

P562 box 9

NAHA Norse American Centennial  
MSS Minnesota Press Comments  
1925

4

# SCRAP BOOK



Ada, Minn., Herald  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1925

Mr. Hollis Lystad.

### WILL EXPERIENCE THRILL OF LIVES

People of this section who intend to take in the Norse-American Centennial in the Twin Cities in June will be pleased to hear that the Secretary of the Navy has notified officers of the Centennial Committee that the giant dirigible "Los Angeles" will accompany a fleet of commercial planes from both the army and navy departments. The plane "Shenandoah" could not be sent because of lack of helium.

Ada (Minn.) Index  
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1925

### AN OPPORTUNITY TO BOOST

The Norse-American Centennial is less than three weeks away, and preparations are being made to entertain the greatest throng that ever invaded the Northwest. There will be people present from all parts of this country and hundreds have already left European ports for Minnesota.

This would seem to be a good time for the people of Minnesota to do some talking for the benefit of the visitors. It is without question an opportunity for us to let them know what Minnesota has, and what a great state it is. It is on such occasions that Californians get in their deadliest work. Nothing pleases them more than to corner visitors and regale them with the wonders of their state.

Compared with the wonders of Minnesota, California hasn't any. For every asset claimed by California, Minnesota can claim at least five and make the claim stick, moreover. But California has been exploited and Minnesota hasn't. There's the rub and the difference. Millions of California dollars—tourists' dollars, by the way—have gone to tell the world all about the West coast, to bring more tourists to it, and each dollar has paid big returns. Minnesota is approaching the day when it will be exploited. Meanwhile, such an event as the Norse-American centenary should be grasped by Minnesotans to convince their guests that here indeed is one of the world's wonders.

Ada (Minn.) Index  
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1925

President Coolidge's recent address at the Minnesota State Fair grounds in commemoration of those Norsemen who emigrated to the United States a hundred years ago, has called forth unbounded enthusiasm in Norway, which is reflected in news dispatches, special articles and editorials in the Norwegian papers.

Albert Lea, Minn. Standard  
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1925

### NORSE AMERICAN'S

Naturally Freeborn County takes an active interest in the Norse-American Centennial celebration which takes place at the state fair grounds in early June. The early settlers of this community were largely recruited from the Scandinavian countries with Norwegians predominating. There was a time, not so many years back when the Norwegian language was almost as common as English and a person was badly handicapped who could not speak both tongues. For many years the "newcomer" was a common sight. Arriving here penniless, he or she soon became used to the new surroundings and customs and in a surprisingly short space of time, land would be acquired and a farm started. That these Norwegian farmers and tradesmen have prospered, we have but to look around us to prove. Not only that but they have become Americanized as few nationalities do. There are no better or more loyal sons and daughters on Uncle Sam today than those of Norwegian ancestry. They are proud of their adopted country and the older generation are proud of them.

Alexandria, Minn., Echo  
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1925

### A STRANGER IN OUR MIDST

There was a decided contrast between the reception given to Calvin Coolidge, vice-president, at the Minnesota fair grounds in the fall of 1922 and that given to President Coolidge at the same place by the same people this week. It was the same man who talked to them Monday and who received their respectful attention, whose speech fell on inattentive ears less than three years ago and whose personality was so displeasing to them then that they rudely requested him to quit talking and let the races go on. Calvin Coolidge has not changed at all. The difference is—and it is a big one—that he is now President of the United States. The office is entitled to respect and honor, no matter what individual holds it, and what the President has to say is of interest to everybody as indicating the lines on which our government is to function in the immediate future.

The "Coolidge myth" built up during the political campaign last year has been relegated to its proper place among the bedtime stories by now. People who thought that it might be true that Calvin Coolidge was an entirely different sort of man than they had pictured him while he was vice-president, realize that they have been victimized by clever press agent work. So the reception of the President when he arrived in St. Paul Sunday, with the city filled with visitors to the Centennial was, according to St. Paul papers, nothing like that given to Roosevelt or Taft or Wilson in the past. Those men were "human" and aroused enthusiasm for their personalities, as well as the respect accorded to the great office they bore. President Coolidge, on the other hand, was "politely" applauded but there was no throwing of hats into the air during his speech to the immense crowd attending the Centennial.

A generation ago it would have been different. Then there were enough Yankees in the Northwest to have given Calvin Coolidge a kinsman's welcome. They could have appreciated his peculiar personality and warmed to it. But that generation is gone and their descendants are too far from New England in birth and training to care for the Yankee personality. So in a sense, Calvin Coolidge was a stranger in a strange land this week. He is not kin to the present generation in the Northwest; he is a stranger in our midst.

## The Norse-American Centennial

The Norse-American Centennial, commemorating the sailing of the first immigrants from Norway to America in 1825, will be staged on the Minnesota State Fair Grounds, June 6, 7, 8, and 9. Arrangements for the use of the grounds by the executive committee of the Norse Centennial were completed at the last meeting of the State Fair Board.

The four-day celebration is expected to bring hundreds of thousands of people to the Twin Cities, including high officials of both United States and Norway. President Calvin Coolidge has infomed the exectlve committee, that he will be present at the celebration, barring unforeseen complications.

Many big features are planned for the four-day program. A big pageant will be presented depicting the early life of the pioneers. Singing by the world-famous St. Olaf choir, under the direction of Prof. F. Melius Christianson, band concerts by the Luther College band of Decorah, in addition to a score other big features, are being planned by the program committee.

S. H. Holstad of Minneapolis, is managing director for the Centennial. His offices are at the Nicollet Aotel.

Baevle (Minn.) Independent  
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1925

### THE CENTENNIAL AND THE WONDERS OF MINNESOTA

With the opening of the Norse-American centennial at the Minnesota state fair grounds less than four weeks away, preparations to entertain the greatest throng that ever invaded the Northwest are going forward with all possible speed.

From all points of the compass the celebrants are coming. Already many of them have left European ports for Minnesota.

This would seem to be a good time for the people of Minnesota to do some talking for the benefit of the visitors. It is without question an opportunity for us to let them know what Minnesota has, and what a great state it is.

It is on such occasions that Californians get in their deadliest work. Nothing pleases them more than to corner visitors and regale them with the wonders of their state.

Compared with the wonders of Minnesota, California hasn't any. For every asset claimed by California, Minnesota can claim at least five and make the claim stick, moreover. But California has been exploited and Minnesota hasn't. There's the rub and the difference. Millions of California dollars—tourists' dollars, by the way—have gone to tell the world all about the West coast, to bring more tourists to it, and each dollar has paid big returns

Minnesota is approaching the day when it will be exploited. Meanwhile such an event as the Norse-American centenary should be grasped by Minnesotans to convince their guests that here indeed is one of the world's wonder spots.

Battle Lake (Minn.) Review  
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1925

## Battle Lake Review

C. J. FILLER, Publisher.

Terms. \$2.00 per year payable in advance.

Entered as second class matter at the postoffice at Battle Lake, Minn.

Thursday, April 23, 1925.

### AN OUTSTANDING PIONEER

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 forest and stone and developed the soil and built their homes. He located the village of Wittenberg and gave it its name and this because 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 Tellemarken, Norway, October 17, 1843. In 1854 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, and 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 of 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 them and it was 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.

As stated before, Rev. Homme was a firm believer in printer's ink. He edited and printed a paper called "For Gammel of Ung," a Sunday school paper both in the Norwegian and English language, the "Veisenhus" calendar, and a paper called "The Christian Youth." The first paper published, "For Gammel of Ung" has been published regularly for 45 years and is still being edited and printed at the children's home.

Pastor Homme managed all these undertakings himself, traveling extensively, did a great deal of home mission work and edited his papers until the Lutheran church of America conducted the time of his death, June 22, 1903.

At the present time the Norwegian nine homes for the aged with a total capacity of 390 inmates and conducts seven orphanages with a total capacity of 881 children. Three rescue homes for girls located at Minneapolis, Fargo and Sioux Falls, caring for about 250 girls and their babies annually. It has also 24 city, slum and hospital missionaries in 14 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 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.

Bemidji, Minn., Pioneer  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1925

this north country an outlet for

### A HEARTY WELCOME

Minnesota extended a hearty and cordial welcome to President Coolidge during his visit to the Norse Centennial in the Twin Cities this week. It was a welcome that bespoke confidence. It more than made up for the discourtesy of the state fair crowd a few years ago. It was a splendid testimonial to a nation's chief executive who has popularized himself with the public thru deeds rather than through words.

Bemidji, Minn., Sentinel  
FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1925

### A HEARTY WELCOME

Minnesota extended a hearty and cordial welcome to President Coolidge during his visit to the Norse Centennial in the Twin Cities this week. It was a welcome that bespoke confidence. It more than made up for the discourtesy of the state fair crowd a few years ago. It was a splendid testimonial to a nation's chief executive who has popularized himself with the public thru deeds rather than through words.

Benson, Minn. Monitor  
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1925

### Living Flag At Centennial

A most interesting and unique feature of the Norse American centennial at the state fair grounds next month promises to be the "Living Flag." This will be featured Monday afternoon, June 8, in connection with President Coolidge's address in front of the mammoth grandstand at the Minnesota state fair grounds. This "living flag" will be composed of 600 St. Paul children, who will be trained for their parts under direction of Mrs. John O. Lee. A special stand will be built for the children so all the tens of thousands of people may see it. The children will be dressed in the colors of the Norse and United States flags—red, white and blue—most of them with reversible capes (one color on each side). They will first appear as the Norwegian flag, while "Ja, vi elsker dette landet" is sung—and then at a given signal, the children will reverse their capes in such manner as will transform the Norse flag in the twinkling of an eye to the "Stars and Stripes." Besides the magnificent spectacle afforded, the change from one flag to the other will also visualize the ease and willingness with which Norse immigrants are transformed into loyal American citizens. This one feature of the dozens planned for the centennial will in itself be well worth the price of admission and is sure to leave a vivid and lasting impression upon all fortunate enough to view it.

Braham (Minn.) Journal  
FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1925

### CENTENNIAL OF NORSE AMERICAN WILL BE BIG EVENT IN MINNESOTA

The Norse American centennial, which will take place at the Minnesota state fair grounds June 6, 7, 8, and 9, will be one of the finest things ever held in this state. It is estimated that many thousands of people will attend this immense celebration, not only people of Norwegian birth, but of all nationalities. It is said the centennial will rival the state fair in interesting events.

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. Norse emigration to America began more than 100 years ago, in the sailing of the sloop, "Restauration" and the founding of the first Norwegian settlement in America. That marked the beginning of a real emigration from Norway to this country. The Restauration, or the "Mayflower of the North," as it was called, sailed from Stavanger harbor July 4, 1825. After a perilous voyage through the English channel and by way of the Island of Madeira, they reached New York October 9, 1825. From 1825 to 1836 only a small number of immigrants arrived.

The program of the centennial will include speakers and musicians of world wide fame. The president of the United States and members of his cabinet will represent the government of the United States; the premier of Canada will speak for the dominion of the north; Crown Prince Olaf, the prelate of Norway, and Dr. Fritof Nansen will represent Norway. Some distinguished son of Iceland will represent the famous island where the Norsemen settled a thousand years ago, and from where they sailed to America almost 500 years before Columbus saw the western world.

Buhl, Minn., Herald  
FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1925

#### DISCOURTESY TO THE PRESIDENT

Last Monday President Coolidge visited the Norse-American Centennial at the State Fair Grounds. It was a notable gathering of good citizens and the visit by the president was a very fitting thing.

But on the pages of the daily press, in the same issue that recorded the president's visit, was a political discussion by David Lawrence, appraising the value of the trip from a political standpoint, throwing upon the visit of the president a political interpretation.

We know that President Coolidge does not wish that his acts, his words, his courtesies be measured by the standards of politics.

The president's visit should be given no political significance whatever. It was not a political undertaking.—Grand Rapids Herald Review.

Chisholm, Minn., Miner  
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1925

#### COOLIDGE'S SECOND ST. PAUL ADVENTURE

Twin-City people gave President Coolidge a better reception than they gave Vice President Coolidge, according to daily newspaper accounts of the visit this week of President Coolidge at the Norse Centennial at Saint Paul. On the former visit the then vice president had come to deliver an address to the people at the state fair but was rudely interrupted in the course of his talk by people who wanted to attend the horse races instead, newspapers say. Last Sunday and Monday the crush of people about the president was so great that several were overcome and had to be taken to hospitals in ambulances.

Coleraine, Minn., News  
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1925

thy with it, and not those who are trying to undermine the country.

#### THE NORSEMEN ARE COMING

Long before Columbus came to America the Norsemen are reputed to have visited America, and the fact is not generally disputed. However in June they are coming again, the occasion being the Norse-American centennial. Minneapolis, the leading Scandinavian city in the United States, will be the gathering place.

At this gathering there will be many representatives of royalty present, especially from Norway. The Crown Prince of Norway will be present, and the King may be present. There will be representatives of royalty from other Scandinavian countries and from England. President and Mrs. Coolidge will honor the occasion and there will be governors, congressmen, and other distinguished people of our own country present. The Twin Cities are planning to entertain 500,000 people at this time.

A part of the program is to be a stupendous pageant depicting the history of Norse-Americans up to the present time, with scenes from both countries, and showing the departure from Norway, the arrival and the development of Norwegian people in America.

America owes a great deal to these Scandinavian immigrants, admitted by all authorities as the best material coming to our shores. The occasion is one to cement the friendship of America with the Norse country, and that alone is of vast importance. Anything that builds and fosters amity between nations is worth while.

Crookston, Minn., Leader  
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1925

#### NORSE CELEBRATION.

The Norse-American Centennial celebration at the State Fair Grounds next week 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 secretary of state of the United States will both be present. Men of the highest rank in public life of Norway will come and other countries also will contribute to the number of distinguished guests.

There are those who do not appreciate the significance of this celebration and some even look up 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 an 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 the hour of need.

America has always welcomed the people of the Norse 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 week 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.

Crookston, Minn., Leader  
FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1925

### KLENG PEERSON AND THE PILGRIMS.

The Norse Centennial which was celebrated in Minnesota on a national scale last week was really the culmination of a thousand years of Norse adventure and development; a grateful, though perhaps tardy, recognition, of the value of the Norse strain in American blood and Viking enterprise spreading over a continent. It is most fitting that such a centennial should be celebrated in Minnesota, which has drawn these builders of our national life in greater number than any other of the two-score states which might justly have expected to attract such a migration.

Delhi, Minn., Builder  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1925

## My Word

### NORSE MEN.

The great celebration just drawing to a close in the city of Minneapolis has brought the Norsepeople in this and other states very much into the lime light, and for this reason we naturally constrained to appraise them with reference to the contribution that they have made and are making to the worth while things in American life. They have added greatly to Minnesota's material wealth, having helped to break up prairies and clear her great timber areas. They have been abreast of the foremost in educational life and leadership, and are today among the most progressive of our people in this line. In political circles they have and are today playing a leading role. Among our most famous Senators and Governors, their names rank high. They are a religious people, and have been very solicitous for the welfare of the church in their settlements. They have been a progressive people in the way of making public and private improvements of a modern and lasting kind.

If the centennial celebration serves to bring a better mutual appreciation of this element in our citizenship it will have done well. We hope that it will in no way serve to make any separation between our Norse citizens and the rest of us. Minnesota's population is made up of many national elements from other lands. These must not remain in any sense as separate units but must be amalgamated into a whole body of American citizens with an American type of nationality and genius. In this new national race that is rising on this continent, the Norse blood is needed as one of its best elements, but it must henceforth be willing to let its Norse peculiarities be amalgamated into the fabric of the Americanism that is to be. America must increase, and Norway must decrease, as far as Norwegians in this country are concerned and we believe that the best thought of the Norse elements in our American civilization are striving for just that end. All national elements are being slowly merged to the forming of a new race, an American race. May the Norse as well as all other elements yield themselves gladly to the duties, privileges and sacrifices of the Great American Experiment.

Dodge Center (Minn.) Record  
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1925

## Norse-American 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, 1836, 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. Langeberg, who came to St. Paul with her brother, Amund, in 1850. They were natives of Hallingdal, 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 Minnesota. It was during Ramsey's 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 Meeker county and still later to Minneapolis.

### Norway's Fourth of July

This is but one of several notable anniversaries in the history of Norway, but it is generally regarded as Norway's "Fourth of July."

On May 17, 1814, the Norwegian constitution was adopted, and the anniversary of that date is generally observed as the Norwegian independence day.

Other dates in Norwegian history, however, are of outstanding importance. The Treaty of Vienna, in 1814, for example, gave Norway her independence from Denmark. The country was ceded to Sweden, and Norway and Sweden were for many years governed by one king. But the constitution of Norway, adopted in 1814, was based largely on the constitution of the American republic and it was so democratic in its provisions that it caused constant friction with the crown. This friction continued until June 7, 1905, when Norway declared its independence of Sweden. At least three dates, therefore stand out in Norwegian history as "independence day," but the anniversary of the adoption of the constitution is the one generally celebrated.

Here in Minnesota "the seventeenth of May" is widely celebrated because of the large number of those of Norwegian birth or parentage who have helped settle this state. And it is a celebration with which all of American citizens can be in full sympathy. The constitution which Norway adopted 110 years ago today, differed but little in principle, from the constitution of the American republic. That meant that Norwegians who came to America as pioneers were fitted to become American citizens with but little training. They knew and valued freedom for they had lived under a constitution like ours. There is therefore nothing in today's celebration that is not in complete harmony with the best American ideals.

A little later in the year the centennial of Norwegian settlement in America will be observed with a celebration of international importance. Today's exercises, held in every city in which there is any material number of Americans of Norwegian descent, will be a fitting forerunner of the bigger celebration to be held later in the year.

Duluth, Minn., Farmer  
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1925

### THE NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL.

An important milestone in the history of the United States will be celebrated at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds from June 6 to 9 inclusive in honor of the hundredth anniversary of the Norse migration to America. The president and members of the royal family of Norway will take part in the exercises and representatives of other nations will be present to do honor to the people who have had so large and honorable a share in the development of this nation.

One hundred years ago the little ship Restauration landed the first load of Norwegian immigrants on American shores. Since then many thousands have followed them and become an inseparable part of American life. They came with the fixed idea of making their homes here with the result that they assumed their part of the burden of making America what it is, as well as enjoying its benefits. It is no more than fitting that the state in which they settled in such large numbers should stage a great memorial of their arrival in this country.

These people with their racial cousins have been the greatest force in the agricultural development of the Northwest. They were the pioneers who changed the prairies and the forests into farms and they are still carrying on the work in the cut over lands of Northern Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Too much honor cannot be accorded a race with such a record of accomplishment. May their prosperity continue.

## WELCOME TO MINNESOTA, MR. PRESIDENT!

When Calvin Coolidge, president of the United States, reaches Minnesota tomorrow on his way to take part in the centennial celebration of the first immigration from Norway to this country, this state will welcome him at its threshold with open arms, and with its heart full of respect and affection for, and confidence in, this real American who has been guided to the leadership of the affairs of this country.

The president will find himself, in Minnesota, among his friends.

That would be true of any other state that he might visit; but there is no other state where his welcome would be warmer or where the support he may look for could be stronger or more enduring.

Out of one of the hottest political battles in its history, Minnesota plucked a handsome victory for Calvin Coolidge in the last presidential campaign. It did that because a majority of its people had confidence in him, because they believed in him, because they recognized his durable and useful qualities and because they wanted him to have a chance to apply those qualities to the affairs of the nation of which Minnesota is a part.

Not a word or deed of the president since his election has abated one jot of that confidence.

On the other hand, every word and deed has strengthened it.

If an election were to be held today, President Coolidge would have many more supporters and many fewer opponents in Minnesota than he had last November; and among his stoutest supporters today would be many who were among his most vigorous opponents seven months ago.

Minnesota is very proud today. It is proud of the president it helped to elect. It is proud of the sturdy citizenship of Norwegian extraction whose centennial has brought the president here. And it is proud to be host to the president, not merely because he is the president but because the president is Calvin Coolidge.

Minnesota rejoices in the honor of this visit. It rejoices in the sturdy Americanism of the president—in his high qualities of justice and honor and wisdom and common sense. It rejoices in his vision, in his grasp of the ideals and destiny of America and of America's place and duty in the world.

Minnesota, happy to have the president as its guest, is behind him in his great work.

It is behind him in his study of economy, of wise spending and of wise restraint in spending.

It is behind him in his ideals of improving the government service.

And it is behind him in his purpose of using his influence to make America a member of the World Court, and to put the power of this strong nation back of sound and sensible and practical projects to set up law and order and peace in the world in place of anarchy and disorder and the perennial threat of war.

Welcome to Minnesota, Calvin Collidge—president of the United States.

Welcome to Minnesota, Calvin Coolidge—American!

Minnesota is with you and for you.

Minnesota hails you as its guest, assures you anew of its loyalty and its confidence, and promises you its utmost in the support of every project for the well-being of America and all Americans to which you may address your heart and your mind.

Duluth, Minn., News-Tribune  
SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 1925

### 'Gentlemen, The President'

The president of the United States of America is a guest of the state of Minnesota today.

Unfortunately he will not visit Duluth, but he is taking part in the Norwegian centennial celebration in the Twin Cities.

Even if this were territory politically hostile to Mr. Coolidge, the citizens of Minnesota would be proud to pay tribute to the office he holds.

