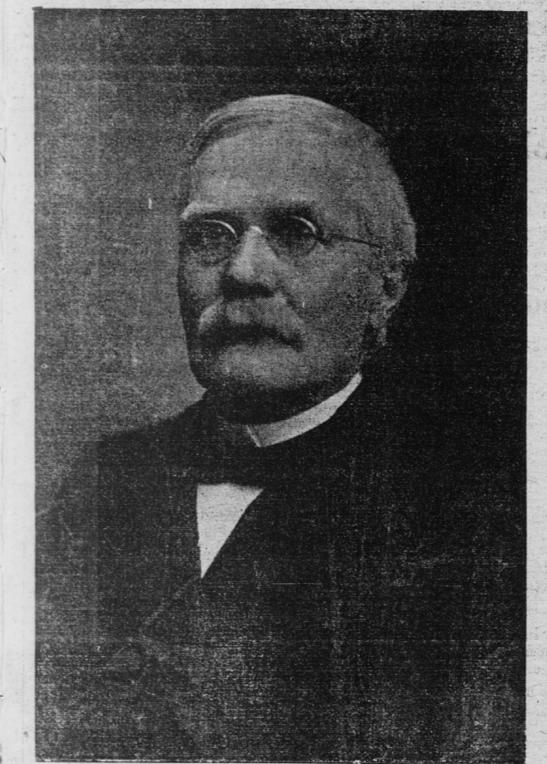


# The Plot That Failed.

William Pitt Murray, who may be called the Nestor of St. Paul and Minnesota democracy, is a native of the Buckeye state, Ohio, and he was educated at Hamilton and Oxford, Ohio, and afterwards attended the law school of the Indiana state university, from which he graduated in the class of 1849. He came to St. Paul in December of the same year, and is now one of the oldest attorneys in the state. He has also filled a number of official positions: He was a member of the territorial house in 1852 and 1853, territorial council in 1854 and 1855 (the latter year president), member of the house in 1857, of the constitutional convention of the same year, member of the house in 1868, and the senate again in 1875 and 1876—eleven sessions in all. He was a member of the common council of the city of St. Paul continuously from 1869 (except a year while in South America) until 1876, when he resigned to accept the office of city attorney, which office, and that of corporation attorney, he held for thirteen years, and afterwards a member of the assembly, and president of that body.

He was one of the managers of the representatives, offered a resolution at the session of 1857. "That one-third of all lands in the territory be reserved for agricultural purposes, such lands being deemed sufficient for townsite and road purposes."

In the fall of 1855, or spring of 1856, a number of active and energetic men, who were on the make, at the head of whom was the territorial governor, not satisfied with an ordinary townsite, with a frontier tavern, a little church and four or five saloons, concluded they would select one, at which they would locate the territorial capital and several other state institutions. With this in view, they sent out some of their camp followers, at the head of whom was W. B. Dodd, to locate a site for the future metropolis of Minnesota. After running up and down the Minnesota from Carver to Mankato and on the south to Fairbault, and the north to St. Cloud, they finally selected as the home of the future capitol the town of St. Peter, where some three or four hundred acres of land were purchased. Having organized their company, "The St. Peter Land Company," plotted



WILLIAM PITT MURRAY.

state training school for over fifteen years, and until legislated out of office. It may be said truthfully that Mr. Murray was the father of this institution, and today it is the peer of any similar institution in the country. No man in the city of St. Paul has been so honored with positions of this kind as Mr. Murray, and no man has been more faithful, attentive and hard working as a legislator, alderman, city and corporation attorney, than he. There has hardly ever been a movement, undertaking or project, in the history of St. Paul, which was intended to promote the interests of the city, in which Mr. Murray has not taken an active part for its accomplishment and success.

In referring to Mr. Murray, Maj. Newson said in his "Pen Pictures": "Mr. Murray and Ramsey were pitted against each other, it would be hard to say who would get the most meat from the political bone. I would not like to bet on either, but as Murray is an Ohio man, I would prefer odds on him."

Mr. Murray is one of the oldest Masons in the state, having been worshipful master of St. Paul lodge, the oldest lodge in the state, over forty-eight years ago. Yet he gets offended if you suggest that he is getting old.

