist, who, despite a childhood tragedy which resulted in the loss of both legs and hands, overcame physical handicaps and attained success, died from overwork.

Death came to him in St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, with his wife, three daughters and his secretary at his bedside. The physical breakdown which ended his life was directly due to his efforts to help others similarly handicapped in life. Dr. Charles Lyman Greene, his attending physician, said:

The exertion of an international speaking tour during the war, followed by a return to the demands of his private business and many other interests, overtaxed his energy. Two weeks ago he returned from a lecture tour to his home in Olivia, where he collapsed. He was taken to St. Paul and, shortly after entering the hospital, he was stricken with an attack of apoplexy. The stroke was due to his weakened condition, Dr. Greene said.

The life story of Michael J. Dowling has been told in the palaces of royalty and the homes of the poor. It followed the flag of the Allied armies and brought cheer to thousands of men who were maimed and battered in the world conflict.

He was a secretary of the Republican National league from 1895 to 1897 and was appointed special commissioner to the Philippines in 1900 by President McKinley. In 1901 he was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives and was elected speaker. During the last campaign he was urged as a candidate for governor of Minnesota, but at the convention which nominated Governor Preus pledged his support to the choice of the convention and aided in his election.

MICHAEL J. DOWLING.



Michael J. Dowling, Minnesota banker and business man, who died Monday, was left an orphan at 14, with legs and arms lost in a blizzard, he staked his future care on two years at college, became a teacher, entered business, and finally became a leading banker. Throughout his life he gave his greatest effort to the aid of children who had become crippled.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Bemidji, Minn. Sentinel
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

Michael J. Dowling, the Olivia banker, whose optimism has brought cheer to many a crippled soldier, is dead, but his memory will live for years. Handicapped when but a youth by the loss of both legs below the knee, one arm and a portion of the other hand, he has risen to a prominent position in national affairs. For several years he has devoted much of his time to war relief work, visiting hospitals where the crippled soldiers were recuperating and showing them what is possible if one but retains his courage and ambition.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Benson, Minn., News
THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

M. J. Dowling Dead

Hon. M. J. Dowling, of Olivia, passed away Monday morning at St. Luke's hospital, at the age of 55 years. Apoplexy was the immediate cause of his death. From the Minneapolis Daily Star, we clip the following brief sketch of his life:

The tragedy that overcame Mr. Dowling in early youth by which he lost both hands and feet in a Minnesota blizzard, and how he overcame that handicap, has been an inspiration for cripples, and especially maimed veterans of the world war.

As a boy of 14, he was shaken off a wagon in a blinding blizzard, and left on the prairie to fight it out. He walked for hours, finally taking refuge in a haystack, where he fell asleep. The amputation of both legs below the knees, the left arm below the elbow, and the greater part of the right hand was necessitated.

Without father and mother and helpless, he became a charge of the county. He made a bargain with the county commissioners. He suggested that they send him to Carleton college at Northfield, promising if they would do that he would relieve them of all further responsibility in his case. He kept his bargain.

Michael J. Dowling was born in Huntington, Mass., February 17, 1866. Left motherless when 10 years old, he came west with his father to St. Louis and later to Chicago, where he attended school. He sold papers on the streets. When his father died, he struck out for Minnesota, and until the winter of 1880-81 worked as a farm hand.

For two years young Dowling attended Carleton college. He taught school for seven years and then founded and published the Renville Star-Farmer. He afterwards became president of the Renville State bank.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Benson, Minn., Monitor
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

M. J. DOWLING CRIPPLE AND OPTIMIST DEAD

Death of Famous Olivia Banker
Hastened by Efforts to
Help Others

ONCE COUNTY CHARGE,
FOUGHT WAY TO TOP

Lost Both Legs and Hands as
Boy; Dickered for an
Education

Michael J. Dowling, of Olivia, banker and business man, who won international fame for his success despite the loss of his legs and hands in his early boyhood, died early Monday at St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul. He was 55 years old.

Mr. Dowling was known personally by many residents of this section, having made many visits to Benson. He delivered the address at the big Home-coming celebration on October 8, 1919.

Mr. Dowling's name went before the Republican gubernatorial elimination convention in St. Paul May 8, 1920, and he was given the endorsement of Swift county Republicans. In spite of efforts of politicians to swerve these votes from him, this delegation remained true to him, until Mr. Dowling withdrew in favor of J. A. O. Preus.

His efforts to help others similarly handicapped in life brought on his death which was caused by heart disease superinduced by the exertion of his lecture tours.

He had been failing steadily and had been at the hospital two weeks. While the end was not entirely unexpected by his immediate family the news of it came as a shock to the general public as the seriousness of his condition had not been made known.

At the age of 14 years, Mr. Dowling was invalidated by the loss of both legs and both hands. He fell from a wagon in a blinding blizzard. Two men who were sitting in the front seat did not know in the storm that the boy was missing. After walking for hours, he found a hay stack, crawled into it and fell asleep. The exposure necessitated the amputation of both legs below the knees, the left arm below the elbow and the greater part of the right hand and thumb. Parentless and helpless he became county charge but soon found a way to help himself. He bargained with the county commissioners who became interested in his case and sent him to Carleton college. Since then his rise had been rapid.

The funeral will be held this afternoon at Olivia and will be attended by people from all parts of the country.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Bird Island (Minn.) Union.
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

It is with deep regret that we learn of the death of Mr. Michael J. Dowling of Olivia. In spite of physical handicaps, his life has been one of service and inspiration to his fellowmen. His last years were devoted to the work of cheering up others, especially soldiers who were in like circumstances. One of his favorite sayings was, "Thank God, I am not a cripple. Our bodies—what do they count? A good deal, of course, and yet, as I have often said, a man may be worth \$100,000 a year from his neck up and not a dollar from his neck down. Life is just as rich for me in the things that really count as for any man. Far more so than for some men. I have a wife, family, business and a dozen other interests besides. Handicap? Why a handicap is just a chance for a good honest fight. There is just one really insurmountable handicap, so far as I can determine. That is the loss of the inner power which we call the mind. Nothing else is un conquerable." A fitting memorial has already been raised by conferring the name of Michael J. Dowling on the school for cripples at Minneapolis. The fine principles, marvelous courage and splendid achievements in the face of all obstacles as exemplified in the very name of Mike Dowling cannot help but be an influence in the lives of the inmates of this institution. In his passing, Renville County has lost a most loyal friend, the state has lost an honored citizen, and the country a staunch patriot. Every man, woman and child in this county knew the name of Michael Dowling and honored it. There are few men who have been so beloved in the course of their life as he. There are few men who possess the kindness, the depth of sympathy and keen foresight,—such was his command.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00141

VOLUME A.A.A.A.

M. J. DOWLING DIES IN ST. PAUL HOSPITAL

Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, one of the most honored and respected citizens of our county and state, died Monday in the St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, with his wife, three daughters and his secretary at his bedside.

Death was due to overwork. The exertions of speaking tours during the war, efforts to help others similarly handicapped, followed by the demands of his private business overtaxed his strength. Two weeks ago he returned to his home from a lecture tour when he collapsed. He was taken to St. Paul, and shortly after he was stricken with an attack of apoplexy, which was due to his weakened condition.

Michael John Dowling was born at Huntington, Mass., Feb. 17, 1866. His mother died when he was ten years old, and with his father they came west to St. Louis and later to Chicago. "Mike" attended school, sold papers, and learned the mysteries of the big city.

Being desirous of becoming a cowboy, Mike cut loose from his father and came to Yellow Medicine county, and for two years worked as a farm hand. He got together a herd of some 500 cattle which he was to care for during the season at \$1.50 a head. The day before he was to turn his herd over to their respective owners, a rainstorm set in which turned to sleet. The sleet and the frozen breath of the cattle rapidly formed a mask over their heads which if let alone would have suffocated them. Mike went among them for 48 hours, knocking the ice



M. J. Dowling

from the faces of the cattle and saved every one.

Being desirous of gaining more education he arranged to board his pony at a farmer, and he started off to school. Two farmers were going the same way so he arranged to accompany them in the lumberwagon. When the party had gone several miles a storm overtook them. Knowing their danger they whipped the team up and raced for shelter. They were enveloped in the maelstrom and the wagon struck a bump which threw young Dowling out. His absence was not noted and he was left to make his way the best he could. He came to a woodpile, and knowing there must be a house near, he climbed to the top and threw sticks in every direction as far as he could trying to hit the house. Failing in this he took an armful of wood and walked about 50 paces from the pile and repeated the process. Then he lost the woodpile. Wandering blindly, he bumped into a straw stack and there he spent the balance of the night, fighting against the fatal sleep of chill.

He crawled out the next day and discovered that his legs and arms were frozen, and he crawled to the farm house a few hundred feet away. A physician was hastily called and after treatment had been given it was found necessary to

(Continued on page four)

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00142

THE BIRD ISLAND UNION

interests in Olivia, and fulfilling numerous invitations to speak throughout the state.

He is survived by Mrs. Dowling and their three daughters, Dorothy, Marjorie and Kath-

(Continued from page one.)
amputate both legs below the knee and one arm below the elbow. The fingers and part of the thumb on the right hand were also removed. A few weeks later he celebrated his 15th birthday.

After he had spent all his hard earned money on doctor bills the county took charge of him. He refused to become a county charge and bargained with the commissioners, promising that if they would send him two terms to Carleton college he would relieve them of further responsibility. The bargain was made. They furnished artificial limbs and sent him to school.

After leaving school, Dowling became a country school teacher, painted fences, ran a roller skating rink, acted as principal of the East Granite Falls school, and later as superintendent of schools, wrote insurance, edited a newspaper being the founder of the Renville Star Farmer, became a banker and later entered politics. He was president of the Renville State Bank, and later became president of the Olivia State Bank, which he was associated with when he died.

In 1895 he married Jennie Bordewich of Atlanta, Ga., the same year in which he was made secretary of the National Republican league. This marked his debut into state and national politics. He was elected to the Minnesota house of representatives and served as speaker in 1901. In 1900 he represented the governor of Minnesota on an educational mission to the Philippine Islands.

During the world war, Mr. Dowling's reputation as an optimist and his achievements in overcoming his own physical handicaps won him an opportunity to do a distinctive service to the wounded Allied soldiers in America and abroad. He was appointed by the surgeon general's department of the army to tour reconstruction hospitals in America to cheer up the disabled veterans, a mission which, he said, made him "the happiest man on earth, because I feel that at least I am going to do something useful for my fellow men and my country."

The success of his inspirational talks to the soldiers led to an invitation by the British Red Cross to visit England and France and perform a similar mission in hospitals over there. He went to England in August, 1919, and spent two months visiting the hospitals and making a tour of the battlefields in France. He was received by King George and Queen Mary and other members of the English royal family at Buckingham palace and spoke to thousands of English and American soldiers in England, Scotland, Wales and France.

When he returned home from that trip in September, 1919, he found his friends in Minnesota talking of him widely for governor of the state. He acquiesced to the request to be a candidate, saying he would rather be governor of Minnesota than king of England. Later he withdrew his name as candidate.

Since that time he has been devoting himself to his business



Topics:
and in the collection basket.
to cash in the various poker chips.
con. Most, "pipetodun I, con."
aware of his general reputation

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00143

Funeral services will take place at Olivia Today.

NORMA TALMADGE

ON THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 19

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Blue Earth, Minn., Post
TUESDAY, MAY 3, 1921

With simple funeral services Minnesota last Thursday buried a man who was known on two continents as the man of grit—M. J. Dowling. His success in life in the face of such handicaps as were his will always stand as a rebuke to the failures who whine they never "had a chance." There was no eulogy spoken at his funeral and none was necessary for in the heart of every man, woman and child of that vast assembly there was a feeling of eulogy to which no words of oratory could add anything. All knew this life story of grit, courage, perseverance and optimism and his feeling of sympathy for other unfortunates. There is no doubt that his untiring effort to help others has shortened his life. He spent eight months in Europe going from place to place speaking to the crippled sol-

diers and encouraging them by his words and the story of his life and the example of his success. He founded the school for crippled children in Minneapolis and its success shows that his own experience has taught him something and he has faith that the same thing can be done for others. There may be other schools for crippled children in the United States; if there are we have not heard of them. He was a banker, legislator, politician and editor and attained more than ordinary success in each, but it is not for this that he was loved and honored. It is what he has done for "the least of these," for the crippled soldiers and children that will cause his name to be remembered and honored among Minnesota's great men. A move is already being made for some fitting memorial to help commemorate his life as a benefactor of mankind.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Brainerd, Minn., Dispatch.
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

MIKE DOWLING DIES IN ST. PAUL

NOTED MINNESOTA POLITICIAN,
BANKER AND BUSINESS MAN,
PASSES AWAY

(By United Press)

St. Paul, April 25—Michael J. Dowling, 55, widely known business man, banker and politician, died at St. Luke's hospital here at 5 A. M. today of heart disease.

Dowling was well known throughout the state having attained success despite the handicap of being without hands and legs. He lost his limbs when fourteen in a Minnesota blizzard.

His wife and three daughters were with him when he died. The funeral will be held at the old home at Olivia, Minn., Thursday afternoon.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Brainerd, Minn., Dispatch.
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

FITTING MEMORIAL IS PLANNED FOR MICHAEL DOWLING

(United Press)

St. Paul, April 27—Friends of the late Michael J. Dowling will meet tomorrow to form plans for one hundred bed additions to the Phalen Park hospital for crippled children as a memorial.

Dowling, although handicapped by the loss of hands and legs, became an outstanding figure in Minnesota.

Many high state officials will attend the funeral at Olivia tomorrow afternoon. A special coach will be provided to carry the state officials and friends from St. Paul.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Brainerd, Minn., Tribune
FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1921

Michael A. Dowling, another of Minnesota's illustrious sons, passed to his reward Monday in a St. Paul hospital. As a boy he lost both legs and hands as a result of their being frozen when he became lost in a snowstorm. But persistence and patience won until he became a prominent man in both Minnesota and the United States. For eight months he lectured in England to disabled veterans on the rehabilitation problems. He was a successful banker at Olivia, Minn., and was groomed as a republican candidate for governor last fall. His life in the meeting of the elements and overcoming them in a story that everyone can well take to heart and proves that a man may be out but never down.—Pillager Herald.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

0 0 1 4 4

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Breckenridge (Minn.) Telegram.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1921

**MICHAEL J. DOWLING
DIED MONDAY A. M.**

St. Paul, April 25. — Michael J. Dowling, 55, widely known business man, banker and politician, died at the St. Luke's hospital here.

Dowling was well known throughout the country having attained success despite the handicap of being without hands and legs. He lost the limbs when a child in a Minnesota blizzard.

His wife and three daughters were with him when he died. The funeral will be held at his old home in Olivia, Minnesota, Thursday afternoon.

Mr. Dowling was a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor of Minnesota and made a very strong showing, but lost the nomination to Governor Preus.

He was prominent in Minnesota affairs for half a century and was at one time speaker of the House. He was invited by the allied governments to visit England and France toward the close of the world war, to speak before crippled soldiers with a view to encouraging them by showing what

a success a man could make in life despite the loss of his limbs. He had wooden legs and with the stumps of his arms was able to do more than most men who were under no handicap.

He spoke before gatherings of crippled soldiers in America frequently, and his name was known throughout the nation.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Browns Valley, Minn., Tribune
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

M. J. DOWLING, the well known banker and newspaper man of Olivia, Minn., died on Monday last at a St. Paul hospital. He was 55 years of age. Mike Dowling was a living example of what difficulties could be overcome. He had made a success in life after suffering the loss of both legs and one hand when a mere boy, the result of being lost in a Minnesota blizzard. Mike Dowling's loss will be greatly felt all over the state and nation.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Buffalo (Minn.) Journal.
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

**MICHAEL J. DOWLING, PRINCE
OF OPTIMISM, PASSES
AWAY**

In the death of Michael J. Dowling the world has lost a hero. A hero, who at the age of fourteen conquered death when in a western blizzard he was afflicted with such injuries as would have blighted forever any being with less courageous spirit than was his. As the boy was unconquerable in misfortune, so even now, the man was one of the real heroes, who never dies, but lives on victor even over Death, as his splendid heroism lives. His misfortune has been an inspiration to others who have suffered and lost, and for this—be it said with all sincerity—all those who have been spurred to renewed hopes by his career may trace their debt back to the apparent misfortune that made what the unthinking called a cripple out of the boy.

Regardless of his loss, he would convey the message of optimism to those who were on the brink of surrender to physical handicap, that was in any way comparable to his own by saying, "Thank God I am not a cripple." Few realize the courage of a man who can say he is not a cripple with both legs, below the knees, one fore arm and most of the other hand gone. His courage kept him from being a public charge, when he bargained with the county commissioners to give him two terms at college and then he would take care of himself. The bargain was struck and from that time on his course took him through life as a country school teacher, a county editor, a leader high in political counsels and as a banker and leader honored for his capabilities.

Mr. Dowling's relations with mankind were touched with sympathy, a gift acquired through his misfortune. It was when the war broke out that Dowling's boyhood misfortune, flowered to its real splendor of soul. To the maimed and crippled of both this country and the Allies he carried the message of hope and cheer that proved to these unfortunate that the mind is stronger than the body, and courage will win. And now all over the land there are thousands of young men who received from him the spirit of the unconquerable. There are also great numbers of crippled children at the Michael Dowling school in Minneapolis, striving to learn the lesson of courage, which he by example taught them.

Michael Dowling's misfortune was the fortune of others for it made him a torch bearer of courage and inspiration of hope that shall live on after all that is mortal of him is gone.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Buffalo Lake, Minn., News
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

**M. J. DOWLING PASSED
AWAY MONDAY**

Michael J. Dowling died at St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, Monday morning, April 25, at 4:45 o'clock. At his bedside when the end came were his wife and three daughters, Harald Bordewich, Miss Bordewich and C. O. Brecke. He had been unconscious for several hours and the end came peacefully, there being no struggle to mark the ending of his remarkable and eventful life. Death was caused by a stroke of apoplexy brought on by heart trouble from which he had been ailing for several months. A week before his death Mr. Dowling entered the hospital under the care of Dr. Greene, noted specialist of St. Paul. He had been failing for some months past, but as he had a severe case of pyorrhea, it was thought his condition would improve with dental treatment. Some weeks ago he was advised that he had a slight enlargement of the heart, and also disorder of the kidneys, and hospital treatment was prescribed. It was the opinion of his doctors that a rest of three months in the hospital, with proper medical attention, would suffice to restore him to health. Mr. Dowling consented to go to the hospital, although he would not allow himself to think that he was seriously ill. His wonderful optimism, as well as his cheerful and happy disposition, lost none of its intensity but was in evidence to the last.

After being in the hospital a few days Mr. Dowling showed a high blood pressure that finally became alarming and this led to a cerebral hemorrhage from which he became unconscious on Friday evening. His family at Olivia were notified of the change in his condition and they hurried to the city Saturday morning. His daughters, Dorothy and Marge, who were attending college at Northfield, were also summoned. He rallied somewhat Saturday morning, recognizing his wife and daughters, but later in the day he sank into unconsciousness, remaining in that state until the end came.

The remains were brought to Olivia Monday evening and the funeral was held Thursday afternoon at three o'clock from the family residence on DePue Ave. Here were gathered a great throng of people from the villages and countryside of the county, including many from the Twin Cities, who came to pay their last respects.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

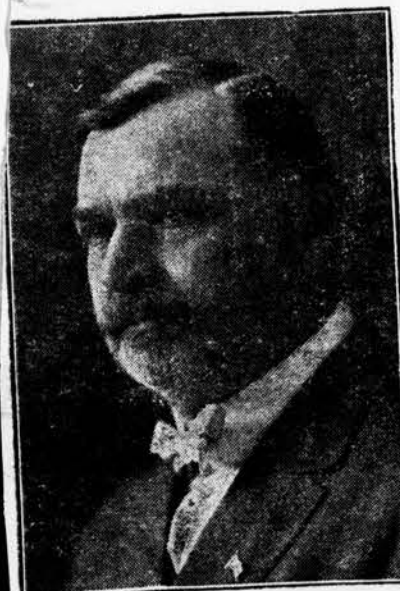
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Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Canby, Minn., News
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

M. J. Dowling, Former Canby
Cattle Herder Who Rose to
National Eminence, Dies



In spite of loss of hands and feet in the blizzard of 1880 on the prairies of Canby as a boy of 14, M. J. Dowling by remarkable pluck overcame every handicap and rose to state and national prominence as a state and national figure. Mike Dowling has probably done more to hearten and cheer the cripples of America and Europe than any man of this generation.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Canby, Minn., News
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

THE LESSON OF MIKE DOWLING

Michael J. Dowling as a youth lost both legs, one arm and part of his remaining hand as the result of being frozen in a blizzard. Life looked drear to the boy, only 14 years old, says the Sioux City Journal. What could he do to make a living? Apparently nothing. He became a county charge and that irked his soul which was ambitious and independent. If he had an education he could win his own way in the world, he said. The county commissioners were persuaded that young Dowling had the will to win and made arrangements to educate him. He was sent to college, became self supporting, married, reared a family, became a banker and was regarded at the time of his death at St. Paul, Minn., last Monday at the age of 55 as famous for what he had accomplished.

Mr. Dowling won because he had determination, perseverance, independence of spirit and all the other attributes of character that go to imbue a man with courage. He deserved success and he got it. Obviously he did not have time to pity himself if he was to do something in life. Instead, he accepted his misfortune in a matter of fact, philosophical way and did the best he could with what fate had left him of his powers. When cases of this kind are brought sharply to the attention of men who are physically sound and mentally capable and who are not putting forth their best efforts they are or should be shamed. The will to win is the better thing to have in carving out a career. Men who have no handicaps whatever have the world before them to do with as they wish.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00146

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Canby, Minn., News
FRIDAY, MAY 27, 1921

Thousands of persons joined with Olivia in paying final tribute to Michael J. Dowling, internationally known resident of Olivia and former Canby boy cattle herder, who died

in a St. Paul hospital after a brief illness. There was many a tear-dimmed eye in the long, slowly moving, silent column that wound through the rotunda of the Renville county court house for three hours there. They came from miles around, from every part of the state, by automobile, horse and train in tribute to "Mike" Dowling, their friend whose death has been hastened by his efforts to bring cheer and encouragement to thousands of soldiers crippled by the world war.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Canby, Minn., News
FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1921

district will go to the convention at St. Louis, Mr. P. M. Berg of Minnesota.

MICHAEL J. DOWLING

(By Larry Ho.)

There is no fit word with which to tell the truth about Michael J. Dowling. His life was so wonderful, so genuine, so conquering, that it cannot be written about—it can only be felt. I have always felt that he was the foremost citizen of Minnesota. He was not only worthy of love, but also of admiration. He was not only human and tender and sympathetic; he was also essentially great. He had an unusual mind; he was a thinker; he was profound and practical and earnest. The good he did cannot be estimated; the contribution he made to happiness, and to worthy service in the world, is incalculable. Some day we will realize how much Minnesota lost when he died. It will be on the day when we fully comprehend how much of the splendid untarnished manhood he bequeathed to us in memories that make life forever a braver and nobler thing.

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Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Canon Falls (Minn.) Beacon.
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

MICHAEL J. DOWLING

Those who knew Michael J. Dowling personally and those who only knew of his life work deeply regret to hear that he has passed on to the great beyond. It is not too much to say that no man in Minnesota has ever done more or as much to inspire cripples with hope and a fixed purpose to win out in the affairs of life than good, genial and honest Mike Dowling. A homeless wanderer in his boyhood he came to Renville county when fourteen years old, was caught in a blizzard and so badly frozen that both legs were amputated below the knees, one arm amputated at the elbow and all the fingers of his right hand, and only the stub of a thumb remained. The homeless boy at once became a county charge but even then as young as he was he saw visions of usefulness for him in the future. He told the county commissioners to give him two years in Carleton College and he would ask no more. This was done and in two years he was a school teacher, then an editor and as time passed on he was a banker, a member of the legislature and speaker of the house of representatives, and filled other offices of trust. He became a fluent and ready public speaker. His triumph over his physical disability was so marked that he became known throughout the state and nation. His greatest work when he became a benefactor for mankind was during the World war. He went among the crippled soldiers, on his part a labor of love, and showed them by his own experience that their cases were not hopeless and that they could triumph over their disabilities. He was called to England to instill hope into the wounded and also labored among the wounded in France. Since his return home he kept on in this work, and his strength gave way while still encouraging the maimed and crippled. The time will come, yes is here now, when the name of Michael John Dowling will be honored in every household in Minnesota.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Chaska (Minn.) Herald
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921

The announcement of the death of Hon. Michael J. Dowling has caused a wave of deep sorrow to spread over the entire State. Few public men of the present day were more highly or genuinely esteemed than Mike Dowling, as he was known to his intimate friends. In spite of physical handicaps his life has been one of service and inspiration to his fellow men. His home newspaper, in its write-up of his departure, speaks thusly and with truth: "One of his favorite sayings was, 'Thank God, I am not a cripple. Our bodies—what do they count? A good deal, of course, and yet, as I have often said, a man may be worth \$100,000 a year from his neck up and not a dollar from his collar down. Life is just as rich for me in the things that really count as for any man. Far more so than for some men. I have a wife, family, business and a dozen other interests besides. Handicap? Why a handicap is just a chance for a good honest fight. There is just one really unsurmountable handicap, so far as I can determine. That is the loss of the inner power which we call the mind. Nothing else is unconquerable."

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Chaska (Minn.) Herald
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921

Michael J. Dowling, the Olivig banker, who died Tuesday week, was one of the best known and most beloved of the citizens of our State. Born in poverty, the object of a dire accident in youth when he was caught in one of the terrible snow storms to which the prairies were subject in the early days, depriving him of both legs and hands and thus handicapping him for future life, by force of will he made his life a brilliant success, attaining both fame and wealth. His name and fame extended from coast to coast and from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico and in later years reached the Old World and only last year the British Empire called him to England and France to visit the war maimed veterans of the World War. His work

overseas and in this country during the past two years over-taxed his strength. He was a prominent candidate for governor last year on the republican ticket and came mighty near to securing the nomination. At one time he came within an ace of being sent to Congress from his district and it is said that many who opposed him at the time have since become his friends and acknowledge that the district erred in not sending him to the halls of Congress. He was 53 years old and was stricken in the zenith of his brilliant career.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00147

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Chokio (Minn.) Democrat
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

MICHAEL J. DOWLING
DIES IN ST. PAUL

Michael J. Dowling, the well known banker, politician and philanthropist of Olivia, Minnesota, died in St. Paul last Monday morning. Mr. Dowling was one of the big men of the state and while handicapped by the loss of his hands and feet, gained the top of the ladder of success. His wonderful work in establishing a home for crippled children will always be a monument of remembrance.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Chatfield (Minn.) Democrat
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

M. J. Dowling, of Olivia, known throughout the state for his work in behalf of disabled war veterans, died at a hospital in St. Paul on Monday. Death was due to heart disease, superinduced by over exertion in his work. He was 55 years old. Mr. Dowling visited Chatfield a year ago and spoke before the Commercial Club on the occasion of their annual meeting. He was at that time, a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor, but withdrew from the race, following the endorsement of J. A. O. Preus by the convention. Mr. Dowling is survived by his wife and three children. He will be buried at Olivia today.

herds. He was by this time lost track of his father the boy loved all his affections on the pony had purchased. Being desirous of gaining more education he arranged to board his pony at a farm nine miles away and one day arrived to visit the pony before starting to school. Two farmers were to make the trip and arranged to accompany them in their lumberwagon. When the pony had gone several miles a farmer overtook them. Knowing the danger they whipped the pony up and raced for shelter. They were enveloped in the whipping and the wagon struck a stump which threw young Dowling out.

His absence was not known and he was left to make his way as best he could. Soon he found a woodpile. Knowing there must be a house near, he climbed to the top and threw stick after stick as he could in a circle trying to locate the house. Falling in this, he took an armful of wood and walked about 50 paces from the pile and repeated the process. Then he lost the woodpile. Wandering blind he plumped into a straw pile and realizing this was his last chance crawled into it. There he remained battling against the fearful sleep of chill until the next day. He crawled out and discovered his legs and arms were frozen, and crawled half a mile to the farm house.

Legs and One Arm Amputated
A physician was hastily called and after treatment had been given it was found necessary to amputate both legs below the knee and one arm below the elbow. The fingers and part of the thumb on the right hand were also removed. A few weeks later he celebrated his 15th birthday.

After he had spent all his hard earned money on doctor bills the county took charge of him. The boy refused to become a county charge. He bargained with county commissioners, promising that if they would send him to Carleton college he would relieve them of further responsibility. The bargain was kept. They furnished artificial limbs and sent him. After leaving school Dowling became a country school teacher at the end of the agreed two terms. In quick succession he painted fences, ran a roller skating rink, acted a principal of the East Granite Falls school and still later as superintendent of schools, was secretary of the Western Press association and then became a real estate dealer, banker and finally entered politics.

Becomes President of Bank
He founded and published the Renville Star-Farmer, became president of the Renville State bank, and later attained the same position in the State Bank of Olivia, with which he was associated when he died.

In 1895 he married Jennie Leonarda Bordewich of Granite Falls, the same year in which he was made secretary of the National Republican league. This marked his debut into state and national politics. He was elected to the Minnesota house of representatives and served as speaker in 1901. In 1900 he represented the governor of Minnesota on an educational mission to the Philippine islands.

be charged up to the school. I have
in your issue of the 15th inst.,
were not responsible for the a-
the Village Council. These men
stated that the real estate tax
at the Clara City school district
higher than they ever were
support the public school and
from saloon licenses. I do not know
the amount was actually needed
and was judiciously expended. The
fact still remains, however, that
our Village tax this year is high-
est of any Village in the County.
school had nothing to do
his increase in your taxes.
are five school districts in
that county in which they main-
school with a full four years
school course. Following is
rate in these five dis-
270 mills

Our Public Schools

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00148

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During the World war Mr. Dowling's reputation as an optimist and his achievements in overcoming his own physical handicaps won him an opportunity to do a distinctive service to the wounded Allied soldiers in America and abroad. He was appointed by the surgeon general's department of the army to tour reconstruction hospitals in America to cheer up the disabled veterans, a mission which, he said, made him "the happiest man on earth, because I feel

that at last I am going to do something useful for my fellow men and my country."

The success of his inspirational talks to the soldiers led to an invitation by the British Red Cross to visit England and France and perform a similar mission in hospitals over there. He went to England in August, 1919, and spent two months visiting the hospitals and making a tour of the battlefields in France. He was received by King George and Queen Mary and other members of the English royal family at Buckingham palace and spoke to thousands of English and American soldiers in England, Scotland, Wales and France.

When he returned home from that trip in September, 1919, he found his friends in Minnesota talking of him widely for governor of the state. He acquiesced to the request to be a candidate, saying he would rather be governor of

Minnesota than king of England. Later the withdrew his name as candidate.

Since that time he had been devoting himself to his business interests in Olivia, and fulfilling numerous invitation to speak throughout the state.

Noted for Optimism.

Mr. Dowling addressed the pupils of the Micheal J. Dowling school on various occasions, and defined it as one of the most gratifying honors of his lifetime to have his name conferred upon the institution.

Mr. Dowling was noted, above everything else, for his optimism.

"Thank God, I am not a cripple," was one of his favorite sayings. "Our bodies—what do they count? A good deal, of course, and yet, as I have often said, a man may be worth \$100,000 a year from his neck up and a dollar from his neck down.

"Life is just as rich for me in the things that really count as for any man. Far more so than for some men. I have a wife, family, business and a dozen interests besides. Handicap? Why, a handicap is just a chance for a good honest fight. There is only one really insurmountable handicap, so far as I can determine. That is the loss of the inner power which we call the mind. Nothing else is unquarable."

He is survived by Mrs. Dowling and their three children, Dorothy, Marjorie and Kathleen.

Funeral services took place at Olivia yesterday.

Clara City (Minn.) Herald.
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

M. DOWLING DEAD WORLD FAMOUS

Physical Breakdown Which Bro't
on End Due to Efforts to
Help Others.

Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, known as Minnesota's optimist who despite a childhood tragedy which resulted in the loss of both legs and hands, overcame physical handicaps and attained success, died Monday from overwork.

Death came to him in St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, with his wife, three daughters and his secretary at his bedside. The physical breakdown which ended his life was directly due to his efforts to help others similarly handicapped in life, Dr. Charles Lyman Greene, his attending physician, said today.

Collapses After Lecture Tour

The exertion of an international speaking tour during the war, followed by a return to the demands of his private business and many other interests, overtaxed his energy. Two weeks ago he returned from a lecture tour to his home in Olivia, where he collapsed. He was taken to St. Paul and, shortly after entering the hospital, he was stricken with an attack of apoplexy. The stroke was due to his weakened condition, Dr. Greene said.

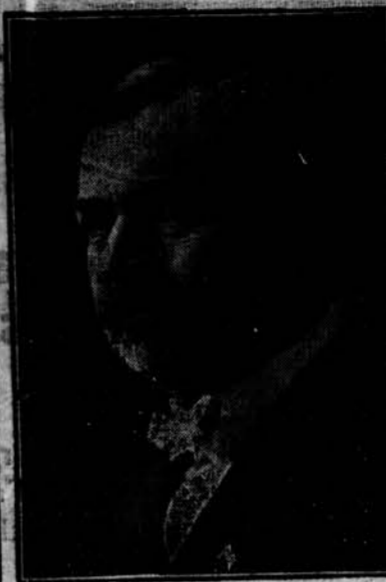
The life story of Micheal J. Dowling has been told in the palaces of royalty and the homes of the poor. It followed the flag of the Allied armies and brought cheer to thousands of men who were maimed and battered in the world conflict. It is known to thousands of crippled throughout several nations and in Minneapolis Mr. Dowling's name is perpetuated in designating the school for handicapped children as the Michael J. Dowling school.

Born at Huntington, Mass.

Michael John Dowling was born at Huntington, Mass., Feb. 17, 1866. His parents were John Jerome and Honora Barry Dowling. His mother died when he was 10 years old. His father, being a rover by nature and a carpenter by trade, struck for the west after the death of his wife and son sent for "Mike" to join him at St. Louis.

Soon tiring of that city he moved to Chicago and it was there that the boy had an experience that was used as a basis for Mr. Dowling's future code of life.

Being ambitious, he was attending school during the day and selling flowers and newspapers at night, out side McVicker's theater. One night a luxurious carriage drew up to the entrance and a well dressed man and woman stepped



Hon. M. J. Dowling, who died Monday.

out. Young Dowling had just one bouquet left and offered it for sale. The man peered at the flowers, turned to the woman and asked if she would like them. Receiving her assent he sharply asked the young salesman to show his hand. As, Mr. Dowling later said, "I had figured out for myself that clean hands were an asset in this business, and so I was proud to show that they were clean."

Aspired to Be Cowboy.

The sale was made and the youth was privileged to pin the flowers on with his own hands. In payment he received a \$5 bill and the advice "Always keep your hands clean—clean in every way."

In his lectures he usually smiled broadly at this juncture and then remarked, "the time soon came when the problem of keeping my hands clean in a physical sense was nil but there was always the other way of keeping 'clean hands' to be remembered."

Aspiring to become a cowboy, he cut loose from his father and came to Minnesota two years later and until the winter of 1880-81, when he was 14 years old he worked as a farm hand and cowherd. He got together a herd of between 500 and 600 cattle which he was to care for during the season at \$1.50 a head. This was his chance to make a stake. The day before he was to turn his herd over to their respective owners, Oct. 14, a rainstorm set in which turned to sleet. The sleet and the frozen breath of the cattle rapidly formed a mask over their heads which if let alone would have sufficated them to death. But "Mike" went among them for 48 hours, knocking the ice from the faces of the cattle and saved every one. Other herders lost heavily.

Caught in Snowstorm.

It was his love for animals that (Continued on 5th page.)

Clakato (Minn.) Enterprise.
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1921

bination of moisture, leading to the rape to the hog, and a hot sun. By keeping pigs out of the rape patch until the dew or rain has evaporated from the leaves of the plants, blistering can be prevented. "Rape can be sown as early in the spring as the ground can be worked. Even a small patch in a feed lot will save grain in raising pigs."

M. J. DOWLING DEAD

Michael J. Dowling, of Olivia, known as Minnesota's optimist, who, despite a childhood tragedy which resulted in the loss of both legs and hands, overcame physical handicaps and attained success, died Monday from overwork.

Death came to him in St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, with his wife, three daughters and his secretary at his bedside. The physical breakdown which ended his life was directly due to his efforts to help others similarly handicapped in life, Dr. Charles Lyman Greene, his attending physician said.

Clinton (Minn.) Advocate.
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1921

Hon. Mike J. Dowling, of Olivia, representative citizen of Minnesota and America, died at the St. Louis hospital, in St. Paul, on Monday, of apoplexy, induce by over work, at the age of 55 years. Mr. Dowling was peculiarly a self-made man, having reached a position of national and world-wide prominence, in spite of very great handicaps. He was universally loved and respected, and no breath of reproach has ever been heard against him. "Mike," as he was popularly known, was the people's idol, and would have won to higher place had he lived.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00149

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Chatfield (Minn.) Democrat
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

**MICHAEL J. DOWLING
DIES IN ST. PAUL**

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MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

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His absence was not known, and he was left to make his way as best he could. Soon he found a woodpile. Knowing there must be a house near, he climbed to the top and threw sticks after sticks as far as he could in a circle trying to locate the house. Failing in this, he took an armful of wood and walked about 50 paces from the pile and repeated the process. Then he reached the woodpile. Wandering blind, he plumped into a straw pile and realizing this was his last chance crawled into it. There he remained battling against the fall sleep of chill until the next day. He crawled out and discovered his legs and arms were frozen, and crawled half a mile to the farm house.

Legs and One Arm Amputated

A physician was hastily called and after treatment had been given it was found necessary to amputate both legs below the knee and one arm below the elbow. The fingers and part of the thumb on the right hand were also removed. A few weeks later he celebrated his 15th birthday.

After he had spent all his hard-earned money on doctor bills the county took charge of him.

The boy refused to become a pauper. He bargained with the county commissioners, promising that if they would send him to Carleton college he would relieve them of further responsibility. The bargain was kept. They furnished artificial limbs and sent him. After leaving school, Dowling became a country school teacher at the end of the agreed two terms. In quick succession he painted fences, ran a roller skating rink, acted a principal of the East Granite Falls school and still later as superintendent of schools, was secretary of the Western Press association and then became a real estate dealer, banker and finally entered politics.

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Our Public Schools

the editor of the Herald: be charged up to the school, I have not given these figures for the purpose of criticizing the members of the Village Council. These men were not responsible for the amount added to pay outstanding bonds and interest, nor are they responsible for loss of revenue from saloon licenses. I do not know the amount was actually expended. The school there will be no relief. fact still remains, however, that our Village tax this year is high-est of any Village in the County. school had nothing to do this increase in your taxes. are five school districts in county in which they maintain school with a full four years school course. Following is rate in these five districts: 570 mills

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00150

INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE

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that at last I am going to do something useful for my fellow men and my country."

The success of his inspirational talks to the soldiers led to an invitation by the British Red Cross to visit England and France and perform a similar mission in hospitals over there. He went to England in August, 1919, and spent two months visiting the hospitals and making a tour of the battlefields in France. He was received by King George and Queen Mary and other members of the English royal family at Buckingham palace and spoke to thousands of English and American soldiers in England, Scotland, Wales and France.

When he returned home from that trip in September, 1919, he found his friends in Minnesota talking of him widely for governor of the state. He acquiesced to the request to be a candidate, saying he would rather be governor of

Minnesota than king of England. Later he withdrew his name as candidate.

Since that time he had been devoting himself to his business interests in Olivia, and fulfilling numerous invitations to speak throughout the state.

Noted for Optimism.

Mr. Dowling addressed the pupils of the Micheal J. Dowling school on various occasions, and defined it as one of the most gratifying honors of his lifetime to have his name conferred upon the institution.

Mr. Dowling was noted, above everything else, for his optimism.

"Thank God, I am not a cripple," was one of his favorite sayings. "Our bodies—what do they count? A good deal, of course, and yet, as I have often said, a man may be worth \$100,000 a year from his neck up and a dollar from his neck down.

"Life is just as rich for me in the things that really count as for any man. Far more so than for some men. I have a wife, family, business and a dozen interests besides. Handicap? Why, a handicap is just a chance for a good honest fight. There is only one really insurmountable handicap, so far as I can determine. That is the loss of the inner power which we call the mind. Nothing else is unconquerable."

He is survived by Mrs. Dowling and their three children, Dorothy, Marjorie and Kathleen.

Funeral services took place at Olivia yesterday.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Clara City (Minn.) Herald.
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

M. DOWLING DEAD WORLD FAMOUS

Physical Breakdown Which Bro't
on End Due to Efforts to
Help Others.

Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, known as Minnesota's optimist who despite a childhood tragedy of which resulted in the loss of both legs and hands, overcame physical handicaps and attained success, died Monday from overwork.

Death came to him in St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, with his wife, three daughters and his secretary at his bedside. The physical breakdown which ended his life was directly due to his efforts to help others similarly handicapped in life, Dr. Charles Lyman Greene, his attending physician, said today.

Collapses After Lecture Tour

The exertion of an international speaking tour during the war, followed by a return to the demands of his private business and many other interests, overtaxed his energy. Two weeks ago he returned from a lecture tour to his home in Olivia, where he collapsed. He was taken to St. Paul and, shortly after entering the hospital, he was stricken with an attack of apoplexy. The stroke was due to his weakened condition, Dr. Greene said.

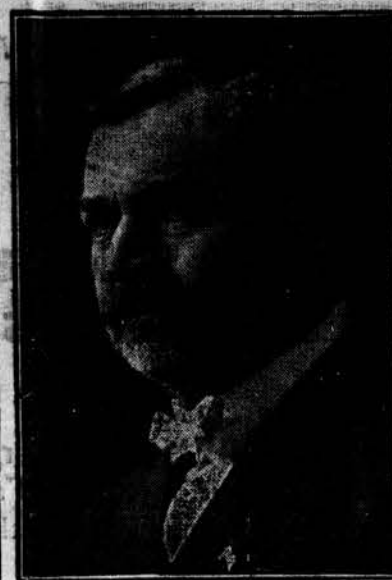
The life story of Micheal J. Dowling has been told in the palaces of royalty and the homes of the poor. It followed the flag of the Allied armies and brought cheer to thousands of men who were maimed and battered in the world conflict. It is known to thousands of crippled throughout several nations and in Minneapolis Mr. Dowling's name is perpetuated in designating the school for handicapped children as the Michael J. Dowling school.

Born at Huntington, Mass.

Michael John Dowling was born at Huntington, Mass., Feb. 17, 1866. His parents were John Jerome and Honora Barry Dowling. His mother died when he was 10 years old. His father, being a rover by nature and a carpenter by trade, struck for the west after the death of his wife and soon sent for "Mike" to join him at St. Louis.

Soon tiring of that city he moved to Chicago and it was there that the boy had an experience that was used as a basis for Mr. Dowling's future code of life.

Being ambitious, he was attending school during the day and selling flowers and newspapers at night, out side McVicker's theater. One night a luxurious carriage drew up to the entrance and a well dressed man and woman stepped



Hon. M. J. Dowling, who died Monday.

out. Young Dowling had just one bouquet left and offered it for sale. The man peered at the flowers, turned to the woman and asked if she would like them. Receiving her assent he sharply asked the young salesman to show his hand. As, Mr. Dowling later said, "I had figured out for myself that clean hands were an asset in this business, and so I was proud to show that they were clean."

Aspired to Be Cowboy.

The sale was made and the youth was privileged to pin the flowers on with his own hands. In payment he received a \$5 bill and the advice "Always keep your hands clean—clean in every way."

In his lectures he usually smiled broadly at this juncture and then remarked, "the time soon came when the problem of keeping my hands clean in a physical sense was nil but there was always the other way of keeping 'clean hands' to be remembered."

Aspiring to become a cowboy, he cut loose from his father and came to Minnesota two years later and until the winter of 1880-81, when he was 14 years old he worked as a farm hand and cowherd. He got together a herd of between 500 and 600 cattle which he was to care for during the season at \$1.50 a head. This was his chance to make a stake. The day before he was to turn his herd over to their respective owners, Oct. 14, a rainstorm set in which turned to sleet. The sleet and the frozen breath of the cattle rapidly formed a mask over their heads which if let alone would have suffocated them to death. But "Mike" went among them for 48 hours, knocking the ice from the faces of the cattle and saved every one. Other herders lost heavily.

Caught in Snowstorm.

It was his love for animals that

(Continued on 5th page.)

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Clakato (Minn.) Enterprise.
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

bination of moisture, transferred from the rape to the hog, and a hot sun. By keeping pigs out of the rape patch until the dew or rain has evaporated from the leaves of the plants, blistering can be prevented.

"Rape can be sown as early in the spring as the ground can be worked. Even a small patch in a feed lot will save grain in raising pigs."

M. J. DOWLING DEAD

Michael J. Dowling, of Olivia, known as Minnesota's optimist, who, despite a childhood tragedy which resulted in the loss of both legs and hands, overcame physical handicaps and attained success, died Monday from overwork.

Death came to him in St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, with his wife, three daughters and his secretary at his bedside. The physical breakdown which ended his life was directly due to his efforts to help others similarly handicapped in life, Dr. Charles Lyman Greene, his attending physician said.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Clinton (Minn.) Advocate
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

Hon. Mike J. Dowling, of Olivia, representative citizen of Minnesota and America, died at the St. Louis hospital, in St. Paul, on Monday, of apoplexy, induce by over work, at the age of 55 years. Mr. Dowling was peculiarly a self-made man, having reached a position of national and world-wide prominence, in spite of very great handicaps. He was universally loved and respected, and no breath of reproach has ever been heard against him. "Mike," as he was popularly known, was the people's idol, and would have won to high place had he lived.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00151

INTENTIONAL DUPLICATE EXPOSURE

only way to get efficiency in city government is to either adopt the corporate plan or something similar. The commissioners or board of directors should either hire a high salaried official, or else abolish the salary entirely, and make it one of great honor to be held only by some retired businessman, who could afford to give his time without pay.

Michael J. Dowling Disciple of Service and Good Cheer

Minnesota, America and thousands of crippled soldiers of Europe are mourning the death of Michael J. Dowling, who closed his active campaign of service and good cheer on April 25th. His close friends say it was his devotion to duty and response to calls for service that finally broke down even his wonderful strength and vigor. His complete collapse a few weeks ago after strenuous work of speaking at many points in Minnesota, was a warning of the end of his busy career.

Mr. Dowling was one of the rare citizens of the world, who was privileged to accomplish all that even successful men do in a life time, but besides that he brought courage, new hope and good cheer to many thousands of disabled service men. He was styled "a charter member of the Society of Good Cheer," and his wonderful cheer-up work in this country and also in Europe will be a lasting memory among thousands who were benefited by his splendid example of hopefulness.

The familiar story is now common knowledge of how Mr. Dowling as a young man was frozen in a Minnesota blizzard, losing both feet, one hand and part of the other hand, but in spite of this handicap he accomplished wonders and in his cheer-up talks his favorite remark was, "Thank God, I am not a cripple." In Mr. Dowling's philosophy, the only cripples were those who persisted in thinking crippled thoughts, or acting out a crippled existence.

The passing of Mr. Dowling will be especially mourned by the bankers of Minnesota, as he served as president of the State Bankers Association only last year. As an active worker in the state association as well as in the A. B. A. organization, Mr. Dowling was well known in banking circles. He was everybody's friend and always the champion of the underfellow, and a valiant fighter for any cause he thought just. Loyalty was the controlling power in Mr. Dowling's soul. He was loyal to country, to friends, to right principle and to himself. His aggressiveness was always marked by fair play and every opportunity to give the other man a fair chance. In spite of all his handicaps of body, Nature could still point to Mr. Dowling and say, "Here was a man."

not disturb the long-time Liberty bond issues, as we will have plenty of refunding to do to take care of the Victory note issue of four billions, which falls due in about two years. These along with the certificates of indebtedness will provide a big job in refunding.

Among the various plans suggested for maintaining Liberty bonds at par is the unique one of Colonel M. W. Thompson, at one time Governor of the War Credits Board at Washington. An authoritative opinion on this particular plan is given in a letter from C. F. Childs, president of C. F. Childs & Co. of Chicago, exclusive dealers in government bonds. This interesting comment is printed elsewhere in this issue.

The Thompson or any other plan that would quickly boost Liberty bonds to par and keep them there would at once be open to the charge of the Federal Government favoring the wealthy class, which has purchased many billions of these bonds at a discount since the close of the war. There will be no escape from this criticism, even in attempting the apparently impossible plan of Colonel Thompson's of exchanging new issues for the old at the price paid in the open market.

The inexcusable blunder made by Secretary McAdoo of the Wilson administration, in issuing bonds at a rate below what was warranted by current money market conditions, is responsible for the deplorable situation of Government issues quoted so many points below par. Such a mistake cannot be remedied by other mistakes and we will probably have to patiently endure it until such time as the money market works back to a lower level, thereby helping to bring Liberty bond issues nearer to par. If those who have bought these issues at a discount are content to wait for a term of years, in order to make a small profit, they are certainly entitled to such gain.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

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Michael J. Dowling is Dead

The death of Michael J. Dowling, president of the Olivia State Bank and ex-president of the Minnesota Bankers Association, which occurred in St. Paul on April 25, came as a shock to the public and will be generally mourned by bankers throughout this state and the Northwest, as well as by the wide circle of acquaintances throughout the country.

Mr. Dowling was born in Huntington, Massachusetts, in 1866. He came West with his parents when he was a mere boy, lived at St. Louis and later at Chicago, where little Mike sold papers and bouquets around the McVicker Theatre on Madison Street.

At 12 years of age, young Dowling came to Minnesota and worked as a farm hand herding cattle. A few years later at the age of 15 he was caught in a blizzard and frozen, resulting in the loss of both of his feet, one hand and part of the other hand. He refused to become a charge of the country, but made a bargain with the county commissioners to repay them, if they would give him two years at Carleton College. After leaving college, Mr. Dowling taught school, wrote insurance, worked on a newspaper and then became a real estate dealer, banker and public man. He founded the Renville Star-Farmer, became president of the Renville State Bank and later the president of the State Bank of Olivia, where he made his permanent home. He is survived by his widow and three daughters.

He became interested in Minnesota politics, was elected to the legislature and served as speaker of the house in 1901. Last fall his friends prevailed on him to enter the race for governor, but later he withdrew from the campaign.

During the war and afterwards, Mr. Dowling did remarkable work both in this country and in the hospitals of England and France in cheering up the disabled service men. He was received by the Royal family of Great Britain and spoke to thousands of American, English and French soldiers in a two months' tour of Europe. A school has been established in Minneapolis for crippled and disabled children and named the Michael Dowling School. Mr. Dowling's philosophy of life is well summed up in the following statement from one of his addresses:

"Life is just as rich for me in the things that really count as for any man. Far more so than for some men. I have a wife, family, business and a dozen interests besides.



THE LATE M. J. DOWLING

President State Bank of Olivia and ex-President Minnesota Bankers Association

Handicap? Why, a handicap is just a chance for a good honest fight. There is only one really insurmountable handicap, so far as I can determine. That is the loss of the inner power which we call the mind. Nothing else is unconquerable."

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00153

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Crookston, Minn., Times
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921

**MICHAEL DOWLING,
PROMINENT BANKER
OF OLIVIA, DIES**

(By The Associated Press.)
St. Paul, April 25—Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing his lower limbs and hands in early boyhood, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.

As well as being prominent in banking circles Mr. Dowling was a former newspaper man and served in the state senate. He was also a republican candidate for governor two years ago.

For the past two and a half years Mr. Dowling had been touring the country in the interests of disabled war veterans. Following the signing of the armistice he went to England at the request of the British government and the British Red Cross and for more than 8 months lectured the British war wounded on rehabilitation problems.

Death was due to heart disease superinduced by his exertions on these tours, his physicians said. He had been in the hospital here two weeks. Mrs. Dowling with three children were at the bedside this morning when the end came. The funeral will be held in Olivia Thursday afternoon.

Suffering amputation of both legs above the knee, the left arm and the greater part of the right hand when 14 years old, as the result of exposure in a blizzard, Mr. Dowling was shortly afterward left an orphan, and became a charge of the county. Refusing to become discouraged, he began making plans to overcome his handicap. He bargained with the county commissioners, who became interested in his case and sent him to Carleton college. His rapid rise followed.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00154

DAWSON SENTINEL
By THEODORE CHRISTIANSON

crippled boys and girls will shed real tears—tears of sorrow because he who once was has gone, and tears of joy because he who has gone once was.

The physical man, maimed and broken by that snow storm forty years ago, is no more; but in a real sense Mike Dowling is not dead. The dauntless spirit which spurned the alms which kind-hearted but visionless county commissioners sought to bestow upon him, and asked only a chance to compete on equal terms with his fellowmen; which gave him courage after two brief terms in school to fight for an education in the greater school of men and things; which made him first a teacher, then a country editor, then a banker, then a political leader and finally an apostle of optimism and cheer to the maimed and broken of the great World War; that spirit will live in the lives of men long after his dust has been mingled inseparably with the dust of his native prairie.

The big lesson of Mike Dowling's life is that when God wants to make a masterpiece, he lets the buffeting winds of adverse fortune shape the human features into the likeness of His own countenance. The vast throng He allows to wander aimlessly and without a struggle along the path of mediocrity. But when He requires a leader, He plants the pathway thick with thorns and strews the road with cutting rocks; He provides heavy burdens to make the back strong and sorrows to make the soul gentle. Thus He brings a Lincoln out of a backwoods cabin of a White Trash community, and leads a Michael Dowling out of a western snowstorm, footless and handless, to become the inspiring genius of a generation.

Thank God for hardships and privation and suffering; for these are the things that make character, that ennoble the spirit and fit the man for immortality.

MICHAEL J. DOWLING

In the passing of Michael J. Dowling, Minnesota has lost her foremost citizen. Other men have been more successful in getting high official positions than he, but no man has been more successful in attaining that beside which recognition at the polls is cheap indeed—the affection and confidence of the men, women and children of the entire commonwealth. While he is being lowered into his last resting place in the cemetery at Olivia today, men in every part of the state will speak approvingly of his public record, women will commend his generous attitude toward movements of social betterment, and

Pollock's Shipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Deseret, Minn. Dispatch
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1921

—O—O—O—

—M. J. Dowling, the well known banker, politician and philanthropist of Olivia, died at a St. Paul hospital Monday morning. Mr. Dowling was one of the outstanding figures of the state. He was a living example of what is possible for an ambitious man to accomplish in spite of great physical handicaps. He had neither hands nor feet yet steadily climbed the ladder of success because of his determination not to be a burden upon the public as a result of the accident that deprived him of his limbs. A school for crippled children has been established in this state that bears his name in recognition of the great work he has accomplished under physical handicaps. He did conspicuous work during the war in the hospitals where he brought encouragement to crippled soldiers.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

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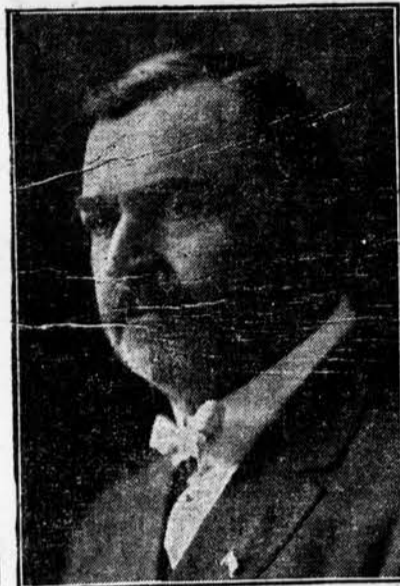
M. J. DOWLING DIES IN ST. PAUL

Michael J. Dowling, Olivia, Minn., banker and internationally known for his success despite the fact of his physical handicaps, died Monday, April 25th, at St. Luke's Hospital, St. Paul. He was 55 years old.

Spending more than two years of his time in the interests of war wounded soldiers helping those similarly handicapped in life, is in all probability that which brot about the cause of his death which was heart disease.

Following the signing of the armistice Mr. Dowling went to England at the request of that government and spent eight months there among wounded soldiers, lecturing to them and demonstrating to them his method of overcoming the loss of both his limbs and hands. It is said that many a down hearted

M. J. Dowling 1866 - 1921



wounded soldier was given heart in life at hearing him. Until the time he was taken ill he was engaged in this same work.

At the age of fourteen years, Mr. Dowling was invalyided by the loss of both legs and hands. He fell from a wagon in a blinding blizzard. Two men who were sitting in the front seat did not know in the storm that the boy was missing. After walking for hours he found a haystack, crawled into it and fe'l asleep. The exposure necessitated the amputation of both legs below the knee, the left arm below the elbow and the greater part of the right hand and thumb. Parentless and helpless he became a county charge but soon found a way to help himself. He bargained with the county commissioners to send him to Carleton college. Since then his rise has been rapid.

He was born in Huntington, Mass., in 1866. His mother died when he was but ten years, then he, with his father, came west. At the age of 13 the young man separated from his father at Chicago and came to Minnesota, where he worked on a farm. In 1880 he got together a herd of about 550 cattle which he was to care for during the season at \$1.50 per head. The day before he was to turn his herd over to the respective owners a rain storm set in which later formed into sleet. The sleet and frozen breath of the cattle formed a mask over their heads, which if left alone, would have suffocated them to death.

But, Dowling was not to be beaten. He went among the entire herd for forty-eight hours knocking the ice from their faces. He saved every one, other herders lossed heavily.

After his tour in Great Britain he returned to United States and resumed his lectures in this country. Untiring in his efforts he wore himself out in the constant travels necessary, and two weeks ago returned to his home at Olivia, where he collapsed.