But Mr. Coolidge, fortunately, holds the admiration and respect of the citizens of this state not only as a president but as a man. We gave him a vote of confidence last November, and if the election were held today it is very likely that the vote would be even more decisive than it was. Mr. Coolidge has grown in popular esteem since last November. He "wears well."

Up here in Minnesota we may have a little different blood in our veins from what they have in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Minnesota was settled chiefly by Scandinavians, Canadians and Germans, while New England was settled chiefly by men and women from the British Isles. But we all recognize moral courage, integrity, common sense, and plain, everyday homely virtues when we see them in a fellow American. Mr. Coolidge came to Minnesota as the particular guest of our citizens of Norwegian birth, but he will receive a whole-hearted welcome from every citizen of the state, both because he is our president and because he commands our respect and affection for his own personal qualities.

Minnesota today toasts—that may be an unfortunate word in view of the temperature—the president of the American republic.

Iron Valley, Minn., Journal  
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1925

President Coolidge spoke before the assembled Norwegians Monday at the state fair grounds. The hardy Norsemen came in for a good and well merited eulogy of praise.

Fairmont Minn., Independent  
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1925

### WE'RE OFF AGAIN

Next week comes the Norse Centennial. We will all pour into the Twin Cities in crowded day coaches, or wrangle with other madmen for the right of way along the highways; we'll find all the hotels crowded and invoke all the pull we have to get a cot in a hallway.

We'll be jostled around with 100,000 others at the fair grounds, groping and elbowing our way from one building to another; we'll rush madly to see the Los Angeles as 300 men pull her down from the clouds. We'll view the Norwegian May flower through the steam of much sweat, and quarrel with other simpletons for the privilege of paying a big price to rent a bathing suit and wash off the dirt with Lake Minnetonka water.

We'll buy a little bad liquor on the presumption that it must be better than the home product because it comes from a big town, and then we'll take the pledge again.

All tired out, wan and with only a hide and some bones left to remind us we once were men, we'll start home with the jitney piled full of trinkets. Then we're just as likely as not to be downright sick for a while. Four days later, however, we'll appear on the streets with a big smile and declare with all sincerity that "It was wonderful; we're sure going to the fair, too."

Fairmont Minn., Independent  
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1925

It was a bitter pill for the Minn they had to write "President Arrive Paul sheets were in their glory. ( was St. Paul and nothing else.



Fairmont Minn. Independent  
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1925

### A CHANCE FOR THE SWEDES

The Swedes are out to put on a celebration that will make the Norwegian blowout look like an imitation and they don't mean maybe. Being a good Norwegian, we don't believe they can do it but if the Swedes can eliminate one thing in their festival we will attend. We would like to see them take the commercialism, that spoiled many a Norwegian-American's visit to the Twin Cities, out of the Swedish affair.

From the time the visitors left the trains in the Twin Cities last week until they tore themselves away they were beset by hucksters, curb merchants, peanut profiteers, penny ante skin game operators, and all manner of pests who sought their nickles and dimes. Along the streets leading from the railway stations it was like running a gauntlet. The visitors, most of them from small towns and farms, were either too good natured or too unfamiliar with city ways to pass unheedingly. They had to stop and politely decline to buy, or accept something to escape. At the Fairgrounds it was as bad. Every turn meant that another official had to be subsidized.

To the visitors this was expected. They knew Minneapolis and St. Paul and came thoroughly reconciled to paying three prices for everything they bought and being insulted for not buying more. They handed out their coins for geegaws and small favors and petty concessions with good grace and joked good naturedly among themselves about it. Generally speaking, their own pile had not been accumulated in this fashion but—the centennial only comes once in a hundred years.

If the Swedes will eliminate these pests and refuse to allow their celebration to be for many persons merely a chance to line their pockets, we will not only admit that they have excelled the Norwegians but the whole world.

Fairmont Minn. Independent  
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1925

### EDITORIAL OF THE HOUR

(St. Paul News)

Visiting newspaper men expressed some doubt as to the wisdom of Sec. Kellogg's address at the Norse-American convention Monday. One writer suggested that it might be considered a "discordant note" in Pres. Coolidge's friendship overtures to the northwest, in that LaFollette made his campaign—issues to which many of the convention visitors conscientiously subscribed.

The Daily News does not believe the speech was ill advised. If there is one thing a Norseman likes, it is courage. The men and women who heard Mr. Kellogg are of the type which prefers to have a statesman strike straight out rather than beat about the bush.

The pleasant things the secretary of state told the convention visitors had the ring of sincerity. If they recognized in his references to "tampering with our confusion" an attack on La Follette, they must also have felt that he was sincere in that also.

Many of us used to think that Mr. Kellogg was overcareful. His remarks while in the senate were always guarded and carefully calculated as to effect on his party.

That he now fearlessly utters the things he feels is evidence to us that he has grown bigger.

We believe that his Norse-American auditors will agree with this.

Fairmont Minn. Independent  
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1925

Did President Coolidge, we wonder, hark back in memory to his last speech from the rostrum at the Minnesota state fair grounds, when he was hooted down after he had wearied the crowd? If so he must have passed an internal compliment to the increasing good taste and courtesy of northwestern crowds.—Fergus Falls Tribune.

Some difference between president and vice president. As president he has thousands of fat jobs at his disposal; a vice president about all he has to dispense is "what the boy should do." Still, President Coolidge is not in any way a bigger man than was Vice-President Coolidge.

Fairbault Minn. News  
SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1925

### THE NORSE CENTENNIAL.

In connection with the coming Norse-American Centennial to be held at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds on June 7-8-9, it might be of interest to point out the events which the Centennial commemorates.

The Centennial observes the one hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the sloop "Restaurationen" bringing the first Norse immigrants to the United States. Its purpose is to show in an impressive manner the events in the Norse immigration to America and the things which these immigrants have accomplished in the land of their adoption.

There have been two important migrations from Norway. The first began nearly a thousand years ago, when many of the Norse war-lords, earls and petty rulers refused to submit to the rule of Harold the Fair-Haired who had made himself the ruler of Norway, and sailed away to Iceland where they founded a country of their own. The second began a hundred years ago when the sloop "Restaurationen" crossed the Atlantic to America, bringing into the United States a number of settlers.

The first emigration was a migration of Norse chieftains, proud, wealthy and powerful, but because of the unfavorable conditions, they failed to establish themselves in the United States. The second was a migration of Norway's common people, plain, simple and without worldly goods, but who because of their industry soon made for themselves a place in the new world.

The sailing of the sloop "Restaurationen" marked the real Norse emigration to the United States and thousands of Norsemen soon came to the United States. They settled in various parts of the country, the bulk of them coming to the agricultural sections of the middle west, especially in Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota. When the first colonists came to the United States, they purchased a tract of land in Orleans county, New York and many of them settled there. As the numbers grew, this settlement became crowded and great numbers moved westward.

Circumstances which led to the sailing of the first shipload of Norse immigrants are interesting. They had their beginning when Lars Larson, a Stavanger ship carpenter in the Danish navy during the Napoleonic wars, was captured by the British and held a prisoner in London from 1807 until 1814. After his release he entered the employ of Margaret Allen, a Quaker, and was converted to the Quaker faith. He later returned to Norway and succeeded in organizing a Society of Friends at Stavanger.

Becoming dissatisfied with conditions in their homeland, the Quakers sent two men to America, the new land of promise, to look for a new home. One of them was Kleng Peerson, the man who for 40 years was the pathfinder for the Norse people in the New World. Peerson walked from New York to the trackless prairies of the west and one night, while sleeping out in the open at some point west of Chicago, he dreamt that he saw the wild prairies transformed into a cultivated region, teeming with grain and fruit and dotted with splendid houses and barns, occupied by a prosperous people. He interpreted the dream as a vision and a token that his countrymen should come to this new land and settle, bringing it under cultivation.

After three years of investigation he returned to Stavanger, giving glowing accounts of the new land. Many became interested, but they had no way to reach the land of promise.

Here Lars Larson again comes into the picture. He had acquired a little property which he sold and with five other men formed a company and bought the "Restaurationen" for \$1,800 in Norwegian money, engaging the captain and mate himself.

The sloop sailed from Stavanger harbor on July 4, 1825, with 52 passengers on board. After a hard and stormy voyage the party landed at New York on October 9, 1825. Every one of the passengers landed in good health, the party having been increased by the birth of a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Lars Larson. She was named Margaret Allen in honor of the London Quaker woman who had befriended her father, and later married John Atwater of Rochester, N. Y., later a prominent Chicago publisher.

Kleng Peerson founded the Norse settlement at Kendall, Orleans coun-

ty, N. Y., and later founded four other Norse settlements in the west. He died in Bosque county, Texas, in 1865, and is buried at Norse, in the heart of the last settlement which he founded. Before his death he lived to see his dream come true, with the wild prairie where he slept under the twinkling stars transformed into a wealthy agricultural region.

The second settlement founded by Peerson was the Fox River settlement in Illinois, which was begun in 1834 and in 1836, after the arrival of two ships, "Enighed" and "Aegir," a third settlement was founded at Chicago. Peerson later founded the Texas settlement.

The fourth Norse settlement was begun on Jefferson Prairie, near Beloit, Wisconsin, in 1838, the fifth at Muskego, west of Racine in 1839 and the sixth at Koshkonong, east of Madison, Wisconsin, in 1840.

Considerable historical interest surrounds the Muskego settlement, for it was here that the first Norwegian Lutheran church in America was built. It was dedicated in 1845 by Rev. C. L. Clausen. This building has been moved to St. Anthony Park, St. Paul, Minnesota, where it now stands on the campus of the Luther Theological Seminary.

From these beginnings the Norse settlers in the United States have spread to all parts of the country. At the present time there are, according to Dr. O. M. Norlie of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, approximately 2,500,000 persons of Norse descent in the United States.

These historical events will be commemorated by the Norse-American Centennial. Its importance is shown by the fact congress has authorized the printing of a special postage stamp, which will appear before the Centennial celebration.

It is an event of importance and interest not only to the Norse-Americans, but to all American citizens, for it commemorates the coming of a group of immigrants who have been a potent factor in the development of the United States and whose influence has been keenly felt in many ways.

Faribault, Minn. News  
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1925

#### THE CENTENNIAL

Perhaps no single gathering in the northwest in recent years has attracted such widespread attention as the Norse-American centennial which is now being held at the state fair grounds. Not only in the United States, but also in Europe the event has drawn attention, and prominent men of church and state have come to pay their respects to the Norse-American pioneers who 100 years ago began their work in this country.

The centennial is an event of tremendous importance. It shows the part which one nationality has played in the development of the United States. It demonstrates the influence which a group of men and women can exert upon a nation, even as great a nation as the United States.

What is true of the Norsemen is true of other races. Each race which has sent its immigrants to these shores in large numbers has contributed something to the development of the new nation. We are a polyglot people, and yet we are one people. It can no longer be said in truth that there is no American race. If it had not developed before, the American race emerged out of the blood and carnage of the World war.

One lesson is being impressed upon the American race by the centennial. That lesson has been presented time and time again, but it has never come to the American people as objectively as in the centennial.

Presented briefly, that lesson is this:

It is not necessary for the immigrant citizen of this country to abandon his national language and characteristics in order to become an American citizen. Rather, to the extent that he retains the culture of his national heritage and implants it into our national life does he add to our American development.

During the first days of permanent American colonization, the English colonists were the dominating element. Even today our language is largely that which they brought with them. If we would believe many of those who shout for more Americanism, every race that came here subsequently to the English colonists, should have abandoned everything which their national source gave them and have become English.

Most of them refused, and we can now realize that it was well that they did so. Had every race which came left its national characteristics at Ellis Island, and come here with nothing except an empty head and heart into which the English characteristics could be poured like water into a container, the American race of today would not be what it now is. Nor would it have been stronger. It would have been weakened as a result to such an extent that in our mind it is doubtful if there would have been today an America as we now know it.

The United States owes its life and its strength today to those immigrants who left their homes across the sea and came to her shores. From each she received a contribution,—to each she gave generously of her own. As a result of the interchange there has grown up a power which today has no peer among nations and a race, polyglot and "unassimilated" though it may be in the minds of some, which is superior to any race that ever lived, mentally, physically and spiritually.

President Coolidge has seen the importance of the centennial. He has summed it up in a brief statement, delivered yesterday, paying tribute to the "unsung millions of the plain people" of all nations and tribes and peoples:

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

As with the Norsemen, so with all other peoples represented within our shores. They have all made their contribution. They have received much from the generous hand of Mother America, but from their hearts they have given freely in return, that which is far more rich and worthy than material blessings, the priceless spiritual heritage which today is the birthright of every American.

Americanism is not something which the North American continent gives to the immigrant. It is something the immigrant has given to North America.

Fergus Falls, Minn., Press  
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1925

#### THE PRESIDENT'S MISSION

It is not difficult to understand why President Coolidge stepped across the continent in spite of oppressive heat to pat the Norwegian farmers on the back at the Norse-American centennial in the Twin Cities last Monday. He did not appear there, we suspect, to laud Norwegian achievements nor to praise their valor and worth. That was not necessary. All those facts are matters of history. Any sixteen year old boy could have recited those facts with as much gratitude as the president did. Had he come for the purpose of paying tribute to the Norse contributions to civilization then he would not have swung his speech making into generalities and uttered a string of platitudes so youth-like that the ordinary burlesque politician becomes a true reflection of life.

There were no doubt other designs. Out here in the West, especially, the Norwegian farmers have shown grave signs of revolt against the bosses of the two old political parties and the Wall Street regime. The signs have frequently been followed by organization that has caused the Fat Boys to worry considerably. It has become a serious problem to find some antidote to counteract this dangerous tendency. If President Coolidge could pacify these hard-handed farmers and cause them to forget their plight it would certainly be worth while. That Cal came on such a mission is conceded. However, "the blond sons of Norway" are sufficiently intelligent to appreciate his design and correctly interpret his youthful message.

Fergus Falls, Minn., Tribune  
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1925

Norsemen from every part of the northwest flocked in unheard-of numbers to the centennial celebration in the cities last week of the arrival of the first Norwegian immigrants in the northwest. Special trains were crowded. Every highway to St. Paul presented an unending procession of automobiles, carrying families and supplies—a new sort of prairie schooner, suitable for today's prosperity of the descendants of these early adventurers. And the best thing about the travelers, by train and by auto, was that they were all sturdy and loyal American citizens, who have become as devoted to their new homeland as this pilgrimage of one hundred thousand of them showed they still are to the land their fathers left.

Fergus Falls, Minn., Press  
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1925

#### A CONTRAST

Two years ago when Calvin Coolidge appeared in an address at the Minnesota Fair Grounds he was hooted down. He was then vice president of the United States. Last Monday when he appeared at the same place he was accorded the greatest reception in his political career, if not the greatest ever given a president of the United States. The change in the attitude of the people was due to two factors—one that he is not Calvin Coolidge, but the president of the United States—the other that the "blond sons of Norway" are by tradition a reverential people and predominated in the 100,000 throng that greeted him. It was perfectly proper that he should be accorded a generous reception. The position of president of the United States when properly filled is the noblest on earth. The position should be honored and respected.

Fergus Falls, Minn., Tribune  
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1925

Those who imagine there is no difference between the Swedish and the Norwegian people should note the announcement of the need of celebrating the 500-year anniversary of the first Swedish visit, on the heels of the 100th Norwegian anniversary last week. It's all right. Let them vie with one another, and build up greater and finer things for America and Minnesota.

Fergus Falls, Minn., Tribune  
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1925

Ex-Gov. Merriam is still gasping, but out of the other side of his mouth. He says the outpouring of Americans of Norwegian descent at the recent Centennial at St. Paul has amazed him by its greatness, and the indications of material prosperity which accompanied it. His earlier gasp was due to the bonds owed by the state today in which nine-tenths of the Centennial celebrants live. One or the other gasp must have been wasted nerve force.

Fulda, Minn., Free Press  
FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1925  
The Norse Centennial.

From the Minneapolis Journal.  
The government of Norway has shown lively appreciation of the importance and significance of the American Norse Centennial celebration in the Twin Cities June 6-9, by designating delegates its two leading men—the premier and the president of its parliament.

The premier is J. L. Mowinckel of Trondhjem and the Storthing-president is Ivan Lykker of Bergen. Appropriately enough the one is a member of the Left or radical parties, while the other is from the Right or conservative parties.

There is also a fair chance that the Storthing will authorize Crown Prince Olaf, who has recently attained his majority, to visit America and be the guest of Minnesota at the Norse Centennial. The only obstacle is said to be economy, an issue as paramount in Norway as in the United States. The crown prince is described as a charming young man, democratic in his ways and tastes, a patron and participant in outdoor sports, and very popular with the Norwegian people.

The signal recognition of the Norse Centennial by Norway shows that the ancient kingdom, however much it may miss at home the many sons and daughters it has given to America, appreciates the historical significance of the centenary. Norway in fact has had all through the

an important influence over  
Mr. Solo-----  
Easter Dawn  
Leon Pfeiffer  
Little Thorsters-----  
Big Brown Bear  
Mary Norris

Grand Rapids, Minn., Review  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1925

### STURDY AND RESPECTED PEOPLE

In 1807, one Lars Larson, a Norwegian ship carpenter, was captured by an English ship in a war between England and Denmark. He spent several years in England and became a Quaker. Returning to Stavanger, Norway, he converted others to his faith.

But the Quakers were persecuted. Some decided to seek a new land where they might worship as they pleased. One Kleng Peerson had spent considerable time in New York and under his leadership a hundred of his fellow countrymen came to America in the year 1825. They came in a small sloop, 55 feet long, which braved the hardships of the Atlantic for 14 weeks.

In 1850 there were seven Norwegians in Minnesota, according to the census of that year. Today a quarter of the population of the state are Norwegians or of Norwegian descent. Dr. O. M. Norlie of Luther college, an authority, says there are 525,000 people of Norwegian blood in this state.

The celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the coming of these people to America at the Minnesota State Fair grounds is a fitting event, in a well chosen place, at a well appointed time.

America has been good to the Scandinavian people, the Scandinavian people have been good for America.

Special trains are being arranged for to carry the crowds from all points of the compass—from Winnipeg to Vancouver, Can., from Minot, Grand Forks and Fargo, N. D., Chicago, Ill., Madison, Wis., Sioux Falls, S. D., Decorah, Iowa and other cities. Automobile caravans are also being planned from many sections within reasonable driving distance of the Twin Cities. The railroads west of Chicago have made a rate of one and one third for the round trip. Eastern roads are expected to make a similar rate.

A world's fair will virtually be crowded into the four days' celebration. The celebration has been officially recognized by four nations the United States, Dominion of Canada, Norway and Iceland, and these countries will all be officially represented.

President Calvin Coolidge will speak before the grandstand on Monday afternoon, June 8. On the evening of that day, designated as "Governors' Night" it is expected 11 six governors of Norse blood will be present and make short addresses. They are: Gov. Theodore Christianson, Minnesota; Gov. J. J. Blaine, Wisconsin; Gov. Carl Gunderson, South Dakota; Gov. A. G. Sorlie, North Dakota; Gov. E. Ericson, Montana, and Gov. J. L. Whitfield, Mississippi.

Hector (Minn.) Mirror  
THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1925

### Norse Centennial Celebration Opens June 6

The Norse-American Centennial celebration and exposition at the Minnesota state fair grounds, between St. Paul and Minneapolis, on June 6 to 9, will be the largest gathering in America in 1925.

Those in position to know are now variously estimating the attendance at from 250,000 to 500,000.

Prof. Gisle Bothne, dean of the Scandinavian department, University of Minnesota, who is general chairman of the Centennial committee, returned recently from a trip into Canada with the information that estimates made by the Canadian Centennial committee indicate that between 30,000 and 60,000 Norse-Canadians and other Canadians will attend the celebration.

Hendricks, Minn. Pioneer  
FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1925

The Norse-American Centennial celebration at the state fair grounds the first part of June will perhaps draw the largest crowd the fighting twins will have ever had. Some time ago all hotel parking space was reserved and now the railroads are offering Pullman accommodations. Besides the large crowd, you will have an opportunity to see many notable there, providing you get close enough.

Hendricks, Minn. Pioneer  
FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1925

President Coolidge received a better reception recently in the Twin Cities than he did on his previous visit. The St. Cloud Journal Press, however, thinks that the real enthusiasm was for Mrs. Coolidge, which is very gallant, of course.

Hibbing, Minn., News  
TUESDAY, MAY 26, 1925

### WILL BE A BIG CELEBRATION.

The Norse-American celebration will likely be the biggest and most noteworthy celebration ever held in the state, a patriotic out-pouring of the people, not only of Minnesota but from all over this country and far-away lands.

The affair will be held at the state fair grounds next month, and the Twin Cities are making all due preparation for the proper entertainment of their guests.

One hundred years ago a ship-load of Norwegians left their native shore to make their homes in the new land of freedom, and from them came the sturdy stock that helped in the making of the greatest nation on earth—the United States of America—and it is this event that will be celebrated by the people of many lands.

The Norseman is of heroic characteristics—a steady-going mortal with a good end in view, and he has mingled with American life as a part of it from the minute he landed. Minnesota has profited by these immigrants who settled within its borders, and who have held positions of the highest trust, and always to the credit of themselves and their adopted country. They are always builders.

The program for the coming celebration will be an elaborate affair, depicting the departure of the Norsemen of an hundred years ago, their landing and their activities right on down to the present time.

