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AUTUMN, 1969

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

The "Inushuk" memorial dedicated to Vilhjalmur Stefansson, Arctic explorer, at Arnes, Manitoba, on August 23rd, 1969

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EDITORIAL

THE MANITOBA CENTENNIAL, 1970

Next year, on July 15, 1970, the people of Manitoba will celebrate the the 100th anniversary of their Province. As a region, its history of European contact and settlement dates farther back. Disregarding the probable explorations by Norse in the Middle Ages, Captain Thomas Button wintered on Manitoba ground, on the west shore of Hudson Bay, in 1612-13; the Hudson's Bay Company was formed in 1670, three hundred years ago, and Pierre la Verendrye built the first Fort Maurepas on the banks of the Red River, near Selkirk, in 1734. It is as an organized province that Manitoba's history dates back one hundred years.

The Canadian Centennial was an obvious theme for an **Icelandic Canadian** editorial, for our Canadian subscribers extend virtually from coast to coast. The Manitoba Centennial is a justifiable theme because the first permanent Icelandic settlement in Canada was in Manitoba and Manitobans of Icelandic origin have dispersed far and wide on the North American continent, to the sub-Arctic in the north and the sub-tropics in the south. This is reinforced by the consideration that in 1970 it will be almost a century—precisely 95 years—since the first Icelandic settlers in Manitoba arrived in Winnipeg and landed at Willow Point. Successive generations can now say, "Here I was born . . . Here I was raised . . . Here I have lived . . . Here is my home."

One hundred years is a long life span for a human being, but for a state or province it is a short span, a period of beginnings and early growth.

Children's birthdays are the occasion of joyous celebrations but a person's one hundredth birthday ceremony is likely to be tinged with the mood of "sunset and evening star". Manitoba's centennial celebrations will be in the spirit of morning or high noon—joyful celebrations.

Centennials have a backward and a forward look. Stories of the past are told and tribute is paid to the pioneers who with resolution and courage built the foundations of our society of today with its manifold benefits and ever expanding horizons, and projects are undertaken to make for a richer and a more pleasant life in the immediate and more distant future.

Plans for the Manitoba Centennial have been proceeding for some time. The Provincial Government has placed in the hands of the Centennial Corporation a one dollar per capita grant for each resident in Manitoba to be given to the municipalities to build such projects as community clubs and skating rinks or to establish parks.

Historical events will be given particular emphasis in many of the programs arranged, but there are many other things which should appeal to almost every member of the community. Pageants will depict the arrival of La Verendrye, Henry, Lord Selkirk, and others. The Winnipeg Art Gallery

plans to unearth as much native — and possibly forgotten—talent as possible and will present a major public showing in 1970. A picture archive will feature artists of the past. A building program of a cultural nature includes the completion of the Museum of Man and Nature, the Science and Research Building, and the Theatre Centre. For lively entertainment there will be carnivals, dog races, and square dances.

The above mentioned events and projects Manitobans of Icelandic descent will share with all other Manitobans. What might be some distinctive activities or contributions of the people of Icelandic descent?

At this time, as annually at the **Íslendingadagurinn,** we may honor the memory of the pioneers, parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents, who bravely ventured into the interior of the continent for a better life for themselves and their children, and who broke the trail. This we can do by preserving their story for posterity.

An editorial on the Canadian Centennial in **The Icelandic Canadian** in 1961 said: "We have a wealth of historical material on the Icelandic people in Canada already in print, in Icelandic and English. This includes general and local histories. Almost yearly the store is added to, but some of the settlements have not yet made their contribution to this record. Now is the time to do so".

Since 1961 two major works in this field of Icelandic Canadian history have been published; Gimli has a substantial one under way; one Riverton 1967 Centennial project was the publication of a 100-page book of illustrations and thumb-nail sketches, and Langruth has published a local history. However, there are still districts for whom the expression is still applicable and urgent, "Now is the time to do so."

The publication in book form of selected historical writings in the **Icelandic Canadian** and the annual English-language literary supplement of **Logberg-Heimskringla** would be a project to consider.

In addition to historical material, there is undoubtedly literary material that awaits publication. The unpublished poetry of Baldwin Halldorsson of Geysir-Riverton is one example.

"Baldwin was a man with great literary talents, especially as a poet . . . long before he left Iceland at the age of 31 he was considered second to none in making short verse poetry on the spur of the moment to fit any occasion whatever." **(Riverton Memoirs,** p. 43).

If publication of some worthwhile material in the Icelandic language in book form should no longer be feasible (Baldwin Halldorsson arrived in Manitoba in 1894) such material might well be forwarded to **Logberg-Heimskringla.**

Preservation of records of the past includes the establishment of museums. Museum articles tell a story; looking at them one can visualize the way of life when they were in use. Also, they establish a contrast between the way of life then and now. The National League has a collection that is almost a museum in its own right, but it has no home. Some Gimli citizens worked for the establishment of a museum in 1967, but other proposals received a higher priority.

Preservation in the provincial archives or some other suitable and accessible place for letters and documents and other historical sources material would be an important project. The Manitoba Historical Society has been active in this field and without doubt valuable material awaits rescue in Ice-

landic Canadian homes. The destruction of much of Sigtryggur Jonasson's records is a stern reminder for prompt and vigorous action.

Concerning pictures, the comprehensive **Riverton Memoirs** collection and several other pictures deposited in the Provincial archives indicate that a systematic canvas in other districts would bear fruit.

Historical markers have been erected by the Manitoba Historical Society in Gimli and elsewhere in Icelandic communities. We ourselves could follow the example with markers for such places as Shanty Town, the location of the first Icelandic settlers in Winnipeg in 1875-1876; Icelandic Hall, the social and cultural centre of the Icelandic community in Winnipeg in 1881 and for years after; a specific place in Gimli, such as the site of the government warehouse and hospital or Fridjon Frederickson's store; in Riverton, the site of the **Framfari** printing press, 1877-1880.

A pageant or a parade is usually a feature of a diamond or centenary celebrations. At the time of the Canadian Confederation Diamond Jubilee in 1927, the Icelandic community in Winnipeg was represented in a procession by an impressive float on wheels depicting the "First Session of Icelandic Althing and Founding of Republic 930 A.D. . . . Oldest existing national parliament in the World". At the time of the City of Winnipeg 75th anniversary, in 1949, the Icelandic community was represented by an imaginatively designed float.

Sigtryggur Jonasson, the first permanent Icelandic settler in Canada, arrived at the Quebec port of entry in September, 1872. A memorial for him is surely overdue, but the unveiling of one would be more appropriately reserved for 1972 than 1970. Moreover, a memorial of "The Father of Icelandic Settlement in Canada" would be a project for people of Icelandic descent in all of Canada, not in Manitoba alone.