Mr. Murray has a fund of stories and incidents which occurred during his early days of political life which, as he narrates them, are interesting as illustrations of the earlier days of the territory and state. His story of the attempt to remove the capitol from St. Paul to St. Peter in 1857 is a readable one. Mr. Murray says that in territorial days about one-third of the young fellows who came west wanted to own and plot a townsite. The craze was so great that Samuel B. Abbe, a member of the house of

the townsite and gotten up a beautiful lithograph map showing the future capitol, court house, churches, school houses and other public buildings, they were ready for business, shortly after and prior to the meeting of the territorial legislature of 1857. All the members of the legislature had been seen who could be relied upon the division and silence, in fact, it was a majority of both houses. The records afterwards disclosed the price—some members got two lots in the new town, some four, others half a block—in one instance a whole block and five acres adjoining the town plat. It is different now—nothing but spot cash goes; certified checks and money under a stone are not considered legal tender.

On the 7th February, William D. Lowry, a member of the council from St. Cloud, as previously arranged, opened the ball by the introduction of "a bill for the removal of the seat of government of the territory of Minnesota," at the same time making a few remarks, saying among other things that in his opinion the time had come to take action in regard to the location of a permanent seat of government for the territory and future State of Minnesota, and that the place named in the bill for the future seat of government, St. Peter, he thought would give general satisfaction. The location was more central than St. Paul, and would be easy of access, as it was at the head of Navigation of Minnesota river. This was before the day of railroads. Henry N. Setzer, a member of the council from the St. Croix valley, believing the matter to be a farce, at once jumped to his feet and gave notice of the introduction of a bill to repeal so much of the organic act as would enable the legislature to locate the seat of government at St.



## In Two Minutes

There will be another car. But the man can't wait. He chases the car and swings on, panting and hot, but satisfied. He keeps this up all day. He works that way, he lurches that way. He continues this until his stomach "breaks down" and nature compels him to "go slow."

Business men who have impaired their digestion by hasty eating will find in Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery a cure for dyspepsia and other diseases of the stomach and organs of digestion and nutrition. It does not give mere temporary relief, but it effects a radical cure. It strengthens the stomach, nourishes the nerves and purifies the blood.

"For six long years I suffered with my liver, kidneys, and with indigestion, which baffled the best doctors in our country," writes E. L. Russell, Esq., of Woolsey, Prince William Co., Va. "I suffered with my stomach and back for a long time, and after taking a 'cart-load' of medicine from three doctors, I grew so bad I could hardly do a day's work. Would have death-like pains in the side, and blind spells, and thought life was hardly worth living. I began taking Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and Pleasant Pellets, as advised. Before long I had taken half a dozen bottles, and began to feel relieved. I got six bottles and used them, and am happy to say I owe my life to Dr. Pierce and his medicines."

Dr. Pierce's Pellets cure biliousness.

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Ordinary ready-to-wear clothing lacks the smart style that marks the made-to-order garments. This is not true of

## Rogers, Peet & Co.'s and Stein-Blach Company's GARMENTS.

They stand in a class by themselves, embodying all the snappy style and individuality of the highest-priced merchant-tailored clothing and at the same time selling at a price within the reach of men of moderate means. These matchless garments are designed by the foremost creators of masculine styles, and tailored by expert men tailors, from the choicest products of the foreign and American woolen mills. They differ from the swellest creations of the custom tailor only in price.

Our fall line is now complete and includes the latest effects and styles in correct Suits and Overcoats.

## Prices from \$10 to \$25.

Don't pay a tailor's exorbitant prices when you can get just as handsome garments for from 25 to 40 per cent less money.



## ...FALL HABERDASHERY...

We can show you the handsomest and most comprehensive line of genteel furnishings in the West. We make a specialty of rich and exclusive novelties that appeal to men of advanced ideas. Different from the ordinary is the usual comment upon our goods. Prices are no higher than you pay elsewhere for an interior class of merchandise.

## BRING IN THE BOYS

Nowhere else in the Northwest can be found such desirable clothing for Young Men, Boys and Children. Men's styles are followed closely in our garments for the younger generation and quality and fine workmanship is never slighted.

**School Suits** The Bowlby Special School Suit with reinforced seat and double knees **\$5 and \$6**  
Extra Pants if desired.