Calvin Coolidge will make that a time for his first visit to Minnesota as president of the United States, and there will be many other men high in the social, religious, business and political affairs of life in attendance.

Hibbing, Minn., Tribune  
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1925

### The President of the United States.

Norsemen of the entire United States are paying a tribute today to Calvin Coolidge, president of the United States who is an honored guest at the Norse Centennial in the Twin Cities.

Minnesota is proud of this privilege, proud because it believes in the sincerity and honesty of purpose of Calvin Coolidge and the high ideals he stands for. Norsemen of the great State of Minnesota have played an important part in the history of commonwealth and it is paying them a merited honor when the President swings across the Country to pay a special visit to this great state to tell the Norse people how important a factor they have been in the development of the United States.

Minnesota bids a hearty welcome to the President and to the Norsemen who are observing their centennial this week.

Hutchinson, Minn., Leader  
FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1925

### The Norsemen in America.

In 1821 the Norwegian Cleng Peerson landed in America, and in 1825 the ship Restaurationen initiated the Norse immigration in earnest. The centenary, celebrated in the Northwest this week, deserves the national attention which Mr. Coolidge's presence will give it. When Fredrika Bremer visited the United States in 1850 she found nearly 40,000 Norwegians already settled in Wisconsin alone. They were the advance guard of an army which, with Lief Ericsson's pioneering spirit, swept rapidly over the Minnesota and Dakota prairies. America now has a million and a quarter inhabitants of Norse blood; and their contribution to our national character, traditions and achievement is out of all proportion to their numbers.

They and their fellow Scandinavians have largely made the Northwest what it is. They may look around them in Minneapolis and reflect that this city of 400,000 people was marked by a single cabin seventy-five years ago. They have turned the cold northern plains into one of the most fertile farming regions of the globe. In politics they have assumed control of their section and left their imprint on national affairs. Out of the last nine governors of Minnesota six have been Scandinavians. But for the untimely death of their great liberal leader, John A. Johnson—like Knute Nelson, of Swedish blood—they might have given their country a president. Coming from nations interested in experiment, they have taken naturally to co-operation and equal suffrage—at times to the non-partisan league and the ideas espoused by Henrik Shipstead and Magnus Johnson. Their cultural interests, suppressed during their years of struggle with raw nature, have steadily grown in vigor. The Norse in particular do not forget that they come from the land of Ibsen, Holberg, Bjornson and Grieg.

Culturally, no stock has become more quickly Americanized than the Scandinavians. They have entered the country to make homes, to learn English and to rear their children to be patriotic citizens; they might easily have formed impervious foreign colonies, but it was not their nature. Jacob Riis in "The Making of an American" caught the spirit of this adopted loyalty. Yet it is not incompatible with a sentiment of reverence and love for the traditions of the homeland. The Norse feel that they have a great history, dating from the time of the Vikings, and that the conquest of the American Northwest is an integral part of it. They may well be proud of their heritage and its transplantation.—New York World.

Isle, Minn., Advance  
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1923

"As ye would that others should do unto you, do ye even so unto them."

The celebration of the one-hundredth anniversary of the landing in New York of the first Norwegian emigrants to the United States, now being held in St. Paul, is a great event. From all over the United States and Canada, and from many parts of Europe, something like a quarter of a million people have gathered to do honor to these first of the Norse men to settle in America, and to the millions who have followed them. The president of the United States has thought the occasion of sufficient importance to come from Washington to spend a day with them.

It is peculiarly fitting that this celebration should occur in the Capital City of Minnesota, a state that owes much of its greatness to the industry and thrift of the people of the Scandinavian countries. Originally explored by the French, afterwards occupied by the British, it remained for Americans of Scandinavian birth or descent to develop the agricultural riches of this state. The story of what they have done, of how they have changed the cheap cut-over pine lands of Minnesota into prosperous farms, is one for an inspired pen, not ours. That the value of the contribution of these races to the mixture that is America is fully appreciated is shown by the nation-wide interest in this celebration.

Jordan, Minn., People's Weekly  
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1925

#### WE ARE SETTLED NOW

Now that the Norse Centennial and the big million dollar dirigible still on its way to the Twin cities; it's expected arrival delayed due to the radical weather that is typical of Minnesota, we have settled down to our accustomed place in the community and are willing to forgive and forget the continual reminder that we are not in a race that discovered Minnesota and the rest of the American continent, and pursue our eventful way as behooves one who cares not a cracker for creed, nationality or color. We are all here and all Americans, so it matters not that we have failed to acquire the snooze habit which after all is an American invention and can be charged to the Old English families at that.—Renville County Journal

Kerkhoven (Minn.) Banner  
FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1923

#### ARE YOU PLAYING THE GAME?

Dealers in farm lands in Minnesota are now face to face with a real opportunity to turn thousands of acres of Minnesota farm lands. Every acre of cultivable land in Minnesota would sell itself in time. But why let the land sell itself? A little salesmanship added will cause land to be sold freely this fall and during the coming years. Opportunity is knocking at our door and if we take advantage of the situation the land movement will soon be in full swing. The Norse-American Centennial celebration held in the Twin Cities last week gave us an opportunity to note the interest taken by outsiders in the agricultural advantages of this state. Many people from other states have called at the Immigration Department requesting information regarding Minnesota lands. Several of these were renters in other states who contemplate a change in location next spring. In most cases these renters had a full line of farm machinery, cattle, horses, considerable poultry and some cash on hand. They were not ready to buy at this time, but preferred to rent a farm for one or two years with the ultimate view of purchasing. Many of these visitors will spend the next week or ten days visiting relatives in this state and while here they will be looking around for a suitable location. Owners and dealers of farm lands should be on the alert to take

# AN LAKE CITY, MINNESOTA

## THE NORSEMEN

The Norse-American celebration to be held in the city next month naturally re-awakens an interest in the old tales of the valiant cruises undertaken by the Danes and Norwegians centuries before Columbus set forth upon his celebrated voyage in search of a westward route to the Orient.

Historians have squabbled for years over the legends of early Norse visits to America. From time to time "rune" stories have been found which have been wildly sung as incontrovertible evidence of those visits and as hotly condemned as outrageous pranks played upon the credulity of the simple minded.

There can be no doubt that the hardy Scandinavian adventurers combing the sea for their prey, discovered Iceland and Greenland and, if these, then in all probability Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New England and possibly lands still further south and west. That they actually came to America in the ninth century is not so hard a thing to believe as that they came in open boats similar to those mentioned in "Beowulf," earliest of the Anglo-Saxon Epic poems of the sea.

Most of the doings of these sturdy adventurers is lost in the mists of legend and buried deeply in the puzzling boastings which characterized the reports of all returned explorers. It is upon a slender thread of established fact that the entire tale of the doings of the Norsemen in America hangs.

In 863 a Dane named Gardar found and named Iceland. Eleven years later Ingolf colonized it and made it a republic. In 877 the mountains of Greenland were first seen by Gunnbjorn. In 983 a Norwegian murderer, Erik the Red, sailed thither from Iceland. As he was banished for his crimes first from Norway and later from Iceland he no doubt sailed on past Greenland in search for a more congenial clime.

In 986 Bjarni Herjulfson-Bjarni, in a journey from Iceland to Greenland was driven out of his course a great distance. From the fragments of the narrative of this trip which have survived in Icelandic records geographers have reached the conclusion that they actually explored the sea coast as far as Long Island.

In 994 Leif Erickson, son of Erik the Outlaw, bought the Bjarni "ship" and with 35 men set sail over the same course. They appear to have wintered not far from Nantucket and Cape Cod. Some geographers establish the place definitely as Mount Hope Bay.

Returning to Greenland Leif turned his "ship" over to his brother Thorwald who sailed north and west with thirty men and in the year 1002 wintered at "Vinland" where the former expedition had sojourned. These last remained in America two years and "explored the interior" how far no one can say. Possibly some of them reached the Mississippi.

In 1007 Thorfinn Karlsefne, a wealthy Icelandic merchant, descended from Danish, Norwegian and Swedish princes, and his wife Gudrida sailed to Vinland. That autumn a son was born to them on American soil. "Snorri," the first of European blood to give tongue to infant lamentations upon these shores.

Thorfinn remained here three years and trafficked with the Indians. One of his camps he named Hop. The Puritans six centuries later found the Indians calling that locality Haup. The Puritans kept the tradition calling the place Mount Hope.

Here abruptly the stories of the Norse voyages to America ceased. Why, no one can do other than guess. Possibly the trips were unprofitable. Certainly they were laborious to a degree.

Historians grudgingly give the men from the north credit for any of this. It is claimed that the journeys were accidental. That they all came about by one of the first being blown off his course from Iceland to Greenland. In this connection it should be recalled that Columbus was in search of a westward path to Cathay and that he inadvertently found a continent barring his way.

It may be that some day evidence will be unearthed which the geographers and the historians cannot gainsay and either Leif or Erik may snatch from the brow of Christopher Columbus that wreath of laurel which has crowned him since 1492.

The Norse-American Centennial Celebration that was held in St. Paul the first of the week was a great success from various standpoints. It not only brought together the largest crowd of people ever assembled at any one time in the northwest, nearly a million people being on the grounds, but it brought out facts relating to deeds of personal heroism and public service by some of those sturdy pioneers that have never before been made public and probably never would have been known had it not been for this opportune time. In reading some of the stories of personal privation, toil and danger that these early settlers passed through, it is no wonder that they have come to be among our most thrifty, industrious and patriotic citizens. It is as President Coolidge said in his address Monday afternoon, that "the history of Minnesota and of the Northwest is in no small part the story of how the sturdy settlers from Norway made good use of their new opportunities and freedom. Everywhere they have been law-abiding, industrious, and good citizens in the largest sense of the term. They have been the friends of education, advancement and industrial progress. It was a fortunate day for the United States when that small party of Norwegians turned the prow of their little ship toward the new world." There were no silly, simpering, men or women in that group and the sooner some of the present day imbibe some of their spirit and love for home and country, the better it will be for the nation and the children yet unborn.

### The President's Visit

The President of the United States was the guest of Minnesota for twenty-four hours the first of this week. The purpose of his visit was to attend and thus extend recognition to the Norse-American Centennial, and in so doing he did ~~signal~~ ~~not~~ ~~alone~~ to those of our citizens in whose veins course the blood of the Norsemen, but to all of the people of our great commonwealth.

Insofar as Mr. Coolidge was concerned there was a complete eschewal of politics in his visit. He came to Minnesota not as an individual, but as the sovereign representative of the United States—as the leader of the Nation, chosen as such by the citizens of this country—to give seemly recognition to an historic event fraught with tremendous benefits and advantages to the development and advancement of our country.

Some people, of course, find in the occasion cause for criticism. As is to be expected of those who lend themselves to carping criticism, their complaint is directed not against Mr. Coolidge's coming, but against the manner of his coming. The fact that he travelled in what was virtually a special train and that the railroad people took the utmost precaution to guard against accident befalling the train and the President, appears to them to so smack of royalty as to be offensive to their democratic natures. To such as these it would be idle, of course, to invite attention to the fact that these precautions were not taken in recognition of the honor attached to Mr. Coolidge's position, but in recognition of the importance of the position he fills in his inherent personification of the American government. It likewise would be useless to invite the attention of these critics to the fact that these precautions were taken by the railroad people without the suggestion or advance knowledge of the President and with no other thought than to guard the life of the man who by the will of the people is the embodiment of our national government.

By the same token, what can one say of those who would drag the heron of politics across the President's path between Washington and the Twin Cities? As the New York Times (Democratic) well says:

The President's trip to Minnesota illustrates once more the incurable tendency of Americans to read a political motive in every act of a public man. To most people the thing appears entirely simple. There is to be a centenary celebration of the first immigration of Norsemen to the United States, which resulted in adding a sturdy and valuable race element to our population. What could be more natural than for the President to take part in such a note-worthy commemoration? Yet the observers and the interpreters are already reading his heart. They see him embarked upon a political journey. He is invading the La Pollette country. Deeply significant is the fact that Senator Lenroot, sworn enemy of La Pollette and sentenced by the latter to political death, is accompanying the President. This makes it certain to some penetrating minds that Mr. Coolidge has already begun planning the Congressional elections of next year and the Presidential campaign of 1928. From so small a matter is a great fire kindled!

Fortunately, the great majority of the people of this country are not afflicted with the "incurable tendency" of seeing evil in every act, and, therefore, will agree with the Minneapolis Tribune in its view of the President's visit:

We of the northwest are not unmindful of the urge that induced the President to travel across the country from Washington at this time. He is here to give the testimony of his presence and voice to the impress which the sons and scions of Norway have made on our national life in their hundred years of association and service. He is here to manifest his interest in the social and material affairs of a part of the country in whose welfare he has shown such lively concern. He is here to summon us to dedicate ourselves anew to the best deals for which American hands can stress the friendships that should run from people to people of the earth.

*Mpls Tribune*

*Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> 1925*

### Why the President Should Come.

It is much to be hoped President Coolidge will be able to come to the Twin Cities for the Norse-American centennial to be held at the Minnesota State fair grounds next June.

This centenary, in which the United States and Canada will be numerously represented, promises to be one of the outstanding events of the year. Crown Prince Olaf of Norway expects to be here, and so does Dr. Fritjof Nansen. Canada will be represented officially by its premier or by a member of his cabinet. The occasion will be worthy of the presence and voice of the President of the United States.

The people of these cities and of the Northwest would be glad to see President Coolidge in the flesh and to hear him in a more intimate way than over the radio. They have attested their high regard for him at the polls.

As it will do us good to have the President mingle personally with us, so it will be of service to the President to have a chance to study at close range the cross section of American life and thought that will be presented to him.

No man at a distance has shown a keener interest in the welfare of the Northwest than has Calvin Coolidge. No man is readier to pay tribute to the pioneer builders of the country and to their sons and daughters who have done honor to them by doing honor to the nation and the continent. The country owes a great deal of its development along material and cultural lines to the sturdy stuff that came out of the northlands of Europe a hundred years ago and to their descendants.

There was Norse emigration to America longer than a hundred years ago, but it has been well said that "it was the sailing of the sloop "Restaurationen" (in 1825), and the founding of the first Norwegian settlement in America that marked the beginning of a real migration from Norway to this continent." The Twin cities comprise the geographic center of Norwegian population in America, as well as the center of Norse art, learning and culture. There is no other collection of Norse-American literature in this country the peer of that preserved by the Minnesota Historical library.

The sloop referred to has been called "the Mayflower of the North," and its 53 passengers the "Norse Pilgrim Fathers," although there were women among them. These pioneers established a settlement in Kendall, Orleans county, New York, and from them radiated the adventurous spirit that impelled to a later movement westward and northwestward. They had woven a Norse saga and they lived an American epic, the influence of which became one of the ingrains of the fiber of our national spirit.

The President cannot well afford to miss this opportunity to deepen and broaden his conception of the many-faceted America of which his own life is an expression.



### *When the Norsemen Come.*

Signs have been foretoking for a long time that the Norse-American centennial celebration to be held at the Minnesota state fair grounds in June will draw more visitors to the Twin Cities than anything else of the year with the possible exception of the state fair in September.

Representatives of royalty and other dignitaries from abroad are expected to come. Governors from various states will participate. President Coolidge cannot give an absolute answer so far in advance, but unless something important intervenes to prevent, it is more than probable that his schedule will be so arranged that he can be present on one day of the celebration.

An important historic event is to be commemorated—the arrival of the first shipload of Norse colonists 100 years ago with the nucleus of what is today a large element in American citizenship, and more particularly in the citizenship of the northwest.

Normally, June is a delightful month in Minnesota. Fields, woods, lakes and streams are at their summer best. Weather temperatures are pleasant. Outdoor or indoor life is a joy.

It is going to be a great opportunity to exemplify Twin City hospitality; to have the attractions of city and country pass in review before many thousands who are not now familiar with them; to show what Minnesota is in agriculture, in industry, in business enterprise, and in its various social phases. Proud Minnesotans are pleased to call their state "the summer playground of the nation." It will be their privilege to tell these visitors why that description fits the case. They can tell the story as man to man, face to face. Happily they can tell it without blushing because they have the undisputed facts to back them up.

The people of the northwest have gone to much pains to tell the rest of the world that they are not "broke." Of that fact, also, they have abundance of ocular and documentary proof, and it will be their privilege to pass along the proof to the June guests. Those who have wrong impressions will be set right. Those who may have been skeptical of Minnesota's summer charms will be convinced, if they but keep their eyes and ears open.

That the hospitality of Minneapolis will be worthy of its city and people The Tribune does not doubt, but

an adequate expression of this hospitality is not to be taken as a mere matter of course. It is something to think about and plan for. The setting of the stage, natural and contrived, should leave nothing to be desired. We can be neat without being self-conscious. We need only to draw collectively on the native bent for friendliness and comradeship to see that the stage is right in its human aspects. There may be symbolisms of welcome glowing with light, but the real, honest-to-goodness symbols will be in the neighborly outreach of individual citizens.

### A TRUE NORSE-AMERICAN

What is it that America does to pioneers to make them American?

Again and again has the story been told of a great figure rising in the wilderness that was this country and building for himself an imperishable monument of love and service for his fellow men.

So often has this been the case that tradition has come to term them the founders of the American stock.

No matter whence they come these men seem to develop qualities that make them similar and they are responsible for the remarkable homogeneity of the basic American strain.

The approaching Centennial of the Norse American's migration to America draws attention to the early Norsemen who helped to build this Northwestern country.

And outstanding among them is the gigantic, towering figure of the man whose work laid the foundation for the extensive welfare institutions of the Norwegian Lutheran church in America.

That church now has nine homes for the aged capable of caring for 390 persons, seven orphanages caring for 881 children, three rescue homes for girls caring for 250 persons and 24 city missionaries in 14 cities of the country. It is spending \$238,373 for the work in a year and is achieving a surprising amount of work with this sum.

But all this work developed from the little orphanage started by a 24-year-old Norwegian giant, pioneer preacher in the Wisconsin wilderness when it was peopled with Indians and fur traders.

His name was Rev. Even Johnson Homme.

It was at Wittenberg, Wis., that he built his two story building that became the first institution of the church.

He followed this with an Indian mission house, an academy, a normal school and a home for the aged until today the Wittenberg institutions in the heart of Wisconsin are models of their kind.

With his gigantic physical power as well as his inspiring ability as a preacher he actually helped construct many of the buildings with his own hands.

Is this man stranger to Abraham Lincoln and to the countless men of his physical heritage who grew up in the American wilderness?

He is as truly bred and blooded American as any of the others.

Remember Even Johnson Homme when you celebrate the Norse American Centennial.

Minneapolis, Minn. Journal  
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 1923

### Norway and the Centennial

The Government of Norway has shown lively appreciation of the importance and significance of the American Norse Centennial celebration in the Twin Cities June 6-9, by designating as delegates its two leading men—the Premier and the President of its parliament.

The Premier is J. L. Mowinckel of Trondhjem and the Storthings-President is Ivan Lykter of Bergen. Appropriately enough the one is a member of the Left or radical parties, while the other is from the Right or conservative parties.

There is also a fair chance that the Storthing will authorize Crown Prince Olaf, who has recently attained his majority, to visit America and be the guest of Minnesota at the Norse Centennial. The only obstacle is said to be economy, an issue as paramount in Norway as in the United States. The Crown Prince is described as a charming young man, democratic in his ways and tastes, a patron and participant in outdoor sports, and very popular with the Norwegian people.

The signal recognition of the Norse Centennial by Norway shows that the ancient Kingdom, however much it may miss at home the many sons and daughters it has given to America, appreciates the historical significance of the centenary. Norway in fact has had all through the centuries an intensive influence over the outer world out of all proportion to its size and population. In the old Viking days this influence was partially exerted,

and its stirring story is written into the history of England, Ireland, France and other countries of Europe. The Norwegian invasion of the United States, begun a century ago, has on the other hand been peaceful, but none the less has it proved a vital influence in American development.

It is, therefore, highly appropriate that Norway should send to us in June her leading statesmen, and even contemplate the dispatch of young Prince Olaf, who was a babe when King Haakon was invited to the throne of the reconstituted Kingdom in 1905, and who has thus grown to manhood under the friendly eye of the people he will one day rule.

Minneapolis, Minn., Eve. Tribune  
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1923

### Bringing Aviation to the People.

There is something more than an entertaining spectacle to be thought of in connection with the aviation features of the Norse-American centennial celebration in the Twin Cities in June. The educative aspect of the exhibition is of great importance.

There is considerable aggregate interest in the northwest in all phases of aviation, but this interest is not as widely embracing as it ought to be. The development of aviation in the last twenty years has been truly remarkable, but what has been is after all only a foretelling of what is yet to be. Both heavier-than-air and lighter-than-air flying craft have two or three main functions. One function has to do with national defense, another with commerce, and still another with mail service and passenger service. All these functions are bound to expand as the years go on. The northwest cannot afford to lack an active interest in their enlargement. It cannot afford not to have a participating share in the development.

15  
It has been possible to "take the navy to the people" only in a limited way. Battleships, cruisers and other vessels cannot be moved inland. Interior folk who do not live on waters navigable for ships of considerable draft must go where these ships are if they wish to see them. Otherwise the best they can do is to have occasional contact and comradeship with men representing the personnel of the navy, or to see motion pictures of naval doings.