Merely to initiate the project now would but allow the time necessary for satisfactory achievement and the initiative should come from Manitoba, Sigtryggur Jonasson's permanent home.

What form might a memorial take? Would it be sculpture, painting, plaque, or a beautiful park? Would it be literal or symbolic, after the fashion of the Vilhjalmur Stefansson memorial at Arnes?

Icelandic foods such as rullupylsa, vinarterta and Icelandic brown bread have acquired some prestige among non-Icelandic people. The members of the Manitoba Historical Society on a field trip through the Interlake District in 1968 stopped for lunch at Gimli. There was enthusiastic appreciation of rullupylsa and vinarterta and the local bakery was cleaned out of Icelandic brown bread. Miss Helen Janzen, Director of Home Economics with the Manitoba Government has said, "If an Icelandic cookbook were available, I would include it on our list of recommended publications".

An Icelandic cookbook has been published and republished by Women's organizations in the First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg, but is out of print. The possibility of publishing an unabridged or an abridged edition for 1970 should be explored.

Icelandic songs and music have a distinctive quality and are expressive. Icelandic songs should be heard in 1970. Undoubtedly there will be very distinguished guests at the Icelandic Festival at Gimli, and if the proposed visit of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip materializes, there would likely be a songfest in Assiniboine Park. It would be heart-warming to hear a choral group of some twenty voices in songs such as "Ísland ögrum skorið", "Þú bláfjalla geimur", "Táp of fjör og frískir menn", and Tárið, or one of Björgvin Guðmundsson's moving compositions.

A nation is nourished in mind and body and manifold will be the ways in which Manitoba will celebrate its one-hundredth birthday.

Happy one-hundredth birthday,
Manitoba!

—W. Kristjanson

IN THE EDITOR'S CONFIDENCE

The Icelandic Canadian extends congratulations to Mrs. Hólmfríður Petursson, widow of the late Dr. Rognvaldur Petursson, who passed the four score and ten year milestone on June 10, this year. Events of service of various kinds crowd her memory but perhaps none with a more genuine feeling of satisfaction than the hospitality she and her daughter, Margret, extended Sunday after Sunday during the years The Foundation Committee for the Chair in Icelandic was active in its undertakings. Such selfless service is truly exemplary.

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The evaluation of the Hecla Island Provincial Park and in particular the selection of the name is a veritable saga which will form an article in the next issue of this magazine.

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Other members of the Editorial Board have requested that the following copy of a letter be published in the magazine, not because of the reference to this editor but because it, as a communication from the English language world, shows how valuable Icelandic publications in the English language can be in making known the inherent wealth of the Icelandic heritage. The Iceland Review and the quarterly "65°", (north latitude) both published in Reykjavik, Iceland, and The Icelandic Canadian are, in this respect, all in the same category. An article or an editorial on this particular cultural

service will appear in a later number of this magazine.

A copy of the letter follows.

Bay City, Michigan,
June 28, 1969

Mrs. Guðrun Sigurðardóttir,
Assistant to the publishers,
Iceland Review,
Reykjavik, Iceland.
Dear Madame,

I have just received the second issue of THE ICELAND REVIEW for this year;— and I never cease to wonder at the intellectual excellence of your people. For instance, the article by the Hon. W. J. Lindal dealing with the ethnic background of the Icelandic people, I found most interesting. I had always been conscious of the fact that my ancestors had come to the Americas from Scotland and Ireland; — but never had these facts been presented better than in Mr. Lindal's essay. If you should happen to know Mr. Lindal personally, convey my compliments to him.

Some questions which I have forgotten to ask: Are there any short wave broadcasts from Reykjavik (in English or Spanish?) I have a powerful short-wave radio receiver. For instance, I receive Norway, Sweden and the Soviet Union very well. I understand English, German and Spanish—but none of the Scandinavian tongues. I have enclosed a small gift for your children's fund—and may God continue to protect the children of the world.

Sincerely,

John J. O'Neil,
1111Bangor Street,
Bay City, Michigan
U.S.A., 48706

A FLIGHT FROM REALITY

Their philosophy is sometimes attractive. They evangelize the gospel of freedom and the new morality. Their central doctrine is protest.

The protest has produced a subculture of art, music, literature, dress and drug, and an escape from reality and responsibility.

Some drop-out from this society and form their own negative societies. Such a place is Yorkville in Toronto. Others are anarchists who have taken to the streets in a dozen cities around the world. Their witness is violence.

The hippies and the anarchists are the extremes of the protest movement. Both despise existing institutions and both are a danger to themselves as well as to others.

Their weakness and vulnerability is their flight from reality and responsibility. They talk of revolution but offer no alternatives. Their negativism is only compounded by their refusal to contribute something to improve their society.

Protest is essential to change. But in most cases, the protest of the hippies the yippies ,and those who stand for violence, is only a break down of human values—a dismal abuse of the human spirit and body.

Change can only be effected through responsible actions; not through the rejection of human values in the name of freedom and the new morality.

From "Unchurched Editorials" a service provided by The United Church of Canada, and submitted by John Harvard.

The Ethnic Origins of Icelanders

by THORVALDUR JOHNSON

Every ethnic group has a sense of its identity and some knowledge of or curiosity about its historical origins. Individuals may observe that members of their group have certain physical characters in common that distinguish them more or less from other ethnic groups and they may wonder about the historical background that lies behind these differences.

To some extent Icelandic origins are clearer than those of other nations because of the unique fact that the settlement of the country was recorded in the **Landnámabók.** In this book, written some three hundred years after the event, are recorded the homes of 1003 of the settlers. Of these, 846 came from Norway, 30 from Sweden, 1 from the Faroes, and 126 from the British Isles (Ireland 52, Scotland 31, Hebrides 26 and Orkneys 4). From this it is clear that Icelanders are mostly of Norwegian descent; the Keltic element is commonly estimated at about 15 percent and, in consequence, Icelanders differ racially to that extent from the Norwegian people.

But all this tells us very little about the racial history of Icelanders, for it takes us only back to the ninth century when Iceland was founded. To gain any further information one must go further back into the past and explore the origin of the Norwegians and determine how their racial composition differs, say, from that of the British, French, or the Italians. Ultimately this involves the whole question of the racial makeup of the European peoples: Where did their ancestors come from; when did they come; and how did their ancestral elements intermix to produce the European nations of today? Much of this story will never be known but the picture is much clearer today than it was even twenty years ago thanks to the extensive archeological explorations in all European countries and to the introduction, since 1952, of the carbon-14 method of dating archeological sites which makes possible datings with a margin of error of only about three hundred years.

