

NAHA Norse-American Centennial
MSS Papers
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SCRAP BOOK



1925, March 12 - June 30

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JUN 7 1925

FOREIGNERS SEEK HOME CONDITIONS

Climate and Industrial Opportunities Guide Immigrants In America

Scandinavians Take to Upper Mississippi Valley; Irish Like Cities

More than one-half the 1 1/4 million Scandinavians in the United States are grouped in the half dozen states represented by the great audience addressed by President Coolidge at the Norse-American Centennial celebration at St. Paul a few days ago. The latest population figures of the United States, says the Trade Record of The National City Bank of New York, show the number of natives of the Scandinavian countries residing in the United States in 1920, the latest official figures, at 1,178,596, of which number 625,580 were natives of Sweden, 363,862 of Norway, and 189,154 of Denmark. Out of this grand total of 1,178,596 Scandinavians in the United States in 1920, the census reports show 219,209 living in Minnesota, 53,285 in North Dakota, 31,369 in South Dakota, 83,749 in Wisconsin, 57,857 in Iowa, and 150,460 in Illinois.

How does it happen, asks the Trade Record, that more than one-half of the 1 1/4 million Scandinavians entering the country, chiefly arriving through the Atlantic ports, traveled the thousands of miles necessary to establish their homes in this particular section of the country? Climatic conditions and opportunities for occupation similar to those to which they had been accustomed in their native land seem to have been the great causes of the long-distance movement of these people after passing through the Atlantic ports for the states through which they entered, New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, retain but a small percentage of the whole number, more than half of that total being grouped in this comparatively small area many days and nights of travel from the ports through which they entered.

This disposition of the Scandi-

navians entering the country to seek climatic conditions and occupational opportunities similar to those to which they were accustomed in their native lands is characteristic of the method by which the thirty-seven millions immigrants entering this country in the past one hundred years have distributed themselves over the entire area with its great variety of soils, climate and industrial opportunities. Not only have the Scandinavians sought out a section in the very center of the country, offering conditions similar to those to which they were accustomed, but this is true to perhaps a lesser degree of the other groups of people. Of the 1 1/2 million Germans in the United States in 1920 over 200,000 were in the State of Illinois! 151,000 in Wisconsin; 100,000 in Minnesota and the Dakotas; and 120,000 in Pennsylvania. To the Poles, coming from the northern section of Europe, the mining and manufacturing sections of this country offer special attractions, for out of 1,140,000 Poles in the United States in 1920 178,000 were in Pennsylvania, 162,000 in Illinois, 103,000 in Michigan, about 150,000 in the New England states and 247,000 in New York state.

Of the 1,400,000 Russians in the country in 1920 the mining and manufacturing states now absorbed a large proportion, Pennsylvania 161,000, Illinois 117,000, New England 147,000, and New York state, 529,000.

The cities seem especially attractive to the natives of Ireland, for of the 1,037,000 natives of Ireland in 1920 in this country, 284,000 were in New York state, 183,000 in Massachusetts, and 121,000 in Pennsylvania.

While the southern states, with their genial climate, have attracted comparatively few, the opportunity for outdoor life in the grain and fruit areas of California have given that state a larger number of white persons of foreign birth than any other states except New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Illinois, the total number of "foreign-born whites" in California in 1920 being 681,662, a number only exceeded by the States of New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Illinois, despite the fact that the average "foreign-born white" entering the United States had to travel a distance of 3000 miles to establish himself on the Pacific coast. The official records show the total number of immigrants entering the country in the past one hundred years at 37 millions, while the total number of "foreign-born whites" in the United States in 1920 was 13,712,754, of whom 2,786,112 were in New York, 1,387,850 in Pennsylvania, 1,206,951 in Illinois, 1,077,534 in Massachusetts, 726,635 in Michigan and 681,662 in California. Of the 13,712,754 "foreign-born whites" in the United States in 1920, 11,914,617 were natives of Europe, and 73,824 natives of Asia.

FLORENCE A. L. NEWS
MARCH 13, 1925

St. Paul and Minneapolis will celebrate next June the 100th anniversary of the landing of the first Norse settlers in this country. President Coolidge has promised to take part in the celebration. Some of the most sturdy citizens of the United States, especially of the northwest, are descendants of these industrious and thrifty Norwegian pioneers, whose advent into the life of the nation is to be fittingly commemorated.

Clinton (Minn.) Advocate
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1925

A CENTURY OF NORSE MIGRATION

Information of Interest in Connection With the Forthcoming Norse-American Centennial.

Long before the Nordic myth was fostered in the United States it was recognized that the sons and daughters of Norway who has come to this country to settle had made an invaluable contribution to the American race. Unlike many other peoples, they had not confined themselves to industries and to urban occupations alone, but had taken up the land, and had proved themselves to be hard-working, diligent people, earnest in their desire to become absorbed into American life, and at the same time contributing to it the fine qualities which they had brought with them from their seagirt homes. What is less generally known is that this great Norse migration began just a hundred years ago, and that it was largely due to the impetus of a small band of Norwegian Quakers who came to this country in 1825. Lured by the accounts of English travelers who surveyed the western country of Illinois and Missouri, the people of all Europe were turning their eyes to this promised land.

Among those won by the glowing accounts of this transatlantic paradise was Kleng Peerson, from Tysver in the Norwegian County of Stavanger, who visited the United States in 1821 with Knud Olson Eide, and upon his return to the old country in 1824 prevailed upon some of his neighbors to set sail for America. This they did in a small sloop, Restaurationen by name, on the 4th of July, 1825, there being fifty-two persons in the company. After numerous adventures, including the finding of a pipe of wine floating on the sea not far from Madeira, and the birth of a daughter to one of the passengers, they reached New York Harbor. Their vessel which was of only forty-five tons burden, small even for those days, aroused such interest that the ship news reporter of the The New York Daily Advertiser wrote in that paper

in the issue of Oct. 12, 1825, that "an enterprise like this argues a good deal of boldness in the master of the vessel, as well as an adventurous spirit in the passengers." He added that they were all bound for Orleans County, N. Y., where an agent had purchased a tract of land for them.

From this small beginning a vast migration grew. Many moved west from Orleans County into Illinois and were joined by relatives and friends. Gradually the Norse migration spread into wilderness of Minnesota and the Dakotas, and down into Iowa and Missouri, and a small but vigorous colony grew up on the Northwest coast, devoted primarily to fishing and shipping. Those states which have considerable strains of Norwegian blood in their population are justly proud of this fact. They have given to the nation Senators and Governors. More important than this, they have furnished a race of sturdy Americans, self-reliant and hard-working.

Proud as the Norse stock has been of its European homeland, its members have been peculiarly free from temptation to which some others have fallen, to put the interests of the fatherland above those of the United States. Although such colleges as St. Olaf's, at Northfield, Minnesota, and Luther College, at Decorah in Iowa, have long been administered and attended largely by persons of Norwegian stock, they have been primarily American schools, and it has been the great desire of those who taught them, as well as of those who have gone to the State and local schools, to merge entirely with the native American stock and to place the interests of the locality and the State above those of race. When Kleng Peerson set out to help his friends in Norway a hundred years ago he unwittingly performed a great service to the United States.—New York Times February 22, 1925.

Northwood, Ia., Anchor
THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1925

NORWEGIANS IN U. S. 100 YEARS

This Year To Be Observed as
Centennial Jubilee.

Small Vessel Brought 360 From the
Mother Country to New York
In 1825.

1825 was a significant year for America as it marked the beginning of Norwegian immigration to this country. This is therefore the Centennial year and will be observed by a National Celebration in Minneapolis, June 7th, 8th, and 9th, when Norwegian-Americans will gather by the hundreds of thousands from all parts of the country to celebrate the event. Local celebrations will also be conducted throughout the country.

In connection with this event the following clipping from the New York Daily Advertiser for October 12, 1825 may be of interest. It was headed.

A Novel Sight.

"A vessel has arrived at this port with emigrants from Norway. The vessel is very small, measuring, as we understand, only about 360 Norwegian lasts, or forty-five American tons, and brought fifty-three passengers, male and female, all bound for Orleans county, where an agent who came over some time since, purchased a tract of land.

"The appearance of such a party of strangers, coming from so distant a country and in a vessel of a size apparently ill calculated for a voyage across the Atlantic, could not but excite an unusual degree of interest.

"An enterprise like this argues a good deal of boldness in the master of the vessel, as well as an adventurous spirit in the passengers, most of whom belong to families from the vicinity of a little town at the southwestern extremity of Norway, near the city of Stavanger. Those who came from the farms are dressed in coarse cloth of domestic manufacture of a fashion different from the Americans, but those who inhabited the town wear calicos, gingham, and gay shawls, imported, we presume, from England.

"The vessel is built on the model common to fishing boats on that coast, with a single top-sail, sloop-rigged. She arrived with the addition of one passenger born on the way."

The name of the vessel was "Restaurationen." It left Stavanger, Norway, July 4, 1825, and arrived at New York, October 9th, the same year. Every one of the passengers landed in good health and spirits. A child was born to Mr. and Mrs. Lars Larson on the voyage. She was given the name Margaret Allen in honor of Mrs. Allen in London who had befriended Mr. Larson.

These Norse "pilgrim fathers and mothers" who came over in this "Mayflower of the North" settled in Orleans County, New York, and the hundreds and thousands of their countrymen who followed them during this century have settled and developed large parts of Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, the Dakotas, and beyond to the Pacific Ocean and way up in Canada. They were hard working, frugal, and industrious, and blazed the way in developing the American wilderness into the most prosperous and progressing region of the World. They came from a free country to a free country, from an educated country to an educated country. They represented a civilization and culture of a thousand years development. They were better Americans before they left Norway than some of those who have been trying to Americanize them after they came here.

As a rule the Norse immigrants came here empty handed, but they were not empty headed or empty hearted. Preeminently, they were a religious people and wherever they settled they built churches, educational and Charity institutions. They

have over 3,500 churches, 1500 clergymen, and contribute annually about \$4,000,000.00 to Church, Charity, Mission and religious education. They have 30 Colleges, Academies, Normal Schools, and Theological Seminaries, 38 Children's Homes, Old People's Homes, Rescue Homes for Girls, Kindergartens, and Day Nurseries.

They have over 300 Home Missionaries stationed in the pioneer fields, logging, mining, and fishing camps, and the large cities. Being that Norway ranks very high among nations in Foreign Mission interests, it is only reasonable that those who migrated to America carried this interest with them. Therefore, they have developed large Mission Fields in China, Madagascar, and Africa, where they have hundreds of missionaries, thousands of native workers and contribute millions annually.

As there is practically no illiteracy in Norway, the immigrants and their descendants have been specially interested in establishing and maintaining schools and publishing houses and publishing papers and periodicals in both languages for the general enlightenment of themselves and the rest of the Americans.

Their first pastor, Elling Eielsen, was ordained in 1843. They built their first Church in 1844 in Racine County, Wisconsin. Organized their first Synod in 1851. The first American newspaper in the Norwegian language appeared July 29, 1847. It was called "Nordlyset" (The Northern Light), and was published in the town of Norway, Racine County, Wisconsin.

Since that time over 400 papers have been published in the Norwegian language in 89 cities in America. At present there are 50 papers of which 2 are daily and two semi-weekly. The rest are weekly or monthly.

The first Norwegian Academy of higher learning was founded in 1852.

In 1920 there were 2,233,503 Norwegians in America, and when we bear in mind that the good ship "Restaurationen" brought the original 53 Norwegians to this country in 1825, we realize that there has been some development both here and in Norway. And when their descendants gather to celebrate the event, they can do so with the satisfaction of having contributed some of the finest and most desirable elements into America.

Anaconda, Mont. Standard
THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1925

NORSE CENTENARY

The city of St. Paul, which has been making elaborate preparations for her Norse centenary in June, feels freshly stimulated to continue them by the action of the government of Norway in announcing that it will officially send to the celebration members of the Norwegian cabinet, the state church and the storting. The festivities are in commemoration of its one-hundredth anniversary of the first shipload of immigrants from Norway to reach these shores, and it is fitting that the ceremonies should be of an imposing and impressive character.

The sturdy qualities of that portion of the population of Minnesota that is of Scandinavian descent is known throughout the length and breadth of the land. Distinguished representatives of it have adorned the halls of congress, the bench, the bar, all the learned professions and all branches of commerce and industry. Nor has Minnesota any monopoly of these Americanized sons of Scandinavia—they are liberally scattered over the entire Northwest and everywhere they have made good as community founders and builders. Their loving regard for the old country has at no time and in no way served to lessen their staunch loyalty to the new.

The visitors from Norway will find much in Minnesota to remind them of home. In the descendants of the original immigrants physical traits may persist; Scandinavian habits of thought and action have not been obliterated, but that fact does not impeach the quality of their Americanism or serve to check the ardor of their enthusiasm for the country in which they have fared well and prospered and to the general welfare and prosperity of which they have contributed.

CINCINNATI (OHIO) ENO
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1925

A Viking Centennial

The centennial of the arrival of the first Norwegian settlers in this country is to be celebrated throughout America during the coming summer, with particularly elaborate ceremonial circumstance in Minneapolis.

In October, 1825, a small Norwegian vessel entered New York harbor, bearing fifteen homeseekers, the first pilgrims from the Northlands to seek a wider freedom in the new world, whose shores perhaps were first touched by their Viking forbears.

The Norwegian Government is sending distinguished official representatives to participate in this important memorial of an event so prolific of profit to the two peoples.

The north blood is widely disseminated among the American population, and the Norse population already in this country practically equals, if it does not outnumber, that of the motherland.

It is good blood, this northern strain. Norwegians, Danes and Swedes quickly are welded into the mold of American citizenship. From the coming of the first pilgrims, in 1825, these people have had a most important part in the development of the nation's great Northwest. They are a thrifty, sturdy, hardy, democratic race. Like the earlier Pilgrim Fathers who settled the New England states, the Norse pilgrims came to enjoy religious liberty. They did enjoy it, and more. Their descendants have enjoyed it down to the present hour. They won, as time passed, places high in Government councils and in state administrations; in literature and in industry; especially were they builders of homes and a higher civilization in the nation's colder areas.

This same blood, in older historical periods, swept down from the North in adventurous galleys to change the destinies of African, Egyptian and Roman civilization. But in America its fusion happily appears to make for progress and development rather than for a weak and retrogressive amalgamation.

Rayward Wis. Record
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1925

NORSE-AMERICANS HOLD CENTENNIAL

The Norse-American Centennial, of the U. S. and Canada, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary on June 7, 8 and 9, will be one of the greatest events in the history of the association and should be of special interest to all people of Scandinavian descent. The purpose of this Centennial is to commemorate in an impressive manner the events which mark the beginning of Norse emigration to this continent and to pay a fitting tribute to the Norwegian pioneers of America. We cannot honor too highly the Norwegian pioneers of America. The services they rendered are of inestimable value and importance. They were among the foremost in conquering the wilderness, in developing it into one of the most prosperous, most progressive regions of the world. With ceaseless toil and sacrifice they helped to push the frontiers of civilization from the Great Lakes to the Pacific and by their whole-hearted loyalty to their adopted country, helped to save the Union during the Civil War.

This Centennial will be the greatest celebration ever held by Norsemen in America. The program will include speakers and musicians of world-wide fame. The President, or a prominent member of his cabinet, will represent the government of the

United States; the Premier of Canada or a member of his cabinet, will speak for the dominion to the north, and D. Fritjof Nansen will appear for the mother country. A distinguished son of Iceland will represent the famous island where the Norsemen settled a thousand years ago and whence they sailed to America almost five hundred years before Columbus saw the western world.

In addition there will be athletics, lectures, exhibits and entertainments of an appropriate character. A Peasant Wedding (Bondebryllup) with costume, music and games will be one of the many interesting features.

The civic organizations of the Twin Cities will co-operate in perfecting arrangements and in making the stay of all visitors in the two cities interesting and enjoyable. No less than 2,700 Lutheran congregations, the Norwegian colleges, seminaries and academies; the numerous Bygdelags, the lodges of the Sons of Norway and various other societies and organizations have been assigned places in the Centennial and are taking part in the preparations.

The site selected for the celebration is the geographic center of Norwegian population of America, and the Twin Cities have long been recognized as a center of Norse art, learning and culture. The Minnesota Historical Library contains the largest collection of Norse-American literature in America.

W. H. Minn. Mirror
TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1925

Unlike some gatherings where people of foreign races assemble, the great Norse celebration to be held shortly in the Cities, holds no danger of any over-enthusiasm to the detriment of this country. Immigrants from these northern countries have been among the sturdiest, most loyal, patriotic and desirable pioneers, and the people of the whole country readily join in the spirit of the celebration. It will be a big success.

Grafton (N. D.) News and Times
FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1925

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

There is deep significance to the Norwegian Centennial Celebration which will be held in St. Paul next month. No race has contributed more to the development of this section of the state than the hardy Norse immigrant, the men of the early eighties and nineties who tilled the North Dakota and Minnesota prairies.

A fitting tribute should be given their part in blazing the trail for present day development. It was a hardy, honest and courageous stock that came into the state ahead of the railroad and in any kind of contrivance that could negotiate the difficult trails often beset by hostile Indians. They had to fight against elements as well as the redskins; their victories were not easy ones, but they stuck to the task and helped materially in producing a great

Commonwealth.

President Coolidge, high state officials, and representatives from many foreign lands will gather at the Twin cities. It is fitting and deeply significant of the debt owed these hardy pioneers that official notice is to be taken of the celebration.

The whole Northwest is co-operating to make the event a most outstanding one in the annals of that group of states which honors as her sturdy citizens thousands of Norsemen.

ADUCAH, KY., SUN
JUNE 3, 1925.

THE NORSE-AMERICANS

The President of the United States is today honoring the Norse-Americans of the continent with his presence at their great assemblage at the Twin Cities in Minnesota.

A President never did honor to a sturdier and more industrious race, nor one which has, in proportion, contributed more to the upbuilding of the country. The great Northwest, the domain of Jim Hill and the Great Northern, reveals a history intertwined with the life story of the Norwegians and Swedes who came to this country to found their fortunes. A self-reliant hard-working lot they went boldly through the western prairies, establishing homesteads, tilling farms, prospering and expanding as the great fertile plains yielded a grateful return to their cultivators. Obstacles that a finer drawn race might have found unsurmountable did not check them. They fought through to a finish, and frugality and industry combined, won the way for them.

Unlike some other races the Norsemen have taken up the obligations of citizenship in their adopted land, with few exceptions. They came to stay, and stayed. The descendants of these earlier settlers are American born and American minded. They have mated with the Anglo-Saxon and race distinction has disappeared rapidly in succeeding generations. The virility of the nation has been stimulated by the injection of their sturdy qualities.

The field that the Norsemen in America occupy is not limited. They have entered the arts and the sciences, they have produced brilliant politicians and noted economists. In the proportion they have prospered they have given back to the country that made it possible, and it is fitting that the state which has known them best, should pause to do them honor.

Rush City, Minn., Post
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1925

THE NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL

The Norse-American Centennial will be held at the State Fair grounds from June 6th to June 9th, inclusive, will be one of the greatest gatherings in Minnesota this year. This celebration marks the one-hundredth anniversary of the coming of the first Norwegians to this country. Since that time thousands of that nationality have emigrated to the United States and today there are more Norwegians and descendants of Norwegians in the United States than are to be found in their mother country. These people have figured prominently in the pioneer life of the entire Northwest and it is only fit and proper that this great celebration should be held in Minnesota.