When it comes to the aviation branch of the national defense, it is possible to move both men and craft to where the people are, whatever the latter's habitat. With all the handicaps, the government has been enabled to improve very greatly the acquaintance of the whole people with the sea-going end of the defense structure. This fact is an earnest of the larger thing that can be done to bring the people into an informed status in respect of the aviation arm. Great work has been done in implanting in the public mind the understanding that the army, the navy and the marines are not things apart; that the army is the people's army, the navy the people's navy, and the other agencies the people's agencies. This has been a decidedly helpful sort of popular education, and there ought to be more of it. There will be more of it for the northwest as a by-product of what is to go on at the Norse-American centennial June 7 to June 13.

In his willingness to co-operate in making the aerial exhibition of the centennial celebration a notable success, Secretary Wilbur of the navy department shows himself more the government official with a vision and serious purpose than a mere fellow citizen disposed to be interested in a neighborly fashion. He realizes the importance of having the widest possible popular interest in and understanding of the government service of which he is the chief.

Minneapolis, Minn., Mor. Tribune  
MONDAY, MAY 13, 1923

MONDAY, MAY 13, 1923.

### Ambassadors of Trade Friendship.

Minneapolis business men are away on their annual friendship tour. Their special train will carry them far and wide into North Dakota and thence back through a beautiful, prosperous region of Minnesota.

Primarily, the travelers will be ambassadors of good will and the spirit of co-operation between city, town and rural district. It will be their privilege, too, to tell their hosts and hostesses en route something about Minneapolis as a manufacturing center and a wholesale and retail mart ministering to the needs of a great tributary country.

In recent years some new and enduring ties have been woven between city and country in the northwest. There is a more active and pervading consciousness than ever before that a natural trade district is one great community in which all businesses are mutually interdependent. Many influences have been at work to effect this change for the better. These are basically economic, but they have their strong infusion of the social. Not the least of the latter have been just such tours from Minneapolis as that which is now in progress.

Railroads and interurban cars, good roads, hundreds of thousands of automobiles, including those used for bus service, have served to make acquaintances and friends of those who formerly were as strangers because of their greater isolation one from another. Common contact has developed the idea of common interest. Nothing more beneficial could have come to pass for either the great centers of population or the sparsely settled neighborhoods.

One of the essentials of success in the business relations of producer and consumer, of buyer and seller, is confidence. Another is good will, a third a friendly interest in the other fellow's problems and his point of view, and a fourth, not to be underestimated, is the privilege of face-to-face contact. All these things are promoted when Minneapolis sends forth a human cross-section of its business concerns to meet and greet those with whom these concerns have dealings, and when the welcoming spirit is at par with the visiting spirit. This give and take in hospitality has been assured in advance.

When this tour is ended, and recollections of it are still vivid, there could be nothing finer than that the people of the towns visited should make their "party calls" by coming to Minneapolis for the Twin City industrial exposition and for the Norse-American centennial in the week of June 6 to June 13. This is not to say, of course, that they will not be welcome whenever and as often as the spirit moves them to come. Keeping alive and vibrant the comradeships is the important thing.

The whole of the agricultural northwest has a very substantial economic interest in the industrial development of the Ninth federal reserve district. The farmers and the residents of the smaller cities and towns can do much to foster this growth along sound and logical lines by making known their special needs and requirements, and what trend their own activities are taking.

Minneapolis, Minn. Star  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1925

## MINNEAPOLIS INVITES THE WORLD

Minneapolis extends to the wide world a cordial invitation to come here for the Norse-American Centennial.

Come on, world.

We are already furnishing your bread and butter and we might find something else for you to eat.

We can find lumber within a little distance to build you shelter and we can furnish you enough lakes so that all may go for a swim.

Welcome world, the best we have is yours.

Now is the time to plan your visit to Minneapolis. You may fulfill the wish of years and at the same time pay your respects to the Norse stock that has gone a good way to make Minneapolis and Minnesota, even the northwest, what it is.

We are about to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the landing of the first Norse settlers in America.

Norsemen had been here before Columbus. In fact, they were the first white men on the continent, in the year 1000, more than 925 years ago.

But those Norsemen who really made an impress on this country were those who gravitated to the northwest and built up the heart of the continent. And they began coming to America in 1825.

In that year Minneapolis was an Indian village. Major Long and Giacomo Beltrami had just conducted their explorations reaching the northern and western boundary of the state and the source of the Mississippi river had only just been discovered.

There was a fort at Snelling but the northern portion of the state was still virtually in the possession of Canadian and British hunters and trappers.

Minnesota was a virgin wilderness.

The Minnesota and Minneapolis you will see when you come for this centennial is largely the handiwork of the Norsemen who followed pioneers of other nationalities into this section.

City and surroundings we put on exhibition for you that you may judge the Norseman by his creation since in a sense they may all be credited to him.

Welcome, world, to the Norse-American Centennial.

Minneapolis, Minn. Eve. Tribune  
SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1925

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1925.

## The Coming Historic Occasion.

It becomes more and more evident as the tin approaches that the Norse-American centennial in the Twin Cities next month will be a memorable occasion. Besides the president and the United States marine band, which comes to the Northwest Industrial show there will be many distinguished visitors from this country and abroad.

There will be a real test of the quality and scope of the hospitality of Minneapolis and St. Paul. That the two cities will rise to the requirements of the centennial and the Industrial show there is no reason to doubt. Extensive preparations are being made in advance. These include the problems of adequate policing, attractive hotel and other accommodations, decorative schemes, transportation and the like.

It is again coming around to a time when at least one of the national political conventions should be held in this part of the country. The northwest has been an exceedingly interesting region of late in a political way, so much so that more attention has been focused on it than on any other part of the country. There is not likely to be a relaxing in this interest, despite the fact that the political face of things is undergoing a change. Indeed, interest will be maintained because of that change.

The handling of the Norse-American centennial from what may be called the standpoint of the stage and its setting will be valuable, if it be well done, in persuading national committees that they need not hesitate on account of facilities to choose to come this way with a convention. If things go as they should go, Minneapolis will have before 1928 a convention hall capacious enough to take care of a national party gathering. The two cities are better supplied with good hotels than heretofore, and this asset probably will be enlarged within the next three years.

Entirely aside from any future considerations, however, the Twin Cities owe it to themselves and their visitors to leave nothing undone to help make the celebration next month an outstanding success in all its phases. The blood of the Norseman flows integrally in the citizenship of Minnesota. The Scandinavian influence is strongly felt in the civic life of all the great community whose nerve center is in this metropolitan area. The president of the United States has made it clear that he looks forward to the centennial as an occasion of great importance in the life of the nation. He wishes to imbibe personally and on the ground the spirit of the event, and he wishes that there shall be a better mutual acquaintance as between himself and the country which, at the ballot box, has evidenced its confidence in him and his leadership.

The centennial is now only a fortnight off. In that two weeks there is much to do to set the stage and polish off the general preparations. Our prospective guests may assure themselves that a cordial welcome awaits them, and that their visit will be pleasurable and profitable to themselves.

Minneapolis, Minn., Journal  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 1925

### They Have Helped Us Vastly

The imminence of the ~~Norse-American~~ Centennial celebration in the Twin Cities brings to mind with renewed force the truth of what President Coolidge told the Daughters of the American Revolution about the foreign-born in this country who have become Americanized. The President said:

We need not only to draw the newcomers into our social structure, but we need also to make them contribute to its strength and beauty. We may gain much from them. In the diversification of our culture, the broadening of our interests, the development of our literature and arts, the formation of a rounded, symmetrical national character, they can help us vastly. We shall best serve both them and ourselves, if we shall fully recognize this mutuality of interest.

The Norse-American Centennial offers this opportunity for native Americans and those of Scandinavian blood to recognize their mutuality of interest. No State in the Union has been so fortunate as Minnesota in having so large an infusion of Nordic blood in its population. Through the years these newcomers have contributed their strength to the life of the State, because they came here as workers with the purpose of becoming rapidly Americanized.

The history of Minnesota registers the influence of several incoming streams of builders. First came the French explorers who followed the river channels, located the islands and prairies, and left their impress in such names as De Soto, Le Sueur, Radisson and Hennepin. Then came the Down East Yankees, to become sturdy and resourceful pioneers in every line of endeavor.

In the period of development and expansion that this opened, the Scandinavian immigration started early and continued long. The character of the early work of these newcomers is described by the Interpreter, which tells of how one Norwegian settled years ago in the forests of the North, grubbed out the trees, built his family a spacious log house, tilled his farm and garden and in twenty years snatched civilization from the wilderness and wrought out his own affluence. This case is not exceptional, but typical of what many settlers of Norse blood, who came to the State as toilers, have done. They entered constructively into the life of Minnesota, and in many lines have attained positions of influence and leadership.

A State like Minnesota is not built in a

day, but is the product of long sustained, co-operative effort between natives and foreign-born. The best form of State and Nation building and of Americanization is that which comes, as President Coolidge suggests, from mutual appreciation and gratitude for the share that each has had in making Minnesota what it is today.

Minneapolis, Minn., Star  
THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1925

### THE NORWEGIAN SINGERS

Minneapolis is proud to welcome to the homeland of many of their brothers the singers from the University of Oslo, capital of Norway.

It has been 20 years since representatives of this organization visited here and many Minneapolis people remember with particular delight their singing.

That the present chorus should come for the Norse-American centennial celebration is particularly ~~fitting~~ and Minneapolis takes occasion now to pay tribute to the visiting singers along with the tribute it offers to the Norse forefathers who helped to hew this country out of the wilderness.

It is a characteristic of the Norse people that they delight to get together in singing societies, choruses and the like and this characteristic is manifest here as well as in Norway.

In fact, the custom has spread to others beside the Norse in Minneapolis until we have many singing organizations.

For this reason the music of the chorus from Oslo university will be specially appreciated and it is to be hoped that every man and woman in the Twin Cities will have an opportunity to hear the visiting singers.

Minneapolis, Minn., Mor. Tribune  
SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1925

### Hand-Clasping With Oslo.

The Norwegian Students' chorus, which constitutes the vanguard of foreigners and others who will attend the ~~Norse-American~~ centennial, is both singing and ~~socializing its way into the hearts of~~ Minneapolisians.

This human cross-section of the artistic life and culture of the University of Oslo is giving to us a foreview and foretaste of what the centennial celebration itself is to be. It is visualizing agreeably the tie between the Norwegian homeland and the land whose citizenship is so much infused with the blood and spirit of Norway as one of the heritages handed down from those who made their first settlement in the United States a hundred years ago.

The visiting singers have had various tests of the quality of the hospitality and welcome of the people of Minneapolis. It is to be hoped they are not disappointed in this particular. The local descendants of Norway progenitorship are a busy company in the every-day life of the community, but they have time—and gladly—to meet, greet and assure the visitors that the freedom of the city is theirs.

The average Minneapolisite cannot believe that any accounts of the charms of the city which may have gone from its residents to Norway were overdrawn, but it is the privilege of the visitors to pass judgment on that matter as seems to them right and true. For their information it can be said that Minneapolis has on its regular summer garb; that whatever loveliness there is in its physical setting just now is seasonably customary and not specifically contrived for a state occasion. The lakes are here by grace of nature. Their environment is what the citizens have wished and decided it should be. The boulevards are the realization of a dream that has been long in process of fulfillment. They are not even yet a completed thing, but they are well on the way to it.

For a community that was incorporated as a city less than three score years ago, Minneapolis is proposed to the visitors as one of the outstanding object lessons in American civic and municipal development. It is a striking suggestion of how much has been crowded into a century and a half of national history.

Through the students' chorus Minneapolis clasps hands with Oslo and Norway. The world is more intense than it used to be, but not so big when it comes to opportunities for universal fraternizing.

## A SPECTACULAR HOME COMING

Since the days of the stone age the rising youth has dreamed of going forth into the world and coming back later in triumph to his old home town.

But never before, perhaps, has one achieved this dream in the spectacular fashion of George W. Steele, Jr., of Minneapolis.

He who was little George Steele is now Captain Steele and he will command the gigantic navy dirigible Los Angeles when it comes to Minneapolis Monday for the Norse Centennial.

He has already crossed the Atlantic ocean in this great rigid airship and his command is now one—and the largest one—of the two great ships of this sort possessed by the United States.

Perhaps George Steele once dreamed of coming back to Minneapolis at the head of a circus parade, but on Monday he will have the privilege of distracting the attention of an audience listening to the president of the United States.

His vessel of the sky will be the principal feature of the Norse-American circus and it is a kind of circus that few small boys have ever dreamed of.

George Steele is a grandson of the pioneer, Franklin Steele, for whom a Minneapolis park is named. It is particularly fitting that he should have the honor of bringing the great ship here and of commanding it.

Doubtless Mr. Steele will reflect for a moment as he soars over the city how different is his arrival here from that of his grandfather in the days of the steamboat and the ox-cart or prairie schooner.

## A Busy Day Ahead.

The citizen of Minneapolis, with the thousands of visitors who will throng the city next Monday, who sees everything that he should see, hears everything that he should hear, and does everything that he should do, will have to be a ball-bearing, twelve-cylindrical centipede, capable of breaking sprint and non-stop records from dawn to dawn.

President Coolidge will speak at the fair grounds. The Los Angeles will come in with the first pink streak of daylight at Wold-Chamberlain field. The United States marine band will play at the Northwest Industrial Exposition in the Overland building. The wonders of the Norse Centennial will unfold. The marvels of our industrial progress must be seen. Thirty-six Norse Bygelags will be in session. The most famous aviators in the army and navy air services from General Patrick down will be in the air in a great aerial exhibition. The "most beautiful woman in the United States" will be in town. There will be hundreds of athletes of national reputation in a mammoth meet. Thousands of members of the National Association of Retail Credit Men will arrive for their convention.

In addition Minneapolis will have its municipal election.

We do not know just what to do about this. Certainly none of these events can be missed.

Some plan must be worked out by which one can leap from crag to crag throughout the day and wind up in a blaze of glory at night with a record of having been everywhere and seen everything.

It will not do to forego voting to get to the fair grounds early in the afternoon to hear President Coolidge speak. The president has just finished saying that there must be more interest in good local government and less dependence on the state. He has an all-seeing eye and there would be no comfort at all for the citizen who goes to hear him without voting.

The citizen who remains in bed while the Los Angeles, the greatest airship in the world, sails over the city and noses into a berth while 300 soldiers tug at the ropes, is going to regret it the rest of his life.

The only thing to do, apparently, is to cancel all engagements for the rest of the week and rest as much as possible, to see as much of the centennial and the exposition as possible on Saturday, and to then lay out a program that will have you up at dawn Monday with a determination to see and hear everything, if it wears the cords off your tires and raises blisters on your feet.

## Norse-American Centennial

An event of more than ordinary interest to all the people of the Northwest—and millions in other parts of the United States—is the Norse-American Centennial which opens in the Twin Cities June 6 and will close June 9. It is a celebration of the first concerted effort toward Scandinavian settlement in the United States, and in honor of an historical event that has proved a magnificent factor in the development and upbuilding of the Northwest.

Seeking liberty of thought and action, chiefly the right to religious opinion, a hardy body of Norwegians left their native land and in a small sailboat braved storm and stress and finally landed on American soil. They were the forerunners of hundreds of thousands of other Norsemen, until Scandinavian thrift and industry became a power in American agriculture and the other industries.

To these sturdy workers and God-loving people the Northwest particularly owes much—as much as they owe to the Northwest. They have planted a citizenry that illumines the country for patriotism and progress.

The importance of this Norse-American Centennial is nationally recognized, and an honor guest will be the President of the United States, Calvin Coolidge. Other prominent men from throughout the nation will also participate in the noteworthy celebration. The event will be one that will cement more closely the most cordial relations that have for long existed between the people of the Scandinavian countries and those of the United States.

## The Coming of the Norsemen

In the Twin Cities today and for the next three days, America is celebrating the centennial of the first coming of the Norwegians to America, a coming that has meant even more to America at large than to the Norwegians themselves.

Other great nations can look back upon the coming of the Norsemen to their own shores, and see how each such coming worked a notable change in history. To France and to Britain, the Norsemen came in the long ago, with arms in their hands. To America they came a hundred years ago, not with clanking swords, but with implements of the wilderness-conquering pioneer.

To the Cavaliers of Jamestown, to the Pilgrims of Massachusetts, to Penn and his Quakers, to the Knickerbockers of New York, present-day America owes great debts. But no less a debt does America owe to the fearless and sturdy Scandinavians who pioneered the Northwest.

Within the memory of the living men, the vast region of which Minneapolis is now the metropolis offered obstacles to settlement that were in no way inferior to the obstacles encountered in the Virginia or Massachusetts of an earlier day. But the Norseman came, and attacked those obstacles, and conquered. And today his children and his grandchildren are gathering in the Twin Cities to view for themselves the magnitude of his achievements, to greet delegations from the land of

their fathers and tell them all is well in the New World, and to hear the President of the Nation. What the Centennial means to the Norse-Americans themselves is thus explained by Professor Gisle Bothne:

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.

But the celebration means just as much to the great mass of Americans who are not of Norse blood. President Coolidge considers it so important that he is going to be here himself, on one of his rare trips west of the Alleghenies. The Government is sending the mighty airship Los Angeles at an expense of a hundred thousand dollars. The United States Marine Band, here for the Northwest Industrial Exposition, will attend the President Monday. For the four days that began today the eyes of the Nation will be on the Twin Cities. And America at large is going to realize what a tremendous national asset has been the influx of Norse blood in the last century.

### A CONTINUING MIGRATION

Norsemen were the first to set foot upon the soil of the American continent.

They beat Columbus by nearly five centuries.

Others of us have little to boast about in the statement that our ancestors were the first colonists since theirs were the first explorers.

The principal difference between the Norse colonization here and that of the Plymouth colonies is two centuries and the fact that the Norse are still coming over while the other stocks are little replenished by new migrations.

In a few more centuries the Norsemen will appear to be contemporaries of the Pilgrim fathers as indeed they are the Pilgrims of the Northwest.

In the Minnesota Historical Society museum will be found relics of early life among the Norwegians, relics that differ only the slightest from the relics of Mayflower days.

Their job of hewing a civilization out of the wilderness here was not different from that of the Massachusetts colonists, except that they were much more completely isolated from the mother country and the problems of travel were far greater.

No comfortable ship could land them directly upon the shore which they expected to develop. It required not only that ocean voyage but weeks of hardships in overland travel.

For these among other reasons it is fitting that on the 100th anniversary of the first Norwegian colonists Minneapolis and the great Northwest should turn out with myriads of visitors to do homage to the Norwegian people.

The Norwegian colonists had their share of the Indian wars and uprisings of which history is full in this country. They missed the great battle for Freedom in the Revolution and the War of 1812 but the rest of the great struggle to make this into the kind of a country that all the world would want to live in has been their experience along with other Americans.

The character of the Norse-American citizen stands high in the roster of the peoples that have made America.

And Minneapolis bids welcome every Norseman, son of a Norseman or friend of a Norseman for the days of the centennial celebration and for all days to come.

### THE WELCOME TO COOLIDGE

Comparisons are proverbially odious. And yet it is altogether fitting and proper that the difference between the reception accorded President Coolidge at the State Fair grounds yesterday be noted.

Some have gone so far as to state that the President's reception at the Norse-American Centennial was an indication that the sentiment has changed greatly during the brief time the silent New Englander has been chief executive of the nation. Possibly it has changed. Possibly Mr. Coolidge personally is held in more esteem than he was a couple of years ago when he was hooted vigorously while he was endeavoring to address a State Fair crowd. But we do not believe any estimate of the personal esteem in which the chief executive is held is furnished by yesterday's reception.

When Mr. Coolidge came here to deliver his former address, he was a little known vice president. He appeared at a time when feeling was running high against an administration in which he played a very small second fiddle.

Yesterday he appeared as an elected president of the United States, and was received with the respect every American owes to that high office. The tribute Mr. Coolidge received was a tribute to the office, not necessarily to the man who holds it.

Those who do not take off their hats to the president of the United States regardless of his politics, are built on pretty small dimensions. And most of us up here are not built that way, regardless of the advertising to the contrary originating in our city council.

### The Meanings of a Great Occasion

President Coolidge may always be trusted to penetrate to the real significances of a great occasion. In his brief address of yesterday he seized upon and brought into sharp relief the deeper meanings of the centenary which the Americans of Norse blood have been celebrating.

What a tremendous sequel followed the daring voyage of that frail bark, the Restauration, across the Atlantic with its fifty-two sturdy Norse adventurers! However obscure and unimportant their landing in New York, after a perilous passage of fourteen weeks, may have seemed, the results that flowed from it lifted the event into an historic significance that is now seen in a clear light.

Mr. Coolidge did not fail to point out that the study of such events, stimulated by centenary celebrations, furnishes valuable "inspiration to high and intelligent patriotism." The Restauration, thanks to the attention focused on it by impressive observance of its centenary, now takes its place among historic American symbols alongside the Mayflower of more than two hundred years before it.

Who can rightly estimate the great role in the making of America played by the Norse newcomers of the Restauration and those that have followed them in a steady stream? Who can measure what they have done for America, or what America has done for them? And who can justly assess the reflex action on Europe of the triumphs such streams of newcomers have helped achieve in individualism, in liberty, in democracy?

President Coolidge is impressed by these achievements of men of many and diverse national origins in America. He is impressed by the fact that out of all these elements has been molded "a nation with the soul of a nation" and not merely "a large number of people in a large place."

Not unnaturally, contemplation of this ethnic miracle in America, moves the President to ask: "If fraternity and co-operation are possible on the scale of this Continent among people so widely diverse, why not on the scale of a world?"