From such knowledge as is available it may be of interest to trace the elements that entered into the composition of the Norwegians who, in turn, were ancestral to the Icelanders. To accomplish this we must go back in time to the end of the Ice Age some ten or twelve thousand years ago. At the height of glaciation, all of Scandinavia, most of Britain and northern Germany were covered with ice. As the ice retreated, between 25,000 and 10,000 years ago, modern man made his first appearance. These early men (the Cro-Magnon type) were hunters and many, perhaps most of them, adapted themselves to hunting where game was most plentiful; and it happened that game was most abundant in the open land that lay between the glaciers and the forested region that gradually advanced as the ice retreated northward. Here, in summer, roamed herds of wooly mammoth, wooly rhinoceros and, later, herds of reindeer. The hunters followed these herds in summer on the grassy tundra and accompanied them when they moved south to their winter quarters.

Once they had developed the equipment and technique of big-game hunting the last thing these hunters would want to do was to change their way of life by learning to live in the forests that followed the receding ice. So, for several thousand years, they followed the game that followed the glaciers northward.

But the time came, perhaps 10,000 years ago, when the glaciers receded into the mountains of Sweden and Norway and then disappeared. Mammoth and rhinoceros became extinct; as the land became forested the reindeer disappeared, to be replaced by forest dwellers such as roe deer, red deer, wild boar and the wild ox. This was a time of trial for the hunters. Some developed new weapons and new ways of hunting the scantier population of wood-dwelling animals. Others found themselves stranded on the shore of the North Sea and learned to live off the abundant wild life of the seashore, the rivers and the marshes. That some perished from hunger is indicated by the belief of anthropologists that the population of northern Europe diminished sharply after the disappearance of the glaciers.

As always in the history of man population was dicated by the availability of food; and this was most plentiful on the shores of the North Sea. By 5,000 B.C. the kitchen-midden culture of Denmark was established and this area became for the next two millennia or more the most populous region of northern Europe. These hunters and food collectors, given the name Ertebolle by the archeologists, lived by hunting the deer and wild ox, the birds on the marshes and the seal on the seacoast. But to people of today they are known principally for the immense mounds of oyster shells they left behind through collecting oysters from the great Danish oyster beds. Farther north, on the coast of Norway, were smaller settlements of people adapted to a similar way of life.

Something is known about the culture of these people. They evidently possessed the bow and arrow; they probably made nets of animal or vegetable fibres for catching fish and snaring birds; they knew how to make crude pottery. No one knows for certain what they looked like, but Carleton S. Coon, in his great work **The Races of Europe,** conjectured that they contained elements from two Cro-Magnon lines of descent: the Brunn and the Borreby. One reason for the conjecture is that these two types, rugged, big-boned individuals, occur, today, not infrequently among Danes, Norwegians, Icelanders, and the British. Because bodily characteristics are genically based, and genes do not blend but keep on recurring in their original form, they now and then combine to produce in an individual an ancestral form of thousands of years ago. Thus, Dr. Coon, or any equally well informed anthropologist, can walk along the street and on meeting an individual, can say to himself; "Ah, here comes a Borreby survival of ten thousand years ago."

For some time before 3500 B.C. the Danish Ertebolle people must have heard rumors that would seem to them incredible—rumors of a people living farther south who had tamed the ox, the sheep and the pig and jealously protected them instead of hunting them, who cultivated seed plants instead of collecting the seed and fruit of wild plants. This way of life, which had begun between 7,000 and 6,000 B.C. on the northern border of Mesopotamia and in Syria and Palestine, was now finally reaching northwestern Europe. By a sort of Parkinson's law

human population will expand to the limit of human food production. So the farm population spread ever outward from the original centre in a search for new land. In a hundred generations they had reached the North Sea and crossed the channel to England. These farmers, the so-called Danubians, were a smaller, darker, mesocephalic (roundheaded) type who had burned off the forests, hoed the soil with their stone hoes, planted wheat and barley, and lovingly tended their cattle, sheep and pigs. They began to settle down beside the Ertebolle people apparently around 3500 B.C. and appeared to have had amicable relations with them though it seems that centuries passed before the Danish hunters and food collectors became agriculturalists and stock breeders. Eventually the two strains fused to form an agricultural population.

Some centuries later (perhaps by 2500 B.C.) another racial element entered this population: the Megalithic people, a sea-faring people of Mediterranean origin who had worked their way around the western coasts of Europe, around Ireland and Scotland and eventually to Denmark. Their route is clearly marked by the immense Megalithic (big-stone) monuments they left behind wherever they settled, of which Stonehenge in England and Carnac in Britanny are the most famous. Their numbers may never have been great but their religious ideas (perhaps sun-worship) left an impress on all peoples they came into contact with.

Shortly after the arrival of the Megalithic people another invasion of the Danish area occurred—this time from the southeast. These invaders, the Battle-axe people, appear to have moved in a northwesterly direction from the plains of southern Russia. They appear to have been cattle-raising nomads rather than agriculturalists, possibly horsemen. Their name derives from the characteristic stone battle-axe though some archeologists call them the 'Corded' people, from the cord impression on their pottery. They were a tall, long-skulled race, possibly war-like, for they settled where they pleased; and one of their choices for settlement was Jutland where they evidently became agriculturalists and by mixing with the local population formed an important element in the Danish and Swedish populations. Geoffrey Bibby in his **Testimony of the Spade** guesses that they were Indo-Europeans and therefore brought with them a language that became the basis of Scandinavian speech. This is by no means certain, nor is it certain that they were a Nordic group.

The same time saw the appearance of the 'Beaker-folk' so called from the characteristic pottery beakers found in their graves. These were brachyephalic (round-headed) people armed with bow and arrow and bronze daggers, possibly of Near-Eastern extraction. They were wandering traders, trading copper and bronze implements for amber, jet or other valuable commodities of the north. As they were itinerant groups, never large in number, they could not have contributed much to the Danish population; their importance lies rather in the fact that they introduced copper and bronze and thereby initiated the Bronze Age in northern Europe.