Mr. Dowling has been active in public affairs for more than 25 years. He was secretary to the National Republican League, 1895 1897; was appointed special commissioner to the Philippine Islands in 1900, and was elected speaker to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1901. At the last gubernatorial election, Mr. Dowling was mentioned as a candidate and accepted, but

later withdrew in favor of J. A. O. Preus. He was married to Jennie Leonora Bordewich at Atlanta, Ga., in 1895, and is survived by his widow and three children, all girls. Funeral services were held today at Olivia.

sired that all "old soldiers" attend this meeting and discuss plans for the observance of Memorial Day. —Rev. C. E. Hixon is officiating at the funeral of Mr. Dowling at Olivia, Minnesota, today (Thursday) and cannot reach here for service as usual Thursday evening. Mr. Dowling and family have been active members of Mr. Hixon's church at Olivia, where

DEATH CLAIMS M. J. DOWLING, NOTED BANKER

Minnesotan, Severely Handicapped Bodily, Became Nationally Prominent.

Succumbs to Heart Disease Brought on by Over-Exertion.

St. Paul, Minn., April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing lower limbs and hands in early boyhood, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.

For the past two and one-half years Mr. Dowling had been touring the country in the interest of disabled war veterans. Following signing of the armistice, he went to England at the request of the British government and the British Red Cross, and for more than eight months lectured before British war wounded on rehabilitation problems. Death was due to heart disease superinduced by exertions on this tour, his physicians said. He had been in the hospital here two weeks.

Mrs. Dowling with the three children were at the bedside this morning when the end came. The funeral will be held at Olivia Thursday afternoon.

Mr. Dowling was president of the Minnesota Bankers' association, retiring in 1920, and was well known in financial circles throughout the state.

On the night of Dec. 4, 1880, young Dowling was lost on the prairie near Canby, Minn., and being overtaken by a severe blizzard was unable to find his way to any better shelter than that of a straw stack. About two days later he was found there so badly frozen that both legs had to be amputated, the left arm four inches below the elbow and all of the fingers of the right hand. This terrible experience resulted in the boy being a charge upon Yellow Medicine county for about three years, but on April 1, 1883, he started without a cent to take care of himself. First he obtained work at odd jobs of painting, then managed to finance a small roller rink. This latter was very successful and gave him time to study and fit himself for teaching, which profession he followed several years, quitting it as superintendent of the Renville schools in 1887 to publish the Renville Star. Later he acquired other papers, and as he had business acumen as well as industry prospered from that time on.

M. J. DOWLING PASSES AWAY

Minnesota Banker Who Became World Famous Because of His Success, Dies of Heart Disease.

Michael J. Dowling, resident of Olivia, Minn., aged 55, widely known banker, politician and business man, died at St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, Monday, at five a. m. of heart disease. Dowling was well known throughout the country having attained success despite the handicap of being without hands and legs. He lost the limbs when a child in a Minnesota blizzard.

His wife and three daughters were with him when he died. The funeral will be held at his old home in Olivia, Minnesota, Thursday afternoon.

Mr. Dowling was a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor of Minnesota and made a strong showing, but lost the nomination to Governor Preus.

He was prominent in Minnesota affairs for half a century and was at one time speaker of the House. He was invited by the allied governments to visit England and France toward the close of the world war, to speak before crippled soldiers with a view of encouraging them by showing what a success a man could make in life despite the loss of his limbs. He had wooden legs and with stumps of his arms was able to do more than most men who were under no handicap.

He spoke before gatherings of crippled soldiers in America frequently, and his name was known throughout the nation.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH, PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00156

Duluth, Minn. News-Tribune
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921

CRIPPLED BANKER, M. J. DOWLING, IS DEAD AT ST. PAUL

Olivia Man, Famous for Success,
Lost Hands and
Legs at 14.

ST. PAUL, April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, Minnesota banker who won international fame for his success, despite the loss of his feet and hands in boyhood, died today in the St. Luke's hospital. He was Minnesota's optimist.

For the past 2½ years Mr. Dowling had been touring the country in the interest of disabled war veterans. Following signing of the armistice, he went to England at the request of the British government and the British Red Cross, and for more than eight months lectured British war wounded on rehabilitation problems. Death was due to heart disease superinduced by exertions on this tour, his physicians said. He had been in the hospital here two weeks.

"I am deeply grieved to learn of the death of Mr. Dowling," Governor Preus said today. "Mr. Dowling has been active in public affairs of Minnesota for more than a quarter of a century and his influence has always been for good."

Funeral arrangements are being made with the co-operation of many organizations with which Mr. Dowling was associated. Services, to be held in Olivia, Minn., Thursday, will be attended by representatives of school, municipalities and business organizations from many parts of the state.

Crippled at Age of 14.

Although only 55 years of age, Mr. Dowling had crowded into his lifetime experiences and accomplishments which had given him nationwide fame. His life story—that of a boy left to make his own way at the age of 10 years and permanently crippled at 14—was known in other countries, where his example aided other unfortunates, particularly those crippled during the war.

He had won many honors in business, in politics and in the educational world, but his greatest interest was in relieving pain and brightening the lives of crippled children. The Dowling School for Crippled Children, Minneapolis, is a monument to this work.

He was a secretary of the Republican National League from 1895 to 1897 and was appointed special commissioner to the Philippines in 1900 by President McKinley. In 1901 he was elected to the Minnesota house of representatives and was elected speaker. During the last campaign he was urged as a candidate for governor of Minnesota, but at the convention which nominated Governor Preus pledged his support to the choice of the convention and aided in his election.

Mr. Dowling was born in Great Barrington, Mass., Feb. 17, 1866. His mother died when he was 10 years old, and his father left him there in the care of relatives when he moved to St. Louis. The father sent for the boy soon afterward, and then went to Chicago.

Injured in Blizzard.

A few months later he came to Minnesota where he worked on a farm.

In 1880 he arranged to enter school, and was to board at a farmer's house nine miles away. He started on his first trip in the wagon of a farmer. During the trip a blizzard overtook them, and the farmer, whipping up his horses to escape the storm did not notice that his passenger, seated in the wagon box, had been thrown out.

Young Dowling, left in the storm, walked until he found a woodpile. He threw chunks of wood in every direction to attract the attention of those living in the house he knew must be nearby. He tried to find the house and finally, wandering blindly, ran across a straw pile. He dug his way into the straw and remained until the blizzard had passed.

Life Saved by Operation.

When he crawled out he found he could not stand, but made his way on his hands and knees for half a mile to the house. An operation which removed his legs below the knee, his left arm below the elbow and his fingers and part of his thumb on the right hand saved his life. A few weeks later, while still fighting for his life, he celebrated his fifteenth birthday.

Duluth, Minn. News-Tribune
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921

A FIGHTING HEART IS STILLED

Minnesota learns with deepest grief that Michael J. Dowling is dead. There was no one in this country who had a life record just like his. There have been heroes on land and sea, in peace times and in war times; the names of some have lived and others have been forgotten. In the literature current in institutions where there are men blind and deaf, mute and defective and hopelessly crippled, the name of Michael J. Dowling of Minnesota will recur for many, many years to come, bringing a renewed hope for happiness in spite of their own misfortunes.

Thousands of blind have heard of him and thousands of those unfortunates have read of him through Braille type; thousands of deaf mutes have learned about him. Among children deprived of full use of legs or arms or both, the name of the Minnesotan has been an inspiration; when it comes to disabled soldiers and sailors, both in the United States and Europe, Michael J. Dowling embodied for them the most brilliant example of triumph over adversity they had ever seen.

It will be generations before crippled soldiers and sailors or any other group of unfortunates, become acquainted with such an example as the man whose earthly career is so suddenly at an end. Few people of this state knew Mr. Dowling was ill. They had been reading frequently of his appearance before crippled children in various parts of the country and of his invariable message of cheerfulness and courage and hope. They knew that crippled veterans of the World war in the rehabilitation hospitals of this country referred every day to the career of Michael J. Dowling as evidence of the strength of an indomitable spirit.

That wintry afternoon four decades ago that the blizzard caught young Dowling on the prairies of Southwestern Minnesota and put upon him handicaps that were all but insurmountable, dwelt in his memory as if graven there with fire, yet there was never a trace of bitterness or sadness in his voice as he told about it. He always referred to the joy he felt in overcoming the odds that were piled against him mountain high. When the swirling snow blanketed him in, he threw sticks from a wood pile in the hope that he might hit a building he remembered was near. After each throw he would listen for it to strike.

Never a sound did he hear. If but one had struck the building the sound of the impact would have guided him to shelter. When the storm subsided and the boy was found all but frozen to death, he saw that each stick had struck but a few feet short of the desired goal. "It was fate," he would say with a half smile, when recalling it.

Minnesota people are familiar with his declaration that he wanted just one thing if the public was willing to give it to him—an education. This he received, although not without a struggle. In time he became a teacher and then a superintendent of county schools and then a country newspaper publisher and a banker. He became a leading Republican figure of this state in the campaign of 1896 and was secretary of the National League of Republican Clubs. He was also honored with the speakership of the Minnesota House. All that Mr. Dowling did he did with a vision of unusual clarity and also with great vigor. When he started out to win the Republican nomination for governor of Minnesota in 1920, he covered a large territory in an incredibly short time. Then came the demand for an unofficial convention in order to further strengthen the party against the Nonpartisan League. Mr. Dowling promptly declared he would abide by the result of its proceedings and the keeping of his given word will be referred to as worthy of emulation in campaigns to come. He gave to Nominee Preus generous support and without it a different story might have been chronicled the morning after Primary Day.

In all things, Michael J. Dowling was the soul of honor. He rose superior to the appalling chapter in his life and in every year that was his he showed the fighting heart that is only found in the breast of a hero. His career was a complete success in the face of adversities that would have caused almost any other boy to have turned his face to the wall and given up the struggle then and there.

His life, although short, was rich in accomplishment. Admiration and affection were lavished upon him and thousands refer to him today with a sob in their voices. As the magnificence of the strength of character of Michael J. Dowling dawns upon the people, for years to come his name will be a power to lift up the weak-hearted in affliction. Of such a man it may truly be said "his spirit goes fighting on."

LET IN THE LIGHT

Duluth, Minn. Herald
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1921

chauffeur.
"It was the finest thing in the world that could have happened," the president continued, "for on that night we met as brothers for the first time and ever after that he was a better chauffeur and I was a better employer."

In Honor of Dowling.

St. Paul, Minn., April 27.—The flags on the state capitol will be at half mast all day tomorrow during the funeral of Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, who died here Monday of heart disease. Nearly all state departments will be represented at the funeral.

Duluth, Minn. Herald
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1921

Dowling Funeral Thursday.

St. Paul, Minn., April 27.—Julius A. Schmahl, former secretary of state and a close friend of Mr. Dowling for many years, is organizing a party of state officials and other friends to make the trip Thursday to Olivia, Minn., to attend the funeral of Michael Dowling, who died here Tuesday. The Minnesota State Bankers' association, of which Mr. Dowling was president 1919-20, will also be represented at the funeral.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00157

Duluth, Minn., News-Tribune
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

Town Suspends Business to Mourn Loss of Heroic Figure.

OLIVIA, Minn., April 28.—Thousands of persons joined with Olivia today in paying final tribute to Michael J. Dowling, internationally known resident of this city, who died in a St. Paul hospital last Monday after a brief illness.

There was many a tear-dimmed eye in the long, slowly moving, silent column that wound through the rotunda of the Renville county court house for three hours to view the body that lay in state there from 10 a. m. to 1 p. m. They came from miles around, from every part of the state, by automobile, horse and train in tribute to "Mike" Dowling, their friend whose death had been hastened by his efforts to bring cheer and encouragement to thousands of soldiers crippled by the World war.

From the courthouse, the body was taken to the family home for funeral services at 3 p. m. It was the family's wish that there should be no church services—they wanted to take the husband and father from his old home direct to his last resting place in the city cemetery.

Veterans Stand Guard.

Around the casket in the courthouse rotunda, eight members of the local post of the American Legion stood as a guard of honor—mute tribute to the man who had done so much to bring hope to their buddies who had lost a limb or more in the war "over there."

Active pall bearers were selected from old friends who belonged to the same Olivia social club here as Mr. Dowling. They were: Dr. C. H. Mesker, J. N. Freeman, James Empey, William A. French, T. H. Collyer and C. C. Brecke.

Honorary pall bearers were Judge R. T. Daly and L. B. Barnard of Renville, Dr. D. E. Miller of Bird Island, Louis Kraemer of Granite Falls, E. H. Erickson, L. F. Swenson and P. J. Schaffer of Minneapolis, E. A. Pervaeg, J. R. Landy, T. P. McIntyre and George Windhorst of Olivia and F. G. Nellerhoe of St. Paul.

Olivia Closes All Business.

Olivia business paused between the hours of 11 a. m. and 4:30 p. m. in accordance with a proclamation issued by Mayor A. A. Passer. The door of each store building bore a placard displaying a picture of Mr. Dowling and bearing this caption: "We mourn our loss."

For the hundreds of visitors that came in by train or automobile for only a few hours stay, the large armory was thrown open as a resting place, as hotel facilities were no ample to meet the demand.

Arrangements were made for automobiles to meet the Twin City delegation, including the state officials from St. Paul who arrived at 7:30 p. m. in a special coach over the Milwaukee road. They were taken directly to the Dowling home for the services there.

Mr. Dowling came to Olivia in 1903 from Renville where he had been engaged in banking and other business. He took up banking here and became president of the Olivia State bank. He was 55 years old. Surviving him were his widow and three daughters, Dorothy and Margery, who are students at Carleton college, Northfield, and Catherine, who has been at home. Message continued to come in today from all parts of the country and a number were received from abroad. One of the messages was from T. E. Sides of Dallas, who accompanied Mr. Dowling to Europe in 1918, on the campaign of cheer for soldiers crippled by the war. Like Mr. Dowling, Mr. Sides was crippled, having lost a hand and an arm. Mr. Dowling lost both hands and both feet as the result of having become lost in a snow storm when 14 years old.

Duluth, Minn., News-Tribune
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

AT HALF MAST

The flags on the state capitol at St. Paul were at half mast yesterday in honor of Michael J. Dowling, one-time Speaker of the Minnesota House. If ever that honor were deserved it was in this instance.

There have been few deaths among public men of Minnesota that have been so generally mourned as that of the most prominent citizen of Olivia. No man who has borne a prominent part in the affairs of the North Star State ever rendered quite so much service to the human race as Michael J. Dowling.

Sibley and Ramsey, Flandrau and Gillfillan, Gorman and Medary served this commonwealth in various ways. So did Hammond and Johnson and Lyndon Smith. But no man ever affiliated with the state's affairs came to prominence under such handicaps as Speaker Dowling. Poverty, cruel and unrelenting, John A. Johnson knew. Hardships, Sibley knew. Dowling knew hardship and poverty and then a tragedy before he had reached his majority.

His force of character lifted him above his fellows. When it was proposed that he be made the presiding officer of the Minnesota House two decades ago, the wise heads laughed. They expected to sidetrack the Dowling boom by the turn of their thumbs. The next thing they knew they were speculating whether they could get any favors from the young legislator from Renville. He had whipped them, horse, foot and dragoons, by sheer strength of will and because the free men of the House loved him.

No one enjoyed politics more than Speaker Dowling. He had a genius for it. He decided, however, that it was a too expensive game for a poor man with a family and he turned resolutely from the glamor of it and set about making money as a newspaper publisher and banker so that his wife and three daughters might not come to want. He succeeded to a remarkable degree. He was shrewd in his business dealings with men, but ever kindly toward those who were pinched for funds. He would often say: "I've been there myself—I know how it is."

Most of Minnesota official life journeyed to Olivia to pay its respects to the big-hearted, courageous, fighting spirit that had worn itself out in the service of others. It is most improbable that this state will ever see his like again.

Duluth, Minn., Herald
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

THOUSANDS ATTEND M. J. DOWLING FUNERAL

Olivia, Minn., April 29.—Thousands of persons attended the funeral services here yesterday at 3 p. m. of Michael J. Dowling, who died in St. Paul Monday. Services were held at the family home. Many came from St. Paul and points many miles distant. Among those who attended were Mrs. Julia McGraw, principal of the Dowling school for the crippled children, Minneapolis, and several teachers of that institution, Miss Marie McCormick of Fargo, N. D., singer, also attended.

In accordance with a proclamation of Mayor Passer business houses here closed from 11 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Services at the home were in charge of Rev. W. S. Emory of the Methodist church and Rev. Father H. D. Pomije of the Catholic church.

Active pallbearers were old friends who belonged to the same Olivia social club here as Mr. Dowling. They were: Dr. C. H. Mesker, J. N. Freeman, James Empey, William A. French, T. H. Collyer and C. C. Brecke. Honorary pallbearers were Judge R. T. Daly and L. B. Barnard of Renville, Dr. D. E. Miller of Bird Island, Louis Kraemer of Granite Falls, E. H. Erickson, L. F. Swenson and P. J. Schaffer of Minneapolis, E. A. Pervaeg, J. R. Landy, T. P. McIntyre and George Windhorst of Olivia and F. G. Nellerhoe of St. Paul.

Duluth, Minn., Herald
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

Mike Dowling's Example

Fairmont Sentinel: Blessings on the memory of Mike Dowling! He possessed the attributes of a real hero and during all his busy life diffused cheerfulness and optimism. There is no one to fill his place. He was in a class by himself. His record of good deeds makes his future secure. His name and fame will long be an inspiration to progressive citizenship.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00158

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Echo (Minn.) Enterprise.
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

MICHAEL J. DOWLING DEAD

The death of Michael J. Dowling, of Olivia, known as Minnesota's optimist, and a well known lecturer, politician and business man, occurred Monday at St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul.

A physical break down was given as the direct cause of his death. He had but recently returned from a lecture trip and upon reaching home collapsed. He was taken to the hospital but suffered an attack of apoplexy shortly after reaching there.

Deceased was one of the State's foremost citizens and his loss will be mourned by all its citizens.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

St. River (Minn.) Star-News.
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

Mike Dowling, whose indomitable spirit gained fame and fortune for him despite the fact that he was crippled in his youth, is dead. But his fame will live on for many years and his splendid example will do much to brighten the lives of those who may be similarly afflicted. He was one of Minnesota's big men.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00159

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Fairfax (Minn.) Standard.
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

PROMINENT RENVILLE CO. MAN CALLED BY DEATH

Michael J. Dowling, Highly Esteemed and Prominent Over The Country, Unable to Recuperate After Physical Breakdown.

OVERTAXES SELF WHILE HELPING OTHERS

Residents of Renville county were greatly shocked and grieved in learning of the death of Michael J. Dowling, which occurred Monday, at St. Lukes hospital, St. Paul.

"Mike" Dowling, as he was commonly called, being a Renville county resident, had brought considerable attention to this county through his activities throughout this country and abroad, where his services had carried him on various missions. His prominence was of especial note due to his incessant work to uplift others who were handicapped as he was, and he was set up as a living guide to what ambition could attain regardless of great handicaps. His acquaintances will number in the hundreds, and although Renville county claims him as a citizen, people far and wide will mourn the loss of a great and beloved friend.

The following account from the St. Paul Pioneer Press gives a detailed account of his life:

Michael J. Dowling, Olivia, Minn., banker and business man, who won international fame for his success despite the loss of his legs and hands in boyhood, died early Monday at St. Lukes' hospital. He was 55 years old.

His efforts to help others similarly handicapped in life brought on his death which was caused by heart dis-

legs and both hands. He fell from a wagon in a blinding blizzard. Two men who were sitting in the front seat did not know in the storm that the boy was missing. After walking for hours, he found a hay stack, crawled into it and fell asleep. The exposure necessitated the amputation of both legs below the knees, the left arm below the elbow and the greater part of the right hand and thumb. Parentless and helpless he became county charge but soon found a way to help himself. He bargained with the county commissioners who became interested in his case and sent him to Carleton college. Since then his rise had been rapid.

Born in Huntinton, Mass., in 1866, Mr. Dowling remained there until the death of his mother ten years later. His father, a roofer by nature and a carpenter by trade, struck for the West after the death of his wife and soon sent for Michael to join him at St. Louis.

Tiring of that city, the father and son moved to Chicago, and it was here that the boy had an experience that was used as a basis for his future code in life.

Being ambitious, the young fellow was attending school daytimes and selling flowers and papers at night out side the famous McVicker's theater.

rozen bread of the cattle rapidly formed a wash over their heads, which, if left alone, would have suffocated them to death.

But Micheal was not to be beaten. He went among them for the next forty-eight hours, knocking the ice from their faces. He saved every one. Other herders lost heavily.

It was his love for animals that indirectly resulted in the loss of his extremities. Having by this time lost all track of his father, the boy lavished his affection on a pony he had purchased. Desirous of gaining a good education, he arranged to board his pony at a farmer's home 9 miles away and one December morning arranged to visit his pony before starting to school.

Two farmers were to make the trip and he arranged to accompany them in their lumber wagon. When the party had gone several miles the blizzard overtook them. Knowing their danger they whipped the team up and raced for shelter. They were enveloped in the storm and the wagon struck a bump which threw the youngster out.

His absence was not noticed, and he was left to make his way as best he could. Soon he found a woodpile. Knowing there must be a house near, he climbed to the top and threw stick after stick as far as he could in a circle, trying to hit the house. Failing to do this, he took an armful of wood and walked about fifty spaces from the pile and repeated the process. Then he lost the woodpile.

Wandering blindly he plumped into a straw pile, and realizing this was his last chance, crawled into it. There he remained battling against fatal sleep of chill until morning. He crawled out and discovered his legs and arms were frozen, and crawled half a mile to the farm house.

A doctor was called, and after treatment had been given it was found necessary to amputate both leg below the knee, and one arm below the elbow. The fingers and part of the thumb on the right hand were

Dance Starts at 8:00 o'clock and ends at 12:00
Tickets \$1.00 Including War Tax

Come and celebrate the last of the three big Market Days and attend this big dance.

Music By THE NEW SIX

At The FAIRFAX,
Saturday,

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

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his lecture tours.

He had been failing steadily and had been at the hospital two weeks. While the end was not entirely unexpected by his immediate family the news of it came as a shock to the general public as the seriousness of his condition had not been made known.

Mrs. Dowling, together with the three children, Dorthy, Marjorie and Kathleen, arrived here from Olivia Saturday and were at the bedside when death came. Miss Hattie S. Bordewiche, secretary to Mr. Dowling, accompanied the family here.

The funeral will take place at Olivia Thursday afternoon. The Dowling family left here Monday night.

For the past two and one-half years Mr. Dowling had been touring the country in the interest of the war wounded. Following the signing of the armistice, Mr. Dowling went to England at the request of the British government and the British Red Cross and for more than eight months lectured to British war wounded on rehabilitation problems. He told of his own struggle against misfortune, and it was said the cause of many wounded soldiers taking heart in life.

Mr. Dowling's name went before the Republican gubernatorial elimination convention at the Auditorium May 8, but he withdrew in favor of J. A. O. Preus.

At the age of 14 years, Mr. Dowling was invalidated by the loss of both

some night a luxurious carriage drew up to the entrance and a well-dressed man and woman stepped out. Young Dowling had just one bouquet left and he offered it for sale.

The man peered at the flowers, turned to the woman and asked her if she would like them. On receiving her assent, he sharply asked the young salesman to show his hands.

As Mr. Dowling later said, "I had figured out for myself that clean hands were an asset in this business and so I was proud to show that they were clean."

The sale was made and the youth was privileged to pin the flowers on with his own hands. In payment he received a \$5 bill and the advice "always keep your hands clean—clean in every way."

In his lectures he usually smiled broadly at this juncture and then remarked: "The time soon came when the problem of keeping my hands clean in a physical sense was nil but there was always to the other way of keeping 'clean hands' to be remembered."

The boy a few months later separated from his father and came to Minnesota, where he worked on a farm. In 1880 he got together a herd of between 500 and 600 cattle which he was to care for during the season at \$1.50 a head. This was his chance to make a stake.

The day before he was to turn his herd over to their respective owners, October 14, a rain storm set in which turned to sleet. The sleet and the

also removed.

A few weeks later he celebrated his fifteenth birthday.

After he had spent all his hard won money on doctor bills the county took charge of him. But, indomitable of spirit, the youngster made a proposition to the county officials that they send him to Carleton college for two terms and he would "go on his own" after that.

They furnished artificial limbs and sent him. After the agreed two terms he took a position as teacher in a rural school and began the career which has been the "hitching star" for thousands of crippled men and women since.

In quick succession he painted fences, ran a roller skating rink, acted as principal of the East Granite Falls school and still later as superintendent of schools; wrote insurance, edited a newspaper, was secretary of the Western Press association and then became a real estate dealer, banker, and finally entered politics.

Because of his "never say die" spirit and the reputation he had made for himself, he soon became an international figure. Lecture after lecture he gave to the maimed. Time after time he instilled the fighting backbone that made him successful into the "scrapes of humanity" he talked to.

During the recent war his presence was declared to be of such "therapeutic value" that the British government asked him to demonstrate to the war-crippled British soldiers. After this tour he returned to the United States and resumed his lectures in this country.

Untiring in his efforts, he wore himself out by the constant travels necessary, and two weeks ago returned to his home at Olivia, where he collapsed.

Members of the family this morning declared his death was due to his "tireless efforts to restore the maimed minds of the physically mutilated."

He was married to Jennie Leonora Bordewick at Atlanta, Ga., in 1895, and is survived by his widow and three children, all girls.

He was secretary of the National Republican league, 1895 to 1897; was appointed special commissioner to the Philippine Islands in 1900 and was elected speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1901.

"I am deeply grieved to learn of the death of Mr. Dowling," Governor Preus said this morning. "I considered him one of my most worthy friends. He was still a comparative-

ly young man, possessed of vigor which would have made him a prominent factor in public affairs for many years to come if he had lived.

"Mr. Dowling has been active in public affairs for more than a quarter of a century and his influence always has been for good. He was one of the pioneers in the good roads movement. During the war his services in the country's cause were extremely valuable.

"Mr. Dowling's success in spite of his physical handicaps has been an inspiration and has pointed the way to success to many others with physical handicaps. It shows what a man with grit and determination can do."
—St. Paul Pioneer Press, April 26th.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Fairmont Minn. Sentinel
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921

MICHAEL DOWLING DIES AT ST. PAUL OF HEART ATTACK

Olivia Banker and Political
Leader, Successful Despite
Crippled Limbs, Is
Summoned

St. Paul, April 25.—Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, Minn., 55, died at a hospital here today of heart disease.

Mr. Dowling was a banker, and was famous for winning success in life despite losing both legs and an arm in boyhood, when he became lost in a blizzard and was nearly frozen to death.

Mr. Dowling was prominent in Minnesota politics, being a prominent candidate for governor a year ago. During the war he was sent to Europe by the government to address crippled soldiers on his life experience and show them that they could still be useful and successful in society. He also lectured in many camps and hospitals in this country.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Fairmont Minn. Sentinel
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921

Blessings on the memory of Mike Dowling! He possessed the attributes of a real hero and during all his busy life diffused cheerfulness and optimism. There is no one to fill his place. He was in a class by himself. His record of good deeds makes his future secure. His name and fame will long be an inspiration to progressive citizenship.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Fairmont, Minn., Independent
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921

Noted Banker and Politician Dies at St. Luke's Hos- pital.

(By United Press)

St. Paul, April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, 55 years old and prominent banker, businessman, and politician of Olivia, Minn., died of heart trouble at St. Luke's hospital at five this morning.

Michael J. Dowling has passed away. With Mr. Dowling's passing, one of the picturesque characters of Minnesota is removed. While a young boy, he was caught in one of the fearful Minnesota blizzards and frozen so severely that he lost portions of his hands and both legs. Notwithstanding this handicap, Michael Dowling educated himself and through study, perseverance, and hard work, attained the position of that of one of Minnesota's leading citizens.

Mr. Dowling, after his accident, became a state and county ward, but prevailed upon the authorities to advance a certain amount of money that he might educate himself, signing a paper whereby he withdrew all claims from the State or County for support. Mr. Dowling at his death, was a prominent banker, businessman, and politician of Olivia, Minnesota. By sheer perseverance, he brought himself up from a crippled destitute boy to a man who has attained, not only statewide, but nationwide prominence. He has been written up in the leading magazines and newspapers of the country. His case has been held up to thousands of crippled soldiers as an example of what might be done, even in the face of physical incapacity.

Michael J. Dowling was at one time speaker of the House of Representatives of Minnesota. He has been active in hundreds of campaigns for the welfare of humanity. In Minneapolis today, there is a school for crippled children which bears his name. Minnesota can well afford to lose at this time a man such as Michael J. Dowling, who by his example has put heart into thousands of crippled boys and girls in the United States.

A. L. Ward of this city, when informed of his death said, "I knew Mr. Dowling well. I consider it a privilege to call him my friend.

He was one of the powers for good in the state. When one considers what he has done with his life it behooves any of us to lay our failures to insurmountable obstacles."

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00161

Fairmont, Minn. Independent
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921

Michael J. Dowling, who died suddenly yesterday, was an inspiration to many thousands more than the people of his native state who loved him and admired him. The whole nation knew the beautiful story of this crippled boy, and knowing it, thanked God, and took courage.

And it is indeed a wonderful story—the story of a defiance of misfortune which seems fairly unbelievable. When fourteen years old, young Dowling, then an orphan cattle herder in Western Minnesota, was caught in a blizzard and so frozen that it was necessary to amputate both legs below the knee, one arm, and all but one of the fingers on his right hand. To the ordinary boy of that time, place and age, these obstacles would have been unsurmountable. But Dowling was of a different spirit. As a county charge he was sent to Carleton college. After two years there he taught school for seven years, became a lawyer, founded a newspaper, entered politics as secretary of the National Republican League, was elected chief clerk of the Minnesota House and later a member and its speaker, represented the government on an educational mission to the Philippines, acquired control of the state Bank of Olivia, made a comfortable fortune, ran for congress and during the 1920 campaign was a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor at the convention which nominated Governor Preuss.

This, in brief, is the history of this remarkable man. His philosophy of life is perhaps best illustrated by a statement he made not very long ago:

I believe I have proved that being a cripple is more a state of mind than of body. There is only one really insurmountable handicap, and that is the loss of the inner power we call the mind. A man may be worth \$100,000 a year from his neck up and not a dollar from his neck down. Why shouldn't I be happy. Life is just as rich for me in things which really count as for any man. Handicap? Why, a handicap is just a chance for a good, honest fight.

To Mike Dowling his disabilities were but an incident; to most others they would have been fatal both to spirit and will.

During the war Mr. Dowling was of great service. He visited the hospitals for cripples in both America and England, and showed the war-torn heroes what could be done. He was loved by these boys, and loved them in return. For this work alone he never will be forgotten. Here in Minnesota we have lost a good neighbor and a friend, and the country has lost a genuine inspiration.

Faribault (Minn.) Pilot
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

M. J. Dowling Died Monday

Famous State Character Passes Away
Through Over-Exertion on a
Speaking Tour for Cripples.

Michael J. Dowling, well known Minnesota banker, of Olivia, died early Monday at St. Luke's hospital in St. Paul, where he had been for two weeks receiving medical treatment. Mrs. Dowling and their three daughters were at his bedside when he died.

Mr. Dowling was 55 years of age and had the experiences during his life that few men will ever have. At the age of 10 years he was left to make his own way in the world. He sold papers and flowers to earn a living. Later he came to Minnesota and worked on a farm. In 1880 he was made a cripple while herding cattle. A severe blizzard came up and the only place he could find for refuge was a strawpile. He crawled into the stack and stayed there until the next day. When he came out he found that his hands and feet had been frozen, so he crawled on his hands and knees until he came to a house, where he was taken in. It was necessary to amputate his limbs below the knee and his left arm below the elbow, and also some of his fingers. He later attended Carleton College, and taught school. From the school room he became a fence painter, ran a roller skating rink, became principal of the East Granite Falls school, then superintendent of schools, wrote insurance, edited a

newspaper, was made secretary of the Western Press association, then became a real estate dealer. From the real estate business he entered banking and finally took a hand in Minnesota politics.

During the war he went to Europe and spoke to the crippled soldiers in Red Cross hospitals, and since his return has traveled in the states speaking to the soldiers.

The funeral will be held today at Olivia and people from every walk of life will attend.

Faribault (Minn.) Pilot
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

MICHAEL J. DOWLING.

In the death of Michael J. Dowling, the state of Minnesota has lost one of its most inspiring and helpful characters. Not only nation-wide but almost worldwide is the knowledge of the handicap under which he has al-

ways labored, especially since his fourteenth year, when he lost both his legs, one arm and most of the other hand by being frozen in a blizzard while bringing home the cows. Notwithstanding this misfortune he secured an education, as a county charge, at Carleton college, after which he taught school seven years, became a lawyer, founded a newspaper, served as the Speaker of the State House of Representatives. During the war he encouraged the disabled in American and British hospitals by telling them his life story, and at the time of his death was president of the State Bankers' Association. Mr. Dowling exemplified in his own life the philosophy he taught to others, which he expressed as follows:

"I believe I have proved that being a cripple is more a state of mind than of body. There is only one really insurmountable handicap, and that is the loss of the inner power we call the mind. A man may be worth \$100,000 a year from his neck up and not a dollar from his neck down. Why shouldn't I be happy? Life is just as rich for me in things which really count as for any man. Handicap? Why, a handicap is just a chance for a good, honest fight."

Fairmont, Minn. Sentinel
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

tion of special dispatches herein are also reserved.

MIKE DOWLING'S PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE

(Extract from Mike's Talk to Wounded Soldiers Overseas)

"Thank God, I am not a cripple. Our bodies—what do they count? A good deal, of course, and yet, as I have often said, a man may be worth \$100,000 a year from his neck up and not a dollar from his neck down.

"Life is just as rich for me in the things that really count as for any man. Far more so than for some men. I have a wife, family, business and a dozen interests besides. Handicap? Why, a handicap is just a chance for a good honest fight. There is only one really insurmountable handicap, so far as I can determine. That is the loss of the inner power which we call the mind. Nothing else is unconquerable."

ONE RESULT OF PROHIBITION

Faribault, Minn. Tourist
WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 1921

Michael J. Dowling, 55 years of age, well known Minnesota business man and politician, died at St. Luke's hospital Minneapolis last Monday of heart disease.

Michael J. Dowling became well known throughout the state as a successful and rising man in spite of his handicap, having no hands and legs, which were amputated after being caught in a Minnesota blizzard some years ago.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Fergus Falls, Minn., Tribune
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

M. J. DOWLING IS DEAD

Man Without Arms or Legs Achieves Success

Minnesota mourns the death of M. J. Dowling of Olivia, a banker who has contributed toward the upbuilding of the state for a quarter of a century. When twelve years of age, he was caught in a winter blizzard and his limbs frozen so that all were lost.

Becoming a charge, he finally bargained with the county commissioners to send him to Carleton College. Possessing natural genius and fired by ambition his rise was rapid, and he became a banker at Olivia, a good roads booster, at one time a candidate for governor, and in public work these many years.

He was 55 years of age and leaves a wife and three children. Two years ago, he took active part in recruiting and other war work. Later he was sent to France and England by those nations to lecture to disabled soldiers in the vocational camps, as a practical example of what a man could do, even though handicapped by the loss of his limbs.

His work among the army camps undermined his strength which later resulted in his death. Governor Preus expressed his sorrow for the state losing so valuable a citizen.

Mr. Dowling stood as a type of fearless courage in overcoming tremendous physical handicaps and reaching a high place in usefulness to the world, despite everything, and his memory will live long in the hearts of his friends.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Fertile, Minn., Journal
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921

mers themselves.

Michael J. Dowling, Olivia banker, died last week from apoplexy. In his death, the state and nation suffers the loss of a man who has met with, and conquered over, such odds as most men would fall under. While out in a snowstorm, "Mike," as he was called, lost part of his arms and legs, but in spite of this great handicap, has won national distinction. He started the first school for physically defective children in St. Paul, and it has been conducted in such a manner as to elicit praise from the most pessimistic. He died in St. Paul and when his remains arrived in Olivia, the whole city was out to do honor to their most respected of citizens.

MICHAEL J. DOWLING IS LAID TO REST

Vast Throng Honors Memory of
Best Loved Citizen at Funeral
at Olivia Thursday

Last Thursday the earthly remains of Michael J. Dowling, Minnesota's best loved citizen were laid at rest in his home town, Olivia, while thousands of people from far and near came to do his memory honor and pay their tributes.

Delegations from all part of Renville county and from towns within a wide radius in neighboring counties, besides state officials and others gathered to show their affection for the man who, though crippled early in life, became an exponent of optimism and radiated cheerfulness into the hearts of all with whom he came in contact.

His body lay in state at the court house from 10 a. m. until 3:00 p. m. when it was taken back to his home where the simple funeral service was held.

Rev. William Emery of the M. E. church of Olivia, Rev. Father Pomeji of the Catholic church and Rev. E. E. Hixon, Episcopal minister of Minneapolis, joined in conducting the service.

Great banks of flowers sent friends from every part of the country bore mute testimony both from those present and from thousands of others who could not be there.

Michael Dowling School for Crippled Children was represented by Margaret Jones. She represented hundreds who had been cheered by the man who now had gone to his final rest.

The pall bearers were: Dr. G. Mesker, W. W. French, J. M. Freeman, C. O. Brecke, and J. Empey, all the surviving members of a unique social and study club of which Michael Dowling was the sixth member. T. H. Collyer was the sixth pall bearer.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Franklin, Minn., Tribune
THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1921

Lieutenant Governor Collins of St. Cloud and Colonel Leach of Minneapolis, who were here to attend Mr. Dowling's funeral Thursday, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. F. Gage in the evening.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00163

MICHAEL J. DOWLING DIES WHILE SEEKING FOR REST

Preparing for Rest to Cover Summer Months Strength Suddenly Gives Way and Life Ebbs Out.

Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, and of Renville county, Minnesota's most widely known citizen died in St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul early Monday forenoon of this week. He had planned a rest for himself during which he had hoped to recover strength and energy that he so freely had given for many causes during strenuous war years and the period following.

Burden upon burden had been cheerfully shouldered by this giant of will power though his body was chipped and stripped of limbs. Just as the work began to clear and there was promise of less strenuous days ahead his body gave way and he was called beyond to rest eternal.

He had, upon the advice of physicians, arranged to shift his various responsibilities onto other shoulders and had gone to St. Paul to receive treatment and rest.

However, it seemed that the relief in tension only hastened his complete breakdown. He was stricken with apoplexy shortly after entering the hospital. Only two weeks before he had returned home from an extensive lecture tour.

"Mike" Dowling was known and loved by thousands of crippled boys and girls and by other thousands of war-torn soldiers. To these he carried the message of hope and courage and caused them to see the world through brighter eyes.

Michael John Dowling was born in Huntington, Mass., Feb. 17, 1866. When he was 10 years of age his mother died and thereafter his father who was a carpenter by trade, went west and a little later "Mike" followed him to St. Louis. From that city they went to Chicago where the boy hungering for an education, sold papers and flowers during the evenings and attended school during the day.

It was in front of McVicker's theatre that he one evening offered his last bunch of flowers to a lady who was escorted by a severe gentleman. They bought the flowers and Mike was allowed to pin them on with his own hands, first, however, having been required to show his hands and satisfy the man that they were clean. He was generously rewarded by a payment of \$5 for the flowers and given this advice: "Always keep your hands clean—clean in every way." That he adopted as his life's motto.

He wanted to go on west and so he left his father and came to Minnesota where he worked as farm hand and had an ambition to become a cowboy. In the winter of 1880-81, at the age of fourteen, he collected a herd of cattle, about 600, for which he was to receive \$1.50 a head if he herded them through the season. This he did after strenuous experiences.

Being desirous of further education he now arranged to board his pony at a farm while he himself attended school. On a December day he was going out to see his pony friend when the party with whom he was riding in a lumber wagon was caught in a sudden blizzard and while the driver whipped up the team to reach shelter, the young lad was thrown out of the wagon and was immediately lost. He tried to find his way and finally struck a wood pile from which he proceeded to throw sticks in all directions in order to try to hit a building. He was not successful, however, and soon lost the wood pile also. Thereafter he wandered around until he found a straw stack into which

he crawled for shelter. The next morning he crawled out and discovered that his legs and arms were frozen. He dragged himself to a house a half a mile away where the people realized his condition and immediately sent for a doctor who found it necessary to amputate both legs below the knee, one arm below the elbow and part of one hand. Thus he faced the world again, having become a county charge over-night. He was then about 15 years old. After having recovered sufficiently he made an agreement with the county commissioners that if they would give him two terms of school at Carlton college he would thereafter take care of himself. This was finally done and from that time on Mike's second career began. And who knows but what the regeneration in the blizzard of a December day when he was going on his fifteenth year did not do more for him than if he had been allowed to possess his limbs without the physical handicap? He became school teacher, newspaper man, founding the Renville Star Farmer, salesman and banker, international dispenser of good cheer.

In 1895 he married Jennie Leonora Bordewich of Atlanta, Ga., the same year in which he was made secretary of the National Republican league. He was elected representative to the Minnesota legislature and served as speaker of the house in 1901. In 1900 he represented the governor of Minnesota on a special educational mission to the Philippines.

His wonderful devotion to our country's cause during the world war is a matter of late record.

He gave of his time to his village, to his county, state and country. He became an international optimist and was sent to Europe by the Red Cross to bring hope and cheer to maimed and crippled soldiers of the allied nations. While in Europe the people of his home county started a move to have him made governor of Minnesota. He took on the added care of a political campaign and gave of the best there was in him, but he never grumbled. In order to create harmony in Republican ranks he withdrew from the race, although he had a powerful backing among the people of the state.

American soldiers by the thousands have been cheered by him on his tours throughout the rehabilitation hospitals of the country.

"Thank God, I am not a cripple," was one of his favorite sayings. "Our bodies, what do they count? A good deal, of course, and yet, as I have often said, a man may be worth \$100,000 a year from his neck up and not a dollar from his neck down."

Mr. Dowling is survived by his wife and three daughters, to whom the sympathy of the people of Renville county goes out with deep feeling.

Funeral services are being held today, Thursday, at Olivia. People from all parts of the state will attend.

The collection for the M. J. Dowling memorial plate to be placed by Renville county school children in the Michael J. Dowling school for crippled children located in Minneapolis is progressing nicely here. Supt. J. J. Dobie informs the Tribune that the collection in the Franklin schools will exceed the quota of \$15.00. A complete report will be published next week.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00164

USE "WINALL" FLOI

EULOGY ON MICHAEL J. DOWLING

By Hon. Frank Hopkins

Delivered at Fort Ridgely, August 22nd, 1921

The retrospect of today is the inspiration of tomorrow.

The lessons we have learned, the sacrifices we have made since 1914, to the God of War, should teach us to solve our world problems by peaceful means.

Minnesota's, may I say, America's foremost apostle of the world's democracy, is a part of this sacrifice. His, the noblest doctrine of peace of a brave citizen.

You vacant chair, draped in mourning, crowned by Old Glory, speaks more fervently and eloquently, than feeble words of mine, in memory of our departed leader.

Those of you who knew him best, loved him most, were most under obligation to his influence. Were you not a subject of his beneficence? Yours the loss, in not having associated with him, for none there be in this land of the free, who have not received of his unselfish service.

Evening News! Evening News! in an eastern city calls the clear, firm voice of a ruddy faced Irish lad. Hustling for a living. An orphan he.

The scene changes. Fly with me in your imagination to the Yellow Medicine land. Scattered over the wild prairie, are the herds he watched. On his trusty pony, though a mere lad, he holds the confidence of his employers and delivers his charge at the season's end to their rightful owners.

'Tis late fall. Winter due any day. Two men partly intoxicated, on a board seat across the box, a boy sitting on a box behind, start from town across the almost trackless prairie for home. A white streak looms up in the northwest. The wind dies. Still unto hushness. Ominous signs, these, on a Minnesota prairie at this time of year. The men are in no condition to heed them. A short half hour and the blizzard is upon them.

The wind, so terrific, that it blows snow, sleet, chunks of ice, dust, dirt, everything loose before it, drowns in its maddening roar all other sound.

The team is urged to a rapid gait, the befuddled-brained driver pulls the team out of the way and across rough, new breaking. The vehicle lurches and bounds. The men cower into the box. Eyes cannot face or penetrate that gale mass. The animal instinct of the horses finally lands them at a place of safety.

Where is the herd boy? Where is Mike?

Thrown by the lurch of the wagon on the breaking, he jumps to his feet, yells at the top of his voice in the direction of the vanished wagon. He rushes after it, following the track obliterated by the wind in a moment. Which way does it go? It's lost. Alone, he wanders to find shelter. Rapidly the cold grows intense. It is dark. He feels tired and sleepy. Go to sleep, Mike, give up, it's no use. Give up? Never. Numb with cold and dead tired he stumbles and crawls on and on. Perseverance at this time, as in latter years, won. He finds a partial shelter. He cannot keep awake, so soothing the frost tempter lulls him to rest. By sheer will power he fights off sleep until he is rescued. But not all. Both legs, one arm, all the fingers and most of the thumb of the other hand, being frozen, were amputated.

Can there be a future for such a remnant of mankind? Were it not better, had he died? His will mastered still. "Give me a chance to go to school fellows, and I'll pay it back when I'm through." The commissioners of Yellow Medicine county, greatly to their credit, accepted the challenge.

He made good.

Through earnest application, when opportunity knocked, he was ready to respond.

Rapidly he achieved success in business. His ability and integrity won the esteem of his fellow

citizens, who elected him to the Minnesota House, where he became its speaker, which position he honored.

Of Irish descent, a natural born humorist, his good nature pervaded every situation. The dark the clouds of chagrin and disappointment, they could not obscure his sun of hope. He never gave up.

To him, human nature seemed an open book. A nation-wide experience with men of every description made him versatile to get the best results out of every situation with the public good, always, a prime consideration.

To know him well was to be his staunch friend.

He had no just enemies, for he wronged none.

The genius for organization and strategy of a Napoleon, the humor of a Mark Twain, the knowledge of a Simonds, the generosity of a Morris, the patriotism of a Lincoln, all were his.

One experience, only, he lacked. To him life was a practical, will power, economic equation. The world's problems could and would be solved by the scientific application of natural economic laws. Justice alone, was sufficient. God, his creator, he revered. The Son, entered not, controllingly, in.

The world at its highest pinnacle of scientific, economic development, suddenly became engulfed in the awful maelstrom of the World's War. This awful calamity on mankind brought him face to face with life's broader, fundamental problem, ages old. His keen insight recognized and his honest judgment acknowledged his theory of life blasted and useless.

In silent meditation and thought, may I say prayer, he told me in 1917 at the close of the patriotic address when I asked him for an explanation for his new version of life as expressed in his closing thought, he discovered that he had left humanity out of his equation of life. Justice without mercy would not suffice. That the causes of the World's War could not be removed except by the application of the principles of life as taught by the Master, Himself. The giving of one's self for others.

With apology to his inimitable diction and delivery, may I attempt, from notes taken at that address, to convey to you his conception of man's duty to man as it broke upon me at the time.

"Boys, you are not here for yourselves. You go over there, but for others.

"Men in other lands, in other ages, since the dawn of creation to this day have fought and bravely died to secure what they or their rulers desired or in defense of what they possessed.

"You go forth representing a new principle in life, in government. A principle of divine junction. That principle which has been the rule of action of every lasting benefactor of mankind.

"You go forth obeying the command of Him who spoke with authority.

"You go forth, offering your youth, your vigor, your health, even your life, if need be, for others, that mankind may know Christian democracy and the rule of tyrannical monarchs over other peoples may no longer continue.

"Keep in mind the country you represent. Its standards of equality.

"Forget not the sanctity of the home and the chastity of the family you go forth to represent, that when you come home with laurels on your brow, as we hope and pray you will, you will not only be a hero in deeds but a hero in character as well.

"We think in world terms today. The world has been broken down under the old order of things. Humanity has been left to drift while selfishness has almost made a wreck of things.

No longer may we hide our light under a bushel.

"It is your privilege to take over there the heaven that will leaven the whole world.

"Never before has any nation accepted such a call for unselfish service.

"You are doing what we all will do and what we all must do if the world is to be saved. Follow the example of Him, who though blameless, gave up his life that all might live."

He had found the pearl of greatest price. Had accepted the one supreme conviction that alone was needed to place him in the class of the world's greatest benefactors.

Thence, he went forth, to live in deeds the word he gave those World War volunteers.

Far and wide, over land and sea, day and night, he went. Knowing no fatigue. Answering every possible call. High in the counsel of all allied nations. Forgetting his business, neglecting, by his absence, his family—they had everything they needed—by his unselfish service to the world, he carried the gospel of Christian democracy to every part of our land, stirring folks from their lethargy of content ease to give financial aid and inspiring others to personal service in the worthy cause for mankind.

Then the boys came back.

Those who survived.

The boys who at Chateau Thierry stopped the German massed advance within a few miles of Paris and saved the world for democracy. Bereft of reason, almost, wrecked in health, with arms, hands, feet, legs or all lost in battle, discouraged, downhearted, despondent, wishing the end would come, they same back to the reconstruction camps.

"I was here our tireless leader took his chief delight in his unequalled inspired manner, in holding up to these suffering, forlorn, dejected buddies, the starry sky of hope brightly beaming in the sky of future usefulness.

He encouraged them to carry on and never give up.

He promised them our government would care for them as it should its heroes and would give them what Yellow Medicine county gave him, his richest asset, and that they could and would become useful producing citizens of the country they served so graciously.

May I digress to say, that, shame to our nation, it has not made good this promise.

In the British Isles, in Belgium, in France and elsewhere in Europe and all over the United States, wherever called, he heralded the gospel of good cheer and hope, until the maimed heroes of every land saw new light in the sun, and the stars and moon were lighter and life was brighter to untold thousands who heard him, hence knew him and loved him.

He urged to service. He lived and served.

Humanity's burden was his burden, mankind's care his care.

As the memory of Lincoln was made immortal in the minds of his countrymen by his untimely sacrificial death after a useful life, so is the memory of our esteemed friend, companion, and world's citizen and benefactor, made immortal by his untimely death in the service of mankind.

As unselfishly, as cheerfully, as truly as did those buddies in yonder cemetery give their lives for mankind, so surely did he give his life for them, for us, for all.

His broken body lies in peace in the cemetery at Olivia, but the spirit of Michael J. Dowling lives on in the memory of his achievements and sacrifices to inspire us and generations yet unborn to emulate his example of unselfish service for others and to keep the stars and stripes, that banner he so dearly loved, floating on high, the emblem of justice, mercy and hope to the people of the whole world.

Police Department
MINNESOTA, MINN.

Police Dept. Press
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1931

The death of Michael J. Dowling at St. Luke's hospital in St. Paul, on Monday came as a shock and brought sadness to the hearts of the thousands of his intimate friends and admirers not only in Minnesota but throughout the whole country. His death was due to a stroke of apoplexy brought on by over work.

Police Department
MINNESOTA, MINN.

Police Dept. Press
THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1931

Every newspaper in the state of Minnesota paid tribute to the memory of the late Michael J. Dowling. No higher honor was ever paid to the passing of any man in the history of the state.

Mayer Billy Noonan of Baudette says

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00166

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Glencoe, Minn., Republic
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

**APOPLEXY TAKES
M. J. DOWLING**

Victim of Blizzard Hardships Was In-
spiration to Cripples

Michael J. Dowling, of Olivia, bank-
er, talked of last year as republican
candidate for governor, died in St.
Luke's hospital, St. Paul, at 4 o'clock
Monday. Apoplexy was the
cause. He was 65 years old.

He was taken to the hospital about
10 days ago, after a complete break-
down, Dr. Charles Lyman Greene, the
attending physician, said.

As a boy of 14, he was shaken off
a wagon in a blinding blizzard, and
left on the prairie to fight it out. He
walked for hours, finally taking refu-
ge in a haystack, where he fell
asleep. The amputation of both legs
below the knees, the left arm below
the elbow, and the greater part of the
right hand was necessitated.

Without father or mother and help-
less, he became a charge of the coun-
ty. He made a bargain with county
commissioners. He suggested that
they send him to Carleton college at
Northfield, promising if they would do
that he would relieve them of all fur-
ther responsibility in his case. He
kept his bargain.

Michael J. Dowling was born in
Huntington, Mass., February 17, 1866.
Left motherless when 10 years old, he
came west with his father to St. Louis
and later to Chicago, where he at-
tended school. He sold papers on the
streets. When his father died, he
struck out for Minnesota, and until
the winter of 1881 worked as a
farm hand.

The Michael J. Dowling school for
crippled children at Eighteenth and
Dupont avenue N., was named after
him.

Governor Preus gave out a
statement in which he said:

"I am deeply grieved to learn of the
death of Mr. Dowling. I considered
him one of my most valuable friends.
He has been active in Minnesota af-
fairs for the last 25 years, and his in-
fluence has always been for good. He
was one of the pioneers of the good
roads movement. During the war his
service to the country were extremely
valuable. His success in spite of phys-
ical handicap has been an inspiration
to many others with physical handi-
caps. It shows what a man of deter-
mination can do."

Michael J. Dowling

Minneapolis Tribune.—It is the
common way of speech to say
that Michael J. Dowling died
yesterday. It would be just as
true to say that the boy "Mike"
Dowling died 40 years ago in the
prairie blizzard in Western Min-
nesota that inflicted on him such
injuries, as would have blighted
forever any less courageous
spirit than was his. For as the
boy was unconquerable in mis-
fortune, so the man was one
in that noble company that never
dies, but lives on, victor over
Death as his splendid example
abides with us. So to be cher-
ished, it was given to Michael
Dowling to be; and for this—be
it said with all sincerity—all
those who have been spurred to
renewed hope by his career may
trace their debt back to the ap-
parent misfortune on the prairie
that made what the unthinking
called a cripple out of the boy.

"Thank God, I am not a cripple,"
was Mr. Dowling's way of
conveying the counsel of optim-
ism to any who might be on the
brink of surrender to physical
handicap in any way comparable
to his own. "Thank God, I am
not a cripple," the boy had said
in spirit, when, having lost both
legs below the knees, one fore-
arm and most of his other hand,
he made a bargain with the coun-
ty that would have kept him a
public charge. "I am not a cripple,"
the boy said in effect when
he told the county commission-
ers that if they would give him
two terms at college, he would
take care of himself after that.
And the bargain was struck; the
boy who refused to be a cripple
got his schooling and started out
on the long road to fame as one
of the world's finest optimists.
Thereafter his course took him
through life as a country school
teacher, as a newspaper editor,
as a leader high in political coun-
cils and later as a banker and
civic leader honored for his ca-
pabilities. Chiefly, however,
these qualities of leadership were
apart from and not beyond the
circumstances of his physical
state; again to apply his words,
he was "not a cripple".

Throughout his life, Mr. Dow-
ling's relations with mankind
were touched with sympathy
that was one of the gifts of his
misfortune. It was when the
war came with its maimings and
cripplings of thousands of young
bodies, that Mr. Dowling's boy-

time misfortune, flowered to its
real splendor of soul. Into his
own country's service, into the
service of the Allies as well, he
went—to carry his message of
hope and courage to war's
wrecked and maimed. And now,
all over this world, as in
Europe, there must be literally
thousand of young men who have
received from Michael Dowling
the spirit of the unconquerable.
Just so, too, there must be a
great number of crippled children
like those in the Michael J. Dow-
ling school in Minneapolis, who
are striving toward the same
goals through his own valor of
spirit.

Michael Dowling suffered no
misfortune. He came into for-
tune when he fought off death's
sleep there on the western prai-
rie; the courage that made him
a torch bearer of courage, an in-
spiration of hope. And he gave
that fortune to his fellows. By
that, again, he vanquished death.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Greenbush, Minn., Tribune.
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

MICHAEL J. DOWLING

The following beautiful tribute is
paid by the St. Paul Dispatch to the
memory of a good man whom it has
been our privilege to know for many
years:

Michael J. Dowling, who died sud-
denly Monday, was an inspiration to
many thousands more than the peo-
ple of his native state who loved him
and admired him. The whole nation
knew the beautiful story of this crimp-
led boy, and, knowing it, thanked
God, and took courage.

And it is indeed a wonderful story
the story of a defiance of misfor-
tune which seems fairly unbelievable.
When fourteen years old, young
Dowling, then an orphan cattle herd-
er in Western Minnesota, was caught
in a blizzard and so frozen that it
was necessary to amputate both legs
below the knee, one arm, and all but
one of the fingers on his right hand.
To the ordinary boy of that time,
place and age, these obstacles would
have been unsurmountable. But Dow-
ling was of a different spirit. As a
county charge he was sent to Carle-
ton college. After two years there
he taught school for seven years, be-
came a lawyer, founded a newspaper,
entered politics as secretary of the
National Republican League, was el-
ected chief clerk of the Minnesota
House and later a member and its
speaker, represented the government
on an educational mission to the
Philippines, acquired control of the

State Bank of Olivia, made a com-
fortable fortune, ran for congress
and during the 1920 campaign was a
candidate for the Republican nomi-
nation for governor at the conven-
tion which nominated Governor J. A.
D. Preus.

This, in brief, is the history of this
remarkable man. His philosophy of
life is perhaps best illustrated by a
statement he made not very long
ago:

I believe I have proved that be-
ing a cripple is more a state of
mind than of body. There is only
one really insurmountable handi-
cap, and that is the loss of the
inner power we call the mind. A
man may be worth \$100,000 a year
from his neck up and not a dollar
from his neck down. Why
shouldn't I be happy. Life is just
as rich for me in things which
really count as for any man
Handicap? Why, a handicap is
just a chance for a good, honest
fight.

To Mike Dowling his disabilities
were but an incident; to most others
they would have been fatal both to
spirit and will.

During the war Mr. Dowling was
of great service. He visited the hos-
pitals for cripples in both America
and England and showed the war-
torn heroes what could be done. He
was loved by these boys, and loved
them in return. For this work alone
he never will be forgotten. Here in
Minnesota we have lost a good neigh-
bor and friend, and the country has
lost a genuine inspiration.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

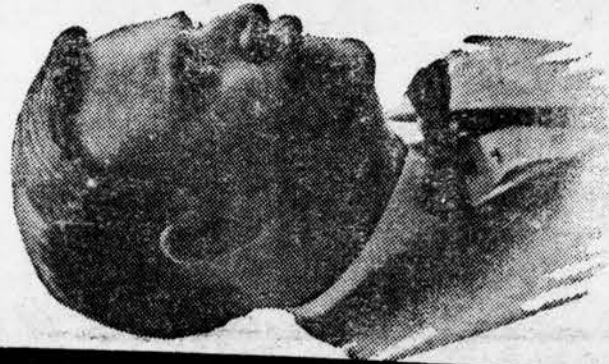
00167

Granite Falls Tribune

GRANITE FALLS, MINNESOTA, TUESDAY, APRIL 25TH 1921

J. Dowling Died Yesterday in St. Paul

A Man, World Famed Optimist
Despite Loss of Feet and Hands,
Lived to Help Others.