It is an inspiring thought, inexact though the parallel may be. Surely the example of America, which has had such an intensive reflex effect on Europe, may well stimulate the peoples of the earth to seek the goal of lasting amity and co-operation. There are obstacles in the path of this quest that have never existed in America—hinderments of ultra-nationalism, of ancient racial feuds, of economic rivalries, of land hunger not to be satisfied, of intolerances religious and social, and so on.

The experiment in nation-making that has been so strikingly successful in America, was made in a new land with none or few of the Old World's inhibitions. When the task of bringing all the peoples of the world together into an enduring compact of friendship and co-operation is faced, the difficulties involved seem fatally complex and irremovable. Yet there is the dream, noble, radiant, utterly desirable. America is fit to lead the way to its attainment by the power of example.

Mr. Coolidge has made fine use of a great occasion to give this thought to the world, a seed though that may one day bloom into maturity and productivity.

Minneapolis, Minn., Mor. Tribune  
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1925

### *The President to the Norsemen.*

In his tribute to the sons and daughters of Norway who have builded character and strength into the national organism which we call America, President Coolidge cast his thought into a mould large enough to discover to us how this nation came to take on a soul and what kind of soul was created for it. No son of the Northland could have been more generous in saying what has been woven by Scandinavians into our social, political and spiritual entity.

In this address the President revealed himself as one who has unshakable faith in a sane and righteous further working out of the destinies of this country. The spirit of adventure, and the challenge of unknown dangers, which first made men migratory creatures—notably the men of Norway—gave way in time to nobler motives for seeking new lands. These motives included the yearn for religious freedom, for intellectual emancipation, for individual liberty and for improved economic conditions.

As the urge and spirit of democracy made their way in this country the fact had a reflex influence on the older countries, impelling them toward the ideal of popular sovereignty. Meantime, in this country, Pilgrim and Cavalier, and later the Northmen, found and were moved by a common purpose of political and social unity, and a great nation evolved out of, first, a wilderness, and then a congeries of more or less closely related and sympathetic settlements.

The human contributions of Norway and the other Scandinavian countries played a telling part in shaping United States history in the nineteenth century. It was not altogether the pressure of economic circumstances that divided the country for and against human bondage. Potent as a factor was the Northland element, bringing its conceptions of individual liberty and becoming a part of our own north. The Norsemen belonged where they settled because climatic conditions were kindred to those to which they were inured at home, but it was manifest that they also belonged there by the logic of their thought processes. They believed in equality of opportunity in so far as it could be served in imperfect human institutions. They believed that individualism should be allowed to express itself without unnecessary hamperings.

From the fact of an America achieving national unity out of many and diverse elements, President Coolidge takes hope that there is something of the kind in store for the world.

"If fraternity and co-operation," he said, "are possible on the scale of this continent among people so widely diverse, why not on the scale of a world? It is not a new thought, but it is a profoundly engaging one. I firmly believe it is more than a chimera. I feel it is possible of realization. I am convinced that our national story might somewhat help to guide mankind toward such a goal. Therefore I urge the deeply thoughtful study and teaching of our history."

The America of today is essentially a product of the common people which tacitly agreed, long before it decreed, that there should here be recognized no class or caste, and no aristocracy save that founded on character. The home and the family were to be indispensable basic institutions of civic life, and these institutions, plus a due appreciation of things of the spirit, were to give fiber and shape to the governmental structure.

President Coolidge addressed himself in particular to Norsemen, but he included the world in the purview of his message.

Minneapolis, Minn., Eve. Tribune  
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1925

### *The President to the Norsemen*

In his tribute to the sons and daughters of Norway who have builded character and strength into the national organism which we call America, President Coolidge cast his thought into a mould large enough to discover to us how this nation came to take on a soul and what kind of soul was created for it. No son of the Northland could have been more generous in saying what has been woven by Scandinavians into our social, political and spiritual entity.

In this address the President revealed himself as one who has unshakable faith in a sane and righteous further working out of the destinies of this country. The spirit of adventure, and the challenge of unknown dangers, which first made men migratory creatures—notably the men of Norway—gave way in time to nobler motives for seeking new lands. These motives included the yearn for religious freedom, for intellectual emancipation, for individual liberty and for improved economic conditions.

As the urge and spirit of democracy made their way in this country the fact had a reflex influence on the older countries, impelling them toward the ideal of popular sovereignty. Meantime, in this country, Pilgrim and Cavalier, and later the Northmen, found and were moved by a common purpose of political and social unity, and a great nation evolved out of, first, a wilderness, and then a congeries of more or less closely related and sympathetic settlements.

The human contributions of Norway and the other Scandinavian countries played a telling part in shaping United States history in the nineteenth century. It was not altogether the pressure of economic circumstances that divided the country for and against human bondage. Potent as a factor was the Northland element, bringing its conceptions of individual liberty and becoming a part of our own north. The Norsemen belonged where they settled because climatic conditions were kindred to those to which they were inured at home, but it was manifest that they also belonged there by the logic of their thought processes. They believed in equality of opportunity in so far as it could be served in imperfect human institutions. They believed that individualism should be allowed to express itself without unnecessary hamperings.

From the fact of an America achieving national unity out of many and diverse elements, President Coolidge takes hope that there is something of the kind in store for the world.

"If fraternity and co-operation," he said, "are possible on the scale of this continent among people so widely diverse, why not on the scale of a world? It is not a new thought, but it is a profoundly engaging one. I firmly believe it is more than a chimera. I feel it is possible of realization. I am convinced that our national story might somewhat help to guide mankind toward such a goal. Therefore I urge the deeply thoughtful study and teaching of our history."

The America of today is essentially a product of the common people which tacitly agreed, long before it decreed, that there should here be recognized no class or caste, and no aristocracy save that founded on character. The home and the family were to be indispensable basic institutions of civic life, and these institutions, plus a due appreciation of things of the spirit, were to give fiber and shape to the governmental structure.

President Coolidge addressed himself in particular to Norsemen, but he included the world in the purview of his message.

Minneapolis, Minn., ~~Mon. T. Thurs.~~  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1925

### Secretary Kellogg's Warning.

Secretary Kellogg's address at the Norse-American centennial celebration was a fine complement to that of President Coolidge. Both paid tribute to the role Norwegians have played in helping America keep to its ideals in government and civic life, and the head of the state department, who is ranking member of the cabinet, then turned his attention to the hostile secret propaganda that has been turned loose in the country.

This distinguished Minnesotan, like his predecessor, Mr. Hughes, has a habit of looking at things in a quiet, philosophical sort of way. Neither of them is an alarmist, and both are given to understating rather than overstating facts of public interest. Mr. Hughes had occasion time and again to inform his countrymen about the secret assaults that are being made on our institutions, and now we have similar testimony from Mr. Kellogg who has the opportunities for enlightenment that Mr. Hughes once had. Said Mr. Kellogg in his speech at the state fair grounds:

"I have confidence in the stability, the character and patriotism of the American people, but the danger to our institutions by this constant propaganda against the government is not imaginary. I doubt if you are aware of the amount of destructive, revolutionary propaganda which is being secretly distributed in this country by foreign influence."

Not alone to alien infusion of dangerous doctrines did Secretary Kellogg refer. He had in mind also, and referred to, the efforts that are being made within the country to tamper with the organic law of the land. He uttered the solemn admonishment that our constitutional guarantees are legacies of the ages not to be dealt with lightly. The Bill of Rights is something more than a code laid down by the founders of the republic for the safeguarding of individual rights against the encroachments of a majority. It refers back to Runnymede and to other historic events that long preceded the establishment of the American state. It is one of the fruits of much bloodshed and other sacrifice in countries older than our own. It was evolved out of a tremendous stretch and volume of human experience. There is nothing more important to this country or to the world than a faithful custodianship of the principles of individual liberty enunciated in the first ten amendments of our constitution.

America has an obligation not only to itself but to mankind in general to steer a course close to that originally mapped out in the constitution. If it does not meet that obligation, the hope expressed by President Coolidge about the part this nation is to play in the future shaping of the destinies of the world will hardly be realized. If the ark of the covenant of liberty is not safeguarded in this favored land, it will have extremely hazardous going elsewhere.

Secretary Kellogg is to be thanked for his frankness in stating the case as he sees it.

Minneapolis (Minn.) ~~Com. P.~~  
SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1925

### President Coolidge Praises Our Norse Citizens

The Norsemen of both Europe and America occupied the center of the stage here in the Northwest this week. President Coolidge came to Minnesota to make the principal address at the Centennial celebration of the Norse-Americans, thereby focusing the attention of the entire country, and of Scandinavians in Europe, upon this historical event of 1825. He gave unstinted praise to the splendid citizenship of our Norse-Americans, who have in so many ways demonstrated how complete may be the amalgamation of right-minded Europeans with our national life. Only those who have lived here among them for generations can appreciate how they have entered into agriculture, industry, education and civic activities, taking leading roles in Federal, state and local governments.

The success of the melting-pot in the Northwest, as tested and tried on several occasions in times of war, has shown conclusively that we have developed a national soul and a spiritual quality among those of our citizens who have come from different countries. This has been powerful enough to hold our people to a high ideal in the times of supreme trial.

That this subject had become an interesting and fascinating study with the President was shown by the comprehensive way in which he sketched the history of immigration from the Scandinavian countries, going back as far as the first settlement of Iceland some five centuries before Columbus came to this continent. As a little Norse republic it maintained itself for many centuries and developed a remarkable literature.

The spirit of adventure has always been strong in these races, which accounts for their continuing westward in their explorations and settlement of new countries. One interesting fact pointed out by the President was that the small sailing boat, the Restaurationen, which came to New York one hundred years ago, brought some iron in its cargo along with its fifty Norse passengers. Today Minnesota has more Norwegians and produces more iron than any other state.

That America is safe in the hands of these citizens who constitute such a large part of the population of our northwestern states, is the sincere belief of President Coolidge. "The pledge of the Norse people has never yet gone unredeemed," he tells us. And their accomplishments in science, in statesmanship and business endeavor, as well as in our educational institutions, have shown the splendid quality of this class of our patriotic citizens.

The President outlined the story of how some fifty people had originally come from Norway to this country, making the voyage to their future home in a small sloop.



Such an apparently insignificant event as their coming may become of great importance, the character of those concerned determining its far-reaching influence. This year's Centennial celebration of that historical occurrence emphasizes the fact that a profound effect is made upon our country when such a thrifty, sturdy class of liberty-loving people as those from the Scandinavian countries leave their native lands to establish homes in America.

President Coolidge appreciated his unusual opportunity on this occasion to call attention to fundamental factors in the building of a great and prosperous nation like ours, where immigration plays so important a part. He said that one reason why he was glad to accept the invitation to come here to the Northwest and address hundreds of thousands of Norse-Americans was that it gave him an opportunity to call national attention to the subject of our country's social background. By a better understanding of this phase of the subject we will work out a sound policy of human relations with the world at large, and will be helped very much in solving some of the most difficult problems of mankind.

Angeles returned to Lakehurst after its abortive start for the Twin Cities it was obliged to hover over its hangar for several hours without landing because a fog had rolled in from the Atlantic and obscured it from the view of the landing crew.

As evidence that the airplane and not the dirigible, is the practical craft for navigating the atmosphere, none of the regular lines of airships which are operating employ dirigibles. Airplanes are used in the aerial passenger service between London and Paris which has been carried on regularly and successfully for several years. They are used in the transcontinental mail service of the United States and Henry Ford, the mechanical magician of the present age, is using airplanes and not dirigibles to carry light freight between his plants at Detroit and Chicago. If the lighter-than-aircraft were practical at all they would be more practical than heavier-than-air craft for freight carrying.

Another reason why the airplane is more practical than the dirigible is that it is built along natural lines, being modeled after the bird with a small central body and large lifting surfaces, whereas the dirigible is like nothing else which has ever been seen in the heavens above, in the earth beneath or in the waters under the earth.

Men who are interested in using airships for useful purposes turn to the airplane. Only the United States government can afford to experiment with dirigibles. Our navy department doesn't care, apparently, how much money it wastes on these expensive toys because it can always get more money from the taxpayers. However, if the money expended by the government on dirigibles had been spent on airplanes and seaplanes instead, the navy would have at least 100 more effective aircraft for use in time of need than it now has. The future of aerial navigation lies with the airplane, not

Minneapolis, Minn. Times  
SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1923

### A HUGE, EXPENSIVE TOY.

The uselessness of the giant dirigible airships for the purposes has been brot forcibly to popular attention by the failure of the Los Angeles to make the contemplated flight to Minneapolis to attend the Norse Centennial celebration. The proposed flight was widely advertised and many thousands stayed up all night to see this "queen of the skies" arrive. But they watched in vain. The "queen of the skies" never came. Instead, word arrived that, on account of engine trouble, the Los Angeles had returned to its hangar at Lakehurst, N. J.

Later it was reported that the Los Angeles had been ordered to return to Minneapolis after making some repairs and would be back here the latter part of the week. Still later came word that injuries to the Los Angeles' engines had been found to be extensive and that the Shenandoah, instead of the Los Angeles, had been ordered to make the trip to the Twin Cities, but that it would take two weeks for the Shenandoah to get ready. Its' gas cells were all folded away and would have to be taken out and thoroly tested before being installed, the dispatches stated. Also, heilium gas to supply the Shenandoah would have to be removed from the Los Angeles, put thru a purifying process and used for inflating the Shenandoah.

These dirigibles are, in fact, nothing but huge, expensive toys, good for exhibition purposes but useless for all practical purposes. Too cumbersome to be managable in a very high wind, they are only fair weather craft at best. Moreover, the great gas bags are likely to rip or burst when they come in contact with any obstacle and then the whole tremendous structure with its crew of 35 or more men is almost certain to be a total loss.

Another difficulty with the dirigible is that of landing. The dirigible cannot, like the airplane, land on any fairly level piece of ground. It must either have a huge mooring mast to tie to or it must have a crew of 300 trained men at hand to bring it to the ground. Even with these accessories at hand it is often unable to effect a landing if weather conditions are not right. When the Los

M'p'T's (Minn.) Farm, Stock & Home  
MONDAY, JUNE 18, 1923

### Norse-American Centennial

IT is particularly fitting that the Norwegian Centennial should have been held in Minnesota. Take away the Norwegian and other Scandinavian influences in the development of the middle northwest, and there would be but little left. They formed the main body of the great hardy army of pioneers that, in the latter half of the last century, made homes for themselves in the then frontier country of Minnesota and Dakota territory. We of today who move about swiftly and easily in our autos, over paved or fine graveled roads, viewing, in many cases, rural landscapes of entrancing beauty, are too likely to forget how much we owe to the modern Vikings who pitted their strength and will against the blizzards of the prairies, not on plunder bent as the Vikings of old, but to build a new land, that we of today might be happier and more prosperous.

## Norse-American Centennial

**T**HE 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 both be present. Men of the highest rank in the public life of Norway will come and other countries also will 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 an 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.

**N**O 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.

## From the Norse Centennial

**T**HE Norse-American Centennial which came to a close last Tuesday has been pronounced one of the greatest events in the history of the Northwest.

The attendance was record breaking, even for the Minnesota Fair Grounds where exceptional crowds are common. President Coolidge, when he spoke Monday afternoon, was greeted by a crowd that probably was the largest ever assembled on the Fair Grounds.

For three days there were continuous programs at different places. Building after building was filled with people and everywhere there was some special program in progress.

Tuesday forenoon was given over to greetings from different nations and racial elements.

The editor of this paper had been requested to bring greetings from the Icelanders in America and we publish below extracts covering the major portions of his speech:

**M**Y FELLOW Americans and countrymen of the Northland:

It is my privilege to bring to the Norse-American Centennial greetings from the Icelandic people of America. Let me say at the outset that the people whose greeting I am to convey are not to be blamed for this selection, neither am I self-appointed, but it would be more than passing strange did there not creep in at least one mistake on the part of the management of an undertaking assuming the magnitudinous proportions of this Centennial—but let that pass.

The people of Icelandic extraction in America rejoice with their Norwegian brothers and sisters on this occasion. They take pride in the attention bestowed upon the Centennial project by the nation's chief executive and by the governments of other nations and they feel that all this recognition is merited. The Norwegians and the Icelanders are not two distinct races—they are one and the same people. They are of common origin, their traditions are for the most part identical, the racial atmosphere that surrounds them is the same and their religion and their political and social ideals are cut from the same cloth. We are one people and neither branch of the family has any reason to repudiate the other.

You Norwegians—you Norse-Americans, as you have chosen to designate yourselves for the purposes of this celebration—are commemorating the fact that one hundred years ago a few hardy Norsemen braved the billows of the Atlantic and came to America to found the first Norwegian colony in this land of the free.

In 1874 the people of Iceland celebrated the fact that one thousand years ago that sturdy son of Norway, Ingolfur Arnarson, effected the first permanent settlement in Iceland.

The time allotted me permits of no details. Suffice it to say that Iceland was speedily settled, over a thousand years ago, by the unconquerable spirits who could not bring themselves to fawn upon the fair-haired Harald that prosperity and peace might be bought by an act of subjugation. They have been called stubborn and stiff-necked—but what could you expect, were they not Norwegians? The spirit of freedom and independence has had its abode in Norway since the first midnight sun broke in splendour upon the native eye.

It was from the soil of Norway, from the mountains and the fjords, that came the men and women who founded the republic of Iceland, of which President Coolidge spoke so eloquently yesterday, a republic that endured for four hundred years. And permit me to call to your attention just one significant fact in connection with this republic—it was a government without an executive. It had its parliament and its courts of law and justice, but no official head. I sometimes think that this peculiar arrangement may have been caused by the fact that these Norsemen tacitly avoided elevating any one of their number to a position where he had the power of ruler over the rest. It was in a cradle such as this that the little nation which we now call the Icelandic was rocked during its period of infancy. It was a cradle, if not made in Norway, at least constructed from material brought from thence.

It was within the confines of this republic—on the soil of Iceland—that to Eirik the Red was born the son to whom he gave the name of Leifur—he who in the year 1000 discovered America. Eirik the Red was a native of Norway—an exile who found a haven of safety in Iceland. After being in Iceland for a number of years, he married a woman native born and of native parents—but, of course, of Norwegian stock. To this couple was born the

son whose destiny it was to discover the continent we now inhabit. I will merely mention the exile of Eirik the Red from Iceland, his colonization of Greenland at a time when Leifur was still a youth and Leif's visit to Norway in the year 999 and his return to Greenland the following year when contrary winds drove his frail craft out of its course with the result that he made his famous discovery.

Iceland claims Leif Eiriksson as her own—our brethren, the Norwegians, also contend for him. Sometimes these claims and counter-claims lead to controversies. Personally, I feel that both the Icelandic and the Norwegian branches of the Norse family have each in their own peculiar way incontestible claims with regard to this man. The facts are matters of history and there need arise no contention over them. Let the Norse race own Leif Eiriksson in common—there is glory, there is honor enough for all.

But I am to bring you greetings from the Icelandic Americans. They are not numerous, neither are they mighty, but such as they are they never repudiate their origin, nor have they ever been found wanting in love for and loyalty to the principles that underlie the government of the country of their adoption. Love of liberty is fundamental in the human race—the yearning for freedom is from the beginning and ever will be.

Before Leifur Eiriksson discovered Vinland, before Christopher Columbus landed on the island of San Salvador, the Norse race was struggling to realize the ideals upon which rests the government and institutions of our American Republic. Those ideals are eternal in their nature and they have struggled for recognition among the nations, with varying results, ever since the birth man. The Icelanders do not boast that they have, to any unusual extent, been entrusted with the custody of these ideals, but they do claim that the Norse race, of which they are a part, has, through the centuries, not only stood committed to the cause of freedom but has been freedom's champion in the forensic arena and upon the field of battle.

We Icelanders, like our Norwegian brethren, came to this country primarily to better our condition in a material way and to insure to our children greater opportunities and more abundant possibilities for their advancement. Thanks to the richness of the resources and the realized dreams of mankind in the land

that Leifur found, we have seen our prayers answered and our hopes come true.

You are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the coming of the first group of Norwegian emigrants to America. Last year the Icelanders in America held a memorial service to commemorate the fact that on the second day of August, 1874, there was preached in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the first sermon ever delivered in America in the Icelandic language.

In point of American settlement we are virtually fifty years old where you are one hundred. Several of our leading colonies date their origin from about 1875.

It was about this time of the year, in 1875, that Gunnlaugur Pjetursson and his family and Pjetur Pjetursson, a bachelor, drove up from Dane county, Wisconsin, with a yoke of oxen, and settled on homesteads in Lyon county, Minnesota. These were the first Icelanders to make their homes in Minnesota.

People of Icelandic birth and Icelandic extraction in America number probably something more than twenty thousand—most of whom are domiciled on the Canadian side.

It is for these twenty thousand people that I presume to speak in now extending greetings to the Norse-American Centennial. May I say to you that our hearts are filled with gratitude to the God of our fathers who directed our people to this land of wealth and vision.

We rejoice in the progress that the Norse race has made in America. We take pride in the achievement, the advancement and the progress of every kind that has been made by the Norwegian people in this country, in their one century of sojourn here. We come to you in the spirit of brotherhood, extending the hand of fellowship, and we say to you: May the Providence that watched over you and guided your footsteps in these, the first hundred years, continue to guide you to still larger and better achievements in your future labors in the land which our fathers so fittingly named "Vinland the Good."

