

NORSE—AMERICAN CENTENNIAL



One Hundred Years of Immigration to America Celebrated in Twin Cities

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

Did Leif Ericsson land on American soil in A. D. 1000?

Did Adam of Bremen write a book in 1075, telling about Vinland, "the new land to the west"?

Was Eric Upsl in 1112 appointed by the Vatican bishop of Iceland, Greenland and Vinland?

Did King Christian of Norway and Denmark send an expedition to the mouth of the St. Lawrence in 1472 under Admiral Didrik Pining?

Did Christopher Columbus visit Iceland in 1477, there learn of the existence of the land to the west and rediscover that land in 1492?

Did Norsemen cross the American continent from Hudson bay to Puget sound almost 500 years before Columbus landed on San Salvador?

Very likely. Certainly a great many Norse-Americans believe that the answer to the foregoing historical questions is "Yes."

These Norse-Americans, however, for the purposes of the Norse-American centennial to be held June 6 to 9 in the Twin Cities, reckon the Norse immigration to the United States to have begun with the arrival of the Norwegian sloop Restaurationen in New York harbor October 9, 1825.

Minnesota thinks well of her citizens of Norse blood, as may be seen by a concurrent resolution adopted by its legislature, which is in part:

Whereas the year 1825 marks the one hundredth anniversary of the real beginning of Norse immigration to this country and of the coming of the Norwegian sloop Restaurationen, which brought the first large group of Norwegian immigrants to our shores; and

Whereas in commemoration of this event a celebration of national and international scope is now being arranged by the Norse-Americans of this country, to be held on the Minnesota State Fair grounds, June 6, 7, 8 and 9, this year; and

Whereas Minnesota has a larger number of people of Norse descent than any other state, and it is recognized that these people braved the hardships of frontier settlements from our territorial days and up through the first decades of our statehood and thus played an important part in transforming this and other northwestern states from a wilderness to one of the best developed and most progressive sections of our great country, and that they and their descendants have ever distinguished themselves as a frugal, industrious and thrifty people; have taken a deep interest in our social, religious and political activities; have been prominent in educational lines, in science, in art and literature, and in every branch of industry, but above all have shown themselves to be public-spirited and most loyal American citizens; Now, therefore, be it resolved, That we do hereby extend to the President and the people of the United States; the governor general, the premier and the people of the Dominion of Canada; his majesty the king, the government, the storting and the people of Norway; the premier and the people of Iceland a most cordial invitation to attend and participate in the said celebration.

It appears that Secretary of State Hughes sent out invitations in conformity with this action of the Minnesota legislature. Anyway, the guest list of the celebration carries at its head the names of President Coolidge and Mrs. Coolidge, Prince Olaf of Norway, Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg and Mrs. Kellogg, Lord Byng, governor general of Canada, and Lady Byng; MacKenzie King, premier of Canada; H. H. Bryson, Norwegian minister to the United States; Lauritz S. Swenson, American minister to Norway; Bishop Johan Lunde of Oslo, Kristine Bonnevie, Norway's greatest woman scientist, and delegations from the Norwegian storting and from both houses of the American congress.

President Coolidge has tentatively accepted the invitation and his address has been scheduled as the feature of "America Day," June 8. That day a living Norwegian flag, formed by 500 children of St. Paul, will at a signal transform itself into the Stars and Stripes of America.

The centenary will open on Saturday, June 6, with conventions of the thirty-two Norwegian clans or "Bygdelags." There will be a reception at the state capitol in St. Paul, with six Norse-American governors and their wives in the receiving line. Religious services on June 7 will take on the aspects of a great musical festival, when Norwegian choruses from Canada, Norway and the many Norwegian colleges and singing societies of the United States will combine in the singing of hymns.

Representative O. J. Kvale of the Seventh Minnesota district delivered the invitation to congress in an address in the last session. He's the man who defeated A. J. Volstead for the Sixty-eighth congress. He's an "Independent," a minister and an A. M. of the University of Chicago. He was

born in Iowa, as were his father and grandfather. He is a member of the board of education of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. Here are some of the things he said about the celebration:

The hundredth anniversary of the real beginning of Norse immigration to the United States will be observed in many places; it will be celebrated in every community in the United States where the incoming Norwegians have settled and established themselves and where their descendants are now to be found in numbers, notably in Chicago and New York city. The largest and the principal one, however, is the celebration which will be held at the Minnesota State Fair grounds, officially known as the "Norse-American centennial. Informed and impartial observers declare it will be the greatest celebration in the history of the Northwest.