MICHAEL J. DOWLING
Photo courtesy Minneapolis Journal

Michael J. Dowling, Olivia, once a resident of Granite, banker and business man who won international fame for his success despite the loss of his feet and hands in boyhood, died early yesterday at St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul. He was 55 years old. The members of his family were at his bedside when death came.

There is perhaps no school boy or girl in the whole country but who has read the story of "Mike" Dowling's life. It is a tale of perseverance, of unbounded good cheer and optimism in spite of a great handicap, of a story that shames one for becoming despondent over trifles.

Following the war Mr. Dowling, at the request of the Allied governments, visited the hospitals aboard ship in this country to cheer the soldier invalids and by the story of his life to give them renewed hope and courage. He became the idol of the wounded men for his optimism removed the clouds that had darkened their lives. They knew that what this Minnesota man had done they might also accomplish.

There is perhaps no reader of The Tribune but who knows the story of Michael J. Dowling. Lost in a terrible Minnesota blizzard when but a boy of fifteen he wandered aimless about until he finally took refuge in a strawstack where he stayed in the bitter cold until the storm passed, and then how he dragged himself to a farm house, his legs and arms being frozen. How he did odd jobs about Granite following the amputation of his legs and arms and seeing that in this condition he would be a burden to the county, he persuaded the commissioners to send him to Carleton college for two years. Then followed years as a school teacher, a part of this time in the East Granite school, a few years as a newspaper man, then in the banking business in Renville and later in Olivia where his character, forcefulness and everlasting optimism brought him success.

In regard to the life of "Mike" Dowling the senior editor of The Tribune, now in Minneapolis, writes the following:

"Dowling once worked on the Granite Falls Tribune in its infancy and did much to aid the paper in after years. We knew him as a boy, then as a young man and intimately so until his death at St. Paul this

ing.
is spoken of as an optimist who mightily so, for a man handicapped as he was he made a plethoric career, was always brave and just in his dealing with others. He has held many offices of responsibility and trust, was never found wanting but ever ready to do more than his part for others. The school here named after him will revive his memory when its pupils grow to adults and remember the cheer he infused into them and the fight he made for them in behalf of the unfortunates of the state.

"Many in Mike's class have passed away in the last few years—men he loved and worked with. He will be missed but not forgotten by people now living for his acts of kindness and uplifting character."

Michael John Dowling was born at Huntington, Mass. Feb. 17, 1866. His parents were John Jerome and Honora Barry Dowling. His mother died when he was ten years old. In 1895 he married Jennie Leonora Bordewich, a Granite girl, at Atlanta, Ga. Besides Mrs. Dowling, their three children, Dorothy, Marjorie and Kathleen survive his loss.

The funeral will be held Thursday afternoon in Olivia and it is expected a large number of Granite people will attend.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00168

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Glenwood, Minn., Herald.
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

Michael J. Dowling Dead.
Michael J. Dowling has passed away. He is buried today at Olivia, where he has made his home. Minnesota is today showing the last marks of respect to one of its best and noblest citizens.
There is no one who has had more misfortune than has Mr. Dowling. He lost both hands and feet in a blizzard and would have become a charge on the community, if he had not had the extreme determination to make the best of life in spite of his handicap. He obtained an education and fought his way to the very forefront among the men in the state and nation.
Mr. Dowling's life should be an inspiration to every young man not only in Minnesota, but in the whole world. He is a citizen that will never be forgotten.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Good Thunder (Minn.) Herald.
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

Minnesota lost one of her great citizens when M. J. Dowling of Olivia passed away at St. Paul on Monday. In spite of a childhood tragedy, which resulted in the loss of both legs and hands, and extreme poverty, he attained a large measure of success. The last years of his life were given over to service to crippled soldiers both in America and abroad and the good work he has done in cheering up the unfortunate and inspiring them with hope will long be remembered. He had long been prominent in political circles and several years ago was prevailed upon to run for the office of governor of Minnesota. He leaves a wife and three daughters. The funeral was to be held at Olivia today.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00169

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Hanley B. W. Minn. Press
FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1921

MIKE DOWLING DEAD

(Minnesota Mascot.)

M. J. Dowling, of Olivia, better known to local old timers as "Mike" Dowling, died April 25, at St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, and was interred at Olivia yesterday.

The history of this remarkable man is so familiar to most of our readers that its repetition seems to be uncalled for.

Few, if any, are the homes in this state who have not heard, and treasured in their memory the story of the poor herd boy who at the age of 15 years lost both feet and hands as the result of being forced to spend a whole night in a strawstack during a raging Minnesota blizzard, but who in spite of this terrible handicap rose to be a school teacher, newspaper man, and banker, and whose fame for unbounded optimism induced the Allied governments, following the war, to request Mr. Dowling to visit hospitals for wounded soldiers in this country and abroad to cheer the invalids, by telling them of his own experience and thus infuse them with new hope and courage.

Such in brief, is the history of the boy, "Mike," who, about 40 years ago was often seen on our streets straddling his buckskin colored pony, and whose sterling qualities of character were then hidden to all of us by a rough exterior, which when removed by the polishing forces of an eventful life gave our state and nation an opportunity to behold a sparklitg diamond of unusual brilliance.

May Mike's example ever live in the memory of our youth and be to it a forceful antidote against whining self-pity and pessimism over trifles.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Hastings, Minn. Gazette
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

Michael Dowling Is Dead

Michael Dowling, one of Minnesota's grandest men, died at St. Paul this week. Mr. Dowling was a most wonderful man. Without either hands or feet he fought life's battles to a victorious finish. Few Minnesotans have achieved success, overcoming such obstacles as he.

Mr. Dowling was a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor, but he was not enough of a politician to secure the plum. However Mr. Dowling was a man of sterling character, and in our opinion, the best man the Republican party in Minnesota has produced.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Henderson, Minn. Independent
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

Mike Dowling, Olivia banker and for many years a country newspaper publisher died at a St. Paul hospital, the first of this week, of heart disease, aged 55 years. He leaves a wife and several children. The deceased was known thruout the state for his sterling qualities.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Hector (Minn.) Mirror.
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

In the death of Michael J. Dowling which occurred early Monday morning there passed from this earthly life a man who had a wonderful career and whose taking away just at a time when his presence was most needed will leave an aching void in the hearts of a multitude of friends who knew him intimately. Here at home in Renville county every fireside mourns the loss of the great man whose life has been an inspiration for good. Tributes of praise are being accorded him from high and low, rich and poor, old and young, not for what wealth he may have accumulated, not for what prestige he had gained for himself in business or politics, but for his absolute unselfishness and in making use of his talents for the betterment of his fellowmen. He, like the man of Galilee went about doing good.

His earthly career is ended, he has gone home to join the saints who have preceded him into that haven of rest where the loss of legs and arms will not even be a handicap. But his life is not o'er, he will continue to be an example to the living of what patience, fortitude, love, patriotism and obedience can do when inspired by holy thoughts and desires.

Here in Hector we shall miss his frequent visits to our village. When any important matter was up for consideration Mike Dowling was the man called for to get us right on the proposition, and he always responded.

Yes, Michael J. Dowling was

a good man and all of us are proud of the fact that such a character lived in Renville county and many of us are proud of the fact that we had his acquaintanceship. We know that his good deeds will not go unrecorded and "even though he be dead, yet he shall live again."

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00170

FAMOUS CRIPPLE DIES SUDDENLY

Death was due to a nervous breakdown caused by overwork on behalf of other cripples. Was known all over the world for his pluck and success

The newspapers recently carried the news of the death of one of America's foremost successful cripples. To the writer of this article, the news served as a shock—for it was only a few days before that he received a lengthy letter from the famous cripple—a letter written in an effort to find a way by which he might help two other cripples to overcome their own handicaps sufficiently to support themselves. His last years were devoted to helping others help themselves—hence his passing will mean a real loss to many.

He was president of the State Bank of Olivia, Minnesota, and his name was Michael J. Dowling. That he held a position of responsibility and trust and reached it after a long, hard fight, is interesting.

But the fact that Michael Dowling started out on his life career minus both legs, his left arm, and the fingers of his right hand is more than interesting. It is teeming with significance. On Mr. Dowling's own word he was neither wonderful nor exceptional. He was simply an ordinary mortal who never knew what it meant to quit and who used the brains with which he was endowed.

His accident was the result of a fierce Minnesota blizzard in which he happened to be caught, thirty-five years ago. When he was physically able to get around—it took much longer in those days than it does now—Dowling decided that he had to have an education. He absolutely refused to become a public charge; and it was arranged for him to attend school where he was so apt a pupil and developed so strong a liking for school work that he became a teacher himself.

But a country school wasn't big enough to hold Dowling very long and he went into business. From that day he climbed steadily. He married; one of his daughters is in college, and the other two are preparing to follow her. His political career, which made him speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives, established him as a man of affairs in his community, and he was so looked upon until death.

Mr. Dowling never thought of himself as a cripple because he wasn't one. He laughed at you when you mentioned the word. He drove his car, rode horseback, and enjoyed life with the enthusiasm of a boy. It is natural that the success of the handicapped man should be close to his heart; and it has been always. But when the war came to America, Mr. Dowling's desire to serve his country was quickened, and he offered himself for any work among the wounded that might bring cheer and sound practical advice. After the war, Dowling made an eight months tour of England lecturing to disabled war veterans on rehabilitation problems at the request of the British government. For years he had been touring the interest of the war wounded.

There were no illusions about the re-education of the war veterans. He had deep confidence in American medicine and

teaching brains of the country that were brought into play. What he emphasized as the greatest need in his country today is commonsense—'horse-sense' he called it—toward the handicapped man. Sentiment, yes; but intelligent sentiment that will kindle a man's ambition, not quench it.

He had a fine inspiring philosophy, and a whimsical manner of stating it. When he was asked how much he thought physical disability interfered with a man's earning capacity his answer was characteristic: "From his neck down a man is worth about \$1.50 a day; from his neck up, he may be worth \$100,000 a year."

The Human Touch

"Tis the human touch in this world that counts,

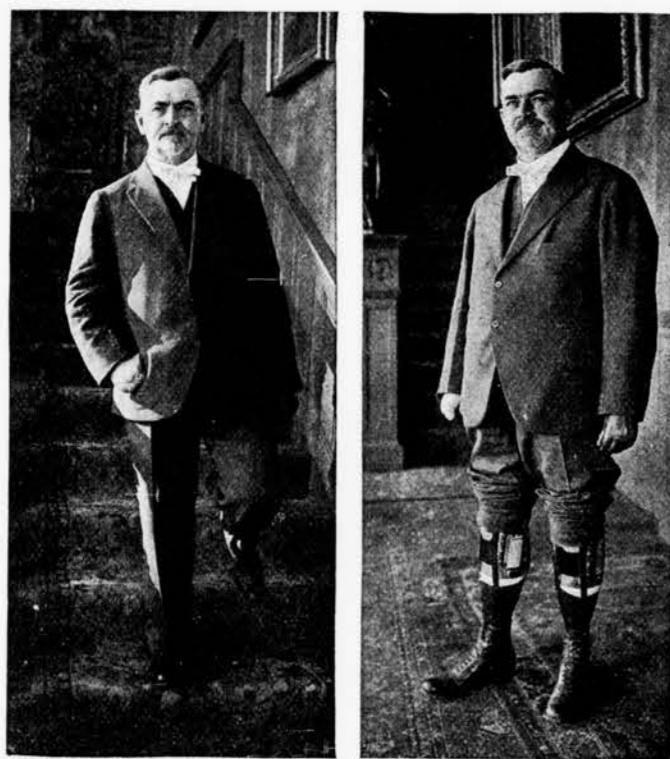
The touch of your hand and mine,
Which means far more to the fainting heart
Than shelter and bread and wine.

For shelter is gone when the night is o'er,
And bread lasts only a day,

But the touch of the hand and the sound of
the voice

Sing on in the soul alway."

—Rorrian Free, Du Bois, Pa.



MR. DOWLING WHO RECENTLY DIED
Note that he had two artificial limbs and an artificial hand

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Howard Lake (Minn.) Herald.
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

M. J. DOWLING DIES SUDDENLY IN ST. PAUL

St. Paul, April 25; Michael J. Dowling, 55, widely known business banker and politician died at St. Luke's hospital here at 5 a. m. today of heart disease.

Dowling was well known throughout the country having attained success despite the handicap of being without hands or legs. He lost his limbs when 14 years old in a Minnesota blizzard.

His wife and three daughters were with him when he died. The funeral will be held at his old home in Olivia Thursday afternoon.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Hutchinson, Minn., Leader
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

a good time to start.

—11—

The news of death of Michael J. Dowling of Olivia at St. Luke's hospital, Minneapolis, Monday, came as a severe shock to the many friends of Mr. Dowling throughout the state and nation. His death, due to heart trouble caused by over exertion in the work he has been doing in this country and in England since the war among crippled ex-service men, removes one of the nation's most useful citizens. Mike Dowling's life and example of thrift, usefulness and cheerfulness in spite of what many would consider an insurmountable handicap has been an inspiration to all with whom he has ever come in contact. When a boy of fourteen he suffered the loss of both feet, one hand and the greater part of the other hand from freezing. At the time he was herding a large drove of cattle on the Minnesota prairies and was caught in a blizzard. Recovering from his accident, he secured financial assistance which enabled him to attend Carleton College for a couple of terms, equipping himself for a business career. He has long been president of a bank at Olivia and in a business way one of the most influential men in Minnesota. During the last campaign before the primaries he was a candidate for the republican nomination for governor, but withdrew in the interest of harmony.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00171

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS. MINN.

Franklin, Minn., Times
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

The death of Michael J. Dowling occurred the first of the week at a St. Paul hospital, and the news have been received with the deepest regrets over the entire state, as well as the nation. He was known as Minnesota's optimist, who, despite a childhood tragedy which resulted in the loss of both legs and hands, overcame physical handicaps and attained success. This youth froze and lost his limbs in one of the early blizzards while herding cattle in Yellow Medicine county. He was not to be denied by this handicap, and set out to make a mark in the world in spite of this fact. Becoming a school teacher at Granite Falls, later superintendent, then a newspaper man, politician and statesman, he died a man known and loved by all, a man of prominence and ability as well as of considerable wealth, being a banker at Olivia in recent years. His services during the world war were of untold value and it was largely as a result of over exertion while in Europe and on speaking tours of this country upon his return, that brought on a total collapse a few weeks ago from which death resulted. In the passing of "Mike" Dowling this state has lost another of its grand men and one whose name and memory will be history forever.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

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Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Janesville (Minn.) Argus.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1921

THE newspaper brethren in the state learned of the death of Michael J. Dowling with sorrow and regret. It was a grievous surprise to most of them who were unaware of his physical break down which came in the prime of life. Dismembered as was his body through the accident of freezing in the big storm of January 7th, 1872, nevertheless he became prominent by reason of his indomitable will and energy which overcame obstacles that confronted him that brought him success and fame.

the adjournment of the legislature

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Jordan (Minn.) Independent.
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

Mike Dowling of Olivia is dead. His death is a loss to Minnesota, for he was one of the best men in the state. Few men, starting from humble beginnings and in the face of hardships, difficulties and great misfortune, have succeeded so well in making their lives useful. Mike Dowling's career was an inspiration to many an unfortunate. We shall not soon see his like again.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Jeffers, Minn., Review
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

Michael J. Dowling

Minnesota is today paying its last tribute to one of the great men of the country, Micheal. J. Dowling, of Olivia, who passed away at St. Luke's hospital at St. Paul, Monday, and his funeral is held at Olivia this afternoon. Mr. Dowling was a man whose history was known throughout the nation and in Europe. When a boy, fifteen years of age, he was lost in a Mn'nesotr blizzard, near Canby, and was so badly frozen as to necessitate the amputation of both legs, one arm and the thumb and fingers of his right hand. He started when a small boy selling papers and worked his way west and at the time of losing his limbs he had made his first small stake and this was soon used up and he became a county charge. He made a proposition with the commissioners to give him an education and that he would then be able to take care of himself. He was sent to Carleton college for two years. His rise from then on was rapid. He did every kind of work in spite of his great handicap.

After the armistice he went to England at the invitation of the government to talk to the crippled soldiers. Since that time he has spent most of his time in the U. S. talking and cheering up the crippled soldiers, he has talked in hospitals and barracks, has told his life story to thousands who have taken a brighter view of life and are making progress in the world through the encouragement given them by Mr. Dowling. He was nominated for governor in 1920 but withdrew in favor of Mr. Preus and continued his good work among the returned crippled soldiers and so strenuous was this work that his health failed and he was at the hospital only two weeks when the end came.

Nearly every man, woman and child in Minnesota is familiar with Mr. Dowling's early history, and his good work and, today the people of this great state and the nation bow their heads in sorrow, and no greater tribute can be given any man than to Mr. Dowling who spent a great share of his last years in assisting the crippled soldiers of the World War.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Jordan (Minn.) Independent.
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

MICHAEL J. DOWLING.



Michael J. Dowling, Minnesota banker and business man, who died Monday, was left an orphan at 14, with legs and arms lost in a blizzard, he staked his future care on two years at college, became a teacher, entered business, and finally became a leading banker. Throughout his life he gave his greatest effort to the aid of children who had become crippled.

M. J. DOWLING PASSES

Olivia Banker Won World Fame
Despite Great Handicap.

Death Indirectly Due to His Strenuous
Lecture Trips to Inspire
Disabled Veterans.

St. Paul—Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, known as Minnesota's optimist, who, despite a childhood tragedy which resulted in the loss of both legs and hands, overcame physical handicaps and attained success, died from overwork.

Death came to him in St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, with his wife, three daughters and his secretary at his bedside. The physical breakdown which ended his life was directly due to his efforts to help others similarly handicapped in life, Dr. Charles Lyman Greene, his attending physician, said. The exertion of an international speaking tour during the war, followed by a return to the demands of his private business and many other interests, overtaxed his energy. Two weeks ago he returned from a lecture tour to his home in Olivia, where he collapsed. He was taken to St. Paul and, shortly after entering the hospital, he was stricken with an attack of apoplexy. The stroke was due to his weakened condition, Dr. Greene said.

The life story of Michael J. Dowling has been told in the palaces of royalty and the homes of the poor. It followed the flag of the Allied armies and brought cheer to thousands of men who were maimed and battered in the world conflict.

He was a secretary of the Republican National league from 1895 to 1897 and was appointed special commissioner to the Philippines in 1906 by President McKinley. In 1901 he was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives and was elected speaker. During the last campaign he was urged as a candidate for governor of Minnesota, but at the convention which nominated Governor Preus pledged his support to the choice of the convention and aided in his election.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00173

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Lake City, Minn., Republican
FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1921

summer who roots the bill.

MICHAEL J. DOWLING
Michael J. Dowling, banker, who died in Minnesota the other day, bequeathed the inspiration of a staunch spirit to all who falter and complain. "What are our bodies worth" he was fond of asking. "A man may be worth \$100,000 a year from the neck up and not a dollar a day from the neck down." Of limbs he had none, save one arm minus its hand. The others were amputated by surgeons when, as a boy, he was frozen in a blizzard. Young Dowling went to the county commissioner, but not in quest of charity. He proposed that they send him to college and consider the expense as a debt he must repay. He repaid them. Fence painter, school teacher, principal and superintendent, insurance writer, editor, real estate dealer, and finally banker and politician Dowling proved that bodies are just the habitations of the will. It should be added, to complete the perspective, that he declined nomination for the governorship of Minnesota. A large souled man, who lived his life in a big way, Dowling's memory should remain as a rebuke to the whispers of life. —Portland Oregonian.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Lakefield, Minn., Standard
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

In the death of Michael Dowling of Olivia, Minnesota losses one of its best and most heroic citizens. Rising above the serious handicap of youthful misfortune, he gained wealth, position and a place in the hearts of thousands who have never seen him. The cause of his death is given as heart disease. His life's history should be an inspiration for every girl and boy. If Mike Dowling could rise to the heights he did in spite of what many would consider a permanent disability, to what greatness may not the boy or girl with the vigor of life and possession of every physical part aspire? The state has lost a good man and an example of courage and endurance.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Lamberton, Minn., North'n Light
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1921

PROMINENT OLIVIA BANKER DIES OF HEART TROUBLE

Heart disease caused the death of Michael J. Dowling, 55, widely known banker and business man and former member of the state legislature, at St. Luke's hospital in St. Paul at 5 a. m. Monday.

Mr. Dowling, whose home was in Olivia, Minn., won fame throughout the country for success in his activities despite the loss of his feet and hands in early childhood.

He had been failing in health for several weeks and his death was not unexpected. He was at St. Luke's hospital two weeks.

His wife and three daughters, Dorothy, Marjoria and Kathleen Dowling were with him when he died. They arrived in St. Paul from Olivia, Saturday, when it was found his condition was critical.

Funeral services will be held in Olivia, Thursday afternoon.

Born in Huntington, Mass., in 1866 Mr. Dowling lived in Minnesota 34 years.

He served as assistant clerk in the Minnesota legislature in 1893 and in 1895 was appointed chief clerk. For three years he was secretary of the National Republican league to which office he was appointed in 1895. He was speaker of the Minnesota house of representatives in 1901. He served as president of the Minnesota Bankers' association up to a year ago.

Mr. Dowling traveled in Great Britain immediately after the war carrying to the wounded soldiers there the same story of hope that he worked tirelessly to spread among disabled Yanks in army hospitals throughout this country.

His story was one of fight against odds. When he was 14 years old he lost both feet, one hand and most of the other, from exposure and cold in a Minnesota blizzard.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Lake Park, Minn., Farmer
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

A GREAT SOUL PASSES

The story of Mike Dowling who died the other day should be an inspiration to every young man and woman in America who has come to think that they are handicapped in the race of life for one reason or another. As a boy of 14 he lost both legs, most of one arm and all the fingers of the other hand in a blizzard. For several years he was a county charge. Then the spark of divine fire that distinguishes the man from the mouse was kindled in his bosom and he went forth to make his way in the world, without a cent and in a condition that would appear to justify giving up the ghost—and made a great success in life. By success we do not mean only that he made money. He became an important factor in public life as a member of the legislature and as speaker of the house, yet that is not all that we mean when we say he succeeded. His greatest success in life was the object lesson he furnished to the afflicted of all lands, that while life remains there is no excuse for abandoning hope.

One of the greatest works Mike Dowling accomplished in his busy life was the year he devoted to a tour of the British hospitals heartening the men wounded in the world war and bracing them up to meet life's battles as bravely as they had faced the enemy by giving them his own story and showing them what he had done, although more heavily handicapped than they.

Contrast Mike Dowling's life with that of the young service man who lost his job at Jamestown and who died by his own hand the same day Dowling passed away, and on the same day that his girl wife bore him a son. Compare the weak despondency of that boy over the loss of a job with Dowling's grim courage under almost unbearable affliction.

If Dowling had lacked the courage to live his passing would have been of no more moment than the end of any other animal; but he lived, and in living and striving and winning he made a life that is an inspiration to countless thousands—a life that should live through generations.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Lake City, Minn., Republican
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

M. J. DOWLING DEAD
Michael J. Dowling, Olivia, Minn., banker and business man who forged ahead despite the loss of his legs and hands early in life, died early Monday from heart disease at a local hospital. He was 55 years of age. His efforts to help others similarly afflicted was the primary cause of death through his exertions on the lecture platform, physicians said. He had been failing steadily of late and two weeks ago was removed to the hospital. His family was at the bedside when the end came.
The funeral was held at Olivia Thursday afternoon.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00174

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Lanesboro, Minn., Levang's Wkly
THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1921

MICHAEL J. DOWLING.

Michael J. Dowling, banker, who died in Minnesota the other day, bequeathed the inspiration of a staunch spirit to all who falter and complain. "What are our bodies worth?" he was fond of asking. "A man may be worth \$100,000 a year from the neck up and not a dollar a day from the neck down." Of limbs he had none, save one arm minus its hand. The others were amputated by surgeons when, as a boy, he was frozen in a blizzard. Young Dowling went to the county commissioners, but not in quest of charity. He proposed that they send him to college and consider the expense as a debt he must repay. He repaid them. Fence painter, school teacher, principal and superintendent, insurance writer, editor, real estate dealer and finally banker and politician, Dowling proved that bodies are just the habitations of the will. It should be added, to complete the perspective, that he declined nomination for the governorship of Minnesota. A large souled man, who lived his life in a big way, Dowling's memory should remain as a rebuke to the winners of life.—Portland Oregonian.

A Canadian says he has a liquid that will make a man tell all his secrets. We had the same kind of liquid in this country until they took it out.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

LeSueur Center (Minn.) Democrat
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921

—One of the greatest men that the great state of Minnesota ever produced was Michael Dowling, of Olivia, who died last week. When about 17 years old, due to being caught in a blizzard and frozen, he lost both feet, one hand and almost all of the other hand. But he stuck to the task of life and made a world-wide name for himself in helping to cheer up others who had met with similar misfortunes. The only thing which could stop a man like him from making a success took place with the final summons.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

LeSueur Center (Minn.) Democrat
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921

M. J. Dowling of Olivia answered the last call of the Master in a St. Paul hospital where he was receiving treatment and is now returned to earth at his home town the interment taking place Thursday last, in as simple a manner as that in which he lived. No eulogy was spoken. He needed none, for he lived it. Thousands were present to mourn his demise and the tears scattered along the funeral route were sincere ones. Mike Dowling did not grow in a hot house, yet his life was as a beautiful flower for he made the most of it and brought joy and happiness to many a sorrowing one. He fought the hard battle of life and always wore a smile. He faced conditions that others call hard as one who is hungry faces a good meal. He lived to help others and did it. His name was known nationwide and even in England and France. He was entertained by Royalty abroad. He was a politician of national fame. He was a citizen of the highest standard. He was a man, full measure. Farewell M. J. Dowling. The world is better that you suffered and lived through your suffering to bring joy and happiness to the many.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Lanesboro, Minn., Levang's Wkly
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921

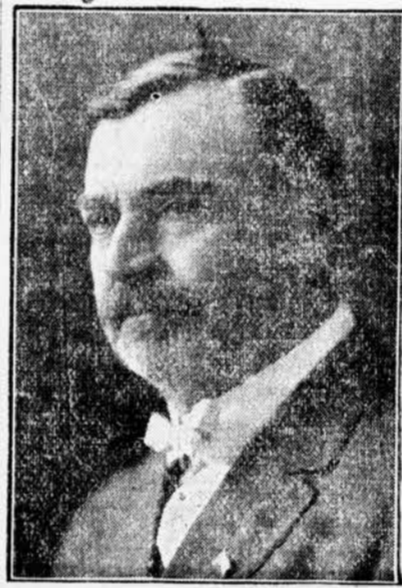
A GREAT MINNESOTAN DIES

Michael J. Dowling Whose Whole Life Was an Inspiration to Others, Passes Away.

Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, known as Minnesota's optimist, who, despite a childhood tragedy which resulted in the loss of both legs and hands, overcame physical handicaps and attained success, died April 25th from overwork.

Death came to him in St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, with his wife, three daughters and his secretary at his bedside. The physical breakdown which ended his life was directly due to his efforts to help others similarly handicapped in life.

The exertion of an international speaking tour during the war, followed by a return to the demands of his private business and many other interests, overtaxed his energy. Two weeks ago he returned from a lecture tour to his home in Olivia, where he collapsed. He was taken to St. Paul and, shortly after entering the hospital, he was stricken with an attack of apoplexy. The stroke was due to his weakened condition.



The Late Michael J. Dowling.

The life story of Michael J. Dowling has been told in the palaces of royalty and the homes of the poor. It followed the flag of the Allied armies and brought cheer to thousands of men who were maimed and battered in the world conflict. It is known to thousands of crippled children throughout several nations and in Minneapolis Mr. Dowling's name was perpetuated in designing the school for handicapped children as the Michael J. Dowling school.

Michael John Dowling was born at Huntington, Mass., Feb. 17, 1865. His parents were John Jerome and Honora Barry Dowling. His mother died when he was 10 years old. His father, being a rover by nature and a carpenter by trade, struck for the west after the death of his wife and soon sent for "Mike" to join him at St. Louis.

Soon tring of that city he moved to Chicago and it was there that the boy had an experience that was used as a basis for Mr. Dowling's future code of life.

Being ambitious, he was attending school during the day and selling flowers and newspapers at night, outside McVicker's theater. One night a luxurious carriage drew up to the entrance and a well dressed man and woman stepped out. Young Dowling had just one bonnet left and offered it for sale. The man peered at the flowers, turned to the woman and asked if she would like them. Re-

Put up in two styles
will tell you that.
Real Tobacco Chews
Any man who uses it
of satisfaction.
bacco taste gives a wo
And the good, rich
this class of tobacco.
—so it costs less to chew
Smaller chew, lasts longer
out of the ordinary kind.
faction than he ever got
genuine chewing satis-
That gives a man more
says the Co
"Here's Real

Many Classes of Dreams.
There are several distinct classes of dreams, which are: The confusing of dreams; dreams we receive as a warning to be on guard; some dreams are created through our nervous system when something is not in order in our body. These may come after eating heavy meals before bed-time, cold feet, etc. These dreams are to bring our reasoning power to action. Some dreams are created through the power of fear. Then we have the prophetic dreams. One kind of dreams—we believe they are but actual experiences of the ego, which leaves the body when it sleeps and travels on in the mental world.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00175

ceiving her assent he sharply asked the young salesman to show his hands. As Mr. Dowling later said, "I figured out for myself that clean hands were an asset in this business, and so I was proud to show that they were clean."

The sale was made and the youth was privileged to pin the flowers on with his own hands. In payment he received a \$5 bill and the advice "always keep your hands clean—clean in every way."

In his lectures he usually smiled broadly at this juncture and then remarked, "the time soon came when the problem of keeping my hands clean in a physical sense was nil but there was always the other way of keeping 'clean hands' to be remembered."

Aspiring to become a cowboy, he cut loose from his father and came to Minnesota two years later, and in the winter of 1880-81, when he was 14 years old, he worked as a farm hand and cowherd. He got together a herd of between 500 and 600 cattle which he was to care for during the season at \$1.50 a head. This was his chance to make a stake. The day before he was to turn his herd over to their respective owners, October 14, a rainstorm set in which turned to sleet. The sleet and the frozen breath of the cattle rapidly formed a mask over their heads which if let alone would have suffocated them to death. But "Mike" went among them for 48 hours, knocking the ice from the faces of the cattle and saved every one. Other herders lost heavily.

It was his love for animals that resulted indirectly in the loss of his hands. Having by this time lost all track of his father the boy lavished

all his affections on the pony he had purchased. Being desirous of gaining more education he arranged to board his pony at a farmer's nine miles away, and one December day arrived to visit the pony before starting to school. Two farmers were to make the trip and he arranged to accompany them in their lumber wagon. When the party had gone several miles a storm overtook them. Knowing their danger they whipped the team up and raced for shelter. They were enveloped in the whipping maelstrom and the wagon struck a bump which threw young Dowling out.

His absence was not known, and he was left to make his way as best he could. Soon he found a woodpile. Knowing there must be a house near, he climbed to the top and threw stick after stick as far as he could in a circle trying to hit the house. Failing in this, he took an armful of wood and walked about 50 paces from the pile and repeated the process. Then he lost the woodpile. Wandering blindly he bumped into a straw pile and realizing this was his last chance, crawled into it. There he remained, battling against the fatal sleep of chill until the next day. He crawled out and discovered his legs and arms were frozen, and crawled half a mile to the farmhouse.

A physician was hastily called and after treatment had been given it was found necessary to amputate both legs below the knee and one arm below the elbow. The fingers and part of the thumb on the right hand were also removed.

A few weeks later he celebrated his 15th birthday. After he had spent all his hard won money on doctor bills the county took charge of him.

The boy refused to become a county charge. He bargained with the county commissioners, promising that if they would send him two terms to Carleton college he would relieve them of further responsibility. The bargain was kept. They furnished artificial limbs and sent him. After leaving school, Dowling became a country school teacher at the end of the agreed two terms. In quick succession he painted fences, ran a roller skating rink, acted as principal of the East Granite Falls school and still later as superintendent of schools, wrote insurance, edited a newspaper, was secretary of the Western Press association and then became a real estate dealer, banker and finally entered politics.

He founded and published the Renville Star-Farmer, became president of the Renville State Bank, and later attained the same position in the State Bank of Olivia, with which he was associated when he died.

In 1895 he married Jennie Leonora Bordewich of Atlanta, Ga., the same year in which he was made secretary of the National Republican league.

This marked his debut into state and national politics. He was elected to the Minnesota house of representatives and served as speaker in 1901. In 1900 he represented the governor of Minnesota on an educational mission to the Philippine Islands.

During the World War Mr. Dowling's reputation as an optimist and his achievements in overcoming his own physical handicaps won him an opportunity to do a distinctive service to the wounded Allied soldiers in America and abroad. He was appointed by the surgeon general's department of the army to tour reconstruction hospitals in America to cheer up the disabled veterans, a mission which, he said, made him "the happiest man on earth, because I feel that at last I am going to do something useful for my fellow men and my country."

MICHAEL J. DOWLING
George Benson Hewetson.

When on St. Helena's drear rock
The captive conqueror died,
The nation's blest and final shock
That crushed his shattered pride,
Who smote them in his cruel hour,
The sword the scepter of his power.

But thou, meek warrior of peace,
The lowly was thy life,
Art lord of mightier victories
Than those of bloody strife;
And men with happy pride acclaim
The benediction of thy fame.

Limbless, save for thy maimed left
arm,
Stom-frozen in thy youth,
Thy spirit never lost its charm,
Thy mind its love of truth;
And now thy death-freed spirit needs
No laurel to proclaim its deeds.

For to the hearts of strong and whole,
And those of maimed and weak,
The words and deeds of thy brave
soul

In deathless accents speak:
"The storms may main, or blast, or
blind;
They cannot crush the dauntless
mind."

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Little Falls, Minn. Transcript
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921

M. J. DOWLING DIES SUDDENLY IN ST. PAUL

St. Paul, April 25: Michael J. Dowling, 55, widely known business banker and politician died at St. Luke's hospital here at 5 a. m. today of heart disease.

Dowling was well known throughout the country having attained success despite the handicap of being without hands or legs. He lost his limbs when 14 years old in a Minnesota blizzard.

His wife and three daughters were with him when he died. The funeral will be held at his old home in Olivia Thursday afternoon.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Rose Prairie (Minn.) Leader
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

The death of M. J. Dowling, which occurred Monday, marks the passing of one of Minnesota's most useful and valuable citizens. His life emphasizing as it did the ability of an American boy to triumph over adversity, was a constant inspiration to every other boy. Even though he has now gone on ahead, the lesson of his life will continue to be helpful to those whose opportunities are few, and a reproach to those who are careless and neglectful of the opportunities they have. Mr. Dowling held many positions of trust and responsibility and always with credit to himself. His funeral is being held at his home in Olivia today and thousands throughout the state will mourn him.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00176

DAY

amputation of both legs
 the left arm below
 the greater part of the
 and thumb. Parentless
 he became county charge
 and a way to help himself.
 ed with the county com-
 who became interested in
 sent him to Carleton col-
 then his rise has been

ld Papers at Night.

Huntington, Mass., in 1866,
 ng remained there until the
 his mother ten years later.
 r, a rover by nature and a
 by trade, struck for the
 er the death of his wife and
 t for Michael to join him at
 s.
 of that city, the father and
 ed to Chicago, and it was
 at the boy had an experience
 as used as a basis for his fu-
 de of life.

g ambitious, the young fellow
 ttending school daytimes and
 flowers and papers at night
 the famous McVicker's thea-

night a luxurious carriage drew
 the entrance and a well-dressed
 and woman stepped out. Young
 ng had just one bouquet left and
 fered it for sale.

se man peered at the flowers,
 ed to the woman and asked her
 e would like them. On receiving
 assent, he sharply asked the
 ng salesman to show his hands.

"Clean Hands," His Code.

As Mr. Dowling later said, "I had
 ired out for myself that clean
 nds were an asset in this business
 d so I was proud to show that
 ey were clean."

The sale was made and the youth
 as privileged to pin the flowers on
 ith his own hands. In payment he
 eceived a \$5 bill and the advice "al-
 ways keep your hands clean—clean in
 every way."

In his lectures he usually smiled
 broadly at this juncture and then re-
 marked: "The time soon came when
 the problem of keeping my hands
 clean in a physical sense was nil but
 there was always the other way of
 keeping 'clean hands' to be remem-
 bered."

The boy a few months later separ-
 ated from his father and came to
 Minnesota, where he worked on a
 farm. In 1880 he got together a herd
 of between 500 and 600 cattle which
 he was to care for during the season
 at \$1.50 a head. This was his chance
 to make a stake.

Wins His First Stake.

The day before he was to turn his
 herd over to their respective owners,
 October 14, a rain storm set in which
 turned to sleet. The sleet and the
 frozen breath of the cattle rapidly
 formed a mask over their heads,
 which, if left alone, would have suf-
 ficated them to death.

But Michael was not to be beaten.
 He went among them for the next
 forty-eight hours, knocking the ice
 from their faces. He saved every
 one. Other herders lost heavily.

It was his love for animals that
 indirectly resulted in the loss of his
 extremities. Having by this time lost
 all track of his father, the boy lav-
 ished his affections on a pony he had
 purchased. Desirous of gaining a
 good education, he arranged to board
 his pony at a farmer's home miles
 away and one December morning ar-
 ranged to visit his pony before start-
 ing to school.

Two farmers were to make the trip
 and he arranged to accompany them
 in their lumber wagon. When the
 party had gone several miles the

intendent of schools; wrote insurance,
 edited a newspaper, was secretary of
 the Western Press association, and
 then became a real estate dealer,
 banker, and finally entered politics.

Because of his "never say die" spir-
 it and the reputation he had made
 for himself, he soon became an inter-
 national figure. Lecture after lec-
 ture he gave to the maimed. Time
 after time he instilled the fighting
 backbone that made him successful
 into the "scraps of humanity" he
 talked to.

Travels Wore Him Out.

During the recent war his presence
 was declared to be of such "therapeutic
 value" that the British govern-
 ment asked him to demonstrate to
 the war-crippled British soldiers.
 After this tour he returned to the
 United States and resumed his lec-
 tures in this country.

Untiring in his efforts, he wore
 himself out by the constant travels
 necessary, and two weeks ago re-
 turned to his home at Olivia, where
 he collapsed.

Members of the family declared his
 death was due to his "tireless efforts
 to restore the maimed minds of the
 physically mutilated."

He was married to Jennie Leonora
 Bordewich at Atlanta, Ga., in 1895,
 and is survived by his widow and
 three children, all girls.

He was secretary of the National
 Republican league, 1895 to 1897; was
 appointed special commissioner to the
 Philippine Islands in 1900, and was
 elected speaker of the Minnesota
 House of Representatives in 1901.

"I am deeply grieved to learn of
 the death of Mr. Dowling," Governor
 Preus said. "I considered him one of
 my most worthy friends. He was still
 a comparatively young man, possessed
 of vigor which would have made him
 a prominent factor in public affairs
 for many years to come if he had
 lived.

"Mr. Dowling has been active in
 public affairs for more than a quarter
 of a century and his influence always
 has been for good. He was one of the
 pioneers in the good roads movement.
 During the war his services in the
 country's cause were extremely valu-
 able.

"Mr. Dowling's success in spite of
 his physical handicaps has been an
 inspiration and has pointed the way
 to success to many others with phys-
 ical handicaps. It shows what a man
 with grit and determination can do."

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
 MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Long Prairie, Minn., Tribune
 THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

M. J. DOWLING DIES

The Dailys announced the death of
 M. J. Dowling of Olivia at St. Luke's
 hospital, St. Paul, last Monday. Death
 was the result of heart trouble brot-
 on by overwork in his strenuous lec-
 ture tour in England and more re-
 cently in America. He was a lead-
 ing citizen of Minnesota noted for his
 success under a heavy handicap of
 physical misfortune and the untoward
 conditions of his early life. In the
 winter of 1880 he was caught in a
 snow storm and took shelter in a
 strawstack where he was found so
 badly frozen that both legs, one arm
 and a part of one hand had to be am-
 putated. He was a boy having no
 home and he was cared for three
 years in the poor house. He
 had native ability and managed to
 educate himself and eventually be-
 came editor of the Olivia Independent
 and other papers and afterward a
 leading banker and member of the
 legislature. After the armistice he
 went to England at the invitation of
 the English government to assist in
 rehabilitation of wounded soldiers. He
 was 55 years old.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
 MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Lucas, Minn., Leader
 FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

MICHAEL DOWLING

Michael Dowling, Olivia bank-
 er, known as Minnesota's "piti-
 mist, who, despite a childhood
 tragedy which resulted in the loss
 of both legs and hands, overcame
 physical handicaps and attained
 success, died today (Monday,
 April 25) from overwork, says
 the Minneapolis Journal.

Death came to him in St. Luke's
 hospital, St. Paul, with his wife,
 three daughters and his secretary
 at his bedside. The physical break-
 down which ended his life was di-
 rectly due to his efforts to help oth-
 ers similarly handicapped in life,
 Dr. Charles Lyman Greene, his
 attending physician, said today.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
 MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Lindstrom, Minn., Press
 THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

**M. J. DOWLING DIES
 IN ST. PAUL HOSPITAL**

Once Helpless County Charge He
 Fought His Way to the Top.

Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, Minn.,
 banker and business man, and a
 strong candidate for the Republican
 nomination for governor before the
 Republican elimination convention a
 year ago this coming May, died at St.
 Luke's Hospital last Monday, aged 55
 years old.

The story of this man's wonderful
 career reads like a thrilling romance
 and has been an inspiration to thou-
 sands of struggling and unfortunate
 young men in the country. His efforts
 to help others similarly handicapped
 in life as he was is said to have
 brought about his death, which was
 caused from fatigue and heart dis-
 ease.

For the past two and one-half years
 Mr. Dowling has been touring the
 country in the interests of the war
 wounded. Following the signing of
 the armistice, Mr. Dowling went to
 England at the request of the British
 government and the British Red
 Cross and for more than eight months
 lectured to British War wounded
 on rehabilitation problems. He told
 of his own struggle against misfor-
 tune, and it was said was the cause
 of many wounded soldiers taking
 heart in life.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
 PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00177

Became County Charge.

At the age of 14 years, Mr. Dowling was invalided by the loss of both legs and both hands. He fell from a wagon when 14 years old in a blinding blizzard. His father and uncle who were sitting in the front seat did not know in the storm that the boy was missing. After walking for hours, he found a hay stack, crawled into it and fell asleep. The exposure neces-

and haven't an ache nor a pain of any ment. I am now on my sixth bottle-oon noticed a wonderful improve-ment. I bought a bottle. I me so highly I bought a bottle. I. Finally Tanlac was recommended and nothing helped me in the least. That as well as my other troubles, I was badly constipated and would be in misery for hour after-hour. I ventured to eat a square meal gas-

blizzard overtook them. Knowing their danger they whipped the team up and raved for shelter. They were enveloped in the storm and the wagon struck a bump which threw the youngster out.

Lost in the Storm.

His absence was not noticed, and he was left to make his way as best he could. Soon he found a woodpile. Knowing there must be a house near, he climbed to the top and threw a stick after stick as far as he could in a circle, trying to hit the house.

Falling in this, he took an armful of wood and walked about fifty paces from the pile and repeated the process. Then he lost the woodpile.

Wandering blindly he plumped into a straw pile, and, reaching this was his last chance, crawled into it. There he remained battling against fatal sleep of chill until the morning. He crawled out and discovered his legs and arms were frozen, and crawled half a mile to the farm house.

A doctor was called, and after treatment had been given it was found necessary to amputate both legs below the knee, and one arm below the elbow. The fingers and part of the thumb on the right hand were also removed.

A few weeks later he celebrated his fifteenth birthday.

Doctor Bills Consumed Funds.

After he had spent all his hard won money on doctor bills the county took charge of him. But, indomitable of spirit, the youngster made a proposition to the county officials that they send him to Carleton college for two terms and he would "go on his own" after that.

They furnished artificial limbs and sent him. After the agreed two terms he took a position as teacher in a rural school and began the career which has been the "hitching star" for thousands of crippled men and women since.

In quick succession he painted fences, ran a roller skating rink, acted as principal of the first Granite Falls school and still later as super-

Of Chicago City Appointed as Suc-

J. E. VANSTROM

Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Warner returned last week from their western trip. They left Feb. 6th, so had about ten weeks vacation which they enjoyed to a great extent. They looked up many friends and relatives there. Their report of being well and the while they were there and mishaps whatever on their trip.

Mr. and Mrs. Hancecock entertained 16 young folks at dinner last Sunday. The occasion being Fred Hancecock's birthday. Ralph Close spent Sunday with his folks here. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Moore and family of St. Paul visited at Walter George's home Sunday.

Hazel Baxter of St. Paul visited with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. Baxter, over Sunday. Ray Hantschel of Wyoming called at the Hancecock home Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Christian and family of St. Paul spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Wagner, H. Wagner brother of Oscar Wagner, was one of the auto party.

Lois Peterson of St. Paul spent Sunday with his folks, L. C. Peterson's.

Old Anderson is at present working for Frank Lilla, remodeling the front porch, making it into a sun-parlor.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Helmke were visitors at Oscar Wagner's home last Sunday.

Dr. Bieber will preach in the English Lutheran church next Sunday morning and will also conduct the Luther League meeting in the evening.

The school play given by the Senior Class of Chicago Lake School "Safety"

First" was a success and very interesting right through, but some see so few were out, as the play certainly worth while seeing.

Miss Hazel Peterson spent the week-end at her home at Milaca.

J. A. Lindquist transacted business at Lindstrom and Center City on Wednesday of last week.

Malcomb Peterson and Gust Peterson motored to St. Paul last Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Alquist are on business.

Walter Alquist left for the West Coast last Saturday, where he expects to be employed for the summer.

He has a sister and two brothers at Vancouver, Wash.

Mr. and Mrs. Hancecock entertained while on their way home. They called on Rev. and Mrs. Deck, who are living at Vancouver, Wash.

Mr. and Mrs. Warner having called their two sons and their daughter who are living at Vancouver, Wash.

Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Warner, Saturday evening. They were informed on day evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Warner having called their two sons and their daughter who are living at Vancouver, Wash.

Mr. and Mrs. Warner having called their two sons and their daughter who are living at Vancouver, Wash.

CHICAGO COUNTY PRESS THURS

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH. PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00178

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Madison, Minn. Press
FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1921

A number of gentleman friends of this city, friends of the late Hon. M. J. Dowling, went over to Olivia last Thursday afternoon to attend the Dowling funeral. We are informed that there were thousands of friends there to pay their last respects.

On Tuesday, May 4, 1921

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Mahnomen, Minn. Pioneer.
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

M. J. "Mike", Dowling, of Olivia is dead. Seldom has a citizen of Minnesota crossed the great divide, and received such encomiums as has this man. Handicapped by the loss of both feet, one arm and the most of his other hand, he has gone thru life spreading good cheer and happiness among those about him. His was a successful life viewed from any angle, and although his body has been laid away, his spirit will abide, and the story of Mike Dowling will be told for ages to come.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00179

Mankato, Minn. Free Press
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921

M. J. DOWLING IS DEAD

Olivia Banker Passed Away
In St. Paul

IS SUDDENLY STRICKEN

Suffered Loss of Both Limbs
And Hands In Blizzard
When A Boy

[Associated Press Dispatch.]
St. Paul, April 25.—Michael Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing his lower limbs and hands in early boyhood, died at a hospital here today. He was fifty-five years old.

For the past two and a half years Mr. Dowling had been touring the country in the interest of disabled war veterans. Following the signing of the armistice, he went to England at the request of the British government and the British Red Cross, and for more than eight months lectured to British war wounded on rehabilitation problems. Death was due to heart disease superinduced by exertions on this tour, his physician said. He had been in the hospital here two weeks.

Mrs. Dowling with the three children was at the bedside this morning when the end came. The funeral will be held at Olivia, Thursday afternoon.

Mr. Dowling's Heroic Fight.
Suffering amputation of both legs below the knee, his left arm and the great part of his right hand, when fourteen years old as a result of exposure in a blizzard, Mr. Dowling was shortly afterward left an orphan and became a charge of the county. He refused, however, to become discouraged and began making plans to overcome his handicap. He bargained with the county commissioners who became interested in his case and sent him to Carleton college. His rapid rise followed.

Tribute From Governor Preus.
"I am deeply grieved to learn of the death of Mr. Dowling," Governor Preus said today.

"Mr. Dowling has been active in public affairs of Minnesota for more than a quarter of a century and his influence has always been for good."

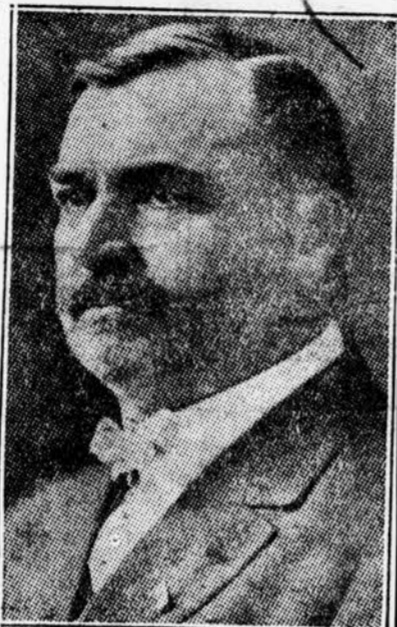
Well Known In Nation
Michael Dowling of Olivia was one of the best known men in the northwest. He was born February 17, 1866 at Huntington, Mass. He was married in 1895 to Miss Jennie L. Dodich. Suffering the loss of both hands and legs through exposure in a blizzard, in Yellow Medicine County, this state the will power of this wonderful man was evidenced by the fact, that despite all of those handicaps, through sheer will power and a determination to win, he studied through the common schools, and afterwards graduated from Carleton College at Northfield. In the years that followed he was principal of the East Granite Falls and Renville schools for a period of seven years. Later he founded and published the Renville Star Farmer. Later he was president of the Renville State Bank and after moving to Olivia became president of the Olivia state bank. He also served as chief clerk and later as speaker of the Minnesota house of the legislature in 1900 and 1901. He was secretary of the National Republican League from 1895 to 1897 and represented the United States government on a special mission in regard to the public school system in the Philippine Islands in 1900.

Was a Wonderful Man
During the world war Mr. Dowling spoke at Mankato and other towns in this state on patriotic subjects, and during that struggle also went overseas and spoke to men maimed in war, cheering them with the fact that the loss of limbs is no handicap to the man who has the will power to succeed. During his life time Mr. Dowling was a member of the Elks lodge.

Mr. Dowling has been prominently mentioned as Republic candidate for governor several times, and last fall was among those who sought the nomination. Many Mankato friends as well as those living throughout this section of the state will regret to learn of Mr. Dowling's death. He was a wonderful man, strong intellectually and universally liked.

Minneapolis, Minn. Daily News
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921

Minnesota Loses Sterling Character In Dowling's Death



MICHAEL J. DOWLING.

Minneapolis, Minn. Standard
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

It isn't what we do for ourselves that makes us famous, but what we do for others. When "Mike" Dowling was seeking personal political preferment or when he was building up a personal fortune in banking, real estate and automobiles, he was comparatively unknown. At least, nobody thought of him as a national or, much less, a world figure. But the war came. Mr. Dowling threw himself into the fight against pro-Germanism with the whole vigor of his powerful personality. After the war, it became his peculiar mission to preach the gospel of hope and good cheer to the soldiers crippled in the great conflict of nations. His own life history—so well known to everybody here—was an inspiration to those handicapped by physical defects. He traveled all over America to speak to the boys in the hospitals.

He was called to England for the same purpose. He did not spare himself. In his enthusiasm, he overtaxed his physical powers. The collapse came and he died for the country he loved and served as truly as anyone who fell in Flanders Fields.

THE PUBLIC FORUM

Minneapolis, Minn. Daily News
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1921

DR. JUELL NAMED FOR DOWLING RITES

School Board Passes Resolution of
Tribute to Namesake of Crippled
Kiddie's School.

Dr. Nils Juell, of the school board, will represent the schools at the funeral of the late Michael Dowling at Olivia tomorrow. The board made this decision late yesterday when it passed resolutions of tribute to Mr. Dowling for whom the Michael Dowling School for Cripples in Minneapolis was named and of sympathy to his family. Memorial services for Mr. Dowling will be held at the Dowling school simultaneously with the funeral services.

The board also passed resolutions of thanks to the Rotary club, the Elks club and the W. C. T. U. for their efforts on behalf of the bill passed by the legislature giving \$200 special state aid for education of crippled children.

Mankato, Minn. Free Press
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921

erly governad.
News of the death of Hon. M. J. Dowling of Olivia was received with expressions of genuine sorrow and regret by the thousands of friends and acquaintances of this remarkable man. He was a wonderful man from the fact that he made a great success of life although he was physically handicapped. His life was an inspiration to others who were similarly afflicted as he was. "Mike" Dowling was a splendid type of American citizen, a true friend, a square shooter.

Mankato, Minn. Free Press
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1921

FUNERAL OF M. J. DOWLING.

Held at Olivia, Bankers' Home This Afternoon.

[United Press Dispatch.]
Olivia, Minn., April 28.—The funeral of M. J. Dowling, widely known banker, was held today. The body lay in state in the county court house this morning. The funeral was held at three o'clock this afternoon. A large delegation of state officials from the twin cities were in attendance. Mr. Dowling died at St. Paul Monday.

Minneapolis, Minn. Journal
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

DOWLING SCHOOL TEACHERS HONOR BANKER'S MEMORY

Pupils Send Large Floral Offering to Funeral Services at Olivia.

Teachers from the Michael J. Dowling school for crippled children, led by Mrs. Julia McGrew and accompanied by Margaret Jones, a student in the school, went to Olivia yesterday to attend the funeral services of Michael J. Dowling, for whom the institution was named. A large floral harp was sent by the pupils in the school and the teaching staff and bus drivers contributed a floral wreath at memorial services conducted at the school at Dupont and Eighteenth avns N Wednesday. Mrs. Georgia Miles, an instructor, spoke on the inspiration for cripples which was provided by Michael J. Dowling during his lifetime, and Mrs. Julia McGrew, principal, told the pupils they always should keep the spirit of Michael Dowling in their hearts and that his courage should react in their lives.

Mankato, Minn. Free Press
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

Funeral Services Were Conducted at Olivia By Rev. W. S. Emory.
The funeral of the late M. J. Dowling was held at Olivia yesterday. Thousands of people gathered in that city to pay a last tribute to their departed friend. The services were held at the residence. Rev. W. S. Emory, former pastor of the North Mankato Methodist church, was one of the officiating clergymen. Father H. D. Pomije of the Catholic church, was the other. The remains were interred in the cemetery not far from the city. Many state officials attended the ceremonies.

Mankato, Minn. Messenger
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

Among the people from Mankato who attended the funeral of M. J. Dowling at Olivia were M. W. Iarden, L. S. Harden, J. G. Schutz, and T. E. Nash. These men returned just as we are going to press, and state that there were more than a thousand outside cars at Olivia, and from all parts of the State. There was a good sized delegation from the win cities. The services were held at the Dowling home from the porch, and the large lawns of the Dowling and Freeman homes were crowded with people who had come to pay homage to the memory of the most loved man in Minnesota. There were veritable truck loads of flowers. The body was in state at the court house until one o'clock, when it was placed on the home porch, and guarded by soldiers. The American flag never more fittingly took its place in the decorations on such an occasion, than beside the casket containing the remains of Michael J. Dowling. May his life be a guide to all Americans, and may his spirit forever lead others to a

Minneapolis, Minn., Journal
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921

Lesson of Michael Dowling's Life.

Michael J. Dowling won wide and deserved fame as a man in whom will power combined with natural ability had won victory over tremendous physical handicaps. When a man has this indomitable quality, he is bound to go far. Witness, for example, the activities in national politics of men who have lost their sight.

Mr. Dowling at the age of fourteen lost both legs below the knees and both hands in a blizzard. Orphaned and helpless, he became a county charge. Many a lad overwhelmed by such misfortunes, would have given up, content to drift with the current. Not so Michael Dowling. With his strong determination to make the most of life despite his handicaps, he obtained an education, fought his way upward and won a high place in his community and State.

After the Armistice, he went to England at the invitation of the British Government and lectured to the wounded on rehabilitation problems. Of late he had been touring this Country doing similar work for the men who were crippled in the War. His presence and evident success in life were the best of evidence to those men that they had no reason to despair.

To men of strong determination handicaps are stimulating. Sometimes such obstacles actually seem to be blessings in disguise. They tend to arouse latent energies.

Mr. Dowling won his way in the world despite his handicaps. It is possible that he actually made them serve him. The great thing, after all, is to develop the latent energies and determinations that push one along over obstacles if they arise, but still along even if they do not.

Minneapolis, Minn., Morn. Trib.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 1921

MICHAEL J. DOWLING.

Michael J. Dowling, banker, who died in Minnesota the other day, bequeathed the inspiration of a staunch spirit to all who falter and complain. "What are our bodies worth?" and complain. "A man may be worth \$100,000 a year from the neck up and not a dollar a day from the neck down." Of limbs he had none, save one arm minus its hand. The others were amputated by a blizzard. Young Dowling went to the county commissioner, but not in quest of charity. He proposed that they send him to college, and considered the expense as a debt he must repay. He repaid them. Fence painter, school teacher, principal and superintendent, insurance

writer, editor, real estate dealer, and finally banker and politician, Dowling proved that bodies are just the habitations of the will. It should be added, to complete the perspective, that he declined nomination for the governorship of Minnesota. A large souled man, who lived his life in a big way, Dowling's memory should remain as a rebuke to the whiners of life.—Portland Oregonian.

THOUSANDS JOIN IN TRIBUTE TO DOWLING

Business Halts at Olivia as Long Line Passes Body of State's Optimist.