*Gunnar B. Björnson*

Monticello, Minn. Time  
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1925

From all points of the compass the celebrants of the Norse-American Centennial, which is but ~~four~~ weeks away, celebrants are coming. Already many have left European ports for St. Paul. This is a good time for the people of Minnesota to do some efficient talking for Minnesota and let our visitors know what Minnesota has and what a great state it is. If Minnesota is big enough to rise to the situation she should be able to convince her guests that Minnesota is one of the wonder spots of the earth compared with which California is not in the race.

Morris, Minn. Tribune  
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1925

#### THE NORSE IN MINNESOTA

In connection with the great Norse-American centennial which is to be held in the Twin Cities next week, some statistics given out by Dr. O. M. Norlie, of Luther college, Decorah, Iowa, are of interest. He says that the population of Norse-Americans in Minnesota is approximately 525,000, or 22 per cent of the state's population, more than one out of every five of the state's 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 breadwinners; 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 improvements, more than \$1,000,000,000. Not a bad accumulation for only 75 years.

Dr. Norlie also gives these further figures relative to occupations of Norse-Americans in Minnesota: retail merchants, 5,400; teachers, 4,800; carpenters, 4,400; lumbering, 2,800; miners, 2,000; public service, 2,000; 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.

Morristown (Minn.) Press  
THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1925

It now appears reasonably certain that President and Mrs. Coolidge, Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg and a party of newspaper men, secret service men and others, will reach St. Paul early in the evening of Sunday, June 7.

The nation's chief will go immediately to the Kellogg home which, under the personal direction of Mrs. Kellogg, has been undergoing a thorough overhauling in preparation for its distinguished guests.

It is considered likely that all records for crowds in the Twin Cities will be broken on the following day when the President speaks at the state fair grounds. Inasmuch as the President's St. Paul speech is announced as the first on his summer program, much interest attaches to his utterances at that time. It is understood that no less than fifteen newspaper men, representing the fifteen leading dailies of the country, will make the trip to St. Paul, which, for twenty-four hours at least, is to be the seat of the American government.

Nor will the President have a complete monopoly on the spotlight. Some time Monday Mrs. Coolidge is to be presented a handwoven rug from Norway, the work of Mrs. Kari E. Sletta, a native of Romsdalen, but now a resident of St. Paul. The presentation speech will be made by Prof. Gisle Bothne, head of the centenary organization.

It is expected that the presidential party will start the return trip to Washington early Monday evening.

Olivia, Minn. Journal  
THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1925

#### THE NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL

Congressman O. J. Kvale extends to each members of the House a cordial invitation to visit Minnesota and to attend the Norse-American Centennial in the Twin Cities from June 6 to 9. This invitation has been directed personally to President Coolidge and his aides by Governor Theodore Christianson and the Legislature. In an address before the House, Congressman Kvale referred to Minnesota as the Land of the Ten Thousand Lakes; the Park Region of the United States; the Bread Basket of the World. That "Minnesota is the Summer Playground of the Nation;" that she boasts a citizenship which in health, thrift, intelligence and morality cannot be excelled. Outside of this Minnesota is not much different than most any state in the Union. It makes a fellow feel kinder, cheery to think and know that Minnesota has produced a Congressman and Senator (both Norsks), who in point of intelligence, health and morals are second to none in Congress or elsewhere.

Olivia, Minn. Journal  
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1925

Tales of adventures and valiant cruises undertaken by the Danes, Icelanders and Norwegians were retold this week in Minnesota and listened to with great interest by the many visitors to the Norse-American centennial. Legends of early Norse visit to America have engaged the attention of historians for ages and, while very little of fact can be stated as to actual discoveries, there can be no doubt that the hardy Scandanavian adventurers discovered Iceland, Greenland and probably New Foundland, Nova Scotia and the main land of America. Future historians may be able to unearth evidences establishing the facts as to the claims of Red and Leif Erikson, the details of which are at present lost in the mist of legend.

Olivia, Minn. Journal  
THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1925

Now that the Norse Centennial celebration has passed into history and the big million dollar dirigible is still on its way to the Twin Cities; it's expected arrival delayed due to the radical weather that is typical of Minnesota, we have settled down to our accustomed place in the community and are willing to forgive and forget the continual reminder that we are not of a race that discovered Minnesota and the rest of the American continent, and pursue our eventful way as behooves one who cares not a cracker for creed, nationality or color. We're all here and all Americans, so it matters not that we have failed to acquire the snoose habit which after all is an American invention and can be charged to the Old English families at that.

Ortonville, Minn. Independent  
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1925

#### WHY THE FUSS ?

Some there are who are stirring up a heap of fuss about the Norse-American Centennial, claiming that such gatherings promote increased love of the mother land, strengthening the ties in that regard while loosening to a degree the ties and loyalty to America, the adopted land.

Why it is that anyone should be so narrow-minded as to raise this question is beyond comprehension. Look over the broad expanses of the great northwest and one will find farm homes that bring credit to the world and a large percentage of them represent a life-time's earnings of Norwegians through hard work in improving the virgin soils of America. Can anyone say that the hearts of these men and women are not beating for and with America?

Simply because people of one nationality are about to assemble together under the Stars and Stripes and sing some of the songs of their mother land, meet prominent men from there, and exhibit various articles of Norwegian make, is certainly nothing to cause alarm to some of the "would-be" patriotic Americans.

It is to be doubted, indeed, whether those who are so alarmed over this gathering would rally to the defense of America as quickly as the men and their kin who are about to join in the greatest celebration in American history in 1925.

**NORSE HERE 75 YEARS AGO**

In connection with the coming Norse-American Centennial it is interesting to note 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 a 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. Langeberg, who came to St. Paul with her brother, Amund, in 1850. They were natives of Hallingdahl, 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 Minnesota. It was during Ramsey's 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 Meeker county and still later to Minneapolis.

It was in 1852 that Norse immigrants began to come into Minnesota in any considerable numbers, 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 the country 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, Iowa, that the population of Norse-Americans in this state is approximately 525,000, or 22% of the state's population, more than one out of every five of the state's 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 breadwinners; 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 improvements, more than \$1,000,000,000. Not a bad accumulation for only 75 years!

Dr. Norlie also gives these further figures relative to occupations of Norse-Americans in Minnesota: retail merchants, 5,400; teachers, 4,800; carpenters, 4,400; lumbering, 2,800; miners, 2,000; public service, 2,000; 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.

**NORSE IMMIGRANTS CAME TO MINN. 75 YEARS AGO**

In connection with the Norse-American Centennial, which was so successfully staged at the Minnesota State Fair Grounds, 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, January 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 a 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, this state. He died there a few years ago.

The first Norse woman known to have located in Minnesota was Miss Ingeborg L. Langeberg, who came to St. Paul with her brother, Amund, in 1850. They were natives of Hallingdahl, 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 Minnesota. It was during Ramsey's 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 Meeker county and still later to Minneapolis.

It was in 1852 that Norse immigrants began to come into Minnesota in any considerable numbers, 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 the country are still owned by descendants of those who homesteaded them in the 50's.

From this modest beginning of Norse settlements in Minnesota, 75 years ago it is now estimated by Dr. O. M. Norlie, well known statistician of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, that the population of Norse-Americans

in this state is approximately 525,000, or 22% of the state's population, more than one out of every five of the state's 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 breadwinners; 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 improvements, more than \$1,000,000,000. Not a bad accumulation for only 75 years!

Dr. Norlie also gives these further figures relative to occupations of Norse-Americans in Minnesota: retail merchants, 5,400; teachers, 4,800; carpenters, 4,400; lumbering, 2,800; miners, 2,000; public service, 2,000; 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.

Red Wing, Minn. Farmer  
FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1923

**COOLIDGE'S BODY GUARD**

President Coolidge's body guard at the Norse centennial next month, a group of picked World war veterans of six-footers, all of Norse descent, will include Edward Barsness, the mayor of the city of Glenwood.

This is doubly interesting from the fact that Barsness is editor of the Pope County Tribune, one of the strongest Farmer-Labor newspapers in Minnesota.

Glenwood was formerly the home of Senator Henrik Shipstead. During the war, Shipstead's house was painted yellow in the dark of night by mysterious persons who thought themselves to be hundred per cent American and who considered Shipstead's affiliation with the Nonpartisan league crowd seditious and traitorous to the government. Barsness in the Tribune never allowed the people of Glenwood to forget their insulting treatment of Shipstead and things waxed warm in the old town.

But a year ago, some of the W. C. T. U. women thought the laws could be a bit better enforced in Glenwood. They undertook to make the fighting Farmer-Labor editor mayor of the city by use of stickers. Others joined in the move, and Barsness was triumphantly elected. To even matters up, Glenwood has been electing B. K. Savre, editor of the Herald, just as militantly Republican as the Tribune is Farmer-Labor, president of the school board each year.

Some years ago, one crowd strewed tacks in the roads when the other crowd put on a political parade. Now World war veterans of the Farmer-Labor persuasion take their place as guards of the nation's chief. Times have changed. We are becoming more civilized. Tolerance has taken the place of fanaticism. Reason has come back into its own.

And with Barsness in the body guard, President Coolidge will be in safe hands while in our state.

## THE NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL

The Norse-American Centennial was so vast in its scope, so varied in its nature and so significant in its historical importance that the writing of a short article on the subject, intended to touch the high spots, becomes very difficult. There was such a bewildering array of things to grasp the attention and such a multitude of "high spots" everywhere throughout the celebration that volumes could to be written—and undoubtedly will be—to cover fully that momentous undertaking. From the viewpoint of attendance it was perhaps the largest gathering of civilians in history. All observers seem agreed that certainly no President ever addressed so many citizens at one time. Thanks to the microphones and the amplification of sound by the loud speaker, the vast multitude heard the addresses as clearly as if they had been only a few feet from the speakers. Throughout the nation millions, no doubt, heard the President over the radio. From many angles, indeed, was the Centennial and epoch making institution.

The solidarity of the American republic, readiness by those of Norse birth or decent to amalgamate with the citizenship of this land, their ability to achieve in all departments of human endeavor, their unflinching patriotism as exemplified both in peace and in war, and their whole-heartedness in everything that goes to make America free, happy and prosperous—all of this and much more was manifested in every department of the festival that marked the hundredth anniversary of the active participation in American affairs by those who made the Centennial possible.

The historic fact that the Norsemen were the discoverers of America five centuries before Columbus set foot on land in the western world, something which is no longer questioned by intelligent people, was riveted fast and clenched by governmental authority in connection with the Centennial, leaving no room for further argument. By act of congress the government issued medals commemorating the arrival of Leif Erickson and his men in their Viking ship in the year 1000. It is the first time a medal has been cast, we are told, in connection with any such enterprise. The postage stamps issued for the Centennial also carried a picture of the Viking ship. Furthermore, the President in his address at the Centennial dwelt to considerable extent on the Norwegian discovery of America. He assumed, also, that the mathematician born of the Viking parents in this country, had probably furnished the calculations and information on which Columbus based his judgment when that great discoverer started to find the continent of the western world.

The spirit of patriotic Americanism which brought about the celebration of the Norse-American Centennial permeates throughout the entire nation regardless of the antecedents of our citizenship, and reaches lands across the sea where the people have the same problems in their development of human institutions as we have here in America, although in somewhat different form. Freedom of speech, freedom of press, freedom to worship God according to one's own conscience, opportunity to make of one's self the very best and to help create conditions for the highest ideals possible of attainment—these are the things for which all liberty loving souls strive. And the possibility of such attainment was clearly shown at the Norse-American Centennial.

## NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL.

THE Norse-American Centennial celebration at the State Fair Grounds next months 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 both be present. Men of the highest rank in the public life of Norway will come and other countries also will 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 an 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.

Redwood Falls, Minn. Sun  
FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 1925

### NORSE MEN.

The great celebration just drawing to a close in the city of Minneapolis has brought the Norsepeople in this and other states very much into the lime light, and for this reason we naturally constrained to appraise them with reference to the contribution that they have made and are making to the worth while things in American life. They have added greatly to Minnesota's material wealth, having helped to break up prairies and clear her great timber areas. They have been abreast of the fore-

most in educational life and leadership, and are today among the most progressive of our people in this line. In political circles they have and are today playing a leading role. Among our most famous Senators and Governors, their names rank high. They are a religious people, and have been very solicitous for the welfare of the church in their settlements. They have been a progressive people in the way of making public and private improvements of a modern and lasting kind.

Renville (Minn.) Farmer  
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1925

The Centenary of the Norsemen held in the cities this week is a distinctive honor to Minnesota. It was only when the Scandinavians came and made their settlement in great blocks on the naked prairies that the railroad followed them and they established schools, churches and towns and was not long before both homestead and the alternate sections of railroad land was taken up and substantial improvements made on every quarter section. Nature responded generously to every effort made on the part of the husbandman. A hundred years is a long time but it is about half that time since or shortly after the civil war that the first regular settlement was made in this part of the state. A wonderful difference will be noted at this time in the transmission from the oxen to the automobile. Gen. U. S. Grant was president the time of the greatest influx of settlers to the northwest. There has been a great many changes in all parts of our country from that time to the present Coolidge administration. At that time we talked in terms of millions as we do now of billions in the running of the state or national government. This is a fast age and if we don't step too hard on the gas we will probably land as safely in the future as we have in the past.

Renville (Minn.) Farmer  
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1925

### They Have Helped Us Vastly.

The imminence of the Norse American Centennial celebration in the Twin Cities brings to mind with renewed force the truth of what President Coolidge told the Daughters of the American Revolution about the foreign-born in this country who have become Americanized. The President said:

We need not only to draw the newcomers into our social structure, but we need also to make them contribute to its strength and beauty. We may gain much from them. In the diversification of our culture, the broadening of our interests, the development of our literature and arts, the formation of a rounded, symmetrical national character, they can help us vastly. We shall best serve both them and ourselves, if we shall fully recognize this mutuality of interest.

The Norse-American Centennial offers this opportunity for native Americans and those of Scandinavian blood to recognize their mutuality of interest. No State in the Union has been so fortunate as Minnesota in having so large an infusion of Nordic blood in its population. Through the years these newcomers have contributed their strength to the life of the State, because they came here as workers with the purpose of becoming rapidly Americanized.

The history of Minnesota registers the influence of several streams of builders. First came the French explorers who followed the river channels, located the islands and prairies, and left their impress in such names as De Sota, Le Suer, Radisson and Hennepin. Then came the Down East Yankees, to become sturdy and resourceful pioneers in every line of endeavor.

In the period of development and expansion that this opened the Scandinavian immigration started early and continued long. The character of the early work of these newcomers is described by the Interpreter, which tells of how one Norwegian settled years ago in the forests of the North, grubbed out the trees, built his family a spacious log house, tilled his farm and garden and in twenty years snatched civilization from the wilderness and wrought out his own affluence. This case is not exceptional, but typical of what many settlers of Norse blood, who came to the State as toilers, have done. They entered constructively into the life of Minnesota, and in many lines

have attained positions of influence and leadership.

A State like Minnesota is not built in a day, but is the product of long sustained, co-operative effort between natives and foreign-born. The best form of State and Nation building and of Americanization is that which comes, as President Coolidge suggests, from mutual appreciation and gratitude for the share that each has had in making Minnesota what it is today.  
—Minneapolis Journal.

Rush City, Minn., Post  
FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 1925

The great Norse centennial was enhanced by the presence of President Coolidge and Mrs. Coolidge, who as home guests of St. Paul's distinguished citizens, Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Kellogg were given a genuine friendly welcome. The president and his charming lady quite captivated the multitudes and their visit was timely and enjoyable.

Rushford, Minn., Record  
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1925

### MINNESOTA FIRST

With the opening of the Norse-American centennial at the Minnesota state fair grounds, Saint Paul, less than four weeks away, preparations to entertain the greatest throng that ever invaded the Northwest are going forward with all possible speed.

From all points of the compass the celebrants are coming. Already many of them have left European ports for Saint Paul.

This would seem to be a good time for the people of Minnesota to do some talking for the benefit of the visitors. It is without question an opportunity for us to let them know what Minnesota has, and what a great state it is.

It is on such occasions that Californians get in their deadliest work. Nothing pleases them more than to corner visitors and regale them with the wonders of their state.

Compared with the wonders of Minnesota, California hasn't any. For every asset claimed by California, Minnesota can claim at least five and make the claim stick, moreover. But California has been exploited and Minnesota hasn't. There's the rub and the difference. Millions of California dollars, tourists' dollars, by the way, have gone to tell the world all about the West coast, to bring more tourists to it, and each dollar has paid big returns.

Minnesota is approaching the day when it will be exploited. Meanwhile such an event as the Norse-American centenary should be grasped by Minnesotans to convince their guests that here indeed is one of the world's wonder spots.



Duluth, Minn., Tribune  
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1925

### THE NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL

The project for a celebration of the Norse-American Centennial in the Twin Cities next June 6 to 9th has already met with such enthusiastic response, not only in Minnesota and the northwest, not only in the United States and Canada, but also in old Norway itself, that the success of the affair seems to be already beyond question.

There used to be a certain feeling of regret in Norway, when the migration of so many of her sons and daughters to America was mentioned. It seemed a great and irreparable loss to the old country. But that feeling seems to have quite vanished in the swelling feeling of pride in the New World achievements and attainments of the Norsemen. As in the old Viking days, but by the arts of peace rather than of war, the Norseman is making his way everywhere. So the response of Norway to the invitation to the celebration has been most gratifying.

It is already manifest that the affair is to have the happy effect of bringing together in unwonted union the people of this widely scattered strain of blood. Differences of politics, religion, social distinction, business, what-not—all are forgotten in the impulse for a reunion of Norsemen everywhere.

The promise of President Coolidge to come and participate, and the probability that some high representative of the Dominion government will be here, as well as the promised coming of delegates from the Norwegian Storting and government, give the celebration the aspect of a real world affair.

St. Cloud, Minn., Times  
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1925

### NORSE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION.

Tens of thousands of Norwegians are celebrating the one hundredth anniversary at the state fair grounds today of Norse group immigration to the United States. It was on July 4, 1825, that the Restaurationen sailed from Stavenger, Norway. This ship was smaller than the Mayflower and brought a heavy cargo of iron and 52 people, most of them farmers who first settled in Kendall, New York. But it was the West that called them, and Minnesota in particular. By quick stages they and their followers sought their homes in Indiana, Illinois and then in the great mid-west farming states of Iowa, Minnesota and the Dakotas. To commemorate this anniversary high officials of four governments are participating, the United States, Canada, Norway and Iceland. The navy sent a fleet of air planes, started the air ship, Los Angeles and President Coolidge himself honored the occasion and delivered a notable address at the state fair ground this afternoon, in which he paid a great tribute to the Norwegian people and the part that they have played in the development of this nation. Referring to the fact that the little sloop that brought the first group of Norwegians to our shores also brought a cargo of iron, the President said that "today Minnesota has more Norwegians and produces more iron ore than any other state."

Minnesota owes much to this verile race of Northmen. They have taken a conspicuous and leading part in its development. They came here seeking that freedom that they loved and in winning it they achieved their own happiness and prosperity because as President Coolidge said this afternoon, they have given and kept their pledge to the Land of the Free.

St. Cloud, Minn., Journal-Press  
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1925

The Twin cities are to be hosts to two big fine conventions in June. The gathering of the descendants of the Norse forefathers, who came in large numbers to the United States a hundred years ago. Attended by President and Mrs. Coolidge, and Secretary and Mrs. Kellogg, it will in numbers and international interest outclass any gathering of this character in the history of the state. There will also be the International convention of Kiwanians, a meeting of the real buidiers of good fellowship, of Canada and the United States.

St. Cloud, Minn., Journal-Press  
FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 1925

Observant men who attended the Norse celebration compliment our brethern of Norwegian blood. "I never saw so large a crowd so well behaved. Among the hundred or more thousand people I saw only one drunken man, and he was a Greek. I presume he could find no Norse to buy his booze and so drank it himself," reports one experienced traveler. And yet they tell us that drunkenness has increased since the saloons were closed.

St. Cloud, Minn., Times  
FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 1925

### THE NORSE CENTENNIAL.

On October 9, 1825 the ship Restaurationen arrived in America bringing 53 Norwegians. This was the first organized group to emigrate from Norway to the United States. It marked the first low wash of a great wave of Norwegian immigration which followed.

It is in honor of the one-hundredth anniversary of the event that President Coolidge went to Minneapolis to be present at the Norse-American Centennial. No small portion of the development and upbuilding of the Northwestern states is due to the efforts of Norwegians or descendants of Norsemen. And no better class of people ever sought a new home in America. They had within them the spirit of Americanism before they came to the new land and adapting themselves to the new environment involved no radical alteration of views or habits. They may take a justifiable pride in exhibiting what has been achieved by them in the development of a section of the United States where the mass of them is settled.

The event also provided the opportunity for a great reunion of those Americans who have an ancestry dating back to Norway. That they take pride in their origin does not necessarily make them any the less American in spirit or the less devoted to our institutions. It has been to the profit of America that so many Norwegians sought homes here as well as profit to the former immigrants themselves.

St. Paul, Minn., Pioneer Press  
SUNDAY, MAY 31, 1925

### They Come to Sing.

THE FIFTY-SIXTH anniversary of Normanna Sangerkor, declared to be the oldest Norwegian singing society in America, will be celebrated at La Crosse, Wis., tomorrow.