We now come to the last step in the making of the Germanic people of which the Scandinavians form the northern branch—that is, the arrival of the Indo-Europeans. Arrival is perhaps not the right word, because to a large extent the Germanic people, like the Kelts, were formed in central and northern Europe. But there must have

been components derived from the southeast. One indication of this is the fact that the Megalithic religion, firmly established in the Scandinavian area, died out to be replaced by the Norse assortment of gods so closely related to the Greek pantheon. A sign of eastern influence is the burials of the Viking chiefs in their ships in mounds in the same fashion that tribal chiefs in southern Russia were buried with their wagons. By 700 B.C. the first of the Indo-Europeans, the Illyrians, had established the Hallstatt Iron Age culture. By 500 B.C. the Kelts were expanding from their place of origin in southern Germany. The center of expansion of the Germans appears to have been the western Baltic area including north Germany, Denmark and southern Sweden. The tremendous outflow of Germanic tribes from this area in the first five centuries A.D. is too well known to need further comment. The part of this expansion that relates to Icelandic descent is that this Germanic population, now predominantly of Nordic type, and predominantly agricultural, filled up every unoccupied niche of Norway which, up to that time, had been occupied principally by descendants of the Ice Age hunting peoples. In the words of Professor Coon "a new people, bearing a Hallstatt type of culture, entered northwestern Germany and Scandinavia. These invaders were of the usual central European Nordic type. . . Through mixture with the local blend of Megalithic, Corded and Borreby elements, these newcomers gave rise to a special subtype of Nordic which was characterized by a larger vault and face, a heavier body build and a skull form on the borderline between dolico- and mesocephaly".

If one asked the question: How do the Icelanders differ racially from the other Germanic peoples? the answer might be that they differ scarcely at all from the Norwegians and the Danes except for a slight admixture of Keltic genes, and differ very little from the people of eastern England and Scotland or the people of Holland. The Swedes are generally considered to be the purest Nordics of all, having but little admixture of genes derived from the Ice Age hunters. But no race is pure in the sense of having a uniform ancestry. If one hundred Icelanders selected at random filed past a leading authority on the races of Europe, he would probably be unable to say whether they were Icelandic, Danish, Norwegian, Dutch or British; but he might unhesitatingly say of the first man, "here comes a pure Nordic type", of the next, "that husky chap conforms to the Brunn strain of stone-age man". of the third, "this tall, narrow-faced fellow must have Battle-axe ancestry in him", and so on. Of the hundreds of photographs of facial types in Professor Coon's great work, the only Icelander represented (the novelist Gudmundur Kamban) is shown as an example of the Borreby strain derived from stone-age man.

Many ancestral types have entered into the Icelandic stock, and because human physical features are gene-controlled, and as the genes maintain their identities they will now and again re-associate to reproduce ancestral types. This is doubtless an advantage, for if inheritance were a blending process the race would acquire a uniformity of physical and mental characters which would reduce its ability to adapt to changing circumstances; and such adaptability is an essential for survival. The great variety of genes that entered into our people have served them well, for they have carried them triumphantly through the vicissitudes of the centuries.

TOAST TO CANADA

Delivered at the Icelandic Festival at Gimli, August 3, 1969

by Frank M. Arnason

When I was asked to propose the toast to Canada at the Íslendingadagurinn or Icelandic Festival of Manitoba, I felt highly honored and readily accepted. Having accepted this honored task, I began to wonder why I had been chosen and the only qualification I could come up with other than being a native son is that I am bilingual.

In the past few years we Canadians have heard a great deal about the languages and rights of the two founding nations. At this time I would like to say a few words, not in the tongue of the two founding nations but in the language of the people who found this great country of ours.

Herra Forseti,
Háttvirta Fjallkona,
Kæru vinir:

Þegar eg var beðin að flytja Minni Canada á þessari hátíð lofaði eg að segja fáain orð á íslenzku. Þegar eg var unglingur þá talaði eg ekki nema á íslenzku og skyldi alls ekki ensku. Nú þarf eg að hugsa á ensku til þess að tala á íslenzku, svo að það gæti skeð að þetta verði hálf bjagað.

Þessi hátíð gefur gömlum kunningjum tækifæri að koma saman og skrafa um liðnar stundir. Það er líka tækifæri fyrir alla viðstadda að fá sér skyr og rjóma og allskonar sælgæti.

En þessi dagur meinar meir en það. Hér komum við saman til þess að heiðra minningu landnámsmanna.

Það er gleðiefni fyrir mig að geta heilsað ykkur á íslenzku og eg vona að þessi dagur verði ykkur ánægjurík-ur.

Having said a few words in Icelandic, it would be appropriate if I could speak a few words in Ukrainian to commemorate the important part they, as well as other ethnic groups, have played in the development of this area. To exemplify the spirit of co-operation between these two groups, it was suggested at a Chamber of Commerce meeting that the Viking Statue that stands majestically at the lakeshore should hold a fish in one hand and a coobisa in the other.

When I look upon this large gathering here today, I think of all the Icelandic Celebrations I have been to and I wonder what brings us here year after year. Yes, this is a chance to meet old friends we haven't seen for years and chat. It's an opportunity for people to gather and have harðfisk, rúllupylsu, skyr and rjóma, but behind this lies the history of our forefathers

We as an ethnic group can be justly proud that it was Bjarni Herjólfson who sailed along our Canadian shores in 986 and later Leifur Eiriksson was the first white man to explore our coasts.

A few days ago, Neil Armstrong was the first man to set foot on the moon. This is no doubt the greatest scientific achievement of man. To be the first man on the moon took a great deal of courage but I think the courage of the early explorer was greater when he set

across unknown seas to seek unknown lands fully believing that the earth was flat..

It was through the stories from these early Vikings, that led to the voyage of Columbus and the eventual settling of Canada.

When conditions became difficult in Iceland; it was only natural that the early pioneers chose Canada as their new home. Today I would like to toast their choice.

The people that came with this very first group to find a new way of life had the courage to cross oceans, travel across unknown lands, face lanuage barriers and surmount untold obstacles to seek a living environment denied them in their own land.

I will not go into the details of the journey that this first group made to the shores of Lake Winnipeg, landing at White Rock at Willow Point on Oct. 21, 1875. However, I think as we enjoy this day we should remember the suffering, the hardship that our forefathers faced in the first few years in New Iceeland. Today I would like to salute their courage, steadfastness and sense of responsibility.

As I look at this crowd today, I see before me sons and daughters of those first settlers. The face is wrinkled, the hair is grey, the back is bent from hard work, but the head is unbowed. These people looked upon this rich and undeveloped land and saw the great possibilities this country had.

They asked for no assistance, but diligently set about to improve their own lot. Fishermen braved the cold lakes, travelling first on foot and then by dogs. A few began clearing land and started farming, a way of life foreign to these people.

Through hard work and perseverence they built better homes, opened up new areas of settlement and true to their heritage fought desperately to educate their children.

Many of the settlers of this area moved to Winnipeg, some to Baldur and Glenboro, others to Saskatchewan and the Dakotas.

And now I come to the third generation. This group has definitely become an integral part of the Canadian mosaic. With the benefits of the labors of our forefathers aided by education and the advent of the machine age, the Icelandic communities along with the rest of the country, have developed rapidly. We, as an ethnic group, have taken our place in the field of education, business and government, and must continue to contribute to the orderly development of this nation.