Representatives chosen from each Norwegian organization—athletic, religious, fraternal, social, civic—organized the corporation which has arranged for the event. It has gained in popularity and appeal away and beyond the original plans of its promoters and sponsors. Five neighboring states have also, through their executive departments, urged support and co-operation on the part of their citizens. Civic bodies stand solidly behind the event; church denominations are indorsing it; Norwegian organizations in foreign countries will participate and will send delegates and representatives to the centennial.

Notables in large numbers will address the assembled gatherings; prominent men will stress the important achievements of the Norse-Americans in all activities; exhibits and pageants will graphically describe them; musical organizations will at the same time exhibit and entertain in a most emphatic and unqualified terms. And I know that in making this statement I do so with the unanimous approval of all the people here concerned. Americans who trace their ancestry to the Vikings of old are proud of their lineage, but doubly proud of their American citizenship; and we do so in grateful remembrance of our forefathers and in recognition of what these immigrants have done for us and for our country.

The Restaurationen brought 53 Norwegian immigrants. This was the first sloopload of Norse people to emigrate to the new land of the free across the Atlantic. The project was arranged by Kleng Peerson—sometimes known as Cleng Pearson—that romantic frontier figure, the Daniel Boone of the Norwegians. He had been in the United States and had covered the primeval West in his wanderings; he returned to Norway with his wonderful tales of the possibilities and the opportunities that awaited his fellow countrymen in America, organized the expedition, and assisted in the purchase of the little sailing vessel. The sloop sailed from Stavanger harbor, Norway, July 4, 1825, and reached New York after a long and stormy passage.

This single event marks the beginning of the steady and swelling stream of immigration from Norway. Norway has sent to America a larger proportion of her population than any other country with the exception of Ireland; her sons and daughters here total in excess of 2,500,000. That is equal to the actual population of Norway, which, according to the last census, was 2,649,775.

It was Kleng Peerson who arranged for the reception of the Restaurationen's passengers by providing for them the settlement at Kendall, N. Y., the colony which he founded. His work in establishing colonies in the Northwest and the Southwest was interrupted by three return voyages to Norway. He died at the ripe age of eighty-three years, in Bosque county, Texas, in 1885; and lies today in Norse, the heart of the last settlement founded by him. The story of his life and his work is a true epic.

Others were ready to carry on the work he had

prairie, near Beloit. From this time on, in ever-increasing numbers, these early Norwegian settlers crossed the sea, tramped out through the strock country and founded their settlements, on Rock prairie and Koshkonong in Wisconsin, in Winneshiek county in Iowa, and later in southern Minnesota and the two Dakotas.

Kleng Peerson and his sturdy countrymen will live again at the centennial celebration. Col. Hans C. Heg, commander of the Fifteenth Wisconsin Regiment of Volunteers, a Civil war regiment made up almost entirely of Norwegians, will once more carry into battle the flag that bore on one side the Red, White and Blue of America and on the other the Red, White and Blue of Norway. For on "Norse American Day," the closing day of the gathering, the beloved heroes and heroines of Norwegian pioneer days will take part in a great historical pageant in which the Norwegian love of the dramatic and the picturesque will embellish the story of frontier days.

Dr. Knut Gjerst of Luther college heads the exhibits committee and has planned to divide the exhibit into twenty-two departments as follows:

Pioneer life, church, schools, farming, press literature, men in public service, art, charity and mutual aid, women's department, societies and organizations, music, engineering and architecture, trade and commerce. Norwegian ski sport in America, men in the medical profession, labor, sons of Norway, daughters of Norway, industries, builders and benefactors and Norse-Canadian exhibits.

In recognition of the nation-wide observance of the centenary, the federal government has authorized the issue of special stamps, to be printed in two colors, a 2-cent stamp bearing the picture of the sloop Restaurationen and a 5-cent stamp decorated with a Viking ship. A Norse-American centennial medal, the first commemorative medal to be issued in the history of the mint, has also been authorized by the government.