It is estimated that at least 100,000 people will participate and be in attendance at these festivities. President Coolidge, Secretary Kellogg, high officials from Norway and the governors of at least six states will be present.

St. Paul, Minn., News
SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1925

Welcome!

With the opening of the Norse centennial today at the state fair grounds, St. Paul became the center of one of the largest and most significant celebrations in all history.

Along with the beginning of this event was the start of the Northwest Industrial exhibition at the Overland building, making St. Paul for the time the hub of activity for the men and industries that have built up this great section of the country.

It is fitting that these two observances should be combined, for if the sturdy, adventuresome Norsemen had not chosen the northwest, and principally Minnesota, as the place for their largest settlements it is doubtful if much of the record for progress ever would have been made.

The Norsemen were among the earliest northwest pioneers. They soon showed an exceptional capacity for overcoming obstacles and advancing in the face of adversity. In every undertaking they succeeded. There is not a phase of northwest life in which there are not Norse leaders.

It is a privilege which St. Paul enjoys to the utmost to be able to have them as guests. St. Paul owes its eminence in large measure to the aggressiveness, constructive determination and progressiveness of the mighty Norse race.

CHICAGO ILL NEWS
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1925.

This country is proud of its Americans of Norwegian birth or extraction, who are now having their big days in St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Minneapolis, Minn. Star
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1925

Norse are Leaders in Many Lines of Endeavor

Poets, Novelists, Artists, Musicians on List of Famous

In literature, painting, sculpture, and music the Norwegian-American people for beauty that has, since the remote have found an outlet for the craving ages, remained one of the outstanding heritages of the Norse race.

This cultural impulse is reflected in the beautiful lines of the viking ships, in the splendid ornamentation and wood carving on churches and stone monuments of early times, in needle work of the Hardanger variety, which Norwegian immigrants introduced in the United States, in the quaint stave churches of Norway, and in the bright-hued, painted flower ornamentation on chests, drawers and utensils in the Norwegian farmers' homes.

Leading to Literature

One of the legacies handed down to posterity by Norwegian immigrants is a volume of Norse-American verse representing 45 authors and 250 poems, for it is to literature, more than any other form of art, that the Norwegian temperament lends itself most readily. The authority of immigrant verse was published in 1903. In all, nearly 50 volumes or booklets of Norwegian-American verse have been published. The most widely known include "The Seamless Robe and Other Poems," by Gustav Melby, published in 1914; and his "The Lost Chimes and Other Poems," 1918.

The chief literary form among the descendants of the pioneers will be, doubtlessly, the novel. The first attempt at novel-writing were made in the 70's and 80's, and some very acceptable work has been done since. O. A. Buslett, the pioneer of the poets, has turned from the lyric to narrative prose, dealing with the life of the early immigrant in the fields and lumber camps of northern Wisconsin. Simon Johnson of Fargo, N. D., has made a name as a novelist. He knows the prairies of the Dakotas, and his work has given a moving portrayal of the trials of pioneer days, when the Indian was a menace. Another talented writer of novels is Prof. O. E. Rolvaag of Northfield, Minn. John B. Wist, editor of Decorah-Posten has produced two notable works—"Immigrant Portraits," and "The Home on the Prairie." W. Ager, a Wisconsin editor, has employed both the novel and short-story in promoting the cause of prohibition.

Numbered Among Painters

Jonas Lie, of New York, a nephew of the late distinguished Norwegian novelist of the same name, is one of the foremost painters in the world today. Some of his paintings hang in the Luxembourg gallery, Paris, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, and in many clubs and public institutions in Europe and America. Mr. Lie painted the Panama canal during construction, and these paintings are declared by critics to be a color-epic to labor. In his work he shows great versatility, depicting the storm, the thunder cloud, hills and rocks, forest streams, dark, half-hidden rivers, fishing boats, and a variety of other subjects.

Another noted Norwegian-American painter is Lars Haukanes, one of whose pictures hangs in the Minneapolis Institute of Art. He has devoted himself mainly to painting landscapes from the Hardanger district of Norway. Some fine work in landscapes also has been done by a Minnesotan—Alexander Grinager, who depicts babbling brooks and sunsets rich in lights and shadows.

Well Known Sculptors

Sigvald Asbjornsen of Chicago is probably the best known of the sculptors in the Norwegian group. He has modelled many busts of American statesmen, including Grover Cleveland, James G. Blaine and Carter H. Harrison. Gilbert P. Elswold, of Chicago, who was born of Norwegian immigrant parents on a farm near Baltic, S. D., is another well known sculptor. Yet another is Paul Fjelde, of New York, formerly of Minneapolis, whose father, Jacob Fjelde, modelled the statue of Ole Bull, which stands in Loring Park, Minneapolis.

The Norwegians are distinctly a musical people. In early times their love of music took the form of skaldic poetry. Few races have a richer heritage of characteristic folk song and melodies. Music, especially choral singing, is assiduously cultivated by the Norwegian element in America. No center of population is without its singing society. The Norwegian Singers' league is the principal organization of singers. The first of the Norwegian-American singing societies was founded at La Crosse, Wis., nearly 70 years ago.

Choral Singing Fostered

Choral singing is fostered generally by the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. It is not only the church choir that sings. The entire congregation joins in the singing of the beautiful hymns that have been accumulated by the church through centuries of singing by the worshippers themselves.

In the St. Olaf College choir, directed by F. Mellus Christianson, there has been developed a choir which is recognized as without a peer in the United States.

Alfred Paulsen of Chicago, and Ole Windingstad of New York are leading orchestra directors and composers of the Norwegian group. Foremost among singers of the group is Mme. Olive Fremstad, for many years an operatic star of the first magnitude. The late Albert Arveschou was a famous baritone, whose voice was a marvel of range, power and beauty of tone.

Benson, Minn. Monitor
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1925

Minnesotans Heard Ole Bull In 1856

Among the interesting cultural contributions to Minnesota's development which are recalled by the Norse-American Centennial celebration this month are the concerts given in this pioneer commonwealth by Ole Bull, the great Norwegian violinist. His first Minnesota recitals were given in 1856, when he appeared in St. Paul, St. Anthony, and Stillwater.

Preliminary notices of the St. Paul concerts announced that among the artists assisting Ole Bull would be the youthful Adelina Patti. The double attraction crowded the House Chamber of

the Capitol "to its utmost capacity" for two concerts on July 15 and 18, 1856. Thirteen years later the celebrated violinist gave a second pair of concerts in St. Paul, on April 30 and May 1, 1869. At this time he evidently visited the rooms of the Minnesota Historical society, for in its "Visitors' Register," under the date of May 3, 1869, appears a bold signature—"Ole Bull, Valestrand, Norway."

Minneapolis, Minn. Star
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1925

Senator Shipstead Is Norse-American Who Has Won High Mark in Politics

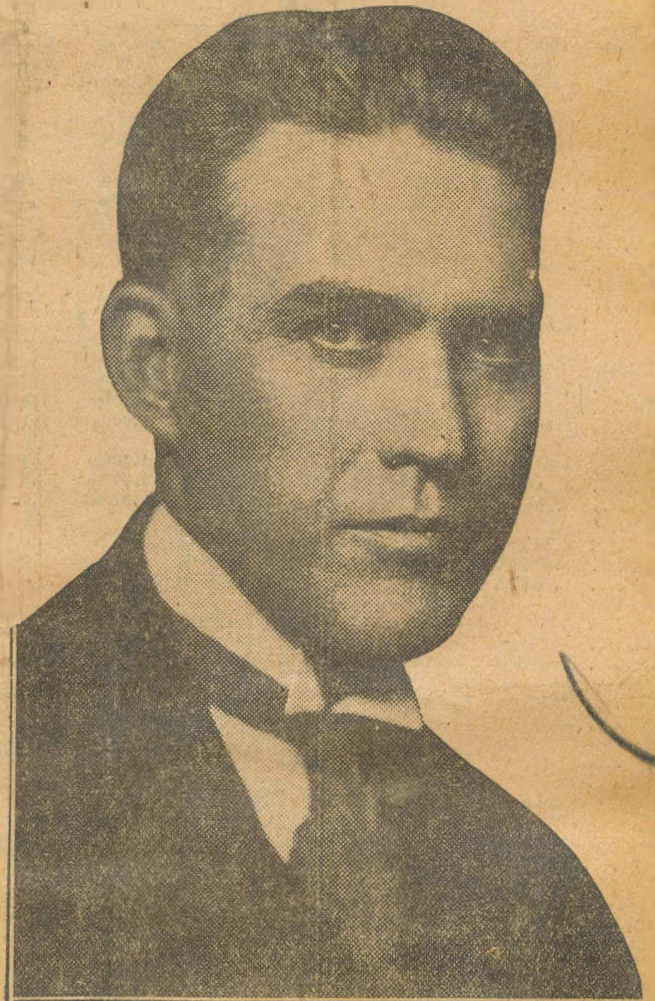
'Most Promising of Young Men in U.S. Senate,' Lodge Declared

Henrik Shipstead, senior United States senator from Minnesota, has been characterized by the late Senator Henry Cabot Lodge as "the most promising of the young men in the United States senate."

Senator Shipstead's parents were both born in Norway. Saave Shipstead, his father, was born in Telemarken, and his mother, Christine Ellefson, in Risor. They came to America in 1865 and settled on a homestead in Burbank, Kandiyohi county, Minn., which at that time was 70 miles from the nearest railroad at St. Cloud.

Served in Legislature

Henrik is one of a family of 12 children. He was born in the township of Burbank on Jan. 8, 1881. He attended the public schools at New London, the State Normal school at St. Cloud and the dental school of the Northwestern university, Chicago, graduating in 1903. He practiced dentistry at Glenwood, Minn., for several years, where he served as member of the charter commission, mayor for one term, and as a member of the state legislature of Minnesota during the 1917 session. In 1906 he married Lula Anderson. He has one son, aged



SENATOR HENRIK SHIPSTEAD

16. In 1920 he opened a dental office in Minneapolis, and 1922 he was nominated for the United States senate on the Farmer-Labor ticket. On Nov. 7, 1922, he was elected by a plurality of 83,539, receiving 325,372 votes, against 241,833 for Frank B. Kellogg, Republican, who is now secretary of state in the Coolidge cabinet.

Senator Shipstead is described by the popular correspondent, William Hard, as being "slow of speech. He is extremely deliberate in manner. He

is urbane. He is even deferential. He not only considers his own thoughts before he utters them, but also considers the feelings of the persons who will have to listen to his thoughts. He has a slow, ironic humor. He is meditative, humorous, polite."

Serving his first term in the United States senate, Senator Shipstead proved himself to be a great student in economics, when he produced three classics, "Interest Rates and the Public Debt," "Government Interest

Rates" and "Stock Inflation Versus Prosperity," which have been termed by prominent bankers the most complete statement on the government's

financial policy that has ever been made. The general impression among the public is that only a banker is capable of understanding economic problems. Senator Shipstead has the faculty of taking these apparently complicated questions and elucidating them in a way to make them intelligible to the average man. He reduces the problem to the least common multiple, and in the final analysis shows it to be a question of addition and subtraction.

Interested in Foreign Affairs

Within a few days after his arrival in Washington, he was chosen to serve on the senate's most "glorifying" committee, the committee on foreign relations. Senator Shipstead has taken an active interest in the conduct of foreign affairs, and the promotion of world peace. He has been quoted in the for-

ign press of many nations and heralded not only in this country but all over the world as one of the leading advocates of disarmament and the abolition of militarism. In his remarks to the senate on Feb. 23, the senator received nation-wide recognition when he stated "world peace could be obtained through credit control, and the United States is in a position to dictate that policy of peace." He said further, "we should loan money to foreign countries for peace purposes, and discourage American loans to any nations making heavy expenditures for armaments."

In an address on Feb. 7 in the senate, he offered a proposal in the form of an amendment to an appropriation bill for the prevention of future wars by abolishing power of militarists to conscript men for slaughter. He said, "is it conceivable that the World war would have been allowed to commence, much less last 50 months, if the government had been obliged to fight their combatants otherwise than by conscription?" This amendment was defeated in the senate.

He has taken an active interest in all important issues that have come before the senate, and at all times has the interest of the people at heart. He has the good will of the people of the state and has been very much encouraged in his work by great men irrespective of party affiliations, who realize that he is a man of great ability, and has been a credit to Minnesota. Few men have gone into the United States senate and in such short time received the recognition and universal confidence and respect that the senior senator from Minnesota has received.

cedents and the great achievements of their people in this country. Incidentally they have emphasized as well the part the people of the Scandinavian peninsula have played in the world's history and early American history, the importance of which has been minimized in our educational system.

The foundation for the great success of the Centennial celebration lay no doubt in the unit organizations of the Norwegians in America in their thirty-six "bygdslag" organizations, many of the annual conventions of which have been entertained at Willmar from time to time. These "lags" had their big day at the State Fair grounds on Saturday, when all were in simultaneous reunions.

Sunday was religious day. Never has the fair grounds before been put to such a purpose. The number of people on the grounds that day was estimated at sixty-five thousand, most of whom attended the services held by the prominent Norwegian divines of this country and Norway. Imagine the horse show amphitheatre crowded every inch of space by many thousands in a monster Norwegian Lutheran service! In the grandstand the sermons and talks were amplified to reach the immense throngs.

Monday was the day when the official representatives of the United States in the persons of President Coolidge and Secretary of State Kellogg, several states by their governors, Norway, Canada, and Iceland by chosen representatives, and many officials of lesser prominence were the guests of the celebration.

Yesterday was sport day with games, contests, etc, ending up with a great pageant in which fifteen hundred characters participated showing scenes of historic interest.

The exhibits included activities of churches and denominational institutions, art and paintings, relics, weaving, tapestry, embroidery, old documents, interiors of early pioneer home in contrast to a modern one, log cabin, model of "Restaurationen," photos of prominent Norse authors, statesmen, etc., industrial exhibits by the State of Minnesota, Norway and Canada. Unfortunately the big dirigible airship, the Los An-

geles, owing to disabled engines, was unable to come, which was a disappointment.

The whole affair, however, was a grand success, well carried out. All honor to those whose minds planned the event and those who helped to carry it out.

section that the greater part of the Norse element in our population found its home. The century which has elapsed since the real tide of Norwegian immigration into the United States began has been marked by successive movements which took the Northmen from New York farther and farther inland until thousands of families of those who had left Norway in search of new homes established themselves permanently in the very center of the continent. There is a certain apparent incongruity in the fact that the Norwegians, from time immemorial a seafaring people, whose little ships penetrated to the uttermost confines of the known world, in whose lives the sea had played so large a part, when they came to establish themselves on the new continent should have settled in such great numbers as far from the ocean as it was possible for them to get.

The Norwegians have always been a pioneering people. They have delighted in the high adventure of seeking out unknown places and investigating new possibilities. And the same spirit that sent their little vessels coursing up and down the coasts of Europe and out into the broad Atlantic is the spirit that sent them into the very heart of the new continent to which they had come and caused them to be among the foremost to establish themselves by the rivers of Minnesota and Wisconsin and on the broad prairies of North Dakota. Their desire was not so much to get away from an old environment as to find a new and test its possibilities.

Norway has made a large and splendid contribution to American life. Her people have developed traditions and been wedded to principles which make for the finest development of national life. They have been a domestic people, with the family occupying the central position in their life. Industry and thrift are among their most pronounced characteristics. The same qualities which in the early centuries made them the most feared of sea rovers have been expressed in equally great measure, but in more peaceful form in the building of homes in what to a less enterprising people would have appeared a bleak and forbidding wilderness. Those who came from the Northern peninsula of Europe to this land brought with them their industry and enterprise, their love of home and family, their independent spirit and their strong sense of duty in the regulation of their own activities and in their relations with others. Other people have possessed these qualities in greater or less measure. Human character is seldom unique. But ours would be a sorry civilization were it not for the qualities which have stood out most conspicuously in Norwegian character.

Willmar (Minn.) Tribune
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1925

HATS OFF, TO THE NORWEGIANS

The Norse Centennial celebration at the State Fair Grounds was an unprecedented gathering in the history of the country. It was bold in conception and carried thru with characteristic determination to a successful conclusion. The Norwegians have asserted themselves in this big gathering in so emphatic a manner that no one can doubt the justifiable pride they feel in their ante-

Petersburg, N. D. Record
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1925

THE NORSE CENTENNIAL

The Norwegian centennial celebration at St. Paul, which attracted thousands of Norwegian birth or ancestry from all sections of the country had a peculiar interest for the people of the Northwest, for it is in this

GENERAL BJORNSTAD, MINNEAPOLIS NATIVE TO BE HONOR GUEST

Former Snelling Commandant
Listed Among National
Heroes of Norse Blood
Has Etched Notable Military
Record and Won Many
Decorations

Among national heroes of Norwegian descent who will attend the Norse-American Centennial is Brigadier General Alfred W. Bjornstad, who will come to Minneapolis from Fort Omaha, Neb., where he now is in command of the Seventh corps area.

General Bjornstad was born in St. Paul, and has spent a large part of his life in Minnesota. He was an honor graduate of the University of Minnesota in 1896. Practically his entire life has been devoted to the defense of this country.

He gained his first military experience as a member of the Minnesota National Guard, then served as captain of H Company, Thirtieth Minnesota Volunteers, in the Spanish-American war. He was severely wounded at the battle of Manila in the Philippines, and later was in 33 other engagements in the islands.

In 1901, he entered the regular army as a lieutenant in the 29th Infantry, was made captain in the 28th Infantry in 1903, and was military attache to Berlin in 1912-13. From 1915 to 1916, he was military instructor at the army staff college, and directed 16 training camps for officers of the National Guard, in 1917.

During the World war, he was first chief of staff of the 30th Division in 1917, and later chief of staff of the Third Army Corps in France. He later organized and directed the Army General Staff College in France.

Wears Numerous Decorations

Numerous decorations and citations bear witness to his bravery on the field of battle and efficiency in the organization of military units. He wears the Distinguished Service Cross, the Distinguished Service Medal, Companion of St. Michael and St. George (British) and Legion of Honor and Croix de Guerre (France).

Not only did he achieve fame as a soldier, but as an author of military literature, for he is coauthor with Colonel Merch B. Stewart, of the Infantry Drill Regulations, which every soldier in the infantry studies.

He was successively lieutenant colonel, colonel and brigadier general during the World war, but after his return from France was reduced to the rank of colonel, in accordance with the government's policy of returning to peacetime strength with its peacetime quota of officers.

He was placed in command at Fort Snelling in 1919, where he remained three years, and then was given one of the most important tasks in the United States army when he was assigned to Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga., as assistant commandant of the infantry school. At this school he had

personal charge of instructing army officers, from the rank of lieutenant to brigadier general, in military science.

In September, last year, he was recommended to the war department for promotion to brigadier general in the regular army. But his nomination was held up by senate military affairs committee upon protest of Senator Davis Elkins of West Virginia, which aroused a storm of protest from all who knew him, as well as in newspapers in cities where he had served.

Minnesota Rises to Defense

In Minnesota the storm was particularly vigorous, partly because Colonel Bjornstad was the only Minnesota man ever recommended for promotion to brigadier general in the regular army, but largely because the charges against him were declared untrue and unjust.