And now last but by no means least, I come to our young people, in whose hands lies our future. The population of our country is made up of people from virtually every land on earth. Through an orderly process, these people have developed this country and placed it in a position of affluence. We, as an ethnic group and Canadians collectively should take a long hard look at ourselves and count our blessings. In my mind, Canada is one of the last strongholds of individual freedom and unlimited opportunities.

We must accept and sustain a system of collective morality and protect our system of law.

An orderly change for the betterment of man will be welcomed and accepted but a change for the sake of change is not enough.

Let us not lose by default the position that history has granted us, a position that must be the envy of thinking people in all parts of the world.

The burden of that responsibility is yours and I am certain that you will meet that challenge.

Be proud of our Icelandic heritage, cherish it and bring to our Canadian life the best from the Icelandic culture and achievements. But first and foremost, we are Canadians, and let your voices ring loud and clear to let the rest of the world know.

On behalf of the men that found this country, the ones that developed it to this state and on behalf of the young people that hold the future of this great land, I humbly propose a toast to Canada.

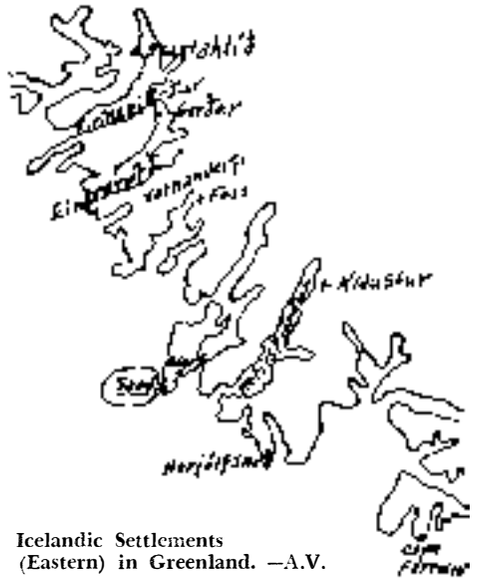
SIXTY NORSE HOUSES UNEARTHED IN GREENLAND

(A translation of the report of an interview with Þór Magnússon, Director of Iceland's National Museum, which appeared recently in the newspaper Vísir, published in Reykjavik).

"The British newspaper, "The Observer", is the only source of information I have regarding this matter", said Þór, "I consider it strange, indeed, that such a noteworthy event as the excavation of sixty houses, dating back to the Norse settlements in Greenland, should have been given such scant publicity."

According to "The Observer" a Danish archaeologist, Ove Bak, had unearthed the houses at a place called Sand west of a navigation mark known in ancient times as Hvarf. The article states that it was the harbor at Sand which Ívar Bárðarson described in his mid-fourteenth century "Description of Greenland", and that it had been used during the existence of the Icelandic settlement by merchants from Scandinavian and other countries. The article states that this is a further confirmation of the accounts in the Icelandic sagas of the contacts made by Icelanders of the Viking Period, and later, with Greenland and North America.

"I have never seen any reference to this discovery in Danish papers or archaeological publications", said Þór, "English writers refer to the locale of the excavations as a Viking harbor, but then they are inclined to designate all places where Norsemen dwelt as



Icelandic Settlements (Eastern) in Greenland. —A.V.

Viking settlements, even those of the Middle Ages. We, Icelanders, do not need any further proof of the journeys of Icelanders to Greenland and America, although it is possible that it may be necessary to prove it to others."

"Isn't it unusual", the reporter asked, "that such an extensive excavation in Greenland should take place without your knowledge?"

"This excavation must have been taking place for several summers", Þór answered, "and it is assuredly most strange that no news of it should have leaked to us. On the other hand Danish scientists have a habit of undertaking such enterprises without consulting us", said Þór in conclusion. **—A.V.**

LINCOLN G. JOHNSON

Lincoln Gudjon Johnson

It has often been said that the courage and hard work of the Icelandic immigrants and the scholastic record of their immediate descendants combined to establish the reputation of the Icelandic group of Canadian citizens. That however, is only a part of the background. That good repute rests just as much, if not more, upon the less noticeable contribution which Canadians of Icelandic descent have in their unostentatious way risen from junior jobs to positions of responsibility and trust in high administrative offices in the commercial and industrial life of the country. One such is Lincoln G. Johnson listed in the 1968 Annual Report of the Guarantee Trust Company of Canada as the "Manitoba Administrative Officer" and the "Supervisor Manitoba" in Winnipeg. The Company has its Head Office in Toronto and has branches and agencies in all the provinces except Prince Edward Island.

Lincoln Gudjon Johnson is the son of Oddny and William Johnson who came from Iceland in the year 1883. They were married in Winnipeg and Lincoln was born in 1899.

In April, 1916, then only seventeen years of age, Lincoln was given a job as a junior clerk in the Western Trust Company — a Winnipeg enterprise. Four years later he became manager of the Mortgage Department. In 1951 he became Secretary of the Company and in 1958 was raised to the position of Manager. That same year the Western Trust Company was amalgamated with and became part of the Guarantee Trust Company of Canada. Mr. Johnson was appointed "Western Supervisor" of the enlarged Company for the province of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Later the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Division was split and Mr. Johnson became the Manitoba Supervisor.

Aside from his chosen calling, which by itself is truly a success story, Mr. Lincoln Johnson has made a distinct contribution to the Winnipeg community and even in the wider Canadian field. He was not satisfied merely to perform his duties in the trust company he served and took an active part in real estate and appraisal work in Winnipeg. He is a charter member of the Appraisal Institute of Canada, a national organization, and helped to organize it. In 1939 he was Secretary of the Manitoba Land Inspection Association. He served on the Board of Directors of the Winnipeg Real Estate

Board in the year 1945-1946 and again in 1951-1957.

Lincoln has always been a sports enthusiast and was a good player in every type of sport he entered. He, however, excelled in curling and was a member of the rink, skipped by his brother Leo, which won the Canadian championship in 1934. He was also a member of the Manitoba Provincial Curling Championship rink of 1946.

Lincoln commenced his curling in the Deer Lodge Curling Club where he became Assistant-Treasurer. Later he joined the Strathcona Curling Club and became President in 1943-44. In 1961 he was elected Honorary Life Member.

Golfing did not escape this born athlete. He is a good golfer and in his prime played regularly in the eighties. He was a member of the Assiniboine Golf Club for many years. He was also attracted to hockey and followed the fortunes of the Falcon hockey teams very keenly. In 1926-27 he was President of the Trust Company Hockey League.