The Norse-Americans, because their large property holdings and common interests gave them the incentive for group action, have elected public officials of their choice in national as well as in state and local offices. Of the large number of public servants—state legislators, judges, governors, representatives, and senators—without question the best known is the late Knute Nelson of Minnesota, that rugged, sincere, determined, faithful figure whom everyone grew to love and admire in his many years of honest service in the house and in the senate. He was born in Norway, Henrik Shipstead, the Farmer-Labor senator from Minnesota is a "native son." He was elected in 1922, receiving 325,372 votes against 241,583 for Frank B. Kellogg, Republican, now secretary of state. Magnus Johnson, the Farmer-Labor senator from Minnesota, who was so often in the limelight during his short term of office, was born in Varmland, Sweden. He was elected in 1923 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Knute Nelson, defeating Gov. J. A. O. Preus, Theodore Christanson succeeds Preus as governor.

"I am not willing to concede even the suggestion of a superior brand of Americanism to him who may trace his ancestry to the Europeans who first drove the Indians back from the Atlantic seaboard," said Representative Kvale. "At best, it is merely a question of a few generations. And true Americanism is no more a matter of years, and centuries, nor of language and customs, than is true Christianity a matter of latitude and longitude. Both are a state of the heart and of the inmost soul. I claim, without the slightest fear of successful contradiction, that of all the peoples that have contributed their quota to the making of this nation, no more law-abiding men and women have set foot on American soil than those who during the past century embarked for these shores from the rock-bound coast of the northwest peninsula of Europe."

Growth Affected by Periodic Sun Spots

Many million miles separate the spots on the sun from a rabbit, but scientists declare that there is a connection between them and that the periodic changes in the number of dark masses on the sun's surface partly explain certain facts concerning the growth of plants and animals. Records of the spots have been kept for 150 years and it has been found that they increase to a maximum

about every 11 years, says Popular Mechanics Magazine.

This high point is accompanied by a low-temperature period on the earth, it is said, while fluctuations in atmospheric pressures, rainfall, tracks of storms in North America and the rate of growth of the redwood trees are all declared to correspond to the changes in the sun-spot numbers.

Records kept by the Hudson's Bay

company since 1845 are said to show that the number of rabbit skins received reaches a high mark at a time when the sun spots are at a minimum.

The sunlight is believed to have a direct influence on one of the vitamins in the food the animals eat and thus affects their numbers. Due to a climate fluctuation of unknown cause, every three and one-half years, a small arctic animal, known as the lemming, attains vast numbers and hordes of them migrate to the lowlands and even into the sea, dying by

the thousands as they plunge frantically into the water.

Forgot Their "Tools"

The bad habit that plumbers have, or are said to have, of forgetting their tools when they go out on a job is no doubt responsible for the following news note: "In a California industrial league a baseball game scheduled between two teams composed of plumbers had to be postponed because the players forgot to bring their bats and balls."—Youth's Companion.

MODERN TREND IS ALL FOR SHORTNESS

Abbreviation Seems the Order of the Day.

Longer days mean "shorter" women. For there is an epidemic of abbreviation abroad.

Women have shortened their hair, their skirts, their sleeves, in fact everything that could be shortened in their modes.

Their manners have been subjected to the same process. Engagements are shorter and marriages also.

Social life is a succession of brief functions. Dinner is the merest snapshot before a short dance in one place and a short drive to the next. Petrie Townsend writes in the continental edition of the London Mail.

"Life is short and art cannot be long," is the modern woman's motto. She will not look at a picture unless its effect is obvious and can be seized in a glance. She prefers short to long stories, and even her novels are arrangements of epigrams. Her letters are reduced to brief notes.

Absence of brevity means presence of boredom to women, who prefer even their proposals to be made by telephone. It is quicker to cut off a rejected suitor than to dismiss him.

There is also an idea abroad just now that quickness means slowness. The short meal means the perfect figure and the short skirt enables plenty of strenuous exercise to be taken even in London. Even stockings are turning into socks for the tennis player, and gloves must end at the wrist.

Short-hair means a short way with maids and a quick dressing time.