Protests were made by Senator Elkins, who had served as a major under Bjornstad, but who had been transferred because he lacked training and experience necessary for a long major engagement, in the last month of the war.

As a result of this transfer, intended only for the good of the service, according to those who testified for him at the senate committee hearing, Mr. Elkins attempted to block the appointment of the colonel to brigadier general. There was nothing personal in the transfer requested by Colonel Bjornstad, as he had met Major Elkins only once, witnesses said. When Bjornstad's regiment was ordered to prepare for major operations, he asked that a more experienced man be appointed to replace Elkins as adjutant.

The promotion of Colonel Bjornstad was approved by General Pershing and a board of five major generals. Soldiers who served under him at various times volunteered to testify. They declared among other things, that during the time he was commandant at Fort Snelling, the Third Infantry was one of the most, if not the most, efficient regiment in the regular army. Among the witnesses called to Washington was former Governor J. A. O. Preus.

Major General Robert Lee Bullard testified before the senate committee on military affairs that Colonel Bjornstad's military record was one of the best in the army, particularly as an organizer and planner, and for that reason the army needed him.

Opposition to his promotion collapsed, and the senate in February of this year confirmed the nomination, with no protest from any senator.

Norse or Norwegian Controversy Revived

Whether to be Norse or Norwegian, is a controversy of long standing in some circles, which has been emphasized as a result of the Centennial. Historians find justification for either or both terms, and the favorite argument in favor of using "Norsemen" in America is that a Norwegian might be said to be a citizen of Norway while a Norseman is a person of Norwegian ancestry, and in the case of Americans, one who has become an American citizen.

Norse "Old Country" Wedding Conducted

A real "old country" wedding was conducted by Hardangerlaget, Norwegian "lag," at the fair grounds yesterday. Principals and attendants were in native costume. Preceding the wedding, a business session of the lag was conducted, and after the wedding a banquet was given. Professor K. Eiterheim, Decorah, Iowa, was the principal speaker on the program. Nils Rogde, Haakon county, South Dakota, old-time fiddler, also entertained the guests.

FIREMEN OF NORSE BLOOD SHOW WORTH BY DEEDS OF VALOR

Chief Ringer Says One of Chief
Qualities Is Devotion to Duty
—Heroism Recalled

Minneapolis fire fighters of Norse ancestry have proved their mettle and have grown into the fire department so well that 20 per cent of the force is of Norse ancestry, Chief C. W. Ringer said last night.

"In the early days of the Minneapolis fire department," Chief Ringer said, "the Norwegian did not number very many in the membership, but as time went on this race of people, who now are numbered among our best citizens, emigrated to this country, a large number of them being attracted by the beauties of our state and city. Making their homes among us, they gradually increased in number in this department, until today more than 20 per cent of the membership is men of Norwegian descent.

Make Excellent Firemen

A heroic feat performed by Captain John Berwin, who was born in Norway and emigrated to this country when 20 years old, and who at the first opportunity became an American citizen and entered the service of the Minneapolis fire department, was recalled by Chief Ringer.

On January 10, 1906, the day of the disastrous West hotel fire, when eight persons were killed, in addition to three who died later from effects of injuries, Captain Berwin, although off duty at the time, responded with his company to this alarm.

While working at the fire, he raised a pomper ladder from the top of an 85-foot extension ladder on the Fifth street side of the West hotel, and, ascending the pomper, lifted a woman out of a window.

She was a woman weighing more than 200 pounds. The pomper ladder swayed, causing Captain Berwin to lose his balance. Feeling himself falling, he managed to throw the woman onto a balcony a few feet away at his left. Plunging backward to the street below, he was killed. The woman, however, escaped unhurt.

Truckman Helps Save 27

Another feat, which Chief Ringer recalls as performed by a Norwegian fireman, was at the time of the Fourth street fire, where several lives were lost.

Nicolai Jurgens, truckman on Hook and Ladder No. 1, assisted in the rescue of 27 persons in this spectacular fire, a pomper ladder being raised from the top of an extension ladder which permitted the rescue.

Jurgens remained at his post until the 27 were rescued. He escaped injury, and later was commended by Chief Ringer.

GROESBECK, TEX. JOURNAL
JUNE 26, 1925.

THE UNSUNG MILLIONS

President Coolidge used phrase in his Norse center... speech worthy of special emphasis when he spoke of the "unsung millions," the plain and quiet people who daily display modest and unpretentious virtues.

The heroic is found not merely in the exploits of our soldiers and in the ideals of our statesmen. It is found in the daily toil of the people who have built up this country in spite of great difficulties and sacrifices, prominent among whom were the Norsemen, in whose honor President Coolidge has just spoken.

SAN FRANCISCO DISPATCH
JUNE 11, 1925

President Finds Kindred Natures in Minnesota

THERE IS a great deal in the personal character of President Coolidge to appeal to the people of Minnesota. They are a sober, hard-thinking body of men, simple in their tastes, rather taciturn, not given to emotional outburst or passionate clamor. The direct-mindedness of the President, his hard sense, his clarity of expression and his love of the solid virtues are particularly appreciated by these sons of the hardy Norsemen.

The President spoke, too, of the things that have an abiding place in the hearts of these people, the kindly authority of the father, the love of mother, the devotion of children, the sacred home. He rested the enduring quality of our institutions on the perpetuation of the family relations. They are the well springs of orderly government, from which proceed the most precious possessions of the human race—religious freedom, freedom of education, economic opportunity and the integrity of the law.

These simple themes appeal to the people of the Northwest. The homely virtues are well understood and practiced among them. In choosing them as the basis of his address, President Coolidge demonstrated that he understands his people and is keenly sympathetic with their ideals and aspirations. They, too, understand him.

To the adaptability of these people, Mr. Coolidge said, "the nation owes much for its success in the enormous process of assimilation and spiritual unification that has made our nation what it is and our people what they are."

"Eager for both political and economic independence, they realized the necessity for popular education, and so have always been among the most devoted supporters of public schools. Thousands of them volunteered in the service of the country during the civil and Spanish wars, and tens of thousands in the world war."

"The institutions and the manners of democracy came naturally to them. Their glory is all about you, their living and their mighty dead. They have given great soldiers, statesmen, scientists, educators, and men of business to the upbuilding of their adopted country. They have been rapidly amalgamated into the body of citizenship, contributing to it many of its best and most characteristic elements."

The president did not confine his laudation of America's foreign components to the Northmen. He paid homage to that great mass of common people of all racial origins that make up America—"the unsung millions of plain people whose names are strangers to public place and fame."

"Their lives have been replete with quiet, unpretentious, modest but none the less heroic virtues," he said. "From these has been composed the sum of that magnificent and wondrous adventure, the making of our own America."

An it is to these, the president said, that America owes all it is and all it will be.

"Its institutions of religious liberty, of educational and economic opportunity of constitutional rights, of the integrity of the law, are the most precious possessions of the human race," he said. "These do not emanate from the government. Their abiding place is with the people."

"They come from the consecration of the father, the love of the mother, and the devotion of the children. They are the product of that honest, earnest and tireless effort that goes into the rearing of the family altar and the making of the home of our country."

Addressing himself directly to his audience, the president said:

"They can have no stronger supporters, no more loyal defenders than that great body of our citizenship which you represent. When I look upon you and realize what you are and what you have done, I know that in your hands our country is secure."

"You have laid up your treasure in what America represents and there your heart will be also. You have

KANSAS CITY KS. KANSAS
JUNE 5, 1925.

COOLIDGE HAS PRAISE FOR NORWAY'S SONS

President Attributes Rise of U S Homely Virtues of American People.

State Fair Grounds, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., June 3.—President Coolidge, in his address before the Norse American centennial celebration here today, paid glowing tribute to the daring of the blond sons of Norway, singling out especially the intrepid Amundsen, now missing somewhere in the icy wastes near the top of the world. "They found the western ocean," he said, "and it was a Norseman who first traversed Bering strait and demonstrated that there was no land connection between Asia and North America * * * * Within a few years, one of them first traversed the northwest passage from Atlantic to Pacific, and the same one, Amundsen carried the flag of Norway to the south pole; and now within a few days past, he has again been the first to make large explorations in the region of the north pole in an airplane, tempting a fate, which, as I speak, is unknown."

MICHIGAN CITY IND DISPATCH
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1925.

NORWAY PILGRIMS TO THIS COUNTRY PRAISED BY CAL

President Makes Principal Speech at Centennial Celebration at Minneapolis of Norwegian Settlers.

State Fair Grounds, Minneapolis, Minn., June 3.—The president paid fine tribute to the part played by Norwegian stock in this building of the nation, and his audience, many of them descendants of the pioneer Norwegian colonists who arrived at New York 100 years ago aboard the sloop Restaurationen, to which the president compared the arrival of the Mayflower, responded appreciatively.

given your pledge to the land of the free. The pledge of the Norwegian people has never yet gone unredeemed."

The president revealed himself in a new vein in certain parts of his speech—that of a scholar. His sketch of the progress of Norwegian colonization of the middlewest and west was finely drawn and delved behind the mere facts of history into their significance. He sought the broad implications behind the major facts of progress and among his conclusions was a statement that he believed America to have been a "beacon lamp to the feet and hope to the hearts of liberals throughout Europe" from 1815 to 1848.

"We may well wonder what would have been the fate of Europe after 1815," he said, "if the liberalism of both England and the continent had settled down to disappointment and cynicism."

The president urged more study into the great "regions of the past" in American history, declaring "somewhere in the epic struggle to subjugate a continent there will be found a philosophy of human relations that the world will greatly prize.

"If we could seize it and fix it, if we could turn it over, examine and understand it, we would have taken a long step toward solving some of the hardest problems of mankind."

The president said he thought such celebrations as the one here were valuable because they tended to focus attention on portions of national history that otherwise would remain unexplored.

P. 10

"It is a good thing that anniversaries such as this are so widely commemorated. The next few years will be filled with a continuing succession of similar occasions. I wish that every one of them might be so impressively celebrated that all Americans would be moved to study the history which each one represents. I can think of no effort that would produce so much inspiration to high and intelligent patriotism.

* * *

"It is not so many years since visitors from other quarters of the world were wont to contemplate our concourse of races, origins and interests, and shake their heads ominously. They feared that from such a melting pot of diverse elements we could never draw the tested, tempered metal that is the only substance for national character. Even among ourselves were many who listened with serious concern to such forebodings. They were not quite sure whether we had created a nation with the soul of a nation. They wondered if perhaps we had merely brought together a large number of people in a large place. Had these misgivings been justified when the hour of trial came it would have meant disaster to us and to the world. But instead of crumbling into a chaos of discordant elements America proved its truly national unity. It demonstrated conclusively that there is a spiritual quality shared by all races and conditions of men which is their unusual heritage and common nature.

* * *

"These Norsemen whose beginnings we here celebrate have exercised a great influence upon our modern history and western civilization which it is difficult to match among any other like number of people. In many ways their influence upon Northern and Western Europe may be compared to that of the Greek States upon the the civilization of the Mediterranean. They were the first deep-sea navigators. They pioneered the migrations which boldly struck across the western waters. They were at once the terrors of the Western Roman Empire and the guardians of the Eastern. The medieval Mediterranean was a happy hunting ground for them. They branded their name upon French Normandy, and from it descended upon Britain in the Norman conquest from which there was the beginning of modern English history.

"One likes to linger over these tales of adventure and exploration. One of them has a special significance in connection with this celebration which entitles it to more particular reference. This, of course, is the voyage of the little sloop Restaurationen, which in 1825 brought the first organized party of Norwegian immigrants to this country. One reared on the New England tradition of the Mayflower will find all the materials for a new legend of pioneering in the voyage of the Restaurationen. She was a sloop of 45 tons, whereas the Mayflower was rated as 180 tons. The Restaurationen sailed from Stavanger, Norway, on July 4, 1825, with a desperately heavy cargo of iron and a party of 52 people. She came safely into the Port of New York after a voyage of 14 weeks, which compares with nine weeks required for the historic passage of the Mayflower.

* * * Almost without money or supplies, the little company of immigrants were taken in charge by the New York Quakers who raised funds to send them to Kendall, Orleans county, N. Y. There they secured lands and established the first Norwegian settlement in this country.

* * * There is one phase in the story of immigration which seems always to characterize it. Once the tide had set in from a particular European country, the movement thereafter has invariably been encouraged by the early comers. Not only did they urge relatives and friends in the old home to come, but they devoted their new-found prosperity to help them. On this subject there is an opportunity for some useful historical research. In the pre-Revolutionary days immigration to America

1848
N. Y. City
JUN 9 1925

COOLIDGE LAUDS OLD NORSEMEN

Shows Great Influence They Exerted on
Modern History and Western
Civilization

Minneapolis, June 8.—Before the Norwegian Centennial Celebration at Minneapolis today President Coolidge spoke in part as follows:

"This celebration is most happily identified with the present year, which is an anniversary of notable events in the history of our country. We are rounding out a century and a half from the beginning of the American Revolution. It was a half century from the days of Concord and Lexington to the beginning of that stream of immigration from Norway which was to help guarantee that the spirit of freedom which had been so triumphant in the Colonies should not be lost to the States.

seems to have been encouraged from the other side, partly from political and partly from business motives. The colonizing countries of Europe competed to control the best parts of the New World by occupying it with their colonies. Immigration was encouraged both by the governments and by companies of merchant adventurers. At that stage of the movement, of course, the colonies possessed no wealth to help their friends to come. But after the Revolution the situation greatly changed. New political conditions made this country more attractive than ever before, and developing wealth and opportunity emphasized its invitation. So we find the people of our Republic deliberately and consciously encouraging the movement in this direction. There is opportunity for a much more detailed examination of these factors in the European migration than has yet been undertaken. It would be a profoundly interesting

contribution to the story of this greatest of all migrations that humanity has ever accomplished if we could know more of the precise movements which have animated it.

"The contribution of this country to financing immigration of the last century and a third has certainly run into hundreds of millions of dollars, perhaps into billions. It has had a profound social influence, both here and in Europe. Its economic consequences could hardly be overestimated. * * * The European migration to the American Continent represented in its various phases all the causes that have operated through the ages to bring about such shifts of population. * * *

"These Northmen, one of whose anniversaries we are celebrating today, have from their first appearance on the margin of history been the children of freedom. Native to a rigorous climate and a none too productive soil, they had learned the necessity for hard work and careful management. They were moved by that aspiration for a free holding in the land which has always marked peoples in whom the democratic ideal was pressing for recognition. Eager for both political and economic independence, they realized the necessity for popular education, and so have always been among the most devoted supporters of public schools. * * * To their adaptability the nation owes much for its success in the enormous process of assimilation and spiritual unification that has made our nation what it is, and our people what they are."

Alexandria, Minn., Echo
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1923

President Coolidge Pays Respect to Norsemen and Their Sons

President Calvin Coolidge paid a wonderful tribute to the character and achievements of the people of Norwegian descent in the Northwest Monday when he spoke at the Minnesota Fair Grounds to a crowd that filled the grandstand to full capacity. He said, in part:

"One hundred years ago a little bark sailed from Norway to America. It was almost unnoticed at the time, save for the daring and hardihood of its navigators, but it brought with it the representatives of a stalwart race, men and women of fixed determination, enduring courage and high character, who were to draw in their retinue a long line of their fellow countrymen destined to change the face of an area broad as an empire, direct the historic course of sovereign states, and contribute to the salvation of a great nation.

"These mighty works have been wrought because those Norwegian immigrants were well worthy to follow in the wake of the Pilgrim and the Cavalier.

"This celebration is most happily identified with the present year that is an anniversary of notable events in the history of our country.

"When we consider the astonishing number of immigrants which the Scandinavian countries have contributed in proportion to their own population to making the body of American citizenship, we will appreciate the significance of this anniversary. It well deserves the consideration it is receiving here in this state which has so richly profited by a larger proportion of this north-of-Europe immigration than any other commonwealth.

"Minnesota would not be Minnesota but for the contribution that has been

made to it by the Scandinavian countries.

"Because of a profound appreciation of that contribution and of its truly national value I have found it an especial pleasure to come here and join in this commemoration. In the midst of loyalties that are all beyond possibility of question, it may be difficult to choose among the many national and racial groups that have sought out America for their home and their country. We are thankful for all of them, and yet more thankful that the experiment of their common citizenship has been so magnificently justified in its results.

"These Norsemen whose beginning in America we here celebrate have exercised a great influence upon our modern history and western civilization which it is difficult to match among any other like number of peo-

ple.

"In many ways their influence upon northern and western Europe may be compared to that of the Greek states upon the civilization of the Mediterranean. They were the first deep-sea navigators. They pioneered the migrations which boldly struck across the western waters. They were at once the terrors of the western Roman empire and the guardians of the eastern empire. The medieval Mediterranean was happy hunting ground for them. They branded their name upon French Normandy and from it descended upon Britain in the Norman conquest from which there was the beginning of modern English history.

"But even before William of Normandy had conquered at Hastings, Lief the son of Erik, near 500 years before Columbus appears to have found the New World. Indeed, there seems little doubt that several centuries before Columbus saw the light of day there was born upon American soil, of Norse parents, a boy who afterward became so great a mathematician and astronomer that his studies may have contributed much to the fund of knowledge which helped Columbus formulate his vision of the world as we know it.

"These sons of Thor and Odin and the great free North shape themselves in the mind's eye as very princes of high and hardy adventure. From Norway to Iceland, from Iceland to Greenland, from Greenland to the mainland, step by step, they worked their way across the north Atlantic. They found the western ocean, and it was a Norseman who first traversed Bering strait and demonstrated that there was no land connection between Asia and North America.

After telling the familiar story of the voyage of the Restaurationen, the President went on to say:

"It is not possible, as it is certainly not necessary on this occasion, to even summarize the story of Norwegian immigration. But it should be explained that while the settlement in 1824 in Orleans county, New York was the first Norwegian settlement, these pioneers were not the first Norwegians to come here. Considerable numbers had come even before the Revolutionary war and some as far back as the earliest colonial days.

"There were Norwegians in both army and navy during the Revolution and the War of 1812. But the fact remains that the great movement which established Norwegian communities all over the northwest and contributed so greatly to the building of this part of the country began with the voyage of the Restaurationen.

"It is said that Norwegians and their descendants in this country are now just as numerous as the population of Norway itself. Norway is credited with furnishing a larger number of settlers to the United States in proportion to its population than any other European country except one.

"These Northmen, one of whose anniversaries we are celebrating today, have from their first appearance on the margin of history been the children of freedom. Native to a rig-

orous climate and a none too productive soil, they had learned the necessity for hard work and careful management. They were moved by that aspiration for a free holding in the land which has always marked peoples in whom the democratic ideal was pressing for recognition.

"Eager for both political and economic independence, they realized the necessity for popular education, and so have always been among the most devoted supporters of public schools. Thousands of them volunteered in the service of the country during the Civil and Spanish wars, and tens of thousands in the World war.

"The institutions and the manners of democracy came naturally to them. Their glory is all about you, their living and their mighty dead. They have given great soldiers, statesmen, scientists, educators and men of business to the upbuilding of their adopted country. They have been rapidly amalgamated into the body of citizenship, contributing to it many of its best and most characteristic elements.

"To their adaptability the nation owes much for its success in the enormous process of assimilation and spiritual unification that has made our nation what it is and our people what they are.