Olivia, April 28.—Thousands of persons joined with Olivia today in paying final tribute to Michael J. Dowling, internationally known resident of this city, who died in a St. Paul hospital last Monday after a brief illness.

There was many a tear dimmed eye in the long, slowly moving, silent column that wound through the rotunda of the Renville county courthouse for three hours to view the body that lay in state there from 10 a. m. to 1 p. m. today. They came from miles around—from every part of the state—by automobile, horse and train in tribute to "Mike" Dowling, their friend whose death had hastened by his efforts to bring cheer and encouragement to thousands of soldiers crippled by the World war.

From the courthouse, the body was taken to the family home for funeral services at 3 p. m. It was the family's wish that there should be no church services—they wanted to take the husband and father from his old home direct to his last resting place in the city cemetery.

Around the drab grey casket in the courthouse rotunda, eight members of the Olivia post of the American Legion stood as a guard of honor—music tribute to the man who had done so much to bring hope to their buddies who had lost a limb or more in the war "over there."

The thousands that came to view the body in the courthouse entered from De Pue av. through the building's west entrance, went up a few steps to the main floor, circled the casket and passed down the other flight of steps. Continued on Page 28.

Continued from Page 1.
through the same entrance, and on to De Pue av.

Garbed in "Working Suit."

They saw him just as they had seen him often, for he was garbed in his "working suit" of dark gray, just as he had appeared almost daily at the Olivia State bank, where he was president, and as he had been dressed on his last trip to the twin cities.

Active palbearers were selected from old friends who belonged to the same social club here as Mr. Dowling. They are Dr. G. H. Mesker, J. M. Freeman, James Empey, William A. French, T. H. Collyer and C. O. Brecke, all of Olivia.

Honorary palbearers are: Judge R. T. Daly and L. B. Barnard of Renville, Dr. D. R. Miller of Bird Island, Louis Kraemer of Granite Falls, E. H. Erickson, L. F. Swenson and P. J. Schaffer of Minneapolis; E. A. Forveeg, J. R. Landy, T. P. McIntyre and George Windhorst of Olivia, and F. G. Nethermoe of St. Paul.

Olivia Business Halts.

Services at the home were participated in by the Rev. W. S. Emory of the Methodist church here and Father H. D. Pomije of the Catholic church.

Olivia business paused between the hours of 11 a. m. and 4:30 p. m. in accordance with a proclamation issued by Mayor A. J. Fasser. The door of each store building bore a placard displaying a picture of Mr. Dowling and bearing this caption:

"We mourn our loss."
For the hundreds of visitors that came in by train or automobile for only a few hours' stay, the large armory was thrown open as a resting place, as hotel facilities were not ample to meet the demand.

Arrangements were made for automobiles to meet the twin city delegation, including the state officials from St. Paul, which was due to arrive about 2:30 p. m. in a special coach over the Milwaukee road. They were to be taken directly to the Dowling home for the services there.

Mr. Dowling came to Olivia in 1902 from Renville, where he had been engaged in banking and other business. He took up banking here and became president of the Olivia State bank. He was 55 years old. Surviving him are his widow and three daughters, Dorothy and Margery, who are students at Carleton college, and Catherine, who has been at home.

Messages continued to come in today from all parts of the country and a number have been received from abroad. One of the messages was from T. E. Sides of Dallas, who accompanied Mr. Dowling to Europe in 1919, on the "campaign of cheer" for soldiers crippled by the war. Like Mr. Dowling, Mr. Sides had lost a hand and an arm.

Minneapolis, Minn., Journal
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921

All Walks of Life to Honor Memory of M. J. Dowling

State Officials, Lame Boy at School to Attend Rites for Olivia Banker.

Minnesotans in every walk of life, from leading state officials to the smallest lame boy in the Minneapolis school for crippled children, were planning last night to go to Olivia Thursday to pay final tribute to the memory of Michael J. Dowling, the internationally known crippled Olivia banker who died yesterday at St. Luke's hospital in St. Paul.

Mr. Dowling's death at the age of 55 years resulted from heart disease, aggravated by over-exertion in a recent series of inspiring lectures to crippled soldiers.

State to be Represented.

Gathered at the funeral will be a group indicative of the tremendous range of Mr. Dowling's life and acquaintance, according to arrangements started last night. The state government will be represented by the principal state officials, Julius Schmah, secretary of state and a life-long friend of Mr. Dowling's, will organize the official group today.

Minneapolis will send many of its leading citizens, officials, bankers, businessmen. There will also go from this city some of the little maimed children in the Michael J. Dowling school for crippled children, named for Mr. Dowling.

Memorial Service for Children.

All the children of the school, who had grown to look forward to Mr. Dowling's frequent visits, will gather at a memorial service here on Thursday morning, B. B. Jackson, superintendent of schools, said last night. Then, later in the day, the principal of the school will go with a group of teachers and pupils to Olivia for the funeral services.

The name of the school will be permanently maintained as a part of the Minneapolis school system in honor of the man who spent so much of his time inspiring crippled children to hope and live, Mr. Jackson declared.

Memories of Mr. Dowling.

The children at the school remember Mr. Dowling best for his stories of crippled children who succeeded in spite of their handicaps. On his first visit, he told them that each time he came back he would bring a true story of a boy or girl who had risen superior to physical handicaps. And he had always kept his promise, teachers declared.

Members of the Elks' lodge and of the Rotary club, who co-operated with the Board of Education in furnishing necessities for the school, said last night that they probably would plan a memorial in the school for Mr. Dowling.

Soldiers at Asbury hospital, who had been visited by Mr. Dowling, last night were planning a memorial.

Bankers to Attend Funeral.

Many Twin City members of the Minnesota Bankers' association, the organization which Mr. Dowling served as president last year, will attend the funeral services. The delegation will be headed by O. M. Nelson, St. Paul, association president.

The Olympian, Pacific Coast limited of the Milwaukee road, will stop at Olivia Thursday. The train will leave Minneapolis at 10:10 a. m. Another limited will stop at Olivia at 7 p. m. to enable those attending the service to return to the Twin Cities.

Mr. Dowling's story was known in many countries. He was left an orphan without support or relatives at 10 years of age. At 14, he was caught in a Minnesota blizzard and his hands and feet were so badly frozen that they had to be amputated. In spite of this fact, he attained success in politics.

Continued on Page 13, Col. 6.

State Will Honor Dowling's Memory

(Continued from Page 1).

Worked as Newsboy.

After working for a time as a 10-year-old boy selling newspapers and flowers in Chicago, Mr. Dowling came to Minnesota to work on a farm. In 1880 he planned to make his first stake by getting together a herd of cattle which he attended for a contract price during the season. The day before he was to turn his herd back, a blizzard caught them, but he worked for 48 hours guarding them from the storm.

The boy was crippled one day when returning from school to the farm where he boarded, nine miles away. He was riding in the back of a wagon when a blizzard struck them. The farmer whipped up his horses, and in the mad rush the boy lost his hold and fell out. Young Dowling, left in the storm, fought his way inch by inch toward

the house which he could not see. Finally he reached a straw-pile, and burrowed into it until the storm passed. But his limbs were so badly frozen that they were amputated.

Aided by County.

The county took charge of him; but officials were astounded when he made them a proposition. If they would finance two terms in Carleton college, he said, he would relieve them of further responsibility.

He was provided with artificial limbs and sent to college. After two years, he became teacher in a rural school. Later, he served as fence painter, skating-rink proprietor, school principal, insurance agent, newspaper editor, and real estate dealer. Finally, he became a banker and entered politics in Minnesota.

During the World war, Mr. Dowling accomplished wonders in cheering up wounded soldiers. He spoke constantly in hospitals and camps. Just after the armistice was signed, he went to England at the request of the British government to talk to wounded soldiers there. His death is believed to have been directly due to over-work in lecture work among disabled soldiers.

Minneapolis, Minn., Journal
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921

FRIENDS PLAN FOR DOWLING FUNERAL

Schmah Organizing Party of State Officials — Bankers' Delegation Will Attend.

Many friends of the late Michael J. Dowling in political and business life are preparing to attend funeral services for him Thursday at Olivia. Mr. Dowling, who died yesterday at St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, was former speaker of the Minnesota house, former president of the National League of Republican clubs, and former president of the Minnesota Bankers' association, but was best known the country over as a wonderful example of "pure grit" overcoming physical handicaps.

Limited trains on the Milwaukee road will make stops at Olivia, Thursday, for the Dowling party. The Olympian, leaving Minneapolis at 11:45 a. m., will make a special stop at Olivia, reaching there in time for the services. The return train leaves Olivia at 7:15 p. m., setting back to Minneapolis at 10 p. m.

Julius A. Schmah, former secretary of state and a close friend of Mr. Dowling for many years, is organizing a party of state officials and other friends to make the trip Thursday. Mr. Schmah, as it happens, also was a boy herding cattle in western Minnesota and went through the blizzard in which Mr. Dowling lost both legs and an arm. Later on he served at the desk of the Minnesota house with Mr. Dowling and succeeded him as chief clerk when Mr. Dowling was elected speaker.

A delegation from the Minnesota Bankers' association also will go to Olivia Thursday.

Minneapolis, Minn., Daily News
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

OFFICIALS ATTEND DOWLING FUNERAL

Colonel Leach Pays Tribute to the Late Philanthropist as Party Leaves for Olivia.

Funeral services for Michael J. Dowling, 54, banker, philanthropist, newspaper publisher, and at one time speaker of the Minnesota house of representatives, who died at St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, Saturday, as the result of an attack of heart failure, were conducted at his home in Olivia, Minn., at 3 p. m. today. Interment was at Olivia.

A special train left Minneapolis at 11:45 a. m., carrying friends and for the business associates of Mr. Dowling, who attended the funeral in a body. Among the party were Chas. R. Adams, representing the state in the absence of Gov. J. A. O. Preus, who is at Decorah, Ia., visiting his parents, and from which place he will proceed on a trip to Louisiana; Lieut. Gov. Louis L. Collins; S. Y. Gordon, state printer; C. L. Hilton, attorney general; Henry Rines, state treasurer; S. B. Dues, state band examiner; Julius A. Schmah, ex-secretary of state; Ray P. Chase, state auditor; Ralph Wheelock, of the state board of control, and Col. George E. Leach.

As he boarded the train today Colonel Leach said that while he had never been intimately acquainted with Mr. Dowling, he had always admired his spirit. Though he had never been in the war, Colonel Leach said that the ideas Mr. Dowling imparted and the work he did was of greater importance to his country than that of many who did go to the front.

CROWDS PAY LAST TRIBUTE TO M. J. DOWLING



State officials and a host of friends from the entire state paid their last tribute to Michael J. Dowling, "Minnesota's optimist," at his funeral in Olivia yesterday. The Dowling home was unable to accommodate the crowds that assembled for the services.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

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The Minneapolis Messenger

A Weekly Negro Newspaper — The Message For Justice — The Best Advertising Medium.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., SATURDAY

HON. MICHAEL DOWLING.



M. J. DOWLING

Olivia—Thousands of persons joined with Olivia in paying final tribute to Michael J. Dowling, internationally known resident of this city, who died in a St. Paul hospital after a brief illness. There was many a tear-dimmed eye in the long, slowly moving, silent column that wound through the rotunda of the Renville county court house for three hours to view the body that lay in state there. They came from miles around, from every part of the state, by automobile, horse and train in tribute to "Mike" Dowling, their friend whose death has been hastened by his efforts to bring cheer and encouragement to thousands of soldiers crippled by the World war.

The sad news of the death of our friend, Hon. Mike Dowling, was received last week. He was one of Minnesota's best citizens and always showed a disposition to be fair and impartial to all. He had met several of our group, and gave them equal opportunities as granted any other class of citizens. He was responsible for the appointment of Hon. J. Frank Wheaton as reading-clerk in the State Legislature, of which he later became a member. Mr. Dowling, as manager of the western division of the Taft campaign, was actively interested in the Negro campaign workers. He was a delegate to the St. Louis convention, and with his alternate, Hon. J. Frank Wheaton, organized and entertained the colored delegates. The Dowling School for Cripples in this city is named in his honor. He informed the writer that he was glad that there was a little colored boy at the school, said that "he is a bright little fellow and I shook his hand and assured him that he was welcome, and that he lent a little color to the occasion," which was on a visit of Mr. Dowling to the school. A memorial will be erected for his many achievements and broad citizenship.

We have lost a good friend.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Minneapolis, Minn. Daily Tribune
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1921

manufacturers, to square their actions and direct their course by the compass of righteousness, good will, fellowship and brotherhood. Then, these who serve will be willing to serve well at a fair wage for an honest day's work."

Olivia Pays Tribute to 'Mike' Dowling

Minneapolis to Send Large Delegation for Funeral Service Tomorrow.

Olivia, Minn., April 26.—(Special)—Olivia's great man came home today, to receive the last honors this little city, which knew "Mike" Dowling as a friend and neighbor, can pay.

Today every home in Olivia is mourning his sudden death, and repeating over the story of his life and his brave struggle to his high place despite physical handicaps which would have defeated another man.

A great crowd gathered at the station for the last homecoming. Neigh-

bors went to the aid of the stricken wife and children, and had prepared the home, where the body will lie in state until time for the funeral Thursday.

Olivia has shared her great man with other citizens of the state and with people of other states and nations, but today he is theirs. Great preparations are being made for the distinguished visitors who will come for the funeral, but underlying the importance of that ceremony will be the sympathy and love of the home folks.

Word has come that the Governor of the state is coming, with other officials from the capital, educators, bankers and many other leading citizens of the Twin Cities, and for these there will be an appropriate welcome and a place in the sorrow of the village. Perhaps the little group of crippled children from the Dowling school in Minneapolis will be given the place of honor, for Olivia knew "Mike" Dowling's greatest pride was his work for crippled children.

School children of Renville county are to take part in the funeral, Mr. Dowling's death coming at a time when their pennies were being given to purchase a memorial to be placed in the Minneapolis school that bears his name.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Minneapolis, Minn. Daily Tribune
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921

Olivia Pays Tribute to "Mike" Dowling in His Last Homecoming

Crippled Minnesotan Who Won Fame at Home, Abroad to Be Buried Tomorrow.

Minneapolis Will Send Large Delegation of Mourning Friends to Funeral Services.

Olivia, Minn., April 26.—(Special)—Olivia's great man came home today, to receive the last honors this little city, which knew "Mike" Dowling as a friend and neighbor, can pay.

Today every home in Olivia is mourning his sudden death, and repeating over the story of his life and his brave struggle to his high place despite physical handicaps which would have defeated another man.

His Last Homecoming.

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Governor to Attend.

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Minneapolis to Send Large Delegation.

Minneapolis will send many of its citizens, bankers, city officials, business men, educators and others to Olivia, Minn., Thursday to attend the funeral of Michael J. Dowling, who died in St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, yesterday.

Members of the Elks lodge and the Rotary club are co-operating with the Board of Education and with state officials in the plans. The Olympic, Pacific Coast limited of the Milwaukee road, will stop at Olivia Thursday, leaving Minneapolis at 10:10 a. m. Another limited will stop at Olivia at 7 p. m. to enable those attending the service to return to the Twin Cities.

Julius Schmah, former secretary state, was organizing the delegation today.

PAGE EIGHT

The Tribune

Founded 1867

Reestablished 1891 by

W. J. MURPHY

Entered at Postoffice, Minneapolis, Minn., as Second Class Matter.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921.

Michael J. Dowling.

It is the common way of speech to say that Michael J. Dowling died yesterday. It would be just as true to say that the boy "Mike" Dowling died 40 years ago in the prairie blizzard in Western Minnesota that inflicted on him such injuries as would have blighted forever any less courageous spirit than was his. For as the boy was unconquerable in misfortune, so the man was one in that noble company that never dies, but lives on, victor even over death as his splendid example abides with us. So to be cherished, it was given to Michael Dowling to be; and for this—be it said with all sincerity—all those who have been spurred to renewed hope by his career may trace their debt back to the apparent misfortune on the prairie that made what the unthinking called a cripple out of the boy.

"Thank God, I am not a cripple," was Mr. Dowling's way of conveying the counsel of optimism to any who might be on the brink of surrender to physical handicap in any way comparable to his own. "Thank God, I am not a cripple," the boy had said in spirit, when, having lost both legs below the knees, one forearm and most of his other hand, he made a bargain with the county that would have kept him, a public charge. "I am not a cripple," the boy said in effect when he told the county commissioners that if they would give him two terms at college, he would take care of himself after that. And the bargain was struck; the boy who refused to be a cripple got his schooling and started out on the long road to fame as one of the world's finest optimists. Thereafter his course took him through life as a country school teacher, as a newspaper editor, as a leader high in political councils, and later as banker and civic leader honored for his capabilities. Chiefly, however, these qualities of leadership were apart from and beyond the circumstances of his physical state; again to apply his words, he was "not a cripple."

Throughout his life, Mr. Dowling's relations with mankind were touched with sympathy that was one of the gifts of his misfortune. It was when war came with its maimings and its cripples of thousands of young bodies, that Mr. Dowling's boy-time misfortune flowered to its real splendor of soul. Into his own country's service, into the service of the Allies as well, he went—to carry his message of hope and courage to war's wrecked and maimed. And now, all over this land, as well as in Europe, there must be literally thousands of young men who received from Michael Dowling the spirit of the unconquerable. Just so, too, there must be great numbers of crippled children, like those in the Michael J. Dowling school in Minneapolis, who are striving toward the same goals as those he attained through his own valor of spirit.

Michael Dowling suffered no misfortune. He came into fortune when he fought off death's sleep, there on the western prairie; the fortune that made him a torch bearer of courage, an inspiration of hope. And he gave that fortune to his fellows. By that, again, he vanquished death.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Minneapolis, Minn. Daily Tribune
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

Dowling Dead

M. J. Dowling, of Olivia, better known to local old timers as "Mike" Dowling, died April 25, at St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, and was interred at Olivia yesterday.

The history of this remarkable man is so familiar to most of our readers that its repetition seems to be uncalled for.

Few, if any, are the homes in this state who have not heard, and treasured in their memory the story of the poor herd boy who at the age of 15 years lost both feet and hands as the result of being forced to spend a whole night in a strawstack during a raging Minnesota blizzard, but who in spite of this terrible handicap rose to be a school teacher, newspaper man, and banker, and whose fame for unbounded optimism induced the Allied governments, following the war, to request Mr. Dowling to visit hospitals for wounded soldiers in this country and abroad to cheer the invalids, by telling them of his own experience and thus infuse them with new hope and courage.

Such in brief, is the history of the boy, "Mike", who, about 40 years ago was often seen on our streets straddling his buckskin colored pony, and whose sterling qualities of character were then hidden to all of us by a rough exterior, which when removed by the polishing forces of an eventful life gave our state and nation an opportunity to behold a sparkling diamond of unusual brilliance.

May Mike's example ever live in the memory of our youth and be to it a forceful antidote against whining self-pity and pessimism over trifles.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Minneapolis, Minn. Daily Tribune
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921

MICHAEL DOWLING IS DEAD

Olivia Banker and Newspaperman Dies of Heart Failure at Hospital in St. Paul.

INSPIRED CRIPPLES OF TWO CONTINENTS

Death Was Brought On by Over-Exertion in Assisting Those Maimed in the World War.

Michael J. Dowling, philanthropist, banker and business man, long prominent in public life in Minnesota, died of heart failure early today at St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, where he had been a patient two weeks.

The story of his life success under unusual obstacles is internationally known. Physically circumscribed by the loss of both his hands and limbs in a Minnesota blizzard in boyhood, he was a self-made man.

VICTIM OF THE WAR.

He educated himself and attained business success in life. His death was due to over-exertion in spreading his unflinching gospel of good cheer and wholesome optimism to British and American soldiers crippled in the world war.

Few residents of the state had a wider acquaintance among Minnesota people and few were held in higher regard. In his lectures under auspices of the Red Cross, to crippled soldiers and to crippled children, in hospitals, schools and institutions throughout the United States, England and France he brought a never-failing message of hope. Thousands of these were inspired by his example.

SHOCK TO CRIPPLED KIDDIES.

A touching incident in connection with his passing occurred today at the Michael Dowling public school for crippled children in Minneapolis.

The message announcing his death came this morning to Mrs. Julia McGrew, principal. He was personally known to every one of the 81 children attending the school. Saturday many of them had sent flowers to his bedside at St. Luke's and little messages voicing affection for him and the hope for recovery he had helped to teach them.

"I cannot tell the children of Mr. Dowling's death this morning," said Mrs. McGrew, "for my heart is too heavy. They loved him dearly. I shall tell them just before school is dismissed today."

Mr. Dowling's last visit to the school was about two months ago. It was named for him last October, the school board breaking its precedent of naming no schools.

(Continued on Page 2 Column 3.)

after persons living, because of its regard for the man and his wonderful life work.
Mrs. Dowling and her three daughters

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00182

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(Continued on Page 2, Column 3.)

after persons living, because of its regard for the man and his wonderful life work.

Mrs. Dowling and her three daughters, Dorothy, Marjorie and Kathleen, were at his bedside, with Miss Hattie S. Bordewich, his private secretary, when the end came.

FUNERAL AT OLIVIA.

Funeral services will be held at his home at Olivia, Thursday. A special train may be run from the Twin Cities to accommodate state officials and Minneapolis and St. Paul friends who desire to attend.

For the past two and a half years Mr. Dowling had been lecturing to crippled soldiers and children in England, France and the United States.

Mr. Dowling was born in Huntington, Mass., in 1866 and went with his father to St. Louis and Chicago. In the latter city he was a newsboy. He then came west and settled in Yellow Medicine county, where for two years he worked on a farm.

LOST BOTH LEGS AND ARMS.

When he was 14, while driving to his country home from Olivia with his father and uncle, during a blinding blizzard, he fell from the rear of the wagon. They did not miss him. For hours he faced the storm, finally taking refuge in a haystack, where, exhausted, he fell asleep and was terribly frozen. Both legs had to be amputated below the knee, his left arm below the elbow and the greater part of his right hand also had to be cut off by the surgeons. Later when his father died he became a county charge, but he found a way to help himself.

He secured an education, taught a rural school for seven years and worked his way through Carleton college, where he graduated with honors. Later he sold life insurance, edited the Olivia Times and served as secretary of the National Republican league in the first McKinley campaign. Then he went to the Philippines as special educational commissioner and served also as chief clerk of the house of representatives. In 1900 he was elected to the legislature, serving two terms as speaker.

RAN FOR CONGRESS.

He was a candidate for congress in the old Seventh district in the campaign in 1900 in which Andrew J. Volstead was elected over him by a narrow margin. Several times he was advanced as a candidate for governor by his friends, the last time in 1920. He supported Governor Preus in the last campaign. He was a lifelong Republican.

Largely through his interest and efforts the legislature passed the bill providing \$200 state aid for special training for crippled children.

M. J. Dowling, 'Man of Grit,' Is Laid to Rest

Thousands of Citizens Honor Memory of Dead Olivia Banker.

Courage, Optimism of Man Recalled as Funeral Service Is Read.

By George E. Akerson.

Olivia, Minn., April 28.—Michael J. Dowling, Minnesota's "man of grit," who died last Monday, was laid to rest today while thousands of citizens from all parts of the state, joined with his closest friends and neighbors in paying their tribute.

By train, by automobile, by team, came these thousands to show their esteem and affection for the man who, though crippled early in life, became the living example of courage and optimism.

As Michael J. Dowling was simple in his tastes, so the funeral services for him were simple. Typical also of his broadness, an Episcopalian clergyman, a Methodist minister and a Catholic priest, united in conducting the last rites.

No Eulogy Spoken.

There was no eulogy spoken. It wasn't necessary. In every heart the eulogy for Michael Dowling was being voiced. Everyone in the vast throng that stood with uncovered heads, on the wind-swept lawn surrounding the home, while the simple services were being conducted inside knew the story of his life. That story of grit and courage and perseverance and optimism and sympathy was uppermost in the thoughts of those who followed the mortal remains to the little cemetery on the hill.

Those who came to Olivia today knew full well the story of the 14-year-old boy who was lost in a snow storm and, as a result, suffered the loss of limbs; how he had deliberately cut himself off from public support by

(Continued on Page 7, Col. 3.)

THE MINNEAPOLIS MORNING TRIBUNE: FRIDAY APRIL 29 1921

Michael Dowling Buried at Olivia

(Continued From Page 1.)

exchanging his rights for an education and artificial feet and hands, how he had become school teacher, editor, legislator, commissioner to the Philippines, and banker.

Efforts to Cheer Soldiers.

They knew, too, of his tireless efforts to bring sunshine into the lives of the soldiers crippled in the World war, and of his devotion to the little folks in the Minneapolis school for crippled children, named in his honor. Margaret Jones, a crippled girl,—known to Michael Dowling as "Pollyanna"—represented the children of the Dowling school. With her teachers, she came to pay her tribute and that of her schoolmates to the man who had been an inspiration to the crippled children of Minneapolis.

Olivia, brought from obscurity and into the light by and because of Michael Dowling, gave evidence of the loss of its foremost leader.

"And now Olivia will be just like any other town," said one woman, voicing in that way the feeling for the citizen who brought fame to the little city because he lived there.

State officials, headed by Lieutenant-Governor Collins, representatives of nearly all of the Minneapolis banks, officials of the Minnesota Bankers association, friends of long standing, arrived from Minneapolis just before the funeral services and were taken to the Dowling home.

Plans are now under way for a Dowling memorial. Just what form it will take remains to be determined. Philip Leisch of New Ulm, president of the Minnesota State Editorial association, has announced a meeting of the executive committee of that organization for next week when plans will be discussed. Julius Schmah, former secretary of state and for many years a close friend of Michael Dowling, has suggested an addition to the Hospital for Crippled Children at Phalen Park.

Officiating at the services were the Rev. E. E. Hixon, Episcopal minister of Minneapolis; Father Henry Pomegi of the Olivia Catholic church and the Rev. William Emery of the Methodist church of Olivia. The pall bearers were: Dr. George Mesker, W. W. French, J. M. Freeman, C. O. Brecke, and J. Empey, all the surviving members of a unique social and study club of which Michael Dowling was the

sixth member. T. H. Collier was the sixth pall bearer.

Honorary Pall Bearers.

Honorary pallbearers, men who have long been intimate with Mr. Dowling, were: F. G. Nellerme of St. Paul; P. J. Schafer, L. S. Swenson, and E. H. Erickson, of Minneapolis; J. R. Lanoy and T. P. McIntyre, Olivia; E. D. Barnard and Judge Daly, Renville; Dr. F. W. Miller, Bird Island; L. H. Cramer, Granite Falls. Burial took place at the city cemetery, west of Olivia.

Surviving Mr. Dowling are the widow, and three daughters, Dorothy, Marjorie, and Kathleen. Other relatives who attended the funeral are brothers and sisters of Mrs. Dowling, Mrs. J. C. Spencer, of Minneapolis, Harriet and Harold Bordewick of Olivia and John Bordewick, of Warren.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Montevideo, Minn., News
FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1921

A PRICELESS LEGACY.

In the death of M. J. Dowling, western Minnesota loses its most distinguished citizen. This part of the state has always taken the pride of ownership in Mr. Dowling's many sturdy successes as a boy, during the following period when he was establishing his place in life, and in these later years when the war gave him the wonderful opportunity to round out a heroic life with service of a kind to stir the hearts and the finest impulses of men.

It was a sense of ownership rightly held, for it was in these counties of Yellow Medicine, Chippewa and Renville that Mr. Dowling met his terrible misfortune as a lad of fourteen; rose beyond what others might consider a hopeless handicap; later taught school then entered upon a successful business career; all the while giving a demonstration of pure grit which the world has come to admire.

And so universal tribute was paid yesterday at the funeral services by the home folks at Olivia and those who represent the people of Minnesota in government and civic affairs, by the crippled children of Minneapolis and the robust youngsters of Renville county, by staunch friends of a lifetime and those of later years just as staunch. Their tribute spoke not only for the people of Minnesota, but for crippled war heroes throughout America, Great Britain and France whose disability had been made greatly less because they had come in contact with Mike Dowling's matchless will to conquer.

His courageous optimism, his resolute will, his healthy outlook upon life are Mr. Dowling's legacy to his fellow-men.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Woman (Minn.) Messenger.
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

Minnesota lost one of her distinguished personages Monday when Michael J. Dowling of Olivia passed away at St. Luke's hospital from heart trouble superinduced by his strenuous work since the war in the interests of disabled service men. Dowling became an international character because of his success in life under handicaps that would have made most any person an object of charity. Losing both his lower limbs, and hands when he became lost in a snow storm and his limbs frozen when he was small boy, he became a charge on the county. He soon made a bargain with the county commissioners to free them from further responsibility if they would give him a grammar education and he was sent to Carlton college. His career from then on is an inspiration even to an able bodied person. There is perhaps no person in Minnesota who gives of his time and talent so freely to advance any worthy cause he is interested in, as Dowling did. He spoke in Redwood county numerous times for various movements, never accepting a penny for his time and trouble. During the war his services were invaluable, but perhaps since the war he has done his best work for humanity for his life and personality has been an inspiration to disabled men everywhere. At the request of the U. S. government and foreign governments he spent the past two years or more in this and foreign countries visiting hospitals and lecturing to the war wounded on rehabilitation problems. Mike Dowling was one of nature's noblemen.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00183

Resolution to S...

Michael Dowling Dead; Crippled, Won Success

Hands, Feet Lost as Boy of 14 Years

Handicapped With Little Education, He Made Way to Honors.

Death Indirectly Due to His Strenuous Lecture Trips to Inspire Disabled.

Made Fortune as Banker; Mentioned for Governor of Minnesota.

Michael J. Dowling, Minnesota banker who won international fame for his success despite the loss of his feet and hands in boyhood, died early today at St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul. Death was due to heart disease, aggravated by exertion on recent lecture tours. He had been at the hospital two weeks, and while his death was not entirely unexpected by his family it came as a shock to personal friends and the general public.

Mrs. Dowling and their three children were at the bedside this morning, having arrived in St. Paul from Olivia, the family home, on Saturday.

Funeral arrangements are being made with the co-operation of many organizations with which Mr. Dowling was associated. Services, to be held in Olivia Thursday, will be attended by representatives of school, municipalities and business organizations from many parts of the state.

Crippled at Age of 14.
Although only 55 years of age, Mr. Dowling had crowded into his lifetime experiences and accomplishments which had given him nationwide fame. His life story—that of a boy left to make his way at the age of 10 years, and crippled at 14—was known in other countries, where his example aided other unfortunates, particularly those crippled during the war.

He had won many honors in business, in politics and in the educational world, but his greatest interest was in relieving pain and brightening the lives of crippled children. The Dowling School for Crippled Children, 1305 Dupont avenue north, Minneapolis, is a monument to this work.

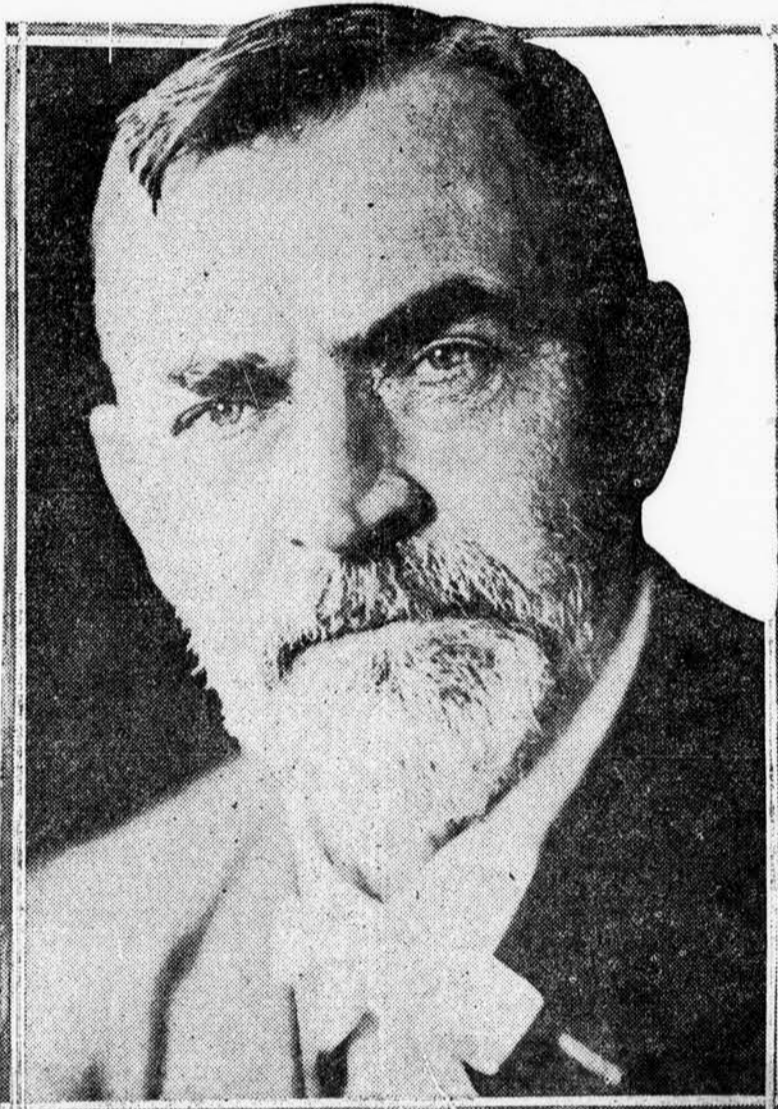
He was a secretary of the Republican National league from 1895 to 1897 and was appointed special commissioner to the Philippines in 1900 by President McKinley. In 1901 he was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives and was elected speaker. During the last campaign he was urged as a candidate for governor of Minnesota, but at the convention which nominated Governor Preus pledged his support to the choice of the convention and sided in his election.

Born in Massachusetts.
Mr. Dowling was born in Great Barrington, Mass., February 17, 1866. His mother died when he was 10 years old, and his father left him there in the care of relatives when he moved to St. Louis. The father sent for the boy soon afterward, and then went to Chicago.

Young Dowling was thrown upon his own resources in Chicago. He was anxious to secure an education and attended school, making his living at night by selling flowers and papers in front of the old McVicker theater. An incident which he referred to later as the best lesson of his life concerned his business as a flower vendor. A man

(Continued on Page 2.)

He Inspired Unfortunate



Michael J. Dowling.

Handicaps which make beggars of most men had no terrors for Michael J. Dowling, Minnesota banker and business man, who died today. Left an orphan at 14, with legs and arms lost in a blizzard, he staked his future care on two years at college, became a teacher, entered business, and finally became a leading banker. Throughout his life he gave his greatest effort to the aid of children who had become crippled.

Michael Dowling Dead; Crippled, Wins Success

(Continued from Page 1.)

and woman stepped out of a carriage at the theater and the boy presented his flowers. The man asked him to show his hands.

The sale was made because his hands were clean, and in his lectures Mr. Dowling always referred to it, with the remark that the time came when he did not need to keep his hands clean physically but that there were other ways of following the practice to be always remembered.

Caught in Blizzard.
A few months later he came to Minnesota, where he worked on a farm. In 1880 he planned to make his first "stake" by getting together a herd of cattle which he tended for a contract price during the season. The day before he was to turn over the cattle a blizzard caught his herd, and it was only after 48 hours of work that he saved the cattle.

He then arranged to enter school, and was to board at a farmer's house nine miles away. He started on his first trip in the wagon of a farmer. During the trip a blizzard overtook them, and the farmer, whipping up his horses to escape the storm did not notice that his passenger, seated in the wagon box, had been thrown out.

Young Dowling, left in the storm, walked until he found a woodpile. He threw chunks of wood in every direction, but was unable to attract the attention of those living in the house he knew must be nearby. He tried to find the house and finally, wandering blindly, ran across a straw pile. He dug his way into the straw and remained until the blizzard had passed.

Life Saved by Operation.
When he crawled out he found he could not stand, but made his way on his hands and knees for half a mile to the house. An operation which removed his legs below the knee, his left arm below the elbow and the fingers and part of his thumb on the right hand saved his life. A few weeks later, while still fighting for his life, he celebrated his fifteenth birthday.

He used the money he had saved from his herding contract for doctor bills, and then the county took charge of him. He proved an unusual charge, however, and in spite of his crippled condition made a proposition to the county officials that if they would finance two terms in Carleton college he would relieve them of further responsibility.

He was provided with artificial limbs and after two years in the college he became the teacher in a rural school. From the school room he became a fence painter, ran a roller skating rink, became principal of the East Granite Falls school, then superintendent of schools, wrote insurance, edited a newspaper, was made secretary of the Western Press association and then became a real estate dealer. From the real estate business he entered banking and finally took a hand in Minnesota politics.

Speaks to Disabled.
During the war Mr. Dowling toured the country speaking for the Red Cross and then began a trip to hospitals for

crippled soldiers which took him abroad. Since the war he has visited virtually every state, in the interests of the war wounded. Previous to this, and just after the armistice was signed, he went to England at the request of the British government and the British Red Cross, and lectured on the rehabilitation problems facing the men who had come back from the trenches.

Mr. Dowling's death called forth expression of sorrow from many leading Minnesotans today, among them Governor Preus and other state officials.

"I am deeply grieved to learn of the death of Mr. Dowling," Governor Preus said, "I considered him one of my most valuable friends. He was still a comparatively young man, possessed of vigor which would have made him a prominent factor in public affairs for many years to come if he had lived."

"Mr. Dowling has been active in public affairs of Minnesota for more than a quarter of a century and his influence has always been for good. He was one of the pioneers in the good roads movement. During the war his services in the country's cause were extremely valuable. Mr. Dowling's success in spite of his physical handicap had been an inspiration and pointed the way to success to many others with physical handicaps. It shows what a man with grit and determination can do."

Dowling School Mourns.
When the news of Mr. Dowling's death reached the Dowling school this morning, it brought tears from Mrs. Julia McGrew, principal, and from the teachers. The little crippled tots sat in their seats sniffing. "Mr. Dowling won't be here no more, Mr. Dowling won't be here no more!"

Since the naming of the school Mr. Dowling had often paid visits to the institution. His promise on his first arrival was that each time he would come he would have a story of some boy who

was handicapped physically and yet made good despite his handicap. Each time he came he had another story to tell them.

When the funeral of Mr. Dowling is held on Thursday it is expected that a delegation from Minneapolis will be sent by the school board. The Board of Education which meets tomorrow will adopt resolutions honoring Mr. Dowling's memory and expressing tribute for his accomplishments.

Mr. Dowling married Jennie Leonharda Bordewich at Atlanta, Ga., in 1895. Bessie S. Bordewich and Harold Bordewich, sister and brother of Mrs. Dowling, are identified with the bank at Olivia, of which he was the head. He had been highly honored in financial circles of the country, and was a former president of the Minnesota State Bankers' association.

Pollock's Cleaning Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1921

Funeral of Michael J. Dowling Today Draws Mourners From All Minnesota

Olivia, Minn., April 27.—Many of Minnesota's principal citizens will gather here tomorrow to pay a final tribute to the memory of Michael J. Dowling, internationally famous Olivia banker, who died in St. Luke's hospital in St. Paul last Monday. Funeral services will be held at 3 p. m.

From 10 a. m. to 1 p. m. tomorrow the body will lie in state in the rotunda of the county courthouse. Burial will be in the city cemetery.

A large delegation from the Twin Cities will arrive shortly after 2 p. m. The train, which leaves Minneapolis at 10:10 a. m. will carry a special coach, and will make a special stop here to accommodate those attending the funeral.

Included in the delegation will be a large group of state officials.

Flags at State House Will Fly at Half-Mast.

Flags of the State Capitol will be at half mast all day today, in deference to Michael J. Dowling, whose funeral services will be held at Olivia, Minn., at 3 p. m. tomorrow. A special representative of the board of trustees of the state board of education and resolutions were passed in honor of Mr. Dowling's family expressing the board's sympathy in their loss. Mr. Dowling's family will be notified of the state's well-wishes. Mr. Dowling's "marvelous record" along all lines of public and private activity which will stand unique in the state's history.

Pollock's Cleaning Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1921

To the Editor of The Tribune:

Michael J. Dowling's body is dead, but his mind and soul are ceaselessly and progressively active. Physically handicapped in life's race, what would have driven another to despair or suicide inspired him to go forward. His "I will" made him win. He was kind, patriotic in his city, clean in state politics, Samaritan in national affairs, and a good and wise of his courage and consolation in the wounds of those who lay bleeding in and Heaven. Minnesota has produced some good men, but no greater moral hero than Michael J. Dowling.—G. L. Morrill.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH. PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00184

Mike Dowling Dead; He Inspired Cripples

NOON EDITION

The Minneapolis Evening Tribune

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921 Price Two Cents in Minneapolis.

Without Hands, Feet, Minnesotan Won Way to Success in Life

Handless, Footless, He Carved Success

Michael J. Dowling, Olivia, Minn., banker and business man, who won international fame for his success despite the loss of his feet and hands in boyhood, died early today at St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul. He was 55 years old.

His efforts to help others similarly handicapped were the result of his death which was the result of his case, superinduced by exertion in lecture tours. He has been failing steadily and had been at the hospital two weeks. While the end was not entirely expected by his immediate family the news of it came as a shock to the general public as the seriousness of his condition had not been known.

Mr. Dowling, together with the three children, arrived in St. Paul from Olivia Saturday. At the bedside they were, besides his wife, their three children, Dorothy, Marjorie and Kathleen, Miss Hatlie S. Bordewich, secretary to Mr. Dowling, accompanied the family here.



Michael J. Dowling.

Funeral Thursday.

The funeral will be held at Olivia Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Dowling was two and a half years in the interests of our country. Following the signing of the armistice, Mr. Dowling went to England at the request of the British government and the British Red Cross, and for more than eight months lectured to the British war wounded on the rehabilitation problems.

Mr. Dowling, when a boy of 14 years, fell out of the back of a wagon in a blinding snowstorm. His father and uncle were sitting in the front seat and did not know in the storm that the boy was missing. After walking for hours, he found a hay stack, crawled into it and fell asleep. The exposure necessitated the amputation of both legs below the knees, and left arm below the elbow.

Mr. Dowling, a part of the right hand and thumb, part of the left hand and thumb, and a part of the right foot, became a county charity but soon found a way to help himself.

Born in Huntington, Mass., in 1865, Michael Dowling went with his father to St. Louis and then to Chicago. In the windy city he sold papers until he was 12 years old. He then went West and came to Yellow Medicine, Minn., and worked for two years as a farm hand.

Studied at Carleton.

After losing his limbs, and through his own efforts and the aid of friends he began his studies, and later attended Carleton college at Northfield for two terms. Then he taught school for two years.

Mr. Dowling, who sold life insurance, "on his own." His sold life insurance, edited a newspaper, served as secretary of the National Republican league during the McKinley campaign, became special educational commissioner to the Philippine islands, chief clerk in the House of Representatives. In 1900 he became a member of the House and was twice elected speaker.

Mr. Dowling spoke for the Red Cross. He traveled through the hospitals for crippled soldiers in America and abroad and gave cheer and comfort to others handicapped like himself.

Mentioned for Governor.

Last fall Mr. Dowling was boosted as a candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor of Minnesota. When the Republican convention was held Governor Fross, Mr. Dowling, declared himself satisfied and set himself to all in his election.

One of the most recent honors given to Mr. Dowling was the action of the school board of Minneapolis in naming a public school after him.

The Dowling school for crippled children in Minneapolis is one of the leading institutions of its kind in the country.

It was largely through Mr. Dowling's efforts that the bill has been enacted by the State Legislature calling for \$200 state aid for special training for crippled children. Through this bill it is hoped that the state which has been throughout the state who benefited saw no likelihood of any sort of future for themselves.

Capitol Flags to Hang at Half Mast Tomorrow for Dowling's Funeral

The flags on the State Capitol will be at half mast all day tomorrow, the day of the funeral of Michael J. Dowling of Olivia.

Nearly all state departments will be represented at the funeral in Olivia. In honor of those who will go from the Capitol are: Ray Chase, state auditor; E. A. Fritz, state public examiner; F. E. Pearson of the State Securities commission; Charles R. Adams, private secretary to the Governor, who will represent the Governor; Gustaf Lindquist, commissioner of insurance; S. A. Johnson, commissioner of immigration; A. Eason, and J. Gould, secretary of the Republican State Central committee.

State Treasurer Henry Rines, S. B. Duen, superintendent of banks, and F. W. Putnam will go if possible. It also is probable that representatives from the state engineer's office, the state board of control, the secretary of state's office, and other state departments will attend.

Lieutenant Governor Collins, State Treasurer Rines and Charles Foster, deputy public examiner, also will attend the Dowling funeral. Miss Putnam will attend to represent the board of control.

C. B. Whitedon, member of the board of control and a staunch foe of the board of control and was speaker of the house at the session at which the bill creating the board of control was passed.

W. N. Brown, chief clerk, will represent Mike Holm, secretary of state, at Olivia.

Minneapolis Friends at Dowling Funeral

A special delegation from Minneapolis left on the Olympian train for Olivia this morning. Approximately 30 leading bankers of Minneapolis were in the delegation of Mr. George E. Leach, candidate for mayor. Dr. Nis Juel, representing the Board of Education, were on the train.

Representing the Dowling school for crippled children were Mrs. McGrew, principal; Mrs. Georgia Milan, Mrs. Aurelia Fetzer, teachers, and Miss Margaret Jones, student and instructor, and the school "Polyanna," "Polyanna" was Mr. Dowling's favorite.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1921

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

NOTED STATE BANKER DIES IN ST. PAUL



—Photo by Lee Bros.
MICHAEL J. DOWLING

APOPLEXY TAKES M. J. DOWLING Victim of Blizzard Hard- ships Was Inspiration to Cripples

Michael J. Dowling, of Olivia, banker, talked of last year as republican candidate for governor, died in St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, at 4 o'clock this morning. Apoplexy was the cause. He was 55 years old.

He was taken to the hospital about 10 days ago, after a complete breakdown, Dr. Charles Lyman Greene, the attending physician, said.

The tragedy that overcame Mr. Dowling in early youth by which he lost both hands and feet in a Minnesota blizzard, and how he overcame that handicap, has been an inspiration for cripples, and especially maime veterans of the world war.

As a boy of 14, he was shaken on a wagon in a blinding blizzard, and left on the prairie to fight it out. He walked for hours, finally taking refuge in a haystack, where he fell asleep. The amputation of both legs below the knees, the left arm below the elbow, and the greater part of the right hand was necessitated.

Without father or mother and help less, he became a charge of the county. He made a bargain with the county commissioners. He suggested that they send him to Carleton college at Northfield, promising if they would do that he would relieve them of all further responsibility in his case. He kept his bargain.

Michael J. Dowling was born in Huntington, Mass., February 17, 1866. Left motherless when 10 years old, he came west with his father to St. Louis and later to Chicago, where he attended school. He sold papers on the streets. When his father died, he struck out for Minnesota, and until the winter of 1880-81 worked as a farm hand.

For two years young Dowling attended Carleton college. He taught school for seven years and then founded and published the Renville Star-Farmer. He became president of the Renville State bank. At his death

(Continued on page two)

he was president of the State Bank of Olivia, where he had his home. He was married in Atlanta, Ga., in 1895, to Miss Jennie L. Bordewich, who survives him.

Michael J. Dowling has been chief clerk, member and speaker of the house of representatives of the Minnesota legislature. He was secretary of the National Republican league from 1895 to 1897, and represented the governor on an educational mission to the Philippines in 1900. He was speaker of the house of representatives in 1904.

Active in the Red Cross during the war, Mr. Dowling made a trip to England and told the story of his life to crippled soldiers in government hospitals. He also visited soldier hospitals in the United States.

The Michael J. Dowling school for crippled children at Eighteenth and Dupont avenues N., was named after him.

In the extra legal republican elimination convention last spring which nominated Jacob A. O. Preus for governor, Mr. Dowling was a gubernatorial candidate.

"My friends laugh because I say I feel sorry for a cripple, and that I thank God that I am a cripple," he was quoted recently as saying. "But I am not bluffing or posing when I say that I believe I have proved that being a 'cripple' is more a state of mind than of body. There is only one really insurmountable handicap, so far as I can determine. That is the loss of the inner power which we call the mind.

"Life is just as rich for me in the things which really count as for any man—far more so than for some men. I have wife, family, business and a dozen interests besides. Handicap? Why a handicap is just a chance for a good honest fight."

Governor Preus today gave out a statement in which he said:

"I am deeply grieved to learn of the death of Mr. Dowling. I considered him one of my most valuable friends. He has been active in Minnesota affairs for the last 25 years, and his influence has always been for good. He was one of the pioneers of the good roads movement. During the war his services to the country were extremely valuable. His success in spite of physical handicap has been an inspiration to many others with physical handicaps. It shows what a man of determination can do."

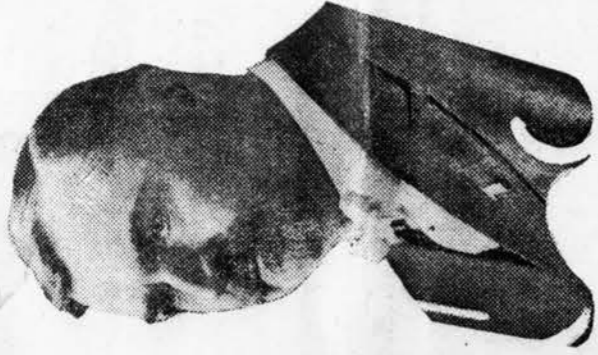
DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00186

NOTED STATE BANKER DIES IN ST. PAUL



—Photo by Lee Bros.
MICHAEL J. DOWLING

APOPLEXY TAKES M. J. DOWLING Victim of Stizzard Hardships Was Inspiration to Cripples

Michael J. Dowling, of Olivia, banker, talked of last year as republican candidate for governor, died in St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, at 4 o'clock this morning. Apoplexy was the cause. He was 55 years old.

He was taken to the hospital about 10 days ago, after a complete breakdown, Dr. Charles Lyman Greene, the attending physician, said.

The tragedy that overcame Mr. Dowling in early youth by which he lost both hands and feet in a Minnesota blizzard, and how he overcame that handicap, has been an inspiration for cripples, and especially, maine veterans of the world war.

As a boy of 14, he was shaken on a wagon in a blinding blizzard, and left on the prairie to fight it out. He walked for hours, finally taking refuge in a haystack, where he fell asleep. The amputation of both legs below the knees, the left arm below the elbow, and the greater part of the right hand was necessitated.

Without father or mother and help less, he became a charge of the county commissioners. He suggested that they send him to Carleton college at Northfield, promising that if they did that he would relieve them of all further responsibility in his case. He kept his bargain.

Michael J. Dowling was born in Huntington, Mass., February 17, 1866. Left mother with his father to St. Louis and came west to Chicago, where he attended school. He sold papers on the street, out for Minnesota, and until the winter of 1880-81 worked as a farm hand.

For two years young Dowling attended Carleton college. He taught school for seven years and then founded and published the Renville State-Farmer. He became president of the Renville State bank.

(Continued on page two)

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Michael J. Dowling has been chief clerk, member and speaker of the Minnesota house of representatives of the Minnesota National Republican league for the last 18 years.

Active in the Red Cross during the world war, Mr. Dowling made a trip to England and told the story of his life to crippled soldiers in government hospitals. He also visited soldier hospitals in the United States.

The Michael J. Dowling school for crippled children at Eighteenth and Dupont avenues N., was named after him.

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Why a handicap is just a chance for a good honest fight.

Governor Preus today gave out a statement in which he said: "I am deeply grieved to learn of the death of Mr. Dowling. He was one of my most valuable citizens. He has been active in Minnesota affairs for the last 25 years and his influence has always been for good. He was one of the pioneers of the good roads movement. During the war his services to the country were extremely valuable. His success in spite of physical handicap has always been an inspiration to many others with physical handicaps. It shows what a man of determination can do."

Mourning Thousands Pay Dowling Tribute

Funeral Held in Olivia for Crippled Minnesotan Who Won World Fame.

Veterans Stand as Guards of Honor for Man Whose Life Inspired Disabled.

Olivia, Minn., April 28.—Thousands of persons joined with Olivia today in paying final tribute to Michael J. Dowling, internationally known resident of this city, who died in a St. Paul hospital last night after a brief illness. There was many a tear-dimmed eye in the long, slow-moving, silent column that wound through the streets of the Kennebec county court house for three hours to view the body that lay in state here from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. They passed from miles around, from every part of the state, by automobile, horse and train in tribute to "Mike" Dowling, honored by his efforts to bring cheer and encouragement to thousands of soldiers crippled by the World war.

Veterans Stand Guard.

Around the casket in the courthouse grounds, eight members of the local post of the American Legion stood as a guard of honor—mute tribute to the man who had done so much to bring hope to their buddies who had lost a limb or more in the war "over there."

Active pall bearers were selected from some Olivia friends who belonged to the same Olivia social club here as Mr. Dowling, they were: Dr. C. H. Melander, J. N. Freeman, James Empoy, William A. French, T. H. Collyer and C. O. Precke.

Olivia Closes All Business.

Olivia, business paused between 9 o'clock and 11 a. m. and 4:30 p. m. in accordance with a proclamation issued by Mayor A. A. Passer. The door of each store was closed, and the streets playing a blinding bore a placard displaying a picture of Mr. Dowling and the motto: "We mourn our loss."

For the hundreds of visitors that came in by train or automobile for only a few hours stay, the large armory was thrown open as a resting place to meet the demand.

Arrangements were made for a public funeral to meet the state officials for (Continued on page two)

St. Paul who arrived at 2:30 p. m. in a special coach over the Milwaukee road. They were taken directly to the Dowling home for the services there.

Mr. Dowling came here to Olivia in 1902 from Renville where he had been engaged in banking and other business. He took up banking here and became president of the Olivia State bank. He was 55 years old. Surviving him are his widow and three daughters, Dorothy and Margery, who are students at Carleton college, Northfield, and Catherine, who has been at home.

Messages continued to come in today from all parts of the country and a number were received from abroad. One of the messages was from T. E. Sible of Dulais, who accompanied Mr. Dowling to Europe in 1919, on the "campaign of cheer" for soldiers crippled by the war.

Like Mr. Dowling, Mr. Sible was crippled, having lost a hand and an arm. Mr. Dowling lost both hands and both feet as the result of having become lost in a snow storm when 14 years old.

Among those to take part in the funeral services was Miss Marie McCormick, well known singer of Fargo, N. D., whose father was a comrade of Mr. Dowling.

Doctor Describes Nerve of Boy of 14.

Appleton, Wis., April 23.—Many intimate incidents of the life of Michael J. Dowling's fight for life when his legs and an arm and a hand were amputated were told today by J. D. W. Little of Appleton, who attended young Mike at the time of the operation.

Doctor Little was an interne in the office of Doctor Farnsworth at Carleton, Minn., at the time. The actual operation was performed by Doctor Farnsworth and Doctor Andrews, with Doctor Little assisting.

"I remember well when Dowling was brought in to Doctor Farnsworth's office," Doctor Little said today. "It was about a week or two after he was amputated. It was thought that there was only a very slight chance of his surviving but we took that chance.

"The operation was successful, and he made a wonderful recovery, due very largely, I think, to his grit and determination to get well, as well as to his cheerful and sunny disposition, as he always looked on the bright side of things.

Seldom Lost Nerve.

"We had no trained nurses at that time, and as the doctor's assistant I felt to me to act as nurse, attending to the changing the bandages, feeding the boy, and looking after him generally. He was a very little chap (he was 14 years old) and I think I never saw him lose his nerve but twice in the two or three months that I had charge of him.

"Two or three weeks after the operation, the ligament which tied up some of the arteries had to be taken off, which was very painful, as it had to be pulled away. I told him as it had to be pulled away, but that I would stop if he would hurt, but that I would stop if he yelled. I started pulling and he began to yell. I kept on pulling until the ligament

M. J. DOWLING DEAD; WON WORLD FAME

Continued from Page 1.

for myself that clean hands were an asset in this business, and so I was proud to show that they were clean."

Aspired to Be Cowboy.

The site was made and the youth was privileged to pin the flowers on with his own hands. In payment, he received a \$5 bill and the advice "Always keep your hands clean—in every way."

In his lectures he usually smiled broadly at this juncture and then remarked, at this time, "I have marked the problem of keeping my hands clean as always the other way of keeping 'clean hands' to be remembered."

Aspiring to become a cowboy, he cut loose from his father and came to Minnesota two years later, and until the winter of 1889-91, when he was heard and he worked as a herder and a cowherd. He got 600 cattle which he was to take care of during the season at \$250 a head. This was his chance to make a state.

The day before he was to turn his herd over to their respective owners, Oct. 14, a rainstorm set in which turned to sleet. The sleet and the frozen breath of the Glette rapidly formed a mass over their heads which if let alone would have suffocated them to death. But "Mike" knocked the ice them for 48 hours, knocking it from the faces of his cattle and saved every one. Other herders lost heavily.

Caught in Snowstorm.

It was his love for animals that resulted indirectly in the loss of his hands. Having by this time lost all track of his father, the boy lavished all his affections on the pony he had purchased. He was desirous of gaining more education, but arranged to board his pony farmer's nine miles away and one December day arrived to visit the pony before starting to school. Two farmers were to make the trip and he arranged to accompany them in their lumber wagon. When the party had gone several miles a storm overtook them. Knowing their danger together, they the team up and raced together. They were enveloped in the blizzard which struck a bump which threw them all down.

His appeal was not known, and he was left to make his way as best he could. Soon he found a woodpile. Knowing there must be a house near, he climbed to the top and threw stick after stick as far as he could in a circle trying to hit the house. Falling in this, he took an armful of wood and walked about 50 paces from the pile and repeated the process. Then he lost the woodpile. Wandering blindly, he plumped into a straw pile and realizing this was his last chance, crawled into it. There he remained until the next day. He crawled out and discovered his legs and arms, were frozen, and crawled half a mile to the farmhouse.

Legs and One Arm Amputated.

A physician was hastily called and after treatment had been given it was found necessary to amputate both legs below the knee and one arm below the elbow. The fingers and part of the thumb on the right had were also removed.

A few weeks later he celebrated his 15th birthday. After he had spent all his hard won money on doctor bills the county took charge of him.