If brevity is the soul of wit the shortened dinner table of today (it is rarely made to seat more than eight persons) should scintillate with sparkling conversation. Modern women's remarks, however, are so short that they tend to be monosyllabic. It is the fashion to omit all pronouns and as many verbs as possible and to rely on allusion for the rest.

Conversation is carried on in a society cipher and those who hold the key do not appear to find the expanded form particularly enlivening. Still, shorter small talk is probably a boon.

Shorter engagements mean more marriages. The finding-out process takes a little longer than the conventional six weeks, which is all that can elapse between the curt circular notification and the wedding day.

With every occupation cut short, the hours should be long, but the most frequent complaint of the modern woman is that she is so terribly busy: "The days are so short!"

The Change

"Well, how's everything been going on yurabouts whilst I've been away?" asked a citizen who had been over in Oklahoma for a number of years. "Any changes took place?"

"You betcha!" returned Gap Johnson of Rumpus Ridge. "Three new houses have been built, the whole Hockersmith and Helbender families have wiped themselves plumb out with their feuds, 'most everybody it could hurt has been killed off by bone-dry licker. Lem Lunnocks has married ag'in—you know, his first wife had a wart right yur on the p'int of her chin; well, his new wife has got one on the back of her neck—and I'm down in tuther side of the back from what I changes to be. Aw, there's a heap o' changes took place whilst you've been gone."—Kansas City Times.

Electricity in Homes

There is now approximately a billion dollars worth of electric labor savers and cooking appliances in use in the electrified homes of the United States. Of these appliances the most popular is the iron, of which there are now 8,350,000 in household use. The next most popular of electrical appliances is the cleaner with 4,575,000 in use while the third place is held by the electric washer of which 3,460,000 are now being used by the nation's housewives. Likewise, the electric fan is very popular indeed. The country over there are now about 4,150,000 of them in domestic and commercial use.

Rural Mail-Box Stand

In order to do away with unsightly rows of individual mail boxes set on posts at crossroads, groups of farmers in many communities fix their mail boxes to large discarded wagon wheels set on the ends of fence posts. A newly invented metal stand serves the same purpose and helps to keep the highway more attractive. The sides of the device can be used for posting small local notices. Mounted at the top of the center post on which the supporting frame revolves is a small road sign in the form of an arrow.

Sad, but True

Most listeners have remarked the fact that the broadcaster speaks slowly and distinctly at the outset and frequently pauses—ahem—between words.

Then suddenly he changes his pace and we know that the official in charge of the station has nodded to him that his time is almost up and he will have to get some of his scheduled address within the prescribed time limit.—Judge.

Airman Kills Antelope

George Pomeroy, an airplane pilot, who runs between Omaha and Cheyenne, having made good time on the early part of his trip, spotted an antelope from his high point of vantage while flying over Nebraska and descending, shot it. He crammed the antelope into his plane and continued his journey, only later to be apprehended and fined \$150 for his sport by the game warden at Lincoln.

Rather Expensive

A grocer in North Illinois street had scribbled on his front window: "Fresh Eggs—35c Doz." Someone with a sense of humor had done a little erasing, which left the sign like this: "Fish Eggs—35c Doz." It puzzled many.—Indianapolis News.

Washington Sidelights

Capital Establishes a New Traffic Code

WASHINGTON.—This city's new code of traffic regulations is a composite of the best methods adopted by other cities throughout the country. The new rules, which are built around the idea of the greatest speed possible commensurate with the greatest safety, are expected to serve as a model for the rest of the country.

To facilitate the movement of traffic, the speed limit has been raised from 18 to 22 miles an hour. Through streets are to be designated and plainly marked on which greater speeds will be permitted, running up as high as 35 miles an hour on certain arterial thoroughfares leading to trunk highways in the outlying sections.

No speed is specified for motorists crossing intersections or rounding curves, the rate being left to the judgment of the driver, depending upon conditions of traffic. The rules do not mean a motorist may travel at a 22-mile rate speed anywhere. This may be cut down to as low as 12 miles an hour in the business section. The heedless driver is curbed by general regulations which will be enforced in the discretion of the arresting officer and the judge.