"Although this movement of people originated in Norway, in its essence and its meaning it is peculiarly American. It has nothing about it of class or caste. It has no tinge of aristocracy. It was not produced through the leadership of some great figure. It is represented almost entirely by that stalwart strain who make the final decisions in this world, which we designate the common people.

"It has about it the strength of the home and the fireside; the family ties of the father and the mother, the children and the kindred. It has all been carried on very close to the soil, it has all been extremely human.

"When I consider the marvelous results it has accomplished I can not but believe that it was inspired by a Higher Power. Here is something vital, firm and abiding, which I can only describe as a great reality.

"An enormous power has come to you, but you are charged with equally enormous responsibilities. Those responsibilities you have never failed to meet, that power you have never failed to sanctify. Therein lies the sole title to all the glory you have achieved in the past and therein will lie the sole title to all the glory that you will achieve in the future.

"Believing that there resides in an enlightened people an all-compelling force for righteousness, I have every faith that through the vigorous performance of your duties you will add new luster to your glory in the days to come.

"Our America with all that it represents of hope in the world is now and will be what you make it. Its institutions of religious liberty, of educational and economic opportunity, of constitutional rights, of the integrity of the law, are the most precious possessions of the human race.

"These do not emanate from the Government. Their abiding place is with the people. They come from the consecration of the father, the love of the mother, and the devotion of the children. They are the product of that honest, earnest and tireless effort that goes into the rearing of the family altar and the making of the home of our country. They can have no stronger supporters, no more loyal defenders, than that great body of our citizenship which you represent.

"When I look upon you and realize what you are and what you have done, I know that in your hands our country is secure. You have laid up your treasure in what America represents, and there will your heart be also.

"You have given your pledge to the Land of the Free. The pledge of the Norwegian people has never yet gone unredeemed."

Canton, S. D. Leader
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1925

RELIGION TRAIT OF NORSE IMMIGRANTS TO UNITED STATES

Erect Many Churches And Schools In Their Adopted Land

By H. B. KILDAHL

Minneapolis, Minn., Mar. 11.—In connection with the Centennial celebration of the beginning of Norse immigration to America, which has proven to be of much significance to the healthy development of our country, it is interesting to note the achievements of this part of our population.

Religion A Trait

Being a religious people, the immigrants naturally formed congregations and erected churches in their midst, besides institutions of learning and charity. Their religious earnestness is farther evidenced by the fact that in Norway there was, and still is, a state church, and the expenses in connection with the church are paid from the national treasury and collected by taxation, the same as all the other expenses of the state. Because of the fact that the Norwegian pioneers were unaccustomed to contribute directly to any church activity, it seems remarkable that they adapted themselves so readily to their new environment and contributed so readily and liberally to church, charity and Christian education.

It may seem queer that these people, who came from a comparatively small country and were all of one church body, should divide into so many different synods of general church bodies. In 1890, there were seven general Norwegian church bodies in America. The reason for this is, to some extent, the fact that Norway is a very mountainous country, cut up by fjords and valleys. Each valley developed a dialect and certain characteristics of its own. There were also different, distinct religious tendencies among the people of Norway, such as the high church and low church tendencies, and different shades between these two extremes. When the immigrants came to America, they naturally grouped up religiously with others of the same religious tendency.

Individual Leadership Prominent

Another reason for the many church bodies was individual leadership, which was very prominent in ancient times during the Viking period. Viking does not mean a "weak king". "Vik" means a bay, and "Viking" means a man from a "Vik" or "bay man", as plainsman means a man from the plains, a woodman a man of the woods. The bay was the mouth of a fjord and the fjord was the mouth of a stream which flowed through a valley, where lived a community and the viking was the chief or leader of the community, the

most valorous of which constituted his ship's crew and fighting force. The insurmountable mountain ranges and lack of communication facilities further tended to develop the individualistic traits of the different communities.

The immigrants did not only divide into different groups or church bodies, but they were intolerant of each other and often carried on bitter controversies, so that two or three Norwegian Lutheran churches, within a mile or two, frequently indicated their settlements.

As a result of the influence of living in a level country with convenient communication facilities, the people became acquainted. They intermarried and they mingled with each other sociably, and the result was a mutual desire for concerted efforts in church matters.

In the seventies of the 9th century, the petty kingdoms of Norway were united under king Harald Haarfagre, and in 1890 three Norwegian Lutheran general church bodies were united into one under the name of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

In 1917, this body and two other bodies were united and took the name "The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America". At present there are three other general Norwegian Lutheran church bodies in America, but efforts are being made for further amalgamation.

The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America consists of 490,000 members, 2,790 congregations and 1,300 pastors.

Church Has Six Departments

The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America has organized its work into six departments: The Department of Education, The Foreign Mission Department, The Home Mission department, the department of Charities, the Publication department, and the department of Elementary Christian Education. The work of each department is managed by a general board and each board has an executive secretary in its service. The Department of Publication is not only self-supporting but it contributes to the work of the church in other departments from its net earnings. The annual budget for the other five departments has been about a million and a quarter dollars which is raised by voluntary contributions. Since 1917 the Church has appropriated \$3,097,417.15. Of this sum the people of the church have contributed \$7,375,551.30, which leaves a deficit of \$721,865.85, and the church has decided to raise this amount the first part of 1925. This seems a large sum of money, but it is only 9 per cent of the whole amount contributed since 1917, and when the condition of the times covered by these seven years is taken into consideration, it seems that the people of the Norwegian Lutheran Church have done remarkably well.

Superior, Wis., Telegram
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1925

Norse Conquer By the Plow Rather Than the Sword Says Shipstead

ST. PAUL—America's citizens of Norse descent were characterized as a "race that conquers by the plow rather than the sword" by United States Senator Henrik Shipstead of Minnesota in an address at Monday night's centennial program.

"The Norse descendants are a peace-loving people," declared Senator Shipstead.

"They are builders, not destroyers. They are a race of working men and women and their achievements in this land of their adoption are proof of the sturdy qualities of their stock."

St. Paul, Minn., News
SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 1925

WELCOME, NORSEMEN!

On behalf of 300,000 citizens of St. Paul, I extend a hearty and sincere welcome to those who are our guests at the Norsk-American Centennial, June 6 to 9.

We consider it a great privilege to have the honor of entertaining the many thousands of persons who are here from Norway, Canada and all parts of the United States. We honor the descendants of those hardy pioneers who left their homes in Norway, sailed to America on the Restauration, came to the northwest and helped erect cities that bear the marks of Norwegian brain and brawn and brought wealth out of virgin prairie soil. We acknowledge our debt to those men and women who brought to Minnesota with them their strong virtues of industry, thrift and good citizenship that have gone into the making of this state.

We want you to participate in all of the good things that a splendid committee has prepared for you. Please feel free to call upon us for anything you may desire; it will be our pleasure to respond. And when you depart we want you to feel that you are welcome in St. Paul any time you may wish to return—which we sincerely hope will be often.

—MAYOR ARTHUR E. NELSON.

S. D. INDEBTED TO NORSE, GLENN SAYS

Coyotes Talk Over Radio At Celebration

Minneapolis, June 6.—To Norse immigrants—sturdy, reliable, honest builders of a prosperity founded upon love of their homes and a sound religious faith—the state of South Dakota is indebted in large measure for its progress in a single generation from a trackless prairie to an agricultural paradise, the Rev. H. G. Glenn, pastor of the First Lutheran church of Sioux Falls, S. D., declared tonight in a radio address from Station WCCO here.

Mr. Glenn's address was one number on an all South Dakota program. South Dakotans of Norwegian origin here to attend the Norse-American centennial celebration beginning tomorrow.

"It may seem one of the enigmas of history," said the Rev. Mr. Glenn, "that the hardy Norse race should have settled on the expanding prairies of the middle west. Their traditions always have been associated with the sea. But though they are the best seamen in the world, they also are lovers of the soil as but few people are.

"It was in the 70's and the 80's that the Norsemen streamed into South Dakota. They represented the brawn and brain of the middle class, characterized by willingness to work hard, pay their debts, improve their holdings and gain independence.

South Dakota Development.

"Remembering that vast stretches of land west of the Missouri river are still uncultivated and undeveloped, let us recall some of the figures that tell the story of agricultural and economical development. In ten years South Dakota farm crops have increased in value from \$94,000,000 to \$222,000,000. Twenty years ago South Dakota ranked 23d in corn production; now it is eighth. South Dakota in 1923 ranked first among all states in percentage of merchantable corn. South Dakota ranked sixth in oats production, fifth in barley, seventh in rye, first in wild hay, and among the first in alfalfa acreage. Live stock shipments outside the state run as high as \$170,000,000 a year. South Dakota ranks third in the production of hogs per farm.

"These facts and figures represent the development of South Dakota by its first generation alone. It is nothing short of remarkable that in this brief space of time the trackless prairies—rendezvous of the buffalo and the Indian—should have been transformed into an agricultural paradise. To this task the Norseman has contributed his full share.

"But he is found not only on the farm. He is of a versatile type. In our centers of industry and business the Norseman has found a place. He may not be as aggressive as his

neighbor, for he is not a speculator or a plunger, but he is known for his reliability and honesty. To the civic and political life of his community and state he seems to adapt himself readily. Naturally a republican in politics, he is nevertheless very independent. In South Dakota politics, of eleven governors the state has had, four have been Norsemen. Of our two United States senators today, one is a Norseman. Of our three congressmen, two are Norsemen.

"But the caliber of a people is to be tested by its soul qualities, its character, its ideals, what it thinks, feels and dreams about. What riches of soul life it possesses. It is in this respect that the Norseman has made the greatest contribution to South Dakota.

"In South Dakota, travel where you will, you will see his church. Next to his home he prizes it above everything else. There is no rural church problem where the Norseman lives. And his house of worship is not the product of his surplus wealth.

"The Norseman has made a contribution to South Dakota, and there is room for more people of his type. As yet there are hundreds of thousands of acres of undeveloped land waiting for the mastery of brain and brawn such as he represents. To its rightful masters it will yield its increase."

Contributions of Norway to U.S. Acclaimed

Speakers at International Meeting Praise Influence of Norse Settlers.

National Characteristics Are Held Suited to Needs of America.

The contributions of the Norsemen in the field of American government, politics, law, art, literature and general social culture were detailed by a group of speakers at the International session of the Norse-American centennial, in the Hippodrome Tuesday. The meeting, presided over by Mrs. Manley L. Fosseen, was addressed by Consul T. J. Skellet, Minneapolis; Dr. Frank Nelson, president of Minnesota college; Gunnar B. Bjornson, Minnesota; Congressman O. J. Kvale, Dr. H. A. Bellows and Judge Oscar M. Torrison of Chicago.

Judge Torrison, in speaking on the subject of the "Norsemen and the Law," called attention to the fact that the Norwegians' guiding principle of government has rested upon law. In tracing the evolution of this principle, the speaker referred to the days of the Saga and to the Viking age, when the country was divided into districts or "hundreds," consisting of 100 men or the men of 100 farms or homes.

Popular Government.

The principles of popular government, Judge Torrison pointed out, were in effect in Norway more than six centuries before the time of the Pilgrim Fathers. These principles, in force so many centuries, made it easy for the people of Norway to adopt the written constitution of 1814, which is similar to that of the United States constitution, the speaker said.

"With these principles and ideals of government and law cherished in the hearts of people from generation to generation through ten centuries, is it to be wondered at that within 80 years after their first small settlements in these northwestern states, the Norwegians have produced 11 governors, seven United States senators, 20 congressmen, and four judges of state supreme courts?" Judge Torrison said.

"While it is to the great credit of these officials that they have attained these high positions," the speaker continued, "it is something more than that, it is an expression of the genius for government and law, of the race from which they sprang. Through these representatives and the men they have elected to the state legislatures, they have exerted an influence on the legislative and administrative branches of the government of these states and of the nation, not only by the legislation they have supported, but by their opposition to vicious legislation proposed.

"The standards and the principles that have guided the Norwegian race

for 10 centuries will go on and on, and America will know that in any crisis that may come the Norwegian race in America will stand on the side of liberty, equality, justice and law."

Congressman Kvale, in speaking on "Americanizing Influences," stated that the "one great and active influence, and perhaps the first to make any sizable impression on the immigrant Norseman, was the spur, mental and physical, which was given him by the new and larger field of effort and by the restlessness of the Americans who had preceded him here."

"With his inherent caution," the speaker continued in referring to the Norwegian, "in which no wisdom diminished the progressivism that was born and bred into his soul and body in his old home-land—with his deliberate, his slow and sure method of proceeding with his work and aims, with his high moral

At the close of his address, Congressman Kvale stated that "the fact that the Norwegian immigrants were permitted to bring with them their language, to use it in their churches and schools, to meet their social needs with its use, to retain thereby the memories and tender sentiments associated therewith, developed in them a warm love for a country which gave them such liberties."

In extending greetings from Norway, C. J. Hambro, member of parliament, remarked that the centennial celebration has served to bring to the forefront a realization of what the Norwegians have achieved in the country.

THE NORSE - AMERICAN CENTENNIAL FEST

Sveinbjorn Johnson, associate justice of the North Dakota supreme court, has the following to say about the centennial:

"The Norse-American centennial next June will serve to direct attention to the contribution the Norsemen have made to American progress and civilization. The Norwegian immigrants who came since 1825 became the pioneer settlers of the great mid-west section of the United States. They cleared the primeval forest and broke the virgin soil, throughout large areas of the what are now the leading agricultural states of the Union. Here they built their homes, raised their families and gave to many states leaders of thought and to the nation statesmen whose names will live in American history.

This event next June will not justify the time and energy expended in making the preparation if it becomes merely an occasion for ostentation and vain-glory. Its real message is a challenge to Norsemen of today and tomorrow to exemplify in character and conduct the traits of

industry, integrity and reverence that made the pioneers of standing figures wherever they lived."

COMMUNICATIONS

About Norway's Hundredth Anniversary Celebration

It is just as important for a small people to celebrate anniversaries as for a small merchant to advertise. Norway is a small country. Its immigrants here are few comparatively. But their achievement in reaching these shores centuries before Columbus; their undaunted courage in clearing forests and draining lowlands in the middle western states, making these the most prosperous in the Union, is certainly worth calling attention to with a celebration.

This celebration also calls attention to the small country whence came this sturdy people, whose scientists, writers, and discoverers are numbered among the foremost in all the world.—Rev. I. G. Monson.

* * *

The New World achievements and attainments of the Norsemen is a matter of great pride to every American with Norse blood in his veins. The share that people of Norwegian immigration and extraction have had in the making of America in the last hundred years is simply an indication of what it may be in the future and at this time demands that we tarry a moment and take stock. It is fitting that the great Norse-American reunion in 1925 be an epoch-making event in the history of this nation. Let us make it ~~THE~~ the event of the era and let our posterity reckon time from this memorable occasion.—G. N. Livdahl.

Jeffers, Minn. Review
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1925

NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL

The Norse-American Centennial celebration at the state fair grounds next month will be one of the biggest events the Twin Cities have ever seen.

Prominent men from this country and Europe will be in attendance. The President of the United States and the Secretary of State of the United States will be present. Men of the highest rank in public life of Norway will come and other countries will also contribute to the number of distinguished guests.

There are those who do not appreciate the significance of this celebration and some even look upon it as a gathering of "foreigners."

Nothing can be farther from the facts.

The event that is being celebrated is the coming of the first shipload of Norwegians to America, just one hundred years ago.

The people of Norse descent in this country are making this occasion to rejoice over the fact that their forefathers left the old country a hundred years ago and came to America. It is a patriotic celebration, from an American standpoint, for the event

commemorated is the coming of the people of the nationality named to this country.

It is to praise the foresight of these hardy pioneers and to rejoice over the good fortune that brought them to these shores that this celebration is being had.

No race is more American in spirit than the Norse race. Liberty and freedom have always been household words with them and they understand and appreciate American aims and ideals to an extent not surpassed by any other people.

That is why they celebrate with so much enthusiasm the event that brought their people to these shores a hundred years ago.

America has done much for the Norse people, but they, too, have done something for America. As a class, they have contributed to the building up of the country and they have been among the foremost to defend it in its hour of need.

America has always welcomed the people of the Nordic race and it is to register that welcome that the President of the United States will come to this celebration and participate in it as one of the speakers.

The Norsemen of America propose to show to the world next month that they are glad they "came" over and that their adopted country holds a place in their hearts that is and ever will be first. Gunnar Bjornson.

LA CROSSE WIS TRIP
SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 1925.

By A. M. BRAYTON

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE addressed Americans whose ancestors were Norsemen at St. Paul. The high-note which he sounded was that the Norse race had most readily fused in the melting pot, and that the tremendous influence which the Norse strain has had throughout the middle west in the politics of the country had been good. "The country is safe with you," said the president.

Wisconsin is included in the belt to which the Scandinavians have contributed the qualifications that have made them a great people. We note, among other things, that of all races the Scandinavians averaged the most apt in scholarship. One seldom sees a "dumb-bell" among students of Norse ancestry in our public schools. Their coming in numbers dates back to 1825, only one hundred years ago, and as far back as 1850, history records, Wisconsin had some 40,000 Norwegians who had settled here. The centenary of Cleng Peerson's landing was a significant event in that one found in it recognition of the qualities that made the Scandinavians at home great, and that makes him a great American citizen.

James
Hartford Conn

JUN 10 1925

THE NORSE CENTENNIAL

BY FREDERICK P. LATIMER.

President Coolidge has gone to Minnesota for the purpose of taking part in a grand celebration commemorating the 100th anniversary of the first Norse immigration to the United States. The statistics showing exactly how many Norwegians have come to this country since then, and how many have been born here of Norse parentage, are not at hand, but the total cannot come far from at least equalling the number of Norwegians who remain in Norway. If this sum had been many times multiplied, America would have good cause for congratulation.

Once upon a time a visitor from the east was stopping at a hotel in St. Paul. He noticed at the entrance of the diningroom a young lady who had charge of the coats and wraps. She was not only a very refined-appearing young lady, but also very beautiful, having a wealth of shining golden hair, such as one reads of in fairy tales, and a complexion that would have been deeply admired even in Maryland where the complexions of young ladies is oftentimes something wonderful. And, beyond that, her expression was engaging, kindly and pleasant to a high degree, indeed.

The traveler advanced to inquire ostensibly regarding the usual time when spring opens in Minnesota, or something casual-like of that sort, but in reality both to satisfy curiosity as to the book which seemed to be absorbing much of the young lady's time and as to what kind of a personality lay behind so much excellence of exterior. The book was an advanced treatise on Bible history and the personality would have graced any cultivated company in the United States.

This same traveler can distinctly recall a trying but impressive experience in youth when, although quite a husky boy of 16, and a pretty good "wrassler," straying into his grandmother's kitchen, he was seized by a huskier Norwegian girl who, in spite of all honorable efforts to the contrary on his part, lugged him to the sink and washed his face ignominiously with a rough cloth and water from the dishpan.

Another Norwegian lass, at about that era in his history, taught him a part of the Norse language which he still remembers to the extent of a few words, at any rate, three of which were, "Yog alskar dig (with a couple of little dots over the first 'a'), and one which sounded some-

thing like "chyss." She was a very good girl, and afterward married a minister.