The boy refused to become a county charge. He bargained with the county commissioners, promising that if they would send him two terms to Carleton college he would relieve the bargain of their responsibility. The artificial limbs kept. They furnished a school, and sent him. After leaving school, Dowling became a country school teacher at the end of the he painted fences, in quick succession he received two terms, ran a roller skating rink, acted as principal of the Essex Granite Falls school and still acted as superintendent of schools, who acted as secretary of a newspaper, was secretary of the Western Press association and then became a real estate dealer, banker and finally entered politics.

Becomes President of Bank.

He founded and published the Renville Star-Tribune, became president of

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Becomes President of Bank.

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ALLIES 50 BI

M. J. DOWLING DEAD; WON WORLD FAME DESPITE HANDICAP

Physical Breakdown Which Brought on End Due to Efforts to Help Others.

LIFE STORY TOLD IN
PALACES AND COTTAGES

Olivia Banker Lost Legs and Hands in Boyhood—Funeral Thursday.

Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, known as Minnesota's optimist, who, despite a childhood tragedy which resulted in the loss of both legs and hands, overcame physical handicaps and attained success, died today from overwork. Death came to him in St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, with his wife, three daughters and his secretary at his bedside. The physical breakdown which ended his life was directly due to his efforts to help others similarly handicapped in life. Dr. Charles Lyman Greene, his attending physician, said today.

Collapses After Lecture Tour.

The exertion of an international speaking tour during the war, followed by a return to the demands of his private business and many other interests, overtaxed his energy. Two weeks ago he returned from a lecture tour to his home in Olivia, where he collapsed. He was taken to St. Paul and, shortly after entering the hospital, he was stricken with an attack of apoplexy. The stroke was due to his weakened condition, Dr. Greene said.

The life story of Michael J. Dowling has been told in the palaces of royalty and the homes of the poor. It followed the flag of the Allied armies and brought cheer to thousands of men who were maimed and battered in the world conflict. It is known to thousands of crippled children throughout several nations and in Minneapolis Mr. Dowling's name was perpetuated in designating the school for handicapped children as the Michael J. Dowling school.

Born at Huntington, Mass.

Michael John Dowling was born at Huntington, Mass., Feb. 17, 1866. His parents were John Jerome and Honora Barry Dowling. His mother died when he was 10 years old. His father, being a rover by nature and a carpenter by trade, struck for the west after the death of his wife and soon sent for "Mike" to join him at St. Louis. A few days later he was met by "Mike" in Chicago and it was there that the boy had an experience that was used as a basis for Mr. Dowling's future code of life.

Being ambitious, he was attending school during the day and selling flowers and newspapers at night, outside McVicker's theater. One night a luxurious carriage drew up to the entrance and a well-dressed man and woman stepped out. Young Dowling had just one bouquet left and offered it for sale. The man peered at the flowers, turned to the woman and asked if she would like them. Receiving her assent he sharply asked the young salesman to show his hands. As Mr. Dowling later said, "I had figured out

Continued on Page 15.

State's Optimist Dead



Michael J. Dowling, aged 55, Olivia banker, who died today, had won international fame for his success, despite the loss of his legs and hands in boyhood. His efforts to assist others similarly handicapped helped to bring on his death.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Morris, Minn., Tribune
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

Mike Dowling of Olivia died this week and the whole of Minnesota is the loser. He had every excuse for being a public charge thruout his whole life, and instead of that he passes on leaving the public heavily his debtor. He was left an orphan at a tender age, and then as a boy lost both legs and both arms by freezing in a blizzard, and yet he won success, not only in a financial way but also in the esteem of a host of friends and the general recognition of the value of his public service. He became prominent politically, served as speaker of the Minnesota House, and was ever an influential member of the Republican party, but his greatest service was as a promoter of good roads, good schools, and the good things in community, state and nation. His crowning service was the cheer which he gave to soldiers in the hospitals of this country and England during and since the World War.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Morristown (Minn.) Press
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

Minnesota lost another of her foremost citizens this week in the death of the Honorable M. J. Dowling of Olivia. As a poor and unfortunate lad with the future dark he rose to be a leader of men. His success in life can be placed on his indomitable will power.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00187

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

New Prague (Minn.) Times.
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

of this great family journal of com-
munity uplift.

The memory of Michael J. Dowling
will long be revered as one who
surmounting seemingly impossible
barriers and handicaps attained great-
ness and affluence and who then
devoted his life, his mind and his
resources to aiding and cheering
other unfortunates of his fellowmen.

NEW PR

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

New Uln (Minn.) Review.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1921

M. J. DOWLING DEAD.

M. J. Dowling, well-known banker
of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success
in life after losing his hands and lower
limbs in a blizzard when still a youth,
died at a St. Paul hospital, Monday,
aged 55 years. For the past two years,
Mr. Dowling had been touring the
country in the interest of disabled war
veterans. At the close of the World
conflict, he went to England upon the
solicitation of the British government
and the British Red Cross, and for
more than eight months lectured to
British war wounded on rehabilitation
problems. Death was due to heart
disease, super-induced by exertions on
his tour. He had been in the hospital
two weeks. Mr. Dowling is survived
by his widow and three children.
The funeral will be held at Olivia to-
morrow (Thursday) afternoon.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

New Uln (Minn.) News.
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

Mr. Dowling passes beyond.

Michael Dowling late republican
candidate for governor died at St.
Paul at the age of 55 years. He
resigned his chance in the guber-
natorial contest in favor of J. A.
Preus. Mr. Dowling lost his legs
in a snow storm when he was a
boy and despite this handicap rose
to international fame as one who
did much to help those who were
in a like condition, especially the
men in the late war who had their

arms and legs shot off. His code
was to have clean hands, both
morally and physically. Governor
Preus called Mr. Dowling, "One
of my most worthy friends" and
further tells of Mr. Dowling's con-
tinual influence for good; his in-
domitable will in overcoming his
handicaps and his great love of his
fellow men, which in a measure,
owing to his strenuous exertions
on the lecture platform, contribut-
ed to bring about his early death.
The writer feels keenly the death
of a true citizen.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

New Uln (Minn.) Journal
SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

AN UNFALTERING SPIRIT.

Michael J. Dowling, banker, who
died in Minnesota recently, be-
queathed the inspiration of a staunch
spirit to all who falter and complain.
"What are our bodies worth?" he was
fond of asking. "A man may be worth
\$100,000 a year from the neck up and
not a dollar a day from the neck
down." Of limbs he had none, save
one arm minus its hand. The others
were amputated by surgeons when, as
a boy, he was frozen in a blizzard.
Young Dowling went to the county
commissioner, but not in quest of
charity. He proposed that they send
him to college, and consider the ex-
pense as a debt he must repay. He
repaid them. Fence painter, school
teacher, principal and superintendent,
insurance writer, editor, real estate
dealer, and finally banker and politi-
cian, Dowling proved that bodies are
just the habitations of the will. A
large souled man, who lived his life
in a big way, Dowling's memory should
remain as a rebuke to the whiners of
life.—Portland Oregonian.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Northfield (Minn.) News
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

M. J. DOWLING.

Many Northfield friends of Mr. Dow-
ling were shocked and grieved to hear
of his death in St. Paul Monday. A
successful business man and banker,
who had held many positions of honor
and trust in Minnesota, Mike Dowling
of Olivia won international fame for
his success despite the loss of his legs
and hands in boyhood.

His efforts to help others similarly
handicapped in life brought on his
death which was caused by heart dis-
ease superinduced by the exertion of
his lecture tours.

At the age of fourteen years, Mr.
Dowling was invalidated by the loss of
both legs and both hands. He fell
from a wagon in a blinding blizzard.
Two men who were sitting in the front
seat did not know in the storm that
the boy was missing. After walking

for hours, he found a hay stack, craw-
led into it and fell asleep. The expo-
sure necessitated the amputation of
both legs below the knees, the left
arm below the elbow and the greater
part of the right hand and thumb. Par-
entless and helpless he became a
county charge but soon found a way
to help himself. He bargained with
the county commissioners who became
interested in his case and sent him
to Carleton college. Since then his
rise had been rapid.

Mr. Dowling was always a good
friend of Carleton. A daughter, Dor-
othy, is a Senior this year and another
daughter, Margaret, is a Freshman.
Mr. and Mrs. Dowling motored to
Northfield frequently and had many
acquaintances here.

Mike Dowling's friends were legion
all over Minnesota and his unexpected
death has called forth a flood of trib-
utes to his character, ability and per-
severance.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00188

Olivia (Minn.) Times
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921

All that remained mortal of Michael J. Dowling was laid to rest in the City cemetery Thursday afternoon, while thousands of citizens from all parts of the state joined with the home friends and neighbors in paying tribute to the memory of Olivia's first citizen.

By train and by automobile came thousands of friends to show their esteem and affection for the man who, though crippled early in life, became the living example of courage and optimism, and by noon the village was crowded with people. The west-bound Coast train stopped at Olivia and State officials, headed by Lieutenant Governor Collins, representatives of nearly all of the Minneapolis banks, officials of the Minnesota Bankers' association, friends of long standing, arrived from Minneapolis just before the funeral services and were taken to the Dowling home.

For three hours, from 11 a. m. until 2 p. m. the body lay in state in the rotunda of the court house, and during that time several hundred people viewed the remains. The body was then taken back to the Dowling home on DePue avenue and for an hour many others passed through the house. At the appointed hour for the services the crowd which congregated at the home numbered several thousand and filled the street and adjoining lots for nearly a block from the residence.

Officiating at the ceremony were Rev. C. E. Hixon, Episcopal clergyman of Minneapolis; Father Henry Peralta of the Olivia Catholic church, and Rev. William Emery of the Methodist Episcopal church of Olivia. Two songs were sung, favorites of his, "Abide With Me," and "A Perfect Day," by a favorite relative, Miss Marie McCormick, a cousin of Fargo. The pallbearers included Dr. George Mesker, W. French, J. M. Freeman, C. O. Brecke, Jas. Empey and T. E. Cady.

Honorary pallbearers, men who had long been intimate with Mr. Dowling, were F. G. Nellerhoe of St. Paul, P. J. Schaffer, L. S. Swenson and E. H. Erickson of Minneapolis, J. R. Landy, B. A. Tersteeg, Geo. Windhorst and T. P. McIntyre, Olivia; L. D. Barnard and Judge Daly, Renville; Dr. D. R. Miller, Bird Island, and L. H. Kraemer, Granite Falls.

There was no eulogy spoken. It wasn't necessary. In every heart the eulogy for Michael Dowling was being voiced. Everyone in the vast throng that stood with uncovered heads, on the wind-swept lawn surrounding the home, while the simple services were being conducted inside knew the story of his life. That story of grit and courage and perseverance and optimism and sympathy was uppermost in the thoughts of those who followed the mortal remains to the cemetery.

Margaret Jones, a crippled girl, known to Michael Dowling as "Pollyanna"—represented the children of the Dowling school. With her teachers she came to pay her tribute and that of her schoolmates to the man who had been an inspiration to the crippled children of Minneapolis.

Nels Juel, member of the Minneapolis Board of Education was also present.

The floral display in the home and at the cemetery was most profuse and beautiful. There were wreaths from the Elk and I. O. O. F. lodges and other organizations, and from personal friends in all parts of the state. The most attractive and magnificent of these was a large floral piece representing a United States flag, presented by the citizens of Bird Island.

Following the service over the remains of Mr. Dowling at the cemetery a short service was held over the remains of Mr. Bordewich, father of Mrs. Dowling, who died some years ago in Norway and whose ashes had been shipped here, the interment taking place on the occasion of Mr. Dowling's funeral.

Early Thursday all business places in Olivia were closed and every mark of respect possible was shown. The whole community joined with the bereaved relatives in mourning its great loss.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Olivia (Minn.) Times
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921

public officials joined in a personal visit to Washington."

—oOo—

A mighty good suggestion is offered in today's Times by L. J. Lauerman, who recommends as a suitable memorial to the late M. J. Dowling the cleaning up and beautifying of Olivia. On several occasions Mr. Dowling pointed out the possibility and feasibility of making Olivia distinctive among the prairie villages of Minnesota. He wanted Olivia known and spoken of as the most beautiful, attractive and home-like little city to be found on the broad prairies of Minnesota. He showed how this could be done by increasing the number of beauty spots to be found in town and by a systematic and co-operative effort at civic improvement. Wherever he went on speech-making tours of the country he always referred with pride to his home town of Olivia, as the best town, in the best part of the best state of the country. Surely the dressing up Olivia, under the direction of a landscape artist, the beautifying of its grounds and parks, and the erection of a monument on one of its prominent sites, would be a most appropriate and fitting memorial to the memory of the great man, whose death was such a distinct loss to this community.

—oOo—

tonight at the armor in Olivia 23 young

Pollock's Chicago Bureau

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Olivia, Minn., Journal
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921

THOUSANDS ATTEND FUNERAL

Memory of M. J. Dowling Honor by Admirers From all Over the State Funeral Held Thursday

Thousands of people from all walks of life paused in their mad rush for an existence to honor the memory of a departed friend last Thursday when the funeral of M. J. Dowling was held in Olivia. Among those who gathered here were prominent men from all over the state and friends and admirers from almost every town in the adjoining counties. All the local schools were dismissed for the day which allowed the children to visit the court house where the body lay in state between the hours of 11 a. m. and 2 p. m. during which time hundreds of town and country people viewed the remains for the last time.

All business places were closed between the hours of 11 a. m. and 4:30 p. m. Funeral services were held at the home shortly after three o'clock where a large throng gathered. Rev. Hixson of Minneapolis, Rev. Emery and Father Pomeji of Olivia took part in the ceremony. The floral display in the home was beautiful, large numbers of friends of the family having presented flowers of all descriptions. Hundreds of people were present at the home and accompanied the remains to the cemetery for their final resting place.

Services were held over the remains of Mrs. Dowling's father, Mr. Bordewich, whose ashes had been brought from Norway where he died some years ago.

Members of the local post of the American Legion and Co. H were stationed at the court house, the home and cemetery as well as on our streets to assist in relieving the congested condition.

Though badly crippled at an early age, Mr. Dowling did not lack the courage to live and by living and striving he won and made a life that is an inspiration to thousands, one which should live through generations.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Olivia (Minn.) Times
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921

the world has ever known?

AN UNFALTERING SPIRIT

Michael J. Dowling, banker, who died in Minnesota recently, bequeathed the inspiration of a staunch spirit to all who falter and complain. "What are our bodies worth?" he was fond of asking. "A man may be worth \$100,000 a year from the neck up and not a dollar a day from the neck down." Of limbs he had none, save one arm minus its hand. The others were amputated by surgeons when, as a boy, he was frozen in a blizzard. Young Dowling went to the county commissioner but not in quest of charity. He proposed that they send him to college, and consider the expense as a debt he must repay. He repaid them. Fence painter, school teacher, principal and superintendent, insurance writer, editor, real estate dealer, and finally banker and politician, Dowling proved that bodies are just the habitations of the will. A large souled man, who lived his life in a big way, Dowling's memory should remain as a rebuke to the whiners of life.—Portland Oregonian.

Pollock's Chicago Bureau

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Olivia, Minn., Journal
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921

HE REFUSED TO BE A CRIPPLE

Readers of the current magazines may have been amazed a month or two ago to read in the American Magazine an account of the life of Michael J. Dowling of Minnesota, a man who in spite of the worst handicap had surmounted to a position of wealth, eminence and influence in his state. Mr. Dowling died about a month ago and his death has again drawn attention to his career.

Forty years ago he was lost in a prairie blizzard in western Minnesota and he emerged from it with such injuries as would have blighted forever any less courageous spirit. He had lost both legs below the knee, one forearm and most of the other hand. But the boy was unconquerable in his misfortune. He became one of that noble company that triumphs even over death.

In his condition it appeared that he would forever be a public charge and he went to the authorities of the county with a business proposition which he showed would be a good thing for the county. If the commissioners would give him two terms at college he would take care of himself after that. He got his schooling and started out on the long road to fame as one of the world's greatest optimists.

He used to say, perhaps jocularly, "I thank God I'm not a cripple." But whether he was in fun or in earnest it conveyed more optimism to those about him than any other utterance he could have made. And he was not a cripple in the place where it hurts most to be a cripple, in the brain. He went through life, first as a country school teacher, as a newspaper editor, as a leader high in political counsels and later as a banker and civic leader, honored for his capabilities. Chiefly, however, these qualities of leadership were apart from and beyond the circumstances of his physical state; again to apply his words, he was not a cripple.

Michael Dowling, it transpired, had suffered no misfortune. He came into fortune when he fought off that deadly sleep on the prairie. That fortune made him a torch-bearer of courage, an inspiration of hope. And he gave that fortune to his fellows. By that he again vanquished death.—Phoenix (Ariz.) Republican.

American Legion Corner



MICHAEL J. DOWLING

To the ex-service men, perhaps no man is better known than the late Michael J. Dowling, who died at St. Lukes Hospital in St. Paul, Monday April 25th. To the buddies of Minnesota he is well known for his activities in politics, his extensive lectures, his keen business ability, all of which were pronounced despite his great physical handicap. To the buddies of the entire nation he is known for his great optimism, never failing under the most trying circumstances.

Mr. Dowling, at the invitation of the British Government, went overseas after the armistice had been signed to spread optimism and good cheer among the men who were in the hospitals, suffering from wounds received while in active service and however low the morale of such men might be, invariably they were benefitted by a visit from Minnesota's great man. Not only did he visit the hospitals occupied by the English troops, but he also called on many of the United States men as well as the wounded of the allied nations.

We recall a story that we heard Mr. Dowling tell as one of his actual experiences while calling at an American hospital in France which, by the way was filled with colored troops just recently brought back from an active sector. While passing thru a ward in the building, Mr. Dowling relates that he came across one colored man who was very despondent because of the fact that he had suffered the loss of a limb in battle. Immediately the optimist, Mr. Dowling, centered his action upon that gentleman, and while sitting on the cot with the wounded man he told him several cheerful stories. All this time the colored trooper was unmindful of the physical condition of Mr. Dowling. His attention was then called to the fact and he was shown conclusively that Mr. Dowling was possessed of two artificial limbs and an artificial arm. The colored trooper smiled and exclaimed. "My God man I ain't hurt, I'm all right."

The following article, taken from the editorial columns of the Minneapolis Tribune, tells more of the great man:

"It is the common way of speech to say that Michael J. Dowling died yesterday. It would be just as true to say that the boy "Mike" Dowling died 40 years ago in the prairie blizzard in western Minnesota that inflicted on him such injuries as would have blighted forever any less courageous spirit than was his. For as the boy was unconquerable in misfortune, so the man was one in that noble company that never dies, but lives on, victor even over death as his splendid example abides with us. So to the cherished, it was given to Michael Dowling to be; and for this—be it said with all sincerity—all those who have been suprered to renewed hope by his career may trace their debt back to the apparent misfortune on the prairie that made what the unthinking called a cripple out of the boy.

"Thank God, I am not a cripple," was Mr. Dowling's way of conveying the counsel of optimism to any who might be on the brink of surrender to physical handicap in any way comparable to his own. "Thank God, I am not a cripple," the boy had said in spirit, when,

having lost both legs below the knees, one forearm and most of his other hand, he made a bargain with the county that would have kept him, a public charge. "I am not a cripple," the boy said in effect when he told the county commissioners that if they would give him two terms at college, he would take care of himself after that. And the bargain was struck; the boy who refused to be a cripple got his schooling and started out on the long road to fame as one of the world's finest optimists. Thereafter his course took him thru life as a country school teacher, as a newspaper editor, as a leader high in political councils, and later as banker and civic leader honored for his capabilities. Chiefly, however, these qualities of leadership were apart from and beyond the circumstances of his physical state; again to apply his words, he was "not a cripple."

"Throughout his life, Mr. Dowling's relations with mankind were touched with sympathy that was one of the gifts of his misfortune. It was when the war came with its maimings and itscripplings of thousands of young bodies, that Mr. Dowling's bowtime misfortune flowered to its real splendor of soul. Into his country's service, well, he went—to carry his message of hope and courage to war's wrecked and maimed. And now, all over this land, as well as in Europe, there must be literally thousands of young men who received from Michael Dowling the spirit of the unconquerable. Just so, too, there must be great numbers of crippled children, like those in the Michael J. Dowling school in Minneapolis, who are striving toward the same goals as those he attained thru his own valor of spirit.

"Michael Dowling suffered no misfortune. He came into fortune when he fought off death's sleep, there on the western prairie; the fortune that made him a torch bearer of courage, an inspiration of hope. And he gave that fortune to his fellows. By that, again, he vanquished death."

A MAN PASSES.

Minnesota lost one of the greatest men in her history Monday morning when Michael J. Dowling, prominent leader in state affairs and Olivia banker, died at a St. Paul hospital. His death leaves only clay to replace the man who served as a shining light to humanity as an example of optimism, fortitude and will to accomplish his own success while at the same time refusing to trespass upon the rights of others or to crush lesser mortals in his steady climb over the sharp and rugged pathway that was his thru nature's adversity. The sympathy for misfortune developed thru his own tribulations resulted in aid for others and personified the type of man upon whom all of us in our most sincere moments look as our ideal.

Born in 1866 Mr. Dowling at the age of 14 years became virtually an absolute cripple thru the loss of both legs, one forearm and most of the other hand. His misfortune was the result of becoming lost in a Minnesota blizzard in the days when much of Minnesota was a wilderness and walking until exhausted before finally finding the poor shelter of a haystack. Crawling into this to gain the rest demanded by nature, his exposure necessitated the amputation of both legs below the knees, the left arm below the elbow and the greater part of the right hand and thumb. Without parents or other relatives to aid him, he became a county charge, but with the will to make his own way in spite of his apparent helplessness, he bargained with the county commissioners for an education, asking two years at Carleton college in exchange for the expense to which the county would be put to pay his keep as a cripple for life. Since his graduation from Carleton his rise has been rapid and his success unflinching, until during the past few years he had reached a place in the life of Minnesota that is probably unequalled by any other man. At the Republican gubernatorial elimination convention last May, one of the strongest candidates, he withdrew from the race to unite the elements of his party and of sound citizenship to defeat radical elements.

During the past two and one-half years, Mr. Dowling has devoted a great share of his time to the interests of men wounded and made invalid by the World war, his example and unflinching optimism aiding many injured veterans to regain their desire to maintain themselves in society regardless of the great injuries which might make them dependents upon it. Bright months of this time he was in England lecturing British war veterans upon rehabilitation problems and aiding them on their way back to useful citizenship in the island kingdom. His activities in the interests of the men who had fought to preserve freedom and civilization was largely the cause of the fatal attack of heart disease to which Mr. Dowling succumbed.

"Thank God I am not a cripple," said Michael Dowling, when he asked the county commissioners to aid him in a real start in life rather than to keep him as a public charge. The boy was not a cripple, altho to all appearances he suffered handicaps which would break forever the spirit of a strong man. His body, the lesser part of the Dowling makeup may have been a poor thing, but the vital parts of him, his soul and will, were fine, unstanding things.

A man has passed. The mortal clay of Michael J. Dowling lies cold in death but his example, the memory of his fortitude and indomitable will to succeed in spite of the worst that nature could do, lives on.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

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Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Ortonville, Minn., Independent

MICHAEL J. DOWLING.

That Michael J. Dowling died at five o'clock this morning was the sad and shocking message sent out over the wires to the state and nation and the civilized world last Monday, for his fame was world-wide and the number of his friends and admirers was equalled by but few men of this generation.

His achievements were marvelous, and his example of pluck and perseverance under a handicap that would have discouraged most men, will go down in history for ages as an inspiration to all men. For without either hands or feet, by sheer pluck and power of will, he made a mark up in the nitch of fame and was of real service to mankind. "Mike" Dowling has passed on but he still lives.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

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Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Perham, Minn., Bulletin
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

Bran, in ton lots	2.4
Oats	1.4
Barley	28.38
Provisions—	
Eggs	.18
Butter	.35
Beans, per cwt.	3.00
Flour, 49's	2.45
Flour, 98's	4.80
Pork	.11
Veal	.09

to pay it in four installments. For his first installment he bought a one cent money order for which he paid three cents.

MIKE DOWLING

Death removed one of the outstanding figures in Minnesota political life when Michael J. Dowling died Monday at St. Luke's hospital. Prominent as a banker at Olivia, Minn., and as a politician throughout the state, his success as a man of business and public service, is not that which excited the admiration of all who knew him or of him. It was the indomitable pluck of the man that made him famous.

As a boy of fourteen he fell, half frozen from a wagon which he was riding during a fierce blizzard. His two companions on the front seat did not know that he was missing. After walking for hours he sought refuge in a hay stack and fell asleep.

His arms and legs were so frozen that amputation was necessary. He recovered but with both legs gone below the knees, the left arm off below the elbow and the greater part of his right hand and thumb missing. He was consigned to the poor farm, apparently a hopeless case.

Dowling interested the county commissioners in his case and he was sent to Carlton Colleg (Minn.) and from then on his rise was assured and he lived to become one of the best known and most popular men in the state.

The following story of Dowling is one that may be well taken to heart:

Being ambitious, the young fellow was attending school day times and selling flowers and papers at night outside the famous McVicker's theater.

One night a luxurious carriage drew up to the entrance and a well-dressed man and woman stepped out. Young Dowling had just one bouquet left and he offered it for sale.

The man peered at the flowers, turned to the woman and asked her if she would like them. On receiving her assent, he sharply asked the young salesman to show his hands.

"Clean Hands," His Code.

As Mr. Dowling later said, "I had figured out for myself that clean hands were an asset in this business and so I was proud to show that they were clean."

The sale was made and the youth was privileged to pin the flowers on with his own hands. In payment he received a \$5 bill and the advice "always keep your hands clean—clean in every way."

In his lectures he usually smiled broadly at this juncture and then remarked: "The time soon came when the problem of keeping my hands clean in a physical sense was nil but there was always the other way of keeping 'clean hands' to be remembered."

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Pittsager (Minn.) Herald
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

zens.
Michael A. Dowling, another of Minnesota's illustrious sons, passed to his reward Monday in a St. Paul hospital. As a boy he lost both legs and hands as a result of their being frozen when he became lost in a snowstorm. But persistence and patience won until he became a prominent man in both Minnesota and the United States. For eight months he lectured in England to disabled veterans on the rehabilitation problems. He was a successful banker at Olivia, Minn., and was groomed as a republican candidate for governor last fall. His life in the meeting of the elements and overcoming them is a story that everyone can well take to heart and proves that a man may be out but never down.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Pipestone, Minn. Star
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

WELL KNOWN CRIPPLED
BANKER DIES

Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital at St. Paul on Monday. He was 55 years old.

Exposure in a blizzard when he was 14 years old resulted in amputation of both legs, his left arm and the fingers of his right hand, and Dowling became a county charge. He later bargained with the county commissioners, pledging that if they would send him to college he would become self-supporting. His determination won acceptance of his plan and he was sent to Carleton college. His success became nationwide.

Following the armistice, at the request of the British government Mr. Dowling toured England lecturing to disabled soldiers. For two and a half years he similarly toured the United States.

Death was caused by heart disease superinduced by exertions of his lecture tour, his physicians said. Mr. Dowling is survived by his wife and three children.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

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RED LAKE FALLS GAZETTE

**M. J. DOWLING DEAD;
WON WORLD FAME**

Lost Legs and Hands in Early Day
Snow Storm—Funeral To Be
Held at Olivia Today

Michael J. Dowling, Olivia banker, well known to many Red Lake county people died at St. Paul Monday, death being due to a physical breakdown, due to his efforts to help others, handicapped tho he was himself.

The life story of Michael J. Dowling has been told in the palaces of royalty and the home of the poor. It followed the flag of the Allied armies and brought cheer to thousands of men who were maimed and battered in the world conflict.

Michael John Dowling was born at Huntington, Mass., 1866. His parents were John Jerome and Honora Barry Dowling. His mother died when he was 10 years old. His father, being a rover by nature and a carpenter by trade, struck for the west after the death of his wife and soon sent for "Mike" to join him at St. Louis.

Soon tiring of that city he moved to Chicago and it was there that the boy had an experience that was used as a basis for Mr. Dowling's future code of life.

Being ambitious, he was attending school during the day and selling flowers and newspapers at night, outside McVicker's theater. One night a luxurious carriage drew up to the entrance and a well dressed man and woman stepped out. Young Dowling had just one bouquet left and offered it for sale. The man peered at the flowers, turned to the woman and asked if she would like them. Receiving her assent he sharply asked the young salesman to show his hands. As Mr. Dowling later said, "I had figured out for myself that clean hands were an asset in this business, and so I was proud to show that they were clean."

The sale was made and the youth was privileged to pin the flowers on with his own hands. In payment he received a \$5 bill and the advice "always keep your hands clean—clean in every way."

In his lectures he usually smiled broadly at this juncture and then remarked, "the time soon came when the problem of keeping my hands clean in a physical sense was nil but there was always the other way of keeping 'clean hands' to be remembered."

Aspiring to become a cowboy, he cut loose from his father and came to Minnesota two years later, and until the winter of 1880-81, when he was 14 years old, he worked as a farm hand and cowherd. He got together a herd of between 500 and 600 cattle which he was to care for during the season at \$1.50 a head. This was his chance to make a stake. The day before he was to turn over to their respective owner, Oct. 14, a rainstorm set in which turned to sleet. The sleet and frozen breath of the cattle rapidly formed a mask over their heads which if let alone would have suffocated them to death. But "Mike" went among them for 48 hours, knocking the ice from their faces of the cattle and saved every

one. Other herders lost heavily.

It was his love for animals that resulted indirectly in the loss of his hands. Having by this time lost all track of his father the boy lavished all his affections on the pony he had purchased. Being desirous of gaining more education he arranged to board his pony at a farmer's nine miles away and one December day arrived to visit the pony before starting to school. Two farmers were to make the trip and he arranged to accompany them in their lumber-wagon. When the party had gone several miles a storm overtook them. Knowing their danger they whipped the team up and raced for shelter. They were enveloped in the whipping maelstrom and the wagon struck a bump which threw young Dowling out.

His absence was not noticed and he was left to make his way as best he could. Soon he found a woodpile. Knowing there must be a house near, he climbed to the top and threw stick after stick as far as he could in a circle trying to hit the house. Falling in this, he took an armful of wood and walked about 50 paces from the pile and repeated the process. Then he lost the woodpile. Wandering blindly, he plumped into a straw pile and realizing this was his last chance, crawled into it. There he remained battling against the fatal sleep of chill until the next day. He crawled out and discovered his legs and arms were frozen, and crawled half a mile to the farmhouse.

A physician was hastily called and after treatment had been given it was found necessary to amputate his legs below the knee and one arm below the elbow. The fingers and part of the thumb on the right had to be removed also.

A few weeks later he celebrated his 15th birthday.

After he had spent all his hard won money on doctor bills the county took charge of him.

The boy refused to become a county charge. He bargained with the county board, promising that if they would send him two terms to Carleton college he would relieve them of further responsibility. The bargain was kept. They furnished artificial limbs and sent him. After leaving school Dowling became a country school teacher at the end of the agreed two terms. In quick succession he painted fences, ran a roller skating rink, acted as principal of the East Granite Falls school and still later as superintendent of schools, wrote insurance, edited a newspaper, was secretary of the Western Press association and then became a real estate dealer, banker and finally entered politics.

He founded and published the Renville Star-Farmer, became president of the Renville State Bank, and later attained the same position in the State Bank of Olivia, with which he was associated when he died.

Funeral services are being held at Olivia this (Thursday) afternoon.

MICHAEL J. DOWLING

The death of the Hon. Michael J. Dowling of Renville county removes from the activities of the state one of its foremost citizens. Mr. Dowling was an unusual man and successful in what he undertook to an unusual degree. The tremendous handicap of starting out in life without limbs, having frozen both his hands and his feet so as to necessitate amputations, cannot be understood by those who meet with only ordinary difficulties. Left to languish in a poor house, hopelessly crippled, he broke through the seemingly unpenetrable barriers to an education and won a position in life which might well be the envy of any man.

He entered newspaper work and was successful. He became interested in politics and engaged in extensive campaigning tours. He served as chief clerk of the House of Representatives for several sessions, and later was a member and speaker of the House. Once or twice he was within sight of a seat in Congress and the Governorship. He was secretary of the National Republican League during the McKinley campaign and his work was recognized by President McKinley, Mark Hanna and political leaders throughout the nation.

He became interested in banking and other business enterprises and in everything heved out success with a determination that was remarkable and which could not fail of success. With his artificial limbs he worked and walked and got along physically pretty nearly as well as the average man who has the use of a perfect body.

But the innumerable friends of Michael J. Dowling will remember him most of all because of his big and sympathetic heart. Service to others was a part of his religion. During and since the war he traveled extensively in Europe and America, speaking to maimed soldiers in whose hearts he awakened new hope, despite their hopelessness, by showing them and telling them what obstacles could be overcome by patience and application. His efforts to improve the condition of victims of the world war was a heavy strain on his vitality and contributed greatly to his early death at the age of 55. Mr. Dowling's rich vein of humor, too, was one of his delightful traits. There was no gloom where he was. He made others cheerful and hopeful wherever he went.

Many are they who will remember "Mike" Dowling with love, respect and gratitude.

WOOD FALLS

REDWOOD FALLS, MINNESOTA, APRIL 29, 1921



Michael J. Dowling.

M. J. DOWLING PASSES

Olivia Banker Won World Fame Despite Great Handicap.

Death Indirectly Due to His Strenuous Lecture Trips to Inspire Disabled Veterans.

Between three and four thousand people gathered at the home of Hon. M. J. Dowling to attend the last sad rites of one of the leading men of our state and nation. For more than an hour those who wished passed through the Dowling home on DePue ave. The funeral was a very impressive one.

The officiating ministers at the funeral were Rev. C. E. Hixson, Episcopal minister of Minneapolis; Father Henry Pomeji of the Olivia Catholic church, Rev. Wm. Emery of the Methodist church of Olivia.

The active pallbearers were, Dr. Geo. Mesker, W. A. French, J. M. Freeman, C. O. Brecke, J. Empey and T. H. Collier.

The honorary pallbearers were, F G Nellerms of St. Paul, P J Schafer, L S Swensen and E H Swenson of Minneapolis, J R Lagdy and T P McIntire of Olivia, L D Barnard and Judge Daily of Renville, Dr. F W Miller of Bird Island, and L H Kraemer of Granite Falls. Burial took place at the Olivia cemetery.

Death came to him in St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, with his wife, three daughters and his secretary at his bedside. The physical breakdown which ended his life was directly due to his efforts to help others similarly handicapped in life. Dr. Charles Lyman Greene, his attending physician, said. The exertion of an international speaking tour during the war, followed by a return to the demands of his private business and many other interests, overtaxed his energy. Two weeks ago he returned from a lecture tour to his home in Olivia, where he collapsed. He was taken to St. Paul and, shortly after entering the hospital, he was stricken with an attack of apoplexy. The stroke was due to his weakened condition, Dr. Greene said.

The life story of Michael J. Dowling has been told in the palaces of royalty and the homes of the poor. It followed the flag of the Allied armies and brought cheer to thousands of men who were maimed and battered in the world conflict.

He was a secretary of the Republican National league from 1895 to 1898 and was appointed special commissioner to the Philippines in 1900 by President McKinley. In 1901 he was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives and was elected speaker. In the last campaign he was urged to run for governor of Minnesota but at the convention which elected Governor Preus pledged his support to the choice of the convention and declined to run.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Red Wing Minn. Republican
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

HIGHEST HONORS PAID DOWLING

Funeral Services for Former Speaker of Minnesota House Held Today.

Olivia, April 28.—Funeral services for the late Michael J. Dowling, prominent business man, banker and state politician were held today. Scores of men in public life, many of them being state officials, attended the funeral.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Red Lake Falls, Minn., Gazette
THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1921

MICHAEL J. DOWLING

(By Larry Ho)

There is no fit word with which to tell the truth about Michael J. Dowling. His life was so wonderful, so genuine, so conquering, that is cannot be written about—it can only be felt. I have always felt that he was the foremost citizen of Minnesota. He was not only worthy of love, but also of admiration. He was not only human and tender and sympathetic he was essentially great. He had an unusual mind; he was a thinker; he was profound and practical and earnest. The good he did cannot be estimated; the contribution he made to happiness, and to worthy service in the world, is incalculable. Some day we will realize how much Minnesota lost when he died. It will be on the day when we fully comprehend how much of the splendid untarnished manhood he bequeathed to us in memories that make life forever a braver and nobler thing.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Redwood Falls, Minn., Sun
FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 1921

spare time, or \$50.00 a week, for full time. Experience unnecessary. Write International Stocking Mills, Norristown, Pa. If

Here is something from the Portland Oregonian which all whiners should post in their hat. "Michael J. Dowling, banker who died in Minnesota recently, bequeathed the inspiration of a staunch spirit to all who falter and complain. "What are your bodies worth?" he was fond of asking. "A man may be worth \$100,000 a year from the neck up and not \$1 a day from the neck down." Of limbs he had none, save one arm minus its hand. The others were amputated by surgeons when, as a boy, he was frozen in a blizzard. Young Dowling went to the county commissioners, but not in quest of charity. He proposed that they send him to college, and consider the expense as a debt he must repay. He repaid them. Fence painter, school teacher, principal and superintendent, insurance writer, editor, real estate dealer, and finally banker and politician, Dowling proved that bodies are just the habitations of the will. A large souled man, who lived his life in a big way Dowling's memory should remain as a rebuke to the whiners of life."

Olivia State Bank 1-18-22

Renville Star Farmer

RENVILLE, MINNESOTA, APRIL 28, 1921

RENVILLE COUNTY'S LEADING CITIZEN GONE

M. J. Dowling, Well Known Throughout State and Nation Succumbs at St. Luke's Hospital, St. Paul, Monday Morning, April 25th.

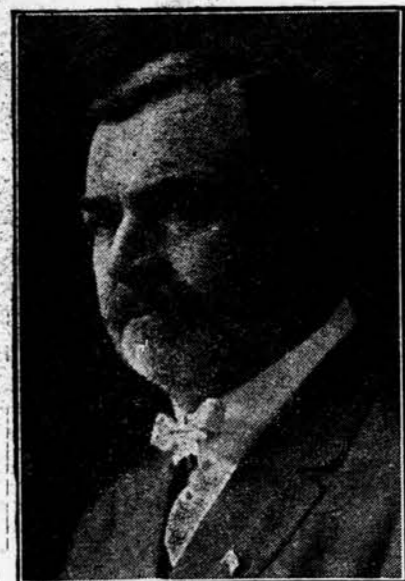
STRAIN AND OVERWORK DURING WAR HASTENS END

His Work Among Hospitals for Crippled Children Well Known—Was Prominent Figure in Public Questions.—Funeral Will be Held Today at Olivia.

The hosts of friends of Hon. M. J. Dowling in Renville county and Minnesota were grieved to learn that he had succumbed to his recent serious illness and passed away at St. Luke's Hospital, St. Paul, on Monday morning at 5:00 o'clock April 25, 1921 in the 55th year of his age. Mr. Dowling had a wonderful successful career. Was born at Huntington, Mass., Feb. 17, 1866. His parents were John Jerome and Hanora Barry Dowling. His mother died when he was ten years old. After the death of his wife, Mr. Dowling, accompanied by his son came to St. Louis and after a time spent there came to Chicago.

Aspiring to be a cowboy, the young lad struck out alone for the west and with a pony for his companion started to herd a drove of cattle in the vicinity of Canby at the early age of 14 years. The story is all familiar to our readers of how he was caught in a blizzard and so frozen he lost an arm, two legs and fingers of one hand. He miraculously survived this shock. In just a few weeks after this he arrived at his 15th birthday.

The world was before him but apparently hopelessly crippled for life. Not so with "Mike". With an ambition born of misfortune we might say he made mental note of his situation. He refused to become a county charge but made an agreement with the county commissioners of Yellow Medicine county that if they would send him two terms to Carleton College Northfield he would relieve them of further responsibility. The bargain was kept. They furnished him artificial limbs and sent him. After completing the school terms as stipulated he was thrown on the world with nothing but a brain and will to do or die. The writer can well remember the first school he taught was in the town of Friendship or Lisbon in Yellow Medicine county, and if our memory serves us right it was a five months school at a salary of \$18.00 a month and boarded himself. After teaching a few terms in the country he became



THE LATE M. J. DOWLING.

principle of the school at East Granite Falls. Then he was elected principal of the Renville school. After a year or so he seen an opening for a paper at Renville and in 1889 in company with J. C. Spencer started the Renville Star. After a couple of years or so he withdrew from his school work and disposed of the paper to his partner and took up insurance and traveled over the Northwest. In the meantime the Farmer, an opposition paper was started, and tiring of the road about 1892 he purchased both the Star and the Farmer consolidating them with the title "Renville Star Farmer." He soon made the paper a going concern and at the same time entered politics becoming assistant clerk of the legislature and the next two terms chief clerk. His prominence here soon gave him a nation wide reputation in Republican circles. During the McKinley campaign he was appointed secretary of the National Republican League with of

ices at Chicago.

In 1895 he was united in marriage to Miss Jennie Lenora Bordewich of Granite Falls. To this union three daughters were born, Dorothy, Marjorie and Kathleen.

In 1898 he disposed of his interests in the newspaper, and became associated with the O'Connor Bros. in the Renville State Bank. He also became interested in the Olivia State Bank and after a time sold his interests here and moved to Olivia. While a resident of Renville he was elected a member of the legislature and became speaker of the House. In 1900 he was appointed by President McKinley on an educational mission to the Philippine Islands.

During the World's War Mr. Dowling was a live wire in helping to "Keep the Home Fires Burning" when the boys were at the front overseas. He perhaps addressed more people in an effort to quiet the fears of the mother, wife or sister of those who had gone forth to battle for the cause of freedom than any other man in the state. He had the gift of eloquence in speech granted to few and had more calls than he could possibly answer, but as his physician says, he overtaxed a vigorous constitution and paid the penalty with death, by heart failure.

Mr. Dowling was a man of international reputation. It became known he done such good work in the hospitals in the large cities addressing the crippled service men returned from the war he was invited to go overseas and help them in their rehabilitation. While there he met and had an interview with King George, Queen Mary and other royal personages. He was given a royal reception in all the countries he visited.

A year or more ago the school for crippled children at St. Paul was looking for a name. The career of Mr. Dowling was so plain in line with the ideas of this school it was decided to call it "The Michael J. Dowling School." In addressing the pupils on one occasion he has the following to say of the cripple and is characteristic of the man:

"Thank God, I am not a cripple," was one of his favorite sayings. "Our bodies—what do they count? A good deal, of course, and yet, as I have often said, a man may be worth \$100,000 a year from his neck up and not a dollar from his neck down.

"Life is just as rich for me in the things that really count as for any man. Far more so than for some men. I have a wife, family, business and a dozen interests besides. Handicap? Why, a handicap is just a chance for a good honest fight. There is only one really insurmountable handicap, so far as I can determine. That is the loss of the inner power which we call the mind. Nothing else is unconquerable."

Mr. Dowling has done so much effective work in lifting the burdens of humanity is afflicted with that his place will be well nigh impossible to fill and he will be greatly missed by those in all walks of life. The writer and his family who were at one time associated in business with him feel a personal loss in his departure. His loss is keenly felt by all. The sorrowing family have the heartfelt sympathy of all in their great bereavement.

The funeral will be held at Olivia this afternoon.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH, PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00194

MICHAEL J. DOWLING PASSES AWAY

News of Death, Caused by Apoplexy, While in St. Paul Hospital, Came as Great Shock to Olivia People—Life Story One of Unusual Inspiration to All

Michael J. Dowling passed away early Monday morning at St. Lukes' hospital in St. Paul. Such was the report which spread among our citizens Monday morning shortly after the angel of death had claimed for its reward Renville county's most prominent citizen and a man of international fame, causing a deep gloom over the village which becomes more impressive as fellow citizens and townsmen are brought to realize the importance of the part played by a life long friend in the upbuilding and welfare of their village and county as well as state.

Although Mr. Dowling had been failing steadily for some time and had spent the past two weeks in the St. Paul hospital, few realized the seriousness of his condition and the news of his death came as a great shock to every one. Death was caused by apoplexy. Present at the time death came were Mrs. Dowling and their three daughters Dorothy, Marjorie and Kathleen as well as Miss Hattie Bordewich. Mr. Dowling's failing health was attributed in part to his activity and over-exertion in connection with his lecture tours and the part he took since the world war in spreading broadcast his optimistic views of life and especially among those who came out of the war in crippled condition, having spent a great deal of time in the hospitals of both this country and France and England where he went in connection with the Red Cross work.

This is ended a life, full of usefulness and activity, crowned by an undimmed spirit which has been an inspiration to all and especially to those in hospitals with who he had been brought in contact during his visits among the unfortunate.

Mr. Dowling's life story is well known both in this country and abroad. Born in Huntington, Mass., February 17, 1866 and left motherless at the age of ten years he came west with his father to St. Louis and later to Chicago where he sold papers and flowers on the streets for a living. Upon the death of his father he came to Minnesota working on a farm in Yellow Medicine county and attending country school for a limited time.

During the winter of 1880-81 while riding home on the back end of a wagon a storm came up suddenly and in the drivers' haste to reach shelter while bounding over the rough fields the young lad was thrown from the wagon and left to shift for himself. After wandering around in the blizzard for many hours he found shelter in a hay stack and burrowed into it where he was forced to remain until the storm abated. Due to the long exposure his limbs were badly frozen and it was found necessary to amputate both legs above the knees, the left arm below the elbow and the greater part of the right hand. Without father or mother, or friends who were able to adequately care for him in this condition, the attention of the county commissioners was called and the boy, then fourteen years old, made them a proposition that if supplied with artificial limbs and given a course at Carleton College he would then feel capable of self support. The proposition was agreed to and after beginning the course soon attracted attention by his eagerness to learn and the energetic manner in which he tackled the problems confronting him. After leaving Carleton he taught a country school as well as the East Granite Falls school and later engaged in the newspaper business in Renville before coming to Olivia where he has made his home since.

Mr. Dowling has engaged in the real estate and banking business during his residence in Olivia and at the time of his death was president of the Olivia State Bank, having taken a very active part in financial circles, being president of the Minnesota Bankers Association last year. He was a staunch republican having been secretary of the National Republican league from 1895 to 1897 and was chief clerk of the house and represented this district in the legislature. In 1900 he represented the governor on an educational mission to the Philippines. Mr. Dowling was advanced as a candidate for governor and previous to the last primary election in 1920 was considered a strong contender for the



M. J. DOWLING

this school headed by the superintendent are expected here this afternoon to attend the funeral, a memorial being held there this morning. Mr. Dowling brought cheer and encouragement to the hearts of many by his jovial manner in presenting his experiences and was recently quoted as saying that "My friends laugh because I say I feel sorry for a cripple, and that I thank God that I am a cripple. But I am not bluffing or posing when I say that I believe I have proven that being a cripple is more a state of mind than of body. There is only one really insurmountable handicap, so far as I can determine. That is the loss of the inner power which we call mind. Life is just as rich for me in the things that really count as for any man—far more so for some men. I have a wife, family, business and a dozen other interests besides. Handicap? Why a handicap is just a chance for a good honest fight."

Mr. Dowling was married in 1895 at Atlanta, Ga., to Miss Jennie L. Bordewich and to them three children were born, the Misses Dorothy, Marjorie and Kathleen all of whom survive him and have the heartfelt sympathy of all in their great hour of trial at the loss of a kind and loving husband and father.

nomination but withdrew as a result of the elimination convention.

The Michael J. Dowling school for crippled children in Minneapolis was recently named in honor of him and he has been a frequent visitor at that institution where his visits were eagerly looked forward to by the inmates who were given much encouragement by one who was a living example of the power and mastery of mind over body. A delegation from

Funeral Services Will Be Held This Afternoon and Body to Lie In State at Court House. Many Prominent People to Pay Tribute to Honored One

Those of all walks of life will honor the memory of M. J. Dowling, State officials and a delegation from the Dowling school for crippled children, of Minneapolis, as well as large numbers of friends and admirers are planning on being in Olivia to pay tribute to one who was widely known and respected by all. Arrangements have been made for the afternoon flyer to stop at this place to accommodate those in Minneapolis and St. Paul who wish to attend the services and the east bound flyer will also stop at 7:15 which will allow them to return.

The remains were accompanied home Monday evening by the family and were met by hundreds of neighbors and friends at the station. This morning the body will lie in state at the court house where those who wish may view the remains for the last time before it is taken to its final resting place, between the hours of eleven and one o'clock. Funeral services will be held at the home at 3 o'clock at which time Rev. Hicks, pastor of the Episcopal church at Hector, Rev. Emery and Father Pomeji will each take a brief part in conducting the last sad rites. The services will consist of but the ritual ceremony and prayer after which those coming from a distance will be allowed to view the remains before the funeral procession departs for the cemetery.

The active pall bearers are: Dr. Mesker, W. E. French, Tom Collyer, James Empey, J. M. Freeman and C. O. Brekke. The honorary pall bearers being George Windhorst, Judge Daley, L. Kramer, B. A. Tersteeg, J. R. Landy, E. H. Erickson, P. J. Schaefer, Dr. Miller, F. G. Neller, L. M. Swenson, L. D. Barnard and T. P. McIntyre.

Mr. Dowling was a member of the Elks and I. O. O. F. lodges. All business places will be closed between the hours of 11 a. m. and 4:30 p. m.

We quote from a Minneapolis paper the following: "Gathered at the funeral will be a group indicative of the tremendous range of Mr. Dowling's life and acquaintance, according to arrangements started last night. The state government will be represented by the principal state officials, Julius Schmahel, a life long friend of Mr. Dowling's, will organize the official group today.

Minneapolis will send many of its leading citizens, officials, bankers, businessmen. There will also go from this city some of the little maimed children in the Michael J. Dowling school for crippled children, named for Mr. Dowling.

All the children of the school, who had grown to look forward to Mr. Dowling's frequent visits, will gather at a memorial service here on Thursday morning, B. B. Jackson, superintendent of schools, said last night. Then, later in the day, the principal of the school will go with a group of teachers and pupils to Olivia for the funeral services.

The name of the school will be permanently maintained as a part of the Minneapolis school system in honor of the man who spent so much of his time inspiring crippled children to hope and live. Mr. Jackson declared.

Memories of Mr. Dowling

The children at the school remember Mr. Dowling best for his stories of crippled children who succeeded in spite of their handicaps. On his first visit, he told them that each time he came back he would bring a true story of a boy or girl who had risen superior to physical handicaps. And he had always kept his promise, teachers declared.

Members of the Elks' lodge and of the Rotary club, who co-operated with the Board of Education in furnishing necessities for the school, said last night that they probably would plan a memorial in the school for Mr. Dowling.

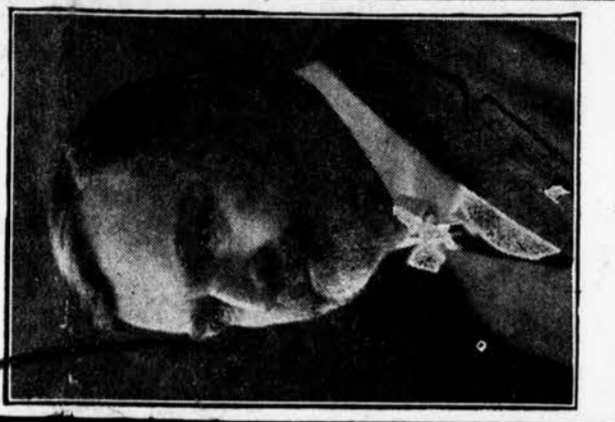
Soldiers at Asburg hospital, who had been visited by Mr. Dowling, last night were planning a memorial. Many Twin City members of the Minnesota Bankers' association, like the organization which Mr. Dowling served as president last year, will attend the funeral services. The delegation will be headed by O. M. Nelson, St. Paul, association president."

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Redwood Falls, Minn., Gazette
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

oses Great When Death Takes "Mike" Dowling Monday

(Minneapolis Journal Apr. 25)
Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, known as Minnesota's optimist, who, despite a childhood tragedy which resulted in the loss of both legs and hands, overcame physical handicaps and attained success, died today from overwork. Death came to him in St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, with his wife, three daughters and his secretary at his bedside.



Caught in Snowstorm.
It was his love for animals that resulted indirectly in the loss of his hands. Having by this time lost all track of his father the boy lavished all his affections on the pony he had purchased. Being desirous of gaining much information he arranged to board and one day a farmer's nine miles away the pony before starting to school. Two farmers were to accompany them and he arranged to make the trip in their lumber-wagon. When they party had gone several miles, a storm overtook them. Knowing that a storm they whipped the team up and urged for shelter. They were enveloped in the whipping maelstrom and the wagon struck a bump which threw young Dowling out.

His absence was not known, and he was left to make his way as best he could. Soon he found a woodpile. Knowing there must be a house near, he climbed to the top and threw stick after stick as far as he could in a circle trying to hit the house. Failing in this, he took an armful of wood and walked about 50 paces from the pile and repeated the process. Then he lost the woodpile. Wandering blindly, he plumped into a straw pile and, realizing this was his last chance, crawled into it. There he remained, battling against the fatal sleep of chill until the next day. He crawled out and discovered his legs and arms were frozen, and crawled half a mile to the farmhouse.

Legs and One Arm Amputated.

A physician was hastily called and after treatment had been given it was found necessary to amputate both legs below the knee and one arm below the elbow. The fingers and part of the thumb on the right hand were also removed.

A few weeks later he celebrated his 15th birthday. After he had spent all his hard won money on doctor bills the county took charge. The boy refused to become a county commissioner, promising that if they would send him two terms to Carleton college he would relieve them of further responsibility. The bargain was kept. They furnished artificial limbs and sent him. After leaving school, Dowling became a country school teacher at the age of 17. He agreed to terms in quick succession. He painted fences, ran a roller skating rink, and as principal of the East Granite Falls school and still later as superintendent of schools, wrote insurance, edited a newspaper, was secretary of the Western Press association and then became a real estate dealer, banker and finally entered politics.

Becomes President of Bank.

He founded and published the Renville Star-Farmer, became president of the Renville State Bank, and later attained the same position in the State Bank of Olivia, with which he was associated when he died.

In 1896 he married Jennie Leonora Bordewich of Atlanta, Ga., the same year which he made secretary of the National Republican league. This marked his debut into state and national politics. He was elected in 1900 and served as speaker in 1901. In 1900 he represented the governor of Minnesota on an educational mission to the Philippine islands.

During the World War Mr. Dowling's reputation as an optimist and his achievements in overcoming his own physical handicaps won him an opportunity to do a distinctive service to the wounded Allied soldiers in America and abroad. He was appointed the surgeon general's department of the army to four reconstruction hospitals in America to cheer up the disabled veterans, a mission which, he said, made him "the happiest man on earth, because I feel that at last I am going to do something useful for my fellow men and my country."

Funeral Services Thursday.

He is survived by Mrs. Dowling and their three children, Dorothy, Marjorie and Kathleen. Funeral services will take place at Olivia Thursday. The Dowling family will motor to Olivia tonight.

In his lectures he usually smiled broadly at this juncture and then remarked, "the time soon came when the problem of keeping my hands clean in a physical sense was nil but there was always the other way of keeping clean hands to be remembered. Aspiring to become a cowboy, he cut loose from his father and came to Minnesota two years later, when he was 14 years old, he worked as a farm hand and cowherd. He got together a herd of between 500 and 600 cattle which he was to care for during the season at \$1.50 a head. This was his chance to make a stake. The day before he was to turn his herd over to their respective owners, Oct. 14, a rainstorm set in which turned to sleet. The sleet and the frozen breath of the cattle rapidly formed a mask over their heads which if let alone would have suffocated them for 48 hours, knocking the ice from the faces of the cattle and saved every one. Other herders lost heavily.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH, PAPERS, 1883-1944.
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.
00195

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Renville (Minn.) Farmer.
THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1921

OLD TIME RENVILLE RESIDENT WRITES FROM WASH.

F. C. Greene of Cheney, State of Washington Sends Greetings to His Old Friends Here.

The following is a letter received from F. C. Greene:
Cheney, Wash., May 2, 1921.

Dear friend:
I was shocked the other day to see in the Spokane Spokesman-Review, a notice of the death of M. J. Dowling. I was very much surprised, as he was always so strong and robust when I knew him, and I had not heard that he was ailing in any way. Mr. Dowling was a remarkable character, and he certainly made good in spite of great handicaps. He was a shining example of what a persistent, dogged determination, coupled with high ambition and untiring energy will do for a man under the most trying and disheartening conditions.

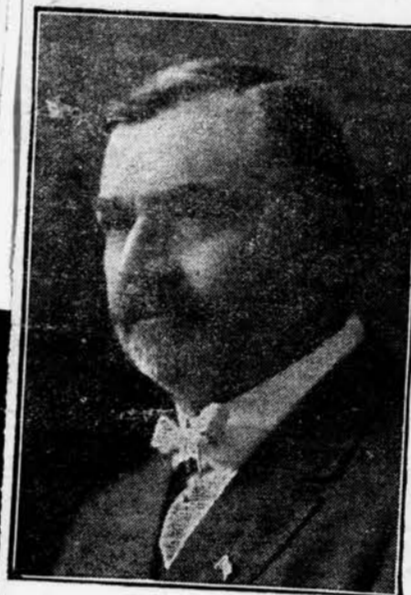
I notice that I am not receiving the Star Farmer, and that reminds me that my subscription has expired. So I am sending you herewith \$2.00 for renewal another year. Be sure to send me the copy that has an account of Mr. Dowling's passing, and so it is, the friends of our youth are passing, passing one by one, and we realize more and more, as each one passes, that one of the saddest things about old age is its loneliness so far as the friends of our youth are concerned, and which is graphically depicted in Oliver Wendall Holm's poem, "The Last Leaf." We do not like to miss a single copy of the Star Farmer for although it is now nearly eighteen years since we left Renville, it seems only a short time, and we still retain a lively interest in the people of Renville and we expect to do so while life lasts. As I have not visited Renville since the day we left Aug. 26th, 1903, it may seem that Renville holds no attractions for me. I assure such is not the case for the friends of Renville and Renville County were good to me, and my mind often reverts to them with pleasant memories, and it gives me pleasure to hear of their happiness and prosperity. The fact is I have never, in all these years, been so situated as to feel that I could spare the time and money to make the trip, but I am living in hopes of being able to do so in the not far distant future; in the mean time I must content myself with the chronicles contained from week to week. Mrs. Greene and myself are well and busying ourselves with getting our lawn and flower garden in shape. We have had a very mild winter, the coldest being about 15 above zero and most of the time about 30 above. Crop prospects are fine; winter wheat bids fair now to be the biggest crop known here in years. The normal school is preparing for its annual May Day festivities which occurs on May 14th in the city park, and which consists of a grand parade, the crowning of the May Queen, May pole dance, singing, speaking, athletics and folk dances. That is our big day and people come from all the surrounding towns and country.