The need for adequate provision for the aged has been fully realized by Lincoln Johnson. In 1957 he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Betel Home Foundation which maintains two homes for the aged, one in Gimli, and the other in Selkirk. He was made a member of the executive committee of the Foundation in 1965 and appointed Honorary Treasurer, a position he still holds.

Lincoln's major contribution, aside from his chosen calling, is to the First Lutheran Church, formerly the First Icelandic Lutheran Church in Winnipeg. This has been reserved for the last glance in this panoramic view of a well balanced life because his church work is so closely knit with the church work of his wife. Their joint and eminently successful work of home building and church service covers their years from the time they made their wedding vows. Lincoln served a total of eight years on the Board of Directors of the Church and was President of the Board of Trustees in the years 1946-1948. Mrs. Johnson began singing in the church when she was a girl and has been a member of the choir all her adult life. For many years she has been and now is the church soloist.

In August, 1927, Lincoln Johnson married Pearl Sigridur Thorolfson, daughter of the pioneers Fridrika and Halldor Thorolfson. Halldor was soloist in the First Icelandic Lutheran Church for a number of years. A son Frank, brother of Pearl, has won national recognition in music.

Pearl and Lincoln Johnson have two children, a son, Alan Leo, now of Vancouver, and a daughter, Pearl Sigrid, Mrs. Ronald Stelmark of Transcona, Manitoba. Alan, upon graduation in Commerce from United College now the University of Winnipeg, joined the Royal Bank of Canada. After rising to the position of Assistant Manager in the main branch of the Bank in Vancouver, he was this year appointed Manager of the new branch which has just been completed in central Vancouver. Ronald Stelmark is employed by the Canadian National Railways in Transcona.

Lincoln Johnson says he used to have a hobby exhibiting poultry at Winnipeg poultry shows and kept homing pigeons. Those days are long past and Lincoln will probably step into something speedier in the space age of tomorrow.

—W.J.L.

TOM BJARNASON—Commercial Artist

Bjarni Thomas Bjarnason

Bjarni Thomas Bjarnason, commonly known as Tom Bjarnason, has, in spite of disabilities resulting from service in World War II, succeeded in establishing a business of his own as a Commercial Artist. He enlisted when 18 years of age and after returning to Canada in 1945 he convalesced for four years, two in a sanitorium and two at home.

Tom, who has an inherited bent to art, commenced his training in art work by correspondence from an Arts Institute in Chicago. Later he attended evening sessions in the Winnipeg School of Art. In 1948 he entered the Meinzinger School of Art in Detroit and graduated in 1851. For a while he worked for a firm of Commercial Artists in Toronto but some years ago went into commercial art business for himself. This adventure has proved very successful. He alternates in operating from London, England and Toronto, Canada, and has a representative in New York. His art works have appeared in leading newspapers in England, Germany and the Scandinavian countries. A painting of his "The Star of Bethlehem" has twice adorned the front cover of this magazine.

Tom Bjarnason is the youngest child of Halldora Bjarnason and the late Gudmundur M. Bjarnason who died a year ago having attained the age 96. The widow, now residing in the Betel Home in Gimli, is a born artist, who, without formal training, has painted and drawn sketches all her life many of which adorn homes in Winnipeg and elsewhere.

Mr. and Mrs. Bjarnason brought up a family of eight, five daughters and three sons. The daughters are Steinunn, secretary in a law office, Mrs. Inga Goodrich, a retired teacher, Gudrun Solveig (Mrs. L. A. McNeil) of Windsor, Ont., Laura Rosa (Mrs. George Morris) Winnipeg, Matthildur, (Mrs. Roy Sallows) Winnipeg. The three sons are Halldor S., Railway Mail Clerk, Winnipeg, Jon S. Bjarnason, Office Manager, Portage la Prairie Creamery, and Tom Bjarnason.

—W.J.L.

New Honors For Richard Beck

An honorary Doctor of Literature degree was conferred upon Dr Richard Beck at the University of North Dakota commencement exercises August 9. The academic hood is placed on Dr. Beck', centre, by University President George W. Starcher, left, and Dr. William Koenker, right, vice president for academic affairs. North Dakota's honorary consul for Iceland for 25 years, Dr. Beck retired from the University faculty in 1967 with the honorary title University Prefessor Emeritus.

The University of North Dakota conferred an honorary Doctor of Literature (Litt D.) degree upon Dr. Richard Beck at the summer commencement August 9.

Dr. Beck served the university for 38 years as professor of Scandinavian languages and literature, and as chairman of the department of modern and classical languages for nine years. He retired in 1967 and now makes his home in Victoria, B.C.

Born in Iceland, Dr. Beck graduated with honors from the State College in Reykjavik in 1920, and came to Winnipeg in 1921. He entered Cornell University, Ithica, N.Y., a year later for graduate studies in English and Scandinavian languages and literature. There he received an M.A. degree in 1924 and a Ph.D. in 1926.

He taught at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., and at Thiel College, Greenville, Pa., for a time and became professor of Scandinavian languages and literature at the University of North Dakota in 1929.

The university recognized Dr. Beck's distinguished service in 1965 with the honorary title of University Professor.

Though firmly rooted in the cultural atmosphere of his youth in Iceland,

Dr. Beck is a scholar of international scope and has tended to commute between the United States, Canada, Iceland, and her kin countries in Northern Europe, always furthering interests in their peculiar heritage and spreading enlightenment in his wake. He is a noted poet, a prolific writer and has delivered a formidable number of speeches and lectures on two continents through the years. Representing North Americans of Icelandic descent, he gave an address at the founding of the Icelandic Republic on June 17, 1944.

He held office as Honorary Consul of Iceland in North Dakota for 25 years, is past president of the Icelandic National League of North America and of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study. He has been active in the Sons of Norway and also as representative of the International Federation of Norwegians.

Dr. Beck is an Honorary Fellow of the Icelandic Literature Society and a corresponding member of the Icelandic Academy of Science. On its 50th anniversary in 1964, the University of Iceland conferred on him an Honorary Doctor's degree.

Three Scandinavian governments have recognized his achievements. He is Knight Commander of the Icelandic Order of the Falcon, and holds the gold medal of the Founding of the Icelandic Republic. He is Knight (first class) of the Norwegian Royal Order of St. Olaf and has been awarded the Danish Liberty Medal.

TO STUDY CHILDREN IN ICELAND

On July 3rd, 1969, **Rev. Barry Day,** his wife **Lilia** and their three young children, **Kathryn, Lorne and Duncan,** left their home at Peterborough, Ont. to spend about a month in Iceland. It was a rare instance of a minister of the church following his wife where her work was taking her. Mrs. Day was engaged in a reserach project in educational psychology.