* * *

Later in life our traveler (who was us, but was a bit reticent to admit it, on account of the dishwasher episode) had the good fortune to know yet an additional Norwegian lady, who makes pies, salads, muffins, short cakes, ice creams, and everything else good to eat, to amazing excellence; beats us unmercifully at "Russian bank," to visit at whose house is to acquire congratulations toward her husband and who is a constant source of delight to all, whether at church sociables, or picnics, or on a trip to Coney Island, or the theater, or in a political meeting or wherever, and even is an ardent trout-fisheress with or without boots.

And we have known Norwegian men, lots of them, fine wholesome souls, faithful in friendships and in their work.

So when we were in Minnesota we noticed the people of Norse stock out there with especial interest and have nothing to say about them except praise.

There are a lot of them, too. Minnesota in 1910 had a population of 2,246,761. They are not all Norse, but the greater proportion are, and there are a great many communities in Minnesota almost entirely so. And there are thousands of folk of Norwegian descent in Wisconsin, now the greatest dairying state in the union, in the Dakotas, and Iowa, so that when these are all added together, with the thousands more scattered through the other states, and it is remembered that Norway in 1910 had on her 124,000 square miles of territory, only 2,459,000 people, it becomes evident that there must be about as much "Norseness" now in the United States as anywhere on earth.

* * *

Mr. Coolidge may be partly Norse ethnologically as well in temperament, he exhibiting taciturnity, the firmness of a rock and common sense, thrift and soberness, inherited, to some extent, we doubt not from admixture of blood of the Northmen which Britain shares with Norway in the story of the ages. Close kinship there is between the Norse and the Anglo-Saxon. Emigration from Norway, affecting through England, America, began hundreds of years before 1825.

One might naturally suppose that the Pacific northwest would be the portion of our country most likely to attract, by this time, settlement from Norway, the climatic conditions are so much alike. But by strange slant of destiny a sea-faring folk have moved into the heart of a continent and occupy a territory that was first claimed in the wilderness by France.

French Jesuits were in St. Paul long, long before the grandparents of the young lady with the golden hair and book of Bible history.

CHICAGO ILL NEWS
SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1925.

BY GRAHAM TAYLOR

AMERICA'S NORWEGIAN FELLOW CITIZENS.

The "hyphen," link, or whatever else you may call the bond between Norway and America is as close as it is long. When measured by the years or the miles which it spans it is as long as the history of America. But when measured by neighborhoods, or by neighboring states where families from Norway intermingle with people from America's other fatherlands, the tie shortens, so that all alike are only Americans.

And yet neither Norway nor America can afford to lose sight of or cease to cherish the far-apart ends of the historic line connecting them across the seas and the centuries. The history of neither land can be written without interweaving that of the other. The narrowest "100 per cent American" surely would not carry his hatred of the hyphen so far as to cut off the "old country" end of this one before it reaches to Norway's broad seafarers. If that "farthest north" end of American history ceased to be cherished the story of America's discovery would be lost and with it 500 years of the old world's quest of our new continent.

FIVE CENTURIES AHEAD OF COLUMBUS.

It was fully five centuries before Christopher Columbus set sail from the Italian coast that Skipper Leif Erickson sailed due west from Norway until he landed on what so long continued to be "a coast of illusion" to the old world's landsmen. Modern research no more surely credits Leif Erickson with the discovery of America than it claims Thorfin Karlsefni and his fellow Norseman voyagers with being the first European colonists on the American continent.

It took a long while for the Norwegian settlers to come, but there is no missing link in the evolution of either people. Norwegian "sagas" kept the western horizon open to the flight of imagination and to the voyage of adventure in their stories of the heroic achievements of the boldest mariners who ever dared the deep. When Edwin Markham undertook to trace the lineage of Lincoln—the greatest American—back to "the color of the ground and the tang and odor of the primal things" in him, he harked back to Scandinavian mythology to find his forbear, beginning his immortal tribute to "Lincoln, the Man of the People," with these lines:

"When the Norm Mother saw
Hour
Greatening and darkening as it hurried on.
She left the Heaven of Heroes and came down
To make a man to meet the mighty need.
She took the tried clay of the common road—
Clay warm yet with the genial heat of earth.
Dashed through it all a strain of prophecy.
Tempered the head with touch of mortal
tears:
Then mixed a laughier with the serious
stuff."

SETTLERS FOR A CENTURY.

It was 215 years after the Mayflower landed the New England settlers on Plymouth rock that Lars Larson, the Norwegian skipper, steered his little sloop Restaurationen (Restoration) into New York harbor, whence his fifty-

three passengers proceeded to settle in that state. Nine years later, in 1834, Kleng Pearson led more of his fellow countrymen to found a colony on the Fox river in Illinois and later to colonize the northwest side of Chicago. Thus this pathfinder pioneered the way for thousands of Norse immigrants to settle the great northwest.

The centennial celebration of the arrival of the first group of Norwegian settlers in 1825 was staged this week in Minneapolis, the city at the center of America's population of Norwegian descent. But the story of its migration westward and of its achievements in the northwestern states cannot be told without retelling the tale of Chicago's Scandinavian northwest side. Here, on the west bank of the Chicago river, these sturdy settlers struck root. Steadily have they spread westward, pressing the city limits across the prairie. As they did so, and scattered still more widely, they left the streets they opened, the houses they built and some of the great churches they reared, to be occupied by the Italian and Polish immigrants who followed in their wake.

Under the stars and stripes Norway's red and blue national colors flew across every street on the 17th of May when every loyal descendant celebrated Norway's "Independence day." Here on Peoria street for forty-two years the great Norwegian-American, or American-Norwegian, newspaper, Skandinaven, has been binding together and to America its readers in and about Chicago and massed still more closely in Wisconsin, Minnesota, the Dakotas and Montana. John Anderson, its publisher, became Chicago's pioneer printer. From his press The Daily News was first issue, when Victor F. Lawson left the Skandinaven staff to join Melville E. Stone in publishing The Daily News.

From this same press have issued whole libraries of historical, religious and biographical volumes in the Scandinavian languages, and job printing in German, Polish, Bohemian, Dutch, Italian, French, Spanish and almost every other language used in America. The last week's daily edition of Skandinaven included in its sixty pages pictures of the participants in the centennial celebration, most prominent of which was that of President Coolidge, inserted between America's "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" and Norway's "Der Ligger et Land."

CHICAGO'S COMING FOLKFEST.

The award of three prizes offered by Skandinaven for the best essays on the achievements of Norwegians in America was announced, as was Chicago's celebration of the centennial to be held June 27 and 28. Its main features will be a great "folkfest" on the Municipal pier and a banquet in honor of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Lunde, officially representing the Norwegian Lutheran church at these centennial occasions.

It is significant that President Coolidge was moved by this centennial of Norwegian immigration to emphasize in his commemorative address "the social backgrounds of our country." In doing

so, he said what he knew to be as true of their family life and industry as it is of any other element of the American people, that:

"Religious liberty, educational and economic opportunity, constitutional rights, the integrity of the law, do not emanate from the government. Their abiding place is with the people. They come from the consecration of the fathers, the love of the mothers and the devotion of the children. They are the product of that honest, earnest and tireless effort that goes into the rearing of the family altar and the making of the home."

That there should be no doubt of his reference to the people he addressed, the president added: "When I look upon you and realize what you are and what you have done, I know that in your hands our country is secure. You have laid up your treasure in what America represents and there will your heart be also. You have given your pledge to the land of the free, and the pledge of the Norwegian people has never yet gone unredeemed."

And so say we all who have lived and worked with our Norwegian neighbors and fellow citizens.

Chicago Tribune

Minneapolis, Minn. Journal
SUNDAY, MAY 31, 1925

Recounting Achievements of the Norwegians in America

To the Editor of The Journal:

We are nearing the centennial celebration of Norwegian immigration to America. It will be of interest to note some of the results which have been achieved during these hundred years.

It surprises me, however, that an appeal has been made for a centennial jubilee, it being a fact that it is now exactly 925 years since the Norseman, Leif Erikson, found his way to our shores. Furthermore, the first whites who settled permanently in the present United States were likewise of Norwegian stock.

The first and most significant work of the Norwegians in America, in a purely material way, has consisted in clearing and permanently settling large areas of land, especially in the middle west. No other country has given as large a percentage of its population to America as Norway; it also leads in the number of its people who have come here and have taken up farming or have worked on farms.

By far the largest number of Norwegian-Americans, over eighty per cent, have their homes in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. About 50,000 of Minnesota's 176,000 farms are owned by Norwegian-Americans.

The Norwegian-Americans have, however, as a rule, never become so attached to the soil as to lose interest in higher things. They have held in high esteem the heritage they took with them from the home-land. The pioneer was wont to say: Pray and work. In song, foster the spirit of freedom and of gladness. Be grateful for all the good things you here enjoy from day to day. Be truthful, loyal, brave, a good citizen, a kindly neighbor. Let us at all times do our utmost to clear and settle this glorious land. We will change immense prairies to fertile fields, the wildernesses to splendid garden spots. In this manner we shall also shed a halo about old Norway, the land we left behind.

The young listened to the older ones and followed in their steps. There was

many a hard struggle ere the goal was reached. They held out manfully and the victory was won. The result of their labors have been so magnificent as to surpass their fondest expectations.

The home, the farm, the church, are the three great assets on which they have concentrated. The Norwegian-American press, as well as church periodicals, have received a large share of their attention, and from these sources they have drawn lessons of usefulness beyond our power to estimate.

At various times books have been published which in their sum total may be characterized as the saga of the Norwegian-American home, of settlements formed, and of prairies and wildernesses as these were being subdued. Books have also accumulated on the history of the church and the press, sacred and secular. But all has not been recorded; nor can it be; the quintessence of it can never be put on paper. Altogether, the work of the Norwegian-Americans constitutes a harmonious whole, has lasting worth, and must be rated as an integral part of the achievements of the American people as such.

Statistics are, as a rule, not favored reading; nor will it do to crowd many statistics into a presentation of this kind. One may, however, be permitted to call attention to the fact that during the last hundred years, or since immigration from Norway assumed large dimensions, about a million Norwegians have left their native land to go to America. There are today about 2,500,000 people here with Norwegian blood in their veins. In other words, there are about as many people of Norwegian stock in this country as there are Norwegians in Norway. "Norrøna folket vil fare." Freely rendered, this means that the Norwegians have a migratory bent. This, together with a sense of wise selection, has caused such large numbers of them to come to America.

It is significant that when "Restaurationen," on the 4th of July, 1825, left Norway for America, it was whole families that started out, men, women and children. The purpose was plainly to settle permanently in the land they set out for. Later, thousands and hundreds of thousands followed. Continued intercourse between the two countries had a great deal to do with bringing this about.

The United States still owns 186,604,733 acres of land altogether untouched and untilled. These staggering figures do not include forest lands, Indian reservations, or other public lands. Nor is Alaska included. If it were, it would mean an additional 330,000,000 acres of unused public domain. There is still ample opportunity, therefore, to take up what may even in our day, in some degree at least, be termed pioneer life, than which there is no life quite so charming.

It is not in the agricultural line alone, however, that Norwegian-Americans have made marked progress. Nor did they come here to isolate themselves, but to enter as a vital force into a greater unity. Little by little, hundreds and thousands of public offices have been entrusted to Norwegian-Americans. If we, for instance, scan the pages of Martin Ulvestad's great work, "The Norsemen in America, Their History and Record," we find that in 1900 as many as 593 Norwegians functioned as postmasters in the United States. Furthermore, 94 were in our legislatures, 31 were mayors of larger cities, 24 were judges, one governor and one U. S. senator. In addition there were hundreds of teachers in the public schools, 27 county superintendents, etc. From 1847 to 1905 at least 3,044 Norwegian-Americans held public office.

The above figures have considerably increased of late. During the last twenty years there has been a rise in the number of office holders who are Norwegian-Americans, relatively greater than within any other group of our citizenship. As against one governor

twenty years ago, it can now be said than an even dozen Norwegian-Americans have been governors of states, five of whom are present incumbents. Commenting on the latter fact, a Minneapolis periodical in a post-election issue last fall stated that the chief magistrates within the entire northern domain of our country, from Lake Michigan westward beyond the Rockies would be men of Norse stock. The states that have Norwegian-American governors at present are Wisconsin, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Montana. Said states have a combined area three times as large as that of the Kingdom of Norway.

A like increase in the number of office-holders of Norwegian descent has been witnessed in other fields, from Congress down to the many national, state, county and township offices.

And thus the Norwegian-Americans have made use of the opportunities here offered for advancement in the various fields, in art, in science, in business, in religious training for the young, in charities, in the spread of the gospel at home and in foreign lands. Volumes would have to be written to show some what fully the results which have been achieved in the various fields into which they have entered.

News Contributions to South Dakota

SIoux CITY IOWA TRIB
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1925.

NORSE CENTENNIAL

SIoux CITY is just on the fringe of the great Northwestern Empire which owes so much to Norse foresight, courage and industry. Aside from the many people of that race in this city and in the surrounding territory, there are other thousands who cheerfully join with them in recognizing the significance of the Norse Centennial, as celebrated in a program jointly arranged by Minneapolis and St. Paul.

In looking now upon the rich farms, splendid towns and bustling cities of the northwest, it is not easy for those who enjoy the benefits to visualize the discouragements and hardships which confronted the pioneers. It was not a soft job to overcome the obstacles and transform the potential resources into the finished products.

The hardy men and women of the northland, who had developed the iron spirit through centuries of courageous endeavor, took over the neglected opportunities in the northwest and carried them through more successfully than even they could have dreamed 100 years ago. These pioneers wrought well for their American descendants in that great task, but they wrought even more for the nation both in the matter of adding to material resources and in adding to a sterling citizenship.

Professor Gisle Bothne said in the course of his address at the opening of the Norse-American centennial:

Tens of thousands of the present generation will have visualized the life of the early Norse pioneers, how they labored and sacrificed that we might gain wisdom, happiness and material comfort, and lead such lives that Norway should not be ashamed of us and America should not regret that she had invited us to her shores.

They have lived just such lives. Norway is justly proud of the character of its representation in the ranks of American citizenship and the well-wishers of our own nation are of one accord in acclaiming the honorable and constructive services of the Norwegian immigrants and of their descendants. Their industrial conquest of the northwest ever was in pursuance of the spirit of the Golden Rule. They sought merely to enjoy the opportunities and privileges confronting them and gave friendly aid and comfort to others engaged in the same struggle. They sang at their work and inspired others with hope. They observed the general principles of morality and the laws of the land.

People of all origins who inhabit this section, and who believe it will continue to be the best in the world, never hesitate to admit and proclaim that the men and women of the Norse strain broke the trails and did more than their full part, subsequently, in developing and sustaining the higher attributes of citizenship.

Aberdeen, S. D., News
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1925

NORWEGIANS HAVE HAD GREAT PART IN BUILDING SOUTH DAKOTA WEALTH

Leaders Have Come In This State From Pioneers Settlers Who Come In Early Day.

Norwegians played a large part in the development of South Dakota into one of the richest agricultural states of the Union. Tens of thousands of these hardy people came to the prairies of South Dakota when the country was regarded as a part of the Great American Desert, and when many believed it never would become an agricultural region, and went to work with a will to prove that hard work and persistence would eventually win the country for the seekers of new homes.

The early Norwegian settlers were exactly of the right type of people to undertake this gigantic task, for their persistence under adverse conditions is proverbial. In the early days their efforts did not seem to count much in a single year, but year by year there was a steady improvement in conditions, and after years of effort they were rewarded by the knowledge that the fight had

been a winning one and that they had taken an important part in demonstrating that South Dakota was a farming state. These thousands of early Norwegians withstood all sorts of privation and discouragements, but they were out to win—and win they did.

Children of Settlers Profit

Today some of the finest farm homes in South Dakota are owned by these pioneer Norwegians and their descendants are carrying on their share of the work of increasing the crop production of South Dakota each year. Large numbers of the early Norwegian settlers in South Dakota have long since passed to their final reward, but they have left a heritage which is being enjoyed by their children and the descendants of other nationalities.

Many men of Norse descent have held public office in South Dakota. In the relatively brief space of statehood there have been four governors of Norwegian parentage—Andrew E. Lee, Charles N. Herreid, Peter Norbeck and Carl Gunderson, Peter Norbeck now is

one of the United States senators from South Dakota.

Two Congressmen Are Norse

Two of the present Congressmen from South Dakota, C. A. Christopher of Sioux Falls, and William Williamson of Oaconda, are of the same blood. There have been three secretaries of state, A. O. Rinsrud, Thomas Thorson and O. C. Berg, who are of the same descent and two state treasurers George G. Johnson and Gus H. Helgeson. There have been two state superintendents of public instruction, Hans Ustrud and C. G. Lawrence, the latter now president of the state normal school at Springfield, who trace their descent to the land of the Vikings.

Norwegians in South Dakota also have gained fame in musical lines. In the state are a number of singing societies made up of Norwegians, one of the most prominent of these being the Minnehaha Mandskor, of Sioux Falls, which is composed of business men of Norwegian descent. The Norwegian Singers' Association of America, which will be well represented at the Norse Centennial in the Twin Cities was born in South Dakota, it having been organized in Sioux Falls in 1891 and incorporated under the laws of South Dakota. Since that time, with the exception of 1918, when the World war prevented, singing festivals have been held every two years by this great national singing organization. The chorus at the festival often has consisted of from 1,000 to 1,500 voices, provided majestic music.

Art Is Not Neglected

The art exhibits of work done by sculptors and painters of Norwegian birth or descent are expected to be one of the great attractions of the Centennial at the Minnesota State Fair grounds. Among the sculpture exhibits will be specimens of work by Gilbert Risvold, who was reared in South Dakota. He was raised on a farm south of Baltic, in the region north of Sioux Falls, and has numerous relatives in the Baltic community. Risvold has risen to fame in his work and the Norwegians of South Dakota are very proud of him and his achievements. He received on one occasion a prize of \$10,000 for one piece of work.

An interesting story is told by Norwegians of the district in which he was reared as to the manner in which he found his talent. As a boy in the district school his teacher found him one day bending over his desk engaged in doing something other than his lesson. She silently walked behind him. In his hands were a piece of wood and a jack-knife. But it was more than a piece of wood. He had carved a head of President McKinley which was a remarkable piece of work.

The teacher then went to the boy's parents and told them that it would make a greater one than her to direct his talents in the proper direction. Risvold later attributed his start to his teacher's interest, and though he had many severe obstacles to face on account of his parent's lack of financial means for an education, he, with the persistence of those other Norwegians who had turned the prairies of South Dakota from a wilderness into a rich farming district, found means of developing his talent until he took his place as one of the leading sculptors of the United States.

The Norwegians of South Dakota also have developed several inventors, among them being Iver Fanebust of Sioux Falls, Even Amdal of Canton and William J. Nelson of Brandon. They will be represented by models of their inventions at the Centennial exposition on the Minnesota State Fair grounds.

Minneapolis, Minn., Star
SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1925

Haynes Thanks N.W. Norwegian Americans for Support of Dry Law

In recognition of the effort of 50 men and women of Norwegian lineage to support the government in the enforcement of the prohibition law, R. A. Haynes, federal prohibition commissioner, has sent a communication to J. J. Skordalsvold, of Minneapolis, voicing his appreciation.

Mr. Skordalsvold was chairman of the resolution committee at the last national rally of prohibition workers at Bethany Norwegian Lutheran church, June 10.