With best wishes for yourself and Mrs. Reid.
I remain sincerely yours,
F. C. Greene.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Rushford, Minn., Record
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

M. J. DOWLING, FRIEND OF THE CRIPPLE, DEAD



Michael J. Dowling of Olivia died at a Minneapolis hospital Monday, after an illness of several months. Since the beginning of the war Mr. Dowling's name has been prominently before, not only of the people of Minnesota, but of the nation. It was during the war that the story of his life became known. While a boy he lost both hands and feet in a Minnesota blizzard. For a year or two he spent his time in the military hospitals of this country and England, cheering the crippled soldiers and demonstrating to them what a man could do, and what he might make of himself, even with the handicap of being deprived of his hands and feet.

RENVILLE STAR FARMER

MICHAEL J. DOWLING

In the passing of Michael J. Dowling, Minnesota has lost her foremost citizen. Other men have been more successful in getting high official positions than he, but no man has been more successful in attaining that beside which recognition at the polls is cheap indeed—the affection and confidence of the men, women and children of the entire commonwealth. While he is being lowered into his last resting place in the cemetery at Olivia today, men in every part of the state will speak approvingly of his public record, women will commend his generous attitude toward movements of social betterment, and crippled boys and girls will shed real tears—tears of sorrow because he who once was has gone, and tears of joy because he who has gone once was.

The physical man, maimed and broken by that snow storm forty years ago, is no more; but in a real sense Mike Dowling is not dead. The dauntless spirit which spurned the aims which kind-hearted but visionless county commissioners sought to bestow upon him, and asked only a

chance to compete on equal terms with his fellowmen; which gave him courage after two brief terms in school to fight for an education in the greater school of men and things; which made him first a teacher, then a country editor, then a banker, then a political leader and finally an apostle of optimism and cheer to the maimed and broken of the great World War; that spirit will live in the lives of men long after his dust has been mingled inseparably with the dust of his native prairie.

The big lesson of Mike Dowling's life is that when God wants to make a masterpiece, he lets the buffeting winds of adverse fortune shape the human features into the likeness of His own countenance. The vast throng He allows to wander aimlessly and without struggle along the path of mediocrity. But when He requires a leader, He plants the pathway thick with thorns and strews the road with cutting rocks; He provides heavy burdens to make the back strong and sorrows to make the soul gentle. Thus He brings a Lincoln out of a backwoods cabin of a White Trash community, and leads a western snowstorm, footless and

handless, to become the inspiring genius of a generation.
Thank God for hardships and privation and suffering; for these are the things that make character, that ennoble the spirit and fit the man for immortality.—Theodore Christianson in his Dawson Sentinel.

COUNTY SEAT NEWS

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Renville (Minn.) Farmer.
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

THE DOWLING FUNERAL

Mr. Dowling's funeral will be held this (Thursday) afternoon at 3 o'clock from his home. His remains will be taken to the Court House at 11 o'clock. They will then be returned to the house where short services will be held. There will be no admittance to the house to view the remains excepting to those who come on the trains. All local people desiring to view the remains will be expected to view them at the Court House.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Rush City, Minn., Post
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

RUSH CITY, APRIL 29, 1921

The death of M. J. Dowling is a distinct shock to the entire state of Minnesota and a personal loss to the members of the newspaper profession who claimed him in the bond of fraternal friendship. Mr. Dowling achieved a career of usefulness and worldly success far beyond most of his fellows and his untimely death is as surely a heroic sacrifice to service as any made in the late war. The newspaper fraternity unite in sympathy to those who mourn. His life was a noble inspiration to all for achievement in face of the greatest of obstacles.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00196

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Sacred Heart, Minn., News
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

M. J. DOWLING DIES MONDAY

Michael J. Dowling, Olivia banker and business man who won international fame for his success despite the loss of his feet and hands in boyhood, died Monday morning at St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul. He was 55 years old. The members of his family were at his bedside when death came.

There is perhaps no school boy or girl in the whole country but who has read the story of "Mike" Dowling's life. It is a tale of perseverance, of unbounded good cheer and optimism in spite of a great handicap, of a story that shames one for becoming despondent over trifles.

Following the war Mr. Dowling, at the request of the Allied governments, visited the hospitals aboard and in this country to cheer the soldier invalids and by the story of his life to give them renewed hope and courage. He became the idol of the wounded men for his optimism removed the clouds that had darkened their lives. They knew that what this Minnesota man had done they might also accomplish.

There is perhaps no reader of the News but knows the story of Michael J. Dowling. Lost in a terrible Minnesota blizzard when but a boy of fifteen he wandered aimless about until he finally took refuge in a strawstack where he stayed in the bitter cold until the storm passed, and then how he dragged himself to a farm house, his legs and arms being frozen. How he did odd jobs about Granite following the amputation of his legs and arms and seeing that in this condition he would be a burden to the county, he persuaded the commissioners to send him to Carleton College for two years. Then followed years as a school teacher, a part of this time in the

East Granite school a few years as a newspaper man, then in the banking business in Renville and later in Olivia where his character, forcefulness and everlasting optimism brought him success.

Michael John Dowling was born at Hunting, Mass. Feb. 17, 1866. His parents were John Jerome and Honora Barry Dowling. His mother died when he was ten years old. In 1865 he married Jennin Leonora Bordewich, a Granite girl, at Atlanta, Ga. Besides Mrs. Dowling, their three children, Dorothy, Marjorie and Kathleen survive his loss.

The funeral will be held Thursday afternoon in Olivia and it is expected a large number of Sacred Heart people will attend.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

St. Cloud, Minn., Times
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921

DOWLING, FAMOUS FOR WORK, DEAD

Lost Both Legs and Hands When a Boy Yet Achieved Brilliant Success.

St. Paul, April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing his lower limbs and hands in early boyhood, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.

For the past two and a half years Mr. Dowling had been touring the country in the interest of disabled war veterans. Following signing of the armistice, he went to England at the request of the British government and the British Red Cross and for more than eight months lectured British war wounded on rehabilitation problems. Death was due to heart disease super-induced by exertions on this tour, his physician said. He had been in the hospital here two weeks.

Mrs. Dowling with the three children were at the bedside this morning when the end came. The funeral will be held at Olivia Thursday afternoon.

Suffering amputation of both legs below the knee, his left arm and the greater part of his right hand, when 14 years old as a result of exposure in a blizzard, Mr. Dowling was shortly afterward left an orphan and became a charge of the county. He refused, however, to become discouraged and began making plans to overcome his handicap. He bargained with the county commissioners who became interested in his case and sent him to Carleton college. His rapid rise followed.

"I am deeply grieved to learn of the death of Mr. Dowling," Governor Preus said today.

"Mr. Dowling has been active in public affairs of Minnesota for more than a quarter of a century and his influence has always been for good."

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Sacred Heart, Minn., News
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921

here.

MANY PEOPLE ATTEND DOWLING FUNERAL

A large number of Sacred Heart people attended the funeral of their friend, "Mike" Dowling, held from the front porch of his home in Olivia Thursday afternoon.

People from the entire Northwest were present and the crowd was so dense it was necessary for the Olivia national guard company to guard the traffic on the streets. A special car from the twin cities brought out state officials and a delegation of friends from St. Paul.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00197

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

St. Cloud, Minn., Times
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921

INSPIRED OTHERS

The death of Michael J. Dowling, who rose from a herd boy to banker in Minnesota, was at one time speaker of the house and a prominent candidate for governor, and who attained his success in spite of the fact that he was an almost helpless cripple will justly call forth expressions of appreciation of the attainments of his life in spite of his physical handicap. His life's work is an inspiration to all who are similarly afflicted. It was for this reason that the British Red Cross sent for him and he spent eight months talking to the wounded and maimed that the war left in England. He owed his success to the fact that he refused to be discouraged when adversity overtook him for he was endowed with an iron will and a spirit that knew no defeat. Will, determination, character—armed with these no man can fail. Such is the lesson of his life.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

St. Cloud, Minn., Times
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

TO MICHAEL J. DOWLING

Olivia, Minn., April 29.—Thousands of persons attended the funeral services of Michael L. Dowling here yesterday. He died in St. Paul Monday. Services were held at the family home at 3 o'clock.

Among those who attended the services were Mrs. Julia McGrew, principal of the Dowling School for the Crippled Children, Minneapolis and several teachers of that institution. Miss Marie McCormick of Fargo, N. D., singer also attended.

In accordance with a proclamation of Mayor Passer business houses here closed from 11 A. M. to 4:10 P. M. Services at the home were in charge of the Rev. E. S. Morey of the Methodist church and Rev. Father H. D. Pomije of the Catholic church.

Mr. Dowling was internationally known, due to his successes in life even after he lost the use of his hands and legs. His widow and three daughters survive.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

St. Paul, Minn., Daily News
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921

A True Conqueror

Of all the Americans whose hearts and energies have been at the disposal of soldiers wounded in the war, perhaps none was so well qualified to help as Michael Dowling of Olivia, Minn., who died Sunday.

Many a lad put under physical handicap by his patriotic duty will remember, when he reads the news, how this man, himself a cripple without hands or feet, made it his special duty and privilege to hearten others who were maimed.

His was the more vital a service, because he did not confine his ministrations merely to sympathy and temporary solace. He spoke with the voice of a true conqueror; with the authority of a man whose determination to take his place in the world of men carried him magnificently past the limitations of his body.

In his message they had the word of a man who suffered as they suffered, and who, in spite of it, had made his name one to be noted and respected not only throughout his state, but all over the United States.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

St. Paul, Minn., Daily News
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

DOWLING RITES TODAY

Funeral Services for Olivia Banker
Are Held at Home.

Funeral services for Michael J. Dowling, widely known Olivia banker, were held at the family home in Olivia this afternoon.

Mr. Dowling died at a St. Paul hospital Monday.

The body lay in state in the rotunda of the county courthouse from 10 a. m. to 1 p. m. today, when it was removed to the house to await the arrival of the special car of the state officials and their representatives from St. Paul for the ceremony.

Hundreds of messages of condolence poured into the Dowling home on De Pue ave.

The services, following the wish of the family, were the simplest.

Among the state officials who attended were Louis L. Collins, lieutenant governor; Ray Chase, state auditor; A. E. Fritz, public examiner; E. E. Pearson, state securities commissioner; C. R. Adams, secretary to the governor; Gustaf Lindquist, commissioner of insurance; Sam Y. Gordon, state printer; J. S. Arneson, commissioner of immigration; J. Gould, secretary, Republican state central committee; Charles Foster, deputy public examiner, and Henry Rines, state treasurer.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00198

St. James, Minn., Plaindealer
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921

M. J. Dowling, the well known banker, politician and philanthropist of Olivia, died at a St. Paul hospital Monday morning. Mr. Dowling was one of the outstanding figures of the state. He was a living example of what is possible for an ambitious man to accomplish in spite of great physical handicaps. He had neither hands nor feet yet steadily climbed the ladder of success because of his determination not to be a burden upon the public as a result of the accident that deprived him of his limbs. A school for crippled children has been established in this state that bears his name in recognition of the great work he has accomplished under physical handicaps. He did conspicuous work during the war in the hospitals where he brought encouragement to crippled soldiers.

The life of a man like M. J. Dowling is an inspiration to every young man, to make the most of his opportunities and to never be discouraged, no matter what the handicaps.

An Independent Newspaper.

THE DISPATCH PRINTING CO.

Entered at the postoffice at St. Paul, Minn., as second class mail matter.

DISPATCH AND PIONEER PRESS MAIL SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Within 50 miles of St. Paul (first postal zone):

Either Daily Edition\$4.50
Either Daily with Sunday.....\$7.00
Sunday only\$3.00

Balance of Minnesota (except first zone), North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Northern Michigan:

Either Daily Edition\$5.00
Either Daily with Sunday.....\$8.00
Sunday only\$3.00

NOTE—Special rates for other points and for periods less than one year.

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All rights for republication of special dispatches herein are also reserved.

DAILY CIRCULATION AVERAGE FOR MARCH, 1921.

	City.	Country.	Total.
Dispatch	53,267	28,745	82,012
Pioneer Press	47,805	13,575	66,480
Net Paid Circulation			148,492

MICHAEL J. DOWLING.

Michael J. Dowling, who died suddenly today, was an inspiration to many thousands more than the people of his native state who loved him and admired him. The whole nation knew the beautiful story of this crippled boy, and, knowing it, thanked God, and took courage.

And it is indeed a wonderful story—the story of a defiance of misfortune which seems fairly unbelievable. When fourteen years old, young Dowling, then an orphan cattle herder in Western Minnesota, was caught in a blizzard and so frozen that it was necessary to amputate both legs below the knee, one arm, and all but one of the fingers on his right hand. To the ordinary boy of that time, place and age, these obstacles would have been unsurmountable. But Dowling was of a different spirit. As a county charge he was sent to Carleton college. After two years there he taught school for seven years, became a lawyer, founded a newspaper, entered politics as secretary of the National Republican League, was elected chief clerk of the Minnesota House and later a member and its speaker, represented the government on an educational mission to the Philippines, acquired control of the State Bank of Olivia, made a comfortable fortune, ran for congress and during the 1920 campaign was a candidate for the Republican nomination for governor at the convention which nominated Governor Preus.

This, in brief, is the history of this remarkable man. His philosophy of life is perhaps best illustrated by a statement he made not very long ago:

I believe I have proved that being a cripple is more a state of mind than of body. There is only one really insurmountable handicap, and that is the loss of the inner power we call the mind. A man may be worth \$100,000 a year from his neck up and not a dollar should he be happy. Life is just as rich for me in things which really count as for any man. Handicap? Why, a handicap is just a chance for a good, honest fight.

To Mike Dowling his disabilities were but an incident; to most others they would have been fatal both to spirit and will.

During the war Mr. Dowling was of great service. He visited the hospitals for cripples in both America and England, and showed the war-torn heroes what could be done. He was loved by these boys, and loved them in return. For this work alone he never will be forgotten. Here in Minnesota we have lost a good neighbor and a friend, and the country has lost a genuine inspiration.

St. Paul Minn. Dispatch
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921

MICHAEL J. DOWLING.

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I believe I have proved that being a cripple is more a state of mind than of body. There is only one really insurmountable handicap, and that is the loss of the inner power we call the mind. A man may be worth \$100,000 a year from his neck up and not a dollar from his neck down. Why shouldn't I be happy. Life is just as rich for me in things which really count as for any man. Handicap? Why, a handicap is just a chance for a good, honest fight.

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St. Paul, Minn., Daily News
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921

MICHAEL DOWLING DEAD

Prominent Minnesota Banker Dies at St. Paul Hospital.

Heart disease caused the death of Michael J. Dowling, 55, widely known banker and business man and former member of the state legislature, at St. Luke's hospital at 5 a. m. today.

Mr. Dowling, whose home was in Olivia, Minn., won fame throughout the country for success in his activities despite the loss of his feet and hands in early childhood.

FAILING SEVERAL WEEKS.

He had been failing in health for several weeks and his death was not unexpected. He was at St. Luke's hospital two weeks.

His wife and three daughters, Dorothy, Marjoria and Kathleen Dowling, were with him when he died. They arrived in St. Paul from Olivia, Saturday, when it was found his condition was critical.

Funeral services will be in Olivia, Thursday afternoon.

Born in Huntington, Mass., in 1866, Mr. Dowling lived in Minnesota 34 years.

He served as assistant clerk in the Minnesota legislature in 1893 and in 1895 was appointed chief clerk. For three years he was secretary of the National Republican league to which office he was appointed in 1895. He was speaker of the Minnesota house of representatives in 1901. He served as president of the Minnesota Bankers' association up to a year ago.

CHEERED MAIMED MEN.

Mr. Dowling traveled in Great Britain immediately after the war carrying to the wounded soldiers there the same story of hope that he worked tirelessly to spread among disabled Yanks in army hospitals throughout this country.

His story was one of fight against odds. When he was 14 years old he lost both feet, one hand and most of the other, from exposure and cold in a Minnesota blizzard.

St. Cloud Minn. Journal-Press
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921

A MAIN STREETER

(New York Evening World)

Olivia, Minn., is a little town which might easily have recognized itself as the original of Sinclair Lewis' Gopher Prairie.

Michael J. Dowling was the Olivia banker. He died a week ago Monday and his death is a national loss.

When fourteen years of age the Dowling boy was caught in one of the terrible blizzards of the Northwest. He was frozen almost to death. As a result of his experience both legs, his left arm and most of his right hand had to be amputated. Soon after he was left an orphan and a public charge.

Surely there was a prospect as dark as could well be imagined. But Gopher Prairie and young Michael Dowling combined forces. The materialistic Main Streeters decided that Michael deserved help. They fixed him up with artificial limbs and sent him to college. Gopher Prairie taxation paid the bill.

Plucky young Mike did well in his college work in spite of his physical handicaps. He developed business acumen. He worked up in the business world of Main Street and became a banker. He triumphed over his infirmities. He developed ability as a public speaker. He became a strong civic force in his community and in his state. He was considered seriously for the gubernatorial chair.

And when the war came he was drafted for wider service. In England and in America he went from hospital to hospital as a living example of what a wounded and crippled man could accomplish with only a body, a head and a part of one arm.

What his service of inspiration to wounded soldiers has been can never be measured. His spirit goes marching along on other artificial legs.

But for it all Michael Dowling was a Main Streeter from first to last. His epic of accomplishment centers around the bank, the post-office, the country store and the grain elevators.

Of course, Mr. Dowling was an exception. But nearly every Gopher Prairie has its exceptions, its Michael Dowlings.

The story of Mr. Dowling's life explains the caustic criticism of "Main Street" by the Gopher Prairiettes who say that Sinclair Lewis used that most deceptive means of misrepresentation—the half-truth—in painting the picture of the typical small town of America.

St. James, Minn., Independent
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

MIKE DOWLING DEAD.

St. Paul, April 25.—Michael Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing his lower limbs and hands in early boyhood, died at a hospital here today. He was fifty-five years old.

For the past two and a half years Mr. Dowling has been touring the country in the interest of disabled war veterans. Following the signing of the armistice, he went to England at the request of the British government and the British Red Cross, and for more than eight months lectured to British war wounded on rehabilitation problems. Death was due to heart disease superinduced by exertions on this tour, his physician said. He had been in the hospital here two weeks.

Mrs. Dowling with the three children was at the bedside this morning when the end came. The funeral will be held at Olivia, Thursday afternoon.

Suffering amputation of both legs below the knee, his left arm and the great part of his right hand, when fourteen years old as a result of exposure in a blizzard, Mr. Dowling was shortly afterward left an orphan and became a charge of the county. He refused, however, to become discouraged and began making plans to overcome his handicap. He bargained with the county commissioners who became interested in his case and sent him to Carleton college. His rapid rise followed.—Associated Press

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00199

NOON Edition of the DISPATCH

St. Paul Pioneer Press

NOON Edition of the DISPATCH

ONE CENT

ST. PAUL, MINN., MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921.

(Entered at St. Paul Postoffice as Second Class Mail Matter.)

ONE CENT

MICHAEL J. DOWLING DIES IN HOSPITAL IN ST. PAUL

END HASTENED BY EFFORTS TO HELP CRIPPLES

Michael J. Dowling, Oliva, Minn., banker and business man, who won international fame for his success despite the loss of his limbs and arms in boyhood, died early today at St. Luke's hospital. He was 67 years old.

Handicapped in Life.
His efforts to help others similarly handicapped in life brought on his death which was caused by heart disease superinduced by the exertion of his lecture tours.

He had been falling steadily and had been at the hospital two weeks. While the end was not entirely unex-

pected by his immediate family the news of it came as a shock to the general public as the seriousness of his condition had not been made known.

Mrs. Dowling, together with the three children, arrived here from Oliva Saturday. At the bedside this morning were, besides his wife, their three children, Dorothy, Marjorie and Kathleen, Miss Hattie S. Bordenwich, secretary to Mr. Dowling, accompanied the family here.

The funeral will take place at Oliva Thursday afternoon. The Dowling family will leave here tonight.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00200

M. J. DOWLING DIES IN HOSPITAL HERE

Death of Famous Olivia Banker
Hastened by Efforts to Help
Other Cripples Succeed.

**HELPLESS COUNTY CHARGE,
HE FOUGHT HIS WAY TO TOP**

Lost Both Legs and Hands as Boy;
Dickered for Education; Rose
Rapidly; Boomed for Governor.

Michael J. Dowling, Olivia, Minn., banker and business man, who won international fame for his success despite the loss of his legs and hands in boyhood, died early today at St. Luke's hospital. He was 55 years old.

Wife and Children at Bedside.
His efforts to help others similarly handicapped in life brought on his death which was caused by heart disease superinduced by the exertion of his lecture tours.

He had been falling steadily and had been at the hospital two weeks. While the end was not entirely unexpected by his immediate family the news of it came as a shock to the general public as the seriousness of his condition had not been made known.

Mrs. Dowling, together with the three children, Dorothy, Marjorie and Kathleen, arrived here from Olivia Saturday and were at the bedside when death came. Miss Hattie S. Bordewich, secretary to Mr. Dowling, accompanied the family here.

The funeral will take place at Olivia Thursday afternoon. The Dowling family will leave here tonight.

For the past two and one-half years Mr. Dowling has been touring the country in the interests of the war wounded. Following the signing of the armistice, Mr. Dowling went to England at the request of the British government and the British Red Cross and for more than eight months lectured to British War wounded on rehabilitation problems. He told of his own struggle against misfortune, and it was said was the cause of many wounded soldiers taking heart in life.

Became County Charge.
Mr. Dowling's name went before the Republican gubernatorial elimination convention at the Auditorium May 2, but he withdrew in favor of J. A. O. Preus.

At the age of 14 years, Mr. Dowling was invalidated by the loss of both legs and both hands. He fell from a wagon when 14 years old in a blinding blizzard. His father and uncle who were sitting in the front seat did not know in the storm that the boy was missing. After walking for hours, he found a hay stack, crawled into it and fell asleep. The exposure necessitated the amputation of both legs below the knees, the left arm below the elbow and the greater part of the right hand and thumb. Parentless and helpless he became county charge but soon found a way to help himself. He bargained with the county commissioners who became interested in his case and sent him to Carleton college. Since then his rise has been rapid.

Sold Papers at Night.
Born in Huntington, Mass., in 1866, Mr. Dowling remained there until the death of his mother ten years later. His father, a rover by nature and a carpenter by trade, struck for the West after the death of his wife and soon sent for Michael to join him at St. Louis.

Thinking of that city, the father and son moved to Chicago, and it was here that the boy had an experience that was used as a basis for his future code of life.

Being ambitious, the young fellow was attending school daytimes and selling flowers and papers at night outside the famous McVicker's theater.

One night a luxurious carriage drew up to the entrance and a well-dressed man and woman stepped out.

Continued on Page 2, Col. 1.

1866—MICHAEL J. DOWLING—1921



ST. PAUL DISPATCH

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921.

M. J. DOWLING DIES IN HOSPITAL HERE

Efforts to Help War-Maimed
Hasten Death of Olivia
Banker.

Continued From Page 1.

Young Dowling had just one bouquet left and he offered it for sale.

The man peered at the flowers, turned to the woman and asked her if she would like them. On receiving her assent, he sharply asked the young salesman to show his hands.

"Clean Hands," His Code.

As Mr. Dowling later said, "I had figured out for myself that clean hands were an asset in this business and so I was proud to show that they were clean."

The sale was made and the youth was privileged to pin the flowers on with his own hands. In payment he received a \$5 bill and the advice "always keep your hands clean—clean in every way."

In his lectures he usually smiled broadly at this juncture and then remarked: "The time soon came when the problem of keeping my hands clean in a physical sense was nil but there was always the other way of keeping 'clean hands' to be remembered."

The boy a few months later separated from his father and came to Minnesota, where he worked on a farm. In 1880 he got together a herd of between 500 and 600 cattle which he was to care for during the season at \$1.50 a head. This was his chance to make a stake.

Wins His First Stake.

The day before he was to turn his herd over to their respective owners, October 14, a rain storm set in which turned to sleet. The sleet and the frozen breath of the cattle rapidly formed a mask over their heads, which, if left alone, would have suffocated them to death.

But Michael was not to be beaten. He went among them for the next forty-eight hours, knocking the ice from their faces. He saved every one. Other herders lost heavily.

It was his love for animals that indirectly resulted in the loss of his extremities. Having by this time lost all track of his father, the boy lavished his affections on a pony he had purchased. Desirous of gaining a good education, he arranged to board his pony at a farmer's home 9 miles away and one December morning arranged to visit his pony before starting to school.

Two farmers were to make the trip and he arranged to accompany them in their lumber wagon. When the party had gone several miles the blizzard overtook them. Knowing their danger they whipped the team up and raced for shelter. They were enveloped in the storm and the wagon struck a bump which threw the youngster out.

Lost in the Storm.
His absence was not noticed, and he was left to make his way as best he could. Soon he found a woodpile. Knowing there must be a house near, he climbed to the top and threw a stick after stick as far as he could in a circle, trying to hit the house.

Falling in this, he took an armful of wood and walked about fifty paces from the pile and repeated the process. Then he lost the woodpile.

Wandering blindly he plumped into a straw pile, and, realizing this was his last chance, crawled into it. There

**SURPLUS ARMS USEFUL
FOR PROTECTING MAILS**



Postal employees throughout the United States are being supplied with surplus army firearms for use against possible mail robbery attempts.

The photograph shows an employee of the Washington, D. C., postoffice armed with both automatic pistol and a rifle, taking registered mail to a train.

he remained battling against fatal sleep of chill until the morning. He crawled out and discovered his legs and arms were frozen, and crawled half a mile to the farm house.

A doctor was called, and after treatment had been given it was found necessary to amputate both legs below the knee, and one arm below the elbow. The fingers and part of the thumb on the right hand were also removed.

A few weeks later he celebrated his fifteenth birthday.

Doctor Bills Consumed Funds.

After he had spent all his hard won money on doctor bills the county took charge of him. But, indomitable of spirit, the youngster made a proposition to the county officials that they send him to Carleton college for two terms and he would "go on his own" after that.

They furnished artificial limbs and sent him. After the agreed two terms he took a position as teacher in a rural school and began the career which has been the "hitching star" for thousands of crippled men and women since.

In quick succession he painted fences, ran a roller skating rink, acted as principal of the East Granite Falls school and still later as superintendent of schools; wrote insurance, edited a newspaper, was secretary of the Western Press association, and then became a real estate dealer, banker, and finally entered politics.

Because of his "never say die" spirit and the reputation he had made

for himself, he soon became an international figure. Lecture after lecture he gave to the maimed. Time after time he instilled the fighting backbone that made him successful into the "scraps of humanity" he talked to.

Travels Wore Him Out.

During the recent war his presence was declared to be of such "therapeutic value" that the British government asked him to demonstrate to the war-crippled British soldiers. After this tour he returned to the United States and resumed his lectures in this country.

Uttering in his efforts, he wore himself out by the constant travels necessary, and two weeks ago returned to his home at Olivia, where he collapsed.

Members of the family this morning declared his death was due to his "tireless efforts to restore the maimed minds of the physically mutilated."

He was married to Jennie Leonora Bordewich at Atlanta, Ga., in 1895, and is survived by his widow and three children, all girls.

He was secretary of the National Republican league, 1895 to 1897; was appointed special commissioner to the Philippine Islands in 1900, and was elected speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1901.

"I am deeply grieved to learn of the death of Mr. Dowling," Governor Preus said this morning. "I considered him one of my most worthy friends. He was still a comparatively young man, possessed of vigor which would have made him a prominent factor in public affairs for many years to come if he had lived."

"Mr. Dowling has been active in public affairs for more than a quarter of a century and his influence always has been for good. He was one of the pioneers in the good roads movement. During the war his services in the country's cause were extremely valuable."

"Mr. Dowling's success in spite of his physical handicaps has been an inspiration and has pointed the way to success to many others with physical handicaps. It shows what a man with grit and determination can do."

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00201

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

St. Paul Minn. Pioneer Press
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1921

An Admirable Undertaking.

To what already has been said in appreciative memory of Michael J. Dowling a word should be added in commendation of the substantial memorial undertaken by Julius A. Schmah—a 100-bed addition to the State Hospital for Crippled Children at Phalen Park. If it were given a man after death to indicate the manner in which he might prefer to have his memory perpetuated Mr. Dowling doubtless would have made this admirable selection.

It is an excellent combination of appreciation with fine service. The proposal is to raise approximately \$100,000 by popular subscriptions wherever the life-story and success of Michael J. Dowling made his name familiar, and devote it to the enlargement of the Phalen Park hospital, for admission to which several score crippled children now are waiting. As a memorial and for the material good it will accomplish it will commend itself to a generous and appreciative public.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

St. Paul Minn. Dispatch
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

THOUSANDS PAY LAST TRIBUTE TO M. J. DOWLING



Thousands of friends, business associates and those whom Michael Dowling, Olivia banker, had helped personally or by his example of winning success despite physical handicaps, gathered at the home at Olivia Thursday to pay their last tribute. This photograph taken during the services in the residence shows the large crowd which overflowed on the lawn.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

St. Paul Minn. Pioneer Press
MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1921

MANY WILL ATTEND DOWLING FUNERAL

State Officials and Bankers to Attend Services for Olivia Man.

In all communities of Minnesota representative citizens and old friends of Michael J. Dowling are preparing to go to Olivia Thursday for the funeral of the unique Minnesotan whose life and example inspired thousands of the physically maimed to hope and live.

Officials to Attend Ceremony.

State government will be represented by many officials who are planning to attend the ceremony. Friends formed by Mr. Dowling in his political activities will be organized in a party today by Julius Schmah, former secretary of state. Mr. Schmah's initiative in arranging a tribute was pointed out as being particularly fitting, because he as a boy herded cows in Western Minnesota forty miles away and passed through the blizzard from which the youthful Dowling narrowly escaped with his life and which necessitated the amputation of his limbs. Later when both herdsmen were launched on political careers Mr. Dowling taught Mr. Schmah the duties of chief clerk of the House of Representatives.

Bankers to Go to Olivia.

Many Twin Cities members of the Minnesota Bankers' association, the organization which Mr. Dowling served as president last year, will attend the funeral services. The delegation probably will be headed by O. M. Nelson of the First National Bank of St. Paul, association president.

The Olympian, Pacific coast limited of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad, will make a stop at Olivia, Thursday by arrangements made by G. H. Richards, secretary of the Minnesota Bankers' association. The train will leave St. Paul at 10:56 A. M. Another limited will stop at Olivia at 7 P. M. to enable those attending the service to return to the Twin Cities in the evening.

St. Paul Minn. Pioneer Press
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

Silent Honor Paid Michael Dowling; Eulogies Unspoken at Funeral Rites

Recounting of Achievements and Fight Against Obstacles Deemed Superfluous by Thousands of Minnesotans Who Mourn Passing of Distinguished Olivia Citizen.

Olivia, Minn., April 28. — Before locked doors hung simple, uniform signs, "We mourn our loss." Work waited and business drew down its curtains while all of Renville county expressed its affections and regrets during the funeral hour of its first citizen, Michael J. Dowling.

So simple as to be scarcely a ceremony, the service was a feeling, overwhelming demonstration of esteem for the man who was not broken by a fate that might have humbled the most valiant. His friends were there, and they filled to congestion this little city that has risen from the obscurity of country towns because it was the home of Michael Dowling.

The crowds, so dense that a National guard company was kept busy to prevent confusion in the streets, was more than a demonstration of Renville county, however. Coast trains made unaccustomed stops, bringing persons from all over the Northwest to do homage to the man who endured the misfortune of seemingly being disqualified by physical accident for life, yet lived to say:

"We talk about the winds of adversity. Well, the hardest trees are those that have been buffeted about. They don't grow in hot houses or in sheltered nooks. I don't believe that any man or woman who has fought through some hard places in life can unqualifiedly regret the experience. I believe you will find in them not commiseration for themselves, but rather an honest pity for the so-called 'fortunate' human beings who have not had the joy of fighting and the satisfaction of achieving."

Brief Prayers Are Said.

For more than an hour those who wished passed through the Dowling home on DePue avenue. Three brief prayers were said from the flower-filled sun porch, 3,000 persons gathering on all sides of the house.

Only those few clustered at the door heard the words of the petitions but the crowd, uncovered, on the wind-swept lawns, stood in reverential silence. The prayers were spoken by three clergymen, Christians all, but of different persuasions. And with any or all of them Michael Dowling might have prayed, for their presence was significant of his broad religious tolerance. Two songs were sung, favorites of his, "Abide With Me," and "A Perfect Day," by a favorite relative, Miss Marie McCormick, a cousin, of Fargo.

No Word of Eulogy.

That was all. Not a word was uttered in eulogy. Public service was not mentioned, and there was no recital of the story of the 14-year-old lad who suffered the loss of his limbs and his hope. It would have been said—in a Yellow Medicine county snow storm. How he deliberately cut himself off from public support by exchanging his rights for two years' education and artificial hands and feet, how he became editor, legislator, speaker of the House, educational commissioner to the Philippine islands and banker of high repute, was not told. It was not necessary, for his friends so thoroughly knew.

Nor was there an articulate tribute for his tireless efforts in inspiring hope in those suffering physical handicaps similar to his own. But in the crowd, accompanied by her teachers, was "Pollyanna," whose disposition is the sunniest of any pupil of the Michael Dowling School for Crippled Children in Minneapolis.

Club Members Pallbearers.

Officiating at the ceremony were Rev. C. E. Hixon, Episcopal clergyman of Minneapolis; Father Henry Fernel of the Olivia Catholic church, and Rev. William Emory of the Methodist Episcopal church of Olivia. The pallbearers included Dr. George Meaker, W. French, J. M. Freeman, C. O. Brecke and J. Empey, the surviving members of a unique social and study club of which Michael Dowling was the sixth member. T. H. Collier was the sixth pallbearer.

Honorary pallbearers, men who had long been intimate with Mr. Dowling, were F. G. Nellermeoe of St. Paul, P. J. Schaffer, L. S. Swenson and E. H. Erickson of Minneapolis, J. R. Landy and T. P. McIntyre of Olivia; L. D. Barnard and Judge Daly, Renville; Dr. P. W. Miller, Bird Island, and L. H. Kraemer, Granite Falls. Burial took place at the City cemetery, west of Olivia.

State Officials Present.

Surviving Mr. Dowling are the widow and three daughters, Dorothy, Marjorie and Kathleen. Other relatives who attended the funeral included the brothers and sisters of Mrs. Dowling—Mrs. J. C. Spencer of Minneapolis, Harriet and Harold Bordewick of Olivia and John Bordewick of Warren.

State officials, members of the Minnesota Bankers' association and old friends of Mr. Dowling who went to Olivia, headed by Lieutenant Governor L. L. Collins, were met at the station by automobiles a half hour before the service. The party returned to the Twin Cities on the Olympian, St. Paul road limited, which was stopped at Olivia for the occasion.

Messages of condolence continue to pour into the Dowling home. There has been time to read only a small portion of the expressions of sympathy, which represent every section of the nation.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

St. Paul Minn. Pioneer Press
MONDAY, MAY 2, 1921

A MAIN STREETER

(New York Evening World.)

Olivia, Minn., is a little town which might easily have recognized itself as the original of Sinclair Lewis' Gopher Prairie.

Michael J. Dowling was the Olivia banker. He died Monday and his death is a national loss.

When 14 years of age the Dowling boy was caught in one of the terrible blizzards of the Northwest. He was frozen almost to death. As a result of his experience both legs, his left arm and most of his right hand had to be amputated. Soon after he was left an orphan and a public charge.

Surely here was a prospect as dark as could well be imagined. But Gopher Prairie and young Michael Dowling combined forces. The materialistic Main Streeters decided that Michael deserved help. They fixed him up with artificial limbs and sent him to college. Gopher Prairie taxation paid the bill.

Pucky young Mike did well in his college work in spite of his physical handicaps. He developed business acumen. He worked up in the business world of Main Street and became a banker. He triumphed over his infirmities. He developed ability as a public speaker. He became a strong civic force in his community and in his state. He was considered seriously for the gubernatorial chair.

And when the war came he was drafted for wider service. In England and in America he went from hospital to hospital as a living example of what a wounded and crippled man could accomplish with only a body, a head and a part of one arm.

What his service of inspiration to wounded soldiers has been can never be measured. His spirit goes marching along on other artificial legs.

But for it all Michael Dowling was a Main Streeter from first to last. His epic of accomplishment centers around the bank, the postoffice, the country store and the grain elevators. Of course, Mr. Dowling was an exception. But nearly every Gopher Prairie has its exceptions, its Michael Dowlings.

The story of Mr. Dowling's life explains the caustic criticism of "Main Street" by the Gopher Prairies who say that Sinclair Lewis used that most deceptive means of misrepresentation—the half-truth—in painting the picture of the typical small town of America.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

St. Paul Minn. Pioneer Press
THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

DOWLING FUNERAL TO BE HELD TODAY

State Officials Will Attend Simple Rites for Banker at Olivia.

Olivia, Minn., April 27.—Funeral services will be held here Thursday for Michael J. Dowling, widely known Olivia banker, who died in a St. Paul hospital Monday.

Preceding the funeral services at the family home, the body will lie in state in the rotunda of the county court house from 10 A. M. to 1 P. M., to enable friends to pay him final tribute.

Services Will Be Simple.

The services at the home will be simple, as this is the family wish, and there will be no church ceremony. The home service is set for 2 P. M. Burial will be in the city cemetery, just west of town.

Arrangements have been made to meet with automobiles the delegation from the Twin Cities, which will arrive shortly after 2 P. M. The visitors will be taken to the Dowling home on DePue avenue.

Hundreds of messages of condolence continue to pour into the Dowling home. Many floral pieces came in from the Twin Cities.

Many state officials or their designated representatives will go to Olivia for the funeral of Michael J. Dowling. A special car will be attached to the train leaving St. Paul at 10:56 A. M., over the St. Paul road.

State Officials to Attend.

From the Capitol Ray Chase, state auditor; A. E. Fritz, public examiner; F. E. Pearson, state securities commissioner; C. E. Adams, secretary to Governor Preus; Gustaf Lindquist, commissioner of insurance; Sam Y. Gordon, state printer; J. S. Arneson, commissioner of immigration; A. Edster; J. Gould, secretary of the Republican state central committee; Charles Foster, deputy public exam-

Lieutenant Governor L. L. Collins and Treasurer Henry Rines are expected to attend.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00202

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Shakopee (Minn.) Tribune.
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1921

Mike Dowling is dead. That was the startling headline in Monday's daily papers that brought sorrow to thousands of people in Minnesota who loved and admired the distinguished citizen of our state who had conquered the greatest physical handicaps and rose to a position of national prominence through sheer will power and strength of character. Today he is being buried at his home at Olivia, mourned and honored by the entire state. It is only a few weeks ago that we had a happy visit with Mr. Dowling here in our office and it is hard to realize that it was to be our last meeting with this remarkable man whom it has been our good fortune to know so well in life. Although not in good health when here, he was cheerful and optimistic as ever and it seemed that with such a disposition and such qualities of mind and body as he possessed that he would

regain good health again. The story of Mike Dowling's life has been read by millions and it will continue to be an inspiration for the years to come.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Shakopee, Minn., Argus
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

Michael J. Dowling is dead. In his passing the state has lost one of its best and well-known citizens. He was a man that will be deeply mourned and sorely missed in his home town of Olivia, in his county and in the state at large. He was one of those men who had the force of character to persevere against the most adverse circumstances and how well he succeeded is attested to by everybody who knew him. He was prominent in state politics, being one of the candidates for governor last fall. He was a most agreeable associate and always ready to assist in every worthy cause. It may be truly said of him. "He was one of nature's gentlemen."

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Shakopee (Minn.) Tribune.
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921

Minnesota has lost some great men in recent years, men who were generally known and admired, but the death of no man in the state caused such widespread mourning and such a deluge of tributes as did that of Michael J. Dowling of Olivia. From a homeless orphan without legs or hands, Mike Dowling rose to be one of the truly great and most loved men of his state. His death was felt as a keen loss by all classes of people.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

St. Peter, Minn., Herald
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

In the death of Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, which occurred in a hospital at St. Paul last Monday, there passed one of the most useful citizens of Minnesota. When a boy of fifteen, exposure in a blizzard cost him both of his lower limbs, one of his arms and all the fingers of his other hand. Despite his physical handicap, Mr. Dowling carved out a conspicuous success as a teacher, editor and banker; his fine qualities of heart and mind enabling him to render very valuable public service. Perhaps his best work has been done since the close of the war, he having been called upon to tour this country, England and France to lecture to the maimed victims of the great struggle. The exertion incident to these lecture trips overtaxed his strength and brought about his death. Mike Dowling was endowed with a strong will, and thousands of the physically unfortunate have been heartened and stimulated by his assertion: "Handicap! Why a handicap is just a chance for a good, honest fight."

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

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Sault Center, Minn., Herald
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

MINNESOTA'S LOSS

Minnesota is this week mourning the loss of one of the most remarkable men in the nation—Mike Dowling, world famed optimist, and well known statesman and banker.

Mike Dowling, was a man above par, a man whom the world might well pay tribute to for the numerous gifts and assistance he has rendered the helpless and crippled of the two continents.

Suffering from the loss of both legs and one arm, Mike Dowling did not stop in the trend of life's highway. He took advantage of every opportunity, and in spite of his great handicap, so educated himself as to world's business and to render every possible aid to others, who like himself, suffered from permanent injury.

During the war, Mr. Dowling gave most efficient service to his country. During the glass of the contest, he was sent to England where he lectured to the disabled soldiers in the hospital and encouraged them in their affliction.

As a business man Mike Dowling was admired by all with whom he came in contact. As a man, he was beloved by thousands.

He was a genial, lovable companion and friend, and in his death the Herald editor feels a personal loss as he was a tried and true friend.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

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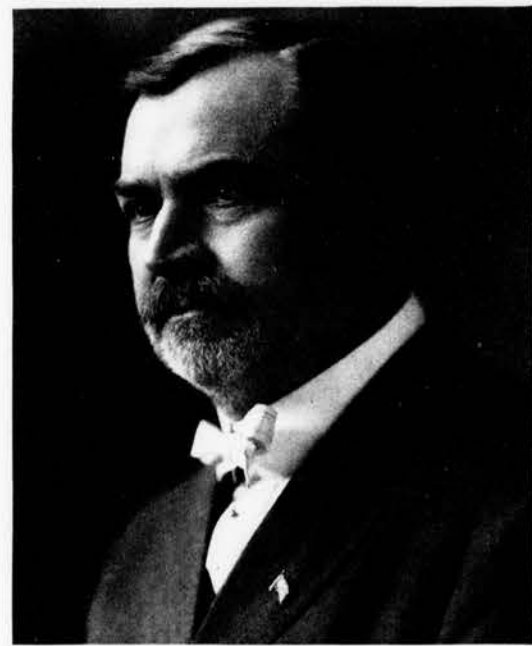
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Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Stanton, Minn., Herald
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921

All the world bows in adoration to the memory of the man who surmounts every obstacle and despite handicaps makes an indelible mark in the world. The recent passing of Mike Dowling,

of Olivia, fittingly proves that in order to be a success a man does not have to build up a stack of dollars so high that it will shut out the brilliant rays of the sun; neither is it necessary for him to hold the highest political office within the gift of the people to gain their respect. Just to live to simple life, and to spread rays of sunshine along one's pathway is all that is necessary. Bringing joy to the hearts of the unfortunate is far greater than making dollars. And so it was with Mike Dowling, whose well spent life is an inspiration to every one who reads. Crippled almost beyond hope of recovery at 14 years of age, the boy Dowling had hopes and despite the loss of both feet and the greater part of both arms, he demanded a chance, not as a public charge, but as a free-born American citizen. He did not want sympathy; neither did he seek alms. He wanted credit and to him it was given. With this credit he secured an education and upon completion of his schooling, paid back the debt in full, after which he continued his studies and his work. As a result of his insurmountable courage Mike Dowling, the cripple, became a man among men. He became an International figure. During and following the war his one aim was to bring hope and cheer to the war-crippled buddies and today thousands of soldiers in England and America are following in the footsteps of Mike Dowling, who always told them there was no such thing as a cripple. Minnesota, the nation and foreign nations did honor to Mike Dowling's memory at Olivia last Thursday. The little city was crowded to its capacity. The rich and the poor; the successful and unfortunate rubbed elbows at his bier to do him honor. But all that they did was little, indeed, for the true worth of Mike Dowling, the inspiration that his life will have upon this and future generations will be an everlasting and ever appreciated monument to his well spent and useful life.



Michael J. Dowling

TO those of us who knew him most intimately, the sudden death of Mike Dowling came as a distinct shock.

So much has been written and so much more will be written of this truly great and lovable character when we finally realize the great loss his taking away has been to the whole country, that we fully appreciate our inability to attempt anything more than a mere expression of keen regret in our loss.

We cannot but feel that his passing was as he would have ordained it. The end came peacefully and his great soul passed on to meet its Maker, weary, perhaps, but we believe unafraid.

Mike Dowling professed no creed. He was a Godfearing man and his broad Christian belief could have been no better exemplified than it was by the appearance at the head of his funeral procession of a Catholic priest and two Protestant Clergymen.

To his loving wife and three beautiful daughters we extend our sincere sympathy and while all consolations are more or less empty in a time of great sorrow, we are certain that they will some day be happy in the knowledge of the high esteem in which the people of practically the whole civilized world held their great and noble husband and father.

"Sparks" - May 1921

G. Roy Hill
Radison Hill Paper

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Sleepy Eye, Minn., Progressive
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

M. J. Dowling Dead
M. J. Dowling, well-known banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing his hands and lower limbs in a blizzard when still a youth, died at a St. Paul hospital, Monday, aged 55 years. For the past two years, Mr. Dowling had been touring the country in the interest of disabled war veterans. At the close of the World conflict, he went to England upon the solicitation of the British government and the British Red Cross, and for more than eight months lectured to British war wounded on rehabilitation problems. Death was due to heart disease, super-induced by exertions on his tour. He had been in the hospital two weeks. Mr. Dowling is survived by his widow and three children. The funeral will be held at Olivia today.

Mr. Dowling was well-known in this city, having visited here frequently.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Stanton, Minn., Herald
THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1921

While Mike Dowling is absent in the flesh, his spirit will guide and guard the unfortunate of this land for years to come. The following from one of his addresses contains much food for thought not only for those who have suffered from a mishap, but those who are robust and strong:

"Why, a handicap is just a chance for a good, honest fight. Affliction turns some people into a sort of a sponge, which merely soaks up pity. But a sponge never gets anywhere. We talk about the winds of adversity. Well, the hardest trees are those that have been buffeted about. They don't grow in hot-houses or in sheltered nooks. I don't believe that any man or woman who has fought thru some hard places in life can unqualifiedly regret the experience. I believe you will find in them not commiseration for themselves, but rather an honest pity for the so-called 'fortunate' human beings who have not had the joy of fighting and the satisfaction of achieving."

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Springfield, Minn., Free Press
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1921

MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE AMBITIOUS

Speaker W. I. Nolan Tells Class of 1921 That Chances of Success Are Bigger Today Than Ever Before. Graduation Exercises Terminate School Year.

Greater opportunities await the members of the 1921 graduating class than were ever offered to young people in the past history of the country, according to Hon. W. I. Nolan, speaker of the house of representatives, who delivered the commencement address at the opera house Friday evening. In an eloquent and scholarly speech before an audience which packed the hall to its capacity, the speaker reviewed the attainments of men of prominence who arose from the ranks of the poor to positions of trust and honor, attributing the possibility of such attainment to the equality afforded by our government and the guarantees of our constitution.

The acquirements of riches, however, was not the speaker's criterion of success. While monuments have been erected to the memory of men who have achieved great success, not one has been so honored by his fellow citizens because of attainment of wealth alone. Poverty was not a handicap to success. Gov. John A. Johnson, M. J. Dowling, President Burton, Gen. Pershing all overcame the obstacle of poverty and attained success in their efforts. The opportunities that made it possible for Lincoln to reach the highest office in the gift of the people are open to the people of today.

One of the important functions of education is to get a real understanding of America and its constitution. The 19th amendment which granted suffrage to women, assured the weaker sex that they are now included in the opening words of the constitution which begins with "We, the people of the United States." While they may be the weaker sex, physically, the speaker asserted that in moral courage they excelled.

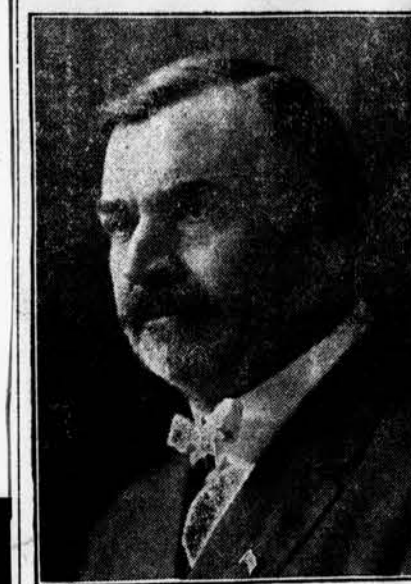
Failure to succeed should not be attributed to the country in which we live but rather to our own selves. Our government affords the widest latitude for self development. The speaker advised against division into classes and urged the audience to face the world with a united front and a better understanding. Good American common sense has saved the nation in the past and will continue to save it in the future. Speaker Nolan favored disarmament as a preventative of future wars.

The graduating class occupied the stage and at the conclusion of the address, Supt. Van Cleave spoke briefly of our schools and President J. S. Watson, in a few well chosen words, presented the diplomas to the graduates.

EARLY PIONEER WOMAN
DIES AT AGE OF 95 YEARS

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Springfield, Minn., Free Press
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1921



M. J. DOWLING

DEATH ENDS CAREER OF M. J. DOWLING

Well Known Olivia Banker and Politician Dies Suddenly in St. Paul. Was Prominent in Public Life. Successful in Spite of Physical Handicap.

Michael J. Dowling, well known Olivia banker, died at St. Paul Monday after a short illness. The news of his death came as an unpleasant surprise to a large number of friends and admirers throughout the state.

Mr. Dowling was a well known figure in the state and nation. Suffering the loss of both legs and hands in a severe blizzard when a mere boy, he fought his way to a place of honor and distinction in the business and political world. He was a successful business man but he was better known for his work in public life. He was at one time speaker of the house of representatives. Later he was defeated in a campaign for congress by Congressman Volstead. Last year he was an unsuccessful candidate for the republican nomination for governor in the state elimination convention.

Mr. Dowling took an active part in patriotic work during the war and later delivered lectures to maimed soldiers both in this country and in England. He possessed wonderful force and vitality and was strong in his convictions. He was a fighter for the principles which he espoused and was greatly admired by his friends for his courage.

The funeral will be held in Olivia tomorrow.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Starbuck (Minn.) Times
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

DOWLING LAID TO REST

Michael J. Dowling, well-known Olivia, Minn., banker, and at different times candidate for congress in this district and for governor of Minnesota died at Saint Lukes hospital in St. Paul last Monday. Death resulted from heart disease, aggravated by over-exertion in a recent series of inspiring lectures to crippled soldiers. He was 55 years of age.

The funeral services were held yesterday at Olivia attended by a

notable gathering of the state's leading men in politics, business and finance. One of the interested groups who attended the funeral was a delegation of maimed children from the Michael Dowling school for crippled children in Minneapolis.

Mr. Dowling took great interest in these children and frequently visited their school, each time bringing them a new true story of a crippled man or woman who had made good in the game of life so that the children looked forward to his visits with eager anticipation.

During the war and since Mr. Dowling has been delivering lectures to crippled soldiers in hospitals and camps not only in this country but also in Europe. Mr. Dowling a cripple with both hands and feet missing, stood before the boys crippled in war, a living example of the success that can be attained in spite of physical handicaps by grit and determination to win.

The following from the Minneapolis Tribune gives the story of his life:

Mr. Dowling was left an orphan at 10 years of age without support or relatives. At an early age he began to work for some time selling newspapers and flowers in Chicago, he came to Minnesota

(Continued on back page) --
to work on a farm. In 1880 he planned to make his first stake in life by getting together a herd of cattle which he had attended for a contract price during the season. The day before he was to turn his herd back a blizzard caught them, but he worked for 48 hours guarding them from the storm.

The boy was crippled one day while returning from school to the farm where he boarded, nine miles away. He was riding in the back of a wagon when a blizzard struck. The farmer whipped up his horses, and in the mad rush the boy lost his hold and fell out. Young Dowling, left in the storm, fought his way inch by inch toward the house which he could not see. Finally he reached a straw pile, and burrowed into it until the storm passed. But his limbs were so badly frozen that they were amputated, both hands and feet.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00205

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Springfield, Minn., Free Press
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1921

The day's best news, says
writers threaten to strike.

Although Michael Dowling was badly crippled physically, he showed what can be done by making the most of opportunities. His career is an example to the handicapped boys of the country.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Spooner, Minn., News.
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

Mike Dowling was laid away in his last home yesterday at Olivia. He was one of Minnesota's ablest men. He was one of those who never knew there was such a word as "quit". When a young boy he was lost in a blizzard near Canby in 1880. When found two days later he was in such shape that it was necessary to amputate both hands and feet, so that he became a public charge upon Yellow Medicine county. In spite of all these handicaps, he acquired an education, taught school, became superintendent of the Renville schools, went into the newspaper game, then banking, served in the legislature, was a prominent candidate for governor in 1920. His was an example for any young man to follow.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Stillwater, Minn., Gazette
WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 1921

Michael J. Dowling, the great optimist, is dead. The story of his life is more wonderful than any fiction, telling as it does of the struggle of a brave soul under the most distressing conditions, up to eminence as a teacher, editor, banker, orator, politician, citizen. His death will be mourned by all Minnesota and by many outside the confines of his state and country. For Dowling was an international figure. His talks to the boys from the trenches both in this country and abroad were a wonderful stimulus to those bereft of limb or sight and put new heart into his hearers. Maimed, himself a cripple since a boy of fourteen when he lost both feet, one hand and a portion of the other by being frozen in a Minnesota blizzard, his talk was from experience and he was a living example of what a man can do under such distressing circumstances. It is no wonder that his talks heartened the boys, gave them a new outlook on life and what they could accomplish by being brave even under their trying circumstances. Of all the work that Mike Dowling accomplished during his life, and it was a life full to overflowing with accomplishment, we should place his talks to the boys from the trenches first. The story of this wonderful man's life should be in the hands of every boy and girl in the country; it should be in the libraries of the schools and in the public libraries, for it is a most wonderful, uplifting, inspiring tale of a young boy's struggle up from poverty, through an awful handicap to a place where he was honored, respected and loved by all.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Stewart, Minn., Tribune
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

ent the Clippings are staying at the Paul Darkow home but will soon move into the rooms they have rented in the Fenske brick building.

Mike Dowling, one of Minnesota's leading citizens, passed away last Monday morning at St. Luke's hospital in St. Paul, death being due to a stroke of apoplexy. Minnesota and especially Olivia, his home town, lose a highly respected and very public spirited citizen through his demise. His place will not be filled for a long time.

Mrs. R.C. Hanchetta and P.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00206

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Tyler, Minn., Herald.
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921

"MIKE" DOWLING.

M. J. Dowling, of Olivia, better known to local old timers as "Mike" Dowling, died April 25, at St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, and was interred at Olivia yesterday.

The history of this remarkable man is so familiar to most of our readers that its repetition seems uncalled for.

Few, if any, are the homes in this state who have not heard, and treasured in their memory the story of the poor herd boy who at the age of 15 years lost both feet and hands as the result of being forced to spend a whole night in a strawstack during a raging Minnesota blizzard, but who in spite of this terrible handicap rose to be a school teacher, newspaper man, and banker, and whose fame for unbound optimism inducted the Allied governments, following the war, to request Mr. Dowling to visit hospitals for wounded soldiers in this country and abroad to cheer the invalids, by telling them of his own experience and thus infuse them with new hope and courage.

Such in brief, is the history of the boy, "Mike," who, about 40 years ago was often seen on our streets straddling his buckskin colored pony, and whose sterling qualities of character were then hidden to all of us by a rough exterior, which when removed by the polishing forces of an eventful life gave our state and nation an opportunity to behold a sparkling diamond of unusual brilliance.

May Mike's example ever live in the memory of our youth and be to it a forceful antidote against whining self-pity and pessimism over trifles. —Minnesota Mascot.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Tyler, Minn., Herald.
THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1921

The late Mike Dowling in commenting on physical handicaps is quoted as saying: "Why, a handicap is just a chance for a good, honest fight. Affliction turns some people into a sort of a sponge, which merely soaks up pity. But a sponge never gets anywhere. We talk about the winds of adversity. Well, the hardest trees are those that have been buffeted about. They don't grow in hothouses or in sheltered nooks. I don't believe that any man or woman who has fought through some hard places in life can unqualifiedly regret the experience. I believe you will find in them not commiseration for themselves but rather an honest pity for the so-called "fortunate" human beings who have not had the joy of fighting and the satisfaction of achieving."

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Thief River Falls, Minn., Tribune
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921

the match out considerably.