Washington Has New Advisory Council

THE residents of Washington, through their regularly constituted Federation of Citizens' Associations, have elected Charles A. Baker, George C. Havenner, Harry N. Stull, William S. Torbett, W. I. Swanton and George R. Wales as a Citizens' Advisory Council to the commissioners of the District of Columbia.

This action was taken in response to a suggestion from the District commissioners and is for the purpose of bringing public sentiment to bear upon the operations of the District government.

The gentlemen named are believed to be representative of the best elements of the District of Columbia. They are public-spirited workers for the welfare of the municipality, and in their several sections of the city have already accomplished much. Their acquaintance with District needs is thorough, and their advice should be valuable in promoting the solution of the many problems that arise in city administration. It is noticeable that the advisory council was elected without friction. Associated with them as advisers will be Jesse C. Suter, president of the Federation of Citizens' Associations, and Dr. George H. Richardson and George Beason, representing the colored citizens.

New Maps Useful to the Average Citizen

FOUR new topographic maps, covering areas in West Virginia and Pennsylvania, have been issued by the Department of the Interior through the geological survey. The West Virginia maps represent the White Sulphur Springs and Hanging Rock quadrangles and the Pennsylvania maps the Milton and the Williamsport quadrangles. They are published on the scale of one mile to one inch and printed in four colors.

Besides showing the relief or topography of the areas by means of the brown contour lines, as in the ordinary topographic map, these maps show the hills, mountains and slopes by shading in light olive-drab, which to the layman's eye brings out the topographic features in clear relief, the effect being like that obtained from a view of a colored plaster-cast model. Although this shading is probably of no advantage to the engineer, it is undoubtedly a great help to the average map user, such as the automobilist, the hiker, and the camper, for it gives him a genuine picture of the country represented. The shading does not obscure the contours which experienced eye shows in every natural feature of the well as its altitude above sea level. Each map is really a veritable array of altitudes.

These four maps are part of great topographic atlas of the States that the geologist is making, which is recognized as a basic general-purpose country. It means that the geological survey has mapped the whatever may be its need for trial or preliminary. The topographic map serves a purpose and can be obtained at a cost of ten cents. This low cost does not indicate that the map is an inexpensive product. The cost of the copper-plate printing of one of the four maps for cost \$1,000 to \$2,000, and the kind could be even greater engineering expense.

Work Closes Up 39 Local Land Offices

MAY 1 the government began to conduct its public land business with 45 instead of 84 local land offices in the various states and Alaska. Reductions in the annual appropriations approximating \$617,000 by congress and a survey inaugurated by Secretary Work of the Interior department is responsible for discontinuing these offices. This survey shows that not only has the public domain been diminishing at an average rate of 10,000,000 acres annually, but that receipts had fallen off approximately 85 per cent during the last 20 years. The survey further showed that the government had been maintaining the same number of local land offices.

It was also found that many local land offices did not justify the expense of their future operation. This situation was reflected in the general decline of applications for homestead entries of every character, auctions of public lands, filings and applications on the public domain. A compilation of figures revealed the fact that original homestead entries had fallen from 48,532 in 1920 to 10,000 in 1924; stock-raising entries from 1920 to 7,000 in 1924; sheep entries from 1,025 in 1920 to 100 in 1924; public land auctions from 1920 to 423 in 1924; and abandoned military reservations from 160 in 1920 to 6 in 1924.

In each case where a local office was abolished, its land and archives were transferred to a nearby office in the same state, the inconvenience to the public reduced to the minimum. The states in the Union, with the local land offices, are: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

Pensions for Indians in the Apache

THE task of identifying the Indian scouts who served with the United States army in the Apache war of 1885 and 1886 so that they can be paid pensions due them from the government is proving a difficult problem the Interior department finds. All of these Indians are between the ages of sixty-three and eighty years. They live on the Pueblo Bonito Indian reservation in New Mexico. Recently the bureau of Indian affairs instructed the superintendent of this agency to search out the Indians who served as scouts with General Miles when he chased Geronimo and his band over the southwest and into Mexico. The old Indians appeared from every part of the reservation when the superintendent sent out a call for all the Indians claiming to have served with either the infantry or the cavalry. But an immediate entanglement ensued. Out of the entire number who came to the agency's headquarters and declared that they were former scouts, only four were able to present their discharge papers from the army.