She is the former Lilia Eylands, daughter of Dr. Valdimar J. Eylands of Rugby, N. Dak., and his wife Lilia. Dr. Eylands served for many years as minister of First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg, and his name is a household word among people of Icelandic origin on the North American continent and in Iceland. The Eylands' children received most of their early schooling in Winnipeg, except for a short time while their father served as an exchange minister in Iceland.

Mrs. Day was educated at the universities of Manitoba and Iceland. Currently a student at the Institute of Child Study at the University of Toronto, she recently received a grant to do a psychological study of Icelandic children in Iceland.

The study ha salready been carried out in many other countries, such as the U.S.A., USSR, England, Germany, Hungary, Brazil, Switzerland, Israel, Japan, India, Taiwan, Czechoslovakia. It deals specifically with autonomy vs. conformity and adult peer orientation in children 12 to 14 years of age. The entire project is to serve as a thesis, or original piece of research for a post graduate degree from the University of Toronto.

BOOK REVIEWS

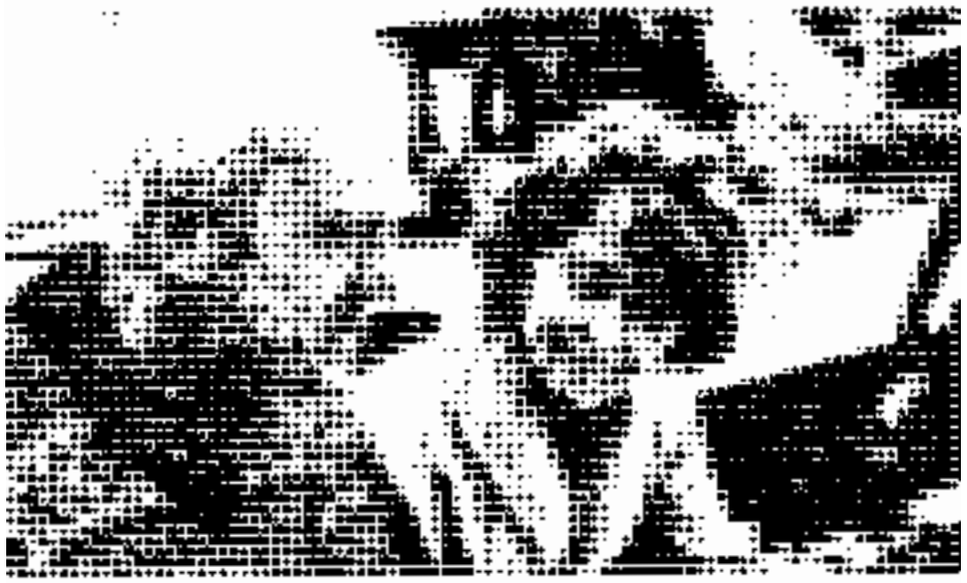
WESTWARD TO VINLAND, the Discovery of the Pre-Columbian Norse House-sites in North America; by Helge Ingstad, translated from the Norwegian by Erik J. Friis. Macmillan Company of Canada Ltd., pp 248, $7.50

Anyone interested in an objective study of the discovery of North America will find that this book, though comprising only about 250 pages plus 45 excellent plates, is indispensable for his library. The book combines discoveries in Newfoundland of artifacts buried in the ruins of ancient buildings with an interpretation both scientific and practical. It is a detailed record of what was required to establish that Norsemen settled at L'Anse aux Meadows on the north tip of Newfoundland close to a thousand years ago.

Helge Ingstad is, however, on weaker ground in the conclusion he has posed, as shown in the map on pp 24 and 25, that Leif Eiriksson did not travel further south than Newfoundland. This is a debatable question and there is one bit of evidence which this reviewer would like to place before the reader. In the Greenlanders Saga (Grænlendingasaga) appears the following: "Day and night were of more equal length than in Greenland and Iceland." Brattahlíð, on the south shore of Greenland, from which Leif Eiriksson's expedition started is, as Ingstad says. only about 9 degrees latitude north of the North tip of Newfoundland—a distance of about 600 miles. A man who has travelled that relatively short distance south would hardly note the difference in the length of day and night, at least it would not be so obvious that the traveller would immediately note the difference and make it a matter of observation to be carried into the record later. That, however, does not detract from the immeasurable value of the book as a carefully documented account of what was discovered at L'Anse aux Meadows

Helge Ingstad has the traits of the explorer but in addition has the wisdom of realizing that the professional as well as the practical mind should be set to work in the expeditions he had in mind. He organized seven archaeological expeditions, carried out in the years 1961-68, in which scientists as well as practical men and women participated from the following countires: Norway, Iceland, Sweden, Canada and the United States. One of them was Anne Stine Ingstad, the author's wife, an experienced archaeologist. She was in charge of the archaeological work. Dr. Kristjan Eldjárn, the present President of Ice'and, then head of the National Museum, took an active part in the second of the three most successful expeditions. There was phil. cand. Rolf Petre of Sweden, Dr. William Taylor of Canada, Dr. Henry Collins of the United States and others from these five countries. The expeditions received financial aid from Newfoundland and elsewhere, and assistance was provided by the Royal Canadian Air Force. (Similarly planned explorations should be made in the Cape Cod area.)

In 1960 Ingstad organized the first voyage of investigation and in course



The author, Helge Ingstad and his wife Anne Stine on board the Halcn

of time reached L'Anse aux Meadows where he met a native, George Decker, who proved to be of great help. Ingstad asked him about old sites and he replied: "Yes, there is something like that over by Black Duck Brook."

"Who were the people who lived here", he was asked.

Decker shook his head and said: "They were here before the fishermen came . . . and my family were the first people to settle here."

Three of the expeditions were very fruitful. On the first one work was done at one of the smaller sites near the brook, where walls of turf were more or less visible. Ingstad reports:

"Towards the west wall there emerged, after a while, a fireplace . . . Near by there was a pit, its bottom covered by a piece of slate, which contained a considerable amount of charcoal. This must have been a cooking pit.

"Anna Stine then found the site of an open hearth . . . she continued to scrape away very carefully and uncovered a small compartment in the ground next to the remains of the fireplace. It measured 6½ by 10 inches, . . . this could only be an ember pit into which the embers were swept at night and covered with ashes, making it unnecessary to light another fire in the morning. Similar ember pits have been found in Iceland and in Greenland."

The charcoal was scientifically examined. Ingstad reports:

"It is of considerable interest to note that theC—14 (charcoal) dating of the site indicates that it goes back to the year A.D. 1080+70 or –70—about the same time as the Vinland voyages."

The expedition of 1962 proved very fruitful. On that occasion Dr. Kristjan Eldjárn, was present, Dr. William Taylor from Canada and State Geologist, Kari Henningsmoen, from Norway.