M. J. Dowling Dead.

Michael J. Dowling, Olivia banker, and well known to many Thief River Falls people, died in St. Paul yesterday from overwork. Mr. Dowling spoke to members of the Merchants' Association here a year ago and will be well remembered by those present. Mr. Dowling has suffered continually since childhood when both legs and hands were frozen in a blizzard on the Minnesota prairies. Despite his handicap Mr. Dowling has attained international fame by his success in life and was well known in this country and abroad.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

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Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Virginia Minn. Virginian
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921

**MICHAEL J. DOWLING DIES
OF HEART TROUBLE—
WAS PROMINENT BANKER**

St. Paul, April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, age 55, prominent banker, business man and politician of Olivia, Minn., died of heart trouble at St. Luke's hospital at 5 o'clock this morning. He lost both hands and legs in a Minnesota when 14 years old and attained success despite the handicap.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Verndale, Minn., Sun
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

M. J. Dowling Dead

Monday one of the highest esteemed statesmen of this state passed to his eternal resting place. M. J. Dowling was or has been since his young manhood a cripple having lost both legs and one arm in a Minnesota blizzard several years ago. He was considered a ward of the county but he proposed to the county commissioners that they send him to college for two terms and he then would repay them the debt and thus free the country of having a life long man dependent on them. They accepted his offer and since those two years he was a country school teacher, editor, and business man and at the time of his death was a banker in Olivia and was to have been run for Governor last year but resigned in favor of Governor Preus. He was founder of the Dowling school for crippled children and became known over the world during the late war by his messages of encouragement to the crippled soldiers. He was across the seas at this time and visited hospitals in Europe talking to convalescing soldiers in person. He was a great man and the state loses one of its most beloved ones by his passing.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

0 0 2 0 8

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Walker, Minn., Pilot
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

MICHAEL J. DOWLING

Michael J. Dowling of Olivia is dead. He was, perhaps, Minnesota's most remarkable citizen. Not many boys start with so great a handicap as did he, yet very few ever make more out of life. He was an orphan boy, poor and penniless, and at the age of 16 years he was the victim of a Minnesota blizzard which cost him both of his legs, one arm and the fingers of the other. But even this did not stop him from winning his way in the world and attaining a success that is accredited to but few men.

His residence in Minnesota dates back to boyhood days and during that time he has held many and varied positions of trust. During the war he was asked to go to Europe and talk to the wounded soldiers, which position he accepted and filled with success.

His philosophy of life is well illustrated in the following statement made to the wounded boys in European hospitals:

"Thank God, I am not a cripple. Our bodies—what do they count? A good deal, of course, and yet, as I have often said, a man may be worth \$100,000 a year from his neck up and not a dollar from his neck down.

"Life is just as rich for me in the things that really count as for any man. Far more so than for some men. I have a wife, family, business and a dozen interests besides. Handicap? Why, a handicap is just a chance for a good honest fight. There is only one really insurmountable handicap, so far as I can determine. That is the loss of the inner power which we call the mind. Nothing else is unconquerable."

His passing will bring sorrow to a great multitude of friends, not only in Minnesota but throughout the nation.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Waconia, Minn., Patriot
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921

Death has removed from Minnesota one of its foremost citizens in the person of Michael J. Dowling. Few lives leave behind a greater lesson or example to posterity than does his. Study, determination to succeed, and will-power, won fame for him in spite of unfortunate and tremendous physical handicaps. The life work of Dowling is too fresh in the public mind at this time to recount. Orphaned and helpless he fought his way to the top—a state, national and international figure. His death resulted from laudable activity, being due to over-exertion in spreading cheer and giving encouragement through lectures to men who were crippled in the World War.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Warren, Minn., Register
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

—The Tullar Farm has a few bushels of Early Ohio potatoes, suitable for seed, to sell. Also timothy hay, flax, barley and oats.—C. A. Tullar.

J. P. Bordewich left last night for Olivia to attend the funeral of his brother-in-law, M. J. Dowling, which occurs there today.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Warren, Minn., Sheaf
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1921

MICHAEL J. DOWLING IS DEAD
The sudden death of Michael J. Dowling at St. Luke's hospital in St. Paul on Monday morning came as a shock to the people of this state. For many years Mr. Dowling has been a prominent figure in business and politics, and was a candidate for governor at the Republican state convention last year. He was also well known nationally as well as internationally through many activities of his busy and useful life.

The story of his early life reads almost like a fairy tale. He was born in Massachusetts in 1865. At the age of ten years his mother died, and then he came west with his father. As a boy he sold newspapers and flowers in Chicago. Then he aspired to become a cowboy and parting with his father he came to southwestern Minnesota and until the winter of 1881-82, when he was 14 years of age, he worked as a farm hand and cowherd. Next we find him caught in a snowstorm, getting arms and legs frozen so badly that both legs had to be amputated below the knee and one arm below the elbow. The fingers and part of the thumb on the right hand were also removed. After spending all his money on doctor bills, the county took charge of him, but he refused to become a county charge. He bargained with the county board to send him to Carleton College for two terms and he would then relieve them of further responsibility. This was done and the county also furnished him with artificial limbs. Leaving school he became a country school teacher, then principal of East Granite Falls schools, then superintendent of schools, then a newspaper editor and publisher, besides being interested in other business activities, and also in politics. He was elected to the legislature and served as speaker of the house in 1901. He early became interested in banking and at the time of death was the president of the State Bank of Olivia. In spite of his physical handicap he has by his indomitable will and energy achieved a wonderful success in life. During the world war Mr. Dowling was employed by the government to tour the hospitals to cheer up the maimed and disabled soldiers. He was also called to England and France to perform the same service for the unfortunate soldiers in those countries. Mr. Dowling could by his own example show that it is possible to achieve success and an honored position in life in spite of physical handicaps. Overwork in helping and serving others finally brought on ill health and cut short at the age of 55 years, a life that always will remain an inspiration to young people and to those afflicted with bodily infirmities.

Mr. Dowling was married to Jennie Leonora Bordewich in 1895, on the Minnesota editors trip to Atlanta, Ga. Mr. J. P. Bordewich, of this city, is a brother of Mrs. Dowling.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

0 0 2 0 9

MICHAEL J. DOWLING HAS PASSED AWAY

Distinguished Olivian Made Success in Life in Spite of Handicaps



The late M. J. Dowling

Hon. Michael J. Dowling, well known citizen of Minnesota, resident of Olivia, died Monday at St. Luke's Hospital at Minneapolis. He was stricken with apoplexy following a collapse which came two weeks ago at Olivia on Mr. Dowling's return from an exhausting lecture tour. Mr. Dowling was intimately known by many of the people in the South part of the county who came in contact with him at Olivia, and is well known generally by everybody in this part of Minnesota.

The funeral takes place at Olivia Thursday afternoon. Large delegations from the twin cities and other parts of the state are expected to be present.

Michael John Dowling was born at Huntington, Mass., Feb. 17, 1866. His mother died when he was ten years of age, and with his father he went to the Great West, staying in St. Louis and later Chicago.

He had an ambition to become a cowboy and broke loose from his father and came to Minnesota to work as a farm hand and cow herder. In the fall of 1880 he met with the misfortune that made a unique figure and re-shaped his life. He got together a herd of between 500 and 600 cattle which he was to care for during the season at \$1.50 a head. This was his chance to make a stake. The day before he was to turn his herd over to their respective owners, Oct. 14, a rainstorm set in which turned to sleet. The sleet and the frozen breath of the cattle rapidly formed a mask over their heads which if let alone would have suffocated them to death. But "Mike" went among them for 48 hours, knocking the ice from the faces of the cattle and saved every one. Other herders lost heavily.

Caught in Snowstorm

It was his love for animals that resulted indirectly in the loss of his limbs. Having by this time lost all track of his father the boy lavished all his affections on the pony he had purchased. Being desirous of gaining more education he arranged to board his pony at a farmer's nine miles away and one December day arrived to visit the pony before starting to school. Two farmers were to make the trip and he arranged to accompany them in their lumber wagon. When the party had gone several miles a storm overtook them. Knowing their danger they whipped the team up and raced for shelter. They were enveloped in the whipping maelstrom and the wagon struck a bump which threw young Dowling out.

His absence was not known and he was left to make his way as best he could. Soon he found a woodpile. Knowing there must be a house near he climbed to the top and threw stick after stick as far as he could in a circle trying to hit the house. Failing in this, he took an armful of wood and walked about 50 paces from the pile and repeated the process. Then he lost the woodpile. Wandering blindly, he plumped into a straw pile and realizing this was his last chance, crawled into it. There he remained battling against the fatal sleep of chill until the next day. He crawled out and discovered his legs and arms were frozen, and crawled half a mile to the farmhouse.

Legs and One Arm Amputated

A physician was hastily called and after treatment had been given it was found necessary to amputate both legs below the knee and one arm be-

low the elbow. The fingers and part of the thumb on the right hand were also removed.

A few weeks later he celebrated his 15th birthday.

After he had spent all his hard won money on doctor bills the county took charge of him.

The boy refused to become a county charge. He bargained with the county commissioners, promising that if they would send him two terms to Carleton college he would relieve them of further responsibility. The bargain was kept. They furnished artificial limbs and sent him. After leaving school, Dowling became a country school teacher at the end of the agreed two terms. In quick succession he painted fences, ran a roller skating rink, acted as principal of the East Granite Falls school and still later as superintendent of schools, wrote insurance, edited a newspaper, was secretary of the Western Press association and then became a real estate dealer, banker and finally entered politics.

Becomes President of Bank

He founded and published the Renville Star-Farmer, became president of the Renville State bank, and later attained the same position in the State Bank of Olivia, with which he was associated when he died.

In 1895 he married Jennie Leonora Bordewich of Atlanta, Ga., the same year in which he was made secretary of the National Republican league. This marked his debut into state and national politics. He was elected to the Minnesota house of representatives and served as speaker in 1901. In 1900 he represented the governor of Minnesota on an educational mission to the Philippine Islands.

During the World War Mr. Dowling's reputation as an optimist and his achievements in overcoming his own physical handicaps won him an opportunity to do a distinctive service to the wounded Allied soldiers in

America and abroad. He was appointed by the surgeon general's department of the army to tour reconstruction hospitals in America to cheer up the disabled veterans, a mission which, he said, made him "the happiest man on earth, because I feel that at last I am going to do something useful for my fellow men and my country."

Withdrew Name as Gov. Candidate

The success of his inspirational talks to the soldiers led to an invitation by the British Red Cross to visit England and France and perform a similar mission in hospitals over there. He went to England in August, 1919, and spent two months visiting the hospitals and making a tour of the battlefields in France. He was received by King George and Queen Mary and other members of the English royal family at Buckingham palace and spoke to thousands of English and American soldiers in England, Scotland, Wales and France.

When he returned home from that trip in September, 1919, he found his friends in Minnesota talking of him widely for governor of the state. He acquiesced to the request to be a candidate, saying he would rather be governor of Minnesota than king of England. Later he withdrew his name as candidate.

Since that time he had been devoting himself to his business interests in Olivia, and fulfilling numerous invitations to speak throughout the state.

He is survived by Mrs. Dowling and their three children, Dorothy, Marjorie and Kathleen.

Mr. Dowling was noted above everything else, for his optimism.

"Thank God, I am not a cripple," was one of his favorite sayings. "Our bodies—what do they count? A good deal, of course, and yet, as I have often said, a man may be worth \$100,000 a year from his neck up and not a dollar from his neck down."

"Life is just as rich for me in the things that really count as for any man. Far more so than for some men. I have a wife, family, business and a dozen interests besides. Handicap? Why, a handicap is just a chance for a good honest fight. There is only one really insurmountable handicap, so far as I can determine. That is the loss of the inner power which we call the mind. Nothing else is unconquerable."

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Whetton (Minn.) Reporter.
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

A MAN PASSES ON

The passing of Michael J. Dowling marks the earthly end of Minnesota's most wonderful man; but his work will live after him.

Losing his legs and hands at the age of fifteen by being lost in a terrible blizzard in Yellow Medicine county he became a public charge. Many would have remained the object of charity to the end of their days; not so with Michael Dowling. He told the county commissioners to pay for two years study at Carleton college and he would thereafter care for himself.

Care for himself he did and became one of the most prominent financiers in the state, president of the Minnesota Bankers' association and one of the leading members of the Republican party. Altho he had an excellent opportunity to enter the race for governor in the last election he withdrew in favor of Preus in order that the Republican party might have a united front.

Although but 55 years old Michael Dowling has left a perpetual endowment of untold value to the world. He was a living example of the force of an indomitable will which overrides physical handicaps, poverty and disaster. For the physically disabled of the war he was the inspiration which gave them hope; he gave them counsel and courage to carry on. Great Britain and America both used him to counsel and advise the maimed of the war; he healed the broken in spirit as the Master of Galilee with words of kindness and new visions of future usefulness.

A Man has passed on; but the name of Michael J. Dowling will forever be green in the memory of Minnesotans.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Welcome, Minn., Times
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

Michael J. Dowling, of Olivia, Minn., 55, died at a hospital at St. Paul Monday of heart disease. Mr. Dowling was a banker, and was famous for winning success in life despite losing both legs and an arm in boyhood, when he became lost in a blizzard and was nearly frozen to death.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Watkins, Minn., Forum
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

M. J. DOWLING PASSES

Olivian Banker Won World Fame Despite Great Handicap.

Death Indirectly Due to His Strenuous Lecture Trips to Inspire Disabled Veterans.

St. Paul—Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, known as Minnesota's optimist, who, despite a childhood tragedy which resulted in the loss of both legs and hands, overcame physical handicaps and attained success, died from overwork.

Death came to him in St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, with his wife, three daughters and his secretary at his bedside. The physical breakdown which ended his life was directly due to his efforts to help others similarly handicapped in life. Dr. Charles Lyman Greene, his attending physician, said.

The exertion of an international speaking tour during the war, followed by a return to the demands of his private business and many other interests, overtaxed his energy. Two weeks ago he returned from a lecture tour to his home in Olivia, where he collapsed. He was taken to St. Paul and, shortly after entering the hospital, he was stricken with an attack of apoplexy. The stroke was due to his weakened condition, Dr. Greene said.

The life story of Michael J. Dowling has been told in the palaces of royalty and the homes of the poor. It followed the flag of the Allied armies and brought cheer to thousands of men who were maimed and battered in the world conflict.

He was a secretary of the Republican National league from 1895 to 1897 and was appointed special commissioner to the Philippines in 1900 by President McKinley. In 1901 he was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives and was elected speaker. During the last campaign he was urged as a candidate for governor of Minnesota, but at the convention which nominated Governor Preus pledged his support to the choice of the convention and aided in his election.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Warren, Minn., Register
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

THE death of Michael J. Dowling marks the passing of one of Minnesota's most eminent citizens. His life history reads like a romance. Surmounting difficulties far greater than the average young American has to contend against, he rose to affluence and to a place of honor and influence in his community and in the state. Many a boy has so risen from poverty to high estate, as did Mr. Dowling, but few of them did so who were handicapped in other ways as he was. Caught in a blizzard a few weeks before his fifteenth birthday he was so badly frozen that his feet, one hand and part of the other hand had to be amputated. It took a stout heart to enter upon the battle of life under such conditions. Many a young man has thrown up his hands in despair for much less. Artificial limbs were obtained for the terribly maimed boy, and as soon as he was able to get about he set out to secure an education. After leaving school he edited a newspaper for a few years and then engaged in the banking business. He also took an active part in politics. During the late war he was active in patriotic works of various kinds and since then had visited various parts of the world, carrying the message of hope and cheer to the men who had been permanently injured in body or limb on the field of battle. It was his labor among these men to raise them out of the depths of despondency into which many of them had fallen that contributed to the breakdown in his health which resulted ultimately in his death. Last year he was one of the leading candidates for the Republican nomination for governor, and when unsuccessful at the convention loyally supported the nominee. "Never say die!" was long ago adopted as the watchword of the optimist, who can point to Dowling as an example of what pluck, perseverance and industry may accomplish in the face of adverse conditions that would appal not only the timid but the great mass of normal people as well. "While there is life there is hope" was demonstrated by young Dowling between his fifteenth and thirtieth years, when he was laying the foundation for the career of a useful citizen that was later to be his. Discouragements he doubtless met with, but despair he drove from his door. The story of his life and achievements should prove of not only interest but profit to the youth of the state.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

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Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Wood Lake (Minn.) News.
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

M. J. Dowling Dies In Hospital Here

Death of Famous Olivia Banker
Hastened by Efforts to Help
Other Cripples Succeed.

HELPLESS COUNTY CHARGE,
HE FOUGHT HIS WAY TO TOP

Lost Both Legs and Hands as Boy;
Dickered for Education; Rose
Rapidly; Boomed for Governor.

Michael J. Dowling, Olivia, Minn., banker and business man, who won international fame for his success despite the loss of his legs and hands in boyhood, died early Monday at St. Luke's hospital. He was 55 years old.

Wife and Children at Bedside.

His efforts to help others similarly handicapped in life brought on his death which was caused by heart disease superinduced by the exertion of his lecture tours.

He had been failing steadily and had been at the hospital two weeks. While the end was not entirely unexpected by his immediate family the news of it came as a shock to the general public as the seriousness of his condition had not been made known.

Mrs. Dowling, together with the three children, Dorothy, Marjorie and Kathleen, arrived here from Olivia Saturday and were at the bedside when death came. Miss Hattie S. Bordewich, secretary to Mr. Dowling, accompanied the family here.

The funeral will take place at Olivia Thursday afternoon. The Dowling family left here Monday night.

For the past two and one-half years Mr. Dowling had been touring the country in the interests of the war wounded. Following the signing of the armistice, Mr. Dowling went to England at the request of the British government and the British Red Cross and for more than eight months lectured to British War wounded on rehabilitation problems. He told of his own struggle against misfortune, and it was said was the cause of many wounded soldiers taking heart in life.—St. Paul Dispatch.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Willmar, Minn., Gazette
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

ONE OF THE BEST KNOWN MEN IN STATE CALLED

Michael J. Dowling Known as State Optimist Passed Away at St. on Monday.

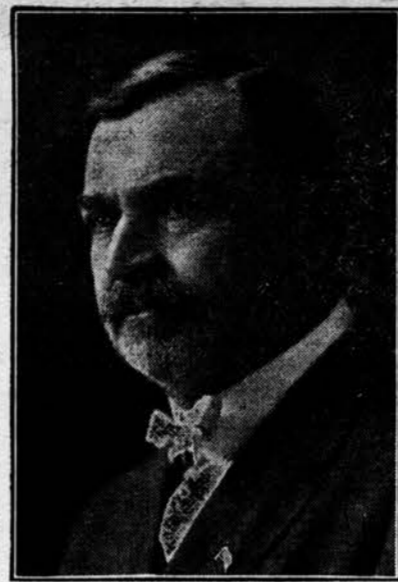
The state of Minnesota mourns the death of Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, which occurred on Monday at St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul. Mr. Dowling had been failing for two weeks, and while the end was not entirely unexpected by members of the family, it was a severe shock to the public at large, as the seriousness of his condition was not generally known. The end was undoubtedly hastened by the tireless manner in which Mr. Dowling worked in preading the gospel of good cheer to those in a crippled condition. Death was due to heart disease, superinduced by over exertion. Mr. Dowling was internationally famous for the success he made in life despite the loss of both arms and legs in early boyhood.

For the past two and one-half years he had been touring the country in the interests of the war wounded. Following the signing of the armistice, at the request of the British government, he visited England and for more than eight months he lectured to the English war wounded on the problems of rehabilitation. He told his own life story and it is said that many of the wounded men took new heart following his talks.

Michael J. Dowling was born at

Huntington, Mass., in 1866. He remained there until he was ten years of age, when his mother died. His father, a rover by nature, set out for the west and soon sent for his son to join him at St. Louis.

Father and son soon left St. Louis for Chicago. Being ambitious to amount to something, Michael at-



tended school during the day and sold flowers at night. A few months later he came to Minnesota and worked on a farm. In 1880 he got together between five and six hundred cattle, which he was to care for during the summer, at \$1.50 per head.

It was his love for animals, that indirectly resulted in his losing his extremities. He had purchased a pony, of which he was extremely fond. He was still desirous of gaining a good education, and he arranged to board his pony nine miles away. One December morning he decided to visit the animal before going to school, and as two farmers were going to make the trip, he decided to accompany them in their lumber wagon. When the party had proceeded several miles, a blizzard overtook them. Knowing the danger which confronted them, the driver whipped the team and sped for shelter. The wagon struck a bump and the boy was thrown to the ground. His absence was not noticed by the others. The boy wandered blindly in the terrific snow storm finally locating a straw stack. Realizing that this was his last chance, he crawled into the straw, and battled against the fatal sleep of chill, until morning. He crawled out, and found that his arm and legs were frozen. He then crawled a half mile to a house. A doctor was called and it was found necessary to amputate both legs below the knee and one arm below the elbow. The fingers and part of the thumb on the right hand were also removed. The following week he passed his fifteenth birthday. Having spent all of his money for doctor bills, the county took charge of him. However, he had no intention of remaining a charge, and made a proposition to the officials, which they accepted. On the strength of this, he was sent to Carleton College for two terms. He was furnished with artificial limbs and sent to college. Finishing the two terms, he taught country school, thus beginning the career which won for him world wide recognition.

In quick succession he painted fences, ran a roller skating rink, acted as principal of the East Granite Falls school and later as superintendent; he wrote insurance, edited a newspaper, was secretary of the Western Press association. He then entered the real estate business, became interested in banking and finally entered politics.

From 1895 to 1897 he was secretary of the National Republican league. In 1900 he was appointed special commissioner to the Philippine Islands and in 1901 was elected speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives. Several times his friends advanced his candidacy for governor of the state, the last time, in 1920.

In 1895 he was married to Jennie Leonora Bordewich, at Atlanta, Ga., who with three daughters, Dorothy, Marjorie and Kathleen, survive. The funeral was held this afternoon at Olivia.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Winnchago City, Minn., News
SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1921

Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, and famed for his success in life after losing his lower limbs and hands in a blizzard when a boy, died very suddenly in St. Paul, Monday, at the age of 55 years.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Winnchago City, Minn., News
SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1921

AN UNFATERING SPIRIT

Michael J. Dowling, banker, who died in Minnesota recently, bequeathed the inspiration of a staunch spirit to all who falter and complain. "What are our bodies worth?" he was fond of asking. "A man may be worth \$100,000 a year from the neck up and not a dollar a day from the neck down." Of limbs he had none, save one arm minus its hand. The others were amputated by surgeons when, as a boy, he was frozen in a blizzard. Young Dowling went to the county commissioner, but not in quest of charity. He proposed that they send him to college, and consider the expense as a debt he must repay. He repaid them. Fence painter, school teacher, principal and superintendent, insurance writer, editor, real estate dealer, and finally banker and politician, Dowling proved that bodies are just the habitations of the will. A large souled man, who lived his life in a big way, Dowling's memory should remain as a rebuke to the whiners of life.—Portland Oregonian.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

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Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Young America (St. Paul) Photo.
FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1921

covering from an operation for ap-
pendicitis.

Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, well
known in banking and political cir-
cles, died at St. Luke's hospital in
St. Paul Monday. His burial occur-
red at Olivia yesterday (Thursday)
and was attended by people from all
over the state.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

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O U T - O F - S T A T E

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. TRI-UNE
 MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1911

Mr. Chamberlain moved the budget
 owing to the pressure of other work on
 Sir Robert Horne, the chancellor of the
 exchequer.

**Famed Cripple Dies
 at Home in St. Paul**

ST. PAUL, Minn., April 25.—Michael
 J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn.,
 famed for his success in life after losing
 both legs, an arm and part of his re-
 maining hand in his youth, died at a hos-
 pital here today. He was 55 years old.

**Kidnaped Constable
 Escapes in P. M.**

SAN DIEGO, CAL. TRI-UNE
 MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1911

... her daughter and \$100,000 alimony.
 Her suit was not contested.

**Success Winner
 Minus Both Legs,
 One Arm, Is Dead**

Associated Press
 ST. PAUL, Minn., April 25.—
 Michael J. Dowling, banker, of
 Olivia, Minn., famed for his suc-
 cess in life after losing both
 legs, an arm and part of his re-
 maining hand in his youth, died
 at a hospital here today. He
 was 55 years old.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
 PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

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PUEBLO COLO. STAR JOUR.
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921.

dorse such plans.

FAMOUS MINNESOTA BANKER IS DEAD

St. Paul, Minn., April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, banker of Oliva, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

0 0 2 1 4

BIOUX CITY (IA.) TRIBUNE
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921.

CRIPPLED BANKER DIES.

St. Paul, Minn., April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, banker, of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in youth, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00215

Chicago Illinois Journal
Friday May 6, 1921

If it is true, as many people maintain, that the delays and slowness of officials and courts in dealing with criminals, tends in a measure to create disrespect for law and order and encourage crime, then the handling of the cases of the three young bandits who last week shot and killed a storekeeper at Tacoma Park, near Aberdeen, should have a wholesome effect on would-be criminals in this state. The murder was committed Saturday night, the three bandits were arrested Monday afternoon, confessed their crime, and Thursday were taken before Judge Anderson at Webster, plead guilty and were all given life terms in the state penitentiary. Less than a week from the time the crime was committed, they were in the penitentiary at Sioux Falls. That two of these three men were the perpetrators of the murder of Ray Stapleton and the robbery of the Corona bank, on February 3rd, now appears quite certain.

Michael J. Dowling, of Olivia, Minn., one of the most remarkable men the northwest has ever produced, died Monday at a St. Paul hospital. When a boy not yet fifteen years old, Dowling got caught in a Minnesota blizzard and was so badly frozen that both legs had to be amputated below the knees, the left arm below the elbow, and the fingers and part of the thumb of the right hand were also taken off. Young Dowling had lost all track of his relatives after coming west, and with his money gone, found himself a county charge. Handicapped as he was, many a boy would have accepted this as about the best the world held for them, but not so Michael Dowling. He went before the board of county commissioners and bargained with them that if they would send him two terms to Carleton college, he would relieve them of further responsibility. The county did so, and Mike Dowling soon was on his way to a career that brought him international fame. Leaving Carleton he taught school, and then branched out into business enterprises, wrote insurance, edited a newspaper, became a real estate dealer, banker and finally entered politics, and served for a time as secretary of the National Republican League. He had been a man of great influence in Minnesota for many years, and the World war brot him an opportunity that made him very happy. This opportunity was the task of touring the American reconstruction hospitals to cheer up disabled veterans, tell them what they might accomplish with the proper effort, and make them feel that they were still worth living and

held a future for them. So great was his success in this work, that he was invited by the British Red Cross to visit England and France and perform a similar mission in the camps of those countries. In England he was received by King George and Queen Mary, and other members of the English royal family. The strain of his efforts was a little too much, however, and his death at this time, when only fifty-five years old, is attributed to over exertion. The life and accomplishments of Michael J. Dowling stand out as an example and inspiration to all, and truly may it be said of him that he did not live in vain.

AWRORA, ILL. BEACON NEWS
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921.

Famous Blizzard Cripple Is Dead

By Associated Press Leased Wire.
St. Paul, Minn., April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, banker, of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and a hand in his early boyhood, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.
Suffering amputation of both legs, his left arm and the greater part of his right hand when 14 years old as a result of exposure in a blizzard, Mr. Dowling was shortly afterwards left an orphan and became a county charge. He bargained with the county commissioners, who became interested in his case and sent him to Carleton college. His rapid rise followed. Mrs. Dowling, with the three children, was at the bedside this morning when the end came.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

0 0 2 1 6

CRIPPLED AT 14, BECOMES POWER IN BUSINESS

Late M. J. Dowling
Overcame Handicaps.

"I'm glad I'm not a cripple."

That was the triumphant cry with which Michael J. Dowling, banker and business man of Olivia, Minn., greeted a cold world when he lost both legs, one arm and most of the other hand through exposure to a storm when he was 14 years old. And in spreading the story of that triumph to maimed heart and overcome their difficulties he so over-exerted himself that, on his return to his home, he suffered a complete collapse, followed by his death recently.

Michael was no inexperienced youth when he became a physical cripple, remarks the Kansas City Star. He was born in 1866. His father was a rover; his mother died while he was still very young. He had sold flowers on the streets of Chicago and herded cattle in Minnesota. He loved animals, and it was this love which caused his accident. He owned a pony of which he was very fond; but the demands of school were more urgent than the call to play, so he boarded the beast at his brother's farm. One day after school he visited the pony, nine miles from town. He started back with his brother to another man were in the front seat of a farm wagon, with Michael in the back. A severe snowstorm came

up, the wagon ran over a big stump, and Michael picked himself up in the road. The others did not know of his fall until they reached town.

Was Frozen in the Hay.

The boy, just 14, walked miles in the storm, unable to find a house. Night overtook him and in a desperation he crawled into a haystack and went to sleep. He awoke in the morning with arms and legs frozen, unable to walk. Crawling to a house, he received aid. Efforts of friends and doctors were unavailing, however, and both legs, an arm and the other hand were amputated to save his life. He paid the doctor bills from his scanty savings and was made a ward of the county.

Michael was no youth to let the county or anybody else support him; so when he had fully recovered his health he bargained with the

commissioners. The result was that he was sent to Carlton college for two years, guaranteeing in return to relieve the authorities of himself at the end of that time.

Schooling completed, Michael, then 16 years old, and possessed of artificial members to replace those he had lost, became in quick succession a fence painter, manager of a roller skating rink, school teacher, principal and superintendent, insurance writer, editor, real estate dealer and finally banker and politician. The details of the struggle of this man with a poor body, but strong mind, are missing. Hardships he seldom told about, rather treating his rise as a natural thing, in no way unusual.

Served in Legislature.

Leaving the field of journalism he became president of the Boonville State bank and later of the State

Bank of Olivia, which post he held until his death. In 1895 he married an Atlanta, (Ga.) girl and in the same year became secretary of the National Republican league. A few years later he served as a member of the state legislature, becoming speaker of the house in 1901.

During the world war Mr. Dowling insisted, he enjoyed the happiest period of his life, for he was given the opportunity of fraternizing with wounded soldiers of the allies and of speaking to him.

GALESBURG, ILL., MAIL TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921.

MAN SUCCESSFUL IN SPITE
ST. PAUL, Minn., April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and a hand in his early boyhood, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.
Suffering amputation of both legs, his left arm, and the greater part of his right hand, when 14 years old, as a result of exposure in a blizzard, Mr. Dowling was shortly afterward left an orphan and became a county charge. He bargained with the county commissioners who became interested in his case and sent him to Carlton college. His rapid rise followed.
Mrs. Dowling, with the three children was at the bedside this morning when the end came.

MACOMB, ILL., JOUR. TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921.

**BANKER WHO ROSE
DESPITE AFFLICTIONS**
St. Paul, Minn., April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, banker, of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm, and a hand in his early boyhood, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.
Suffering amputation of both legs, his left arm and the greater part of his right hand when 14 years old as a result of exposure in a blizzard, Mr. Dowling was shortly afterward left an orphan and became a county charge. He bargained with the county commissioner, who became interested in his case, and sent him to Carlton college. His rapid rise followed. Mrs. Dowling, with the three children, was at the bedside this morning when the end came.

PEORIA, ILL., TRANS. TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921.

AKMS, LEGS, —
ST. PAUL, Minn., April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, banker, of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm, and a hand in his early boyhood, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.
Suffering amputation of both legs, his left arm, and the greater part of his right hand when 14 years old as a result of exposure in a blizzard, Mr. Dowling was shortly afterward left an orphan and became a county charge. He bargained with the county commissioner who became interested in his case and sent him to Carlton college. His rapid rise followed. Mrs. Dowling, with the three children, was at the bedside this morning when the end came.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00217

STREATOR, ILL. TIMES
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921.

pitchers; Parson, catcher.
Daredevils: Dominic, Sauer, pitchers;
Rogers and Padgett catchers.

NOTED BANKER DEAD.

(By Associated Press)

St. Paul, Minn., April 25—Michael
J.G. Dowling, 55, banker of Olivia,
Minn., famed for his success in life
after losing both legs, an arm and a
hand in his early boyhood died at a
hospital here today.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

0 0 2 1 8

RICHMOND, IND. PALL
SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 1926.

20

Two Minutes of Optimism

By HERMAN J. STICH

DO YOU DESERVE GOOD LUCK?

Michael Dowling, who died the other day in Olivia, Minn., should have his name inscribed in everlasting letters on the world's scroll of honor—and his statue in eternal bronze placed in every hall of fame in every city of every land—and his name and life history engraved in every heart of every man who is disheartened and discouraged because of his struggles with the seemingly insurmountable obstacles that are strewn on all the highways leading to any great goal.

For Michael Dowling was pre-eminently a man of courage.

Born in poverty that most of us can hardly conceive of, afflicted with some of the most heart-breaking disabilities it is the lot of humans to suffer, he yet wrested from life almost all of its good things, and he leaves a heritage of inspiration and encouragement to all men who think they have been worsted by the fortunes of accident, or war, or sheer battlings with a hard world.

When a boy of fourteen, Michael Dowling was caught in one of North Dakota's blinding blizzards.

When it was all over, it was found that both his arms and legs were so frozen they had to be amputated to save his life.

In the poorhouse hospital, to which he was subsequently sent, Dowling had plenty of time to ponder why some people are born with a silver spoon in their mouth, while it was left to others like himself to average down the general allotment of human blessings.

But the boy did not take to self-commiseration and self-pity. His body was broken, but his spirit was not. And he immediately began to think of ways in which he could overcome, if not capitalize his handicaps.

Since he had neither arms nor legs nor money, he decided there was only one way in which he could make a living—he would have to use his head.

As a preliminary, he absorbed enough of the fundamentals to qualify as a teacher in the district country school, and here he managed to earn and save money enough for a college education.

After a few years, Michael Dowling became superintendent of a high school, manager of a newspaper, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Minnesota, president of a bank and United States Senator.

Incidentally, equipped with artificial members, he drove his own auto, he hunted and he trapped, he was an enthusiastic athlete.

The next time you get the notion that yours is a particularly hard lot—give a thought to Michael Dowling—the legless, armless, wounded boy on a poorhouse cot, who became an educator, an honored public official and financier—and ask yourself—

"Do I deserve my good luck?"

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00219

BALTIMORE MD. AMER.
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921.

**MAN, CRIPPLED AS BOY,
DIES WEALTHY BANKER**

**Michael J. Dowling, Famed
For Game Fight, Expires.**

(By the Associated Press.)

St. Paul, Minn., April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, 55, a banker of Olivia, Minn., who gained notice for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and a hand in his boyhood, died today.

After the war Mr. Dowling made an eight-month tour of England lecturing to disabled war veterans on rehabilitation problems at the request of the British Government. For the last two years he had been touring this country in the interest of war wounded.

Suffering amputation of both legs, his left arm and the greater part of his right hand when 14 years old as a result of exposure in a blizzard, Mr. Dowling was shortly afterward left an orphan and became a county charge. The county commissioners became interested in his case and sent him to Carlton College. His rapid rise followed. His widow and three children survive.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

0 0 2 2 0

*Pittsfield
Mass. Essex*

THE BERKSHIRE
**CRIPPLED BANKER
ONCE LIVED IN
BERKSHIRE**

**Michael J. Dowling Made
Success After Losing
Legs and One Arm**

Michael J. Dowling, 55, the crippled banker of Olivia, Minn., who died yesterday, spent part of his boyhood in Great Barrington. He was a cousin of Daniel Donahue of this city. Mr. Dowling gained notice for his success in life after losing both his legs, his left arm, and the greater part of his right hand, as the result of the exposure in the blizzard of 1888 while in Minnesota.

After suffering the loss of his limbs at the age of 14 he was left a county charge. The county commissioners became interested in his case and sent him to Carlton college. His rapid rise followed. At the time of his death he was president of the Olivia (Minn.) State bank. From 1895 to 1897 he was secretary of the National Republican league and in 1900 he was special commissioner to the Philippine islands and a speaker in the Minnesota house of representatives in 1901.

After the war, Mr. Dowling made an eight months' tour of England lecturing to disabled war veterans on rehabilitation problems, at the request of the British government. For the last two years he had been touring this country in the interest of war wounded.

Mr. Dowling was born in Huntington, February 17, 1866, son of Jerome and Honora Barry Dowling. While in Great Barrington he was living with his grandfather, Michael J. Dowling, and he attended the Water street school.

NEW BEDFORD (Mass.) STAR
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921

**LEGLESS BANKER DIES
Minnesota Crippled Orphan
Won Success as Financier**

St. Paul, Minn., April 26.—Michael J. Dowling, 55, a banker of Olivia, Minn., who gained notice for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and a hand in his boyhood, died yesterday.

After the war Mr. Dowling made an eight months' tour of England lecturing to disabled war veterans on rehabilitation problems at the request of the British government. For the last two years he had been touring this country in the interest of war wounded.

Suffering amputation of both legs, his left arm and the greater part of his right hand when 14 years old as a result of exposure in a blizzard, Mr. Dowling was shortly afterward left an orphan and became a county charge. The county commissioners became interested in his case and sent him to Carlton college. His rapid rise followed. His widow and three children survive.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

0 0 2 2 1

Clipping from
Baker, Mont.
Times

Great Falls, Mont., president of the association, presided.
St. Paul — Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here. He was 55 years old.

Clipping from
Big Timber, Mont.
Times

is expected to leave next week.
St. Paul — Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here. He was 55 years old.

Clipping from
Big Timber, Mont.
Times

Famous Cripple Dies At Minnesota Home

Dispatches of last week announce the death of Michael J. Dowling of Minnesota, famed the world over for the success he had achieved notwithstanding physical ailments. He was an old friend of Justice T. W. Keithley of this city, whom he visited here three years ago when returning from an inspection of the Yellowstone Trail, of which association he was the first president.

The dispatch says:
"Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.

"Exposure in a blizzard when he was 14 years old resulted in amputation of both legs, his left arm and the fingers of his right hand, and Dowling became a county charge. He later bargained with the county commissioners, pledging that if they would send him to college he would become self-supporting. His determination won acceptance of his plan and he was sent to Carlton college. His success became notable.

"Following the armistice, at the request of the British government, Mr. Dowling toured England lecturing to disabled soldiers. For two and one-half years he similarly toured the United States."

Billings Mont. Gazette

BANKER FAMOUS FOR FIGHT UNDER HANDICAP DIES

ST. PAUL, April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.

Clipping from
Bridger, Mont.
Times

Washington—The oath of office was administered to Colonel George L. Harvey, as ambassador to Great Britain at the state department. He is expected to leave for his post next week.
St. Paul — Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here. He was 55 years old.

Clipping from
Broadus, Mont.
Examiner

MAY 13 1921

of more than 400 delegates from western states. B. J. Boorman, of Great Falls, Mont., president of the association, presided.
St. Paul — Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here. He was 55 years old.
The Dalles, Ore.—In the backyard of the family home here, 4-year-old Clifford Watson fell into a shallow pool of rain water which had accumu-

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

0 0 2 2 2

Clipping from
Browning, Mont.
Review

title to land in Nebraska.
Washington—The oath of office was administered to Colonel George Harvey, as ambassador to Great Britain at the state department. He is expected to leave for his post next week.
St. Paul—Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here. He was 55 years old.
St. Paul—William Cairncross, pioneer Mississippi river man, died at his home here. He was born in

Clipping from
Butte, Mont.
Post

**LEGLESS BANKER DIES;
BEAT LIFE'S HANDICAP**
St. Paul, Minn., April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.

MAY 6 - 1921

Clipping from
Butte, Mont.
Post

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St. Paul—Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here. He was 55 years old.
The Dalles, Ore.—In the backyard of the family home here, 4-year-old Clifford Watson fell into a shallow

Clipping from
Cascade, Mont.
Courier

western states. B. J. Boorman, of Great Falls, Mont., president of the association, presided.
St. Paul—Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here. He was 55 years old.
The Dalles, Ore.—In the backyard of the family home here, 4-year-old Clifford Watson fell into a shallow pool of rain water which had accumulated in a depression, and was drowned. The body was recovered 15 minutes later.

Clipping from
Conrad, Mont.
Independent

prohibits all aliens from acquiring title to land in Nebraska.
Washington—The oath of office was administered to Colonel George L. Harvey, as ambassador to Great Britain at the state department. He is expected to leave for his post next week.
St. Paul—Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here. He was 55 years old.
St. Paul—William Cairncross, pioneer Mississippi river man, died at his home here.

Clipping from
Dillon, Mont.
Examiner

4 1921
days session here with an attendance of more than 400 delegates from western states. B. J. Boorman, of Great Falls, Mont., president of the association, presided.
St. Paul—Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here. He was 55 years old.
The Dalles, Ore.—In the backyard of the family home here, 4-year-old Clifford Watson fell into a shallow

Clipping from
SUREKA, MONT., JOURNAL.

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St. Paul—Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here. He was 55 years old.

MAY 5 - 1921

Clipping from
Fairview, Mont.
News

western states. B. J. Boorman, of Great Falls, Mont., president of the association, presided.
St. Paul—Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here. He was 55 years old.
The Dalles, Ore.—In the backyard of the family home here, 4-year-old Clifford Watson fell into a shallow

Flaxville, Mont.
Democrat

of more than 400 delegates from western states. B. J. Boorman, of Great Falls, Mont., president of the association, presided.
St. Paul—Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here. He was 55 years old.
The Dalles, Ore.—In the backyard of the family home here, 4-year-old Clifford Watson fell into a shallow pool of rain water which had accumulated in a depression, and was drowned. The body was recovered 15 minutes later.

May 5 - 1921
Clipping from
Review
Browning, Mont.

St. Paul—Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here. He was 55 years old.

APR 26 1921

Clipping from
Great Falls, Mont.
Tribune

CRIPPLED BANKER DIES
St. Paul, April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here Monday. He was 55 years old.

Clipping from
Hardin, Mont.
Herald

St. Paul—Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here. He was 55 years old.
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DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

0 0 2 2 3

Clipping from

Havre, Mont.
Plaindealer

title to land in Nebraska.
Washington—The oath of office was administered to Colonel George L. Harvey, as ambassador to Great Britain at the state department. He is expected to leave for his post next week.

St. Paul—Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here. He was 55 years old.

St. Paul—William Cairncross, pioneer Mississippi river man, died at his home here. He was born in Scotland in 1829. Ten sons and 49 grandchildren, 43

Clipping from

Helena, Mont.
Record Herald

the game with Washington today. Walter Johnson was pitching.

MINNESOTA BANKER DIES.
ST. PAUL, April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.

APR 26 1921

Clipping from

Helena, Mont.
Independent

HE FOUGHT GOOD FIGHT.
St. Paul, Minn., April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.

Signal
Hot Springs Mont
4-29-21

NEW YORK.—The Rev. Dr. A. Woodruff Halsey, 69, secretary of the board of foreign relations of the Presbyterian church since 1899.
ST. PAUL, Minn.—Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth.
MANDAN N D.—James Watson.

Clipping from

Ismay, Mont.
Journal
MAY 6 - 1921

days session here with an attendance of more than 400 delegates from western states. B. J. Boorman, of Great Falls, Mont., president of the association, presided.
St. Paul — Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here. He was 55 years old.
The Dalles, Ore.—In the backyard of the family home here, 4-year-old Clifford Watson fell into a shallow

MAY 5 1921

Clipping from

Jordon, Mont.
Gazette

Lumbermen's Mutual society in a three days session here with an attendance of more than 400 delegates from western states. B. J. Boorman, of Great Falls, Mont., president of the association, presided.

St. Paul — Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here. He was 55 years old.

Clipping from

Kalispell, Mont.
Times

Great Falls, Mont., president of the association, presided.

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MAY 6 1921

Lewistown, Mont.
Democratic-News

Clipping from

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St. Paul—Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here. He was 55 years old.
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Lambert Mont
Leader
MAY 6 - 1921

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St. Paul — Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here. He was 55 years old.
The Dalles, Ore.—In the backyard of the family home here, 4-year-old Clifford Watson fell into a shallow pool of rain water which had accumulated in a depression, and was drowned. The body was recovered 15 minutes later.
PACIFIC NORTHWEST PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU
HELENA, MONT.

Clipping from

L. Harvey, as ambassador to Great Britain at the state department. He is expected to leave for his post next week.
St. Paul—Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here. He was 55 years old.
St. Paul—William Cairncross, pioneer Mississippi river man, died at his home here. He was born in Scotland in 1829. Ten sons and 49 grandchildren, 43

Clipping from

Moore, Mont.
Independent

days session here with an attendance of more than 400 delegates from western states. B. J. Boorman, of Great Falls, Mont., president of the association, presided.

St. Paul — Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here. He was 55 years old.

The Dalles, Ore.—In the backyard of the family home here, 4-year-old Clifford Watson fell into a shallow pool of rain water which had accumulated in a depression, and was drowned. The body was recovered 15 minutes later.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

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Clipping from
Philippsburg, Mont.
Mail

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Clipping from
Plains, Mont.
Plainsman

MAY 9 1921

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MAY 5 1921

Ryegate, Mont.
Reporter

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Clipping from
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Clipping from
Scobey, Mont.
News

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Square Butte, Mont.
TRIBUNE

MAY 6 1921

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Clipping from
Sidney, Mont.

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Clipping from
Stevensville, Mont.
Tribune

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Sumatra
May 7-21

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PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU
PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Clipping from
Terry, Mont.
Tribune.

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DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

0 0 2 2 5

Clipping from
Wolf Point, Mont.
Herald

**MICHAEL J. DOWLING
IS LAID TO REST**

Olivia, Minn., April 28.—Michael J. Dowling, Minnesota's "man of grit," who died last Monday, was laid to rest today while thousands of citizens from all parts of the state, joined in paying their tribute.

By train, by automobile, by team, came these thousands to show their esteem and affection for the man who, though crippled early in life, became the living example of courage and optimism.

As Michael J. Dowling was simple in his tastes, so the funeral services for him were simple. Typical also of his broadness, an Episcopalian clergyman, a Methodist minister and a Catholic priest, united in conducting the last rites.

No Eulogy Spoken

There was no eulogy spoken. It wasn't necessary. In every heart the eulogy for Michael Dowling was being voiced. Everyone in the vast throng that stood with uncovered heads, on the wind-swept lawn surrounding the home, while the simple services were being conducted inside knew the story of his life. That story of grit and courage and perseverance and optimism and sympathy was uppermost in the thoughts of those who followed the mortal remains to the little cemetery on the hill.

Those who came to Olivia today knew full well the story of the 14-year old boy who was lost in a snow storm and, as a result, suffered the loss of limbs; how he had deliberately cut himself off from public support by exchanging his rights for an education and artificial feet and hands, how he has become school teacher, editor, legislator, commissioner to the Philippines and banker.

Efforts to Cheer Others

They knew, too, of his tireless efforts to bring sunshine into the lives of the soldiers crippled in the World war, and of his devotion to the little folks in the Minneapolis school for crippled children, named in his honor.

Margaret Jones, a crippled girl,—known to Michael Dowling as "Pollyanna"—represented the children of the Dowling school. With her teachers, she came to pay tribute and that of her schoolmates to the man who had been an inspiration to the crippled children of Minneapolis.

Olivia, brought from obscurity and into the light by and because of Michael Dowling, gave evidence of the loss of its former leader.

"And now Olivia will be just like any other town," said one woman, voicing in that way the feeling for the citizen who brought fame to the little city because he lived there.—George E. Akerson in Minneapolis Tribune.

Clipping from
Westby, Mont.
News

M. J. DOWLING PASSES
**Olivia Banker Won World Fame
Despite Great Handicap.**

**Death Indirectly Due to His Strenuous
Lecture Trips to Inspire
Disabled Veterans.**

St. Paul—Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, known as Minnesota's optimist, who, despite a childhood tragedy which resulted in the loss of both legs and hands, overcame physical handicaps and attained success, died from overwork.

Death came to him in St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, with his wife, three daughters and his secretary at his bedside. The physical breakdown which ended his life was directly due to his efforts to help others similarly handicapped in life. Dr. Charles Lyman Greene, his attending physician, said.

The exertion of an international speaking tour during the war, followed by a return to the demands of his private business and many other interests, overtaxed his energy. Two weeks ago he returned from a lecture tour to his home in Olivia, where he collapsed. He was taken to St. Paul and, shortly after entering the hospital, he was stricken with an attack of apoplexy. The stroke was due to his weakened condition, Dr. Greene said.

The life story of Michael J. Dowling has been told in the palaces of royalty and the homes of the poor. It followed the flag of the Allied armies and brought cheer to thousands of men who were maimed and battered in the world conflict.

He was a secretary of the Republican National league from 1895 to 1897 and was appointed special commissioner to the Philippines in 1900 by President McKinley. In 1901 he was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives and was elected speaker. During the last campaign he was urged as a candidate for governor of Minnesota, but at the convention which nominated Governor Preus pledged his support to the choice of the convention and aided in his election.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

0 0 2 2 6

LEGLESS, HANDLESS, FOUGHT WAY TO TOP

Maimed by Exposure in Storm
When Boy, Dowling Rose
to Head a Bank.

CHEERED WOUNDED MEN

Died From Overwork Among
Them; Was Speaker of Min-
nesota Legislature.

MINNEAPOLIS, May 7.—"I'm glad I'm not a cripple."

That was the triumphant cry with which Michael J. Dowling, banker and business man of Olivia, Minn., greeted a cold world when he lost both legs, one arm and most of the other hand through exposure to a storm when he was 14 years old. And in spreading the story of that triumph to maimed soldiers so that they might take heart and overcome their difficulties he so overexerted himself that on his return to his home he suffered a complete collapse followed by a stroke of apoplexy which caused his death recently.

Michael was no inexperienced youth when he became a physical cripple. He was born in 1866. His father was a rover; his mother died while he was still very young. He had sold flowers on the streets of Chicago and herded cattle in Minnesota. He loved animals, and it was this love which caused his accident. He owned a pony of which he was very fond; but the demands of school were more urgent than the call to play, so he boarded the boat at his brother's farm. One day after school he visited the pony, nine miles from town. He started back with his brother to town. The brother and another man were in the front seat of a farm wagon, with Michael in the back. A severe snowstorm came up, the wagon ran over a big stump, and Michael flung himself up in the road. The others did not know of his fall until they reached town.

Walked Miles in Storm.

The boy, just 14, walked miles in the storm, unable to find a house. Night overtook him, and in desperation he crawled into a haystack and went to sleep. He awoke in the morning with arms and legs frozen, unable to walk. Crawling to a house, he received aid. Efforts of friends and doctors were unavailing, however, and both legs, an arm and the other hand were amputated to save his life. He paid the doctor bills from his scanty savings and was made a ward of the county.

Michael was no youth to let the county or anybody else support him; so when he had fully recovered his health he bargained with the County Commissioners. The result was that he was sent to Carlton College for two years, guaranteeing in return to relieve the authorities of himself at the end of that time.

Schooling completed, Michael, then 16 years old, and possessed of artificial members to replace those he had lost, became in quick succession a fence painter, manager of a roller skating rink, school teacher, principal and superintendent, insurance writer, editor, real estate dealer, and finally banker and politician. The details of the struggle of this man with a poor body but a strong mind are missing. Hardships he seldom told about, rather treating his rise as a natural thing, in no way unusual.

Was in Legislature.

Leaving the field of journalism, he became president of the Boonville State Bank and later of the State Bank of Olivia, which post he held until his death. In 1895 he married an Atlanta, Ga., girl and in the same year became secretary of the National Republican League. A few years later he served as a member of the State Legislature, becoming Speaker of the House in 1901.

During the world war, Mr. Dowling insisted, he enjoyed the happiest period of his life, for he was given the opportunity of fraternizing with wounded soldiers of the Allies and of speaking to them. His work in convalescent hospitals had a wonderfully inspiring effect on the men seemingly hopelessly crippled, according to army men. While he was making an international tour to spread his oration his popularity at home increased until he was placed on the slate for the governorship. Later he asked that his name be withdrawn in favor of a lifelong friend, who was elected.

"What are our bodies worth?" he was fond of asking. "A man may be worth \$100,000 a year from the neck up and not a dollar a day from the neck down. It's brains that count, not physique."

Such statements as that cheered wounded soldiers and gave heart to students at the Dowling School in Minnesota, a public institution named after him.

Mr. Dowling is survived by his widow and three daughters.

A MAIN STREETER.

OLIVIA, Minn., is a little town which might easily have recognized itself as the original of Sinclair Lewis's Gopher Prairie.

Michael J. Dowling was the Olivia banker. He died Monday, and his death is a national loss.

When fourteen years of age the Dowling boy was caught in one of the terrible blizzards of the Northwest. He was frozen almost to death. As a result of his experience, both legs, his left arm and most of his right hand had to be amputated. Soon after he was left an orphan and a public charge.

Surely here was a prospect as dark as could well be imagined. But Gopher Prairie and young Michael Dowling combined forces. The materialistic Main Streeters decided that Michael deserved help. They fixed him up with artificial limbs and sent him to college. Gopher Prairie taxation paid the bill.

Plucky young Mike did well in his college work in spite of his physical handicaps. He developed business acumen. He worked up in the business world of Main Street and became a banker. He triumphed over his infirmities. He developed ability as a public speaker. He became a strong civic force in his community and in his State. He was considered seriously for the gubernatorial chair.

And when the war came he was drafted for wider service. In England and in America he went from hospital to hospital as a living example of what a wounded and crippled man could accomplish with only a body, a head and a part of one arm.

What his service of inspiration to wounded soldiers has been can never be measured. His spirit goes marching along on other artificial legs.

But for it all Michael Dowling was a Main Streeter from first to last. His epic of accomplishment centres around the bank, the Post Office, the country store and the grain elevators.

Of course, Mr. Dowling was an exception. But nearly every Gopher Prairie has its exceptions, its Michael Dowlings.

The story of Mr. Dowling's life explains the caustic criticism of "Main Street" by the Gopher Prairieites who say that Sinclair Lewis used that most deceptive means of misrepresentation—the half-truth—in painting the picture of the typical small town of America.

M. J. DOWLING, LEGLESS LECTURER, IS DEAD

Toured England, Addressing
Disabled War Veterans.

ST. PAUL, April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, 55, a banker of Olivia, Minn., who gained notice for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and a hand in his boyhood, died today. After the war, Mr. Dowling made an eight months tour of England lecturing to disabled war veterans on rehabilitation problems at the request of the British Government. For the last two years he had been touring this country in the interest of war wounded.

Suffering amputation of both legs, his left arm and the greater part of his right hand when 14 years old as a result of exposure in a blizzard, Mr. Dowling was shortly afterward left an orphan and became a county charge. The County Commissioners became interested in his case and sent him to Carlton College.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

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Johnson City,
N.Y. Res. 1/14

Mike Dowling.
We pick up a Western paper and read of the death of a man whom the people of a great state mourn, though he was holding no public office or private place of great eminence at the time of his death, and never had held one higher than that of Speaker of the House of Representatives of the state Legislature, and that many years ago. Michael J. Dowling of Minnesota, known the Western country over as "Mike" Dowling, was so successful a man in spite of physical handicaps,

ROCHESTER N. Y. HERALD
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

THE

An Inspiration

OUT in Olivia, Minn., the other day there died a man by the name of Michael J. Dowling, and in his death the nation suffered a loss.

You may never have heard of Olivia and very probably never know that such a man as Michael J. Dowling existed, unless you might have met him in the hospitals overseas during the World War. But his life serves as an inspiration to all of us, especially those of us who may not be blessed as fully, physically, as our brothers.

When Michael was 14 years of age he was caught in one of those terrible blizzards of the Northwest. He was frozen almost to death. As a result of his experience both legs, his left arm and most of his right hand had to be amputated. Soon after he was left an orphan and became a public charge.

Can one imagine a more discouraging outlook on life than this?

But the people of Olivia took a liking to the boy. They saw he had possibilities, despite his condition. They fitted him out with artificial limbs and sent him to college, at public expense.

Young Michael did well at college. He returned to his home town and became a banker. He developed into a strong public speaker. He built up a fine business and took a leading part in the development of the town. He became a strong civic force in his community and was even talked of as a gubernatorial possibility.

When the war came on he wanted to do his bit. He went from hospital to hospital in America and in Europe as a living example of what a maimed and crippled American could accomplish, with but one arm, and that but partially effective.

What his service of inspiration to wounded soldiers has been can never be measured. Of course he was one of the exceptions, perhaps, but it is the truth that his spirit is carrying on many poor, crippled boys who would otherwise be draining the dregs of despair.

that the government sent him to talk to wounded soldiers, to inspire hope in them, and the Red Cross sent him to England to perform the same services for the British wounded. He was a humble citizen, yet kings welcomed him to their homes and the wealthy and powerful of two continents were glad to call him their friend.

His story is an inspiration to the youth of America. Left an orphan at ten, he made his way as a newsboy on the streets of Chicago for a time and then went to Minnesota to work in the fields. At the age of fourteen he was caught in a Minnesota blizzard. As the result of exposure, from which he barely escaped with his life, he lost both legs below the knee and his left arm. On the hand of his right arm, only the thumb and a stub of one finger remained.

It might have seemed to those who had the care of this unfortunate boy that he was doomed for life to an invalid's chair. But he was not. He had retained full possession of his mental and spiritual faculties. To an alert and active brain were joined an indomitable resolution and a heart undismayed by misfortune or distress. To the county authorities who took charge of his case he said, "Give me artificial limbs and two years in college and I will look after myself." They gave him the educational opportunity he wanted and from that time Mike Dowling asked no odds of the world. He became a school teacher, an insurance solicitor, an editor, a banker, a member of the Legislature, Speaker of the House, and later, a lecturer to inspire boys and men who had lost a limb or an eye in the war, with the idea that life still held something of hope, of happiness, of triumph for them. He died the other day at the age of 55 and the headline in one of the greatest newspapers of the Northwest carried these pregnant words: "All walks of life do honor to memory of Michael J. Dowling."

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00228

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Bismarck, N. D., Tribune
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921

**MICHAEL J. DOWLING
NORTHWEST BUILDER
DIES AT OLIVIA, MINN.**

St. Paul, April 26.—Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing his lower limbs and hands in early boyhood, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.

Suffering amputation of both legs below the knee, his left arm and the greater part of his right hand, when 14 years old as a result of exposure in a blizzard, Mr. Dowling was shortly afterward left an orphan and became a charge of the county. He refused, however, to become discouraged and began making plans to overcome his handicap. He bargained with the county commissioners who became interested in his case and sent him to Carleton college. His rapid rise followed.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Grand Forks, N. D., Herald
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

**THOUSANDS ATTEND
FUNERAL SERVICES
FOR M. DOWLING**

Olivia, Minn., April 28.—Thousands of persons attended the funeral services of Michael J. Dowling here today. He died in St. Paul Monday. Services were held at the family home at 3 o'clock.