The society was organized on June 1, 1869, at a picnic on Granddad's bluff, one of the Wisconsin chain overlooking the land bench between the Mississippi and the high land east of La Crosse. The founder was C. R. Jackwitz, a cousin of Bjrnstjerne Bjornson, Norwegian poet. The society assisted Ole Bull, at his request, in a concert at Madison in 1870 for the benefit of the University library. It became a charter member of the Norwegian Singers' Association of America which was organized in Sioux Falls in 1891, and always has been well represented in the national body. It was honored at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 and from time to time its representatives have held high offices in the national association.

It is less than a year ago that the Norwegian Singers Association of America held its biennial gathering and song festival in St. Paul, appearing in two concerts at the Auditorium with a chorus of 1,000 voices. Now, with the Centennial coming this week and next the societies of the association will be gathering here again. From the standpoint of choral music the Centennial will bring together one of the greatest congregations in history. Besides all the singing societies to be represented, there will be the Academic chorus of Oslo, which already is here, the St. Olaf college choir, the Decorah college band, the Augustana choir, the Waldorf college choir and the Concordia college choir.

The Scandinavian peoples always have been supreme in the choral field. Their choruses are world famous, and justly so. When the Norwegians came to America it was natural, of course, that they should organize their singing societies here. The love of music and especially of the grandeur of the chorus came with them. But that does not detract from the honors which go to the Normanna Sangerkor, as the first of all Norwegian singing societies to be formed in this country. The demonstration of musical accomplishment to be made here will show what the honor means.

### The Trade Tour.

St. Paul business men this week will be out calling on the folks in the country in accordance with regular custom. During the past twelve months our country neighbors have been visiting us, and it is quite in order that we should return the compliment. The special train, which will leave St. Paul this morning, will be out for a week, going as far West as Bismarck, and stopping at more than 100 towns en route. While our tourists are on the road they will see for themselves the splendid condition of the farms about which we have been hearing so much pleasant news of late.

The visit last year was paid under less encouraging auspices. Agriculture had been having a bad time of it, and the McNary-Haugen measure was on the table in Congress. The business men of St. Paul, who had been fighting hard for the passage of this measure, had much in common with the country folk to talk about. Since then agriculture has had a new lease of life. A good crop here, and a very poor one elsewhere, gave us an excellent price, and there is evidence that a somewhat similar condition, coupled with similarly excellent prospects in the Northwest, will give us another good price next fall. All of which means prosperity for the farms and towns, and consequently prosperity for the cities. The travelers may look forward to a delightful week.

We hope they will take with them St. Paul's cordial invitation to visit us next week and take part with us in the celebration of the Norse Centennial. Besides the celebration itself there will be other attractions. President Coolidge and Secretary of State Kellogg will spend next Monday in St. Paul as the guests of the Centennial. The United States Marine band, one of the most famous musical organizations in the world, will be here. The splendid student chorus from the University of Oslo, Norway, already is in town. The gigantic airship Los Angeles is coming, and will be moored at the Wold-Chamberlain airport. She is one of the greatest lighter-than-air cruisers in the world, and worth going many miles to see. Our trade tourists have much of interest to offer as a reason for coming to St. Paul next week. We hope that many thousands of our country cousins will take advantage of the occasion.

They will all be more than welcome.

### An Extra St. Paul Attraction.

St. Paul offers numerous attractions at all times to visitors on vacation or business trips, and will do so specially in the week beginning Saturday, with the Northwest Industrial Exposition and the Norwegian Centennial celebration in this city. The industrial show will surprise even the residents of St. Paul with the extent and variety of the products of factories in the Northwest. It would be hard to name an article of necessary common use or ornament or luxury that is not being made in this city or in this section. Every item of clothing, from boots to hats, or from head to heel, everything that goes into the construction or outfitting of a modern home, every kind of conveyance, including an automobile, a trolley or a railroad car, everything needed in a store or office, from desks to books and bookcases, is being made in the Northwest. If the Northwest were as isolated from the rest of the world as Talifu in Yunnan, China, could nevertheless manage very nicely.

At this season many persons are taking, and practically all the rest are planning, vacations. No matter how many times an out-of-town resident has visited St. Paul, he will find things to instruct, amuse or profit him in another trip. As all roads center in St. Paul, it is the logical first stop, in whatever direction one may be going.

### The Norsemen Gather.

The Norsemen come again today. Centuries ago, we are told, they crossed the Atlantic in rowboats. The first contingent in modern times sailed it in a bark not much bigger. They came to Minnesota from the seaboard in towboats via the Erie canal, on slow going lake vessels, on all manner of craft, from barge to steamer, making time with the current of the Ohio and laboriously ascending the Mississippi. They made long and costly portages; they were halted at the head of navigation; they traveled overland on foot, in covered wagons, drawn by horse and sluggish oxen, sometimes in two-wheeled carts which humped over freshly made trails, creaking and screeching to the heavens from their unlubricated axles as they rattled through wilderness and over prairie.

Today they come by rail and auto, and, yes, by liner over the Atlantic. The first event on their program is a demonstration of ultramodern facilities for transportation. They watch the huge Martin bombers and the JNS-1 observation planes of the 103rd Aero Squadron, the De Havillands flying in formation and the specimens of fastest aerial craft on earth, the pursuit planes which go 200 miles in an hour, covering in minutes distances which took the Norwegian pioneers days. The Norwegian children flew kites in the prairie breezes—but now this convocation awaits the coming of an enormous dirigible that in one day traverses half a continent, floating smoothly and swiftly over the same hills and valleys through which the early Norsemen so torturously struggled.

This is our day of quick accomplishment, of fast and sure transportation and comfortable sons and daughters who congregate here today may know that the rigors and hardships of the pioneers ushered it in.

St. Cloud, Minn., Journal Press  
FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 1923

Observant men who attended the Norse celebration compliment our brethern of Norwegian blood. "I never saw so large a crowd so well behaved. Among the hundred or more thousand people I saw only one drunken man, and he was a Greek. I presume he could find no Norse to buy his booze and so drank it himself," reports one experienced traveler. And yet they tell us that drunkenness has increased since the saloons were closed.

St. Cloud, Minn., Times  
FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 1923

### THE NORSE CENTENNIAL.

On October 9, 1825 the ship Restaurationen arrived in America bringing 53 Norwegians. This was the first organized group to emigrate from Norway to the United States. It marked the first low wash of a great wave of Norwegian immigration which followed.

It is in honor of the one-hundredth anniversary of the event that President Coolidge went to Minneapolis to be present at the Norse-American Centennial. No small portion of the development and upbuilding of the Northwestern states is due to the efforts of Norwegians or descendants of Norsemen. And no better class of people ever sought a new home in America. They had within them the spirit of Americanism before they came to the new land and adapting themselves to the new environment involved no radical alteration of views or habits. They may take a justifiable pride in exhibiting what has been achieved by them in the development of a section of the United States where the mass of them is settled.

The event also provided the opportunity for a great reunion of those Americans who have an ancestry dating back to Norway. That they take pride in their origin does not necessarily make them any the less American in spirit or the less devoted to our institutions. It has been to the profit of America that so many Norwegians sought homes here as well as profit to the former immigrants themselves.

St. Paul, Minn., Pioneer Press  
SUNDAY, MAY 31, 1925

### They Come to Sing.

THE FIFTY-SIXTH anniversary of Normanna Sangerkor, declared to be the oldest Norwegian singing society in America, will be celebrated at La Crosse, Wis., tomorrow.

The society was organized on June 1, 1869, at a picnic on Granddad's bluff, one of the Wisconsin chain overlooking the land bench between the Mississippi and the high land east of La Crosse. The founder was C. R. Jackwitz, a cousin of Bjrnstjerne Bjornson, Norwegian poet. The society assisted Ole Bull, at his request, in a concert at Madison in 1870 for the benefit of the University library. It became a charter member of the Norwegian Singers' Association of America which was organized in Sioux Falls in 1891, and always has been well represented in the national body. It was honored at the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 and from time to time its representatives have held high offices in the national association.

It is less than a year ago that the Norwegian Singers' Association of America held its biennial gathering and song festival in St. Paul, appearing in two concerts at the Auditorium with a chorus of 1,000 voices. Now, with the Centennial coming this week and next the societies of the association will be gathering here again. From the standpoint of choral music the Centennial will bring together one of the greatest congregations in history. Besides all the singing societies to be represented, there will be the Academic chorus of Oslo, which already is here, the St. Olaf college choir, the Decorah college band, the Augustana choir, the Waldorf college choir and the Concordia college choir.

The Scandinavian peoples always have been supreme in the choral field. Their choruses are world famous, and justly so. When the Norwegians came to America it was natural, of course, that they should organize their singing societies here. The love of music and especially of the grandeur of the chorus came with them. But that does not detract from the honors which go to the Normanna Sangerkor, as the first of all Norwegian singing societies to be formed in this country. The demonstration of musical accomplishment to be made here will show what the honor means.

### The Trade Tour.

St. Paul business men this week will be out calling on the folks in the country in accordance with regular custom. During the past twelve months our country neighbors have been visiting us, and it is quite in order that we should return the compliment. The special train, which will leave St. Paul this morning, will be out for a week, going as far West as Bismarck, and stopping at more than 100 towns en route. While our tourists are on the road they will see for themselves the splendid condition of the farms about which we have been hearing so much pleasant news of late.

The visit last year was paid under less encouraging auspices. Agriculture had been having a bad time of it, and the McNary-Haugen measure was on the table in Congress. The business men of St. Paul, who had been fighting hard for the passage of this measure, had much in common with the country folk to talk about. Since then agriculture has had a new lease of life. A good crop here, and a very poor one elsewhere, gave us an excellent price, and there is evidence that a somewhat similar condition, coupled with similarly excellent prospects in the Northwest, will give us another good price next fall. All of which means prosperity for the farms and towns, and consequently prosperity for the cities. The travelers may look forward to a delightful week.

We hope they will take with them St. Paul's cordial invitation to visit us next week and take part with us in the celebration of the Norse Centennial. Besides the celebration itself there will be other attractions. President Coolidge and Secretary of State Kellogg will spend next Monday in St. Paul as the guests of the Centennial. The United States Marine band, one of the most famous musical organizations in the world, will be here. The splendid student chorus from the University of Oslo, Norway, already is in town. The gigantic airship Los Angeles is coming, and will be moored at the Wold-Chamberlain airport. She is one of the greatest lighter-than-air cruisers in the world, and worth going many miles to see. Our trade tourists have much of interest to offer as a reason for coming to St. Paul next week. We hope that many thousands of our country cousins will take advantage of the occasion.

They will all be more than welcome.

### An Extra St. Paul Attraction.

St. Paul offers numerous attractions at all times to visitors on vacation or business trips, and will do so specially in the week beginning Saturday, with the Northwest Industrial Exposition and the Norwegian Centennial celebration in this city. The Industrial show will surprise even the residents of St. Paul with the extent and variety of the products of factories in the Northwest. It would be hard to name an article of necessary common use or ornament or luxury that is not being made in this city or in this section. Every item of clothing, from boots to hats, or from head to heel, everything that goes into the construction or outfitting of a modern home, every kind of conveyance, including an automobile, a trolley or a railroad car, everything needed in a store or office, from desks to books and bookcases, is being made in the Northwest. If the Northwest were as isolated from the rest of the world as Talifu in Yunnan, China, could nevertheless manage very nicely.

At this season many persons are taking, and practically all the rest are planning, vacations. No matter how many times an out-of-town resident has visited St. Paul, he will find things to instruct, amuse or profit him in another trip. As all roads center in St. Paul, it is the logical stop, in whatever direction one may be going.

### The Norsemen Gather.

The Norsemen come again today. Centuries ago, we are told, they crossed the Atlantic in rowboats. The first contingent in modern times sailed it in a bark not much bigger. They came to Minnesota from the seaboard in towboats via the Erie canal, on slow going lake vessels, on all manner of craft, from barge to steamer, making time with the current of the Ohio and laboriously ascending the Mississippi. They made long and costly portages; they were halted at the head of navigation; they traveled overland on foot, in covered wagons, drawn by horse and sluggish oxen, sometimes in two-wheeled carts which bumped over freshly made trails, creaking and screeching to the heavens from their unlubricated axles as they crawled through wilderness and over prairie.

Today they come by rail and auto, and, yes, by liner over the Atlantic. The first event on their program is a demonstration of ultramodern facilities for transportation. They watch the huge Martin bombers and the JNS-1 observation planes of the 109th Aero Squadron, the De Havillands flying in formation and the specimens of fastest aerial craft on earth, the pursuit planes which go 200 miles in an hour, covering in minutes distances which took the Norwegian pioneers days. The Norwegian children flew kites in the prairie breezes—but now this convocation awaits the coming of an enormous dirigible that in one day traverses half a continent, floating smoothly and swiftly over the same hills and valleys through which the early Norsemen so torturously struggled.

This is our day of quick accomplishment, of fast and sure transportation and comfortable sons and daughters who congregate here today may know that the rigors and hardships of the pioneers ushered it in.

## THE NORSEMEN'S CONTRIBUTION.

ONE HUNDRED years! A moment in the obscure beginnings of peoples, often only a little while in the slow process of forging empires from lands and populations, on this continent constitutes an era, an age of unparalleled development and accomplishment. It is no coincidence that this century of building in America is recorded as the century of Norse immigration. The Centennial celebration, observing today the one-hundredth anniversary of the first coming of the Norwegians may as well be dedicated to a review of the swift attainments of their adopted nation, in which they have played so great a part.

The history of the Norwegians in America abounds in symbols which, each in themselves and in one way or another, typify their accomplishments for America and for themselves.

One might take the sloop, "Restaurationen;" or its handful of passengers from Norway; or the first colonies in New York, Illinois and Iowa; or one of the thousands who carved homes in Minnesota's wilderness; or the subduing of the prairies of Dakota. Or one might take Knute Nelson, the immigrant boy who became senator, or Hans Gerhard Stub, the son of an immigrant, or others of thousands of men and women who typify the service to this country of their people.

Fifty-three passengers on a sloop half the size of the Mayos' yacht, coming to a land of which they knew only by hearsay, sailing the Atlantic in quest of opportunity and freedom. What could be a better exemplification of courage and independence and devotion to the best things in life than that?

It was only natural that these courageous men and women and their kin who followed when the fame of America spread in their land, should press forward to the frontiers where the battle with nature was beginning and where the rewards, if necessitating a greater struggle, were worthy of their willingness to strive. It might have been expected also that they would invade Minnesota where the pineries and lakes, the abundant streams and the invigorating climate approximated conditions in their home lands.

Here they came bringing the courage which in ancient times made them the terror of the lands and seas, the ability to comport themselves in order which has made the peaceable relations of the Scandinavian countries the marvel of Europe, a readiness to acknowledge the worth of our institutions and our government and a willingness to fit themselves into our scheme of things.

So we have here in the Twin Cities, in the state which has the greatest share of the Norwegian immigration, the Centennial celebration. The hundreds of thousands who followed the first group on the "Restaurationen" and the sons and daughters who swelled the numbers into millions, have their representatives here. The mother land is represented, as it should be, because the influx of people has given us a sturdy population and cemented the ties of blood and friendship between it and this nation.

St. Paul is proud to be host of these people, proud of their accomplishments in which we share, glad of the forces that piloted them to America and to this city and state, proud of them and their sons and daughters and the things they have done for this country of ours.

## THE PRESIDENT ON THE CENTENNIAL.

President Coolidge in his address at the Norwegian Centennial celebration, this afternoon in St. Paul, departs in marked degree from the tenor of all his previous speeches. He presents a new facet of his character and one not yet glimpsed by the people of the Northwest. He reveals a many-sidedness comparable to that found in Samuel Pepys, who, methodical and exact in business, gifted in statecraft, careful and thrifty, successful in the management and improvement of the British navy department, still found time for philosophizing and contemplation. The President has been credited with a hard and brilliant business acumen, too cold perhaps to permit the growth of the humanizing influence of literary and historical reflection. His address uncovers this part of his mind and lets us see a little into the heart of the man, with his dreams and imaginings, his speculations and his hopes.

Yet he does not fail to do honor and justice to the Norse people and recites their history from the days when they were corsairs of the seas to their advent to America 100 years ago. He compliments without fulsomeness and he commends without flattery. He speaks for the entire people when he records the debt of the Northwest in progress and prosperity to the influx of a race which had as its two striking characteristics its lust for adventure and its hunger for land. Having recited succinctly their history and their accomplishments, he permits himself to indulge in a quiet bit of philosophizing. It is as though he were indulging in an arm chair reverie, yet speaking aloud the thoughts that arose in his mind as he contemplates the course of a great race.

He is not content to confine himself in his contemplation to the Norse adventure. He speculates upon the "riddle of Babel" which is to be found only in the United States, and is lifted by the thought that out of "the confusion of tongues, the conflict of tradition, the variations of historical setting, the vast differences in talent and taste," unity has come. This invites him to look into the social backgrounds of the country—the human story of the unsung millions of plain people—and there he is at his unexpected best. He cites the mixture of races from all quarters of the globe, and the fears that the melting pot would prove explosive rather than the vessel from which the fine tempered metal of a new nation might be drawn. The doubt that the United States might merely become "a large number of people in a large place," is long since dissipated, and with a slow wonder he asks for the amalgam which brought about this miracle. Perhaps it is to be the long-sought

philosopher's stone, which shall blend the warring nations of the world in unity, as it has their nationals in this land.

It is a long look into the future and that the vision may persist he turns his eyes backward to the one origin of all the races, to the cradle of the Aryan stock, and asks if those which were once one may not, in the appointed time, become one again? It needs but the elusive amalgam which reunited them in this land, to reunite them elsewhere. To confirm the thought he reaches out to touch upon the causes for the migration of races. "Man seems to have been from the beginning, the most migratory of animals," and he enumerates the reasons, climatic, physical, political, social, religious and economic that have motivated the great hejiras of the ages, until he comes to that which marked the migration to the New World. He finds the cause for that differing from previous motives. The New World went forth on no warlike conquest. The Colonies engaged in "an inverted crusade—a conquest without invasion and without force." Their arms were material, spiritual and intellectual emancipation. Theirs was not only a "new country but a different kind of country." The races of Europe were levied upon to populate our wilderness without the firing of a shot or the drawing of a sword.

Fortified with that aspect, the prospect of the future unity seems less dim and remote. To those who heard him and those who read there is imparted the comfort of a great hope and the courage of a great aspiration. The vision from the armchair becomes not only possible, it becomes probable. The little experiment of the United States, if it had done nothing in the way of proving democracy and of liberating mankind, has done enough in proving the brotherhood of man and that the children of ancient enemies can lie down in peace together. There is great strength in that thought, there is pride in it, there is meat for that determination that is preservation means more to the world than the mere existence of the nation as such. Any man, in the light of that vision of destiny, might dedicate himself anew to the safeguarding and prolonging of its existence unchanged.

That is the thought the President leaves. The practical man when he turns his mind to dream, dreams with a purpose. Hence men speak of inspiration.

St. Paul, Minn., News  
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1925

### President Coolidge and the Norsemen

Pres. Coolidge is at his best when he can utter his thoughts free from the restricting influences of political implications.

Today was such an occasion and the president's address at the state fair grounds was felicitous in expression and altogether worthy of the great occasion that is responsible for his visit to Minnesota.

It is true as the president pointed out, that the little band of Norwegian Quakers, after a perilous journey across the Atlantic 100 years ago, realized that they were coming to a land of infinite promise.

Every member of that dauntless company of voyagers felt that in this country, to quote Mr. Coolidge "Citizenship in the new world meant something that it had not meant in the old. It was seen that the new world offered something new. There was an increasing realization that many burdensome traditions and institutions had somehow been shed. Here at last the individual was lord of himself, master of his own destiny, keeper of his own sovereignty. Here he was free."

The history of Minnesota and of the Northwest is in no small part the story of how the sturdy settlers from Norway made good use of their new opportunities and freedom. They subjugated the wilderness, became skilled and thrifty farmers.

Everywhere they have been law-abiding, industrious, and good citizens in the largest sense of that term. With the tradition of freedom bred into them for many centuries they have always been the champions of free institutions; they have been the friends of educational advancement and of industrial progress.

It was, as the president says, a fortunate day for the United States when that small party of Norwegians turned the prow of their little ship toward the new world, for they and those who have followed them, and their descendants are part and parcel of the great body of real Americans who love and cherish the constitution and all institutions that make for freedom, progress and good citizenship.

St. Paul, Minn., Dispatch  
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1925

### The Role of Host.

R. V. H. K. Medsen, superintendent of the St. River Valley diocese and president of the Norwegian-Danish Educational Society, speaking Sunday of interlocking social and spiritual obligations of Norway and the United States, referred Twin Cities' hospitality for Centennial visitors here. It was but a slight digression from a then which could very well be developed to explain some of the eagerness with which the opportunity to entertain this convocation is welcomed.

Hospitality is a natural attribute of the Norwegian and his kindred Norsemen, the Swedes and Danes. It was, in the pioneer days, as it is now, of course, a quality not confined. But the old Norse immigrants, in their little log cabins or sod shanties, did appear to advantage in the comprehensive capacity of host. The stranger then was greeted and welcomed as a guest of honor. The less there was to share the more eagerly it appeared to be divided. The wayfarer was invited in and shown where the tobacco box stood on the shelf. He was given food and a bed, and from the coffee pot, always on the stove, came fragrant cups of coffee as inexhaustibly as if the turn created instead of merely brewing fluid. The fine spontaneity of the old hospitality still is retained among the Norsemen. It is a pleasure to have them, who have played the host so often and so well, for appreciative guests on this occasion.