**FREE** The Airship "Luna" With purchases in our Boys' Dept. amounting to \$1.00.

## Complete Line of Furnishings for the Young Men.

**BOWLBY & CO.**



Sixth and Robert.

chairman of the enrollment committee of the council. Roulette, like myself, was fond of a good joke—and by the way, he was a great wag. After Roulette had received the bill he came over to the house, called me into the lobby, and said, "Murray, let us go down to the Fuller house." "What are you up to?" was my reply. "Come along," was the answer. "I may have thought he wanted me to go and get a drink. After we had left the capitol and got out of the hearing of anyone, he said: 'Murray, I have the capitol bill in my pocket, and as those St. Peter fellows have been using language that would not look well in print, suppose we play a joke upon them by keeping out of sight for a day or two.'"

It was a joke I was thoroughly in accord with. By the time we reached the Fuller house we had our plans matured. Truman M. Smith had a bank at the corner of Seventh and Jackson street, in the Fuller house building. We stepped into the bank, Roulette saying to Mr. Smith, "that he had just received some papers from Parlor du Chien in regard to the settlement of an estate, and as he would not have time to give them any attention until after the legislature adjourned, he wanted to know if Mr. Smith would kindly put them in his safe until he was ready to use them, as they were very valuable." Mr. Smith assented, and the capitol bill went under lock and key. We then went up into the Fuller house, and calling Bro. Long aside (by the way, Long was something of a joker himself), we had a confidential communication to make, and that Roulette wanted to go into retirement for a day or two. Long at once entered into the spirit of the thing, and Roulette was given a room on the top floor, and as much away from the public as possible.

The next day was one of gloom at the territorial capitol, with the town lot brigade. Where, oh where was Roulette—as the hours went by, friends of the measure began to realize that there was "a darky in the woodpile." During the day St. A. D. Balcomb offered a resolution, the effect of which was that Roulette

should report the bill forthwith and in case of refusal, then W. W. Wales, the next member on the committee, should do so. H. N. Setzer at once moved a call of the council, which was ordered, a motion to suspend the call of the council failed to pass—the yeas 9, nays 6. In those days it required a two-thirds vote to suspend a call of the council. For over five days after this the council remained under call—during all this time the officers and members of the council camped in the council chamber sleeping on the floor, a buffalo robe for a bed; eating off their desks; their food as good as the country afforded, with some real old stuff to wash it down. During the time the council was under a call, Balcomb and his confederates, chafing like caged tigers, swearing now and then to keep their spirit up, making a motion every now and then to suspend the call or adjourn.

While this was going on in the council, Roulette was entertaining some confidential friends, who were in the secret, and in the city chamber playing a game of poker, stories of frontier life and some old Kentucky whiskey. Out in the city everybody was wondering and guessing where Roulette was, in the hotels and saloons bet were being made that Roulette would not be found. John M. Lamb, sergeant-at-arms of the council, with a half dozen assistants, were scouring the territory for Roulette, looking only in places where they knew they would not find him. In fact, the sergeant-at-arms had been found in Roulette's room, enjoying his hospitality. All kinds of stories had been told about Roulette, and he had become ubiquitous, he had been seen at Sauk Rapids, Wabasha, Little Canada and other places all about the same time. I am now of the opinion that Lamb did not want to find Roulette and that if he had met him on the street he would not have known him.

In the meantime, the call still pending, a copy of the bill was procured and enrolled, but Mr. Brislin, president of the council, and Mr. Furber, of the house, refused to sign it in the shape it was presented to them, indorsing on it their reasons therefor. The bill, however, was sent to the governor and signed by him on the 5th day of March.

On the 7th of March, being the last

day of the session, on motion of J. D. Ludden, all further proceedings under the call were dispensed with to give the enrollment committee an opportunity to report Council File No. 52—to remove the capitol. Mr. Freeborn then reported Mr. Roulette joining in the written report that the enrollment committee, owing to many errors and mistakes found in the enrolled bill, was unable to report it correctly enrolled, but retained the bill in its possession, subject to the order of the council. A few minutes later, and at midnight, the president announced that time limited by law for the continuation of the territorial legislation had expired, and he therefore declared the council adjourned without day. As the gavel fell, in walked Roulette to the council chamber and commenced joking his fellow members for being in such a hurry as they ought to have known he was coming, "dog trains moved slow."