"Much of the success of enforcement is due to the fact that we have the backing of upstanding citizens," Mr. Haynes wrote. He thanked the 50 men and women who have been aiding prohibition agents in Minnesota, and who have been active in anti-saloon campaigns for 40 years.

Auburn, Nebr., Republican
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1925

A FORIEGNER HAS MADE GOOD

Came From Across the Waters With
a Capital of \$55.

ATTENDED NIGHT SCHOOL TO
LEARN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Is Now at the Head of the Biggest Co-
operative Creamery in the State—
A Lesson for Young
Men.

Superior, June 10.—Scandinavians other than Norwegians in the middle west are gathering a record of their achievements in America in order not to be left in the shade by the Norwegian Centennial celebration in Minneapolis, June 6 to 9.

One of the outstanding monuments in the United States to Danish energy and business ability is the Farmer Union Creamery Company of this city one of the largest co-operative creameries in the world, handling millions of pounds of butter every year. The company was organized by James C. Norgaard who arrived in this country eleven years ago without capital and unable to speak a word of English. Americanized Scandinavians of every race may point to his record as evidence of the values these nationalities bring to citizenship.

Mr. Norgaard arrived in New York in 1914 with capital consisting, to us

his own words, of "a tooth brush thirty-five dollars, a lot of ambition and energy, but not a word of English." He went at once to a small Danish settlement in Wisconsin, but finding that he could not study English there he took a job in a creamery at Green Bay, Wis., at ten dollars a month and board and went to night school to learn English. In less than a year, he knew the language well enough to go into the University of Wisconsin, at Madison, for a course in dairying. After receiving his diploma a year later, he went to Michigan as a buttermaker at seventy-five dollars a month.

In 1917 Mr. Nogaard went into the army. He was exempted and appointed instructor in dairying at the University of Wisconsin. In March of 1918 he was called to Riverton, Neb., to be manager of a creamery. The plant was destroyed by fire soon after and Mr. Nogaard was again called to war service as a purchaser and inspector of butter for the U. S. Navy. He used his leisure time to take a course in traffic management from LaSalle Extension University. In May 1919 he organized the Farmers Union Creamery Company. Mr. Nogaard wanted further study in American business methods so he took a course in Business Administration from LaSalle Extension University. He places a high value on his extension study.

"I attribute most of my success to the business courses I took from LaSalle," he says. "The knowledge and inspiration received in my courses of study were indispensable to me."

At present Mr. Nogaard is manager of the Farmers Union Creamery Company, president of an ice company, president of the largest condensary in the state of Nebraska, vice president of the Superior Grain Exchange, and director of the Superior Building and Loan Company.

Here is a man who, landing in America almost penniless and unable to speak a word of the language made himself in eleven years a leading citizen. Graduate of a great university and instructor in one of its departments of husbandry, he bent his mind to acquiring knowledge of higher business by two home study courses from the leading extension university. Without making any claims for Mr. Norgaard, other than his record, he is mentioned as a sample of what a Dane can do. Danish and Swedish societies are checking over their records of success, in view of the national interest in the Norwegian celebration.

Minneapolis, Minn. Star
SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1925

N. Y. Recognizes Norse Centennial Brooklyn Park Named in Honor of Leif Eir- icksson

New York has officially recognized the Norse-American Centennial celebration, to be held at the Minnesota state fair grounds next month.

This was announced today by Prof. Gisle Bothne, head of the University of Minnesota Scandinavian department, chairman of the centennial directors, on word from New York that that city's aldermen had unanimously named a park in Brooklyn, Leif Eriksson park, as requested by Norse-Americans in their city.

Incidentally Prof. Bothne announced that Leif Eriksson is the accepted correct spelling for the name of the Norseman who, according to Mayor John F. Hylan's letter in signing the resolution, "with open boat and hardy sailors feared not the wide wastes of the Atlantic, finding America in 1000 A. D."

his address in Minnesota on June 8, and all her pioneer spiritual prophets who were divinely commissioned to guard the "young child" America.

KITTY CHEATHAM.

New York, June 16, 1925.

HARRISONVILLE, MO. LEADER
JUNE 11, 1925.

LEIF VS. CHRISTOFO

The followers of Columbus and of Leif Ericsson are again about to clash. The descendants of the Norsemen are gathered this week in St. Paul to celebrate the Norse-American centennial, and it again has been brought to the attention of those on the North American continent that Leif Ericsson was the original discoverer of America.

So far Columbus has had all of the major share of the publicity, gained, not because he had as good a press agent as some movie stars, but his records are more accurate than those of Leif.

However, history tells us that Leif landed on the American shores 500 years before Columbus, that the part of the coast where he landed is much in dispute, but most recent investigations placing it at the southern part of the coast of Labrador, although many scholars believe Vinland to have been on the New England shores.

Now we'll wait four months for the followers of Columbus to rise in a contradictory note.

But even before William of Normandy had conquered Hastings, Leif the son of Eric, nearly 500 years before Columbus, appears to have found the New World. Indeed there seems little doubt that several centuries before Columbus saw the light of day, there was born upon American soil, of Norse parents, a boy who afterward became so great a mathematician and astronomer that his studies may have contributed much to the fund of knowledge which helped Columbus formulate his vision of the world as we know it.

Among the fascinating chapters in the history of the dark ages is the story of Iceland. As a little Norse republic it maintained itself for several centuries as one of real repositories of ancient culture in a world whose lamp of learning seemed nearly flickering out. We have long known of the noble Icelandic literature which was produced during those generations of the intellectual twilight; but we know too little of the part which Iceland performed, as an outpost of the sturdy Northern culture, in bridging over the gulf of darkness between the ancient and modern eras of history.

These sons of Thor and Odin and the great free north shape themselves in the mind's eye as very princes of high adventure. From Norway to Iceland, from Iceland to Greenland, from Greenland to the mainland, step by step they worked their way across the North Atlantic. They found the western ocean, and it was a Norseman who first traversed Behring Strait and demonstrated that there was no land connection between Asia and North America.

Yours truly,

A. Baker,

Jersey City, June 22, 1925.

Letters to the Editor

A NOTABLE ANNIVERSARY

To the Editor of the Evening Post:

Sir—On this day 150 years ago (June 16, 1775), under the old elm tree at Cambridge, Mass., General George Washington took the oath as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army.

The significance of the event and its relation to this vital hour in our national history are emphasized by Benjamin Franklin's words to his guest John Adams as he poured forth his reverence and affection for Washington. Franklin's concluding words were: "Above all, Washington has a sense of the oneness of America. Massachusetts and Georgia are as dear to him as Virginia."

As we ponder these words "the oneness of America," we see the Tower of Babel crumbling, "the house of the Lord" (Franklin's simile of America) appearing and the purpose and mission of our great Federal Republic being revealed in its splendor.

This unity is the light of divine democracy, the light of America triumphant, in whose radiance will be revealed her discoverer (in the year 1000) Leif Ericson, the young Icelandic, to whose achievement President Coolidge paid homage in

LEIF ERICSON

Editor Jersey Journal

Sir: Having read a letter from a person who signs himself "A Hopeful Cynic," he says that Columbus discovered America. I think he is wrong. On June 8, 1925, President Coolidge's acknowledgment in Minnesota that Leif Ericson, the Norseman (Icelandic) was the real discoverer of America. This is a report from the American Standard. This country was discovered in the year 1000 by Leif Ericson. The President's tribute to America's real discoverer, Leif Ericson, is as follows:

These Norsemen, whose beginnings in the United States we here celebrate, have exercised a great influence upon our modern history and western civilization which is difficult to match among any other like number of people. In many ways their influence upon northern and western Europe may be compared to that of the Greek states upon the civilization of the Mediterranean. They were the first deep-sea navigators. They pioneered the migrations which boldly struck across the western waters. They were at once the terrors of the Western Roman Empire and the guardians of the Eastern. The medieval Mediterranean was a happy hunting ground for them. They branded their name upon French Normandy, and from it descended upon Britain in the Norman conquest, from which there was the beginning of modern English history.

LEIF ERICSON

72
Columbus

JUN 11 1925

"First Deep-sea Navigators."

In reading President Coolidge's spirited address to the Norsemen of the Northwest, delivered at St. Paul, Minn., June 8, one is struck by the familiar marks of "preparedness." Mr. Coolidge had, manifestly, studied and read and had made, or ordered made for him, a large "dossier" for this Norse adventure.

He did not "refresh" his mind on the "sagas," as Colonel Roosevelt would have done, and he planned and carried out his plan not to delve into literature, a field unfurrowed by him. He stuck to the main currents of history, and talked to the representatives of what is perhaps the most adventuring race of mankind about its sturdy forebears. The Vikings that terrorized the trafficking coasts, the soldiers of fortune that, for mercenary gain and for the sheer love of the game supported the tottering dynasties of Novgorod or Byzantium; or the conquistadores that seized upon particularly alluring stretches of alien territory—all came in brief but engaging review before the speaker. And they are an alluring band.

"What God abandoned, these defended,
And saved the sum of things for pay."

Glorified mercenaries and pretorian guards of a world of weak despots and crumbling monarchies!

But—without trying to filch a single scrap of merit from a remarkably adroit and pleasing address to as fine a race as has yet sprung from the loins of the earth—there is a single brief sentence that stabs at us out of the ambush of flowery praise. Referring, of course, to the Norsemen, Mr. Coolidge said:

"They were the first deep-sea navigators."

Albeit from New England, foster-child of ships, Mr. Coolidge is no sailor or sea-voyager. And he has accepted too readily something he has lately read about the exploits of the Norsemen.

They were not, by centuries, perhaps by millenniums, "the first deep-sea navigators." Perhaps Mr. Coolidge had in mind some particular "deep sea." But even in the "whale-bath" of the Atlantic and North Sea, the latter of which the Norse vikings mastered, and the former of which they skirted among its northern fringes, anxiously watching the flight of their pilot ravens, they were not "at home" as were the far better sailors of the Mediterranean races.

More than a thousand years before the most daring Norseman ventured far beyond the Lofoten Islands off their own coasts, Hanno and other

Phenicians had sailed deep into the south Atlantic, around Africa, had raked the shores of southern and western Britain, had visited the Azores, had scattered their coins—some have

been dredged from the Sargasso Sea—had, in all probability, visited America; almost certainly the West Indies

Putheas, the Greek from Massilia (Marseille), probably visited the Norse lands themselves long before the Norsemen had emerged from the welter of barbarians around the Baltic basin.

And as early as Putheas, or as early as Hanno and his Punic seamen, the Chinese and Japanese appear to have traversed the deep waters of the mid-Pacific, and carried on commerce and communications between the Far East and Mexico, perhaps traded with the Mayas and Incas of the south.

And perhaps as early or earlier, the Polynesians, especially the magnificent Maoris, had made the deep-seas of the Pacific and Indian Oceans their tramping fields and hunting grounds, voyaging to and fro between unsuspected isles in far-off seas.

No; there is too much to the credit of these heroic Norsemen to try to attach another laurel to their crowded brows. They have glory enough. The deep-sea is not their "whale-bath." That quarry was won long before their birth by the dark sailors of Utica and Karthage and Tyre, or of the Hellenic colony in France, or by the restless Japanese of the Inland or the still more restless Chinese of the Yellow Sea. The Norse were late-comers on these waters, although to them the deep sea was strange and inconceivably fearful, and they went gladly at the task of subduing it to their will.

Greenland
Discovered, 980 A.D.

DID THE NORSEMEN DISCOVER AMERICA?

The recent Norwegian Centennial celebrated in the United States calls attention to the tradition that, prior to the official Norwegian emigration to this country, the Norsemen landed on these shores on a voyage of adventure or discovery. This was supposed to have been about the year 1000, five centuries ahead of Columbus.

One of the objectives aimed at by Donald B. MacMillan on his voyage of discovery by boat and airplane to the Far North, is to bring back proof of the Norsemen's pre-historic visit.

MacMillan says there is every reason to believe that the Norse sailed from Greenland and visited America. The points at which they touched are supposed to be Newfoundland and Labrador.

MacMillan will make a careful study of Labrador relics that seem to date from this visit. He will then sail to the west coast of Greenland and visit the home of the "Lost Colony of Greenland," established there in 980 by Eric the Red. This legendary colony disappeared during the succeeding three centuries.

To quote Captain MacMillan: "There are still standing remnants of 180 farms and twenty-four stone churches without a single inhabitant. In them probably lies the first chapter of Ameri-

can history. If there can be established a definite kinship between the Labrador relics and the homes of the lost colony, that chapter will be written."

First Native Born Norwegian-American

Time

JUN 18 1925 N. Y. City

To Whom Did Coolidge Refer?
To the Editor of The New York Times:

In President Coolidge's address at the Norse Centennial he made this statement: "Indeed, there seems little doubt that several centuries before Columbus saw the light of day there was born upon American soil, of Norse parents, a boy who afterward became so great a mathematician and astronomer that his studies may have contributed much to the fund of knowledge which helped Columbus formulate his vision of the world as we know it."

To whom was the President referring?
L. M. MUZZEY.
Chatham, N. Y., June 10, 1925.

Times

JUN 28 1925 N. Y. City

The First Norse-American.

In your issue of June 18 . . . L. M. Muzzey inquires as to whom the President meant in his recent address during the celebration of the Norse-American Centennial when he spoke of a boy born of Norse parents on the shores of America several centuries before Columbus rediscovered America.

This child was Snorre, the son of Thorfinn Karlsevne and his wife Gudrid, widow of Leif Erikson's brother Thorstein, who also had tried to reach Vinland (America), but failed and died in Greenland after many hardships. Snorre must have been born in the year 1008, and was the first native white American.

The statement made by the President to the effect that Snorre became a great mathematician and astronomer whose studies may have contributed to the fund of knowledge which led Columbus to make his eventful voyage I have not, however, been able to verify. What we do know is that a distinguished family descended from him.

BEN BLESSUM.
New York, June 22, 1925.

Laga
Bellefields Mass

JUN 19 1925

A COOLIDGE SENSATION

What sounds strange, doesn't it, but stranger still are the thrilling facts about to be revealed.

Did the president play an innocent joke on the public? Did he assume to apply a practical test—to ascertain whether the people really read his

speeches before condemning or praising them?

A reviewer in New York constantly is apologizing to his readers for unfairly presenting a new book. He looks at the binding, the name of the publisher, then proceeds solemnly to indicate the points of weakness in the narrative!

Another writer recently dismissed as platitudinous one of the noblest literary efforts of the president's life. It won't do! But to the point.

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE SAID THAT LEIF ERICSON, THE NORSEMAN (ICELANDER) AND NOT COLUMBUS WAS THE DISCOVERER OF AMERICA!

That was sensation enough for one speech, but it is what the boys might be tempted to describe as a hum-dinger.

In that speech, delivered in St. Paul, the president said:

"Indeed, there seems little doubt that several centuries before Columbus saw the light of day there was born upon American soil, of Norse parents, a boy who afterward became so great a mathematician and astronomer that his studies may have contributed much to the fund of knowledge which helped Columbus formulate his vision of the world as we know it."

Here is history with a vengeance. As a matter of fact, President Coolidge has furnished the real sensation of the year.

Times
Cumberland Head

JUN 30 1925

In his address at the Norse Centennial President Coolidge said that "there seems little doubt that several centuries before Columbus saw the light of day there was born upon American soil, of Norse parents, a boy who afterward became so great a mathematician and astronomer that his studies may have contributed much to the fund of knowledge which helped Columbus to formulate his vision of the world as we know it." Many have wondered to whom the President referred, and have not yet seen the answer reported.

Early and Prominent Pioneers

25

Members and Descendants of Ship party

June
Medina N. Y.
6-9-25

MADISON WIS. TIMES
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1925.

Descendants of Norse 'Mayflower' Pioneers at Centennial Celebration

Pioneers in Orleans Were Norwegians; Settled Near Kendall

Hear Sagas Of Adventurer Who Braved Sea In Tiny Ships

Holley, June 8.—American Centennial, which is being held at St. Paul Minn., to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the first group of Norwegians to come to America, is of interest to Orleans county and especially to the town of Kendall where the first Norwegians settled.

On July 4, 1825, fifty-two people left their home in Norway, sailing out to sea in their little sloop, Restauration. The vessel was built on the model common to fishing boats on that coast measuring only forty-five tons.

After a tedious voyage of fourteen weeks they landed in New York on October 9, 1825. The party came from New York direct to Orleans county and in the late autumn of that year settled in the northern part of the town of Kendall on what is known as the Norway road. This was the first Norwegian settlement in America.

The leader of the party, Lars Larsen, remained in New York to dispose of the ship, which he finally sold for \$400. Winter had set in, the canal was closed, there were no railroads or trolley cars and automobiles were still undreamed of, so Mr. Larsen skated from Albany to Holley on the canal. Mr. Larsen made his home in Rochester and the house he built for his family in 1827, the oldest house built by a Norwegian in America, still stands at No. 37 Atkinson street.

Many of the immigrants who first settled in Kendall answered the call of the West and many of the Middle Western states are largely settled by Norwegians. The last one of the original fifty-two to come over in 1825 to leave Kendall was Henry Warwick, who came to Holley in 1876. He died in this village, at his home in Albion street, in 1884. Mrs. L. J. Parker, of Kendall, is the only

true surviving descendant of the original immigrants, and with her husband is now attending the centennial as a guest of the government.

Arad Thomas's "Pioneer History of Orleans County" contains the following reference to the Norwegian settlement at Kendall:

"About the year 1825, a company of Norwegians, about fifty-two in number, settled on the lake shore, in the northwest part of the town. They came from Norway together and took up land in a body. They were an industrious, prudent and worthy people held in good repute by people in that vicinity. After a few years they began to move away to join their countrymen who had settled in Illinois, and but few of that colony are still in Kendall.

"They thought it very important that every family should have land and a home of their own. A neighbor once asked a little Norwegian boy whose father happened to be too poor to own land, where his father lived and was answered, "O, we don't live nowhere, we hain't got no land."

MINNEAPOLIS — Among the Norwegians present at the Norse-American centennial celebration were direct descendants of the Stavange: (sloopers), who came over on the Aegir in 1837, and later, over on the Restaurationen, the Norse Mayflower, in 1825, just 100 years ago, most of whom settled in Orleans County, New York.

There were the descendants of the Fox River colonists in Illinois, led there by the Slogvigs, and Gudmund Hangaas in 1833; of the Chicago Norwegians, the first of whom was Knud Langeland, who located there in 1836; of the Samanger and Voss immigrants who came under the leadership of Nils Langeland, and of the immigrants of Telemarken, led by Ole Trobatten.

These names and many others shared the honor with the distinguished group of Norse leaders who have taken a high place in the life of the nation, whose independent, courageous and adventurous spirits now find expression in politics, economics, education and science, as seekers of new lands in progressive thought and action.

A long program preceded the presidential address Monday. As part of the morning session, Miss Jane S. Atwater, principal of the Parkside School, Chicago, and daughter of the 'sloop baby' born aboard the historic vessel that brought the original fifty-three Norwegian pioneers to America, told the story of her mother.

She repeated the saga of that daring expedition which ventured to cross the ocean in a tiny vessel, loaded with iron to keep it from tipping over. She told of the birth of the first child, her mother and the daughter of Lars Larson, who financed and led the expedition.

Simply and touchingly she described her mother, typical of pioneer womanhood, a story of devotion to Norwegian ideals which seemed tremendously to interest the thousands of the speakers' countrymen.