### Mr. Kellogg Has Advanced

Visiting newspaper men expressed some doubt as to the wisdom of Sec. Kellogg's address at the Norse-American convention Monday. One writer suggested that it might be considered a "discordant note" in Pres. Coolidge's friendship overtures to the northwest, in that Mr. Kellogg attacked the issues upon which La Follette made his campaign—issues to which many of the convention visitors conscientiously subscribed.

The Daily News does not believe the speech was ill advised. If there is one thing a Norseman likes, it is courage. The men and women who heard Mr. Kellogg are of the type which prefers to have a statesman strike straight out rather than beat about the bush.

The pleasant things the secretary of state told the convention visitors had the ring of sincerity. If they recognized in his references to "tampering with the judiciary" and "assaulting the principles of our constitution" an attack on La Follette, they must also have felt that he was sincere in that also.

Many of us used to think that Mr. Kellogg was overcareful. His remarks while in the senate were always guarded and carefully calculated as to effect on his party.

That he now fearlessly utters the things he feels is evidence to us that he has grown bigger. We believe that his Norse-American auditors will agree with this.

### PROGRESS OR REACTION?

Who can read Secretary Kellogg's address at the Norse Centennial without reflecting that in America conservatism has become the true liberalism while what passes for that political creed under the name of progressivism, has become reaction?

That certainly is the case if the protection of the individual in his religious, political and personal liberty is the true path to freedom for the purpose of the men who presume to call conservatism bad names is to assert the divine right of the majority, or the group which can get itself accepted as the majority, and to subject the individual to its authority.

Such men do not understand American liberty. In the name of progress, they propose to reverse the principles on which freedom was established in America. It is the business of an intelligent conservatism to resist this movement, to show that it is motion not forwards but backwards and to carry on the very worth while program of conserving the liberalism that is alive in the American system of government.

It was not the purpose of the men who drew up what Gladstone said was the greatest document ever struck off by the mind of man at a given time to give the majority unlimited powers over the individual. The Constitution was to be the bulwark of the individual with his rights

35  
against the tyranny of the majority. Such it has been for nearly 140 years. Only now do men come forward to say that this is all wrong. Actuated either by malice towards this principle of individual liberty and a desire for class dictatorship, or by an impatience with constitutional methods which blinds them to the considerations of principle, they want to give Congress power to do whatever it pleases with the religious, political and personal liberties of the individual. Any majority is to be empowered to destroy freedom of worship, or to do anything else no matter how fatal the result for liberty.

More than that, the idea that states have rights and that local autonomy and local self-government is better than a bureaucratic, centralized government is to be denied. Congress is to become the sole judge of its powers, and the right of Minnesota, or New York, or any other state to go its own way despite the liking of Kansas, California or other states is to be abolished. No state is to be allowed to do what it pleases. No individual is to be free to live his own life. All must bow to the majority.

This is what Senator La Follette's plan for scrapping the Supreme court comes down to, for without the court, the Constitution is worthless, and without the Constitution, a majority of Congress need stop at nothing. Can we doubt that a majority would use its power?

### The Northwest's Meeting Place.

St. Paul's ability to take care of great gatherings of people never has been better illustrated than in having at the same time the Norwegian Immigration Centennial, the Northwest Industrial Exposition and a visit of the President of the United States, within its limits, and the Twin City airport events in a flying field closely adjacent. All four would have taken place at the same time but for the accident that temporarily deferred the coming of the airship Los Angeles. Few cities are as well equipped as St. Paul to accommodate such vast assemblages as the crowd of 85,000 Monday at the Fair grounds. There is no other in the Northwest. The Overland building and the Auditorium are unequalled for indoor expositions. Several of the large factories also have space in their dining rooms for big banquets of a civic nature. The Capitol rotunda also lends itself for gatherings of a semi-official character, such as the reception to President Coolidge. The concourse of the new Union depot also may be pressed into service, when not interfering with its normal uses.

The Fort Snelling reservation offers ample room for military maneuvers on a great scale. White Bear lake is big enough for every kind of aquatic events. Lexington ball park is the biggest of its kind in the Northwest, as well as the home ground of the champion team of all but the two major leagues in the United States.

These accommodations for big assemblages are supplemented by the abundant terminal facilities of the railroads in St. Paul, making ready ingress and egress for many thousands of occasional guests. The Minnesota Transfer yards handle, and are able to handle, immense quantities of freight. Passenger services of all the railroads are pooled in the Union depot, relieving the traveler of all worry about making train connections. State and transcontinental highways from every direction lead into St. Paul for automobile tourists, all but one such road entirely paved from the point where it crosses the city limits and that one soon will be on West Seventh street.

From every point of view, St. Paul has bent every effort to fulfill its duties of hospitality to the stranger.



## Kleng Peerson and the Pilgrims

The Norse "centennial" which is being celebrated in Minnesota on a national scale this week is really the culmination of a thousand years of Norse adventure and development; a grateful, though perhaps tardy, recognition, of the value of the Norse strain in American blood and Viking enterprise spreading over a continent. It is most fitting that such a centennial should be celebrated in Minnesota, which has drawn these builders of our national life in greater number than any other of the two-score states which might justly have expected to attract such a migration.

The great migrations of the world are what have shaped its history in every land, and the Scandinavians have swarmed to America and to the central northwest in such numbers and in such a steady stream as to entitle the movement to the dignity of being termed a migration. If the Pilgrims of the Mayflower, leaving their native England and sailing across the ocean to a new and little known land in search of freedom and hard work, was a matter of national importance to the United States, it was likewise a matter of national importance to the United States that half a hundred Norwegians left Stavenger on July 4 a century ago aboard the Restoration, and came to a little known frontier in search of freedom and hard work.

The prairies and the forests of the Mississippi valley were almost as unknown to the world a century ago as were the coasts of New England three centuries ago. The forbidding land to which these Norwegians came was as primeval as the Plymouth Rock. They fought the elements, grubbed out reluctant fields and gardens, hunted the wild game, froze, starved and struggled on, in the same way that the adventurers of the Mayflower had done before them, though in the intervening times the land of the Pilgrims had been covered with cities, and had become old with the habitations of man, while the sons and the daughters of the Vikings were still building log houses or sod huts on the plains, or plowing under the virgin grass in the first steps towards the building of more cities and extending the sway of civilization over an untamed empire.

Our school children ought to be taught—and here in Minnesota particularly, though its national importance should drive the information far beyond our boundaries—our school children ought to be taught the name of Kleng Peerson along with that of Cotton Mather, of Ole Rynning along with that of Captain John Smith, the story of the Mayflower and of the Restoration as similar events of nation-wide significance; the voyage of Lief Ericson in 1002 and that of Columbus in 1492 as human efforts inspired by equal daring and high ideals; for while the generations of the pilgrims have raised up statesmen and industrial leaders, so have the generations of the Scandinavians who have been streaming across the sea for a century, given us senators, and governors, journalists and preachers, and in the generations yet to come their blood will be mingled together and a composite race of upstanding, liberty-loving men and women will look back to these two origins, proud of both, grateful to both for the quality of mankind that they bequeathed to this new world, wherewith to build a civilization dedicated to religious, political and industrial freedom.

The Norse Centennial celebration is ended, but of the thousands who came here to attend many will remain for several days at least. Even the Centennial has not dwarfed interest in the international convention of the Norwegian Lutheran church of America, meeting in the Auditorium where in 1917 it came into being by merger of the three synods, accomplished largely through the influence of Rev. H. G. Stubb. With its regular and associate membership exceeding 640,000, its schools and colleges in America, its missionaries in Zulu, Madagascar, China, India and Persia and its thousands of churches on this continent, the convention represents one of the most virile of religious organizations.

Many of the visitors here for the Centennial are strangers in the Twin Cities. During the Centennial program and the meeting of friends, places of interest here and in our environs which delegates long may have planned to visit perhaps have been neglected. Whether or not they are remaining to attend the church convention, Centennial visitors may find it worth while to delay departure. People from the Northwest will be interested in the Industrial exposition, which in itself is exemplary of the progress of a century they have just been celebrating. The Twin Cities are eager to prolong the role of host. It is a pleasing one.

The past week was almost a complete frost for "Our" Mayor. The managers of the Norse Centennial celebration simply ignored both "Arts" and President Coolidge was received and entertained during his stay with us by such men of minor public position as Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg and Gov. Christianson. "Our" Mayor did succeed, however, in squeezing into a newspaper picture with the president and his reception committee, taken at the depot. It was what you might call poor sledding for "Art"—of the City Hall.

It is but natural that Nicollet county should take an active interest in the Norse-American centennial, which is to be celebrated at the state fair grounds early next month. Hundreds of the early settlers of the county were recruited from the Scandinavian countries, and many of them came here direct from Norway. They came to the Minnesota frontier when the Indians still inhabited this section, and it is hard to realize that such a degree of advancement has been brought about in a period of time relatively so short. Much of the material prosperity that Nicollet county and Southern Minnesota now enjoy is due to their efforts, for there are no more progressive

communities than those in which the Norwegian farmers and tradesmen established their homes. A great majority of them came to this country with the fixed purpose of remaining permanently, and few nationalities became so quickly or so thoroughly Americanized. They readily adapted themselves to the conditions they found in the new land, and history shows that men and women of Norwegian ancestry have played important parts in the upbuilding of America. Nicollet county is proud of its citizens of Norwegian descent, and rejoices with them over the centennial.

### A THREEFOLD EVENT.

The very general appreciation of the Norwegian-American centennial this week, the general public's usual reaction to which was rather well voiced by a Twin City newspaper which said, in effect, oh, well, we're all more or less Norwegian any way, is further shown in an editorial article in the closing number of the Gustavian Weekly, just out, and which because of its enterprising local suggestion the Free Press is herewith reprinting with the intent to add its commendation and endorsement. Says the Weekly:

"We of Swedish extraction are feeling just a little bit proud these days that our cousins from the fjords of Norway have been able to plan and arrange a celebration that has attracted not only nation-wide interest and enthusiasm, and brought the president himself as a speaker, but also has aroused several other nations and brought several foreign notables to this country. We are Scandinavians now, and look what the Scandinavians can do, and what they have done for America, what good citizens they are. There are two million people in this country of Norwegian birth or descent. There are three million of Swedish parentage, but who knows it?"

"The Norwegians have planned for their centennial about six or seven years. If we start now, we can have a worth while celebration in the year 1932, which is the year when we can celebrate the tercentenary of the heroic death of the greatest king that Sweden ever had, King Gustavus Adolphus. And what more fitting place to hold such a celebration than right here at the college which bears his name? The Minnesota conference has already authorized the Board of Directors to have some kind of a celebration here. Our college can that year also celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the little school in Red Wing, Minnesota, which became the forerunner of Gustavus Adolphus. In 1932 Dr. Uhler will have served here for fifty years.

"A statue of the great king should be erected on the campus, to be unveiled at the tercentenary. What more inspiring task could be undertaken by the Alumni Association than just this, to provide such a statue to be unveiled by Dr. Uhler on his fiftieth anniversary here, to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the founding of Gustavus Adolphus, and the three-hundredth anniversary of the day when the Swedish hero king gave his life, not that a nation might exploit its neighbors, but that great and sacred cause might live."

### Back To Sanity

THE hearty reception given President Coolidge on his western trip, and the expanding growth of the feeling that he is right and can be trusted is but another proof that the radical sentiment of the last few years is on the wane. The last election proved that, and recent events confirm it. Every indication is that politically the country has returned to "normalcy," and that American sentiment is going to be "safe and sane." This does not mean any return to hide-bound conservatism, but rather a genuine spirit of liberalism, and a worthy indifference to calamity-howling. The American people have never been radical. Now and then in times of stress they may listen to demagogues, but they finally show their adherence to fundamental sanities. Perhaps it is a good thing now and then to have such a run of demagoguery as we have had. It soon convinces the public that the only real progress is along lines of common sense, and that government and society cannot grow by following hysterical mouthings that have no contact with reality.

### A Real Orator

GOVERNOR Christianson is seldom praised as a great orator, and yet we believe that common sense is so appreciated, and his business-like understanding of public affairs so generally understood that his ability as a public speaker has been too greatly overlooked. He has made two speeches lately. His address to the gathering of Methodist bishops in Minneapolis and his address at the Norse Centennial were classics, as those who listened in over radio or those who heard in person, will testify. The Governor makes no parade of oratorical fireworks, yet he is in the truest sense a great speaker. He is a master of English and his sentences always glow with genuine beauty. He has the physical presence and the vocal power that give effect to his sound thinking. When his appearance, his oratorical charm, his incisive utterances, his serenity of manner and the weighty volume of his thought are considered together, it is seen that he is indeed a real orator. "Ted" is an ornament to any occasion.

### NORSE CENTENNIAL

A most interesting and unique feature of the celebration promises to be the "living flag". This will be featured Monday afternoon, June 8, in connection with Pres. Coolidge's address in front of the mammoth grandstand at the Minnesota state fair grounds. This "living flag" will be composed of 600 St. Paul children, who will be trained for their parts under the direction of Mrs. John O. Lee. A special stand will be built for the children so all the tens of thousands of people may see it. The children will be dressed in the colors of the Norse and United States flags--red, white and blue--most of them with reversible capes (one color on each side). They will first appear as the Norwegian flag, while

"Ja Vi Elsker Dette Landet" is sung—and then at a given signal, the children will reverse their capes in such manner as will transform the Norse flag in the twinkling of an eye to the "Stars and Stripes." Besides the magnificent spectacle afforded, the change from one flag to the other will also visualize the ease and willingness with which Norse immigrants are transformed into loyal American citizens. This one feature of the dozens planned for the Centennial will in itself be well worth the price of admission and is sure to leave a vivid and lasting impression upon all fortunate enough to view it. Buy your tickets now from Knute Hidem, Mrs. H. O. Kirkwold, Leo Sylvester, or C. M. Pederson.

## First Norwegians Came 100 Years Ago

The year 1825 marked the beginning of Norwegian immigration to America. This is therefore the Centennial year and will be observed by a national celebration in Minneapolis, June 7th, 8th and 9th. Thousands of citizens of Norwegian extraction will attend this celebration.

The first shipload of emigrants numbered only 53. The vessel was a very small one and required more than three months to make the journey across the great Atlantic. These Norse "pilgrim fathers" settled in Orleans county, New York, and the thousands of their fellowcountrymen who followed them during this century have settled in and developed large parts of Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North and South Dakota.

They built their first church in 1844 in Racine County, Wisconsin. The first Norwegian academy of learning was founded in 1852.

In 1920 there were 2,233,503 Norwegian-Americans in this country. American citizens of Norwegian lineage may well feel proud when they gather to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the landing of original 53 Norwegians. They have the satisfaction of knowing that they have contributed much to the development of this country.

Two Harbors, Minn., Chronicle  
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1925

### THE NORWEGIAN

This week there is being staged at Hamlin a most remarkable celebration which concerns no small part of the citizens of Minnesota and Two Harbors is interested by no small percentage of its population. The anniversary of the arrival of the first band of Norwegians to America is a fitting event in a well chosen place, it

being said authoritatively that there are 525,000 citizens in Minnesota of Norwegian extraction.

In 1807, one Lars Larson, a Norwegian ship carpenter, was captured by an English ship in a war between England and Denmark. He spent several years in England and became a Quaker. Returning to his native land he converted others to his faith. But Quakers were persecuted in Norway and with the assistance of Kleng Person he organized a company of a hundred of his fellow countrymen and in a small sailing vessel fifty-five feet long they braved the Atlantic for 14 weeks and finally landed on the soil which promised them the right to worship as they pleased.

They have no small part in the development of Minnesota and have contributed to the statesmanship of this commonwealth and the nation, and had all of the immigrants to this land been of the character of this sturdy, progressive people, there would have been no immigration restricted in this

Star (Minn.) Journal  
FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 1925

### ONE MAN'S BURDEN.

It seems to have become the official job of the secretary of state to shake his head ominously, and gravely state, that hidden dangers are lurking around the corner, and that the bolsheviki will get us if we don't look out. It was thus with Mr. Hughes, who seldom, while secretary of state failed to infer that there was much more of something terrible going on, than he could tell about. And it is the same way with Mr. Kellogg, who was host to the President at Minneapolis this week.

"I doubt if you are aware," said Mr. Kellogg, in his speech before the crowds at the Norse Centennial "of the amount of destructive revolutionary propaganda which is being secretly distributed in this country by foreign influence."

Nobody present were of course aware of that amount. That is the pitiful part of it—Mr. Hughes knew, and Mr. Kellogg knows, but the nature of their office is such that they can not tell. They

have looked into the archives of the State Department, and they know the awful secret of the destructive propaganda going on. Information about all other propaganda goes to other departments; if the people are to be propagandized into eating more raisins, the Dept. of Agriculture knows a little about that, and if someone has a drive on to abolish wars the Dept. of War is bound to have heard of it. All the destructive stuff, however goes direct to the State Dept., and there sits Mr. Kellogg now with the terrible evidence in his mind, and no chance to make people believe it. He himself doubts that we are aware —

That is really too much of a burden for one man. The whole country ought to know of the dangers lurking. But perhaps Mr. Kellogg is too pessimistic about the subversion of the people by means of propaganda. It might very well be that any secret outside influence is an utter waste among the people of this country, and that Mr. Kellogg's grave fear about destructive propaganda is too grave. At any rate it is a darned sight more cheerful to read about what President Coolidge said to the Norwegian-American crowds at Minneapolis, to wit:

"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."

Walker, Minn., Pilot  
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1925

### THE NORSE-AMERICAN CENTENNIAL

That the Norse-American Centennial to come off in June is to overshadow any anticipation held by the promoters of same in greatness, is now an established fact.

Information received from headquarters states that a letter has been received from William Britt, the Norwegian vice consul of Juan, Alaska, that quite a few people are coming to the celebration. He also requested additional advertising matter for distribution in Alaska.

The board scope of the celebration programs the wonderful musical programs, the interesting exhibits, the prominent men who will be present to participate, attracts attention far and near.

The program for Sunday, June 7th, the opening day of the celebration proper is not yet fully completed but a fairly complete outline of this days program will be as follows Sunday will be devoted exclusively to religious services and concerts. There will be two big services at ten o'clock in the morning, one at the grand stand and one at the Hippodrome, a building which seats about seven thousand people. The service at the Hippodrome will be in charge of Rev. B. F. Bergesen and the sermon delivered by Dr. H. G. Stub, of St. Paul. The musical program at this service will be given by the Luther College concert band of seventy-five pieces, of Decorah, Iowa, the Luther Seminary chorus of St. Paul and the Norwegian Singers association.

Ret. Reverend Johan Lunde, Bishop of Oslo, Norway, will bring greetings from the Mother church at both these services. At eleven o'clock there will be English services before the grand stand. Professor Kristine Bonnevie, the only woman who holds a full professorship at the University of Oslo, Norway, will also with many others, representing the Norwegian Government be on the program that day.

Based on statistics furnished by Dr. O. M. Norlie, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, the most eminent Norse-American statistician, the number of Norse-Americans in this country is now approximately 2,500,000.

Can the Norwegians of Cass county afford not to attend this Centennial celebration in June? The Pilot says no.

Willmar, Minn., Journal  
SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1925

### NORSE CENTENNIAL

The celebration begins today with the national convention of Bygdelags and other organizations in St. Paul.

Large meetings of religious services Tomorrow in the forenoon four large meetings of religious services will be held and in the afternoon representatives from Norway will bring greetings, and at this meeting Judge T. O. Gilbert will give a responsive address to these representatives. Music will be given by choirs and bands and the university choir from Norway will sing at the afternoon meeting and in the evening a music festival will be held. Monday—speeches in the morning and in the afternoon the big event—the address by President Coolidge of the United States and others.

Tuesday finishes up with meetings morning and afternoon and a historical pageant in the evening. All these will be held at the state fair grounds in St. Paul. A large number from Willmar are attending.

Winona, Minn., Citizen  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 1925

The Fairmont Independent emits a roar because too many gewgaw vendors were permitted to ply their trade in the twin cities and at the fair grounds during the progress of the Norse-American centennial. Concessionists appear to be a necessary evil at every celebration, be it a centennial, world's fair, state fair or county fair. They can no more be eliminated from these events than the bootlegger can be removed from the body politic. They may be a pest, but pests, like the poor, are always with us. They will be doing business at the county fair which is dated up for Fairmont in the fall. You can't lose them.—Mankato Free Press.

Concessions seem to be a necessary evil where any attempt is made to entertain the general public. Concession men would starve to death if nobody patronized them any more than the writer, but there are hundreds of folks who get their chief pleasure at a county fair from the concessions. Since they cannot be done away with the only thing left to do is to choose wisely in granting concessions. It is a real problem for the average county fair board.

Worthington, Minn., Times  
THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1925

### WHAT A PITY

It will be noticed by literature sent out by the Norse-American Centennial committee that Senator Henrik Shipstead is to be chairman at one of the programs, and is to be introduced by former governor J. A. O. Preus.

Now we have not the slightest objection to Shipstead presiding, but what a pity that that Grand Old Man Knute Nelson, whom the present Senior Senator followed, could not have lived long enough to be honored at this great event. How he would have fitted into the picture of all distinguished Norsemen he was the outstanding figure.