Among those who attended the services were Mrs. Julia McGraw, principal of the Dowling school for the crippled children, Minneapolis, and several teachers of that institution. Miss Marie McCormick of Fargo, N. D., singer also attended.

In accordance with a proclamation of Mayor Passer, business houses here closed from 11 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Services at the home were in charge of Rev. W. S. Emory of the Methodist church, and Rev. Father H. D. Poinjic of the Catholic church.

Mr. Dowling was internationally known, due to his successes in life even after he lost the use of his hands and legs. His widow and three daughters survive.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Fargo, N. D., Standard News
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1921

Moorhead Creek

**All Is Ready for
Tag Day Saturday**

Plans have been completed for the tag day tomorrow for the relief of Chinese famine sufferers, in accordance with the proclamation by C. I. Evenson, mayor of Moorhead. School girls, directed by Miss Margaret Newton, supervisor of music in Moorhead public schools, will sell the tags on downtown streets.

DOWLING FUNERAL HELD

OLIVIA, Minn., April 28.—Funeral services for Michael J. Dowling, widely known banker and politician, were held here today. The body lay in state at the court house this morning. Burial was at 3 p. m., when a large delegation of state officers and friends from the Twin Cities arrived. Dowling died in St. Paul Monday.

*Fargo N. Dak
Herald Apr 27/21*

Michael J. Dowling

In the death of Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., that state loses its greatest optimist. Crippled at the age of 14, losing both his hands and feet, Mr. Dowling, nevertheless, made a success of his own life and inspired thousands of other unfortunates to greater effort. He held many positions of trust and filled them acceptably, and he won many honors in business, politics and in the educational world. His story had given him nationwide fame.

The greatest interest of the man, however, is said to have been in relieving pain and brightening lives of crippled children. The Dowling School for Crippled Children in Minneapolis is a monument to his work.

In his death Minnesota has lost one of her greatest sons.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

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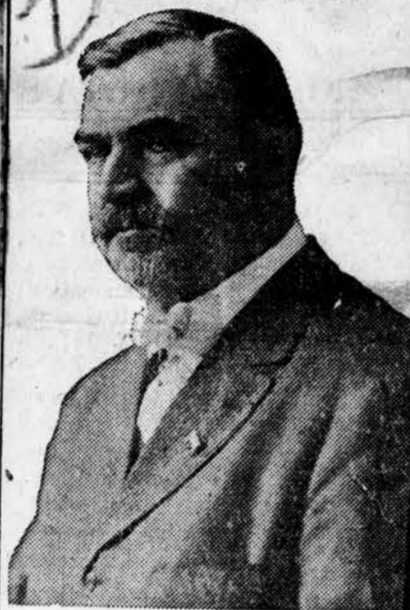
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Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Granville (N. D.) Herald.
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

Mike Dowling, the legless and one armed banker of Olivia, Minn., is dead at the age of 55. He was of an indomitable will, and by his great cheerful spirit put new life and hope into thousands of the returned wounded soldiers, and it was in this work that he became ill and gave up his life. The heroes were not all on the battle fields of Flanders. Pass on good and faithful soldier citizen to the great reward "over there."

MICHAEL J. DOWLING.



Michael J. Dowling, Minnesota banker and business man, who died Monday, was left an orphan at 14, with legs and arms lost in a blizzard, he staked his future care on two years at college, became a teacher, entered business, and finally became a leading banker. Throughout his life he gave his greatest effort to the aid of children who had become crippled.

M. J. DOWLING PASSES

Olivia Banker Won World Fame
Despite Great Handicap.

Death Indirectly Due to His Strenuous
Lecture Trips to Inspire
Disabled Veterans.

St. Paul—Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, known as Minnesota's optimist, who, despite a childhood tragedy which resulted in the loss of both legs and hands, overcame physical handicaps and attained success, died from overwork.

Death came to him in St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, with his wife, three daughters and his secretary at his bedside. The physical breakdown which ended his life was directly due to his efforts to help others similarly handicapped in life. Dr. Charles Lyman Greene, his attending physician, said.

The exertion of an international speaking tour during the war, followed by a return to the demands of his private business and many other interests, overtaxed his energy. Two weeks ago he returned from a lecture tour to his home in Olivia, where he collapsed. He was taken to St. Paul and, shortly after entering the hospital, he was stricken with an attack of apoplexy. The stroke was due to his weakened condition, Dr. Greene said.

The life story of Michael J. Dowling has been told in the palaces of royalty and the homes of the poor. It followed the flag of the Allied armies and brought cheer to thousands of men who were maimed and battered in the world conflict.

He was a secretary of the Republican National league from 1895 to 1897 and was appointed special commissioner to the Philippines in 1900 by President McKinley. In 1901 he was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives and was elected speaker. During the last campaign he was urged as a candidate for governor of Minnesota, but at the convention which nominated Governor Preus pledged his support to the choice of the convention and aided in his election.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Jamestown, N. D., Alert
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921

M. J. DOWLING DEAD;
SUCCEEDED IN LIFE
TERRIBLY HANDICAPPED

St. Paul, April 26.—Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing his lower limbs and hands in early boyhood, died at a hospital here Monday. He was 55 years old.

Suffering amputation of both legs below the knee, his left arm and the greater part of his right hand, when 14 years old as a result of exposure in a blizzard, Mr. Dowling was shortly afterward left an orphan and became a charge of the county. He refused, however, to become discouraged and began making plans to overcome his handicap. He bargained with the county commissioners who became interested in his case and sent him to Carlton college. His rapid rise followed.

"I am deeply grieved to learn of the death of Mr. Dowling," Governor Preus said today.

"Mr. Dowling has been active in public affairs of Minnesota for more than a quarter of a century and his influence has always been for good."

For two and a half years Mr. Dowling had been touring the country in the interest of disabled war veterans. Following signing of the armistice, he went to England at the request of the British government and the British Red Cross, and for more than eight months lectured to British war wounded on rehabilitation problems. Death was due to heart disease superinduced by exertions on this tour, his physician said. He had been in the hospital here two weeks.

Mrs. Dowling with the three children were at the bedside this morning when the end came. The funeral will be held at Olivia Thursday afternoon.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Minot, N. D., News
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921

"MIKE" J. DOWLING,
NOTED AS LEGLESS
BANKER, IS DEAD

MINUS BOTH LEGS, ONE ARM AND
PART OF OTHER HAND, HE
ATTAINED SUCCESS

(By The Associated Press)
St. Paul, Minn., April 25.—Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, aged 55, banker, widely known for the success he attained in life after losing both legs, one arm and the other hand in his boyhood, died at a hospital here today of heart disease.

Mr. Dowling was a candidate for governor last fall and was a strong candidate until he withdrew in the interests of J. A. O. Preus' candidacy.

Mr. Dowling possessed a genial personality and was a ready speaker. He had spoken with great effect in many places. During the war he went to Europe and helped to cheer the soldiers. On his return he traveled widely over the country speaking regarding the war work.

Mr. Dowling walked with the use of artificial limbs and was as active and successful as tho he possessed all his limbs. He was the victim of freezing when a boy.

M. J. DOWLING PASSES

Olivia Banker Won World Fame
Despite Great Handicap.

Death Indirectly Due to His Strenuous
Lecture Trips to Inspire
Disabled Veterans.

St. Paul—Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, known as Minnesota's optimist, who, despite a childhood tragedy which resulted in the loss of both legs and hands, overcame physical handicaps and attained success, died from overwork.

Death came to him in St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, with his wife, three daughters and his secretary at his bedside. The physical breakdown which ended his life was directly due to his efforts to help others similarly handicapped in life. Dr. Charles Lyman Greene, his attending physician, said.

The exertion of an international speaking tour during the war, followed by a return to the demands of his private business and many other interests, overtaxed his energy. Two weeks ago he returned from a lecture tour to his home in Olivia, where he collapsed. He was taken to St. Paul and, shortly after entering the hospital, he was stricken with an attack of apoplexy. The stroke was due to his weakened condition, Dr. Greene said.

The life story of Michael J. Dowling has been told in the palaces of royalty and the homes of the poor. It followed the flag of the Allied armies and brought cheer to thousands of men who were maimed and battered in the world conflict.

He was a secretary of the Republican National league from 1895 to 1897 and was appointed special commissioner to the Philippines in 1900 by President McKinley. In 1901 he was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives and was elected speaker. During the last campaign he was urged as a candidate for governor of Minnesota, but at the convention which nominated Governor Preus pledged his support to the choice of the convention and aided in his election.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

McGregor, N. D., Herald
FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1921

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Despite Great Handicap.

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Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Valley City, N. D., News Record
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921

MIKE DOWLING DIED EARLY TODAY

St. Paul, April 25.—Mike J. Dowling, 55, widely known business man, banker and politician, died at St. Luke's hospital here at 5 a. m. today of heart disease. He was well known throughout the state and very successful, despite the handicap of being without hands or legs. He lost his limbs when 14 years old in a Minnesota blizzard. His wife and three daughters were with him when he died. His funeral will be held at Olivia, Minn., Thursday.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00231

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Williston, N. D., Herald
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

THE INCALCULABLE INFLUENCE OF A GOOD EXAMPLE

THOSE who had the good fortune to hear M. J. Dowling when he spoke in Williston last summer, though they may know no more about him than they learned at that time, will feel that the world has sustained a loss in his death, which occurred last Monday, but that it is infinitely richer for his having lived.

Left a penniless orphan and handicapped (as we say) at 14 by the loss of both feet, one arm and all but one finger of the other, he secured an education and attained eminence in business and politics.

His character is of the man is this statement, which those who heard him here will recognize:

"I believe I have proved that being a cripple is more a state of mind than of body. There is only one really insurmountable handicap, and that is the loss of the inner power we call the mind. A man may be worth \$100,000 a year from his neck up and not a dollar from his neck down. Why shouldn't I be happy? Life is just as rich for me in things which really count as for any man. Handicap? Why, a handicap is just a chance for a good, honest fight."

This gospel of good cheer he preached to thousands of wounded and maimed soldiers in the United States and Europe, and in the effect which his example of optimism had upon these men lies the great value of his services to the world.

Verily, Michael J. Dowling was not a cripple!

(N. D.) JOURNAL
THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1921

Mr. George Younger, chairman of the Unionist party, is Premier Lloyd George's right-hand man.

M. J. DOWLING PASSES

Olivia Banker Won World Fame Despite Great Handicap.

Death Indirectly Due to His Strenuous Lecture Trips to Inspire Disabled Veterans.

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Death came to him in St. Luke's hospital, St. Paul, with his wife, three daughters and his secretary at his bedside. The physical breakdown which ended his life was directly due to his efforts to help others similarly handicapped in life, Dr. Charles Lyman Greene, his attending physician, said.

The exertion of an international speaking tour during the war, followed by a return to the demands of his private business and many other interests, overtaxed his energy. Two weeks ago he returned from a lecture tour to his home in Olivia, where he collapsed. He was taken to St. Paul and, shortly after entering the hospital, he was stricken with an attack of apoplexy. The stroke was due to his weakened condition, Dr. Greene said.

The life story of Michael J. Dowling has been told in the palaces of royalty and the homes of the poor. It followed the flag of the Allied armies and brought cheer to thousands of men who were maimed and battered in the world conflict.

He was a secretary of the Republican National League from 1895 to 1897 and was appointed special commissioner to the Philippines in 1900 by President McKinley. In 1901 he was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives and was elected speaker. During the last campaign he was urged as a candidate for governor of Minnesota, but at the convention which nominated Governor Preus pledged his support to the choice of the convention and aided in his election.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Minot, N. D., News
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1921

THE EXAMPLE OF "MIKE" DOWLING

The death of Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, Minn., Monday calls attention to one of the most remarkable instances of grit and success despite tremendous handicaps on record in the United States or the world.

When 14 years old Mr. Dowling was caught in a blizzard and was badly frozen so that it was necessary to amputate both his legs below the knee, his left arm and the greater part of his right hand. Soon afterward the boy became an orphan and a county charge. But little "Mike" Dowling was not made of the stuff that whines and stinks at misfortune or gives up the fight in the face of obstacles. He attracted the interest of the commissioners of his county and bargained with them to send him to school. He obtained an education, secured admission to Carleton college and from then on steadily made his way forward. He entered the banking business and was recognized as one of the successful financial men of Minnesota.

For more than 25 years Mr. Dowling took an active interest in public affairs and last fall was a prominent candidate for governor of Minnesota, withdrawing in the interests of Republican harmony and permitting the nomination and election of J. A. O. Preus.

Mr. Dowling was unable to fight in the World war but few men did more for the cause than he. For two and a half years he has been touring the country in the interests of disabled war veterans. After the armistice with Germany was signed Mr. Dowling went to England at the request of the British government and for more than eight months lectured to British wounded men on rehabilitation problems. His message of cheer and encouragement, reinforced by his own remarkable example, had a wonderful effect and brot new hope and determination to crowds of discouraged victims of the great struggle.

Determination and right action always bring their rewards. "Mike" Dowling missed few of the joys and satisfactions of life. His physical defects did not deprive him of the home happinesses and he had a capable and devoted wife and three fine children.

Climaxing the whole splendid story of his career is the record that "Mike" Dowling led a clean life and that his efforts thruout have been for the better and more uplifting things. Surely the record should come like a trumpet call for hope, striving and courage to many another boy and man who has met misfortune but who need not for that reason give over the battle and admit defeat and failure.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Minot, N. D., Independent
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

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Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Minot, N. D., Independent
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

He is said to be a great man for the place.

Michael J. Dowling is Dead

Olivia, Minn., who became widely known for the success he made of life after losing both legs and one hand from freezing, passed away in a hospital in St. Paul, Monday, from heart disease. He was a strong candidate for governor last fall. Mr. Dowling went to Europe during the war and brought much cheer to the crippled soldiers. He spoke in many parts of the United States on his return and his visit to Minot about a year ago will long be remembered. One of his great works was the establishment of the Dowling hospital for crippled children in Minneapolis.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Minot, N. D., News
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

DOWLING BURIED

Fargo, N. D., April 28.—Miss Marie McCormick, noted Fargo singer, left last night for Olivia, Minn., to sing at the funeral of Michael J. Dowling, prominent Minnesotan, which was held this morning. Mr. Dowling was a cousin of Miss McCormick's father, the late T. L. McCormick.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

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M. J. DOWLING PAPER

Olivia Banker Won World Fame Despite Great Handicap.

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Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Williston, N. D., Herald
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

M. J. Dowling, Well Known Banker, Dead

Death of Famous Cripple Hastened by
Efforts to Help Others Similarly
Afflicted

Michael J. Dowling, of Olivia, Minn. who won international fame for his success in spite of being physically crippled, died in a hospital in St. Paul last Monday, his death being due to heart disease, attributed to hard work on behalf of disabled soldiers and sailors. He was 55 years of age.

When 14 years of age, Dowling became lost in a severe blizzard in south western Minnesota, seeking shelter in a strawpile, where he spent a whole night. As a result of this exposure, his limbs were so badly frozen that it was found necessary to amputate both legs below the knee and one arm below the elbow. The fingers and part of the thumb of the right hand were also removed.

After his savings had gone for doctor bills the county took charge of him. He proposed that if the county would support him in college for two terms he would care for himself after that. This was done and the boy "made good," earning his way by painting fences, teaching school, doing newspaper work, and in fact any honest work that promised returns.

During the war he went to Europe at the request of the British government to demonstrate to crippled soldiers what a cripple could do for himself, and his talks were such an inspiration that he was induced to continue that work after the war closed.

He was married and had three daughters.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

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EDITORIAL PAGE

At Grips With Evil Fortune

MICHAEL J. DOWLING died in Olivia, Minn., the other day leaving a good estate and a name so honored among men that he may be called an exemplar of courage.

Born in extreme poverty Dowling began to earn his living when twelve years old. Caught in a blizzard, when he was fifteen, his arms and legs were so frozen that all had to be amputated to save his life.

While he lay in his hospital bed the boy planned ways in which to combat his cruel fate. His hands and feet were gone, but the brain was still there, and with unbroken spirit he began the task of training the one faculty with which he might still struggle with the world. He acquired enough elementary education to fit him to teach district school, and followed that occupation long enough to earn the money that put him through college.

Equipped with artificial members, he entered the business world of his native town, and manifested an aptitude for business that finally made him president of a bank and a leader in all works of public spirit. He of all men might have for an epitaph Henley's stirring lines:

"In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud,
Beneath the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody but unbowed."

This man, who so gallantly wrested from life so much of the good which a cruel fortune had denied him, gave freely and unstintingly of time and money for the alleviation of those brave men who, in the great war, suffered mutilations like his own.

As a citizen—and a sorely handicapped citizen at that—he did his best to make up for the callous indifference of our government, and many of our people, to the destitute condition of youths crippled in war. He spent many days in hospitals cheering up hopeless soldiers who had suffered only one-quarter of the amputations he had endured.

This individual example should shame the lawmakers who are splitting straws while our wounded veterans starve. But it should also be an encouragement and a call to effort and self-advancement among those whom accident or the fortunes of war have left crippled in the battle with the world.

A man totally blind from early youth, who nevertheless attained the honorable station of a United States senator, was accustomed to say that he owed it all to the courage of a mother who would never permit him to use his blindness as an excuse for not doing things. The method was heroic but the end attained proved its efficiency.

Adversity stoutly grappled with, not infrequently, proves the path to fortune. Life stories such as these merit wide publicity for the encouragement and aid they furnish to others who have handicaps that seem to them insurmountable.

LANCASTER OHC. EAGLE.
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921.

LEGLESS BANKER DIES
Dowling Lost Lower Limbs and
Arm When Youth

ST. PAUL, Minn., April 26.—Michael J. Dowling, 55 years old, of Olivia, Minn., banker, who gained notice for his success in life after having lost both legs, an arm and part of the other hand when a boy died today.

After the World War Mr. Dowling made an eight month's tour of England, lecturing to disabled veterans on rehabilitation problems at the request of the British Government. For the last two years he had been touring this country in the interest of war wounded.

Suffering amputation of both legs, his left arm and the greater part of his right hand when 14 year old as a result of exposure in a blizzard, Mr. Dowling, an orphan, shortly afterward became a county charge. The County Commissioner became interested in his case and sent him to Carlton College. His rapid rise followed. His widow and three children survive.

CINCINNATI, OHIO, EMO.
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921.

L 26, 1921

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DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

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LEGLESS DOWLING, WHO WON WEALTH AND RENOWN, DIES

From Poor House to Political
And Financial Power, He
Was a Marvel of Grit

LOST HIS ARMS, TOO, AFTER STORM TRAGEDY

Equipped Himself to Go About
Normally and Amazed the
Country With His Example
Of Perseverance

ST. PAUL, Minn., April 25.—There
died here today a man who was grit
personified.

Rising from a tragedy of youth that
made him legless, armless and an
orphan, Michael J. Dowling, stepped
from a county poor farm to financial
and political renown.

Utterly without assistance, Dowling,
his friends said tonight, gave this
country an example in perseverance
and solid backbone that rivals any
fact or fiction of fame from misfor-
tune.

Crippled By Blizzard

Like "Jed, the Poorhouse Boy," Al-
ger's tale that he read when a boy,
Dowling overcame obstacles with a
mastery that was amazing.

He died in a hospital here, after an
illness that he had long fought. He
was 55 years old.

Dowling was president of the Olivia,
Minn., State bank, which institution
he had headed for many years.

Caught in a blizzard when he was
14 years old, Dowling struggled for
hours before he was rescued. His
legs were so badly frozen that both
were amputated above the knees, he
lost one arm and the hand of the
other was made useless. Shortly af-
terwards his parents died and he be-
came a county charge.

Poor House to College

Soon Dowling induced the county
commissioners to finance his way
through Carleton, Minn., college. He
later repaid the money.

From college he became interested
in banking and politics. He accumu-
lated wealth. He became a power in
Minnesota politics.

He served a year as speaker of the
Minnesota house of representatives.
He was for two years secretary of the
National Republican league. He was
interested in many financial under-
takings and pushed them through
with marvelous success.

Went About Easily

Dowling's manner of getting about
in his crippled condition provoked the
amazement and admiration of his
friends. He worked out a scheme of
mechanical arms which answered
every purpose; he could eat, write,
dress himself and do anything a nor-
mally physical man could accomplish.
He built himself legs on which he
could walk with perfect freedom. A
stranger was seldom aware of his
physical handicaps.

After the armistice Dowling went
abroad. He talked to disabled sol-
diers, men as legless and armless as
himself.

Encouraged Soldiers

"Look at me," he told them. "What
I have done you can do," he said, not
in a spirit of boast but in a manner
that proved inspiring to thousands of
cripples. Then he returned to Amer-
ica and spread his doctrine. He was
no preacher or "Pollyanna," instaed
a man who talked from the shoulder
with remarkable convincing powers.

When he was 30, and well on his
chosen route, Dowling married. His
wife survives.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00235

PORTLAND ORE. OREGONIAN
SATURDAY, MAY 21, 1921.

Michael J. Dowling, banker, who died in Minnesota the other day, bequeathed the inspiration of a staunch spirit to all who falter and complain. "What are our bodies worth?" he was fond of asking. "A man may be worth \$100,000 a year from the neck up and not a dollar a day from the neck down." Of limbs he had none, save one arm minus its hand. The others were amputated by surgeons when, as a boy, he was frozen in a blizzard. Young Dowling went to the county commissioner, but not in quest of charity. He proposed that they send him to college, and consider the expense as a debt he must repay. He repaid them. Fence painter, school teacher, principal and superintendent, insurance writer, editor, real estate dealer, and finally banker and politician, Dowling proved that bodies are just the habitations of the will. It should be added, to complete the perspective, that he declined nomination for the governorship of Minnesota. A large souled man, who lived his life in a big way, Dowling's memory should remain as a rebuke to the whiners of life.

PORTLAND ORE. OREGONIAN
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921.

FAMOUS CRIPPLE IS DEAD

MICHAEL J. DOWLING, BANKER,
DIES AT AGE OF 55.

Olivia, Minn., Man Loses Both
Legs, One Arm and Fingers of
Right Hand at Age of 14.

ST. PAUL, April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.

Exposure in a blizzard when he was 14 years old resulted in amputation of both legs, his left arm and the fingers of his right hand and Dowling became a county charge. He later bargained with the county commissioners, pledging that if they would send him to college he would become self-supporting. His determination won acceptance of his plan and he was sent to Carlton College. His success became notable.

Following the armistice, at the request of the British government, Mr. Dowling toured England lecturing to disabled soldiers. For two and one-half years, he similarly toured the United States.

Death was caused by heart disease superinduced by exertions of his lecture tour, his physicians said.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

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Harrisburg
Pa. Ill.
4/26

TUESDAY EVENING,
**MAN WHO WON
LIMBLESS, DIES**

Was Able to Make Success
Without Legs or
Hands

St. Paul, April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, 55, a banker of Olivia, Minn., who gained notice for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and a hand in his boyhood, died yesterday. After the war, Mr. Dowling made an eight months tour of England, lecturing to disabled war veterans on rehabilitation problems at the request of the British government. For the last two years he had been touring this country in the interest of war wounded.

Suffering amputation of both legs, his left arm and the greater part of his right hand when 14 years old as a result of exposure in a blizzard, Mr. Dowling was shortly afterward left an orphan and became a county charge. The county commissioners became interested in his case and sent him to Carlton College.

Mr. Dowling made an address before a luncheon meeting of the Chamber of Commerce Harrisburg, a year or two ago and made a remarkable impression upon all his hearers.

**French Premier Is
Doubtful of New Offer**

Paris, April 25. — Premier Briand hopes that the German counterproposals will be worth while, but expressed doubt that they would be.

"If they should be put up to the Paris conference minimum demands of the Allies," he added, "we would accept them with guarantees."

[A dispatch from Berlin says the German experts figure that the new proposals obligate Germany to the payment of 220,000,000,000 marks gold. The minimum terms of the Allies fixed at the Paris meeting were 226,000,000,000 marks gold.]

When asked what sort of guarantees, he replied that they would be along the lines of participation in the proceeds of German industry, a certain check on German customs receipts and deposits of gold.

[A digest of the German proposals indicates that a certain participation in industry and customs is offered by Germany.]

The Chamber of Deputies gave evidence of what is construed as its intention to support the government in the occupation of Ruhr, if that becomes necessary, by voting an increase of 20,000,000 francs for artillery. That action was taken against the advice of the Minister of Finance. The Senate had reduced the artillery appropriation to 67,000,000 francs, but former Minister of War Lefevre carried the point that an extra 20,000,000 francs would be the best financial economy, if it aided in the enforcement of the Treaty.

NEWCASTLE, PA. NEWS
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1931
**Won Wide Renown,
Tho Long Legless**
M. J. Dowling, Banker, Dies At 55—
Lost Both Legs, One Arm and
Hand When a Boy
ST. PAUL, April 29.—Michael J. Dowling, 55, a banker of Olivia, Minn., who gained notice for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and a hand in his boyhood, died today.
After the war Mr. Dowling made an eight months tour of England lecturing to disabled war veterans on rehabilitation at the request of the British government. The last two years he had been touring this country in the interest of war wounded.
Suffering amputation of both legs, his left arm and the greater part of the right hand when 14 years old as a result of exposure in a blizzard he soon afterward was left an orphan and became a county charge. The county commissioners sent him to Carlton college. His rapid rise followed. He leaves a widow and three children.

NEWCASTLE, PA. NEWS
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1931

A Remarkable Man.

The news dispatch announcing the death of MICHAEL J. DOWLING at Olivia, Minn., records the passing of a remarkable man. Thrown on his own resources when a boy, he was caught in a blizzard and from the effects of it he suffered amputation of both legs, one arm and a part of the remaining hand. Handicapped thus and with little schooling he might have been expected to drag out an existence as a ward of charity or as a mendicant. But while his body was a wreck his mind was alert and his condition made him determine to overcome the almost insuperable obstacles to making himself of value in the world. While he lay for months recovering from his injuries he planned his future. He taught school, went to college and engaged in business so successfully as to become president of a bank in his home town. In describing himself some time ago he said that he, with his two artificial legs, had been able to outwalk companions in hunting and he drove his own automobile. Since the war Mr. DOWLING had devoted much of his time to visiting disabled war veterans and speaking to them in an attempt to lift them out of dependency by reciting to them what he, so crippled, had accomplished.

The spirit that is able to wrest success from circumstances that make it apparently impossible is worthy of notice. He not only called on his mind for its best but he made his shattered body perform the functions of physical health. He refused to recognize a handicap and therefore had none. He sought no odds but did a man's part in a man's world. It is possible that some men need the stimulus of desperation to impel them to their best. Had not the great misfortune befallen Mr. DOWLING he might have been content to remain a farm worker. The calamity may have revealed the real spirit of the man because he was forced to act or sink into a helpless existence. That one maimed as he had conquered his disabilities should encourage others who are the victims of circumstance. If he could do so much, has anyone with all their members intact cause to rail at fate?

Pittsburg
Pa. Ill.
4/26

**Crippled Banker Dies
After He Wins Success**

ST. PAUL, Minn., April 25.—[A P.]—Michael J. Dowling, aged 55, a banker of Olivia, Minn., who gained notice for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and a hand in his boyhood, died today. After the war Mr. Dowling made an eight months' tour of England, lecturing to disabled war veterans on rehabilitation problems at the request of the British Government. For the last two years he had been touring this country in the interest of war wounded.
Suffering amputation of both legs, his left arm and the greater part of his right hand when aged 14, as a result of exposure in a blizzard, Mr. Dowling was shortly afterward left an orphan and became a county charge. The County Commissioners became interested in his case and sent him to Carlton College. His rapid rise followed. His widow and three children survive.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

0 0 2 3 7

PROVIDENCE, R. I. BULLETIN
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921.

**MADE SUCCESS IN LIFE
DESPITE GREAT HANDICAP**

Dowling Lost Both Legs, an Arm
and Hand in Boyhood.

St. Paul, Minn., April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, 55, a banker of OLIVE, Minn., who gained notice for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and a hand in his boyhood, died to-day.

After the war Mr. Dowling made an eight months tour of England lecturing to disabled war veterans on rehabilitation problems at the request of the British Government. For the last two years he had been touring this country in the interest of war wounded.

Suffering amputation of both legs, his left arm and the greater part of his right hand when 14 years old as a result of exposure in a blizzard, Mr. Dowling was shortly afterward left an orphan and became a county charge. The County Commissioners became interested in his case and sent him to Carlton College. His rapid rise followed. His widow and three children survive.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

0 0 2 3 8

Clark (S. D.) Review.
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921

MICHAEL J. DOWLING

The following tribute to Michael J. Dowling is taken from the St. Paul Dispatch, and while he was principally a Minnesotan, he was big and broad enough to give his time and activities to the benefit of all mankind. The writer had known Mike Dowling since we were boys. His life was an inspiration to every young man who is handicapped, either by being a cripple, or lacking in the world's goods. We regret his death, and the world loses an able and upright man.

"Michael J. Dowling, who died suddenly today, was an inspiration to many thousands more than the people of his native state who loved him and admired him. The whole nation knew the beautiful story of this crippled boy, and knowing it, thanked God, and took courage.

And it is indeed a wonderful story—the story of a defiance of misfortune which seems fairly unbelievable. When fourteen years old, young Dowling, then an orphan cattle herder in Western Minnesota, was caught in a blizzard and so frozen that it was necessary to amputate both legs below the knee, one arm, and all but one of the fingers on his right hand. To the ordinary boy of that time, place and age, these obstacles would have been unsurmountable. But Dowling was of a different spirit. As a county charge he was sent to Carleton college. After two years there he taught school for seven years, became a lawyer, founded a newspaper, entered politics as secretary of the National Republican League, was elected chief clerk of the Minnesota house and later a member and its speaker, represented the government on the educational mission to the Philippines, acquired control of the State Bank of Olivia, made a comfortable fortune, ran for congress and during the 1920 campaign was a candidate for the republican nomination for governor at the convention which nominated Governor Preus.

This, in brief, is the history of this remarkable man. His philosophy of life is perhaps best illustrated by a statement he made not very long ago:

"I believe I have proved that being a cripple is more a state of mind than body. There is only one really insurmountable handicap, and that is the loss of the inner power we call the mind. A man may be worth \$100,000 a year from his neck up and not a dollar from his neck down. Why shouldn't I be happy. Life is just as rich for me as for any man. Handicap? Why, a handicap is just a chance for a good, honest fight.

To Mike Dowling, his disabilities were but an incident; to most others they would have been fatal both to spirit and will.

During the war Mr. Dowling was of great service. He visited the hospitals for cripples in both America and England, and showed the war-torn heroes what could be done. He was loved by these boys, and loved them in return. For this work alone he never will be forgotten. Here in Minnesota we have lost a good neighbor and a friend, and the country has lost a genuine inspiration."

Clark (S. D.) Review.
THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1921

ALWAYS OPPORTUNITY IN THE U. S. A.

Those who bemoan the lack of opportunity, should study the career of Michael Dowling of Olivia, Minn., who died a couple of weeks ago. When a boy Mr. Dowling was thrown from a wagon by a gang of drunken threshers, between Canby and Lake Benton. This was during the famous blizzard of 1889. Dowling was out all night in this blinding, freezing storm. And was so badly frozen, that when the surgeons got through amputating he had neither hands or feet, and only stubs for legs and one handless arm. Did he feel that life was not worth living? That with so great a handicap, there was no opportunity? Not Michael Dowling.

He realized that his great handicap only meant better preparation and harder work to attain worth while things. So he went to the county commissioners and told them that if they would send him to college and educate him, he would pay back every cent it cost. The county commissioners liked the spirit of the young man, and complied with his request. So Michael Dowling was sent to college and educated. And he kept his word. He paid back every cent.

But he didn't quit after completing college. He kept studying, and working. And he became a fence painter, school teacher, principal and superintendent, insurance writer, editor, real estate dealer, and finally a banker and politician. He was the friend of William McKinley, and was widely known and honored for his big attainments.

The writer met him when he was campaigning for congress against Volsetad, and again several times when he was lecturing, and we always found him cheerful and inspiring in his broad outlook and rugged Americanism. In late years, he declined the nomination of governor of Minnesota, equal to election.

A favorite saying of Dowling's was: "What are our bodies worth? A man may be worth \$100,000 a year from the neck up and not a dollar a day from the neck down."

He was a man of deep learning, a large souled American, and he lived his life in a big way. Michael Dowling's remarkable life should be recorded in the school books as a lasting rebuke to the whiners against life's circumstance.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

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EDMUNDS COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

An Independent Democratic Newspaper

LXXVII

IPSWICH, SOUTH DAKOTA, THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1921

NUMBER 26

MICHAEL J. DOWLING

Many citizens of Ipswich and Edmunds county were saddened Tuesday to read in the Twin City papers of the death of Michael J. Dowling who spoke in Ipswich to the largest assembly ever gathered in the county when a large number of our boys started for the front.

Mr. Dowling was a great man and he measured up to great opportunities while laboring under disabilities such as few would stand up under. He succeeded J. W. Parmley as President of the Yellowstone Trail Association and in response to our request of Mr. Parmley for an expression from him as to the measure of his friend and co-worker, he handed us the following tribute.

In the passing of Michael J. Dowling, Minnesota and the northwest loses one of the nation's patriots—one of the state builders—one of the great men whose names were not born to die. His life history has held the attention of thousands and inspired more unfortunates, it is said, than any other one man in recent years.

An orphan he came to Minnesota when fourteen years of age and was working on a farm when lost in a terrible blizzard. He was found the next day in a straw pile so badly frozen that both legs, the left arm near the elbow and the fingers and thumb of the right hand had to be amputated. Just enough of the knuckle of the thumb and first finger were left so that he could hold a pencil. With this meagre equipment and with a handicap that would have crushed most boys, he went before the County Commissioners and told them if they would help him get an education he would pay back to him at his word and he paid the money back—and a hundred fold besides.

He taught school and engaged in honorable vocations that were profitable. He became a good roads enthusiast. For two terms he was speaker of the Minnesota legislature. Was nominated for Congress and in the McKinley with Mark Hanna, speaking in many of the states.

It is a fact, though not generally known, that he was, if elected to be speaker of the House of Representatives. Volstead was his opponent and won out by a few votes and this changed Dowling's whole career. He engaged in banking, farming and many other enterprises. He was president of the State Bankers' Association of Minnesota. His time was freely given to public service and no call for the good of society the state or nation was unheeded by him. As President of the Yellowstone Trail for two years he travelled from Plymouth Rock to Puget sound proclaiming the benefits of such a great National Highway and enlisting states and communities in its behalf. At different times he was urged to become a candidate for governor of Minnesota but never consented until in the last primary his friends insisted on his name being used. There were several candidates in the field and he was looked upon as being the favorite. The Iron and other interests approached him and offered support which, with his own strength would have assured a nomination if he would make certain pledges as to taxation. He absolutely refused and later withdrew from the race.

But it was when the World War broke out that the true Mike Dowling showed to the world what one man could do. His business affairs were largely entrusted to others and he threw his whole soul into patriotic service. He travelled night and day addressing public meetings and when the war was won and most of us sat down in complacent retrospection, Dowling's work was just fairly started. He went to Europe and spoke to the thousands of war's ter-

(Continued on Page 4)

Michael J. Dowling

Continued from Page 1
rily maimed, trying to cheer them and bring back the ray of hope that was war's toll. This was repeated in nearly every American hospital as our boys returned. The last time I saw him we dined together in Minneapolis. The meal was a hurried one as a car was waiting to take him to Fort Snelling to speak to the crippled soldiers and then take a midnight train for New York City on Red Cross work and then to Washington for business with the Secretary of the Treasury. I said as we parted, "Dowling, I do hope you can stand up under this. You are doing what no one else can do but I fear for your health."

With a smile he thanked me for the little things I had done or said during the years of our pleasant friendship, but there was a certain sadness or reserve he had never shown before. He was tired. Was doing too much and the "silver cord" was stretched almost to the breaking. He said, "Joe, I am going to go as long as I can, and it's the assurance that I am doing some

good that keeps me up. I was going down State street in Chicago a week ago when I saw a boy in kahki on crutches with one leg gone and a scar on his face. I slapped him on the back with this stub and said, "Cheer up, pard, you have a leg and an arm the best of me." He looked at me and said, "Why you are Mike Dowling, I read all about you at the hospital in France and I resolved then that if I ever got well I too would try to not be a burden to anyone, but to make the most of myself, and I'm going to do it." It is occurrences like this that cheer me up and keep me going.

And without even a cane he stumped along on his cork legs to the waiting auto. I shook what was left of his hand and we parted to meet no more on earth. His activities for hope and cheer among the wounded continued until he had to go to a hospital where, Sunday morning in the presence of his wife and three daughters, his princely soul went to the Elysian Fields beyond the Shining Stars.

In the Valhalla of those who against great odds, have won the race and left the world better than they found it, the hand of the historian with pen dipped in the sunshine, will inscribe the name Michael J. Dowling.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH, PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

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ages J. D.
Inch.
5-5-21

A Life Inspiring

Seldom is the life history of a man a sermon and still more seldom does a man become famous because of the inspiration and help he gave to the crippled people of the world. The sudden death Monday of Michael J. Dowling, famous Minnesota banker, who without the aid of either legs or hands rose from the county poorhouse to international fame, calls to mind the story of his life which has been an inspiration to thousands of people.

When only fourteen years old, Dowling was herding cattle in western Minnesota, facing the world alone without parents or relatives to help him. During the winter he was caught in a blizzard and frozen so badly that it was necessary to amputate both legs below the knee, his left arm and all but one of the fingers on his right hand. The doctor bills took all of his earnings as a cattle herder and he was placed in a county poor house to convalesce. But the indomitable spirit of the boy would not be downed and he induced the county authorities to send him to Carleton college for two years. He then taught school for seven years, became a lawyer, founded a newspaper, entered politics as secretary of the National Republican League, was elected chief clerk of the Minnesota house; later a member and its speaker, represented the federal government on an educational mission to the Philippines, acquired control of the state bank of Olivia, Minnesota, made a comfortable fortune, ran for congress and during the 1920 campaign was a candidate for governor of Minnesota. That is the story of the handless and legless orphan boy who began his career in the face of apparently insurmountable obstacles.

Mike Dowling always said that a cripple was more a state of mind than of body. As long as the mind was healthy and unhandicapped, physical disabilities do not amount to much. During the war and the period since, Mr. Dowling has been of the greatest service to the world. He visited the hospitals in Europe and in America and showed the crippled soldiers just what he could do, giving them new hope and courage in facing life with physical handicaps.—The Brookings Register.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Watertown, S. D., Public Opinion
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

THE WILL TO WIN

Sioux City Journal: Michael J. Dowling as a youth lost both legs, one arm and part of his remaining hand as the result of being frozen in a blizzard. Life looked drear to the boy, only 14 years old. What could he do to make a living? Apparently, nothing. He became a city charge and that irked his soul, which was ambitious and independent. If he had an education he could win his own way in the world, he said. The county commissioners were persuaded that young Dowling had the will to win and made arrangements to educate him. He was sent to college, became self supporting, married, reared a family, became a banker and was regarded at the time of his death at St. Paul, Minn., Monday at the age of 55 as famous for what he had accomplished.

Mr. Dowling won because he had determination, perseverance, independence of spirit and all the other attributes of character that go to imbue a man with courage. He wanted success and he got it. Obviously he did not have time to pity himself if he was to do something in life. Instead, he accepted his misfortune in a matter of fact, philosophical manner and did the best he could with what fate had left him of his powers. When cases of this kind are brought sharply to the attention of men who are physically sound and mentally capable who are not putting forth their best efforts they are or should be ashamed. The will to win is the better thing to have a carving out a career. Men who have no handicaps whatever have the world before them to do with as they wish.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Watertown, S. D., Public Opinion
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

M. J. Dowling, of Olivia, Minn., died last Monday. When a lad fourteen years of age he lost both legs below the knee, the left arm below the elbow and the greater part of the right hand and thumb. Despite this drawback he acquired an education and advanced steadily in the business world. He has been a successful business man and banker and this in face of the fact he started without a cent and without hands or feet.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Lead, S. D., Call
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1921

The death of Michael I. Dowling, a prominent banker, business man and who was successful in politics and other lines of endeavor in Minnesota, brings to public attention what a man can do even though handicapped beyond what seems an almost insurmountable barrier. When a boy Dowling lost both hands and legs in a blizzard, yet his determination to make something of himself and win success in the world overcame his terrible handicap and finally landed him among the most successful business men of his state. A few years ago he endowed a hospital with a vocational training department for young people, which was given his name, and he was a frequent lecturer there, urging the young boys and girls therein to press on to the goal of success and not permit any handicap to serve as a barrier. He won always through honorable, square dealing, and his legacy will never perish.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

0 0 2 4 1

Pierre S.D. Jour
4-28

**HANDLESS AND LEGLESS
MINN. POLITICIAN DEAD**

Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, Died
At St. Paul Hospital This
Morning

St. Paul, April 25—Michael J. Dowling, 55 years of age, prominent banker, business man and political man of Olivia, Minn., died here of heart trouble at St. Luke's hospital at 5 o'clock this morning. He lost both hands and legs in a Minnesota blizzard when 14 years old, and attained success despite this handicap.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Sioux Falls, S. D. Argus Leader
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921

quins left to hurt any one with now.

Death has called Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivet, Minn., who was famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth. The life of this man should be an example to the many who feel that they are down and out, when in reality they have just been given a little tip to get busy and accomplish something.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Pierre, S. D., Journal
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921

**HANDLESS AND LEGLESS
MINN. POLITICIAN DEAD**

Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, Died
At St. Paul Hospital This
Morning

(By United Press)
Special to the Capital Journal.
St. Paul, April 25—Michael J. Dowling, 55 years of age, prominent banker, business man and political man of Olivia, Minn., died here of heart trouble at St. Luke's hospital at 5 o'clock this morning. He lost both hands and legs in a Minnesota blizzard when 14 years old, and attained success despite this handicap.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

0 0 2 4 2

LEGLESS, BUT HE WON THE RACE.

Those inclined to bemoan their fate, blame "luck" for their lack of success, attribute the victories won by others to chance or the influence of wealth, position or zealous friends. Will find in the story of Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., who died Monday at the age of 55, an example of what personal effort will do, and substantial proof that when there is will power and ambition in proper proportion all obstacles can be overcome.

Dowling when 14 years old was caught in a blizzard and his feet and hands so badly frozen that both legs had to be amputated, also his left arm and the greater portion of his right hand. Following this calamity his parents died in poverty and destitution and the unfortunate boy became a public charge.

This did not discourage him or curb his ambition to make something of himself. He pleaded with the county board under whose supervision he was maintained at public expense and so eloquent was his pleading that the commissioners arranged to send him to Carlton college for an education.

From that time he rose steadily, despite his tremendous physical handicaps, and one of his proudest achievements was that following the signing of the armistice, when he went to England where he spent eight months in a tour lecturing to disabled war veterans and proving by his own experiences that lack of limbs is by no means an insurmountable obstacle to those who are determined to rise and have the stamina to fight out their salvation.

For the last two and a half years he gave his time to traveling over the United States lecturing in the interest of the maimed and disabled victims of the war.

There is inspiration and encouragement in the example of this brave and ambitious American and the young man or young woman, for that matter, who feels despondent over slight setbacks or physical defects should take the lesson of his life to heart and profit from it.

Rising from the depths of poverty and as a pensioner upon the bounty of the public, Dowling faced difficulties such as the ordinary poor young man or young woman in this country does not have to face. He was undaunted by his lack of limbs or his position as an object of public charity. He looked upward and saw there was room. He set his feet firmly upon the ladder that led to higher things and climbed.

An abundant fortune, a kindly heart and a keen desire to point out to others suffering physical handicaps the possibilities of achievement and usefulness, tell his story. He accumulated riches and has done good with them. He was grateful for the opportunity given him by the county board which maintained him and went about showing others both by precept and example that they should not despair but look upward and climb towards the heights which are crown-

*Eagle Lake
Texas Herald
5/28*

Legless, But Won The Race.

Those inclined to bemoan their fate blame "luck" for their lack of success, attribute the victories won by others to chance or the influence of wealth, position or zealous friends. Will find in the story of Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., who died Monday at the age of 55, an example of what personal effort will do, and substantial proof that when there is will power and ambition in proper proportion all obstacles can be overcome.

Dowling when 14 years old was caught in a blizzard and his feet and hands so badly frozen that both legs had to be amputated, also his left arm and the greater portion of his right hand. Following this calamity his parents died in poverty and destitution and the unfortunate boy became a public charge.

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There is inspiration and encouragement in the example of this brave and ambitious American, and the young man or young woman, for that matter who feels despondent over slight setbacks or physical defects should take the lesson of his life to heart and profit from it.

*Belmer Tex
Mirror
4-28-21*

The story of the life struggle of Banker M. J. Dowling of St. Paul Minn., who has just died ought to be an inspiration to any young man. He lost both legs and an arm at 14, and was soon afterward left an orphan. In spite of these handicaps he went through college and became a successful banker and for the past two or three years has toured the country lecturing to the war wounded. Following the signing of the armistice he made an eight months tour of foreign countries lecturing to crippled soldiers.

*Dallas Tex
4-26 News*

**Maimed in Boyhood,
Man Who Won World
Success, Dies at 55**

By the Associated Press.
ST. PAUL, Minn., April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, a banker of Olivia, Minn., widely known for his success in life after losing his legs, an arm and a hand in his early boyhood, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.
Following the signing of the world war armistice, Mr. Dowling made an eight months' tour of England for the British Government, lecturing to disabled war veterans on rehabilitation.
For the last two and a half years he had been touring this country in the interest of war wounded.
Suffering amputation of both legs, his left arm and the greater part of his right hand when 14 years old as a result of exposure in a blizzard, Mr. Dowling shortly afterward was left an orphan and became a public charge.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

00243

TEMPLE, TEX., TELEGRAPH
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921.

**Legless Banker
of St. Louis Dies
at the Age of 55**

(Associated Press Dispatch.)
St. Paul, Minn., April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., widely known for his success in life after losing his legs, an arm and a hand in his early boyhood, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.

Following the signing of the armistice, Mr. Dowling made an eight months' tour of England for the British government, lecturing to disabled war veterans on rehabilitation. For the last two and a half years he had been touring this country in the interest of war wounded.

Suffering amputation of both legs, his left arm and the greater part of his right hand when 14 years old, as a result of exposure in a blizzard, Mr. Dowling was shortly afterward left an orphan and became a county charge. He bargained with the county commissioners, who became interested in his case and sent him to Carlton college. His rapid rise followed.

WYONITA FALLS, TEX., TIMES
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921.

**MICHAEL DOWLING
DIES AT ST. PAUL**

**Made Success in Life After Losing
His Legs, An Arm And a Hand In
Early Boyhood.**

ST. PAUL, April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, banker, of Olivia, Minn., widely known for his success in life after losing his legs, an arm and a hand in his early boyhood, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.

Following the signing of the armistice, Mr. Dowling made an eight months' tour of England for the British government, lecturing to disabled war veterans on rehabilitation.

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Suffering amputation of both legs, his left arm and the greater part of his right hand when 14 years old as a result of exposure in a blizzard, Mr. Dowling was shortly afterward left an orphan and became a county charge. He bargained with the county commissioners who became interested in his case and sent him to Carlton college. His rapid rise followed.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY. ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

0 0 2 4 4

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, NEWS
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1911.

...that disgrace the good work
must go on uninterruptedly.

HEROIC ENDEAVOR AND SUCCESS.

THE death at St. Paul, Minn., yesterday of Michael J. Dowling, a banker of that state, recalls to public notice as conspicuous an example of heroic endeavor and success against obstacles as one could probably find anywhere. In his boyhood Dowling lost both legs, an arm and part of the remaining hand, but in spite of this he became notably successful as a banker and business man. His courage and fortitude naturally won attention, and following the armistice with Germany the British government requested that Dowling come there and lecture to disabled soldiers, giving them the encouragement and inspiration of his own experiences. He toured England in this work and later spent many months in similar service in this country. Physicians said that his fatal illness was the result of his exertions in performing this task of helpfulness to the unfortunates of the war.

At the age of 14 years Dowling was exposed in a blizzard and was compelled to lose by amputation both legs, his left arm and the fingers of his right hand. He became a county charge and was looked upon with pity as one of the most unfortunate of men. His indomitable courage and will-power came to his rescue, however, and he bargained with the county commissioners to give him an education. He pledged that if they would pay his way through college he would make himself self-supporting. His offer was accepted; and he made good. Not only was he able to win to financial success, but he became highly useful in his community and did much work for civic betterment in addition to the eminent service he rendered, as aforementioned, in lecturing to men maimed and disabled by the war. He died at the age of 55, survived by a widow and three children.

With such a start in life as was bequeathed to him by the blizzard of forty years ago, Dowling might well have been expected to surrender to disheartenment and despair. But he chose the other way, and he had the stuff in him to succeed. Against obstacles that would make many a stout heart quail and against difficulties that most of us can only imagine, he persevered, and his life stands out as a fine example of courage and heroism.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

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BELLINGHAM, WASH., NEWS
MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1921.

about the same period of approximately six years, according to Prof. Leuschner.

Michael Dowling Dead.
ST. PAUL, Minn., April 25.—(P)—Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.

Spokane Wash. Spokesman-Review
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921.

FAMOUS CRIPPLE IS DEAD
Michael J. Dowling, Who Won Despite Loss of Limbs, Succumbs.
ST. PAUL, Minn., April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.

Exposure in a blizzard when he was 14 years old resulted in amputation of both legs, his left arm and the fingers of his right hand, and Dowling became a county charge. He later bargained with the county commissioners, pledging that if they would send him to college he would become self-supporting. His determination won acceptance of his plan and he was sent to Carlton college. His success became notable.

Following the armistice, at the request of the British government, Mr. Dowling toured England lecturing to disabled soldiers. For two and one-half years he similarly toured the United States.

ABERDEEN, WASH.
APR 25 1921

FAMOUS CRIPPLE CALLED BY DEATH
Lost Leg, 1 Arm and Fingers In Blizzard, Gains Success

ST. PAUL, Minn., April 25.—Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and part of his remaining hand in his youth, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.

Exposure in a blizzard when he was 14 years old resulted in the amputation of both legs, his left arm and the fingers of his right hand, and Dowling became a county charge. He later bargained with the county commissioners, pledging that if they would send him to college he would become self-supporting. His determination won acceptance of his plan and he was sent to Carlton College. His success became notable.

Following the armistice, at the request of the British government, Mr. Dowling toured England, lecturing to disabled soldiers.

For two and one-half years he similarly toured the United States.

Death was caused by heart disease, superinduced by exertions of his lecture tour, his physical said.

Clipping from
Yakima, Wash. Republic

one conception of a passive personality, dis- zitive isolation. For six declared he had been acting positive theory. He had been in and cordial cooperation with the c.

The career of Michael J. Dowling of Olivia, Minn., was one of which his friends and neighbors were proud. Though handicapped in the struggle of life by the loss of both legs and one arm and part of his remaining hand, he made his way unaided to success. He never asked any odds of anybody, but always did his share and more in the work of the community where he lived, and when he died he left a comfortable fortune. His life was a wonderful triumph over misfortune.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH, PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

0 0 2 4 6

APPLETON WIS. POST
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921.
St. Louis-Chicago—Postponed, 1921.

HANDLESS AND FOOTLESS BUSINESS MAN IS DEAD

By United Press Leased Wire
St. Paul—Michael J. Dowling, 55, widely known business man, banker and politician, died at St. Luke hospital here at 5 a. m., Monday of heart disease.

Bowling was well known throughout the country, having attained success despite the handicap of being without hands or legs. He lost his limbs when a child, in a Minnesota blizzard.

His wife and three daughters were with him when he died.
The funeral will be held at their old home in Oliva, Minn., Thursday afternoon.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

La Crosse Wis. Telegraph
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921

MAN WHO SUCCEEDED
DESPITE HANDICAPS DEAD
ST. PAUL, Minn.—Michael J. Dowling, 55, banker of Oliva, Minn., and famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and a hand, in his early boyhood, died at a hospital here Monday.

EVANESVILLE WIS. GAZETTE
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921.

and Louisa, 3, were killed in a fire which destroyed their home at midnight Sunday.

THE DEATH ROLL

St. Paul.—Michael J. Dowling, 55, banker of Oliva, Minn., and famed for his success in life after losing both legs an arm and a hand in his early boyhood, died Monday.

Salt Lake City.—Mrs. Emmeline B. Well, 93, affectionately known as "Aunt Em" and Utah's "grand old lady," former president of the relief society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, died Monday.

Oshkosh.—M. P. Eton, a pioneer member of the Winnebago county bar, died here Monday of uremic poisoning. He was born at Oshkosh 1851. He was active in the republican party.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Oshkosh Wis. Northwestern
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921

NOTED CRIPPLE DIES

(By Associated Press.)

St. Paul, Minn.—Michael J. Dowling, 55, banker of Oliva, Minn., and famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and a hand in his early boyhood, died at a hospital here today. Following signing of the armistice, Mr. Dowling made an eight months' tour of England, lecturing to disabled war veterans on rehabilitation problems at the request of the British government. For two and a half years he has been touring this country in the interest of war wounded.

Mr. Dowling's misfortune resulted from exposure in a blizzard when he was 15 years old.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH.
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

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Shield

Baron Wis

5-6

THE START AND THE FINISH

The Superior Telegram had a most excellent editorial last week covering the life work of two prominent men. The first paragraph refers to the suicide of John P. Cudahy, and then to the death of M. J. Dowling, of Olivia, Minn., a personal friend of the editor of the News-Shield for more than a quarter of a century, and we can pay no higher tribute than to copy the splendid tribute paid Mr. Dowling by the Telegram:

"A week ago John P. Cudahy, aged 43 years, a member of the well-known and wealthy Cudahy family of Kansas City and Omaha, committed suicide in his palatial home in Los Angeles, California, by placing the muzzle of a loaded shotgun in his mouth and firing the weapon with his toes.

On Monday, five days after the Cudahy suicide, Michael J. Dowling, a highly respected citizen of Minnesota, a banker who had time for much humanitarian work besides attending to business, died in St. Paul, at the age of 55 years, his ailment being heart trouble aggravated by over exertion in his tours in behalf of the Red Cross and other welfare work. Since the end of the war he went to England at the request of the British government and lectured before the British war wounded on the problems foremost in the minds of men crippled for life. In this work Mr. Dowling was specially qualified for impressive reasons.

Forty years ago last December as a boy not quite 15 years of age he was caught on foot in a blizzard on the prairie near Canby, Minnesota, and lost his way. After a terrible struggle for life he found a straw pile and crawled into it. When the blizzard subsided he was frozen so badly that he could go no further, and after he had been there two days he was found and cared for, being turned over to the county poor commissioner, other means for his care not being available. The county physician and those who acted with him found it necessary to amputate both legs, the left arm and all of the fingers on the right hand. The county cared for the boy during the long period required for the thorough healing of the amputations. Meantime young Dowling was busy with his studies of useful and instructive books, as characteristic in many instances with boys who later overcome obstacles and make a success of life.

In due time he insisted on going out to care for himself, so the crippled boy without a dollar started out. He found useful work that he could do, and tried several pursuits, in all of which he was successful. He taught a country school, ran a roller skating rink for a while, went into the country newspaper business, and later evolved into the banking business, a sort of evolution from the newspaper to the bank not usually believed to be possible.

Michael J. Dowling, even with his terrible boyhood experience and his great handicap in the loss of his limbs was a success—and the impression he made on the disabled soldiers must have inspired them with new and highly valuable hope and confidence. His latest work in that line was in behalf of the American soldiers of the world war, urging with all the energy of his nature that the government and the states do their full duty toward the men who offered their lives for their country. Mr. Dowling died in the midst of his work, and in the presence of his wife and three children. He was a man who made gain in business, but was always alert in welfare work and in planning and carrying out alleviation.

The story of the other man, reared in the lap of luxury and surrounded with opportunity, but choosing to travel the highway to ultimate suicide, we prefer to not repeat. So ends the story and the contrast between the minds of men.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Sparta (Minn.) Herald
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1921

M. J. Dowling Dead

Officers of the Bank of Sparta received a telegram Monday announcing the death that day, at a St. Paul hospital, of M. J. Dowling, president of the Olivia, (Minn.) State Bank.

Mr. Dowling was at one time a business partner of the late D. W. Cheney, and was well known in this city, where he visited frequently.

Though crippled from childhood, Mr. Dowling was internationally known. Lack of time in which to set the type prevents the Herald from giving something of the life history of this remarkable man at this time.

Mr. A. W. Barney, president of the Bank of Sparta, will attend the funeral which will be held at Olivia on Thursday.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Superior, Wis., Telegram
MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1921

MICHAEL DOWLING DIES AT HOSPITAL

ST. PAUL — Michael J. Dowling, banker of Olivia, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing his lower limbs and hands in early boyhood, died at a hospital here today. He was 55 years old.

For the past two and a half years Mr. Dowling had been touring the country in the interest of disabled veterans. Following signing of the armistice, he went to England at the request of the British government and the British Red Cross and for more than eight months lectured before war wounded on rehabilitation problems. Death was due to heart disorder superinduced by exertions on this tour, his physician said. He had been in the hospital here two weeks.

Mrs. Dowling with the three children was at the bedside this morning when the end came. The funeral will be held at Olivia Thursday afternoon.

Pollock's Clipping Bureau
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Sparta, Wis., Democrat
THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1921

Arrangements were served and a social time enjoyed.
A. W. Barney, president of the Bank of Sparta, is at Olivia, Minnesota, today to attend the funeral of M. J. Dowling, who at one time was a business partner of the late D. W. Cheney and well known to many in Sparta. Mr. Dowling's death took place at a hospital in St. Paul and at the time he was president of the Olivia State Bank.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

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LARAMIE (WYO) REPUBLICAN
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1921

**Man Without Legs,
One Hand and Fingers
Is Dead at St. Paul**

By the Associated Press

St. Paul, Minn., April 25.—Michael Dowling, a banker at Oliva, Minn., famed for his success in life after losing both legs, an arm and a part of his remaining hand in youth, died today, aged 55 years.

DOWLING, MICHAEL JOHN AND JENNIE LEONHARDA BORDEWICH,
PAPERS, 1883-1944.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

FRAME NO.

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