SPRINGDALE, ARK. NEWS
MAY 1, 1925

LOCAL MAN'S MOTHER CAME OVER IN 1825

C. B. Olmstead of Springdale is in receipt of a communication from Rev. H. T. Haagenon, pastor of the Lutheran Church at Seneca, Illinois, asking for information concerning his ancestors, who came to America in the early days, it being planned to hold a celebration at Minneapolis, Minn., June 6-9.

It will probably be of interest to many Springdale people to learn that Mr. Olmstead's grandfather, Onn Thompson, was one of the men who chartered the "Sloop" in Norway in 1825, and with a party of emigrants set sail for the new land of America. In the party was a little daughter of Mr. Thompson, who was Mr. Olmstead's mother. The ship was heavily loaded, and encountered a severe storm, and for a number of days the pioneers were without food. The ship was 16 weeks making the journey from Norway to New York.

Mr. Olmstead has a number of relics which came over in the "Sloop," and has very vivid recollection of stories of the journey as related by his mother.

The celebration at Minneapolis is in honor of the descendants of those who came over in 1825, and President Coolidge will be one of the speakers on this occasion.

Lamoni, Ia. Chronicle
THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1925

RELATIVES GUESTS OF TWO NATIONS

Mrs. Nellie Olson's Grandfather Came
From Norway in Sloop Restaurationer 100 Years Ago

The Norse-American Centennial which was held in Minneapolis last week was in celebration of the landing of the Norwegian sloop Restaurationen in New York harbor, in 1825. The sloop brought to America the first organized party of Norwegians consisting of fifty-two people. In this party was Goodman Hougas, grandfather of Mrs. Nellie Olson of Lamoni.

Representatives of the two succeeding generations of this pioneer family who settled first in Minnesota and later drifted to Illinois, were selected to be guests of honor at this big centennial celebration. They are Mrs. Carrie Bowers, Sheridan, Ill., a daughter of Goodman Hougas, now a very old lady, and her niece, Miss Sadie Seal of Chicago. These ladies were members of the sloop party who dined with President Coolidge and wife, and other American and Norwegian dignitaries.

The centennial celebration was attended by 250,000 people.

The sloop Restaurationen left Stavanger, Norway, July 4, 1825 and was fourteen weeks on the voyage across the Atlantic. Comparisons with the Mayflower, made by President Cool-

idge in a speech at the celebration makes the story more interesting. The Mayflower was a vessel weighing 180 tons, while the Restaurationen weighed only 9 tons. While the hardships endured by the Puritan ship in its long journey is so oft emphasized in story, theirs was only of nine weeks duration, and similar hardships were endured by these Norwegians for fourteen weeks. The Restaurationen carried a heavy cargo of iron beside the fifty-two passengers. Most of these people were farmers who settled a land in Minnesota.

Norway, Town Star
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1925

Norse Centennial

Mr and Mrs Jacob Rosdail S leave for Minneapolis to attend the Norse American centennial, the one hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the sloop Restauration, arriving in New York harbor Oct 9, 1925, my father, Ovee Risdal, being one of the passengers on that perilous trip of the first Norwegian emigrants 100

years ago. I being one of the twelve direct descendants living, will be an honored guest of the Board of Directors of the centennial.

This little sloop got lost at sea and drifted into the Maderia Islands on the coast of Africa, and was near being sunk in the ocean from the guns on shore as they had neglected to hoist their flag, being taken for a pirate ship. His father was the first one to see land and raise the flag which saved the ship. Little did these bold sloopers dream at that time that their adventure would ever be viewed as an epoch-making one in the history of the Norwegian people.

They left Stavanger, Norway, July 4, and arrived in New York Oct 9, 1825. There were 52 persons when they started, and 53 when they arrived, one Margret Larson Atwatter, was born aboard:

President Coolidge will be there to deliver an address on Monday, June 8. Norway, Europe, will be represented by a chorus of 50 voices—30 women and 20 men. I have the distinction of being the only direct descendant living in the state of Iowa.—Jacob Rosdail

Paullina (Ia.) Times
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1925

IS FIRST NORWEGIAN MAN BORN IN IOWA

Jonas Norland Claims Distinction of
Being First Norwegian Boy
Born in Iowa

Pringhar Bell—The first Norwegian settlement in Iowa was made in Benton county, near the town of Norway, in 1854 and that same year Jonas Norland of Pringhar was born—seventy-one years ago. One child, a girl, now dead, was born a few months previous to the birth of Mr. Norland.

These early Norse immigrants made the trip to America in a sailing vessel, being many weeks on the water and suffered much in the early days in America. There were no railroads in Iowa at the time these settlers came—the first road not being completed until January, 1856, this being the Rock Island from Davenport to Iowa City, the first train entering the latter city the third of January that year. The ties and rails being laid on the frozen ground and the road went out of commission with the spring thaws.

The Norse immigrants first came to America one hundred years ago and a great celebration is to be held at Minneapolis in June at the State Fair grounds, President Coolidge being among the speakers advertised.

Mr. Norland informs the writer that he saw and visited with the last survivor of the first party of immigrants, now long dead.

This first party of Norwegians left their native land on July 4, 1825 and landed in America on October 9, 1825, being three months in making the crossing that is now made in one week.

The Norwegians are a sturdy, thrifty people—good citizens—and have proved among the best people of America, so that all will rejoice with them in this celebration of their centennial in America.

Whiting Pioneers at Norse Celebration



Whiting Ia June 15 Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Olson early settlers of Iowa and pioneers of Whiting and their daughter-in-law Mrs. Bert Olson returned from the Norwegian centennial celebration at Minneapolis with their hearts full of praise for the "old country" and love for the "new." Old acquaintances and school friendships, formed before they left Norway, were renewed with laughter and tears. Mrs. Bert Olson saw 25 Norway acquaintances while there, six of whom were in her confirmation class. The elder Mrs. Olson in speaking of President Coolidge's address

says: "It was a good speech and he is a fine man and we could hear every word of it too." Mr. Olson was impressed by the vast crowds but thinks the most beautiful sight was the formation of school children arranged to represent the Norse and American flags.

Mr. Olson came from Norway to Iowa in 1872 when he was 17 years old, and his wife in 1869 when she was 12 years old. Both were residents of Clinton county until they came to Whiting more than 40 years ago. They have made this their home since that time.

Meeker county and still later to Minneapolis.

It was in 1852 that Norse immigrants began to come to Minn. in any considerable number but from then on for several decades there was a constant stream of them, settling in southeastern Minnesota and rapidly settling farther north and west in this state. Goodhue county which became one of the largest and most prosperous of Norse settlements in the state, was first settled in 1852. Scores of the finest farms in that county are still owned by descendants of those who homesteaded them in the 50's.

From this modest beginning of Norse settlement in Minnesota, 75 years ago it is now estimated by Dr. O. M. Norlie, well known statistician of Luther College, Decorah, Ia. that the population of Norse-Americans in this state is approximately 525,000 or 22 per cent of the states' population, more than one out of every five of the states inhabitants. Dr. Norlie is also authority for other interesting figures relative to Minnesotans of Norse birth or blood. He estimates that 214,000 of them are bread winners; 100,000 working on farms; 40,000 in mechanical and manufacturing pursuits; 20,000 in trades; 14,000 in transportation and an equal number in domestic service 13,000 in clerical service and 11,000 in professional service. Based on careful investigation by Samuel G. Iverson, former state auditor, and others, it is estimated that 45,000 Norse-Americans in Minnesota own farms, with an acreage of more than 7,500,000 acres and worth, with the improvements more than \$1,000,000,000. Not a bad accumulation for only seventy five years.

Dr. Norlie also gives these further figures relative to occupations of Norse-Americans in Minnesota: retail merchants, 5,400; teachers, 4800 carpenters, 4,400; lumbering, 2,800 miners, 2,000 public service, 2000 stationary engineers, 1,600; bankers, 1,000; clergymen, 600 physicians 600; nurses, 600; technical engineers, 550; lawyers, 500; insurance agents, 450; dentists, 300; professors 300; printers 300 editors, 175.

Interesting Facts About The Norse Centennial

In connection with the coming Norse-American centennial it is interesting to note that the first authentic record of a Norse immigrant in Minnesota is that of Nils Nilson, born in Modum, Norway, Jan. 2, 1830, who came to St. Paul in 1849 after having worked for a time in the lead mines near Galena, Ill. Nilson obtained work at a sort of hotel (or inn known as "Moffett's Castle," near the banks of the Mississippi river, approximately where the new St. Paul

Union station now stands. The following spring he went to Stillwater where he worked in a sawmill, remaining a resident of that city until 1882 when he bought a farm near New York Mills, Minn. He died there a few years ago.

The first Norse woman known to have located in Minnesota was Miss Ingeborg L. Langeborg, who came to St. Paul with her brother Amund, in 1850. They were natives of Hallindal Norway. Miss Langeberg was employed for about a year as a domestic servant in the home of Alexander Ramsey, first territorial governor, and second state governor of Minn. It was during Ramseys regime as territorial governor that she was employed in the executive household. Miss Langeberg then moved to Fridley, Minn; where she married a man named Clark later removing to

Minnesota

Rochester Minn. Bulletin
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 1925

NORSE CEREMONY RECALLS OLMSTED EARLY SETTLERS

First Settled At Rock Dell—
First White Child Born
Was Norse

The forthcoming Norse-American Centennial to be held in St. Paul and Minneapolis, ~~will bring to mind~~ that among the earliest sections to receive a quota of Norse settlers was Olmsted county. People from Norway began coming here but 29 years after the first of these European people settled in America.

It is recorded that in the year 1854 the first settlements were being made in Rock Dell township, this county. A glance at some of the names will show the Norse extraction. Nels Nelson, Tollef Oleson, Ole Oleson, Ole Amanson, Gusta Molson, I. Golberg, Ole Tollefson, and Ole Christ, all settled this year.

Came From Wisconsin

An early chronicle says, "They came mostly from the Norwegian settlements in Dane county, Wisconsin. Rock Dell is almost wholly settled by Scandinavians."

The first white birth in Rock Dell was a Norse child, Ole T. Oleson, son of T. Oleson. He was born September 9, 1854. The first death was also a person of Norse origin, Gusta Molson. It was a Norseman who opened one of the first stores. Nels Magnus was his name. He became postmaster for Rock Dell postoffice.

In Salem Township Also

In Salem township in the year 1854, Norse settlers also located. Among them were Ole C. Wegger, T. B. Isaacson, Christopher Isaacson, and Aaron Anderson. Edward A. and Mary (Oleson) Holtan, had the honor of being the parents of the first white child born in that township. The child was named Julia.

North Dakota

Pierre, S. D., Journal
FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1925

NORWEGIANS FIRST SETTLED IN DAKOTAS IN CLAY COUNTY

Selected Homesteads in Dakotas Before Land was Opened for Entry

(Editor's Note: The approaching Norse-American centennial celebration held in the Twin Cities in June has prompted such interest in the history of the Norwegians in America that Martin W. Odland has prepared a brief history of the first Norse settlement in the Dakotas, which is printed below for the benefit of Capital-Journal readers.)

The first Norwegian settlement in Dakota territory, which in 1888 became the states of North and South Dakota, was started in the Missouri Valley, Clay County, in 1859. Two years before that time a number of Norwegian pioneers had formed a temporary settlement at North Bend and St. James, Nebraska, on the south side of the Missouri, with the intention of crossing the river and taking homesteads in Dakota just as soon as the land there was thrown open to entry. The level "bottom lands" as they were called, which lay along the north bank of the Missouri from Vermillion westward to Yankton, looked good to these Norwegian pioneers and they were determined to have the first chance at them.

Colony Founder

Ole Olson Gjeitli or Jetley may be called the founder of the colony. He was a shrewd, resourceful man from Voss, Norway, who did not stand so much in awe of Uncle Sam's rules and regulations as most of his countrymen, and he proposed that they select their homesteads before the land was opened for settlement, on the theory that possession is nine points of law.

Accordingly, in company with Christian Brude, Lars Anderson Torblaa and Halvor Svendsen, he crossed the river for a tour of exploration and, some eight miles west of Vermillion and three miles north of the river, selected his future homestead which lay on a "bench" or slight elevation. On August 9, 1859, Jetley and Svendsen brought their wives and all of their possessions to their new homes

thus becoming not only the first white settlers in Clay county, but also the first permanent white settlers in Dakota territory.

First White Child

On March 2, 1860, Mrs. Jetley gave birth to a son, baptized Ole Olson, who later claimed the distinction of being the first white child born in the territory and took a prominent part in politics defeating Carl Gunderson, the present governor of South Dakota, for election to the state senate in 1894.

In September, 1859, Ole Bottolfson also moved across the river from Nebraska, following the next month by Syvert Myron, Elling O. Engum and Lars Torblaa. During the following winter the rest of Norwegian colony in Nebraska crossed the river on the ice, so that in 1860, when the land was formally opened for settlement, a goodly band of Vikings were already in possession. Within a few years hundreds of Norwegians had "trekked" across the prairies from Wisconsin and Eastern Iowa to the fertile valley of the Missouri in Dakota and the settlement extended all the way from Yankton on the west to the Sioux River on the east—one of the largest and richest Norse colonies in America.

Driven Out

In 1862 the settlement was temporarily abandoned on account of the Indian "scare". Mounted soldiers rode along the valley ordering the settlers to flee for their lives into Iowa. This caused great distress and hardship. Some of the men were away—hauling provisions to the soldiers at the forts farther west or employed on steamboats plying the Missouri—and their poor wives were compelled to drive their flocks of cattle and sheep to the rendezvous at Vermillion or leave them to the mercy of the Indians.

The writer's mother, Mrs. Halvor Odland, walked barefoot through the tall grass, carrying one child in her arms, and leading two others from her home to Vermillion ten miles away. At this point a caravan was formed, which wound its way slowly to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where it halted. After a few months the danger from the Indians passed and the settlers returned to their homesteads.

Bad Floods

But the Indians were not the only danger that these first Da-

kota settlers had to contend with. The floods were even worse. These came in the early spring when the snow thawed, causing the Missouri to overflow its banks and sweep out over the low "bottoms".

The worst of these floods was that of 1881. There was an unusually heavy fall of snow that winter and on account of a sudden thaw early in the spring, the huge river rose in its might, burst the thick ice which sought to hold it down, formed an immense gorge in a bend below Vermillion, and then poured its mighty volume of water out over the valley. Houses were swept away, almost all of the horses, cattle sheep and swine were drowned, a few people also drowned and others had narrow escapes. It was a terrible blow to the community, from which it took many years to recover.

Minneapolis, Minn., Journal
SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 1925

Knute Nelson Called Greatest American Of Norwegian Birth, Inspiration to Alien

Celebration of Centennial Recalls Memorable Career of Immigrant Boy Who Rose to Be United States Senator From Minnesota

KNUTE NELSON

TOWERING over colleagues in the political life of Minnesota for more than a generation, Knute Nelson left a memory that will be an inspiration not only to men and women of Scandinavian descent, but to every citizen. He stands without dispute as the greatest American of Norwegian birth, and he was great largely so for the reason that he was so intensely an American.

Coming to America with his poor, widowed mother when he was six years old and earning his first money as a newsboy on the streets of Chicago, Knute Nelson rose to be governor of his state and for 28 years was a member of the United States senate. No higher post was open to a citizen of foreign birth, and he well carried out his boyish promise to his mother.

"Do not weep," he told her. "When I grow up I shall be next to the king."

To Perpetuate Memory

Knute Nelson was honored in life as few men have been, and his memory is to be perpetuated by a statue in front of the Minnesota state capitol, honoring him for all time as one of the great men of his beloved state. Friends are raising a fund for the erection of this statue.

Practically his whole life was devoted to the service of his country. He had a remarkable political career. One of its unique features was the fact that he ran many times for public office, and never was defeated.

Soon after his mother brought him to this country, she settled on a piece of land near Deerfield, Wis., where young Nelson spent his boyhood in the hard labor of a frontier farmer. He had a thirst for education, however, and from the district school went to Albion Academy, which he was attending when the Civil war broke out. He did not wait for the later organization of a Wisconsin Norwegian regiment, but enlisted

in May, 1861, in the Fourth Wisconsin Infantry. He was a lad of 18, but played a man's part, and was severely wounded and taken prisoner at Port Hudson in June, 1863. He was exchanged and served until the end of his enlistment in 1864, when on account of falling health he did not re-enlist but went back home and finished his course in the academy.

Read Law Two Years

Reading law two years in the office of William F. Vilas at Madison, young Nelson mastered enough to pass his bar examination in 1867. In that same year his political career began. He was elected to the lower house of the Wisconsin legislature, and re-elected in 1868. In 1871 he moved to Minnesota, taking up a homestead near Alexandria which is still the family home. In his first year the new county chose him as county attorney. After service in that capacity he was elected state senator in 1874. He was re-elected in 1876 but declined to run a third time. He was a presidential elector in 1880, but otherwise was out of public life for four years.

In 1882 he became a candidate for congress in the new fifth district, which took in all the northern half of Minnesota. It was a memorable fight in which Nelson defeated Charles F. Kindred, a wealthy man with primitive ideas about the use of money in politics. Nelson won in the convention fight but there was a Kindred convention also and the battle was carried to the polls, where Nelson won handily. He was re-elected in 1884 and 1886, and declined to run again. He was appointed a regent of the University of Minnesota and held that post from 1882 to 1893.

In 1892 Mr. Nelson was nominated unanimously for governor of Minnesota by the republican party. He led his party successfully against the forces of democracy, then at the crest of their power, and of the new Farmers' Alliance. In 1894 he was re-elected by more than 60,000 votes over Sidney M. Owen, populist. The following winter came the historic Nelson-Washburn battle in the legislature, ending in the election of Governor Nelson as United States senator in January, 1895.

Became Idol of Republicans

In spite of the feeling engendered by

that contest, Senator Nelson within a few years became the idol of Minnesota republicans and was the unanimous choice of his party for re-election in 1901, 1907 and 1913. In 1918 he ran at the general election as the candidate of his party, and won his last popular indorsement. He had planned on retirement, but was induced to stand again for the sake of his party.

In his 28 years of service in the United States senate, Knute Nelson gained recognition as a thorough student, a man of unflinching integrity and purpose, always voting and speaking his sincere convictions. He served for a number of years as chairman of the senate judiciary committee, and in that position had charge of many important bills, including the national prohibition legislation. He died in the harness, on a journey home after the adjournment of congress in April, 1923.

Former Governor Jacob A. O. Preus said in a biographical sketch that Knute Nelson is "the greatest inspiration of our day to the lowly American immigrant."

ELDER, PRESIDENT... BILL... TR...

30
Wisconsin
Clinton, Wis., Banner
THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1925

H. O. Natesta is honored with an invitation to be the guest at the Norse Centennial Celebration to be held in Minneapolis June 6-10. He is a son of Ole K. Natesta, the first Norwegian settler in Wisconsin, who settled on a farm south of Clinton in 1838.

KOSHKONONG WAS MECCA OF NORSE PIONEERS IN '50S

Koshkonong in the fifties and sixties was the Mecca of Norwegian settlers. This Wisconsin colony attracted many sturdy Norsemen and their families and in time it became the most prosperous settlement of its kind.