St. Paul was jubilant—the capitol had been saved—the people were wild, they paraded up and down the streets with music, song and whooping and howling. Out in the city everybody was looking for the fellows who wanted to remove the capitol. "Discretion was the better part of valor," they were saying, for they had crawled into their holes, small holes at that.

It was to Joseph Roulette, who failed to report the bill, William Freeborn, Lewis Stone, Henry N. Setzer, John D. Ludden and John B. Brislin, who refused to vote to suspend the call of the council, and John M. Lamb, sergeant-at-arms of the council, all honor and credit is due for having prevented the removal of the capitol from St. Paul. As the last act in one of the greatest farces ever attempted to be played off on the people of the territory, was an application by the St. Peter company, Judge R. E. Nelson of the supreme court, for a writ of mandamus to compel the territorial officers to remove their offices to St. Peter, as provided for in the bogus act approved March 6. Prior to this time the St. Peter company had erected a frame building at St. Peter for the use of the territorial officers, which was afterwards used as a court house.

Judge Nelson took the application under advisement, and on July 12 filed an opinion. After reviewing at considerable length the evidence concerning the pas-

sage of the act, he decides: "We are of the opinion that there has been no law passed by the legislative power of the territory removing the capitol from St. Paul to St. Peter; the application for a mandamus is therefore refused."

**MIGHT HAVE BEEN SERIOUS.**  
Woman's Skirt Caught in Car Fender, but Little Damage Done.  
Miss Emma Scharr narrowly escaped being seriously injured by being caught in the wooden fender of a trailer of a Mississippi street car at Fifth and Washa streets Friday evening. Miss Scharr lives at 611 Gulf avenue, and was preparing to board the car when the accident happened. Her skirts were caught, and she was dragged along beside the wheels for a short distance until the motorman stopped the car. She was carried into the office of Dr. Stevenson, where it was ascertained that her semi-conscious condition was due only to fright, and her left wrist and elbow were sprained. She was removed to her home.

**BOYS IN TROUBLE.**  
Found Guilty of Insulting a Girl on the Street.  
Joseph Steiner, a seventeen-year-old boy, residing with his father at 639 Falco street, and Joseph Winkler, aged eighteen, and living with his parents at 429 Clifton street, were before Judge Orr in the police court yesterday on the charge of disorderly conduct preferred by J. W. Cable, living at 1016 Levee street. Mr. Cable alleged that the boys had insulted his thirteen-year-old daughter, Louise.  
The two lads were found guilty, and Judge Orr will sentence them tomorrow morning.

**She Aimed Straight.**  
H. Wolf, living on Granite street, was a visitor at the city prosecutor's office yesterday afternoon, with a view of getting a warrant for the arrest of Mrs. Gill, a neighbor. Wolf alleged that Mrs. Gill broke his jaw with a baton Friday evening, and also struck his wife. The trouble is said to have originated in Wolf going into the Gill yard to get water from a pump.

## CONFERENCE ENDS TODAY

NORWEGIAN-DANISH CHURCH TO MEET NEXT YEAR IN CHICAGO.

Bishop Fowler will preach the closing sermon of the annual conference of the Norwegian-Danish Methodist church this morning. In the afternoon B. E. Nordsett and P. M. Peterson, as deacons, and B. E. Carlson and M. C. Hanson, as elders, will be ordained. The concluding event will be the announcement of the conference appointments this evening. At the meeting yesterday morning C. P. Edzholtz was re-elected editor of the official church paper; H. P. Borgh was elected agent of the back concern, and Rev. W. E. Simonton was elected principal of the theological school at Egan. The regular reports of committees and officers were read.

The next meeting of the conference is to be held one year hence at Chicago. The closing meeting marks the fiftieth anniversary of the conference, and this will be commemorated by a jubilee this evening.

## Go to Supreme Court.

The case of the State of Minnesota and County of Hennepin against the Northwestern Telephone Exchange Company has been certified by the defendant to the supreme court for review. The case arises from the taxation of the defendant company's exchange building at Minneapolis, to which the telephone company objected on the ground that it paid a gross earnings tax in lieu of other taxation. The Hennepin county district court held the tax upon the building to be valid, and the company has now resorted to the supreme court.

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