From Koshkonong other parties set out to pierce the more western districts, to cut the logs in virgin forests with which to build their cabins.

Among the founders of this colony were Nils Larson Bolstad, Nils Sjurson Gilderhus, Andrew Fenne and Migne Bottolfson Bystol, all from Voss, Norway; Lars Olson Dugstad, Andrew Anderson Bjornefeld, Thorstein Olson Bjaadland, who came over on the Restaurationen, and Bjorn Anderson Kvelve, the father of Professor Rasmus B. Anderson, all of whom came from Stavanger county, and Gunnul Olson Vindeg from Numedal.

From this colony sprang many who became famous, including Senator Knute Nelson of Minnesota, Professor Rasmus B. Anderson, former Governor Andrew E. Lee of South Dakota, former Governor Charles N. Herreid of South Dakota and Victor F. Lawson, prominent Chicago publisher.

Wittenberg, Wis., Enterprise
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1925

An Outstanding Pioneer

(By H. B. Kildahl)

In connection with the approaching Centennial Celebration of Norse-Americans to America, it is of interest to note the kind of men and women who came from Norway and who blazed the trail for those who came after them and who have contributed so much to the development of the Middle West from a wilderness into what it is today. One of the most prominent men among the pioneers was Rev. Even Johnson Homme. Twenty-four years old, he began his life work as a pioneer preacher in the forests of Wisconsin. These forests were swarming with Indians. There were no railroads in that part of the country and very few white people, but Rev. Homme was a man of large vision and blazed the way for his countrymen who gradually followed him and took up the land which they cleared of for-

est and stone and developed the soil and built their homes. He located the village of Wittenberg and gave it its name and this became his field of activity until he died.

He was a very large man physically. He also had a big heart for the helpless, the sick and the sorrowing. He had a large vision and made great plans not only for the development of the country but for the development of the Kingdom of God in the country.

Rev. Homme was born in upper Telemarken, Norway, October 17, 1843. In 1851 his parents immigrated to America. For a time he studied at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, and was ordained for the ministry in 1867.

Rev. Homme was very much interested in children and his great heart yearned for the orphaned, neglected, and abandoned and otherwise dependent children. He began agitating for the establishment of an orphanage and in 1882 he had gathered enough means with which he began the erection of the first Norwegian Lutheran Children's Home in America. He selected a very beautiful site for this institution in the proposed village of Wittenberg. This was a two-story frame building on a high basement. The building was soon filled with children and Rev. Homme was casting about for ways and means of not only supporting the children but also increasing the capacity of the house.

Rev. Homme was a firm believer in printer's ink. Soon after the children's home had been completed he erected another building which was to serve as a printing office and several papers were edited and printed in that primitive shop.

Rev. Homme discovered that the Indians were wandering about in the forests without God and without hope in the world and therefore he decided to build an Indian Mission House and this building was soon filled with Indian children. The Indians would allow him to have their children, especially in the winter time, but they told him that he did not need to teach them his religion. Their religion had been good enough for their children. It may be

interesting to notice that now the Indians bring their children to the same school but now they are anxious to have their children taught in the Christian religion. After the Indian Mission was built, Rev. Homme erected a parsonage for himself. When this was finished, he built an Academy and in 1887 he built a Normal School for the purpose of educating school teachers.

By this time the original Children's Home building had become altogether too small and Rev. Homme decided to build a larger institution. By this time he had learned that it was not desirable to locate the Children's Home within the village. Therefore he secured a large tract of land one and a half miles northeast of Wittenberg and on a very prominent site he erected another Children's Home which is to some extent patterned after some of the European castles from the Middle Ages. It has a

very imposing appearance as viewed from the highway. The original Children's Home within the village of Wittenberg was remodeled into a Home for the Aged and it is serving as such at the present time.

As stated before, Rev. Homme was a firm believer in printer's ink. He edited and printed a paper called "For Gammel og Ung," a Sunday School paper both in the Norwegian and English language, the "Waisenhus" calendar, and a paper called "The Christian Youth." The first paper issued, "For Gammel og Ung," has been published regularly for forty-five years and is still being edited and printed at the Children's Home.

Pastor Homme managed all those undertakings himself, traveling extensively, did a great deal of Home Mission work and edited his papers until the time of his death, June 22, 1903.

The farm of the Children's Home amounts to 400 acres. The capacity is ninety children. The capacity of the Old People's Home is ninety inmates. Both institutions are in the very best of condition.

In 1900 the government purchased the building erected by Rev. Homme and established its Indian School there and the Church moved its Indian School to Ingersol, seven miles west of Wittenberg, and later back to Wittenberg into the Academy building which had been erected by Rev. Homme. In 1918 the government sold the Indian School, which it had greatly improved by the acquisition of more land and buildings, back to the Church and the Academy building was converted into a Home for the Aged. This was the beginning of the extensive Charity Work carried on by the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

At the present time, the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America conducts nine Homes for the Aged at Decorah, Iowa; Beresford, South Dakota; Bawlf, Alberta; Coeur D' Alene, Idaho; Glenwood, Minnesota; Wittenberg, Wisconsin; Stanwood, Washington; Stoughton, Wisconsin; and Story City, Iowa; with a total capacity of 390 inmates and conducts seven orphanages located at Beloit, Iowa; Beresford, South Dakota; Wittenberg, Wisconsin; Lake Park, Minnesota; Stoughton, Wisconsin; Everett, Washington; and Twin Valley, Minnesota; with a total capacity of 881 children. Three rescue Homes for girls located at Minneapolis, Minnesota; Fargo, North Dakota; and Sioux Falls, South Dakota, caring for about 250 girls and their babies annually. Day Nurseries and Kindergartens in Brooklyn and Chicago. It has also twenty-four City, Slum and Hospital Missionaries in fourteen cities from New York to Los Angeles and it operates the Lutheran Deaconess Home and Hospital in Chicago, where it trains deaconesses for service for all its charity work at home and for Mission Work abroad.

The Church is doing all this work on a budget voted by the Church amounting to \$238,373.34 for 1924.—H. B. Kildahl

Blanchardville, Wis., Blade
THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1925

Norse-American Meet To Be Magnificent Affair

Preparations are being made on a rather large scale to celebrate this summer the centennial of the beginning of the immigration of Norwegians to America. This monster celebration will be held on the Fair Grounds at St. Paul, Minn., June 6-9, when it is anticipated that people of Norse extraction will come to that place by the hundreds of thousands. And the preparations and the program will fully warrant the expenditure of time and money for anyone, whether Norse or not, to make the trip there for the occasion. Some of the attractions which will be offered are as follows: President Coolidge will visit and address the gathering, as will also Secretary of State Kellogg and other officials of the national government. Prime-Minister Mowinkel, Bishop Lunde of Oslo, the Primate of the Church of Norway, and representatives of the Storting of Norway, have promised to come, likewise the prime ministers of Iceland, Canada and several of the Canadian provinces and the governors of several of the states of the Union.

Mention must be made also of the Academic Choir of the University of Oslo, Norway, St. Olaf Lutheran Choir, St. Olaf and Luther Colleges, Bands, the Augsburg Glee Club, and other musical organizations too numerous to mention. A special feature of the last evening's entertainment will be a monster pageant, depicting various acts and features of Norse immigration and pioneer life here. An actual-sized replica of the boat "Restaurationen", the Mayflower of the North, the little open ship in which the first 53 immigrants braved the waves of the Atlantic to come to America, will be on exhibition. The world's largest dirigible airship "The Los Angeles" and a air fleet of fifty planes will make the trip to Fair Grounds for the event and will be on exhibition. "The Los Angeles" will pass over Milwaukee, and perhaps Madison, on its trip from Washington to St. Paul. These are but a few but the most outstanding features of the attractions offered, all of which show that this celebration in preparation will be of international scope and importance.

As preparations are thus being made to celebrate the coming of the early Norse immigrants to America, a little early history of more local interest, pertaining to their coming to Wisconsin, and to Lafayette and Green Counties in particular, may be in order.

It was about a decade after the arrival of the first little boatload of

immigrants in the "Restaurationen" into New York harbor, or about 1836 that two more small vessels brought some 150 souls, who wished to make this land of plenty their home. Most of them came West and settled in and near Chicago, but most of them in LaSalle County, Illinois. It was not very long thereafter that the first Norwegians found their way to Lafayette Co., the first settling about Wiota. One among these was he of whom a brief biographical sketch follows:

Arne Anderson Vinje left Boss, (near Bergen) for America April 16, 1840, in company with some 20 persons. They were about five months on the ocean and arrived in Chicago in September. Arne Anderson Vinje located for the time being in Chicago, where with And. Nelson Braekke, they built a log house. But the next spring Arne Anderson Vinje and Peter Davidson Skjervheim, each with a yoke of oxen, after five days of travel, arrived at Hamilton Diggins (Wiota) July 7, 1841. (Arne Anderson Vinje was an ancestor of Chief Justice Vinje of the state supreme court.) If you note the date you will see that some of the very earliest pioneers settled in this vicinity. As they arrived in larger numbers, most of them came by way of Milwaukee but many came by way of Chicago. Wiota, Rock county and Koshkonong were the nearby places where the majority of the immigrants located.

The following named persons obtained government land and were among the first settlers in Lafayette county: Knut Knudson, Nels L. Fenne, Arne A. Vinje, Peter Skjedvheim, Nels Nelson, Ole Anderson, Erik Engelbretson, and Helge Olson.

When the railroad was built as far as Monroe, many arrived at that place, and then continued their journey to their chosen homes by foot or by ox team. Monroe was, at that time, the end of the line.

It will thus be seen that Wisconsin was the destination of many of the early Norwegian immigrants. Later, the lure of the great wheat fields of Minnesota, Iowa and the Dakotas drew the greater mass of the immigrants in the sixties, seventies and eighties, when the number began to decrease.

While this early history is very interesting, reciting the exploits of the sturdy forefathers of so many of the readers of the Blade, we cannot very well go further into detail. The early Norse settlers were almost all of the hardy agricultural class of the old country, and their success, while most remarkable, is but one episode in the grand exploits of millions of those from all parts of northern Europe, who came here, and who have, under God and our free institutions, made this land what it

is today.

It is probable that many from also these parts will be going to attend the Norse-American Centennial Celebration at St. Paul. Tickets are being sold in advance, and are being offered for \$1.00 for the three days doings, until May 15th, when this special price ends. After that they can be secured only at the admission rates which will prevail at gates, or half a dollar for each day. Locally, tickets are sold by Rev. J. A. Houkom, and anyone expecting to go should secure one at the advance sale price before next Fri

Blanchardville, Wis., Blade
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1925
Another Centennial.

A few days after the Norse-American Centennial had taken place, the one hundredth birthday anniversary of Rev. H. A. Preus was celebrated at a banquet in Odin Club, Minneapolis. Mr. Preus—the grandfather of the late Governor J. A. O. Preus—was born in Kristianssand, Norway, June 16, 1825, graduated from the University of Norway, and came to the United States in 1849. He was one of the founders of the Norwegian Synod whose president he was from 1862 until his death in 1894.

Colonel Heg

For Claire McLeod
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1925

Contribution of Norse to be Given Marked Observance

Through interest taken by said men as Editor William Ager and others, contributions of the Norwegian race to America will be given marked observances by Wisconsin and other states as well as the nation this year, the centennial of the beginning of the Norwegian immigration in the United States.

The centennial will be marked with a celebration in Minneapolis in June. Official recognition of the anniversary also will be taken by the government in the form of a special stamp issue.

The Norwegian element has been one of the great factors in the development of the northwest. Wisconsin was for some decades the chief home of the nationality and furnished thousands of colonists for states farther west.

Wisconsin raised a Norwegian regiment during the Civil war, the gallant Fifteenth Wisconsin, which stands first among Wisconsin regiments in losses and sacrifices for the union. Its colonel, Hans C. Heg, fell at Chickamauga while leading a brigade, one of the two highest Wisconsin officers killed during the war.

The first Norwegian newspaper in America was printed in Col. Heg's father's house in the Muskego settlement, Racine county, where Col. Heg is buried.

A fund has been raised for a statue to commemorate the services and fame of Col. Heg, and as a memorial to the Fifteenth Wisconsin and the Norwegian pioneer element, which statue it is proposed to have unveiled in the capitol park on September 18, the anniversary of the battle of Chickamauga. A resolution authorizing the erection of the statue at Madison has already been adopted by the assembly and is now before the senate for final action.

St. Paul, Minn., News
SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 1925

Statue of Norwegian, Civil War Commander, Donated to Wisconsin



This is the statue of Col. Hans Heg, who organized and commanded the 15th Wisconsin volunteers, a Norse regiment which fought in the Civil war.

Col. Heg was killed at the battle of Chickamauga in 1863. His life is the central theme of a pageant to be given during the Norse-American centennial program ~~at the~~ fair grounds grandstand Tuesday night.

The statue was donated to the state of Wisconsin by the Norse society, of which O. P. B. Jacobson is president. It will be placed on the state capitol grounds at Madison, Wis., and dedicated July 4.

The statue is the work of Paul Fjelde, New York, who now is studying in Europe on a scholarship awarded by the American-Scandinavian foundation. He is a son of the late Jacob Fjelde, sculptor of the Ole Bull statue in Loring park, Minneapolis.

Hans C. Heg
JUN 25 1924 30

Norwegian Birthplace Dedicates Monument To American Soldier

OSLO, Norway, June 25 (AP).—A bronze monument to Colonel Hans Heg, commander of the Fifteenth Wisconsin Regiment in the Civil War, was unveiled in front of the county hall at Lier today as part of the Norse-American centennial celebration. The ceremony was attended by about 200 Americans.

The statue, a duplicate of one unveiled a few weeks ago on the capitol grounds at Madison, Wis., is a gift from the Norse-Americans of the Midwest to Lier, where Colonel Heg was born.

The American Minister, Laurits S. Swenson, delivered the dedication address. Paying tribute to the spirit of Colonel Heg in organizing the regiment, which was composed chiefly of Norwegians, the Minister said he hoped it would "help stimulate many young Norwegians to follow the same high ideals."

Other speakers were Secretary of War Rolf Jacksobsen and Lynde Speaker of the Storth

Amundsen

Crookston, Minn., Times
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1925

AMUNDSEN HEADED FOR CENTENNIAL

Kolakola, Eskimoland, June 1—(By the Artic Press)—A large aeroplane passed over this city, at 2 a. m. this morning. It was decorated with an American flag in front and a Norwegian flag at the rear. The Daily Blizzard will say that it is Amundsen on his way to the Norse Centennial at St. Paul.

WHEELING W VA TELE
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1925.

President in Tribute to Amundsen

State Fair Grounds, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., June 8.—(LNS)—President Coolidge, in his address before the Norse-American Centennial celebration here today, paid glowing tribute to the daring of the blonde sons of Norway, singling out especially the intrepid Amundsen, now missing somewhere in the ice wastes near the top of the world.

"They found the western ocean," he said, "and it was a Norseman who first traversed Bering Straits and demonstrated that there was no land connection between Asia and North America. . . . Within a very few years one of them first traversed the northwest passage from Atlantic to Pacific; and the same one, Amundsen, carried the flag of Norway to the south pole; and now, within a few days past, he has again been the first to make large explorations in the region of the north pole in an airplane, tempting a fate which, as I write, is unknown."

Iowa City, Ia., Citizen
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1925

ASK AMUNDSEN AID FROM U. S.

Want Dirigibles to Go
Northward; Wilbur Re-
fuses Norwegian Request

(By Associated Press)
OSLO, June 9—It was announced today that the Norwegian Aero-association has asked the Amundsen American committee to organize an American Relief expedition.

WASHINGTON, June 9—Secretary Wilbur has no intention of sending either of the dirigibles, Los Angeles and Shenandoah, in search of the missing Amundsen polar expedition.

No Wild Goose Chase

In announcing refusal of a request by the Norwegian aerial society that one of the airships be sent to the rescue, the secretary declared, "we are not going to make any wild goose-chase to the polar regions." The navy department has not changed its opinion that such an expedition is not feasible, Mr. Wilbur said.

Difficulties attending a dirigible flight to the pole, the secretary believes, would be greater than those of heavier machines, with the airship mooring at every weather change.

Plan Another Expedition

The Los Angeles, which turned back Sunday at Cleveland when motors connected with her water recovery system failed, will resume her flight to Minnesota, probably tomorrow for the Norse-American centennial, as soon as repairs are affected, the secretary announced.

Meanwhile, another Amundsen relief party is reported forming in Paris. Dispatches last night related that Dr. Jean Charcot, polar explorer, intends to leave early in July to search for the Amundsen party. The Frenchman believes that the expedition is safe and is attempting to reach a settlement before the polar winter begins.

ASHEHAR BRYA, LA., TOWN TALK
JUNE 13, 1925.

WILBUR NOT TO SEND DIRIGIBLE

Search For Amundsen He
Says Would Be Wild
Goose Chase

WASHINGTON, June 9.—(By A. P.)—Secretary Wilbur has no intention of sending either of the dirigibles, Los Angeles and Shenandoah, in search of the missing Amundsen polar expedition.

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one of the airships be sent to the rescue, the secretary declared, "We are not going to send any wild goose chase to the polar regions." The Navy Department has not changed its opinion that such an expedition is not feasible, and Mr. Wilbur pointed out yesterday that, if sent, it could not be ready to operate before the three airplanes with the MacMillan Arctic expedition could make a search for Amundsen.

Difficulties attending a dirigible flight to the pole, he believes, would be greater than those heavier machines, with the airship more highly susceptible to weather conditions. An added danger, he said, would lie in possible recurrence of engine trouble which forced the Los Angeles to break off her trip to Minnesota.

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A similar view was expressed by meteorologists and airplane experts who returned to Bergen, Norway, yesterday from Spitzbergen, where they were associated with the Amundsen party in preliminary preparations for the venture. They were confident that the expedition is safe and that its members are hiking across the ice fields toward Cape Columbia.

Unless the missing party is heard from by August 1, when the MacMillan party will reach Etah, in Greenland, Boston dispatches said, MacMillan may start a search at that time, using two of his naval planes. He proposes to trace Amundsen's supposed course between Cape Columbia and the pole.

Asks for U. S. Relief

OSLO, June 9.—(By A. P.)—It was announced today that the Norwegian Aero Association has asked the Amundsen American committee to organize an American relief expedition.

Northwest Norse Cable Amundsen Congratulations

Message Sent to Spitzbergen
by Dr. Bothne of Cen-
tennial Committee.

The congratulations of Norse-Americans of the northwest were cabled to Roald Amundsen and members of his party at Spitzbergen Thursday night by Dr. Gisle Bothne, chairman of the executive committee of the Norse-American centennial.

"We were indeed glad to hear of the safe return of Mr. Amundsen," Dr. Bothne said, in discussing the return. "He deserves the congratulations of every member of his race for his daring venture and successful return."

The cablegram was signed by Dr. Bothne as head of the centennial committee.

Arne Kildal of New York city, a friend of Amundsen and an official representative of the Norwegian government at the Norse-American centennial celebration, said he was certain the explorer will make another attempt to reach the pole by air.

"Amundsen comes of hardy Viking stock, and undoubtedly will try once more," Mr. Kildal said. "He is the greatest of all arctic explorers and we have every faith and confidence in him. We know that he will continue his quest of the pole until he succeeds."

Norwegians, Mr. Kildal said, never once lost confidence that Amundsen would return.