The most interesting discovery was a piece of copper, which, however, was not composed of pure copper. This, Ingstad points out, showed that the people had "a primitive smelting process," something unknown to Indians and Eskimos, The piece of copper was found in a hearth which Ingstad said "afforded us the possibility of C—14 carbon dating of the charcoal among which it was lying." The charcoal dating showed A.D. 900+70 or –70 years.

In the expedition of 1964 an article was found which was undoubtedly of Norse origin. Helge Ingstad reports:

"Anne Stine decided to make a trench right by the southernmost room of the largest house-site. During the excavation Tony (Beardsley, Canada) suddenly saw something strange —a small ring made of stone. He gave out a yell, and Anne Stine, Birgitta Wallace and Junius Bird all had a look at his find and then joyfully hugged each other. Anyone with a knowledge of Scandinavian archaeology would know what a ring of this type was—it was a Norse spindle-whirl." — — —

A spindle-whorl of this type was brought to America by the Icelandic settlers—a "snælda". This reviewer recalls the one used by his mother. It was about twenty inches long, the diameter about a one-third inch, tapering to a point at the bottom and at the top passing through a hardwood knob about two inches in diameter. At the top is a hook through which the yearn or thread passes. The woman operating the spindle gives it a sharp twirl on her hip and the momentum of the twirl is maintained by the heavy head. A "snælda" can be used to make the original thread but it was used most commonly to double already made threads, "að tvinna" for a stronger thread suitable for knitting.

On this discovery Ingstad says:

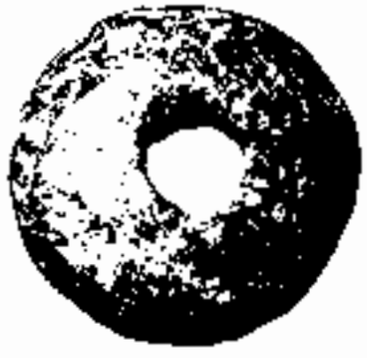
"We have the most important find, the soapstone spindle-whorl of unquestionable Norse type."

The book is well illustrated with close to fifty plates.

Helge Ingstad concludes with this fully warranted and at the same time self-protecting observation:

"Whether they were actually Leif's houses is not the important thing. What is of importance is the fact that, given the archaeological assessment and carbon datings, the house-sites at L'Anse aux Meadows are Norse, pre-Columbian, and date from about A.D. 1000". —**W.J.L.**

A spindle-whorl made of soapstone, found in a Norse ruin in Greenland



The spindle-whorl made from soapstone that was found at L'Anse aux Meadows.

Book Reviews Continued

NIELS LYHNE:
by J. P. Jakobsen
Translated from the Danish by Hanna Astrup Larsen. 224 pp. New York, Twayne Publishers Inc. and The American-Scandinavian Foundation. $3.50.

The American-Scandinavian Foundation will present in English translation a number of the best works of Danish, Icelandic, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish authors. Niels Lyhne is volume 2 of this series known as **The Library of Scandinavian Literature.**

The author, Jens Peter Jacobsen, (1847-1885) prior to his untimely death at the age of 38 had established himself as one of the most prominent Danish authors of the nineteenth century. The publication in 1876 of the first naturalistic novels in Denmark, **Marie Grubbe— A Lady of the Seventeenth Century**, made him famous. A member of the bourgeoisie and a confirmed atheist, Jacobsen did not direct his literary objectives toward social debate. Rather his writings were a continual striving for psychological truth and stylistic beauty. To illustrate the latter a few lines describing the death of Edele Lyhne are herewith listed:

"The end came in May flooded with sunshine, one of the days when the lark is never silent and you can almost see the rye grow. The great cherry trees outside of her window were white with flowers — nosegays of snow, wreaths of snow, cupolas, arches, garlands, a fairy architecture against the bluest of skies — — —"

Translators know how difficult it is to render the stylistic beauty of one language into another, but Hanna Astrup Larsen has succeeded remarkably well in anglicizing Jacobsen's aesthetic manipulation of the Danish language not only in the foregoing passage but also from the beginning to the end of the book.

The theme of **Niels Lyhne** is a psychological study of an impractical dreamer, whose life was a succession of frustrations and failures. The first part of the book deals with the circumstances that molded the character of Niels Lyhne. His mother was a poetry-struck, daydreaming woman, his father a commonplace, dull man, in whom "the family intelligence seems to have grown weary." The result as Jacobsen writes: "There was in Niels Lyhne's nature a lame reflectiveness, child of an instinctive shrinking from decisive action, grandchild of a subconscious sense that he lacked personality." Niels Lyhne was a failure in love. He could not hold the affection of the women in his life. He did not succeed in his primary purpose of carving a literary career for himself. He deserted his militant atheism in a moment of crisis when his child was dying, but "And at last he died the death — the difficult death," without the solace of religion, triumphantly atheistic.

Jacobsen seems to have had a keen insight into feminine psychology. His facile pen has made the five women of the novel vividly real, the languid, visionary Bartholine Lyhne, the chaste, aristocratic Edele Lyhne, the verbose, flirtatious Mrs. Boye, the passionate, unstable Fennimore and the child-like, unsophisticated Gerda. Such a variety in character portrayal is no mean accomplishment.

Those who are thrilled by stylistic literary elegance, those who are weary of modern writers' preoccupation with sex, those who are intrigued by skillful character delineation and the search for psychological truth will find this thought-provoking book well worth reading.

—Axel Vopnfjord

ARNI G. EGGERTSON, Q.C.

Arni G. Eggertson, Q.C.

On the 7th of March this year Árni G. Eggertson, Q.C. passed away at the age of 73.

Mr. Eggertson received his academic training in his native city of Winnipeg. In 1921 he obtained a law degree from the University of Manitoba, whereupon he was called to the bar in the province of Manitoba. In 1922 he went to Wynyard, Sask., qualified to practise in Saskatchewan, opened a law office in Wynyard and practised there until in 1939. For a while he and G. S. Thorvaldson practised under the name Thorvaldson and Eggertson Later they took over the well known firm of Andrews, Andrews, Bastin and Stringer. When A. J. Andrews and F. S. Andrews died the firm became Thorvaldson, Eggertson, Bastin and Stringer. Árni Eggertson practised in that firm continuously until a few years ago when he decided to retire from his big firm in order to open an independent law practise.

Mr. Eggertson was held in high regard by numerous friends and associates both in Iceland and in Canada. A distinguished Canadian, he also remained loyal to the time-honoured traditions of the land of his forebears, Iceland. From the time of his youth until the day of his death Mr. Eggertson was a very active man in the field of Icelandic Canadian relations. To mention only a few examples, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Icelandic Steamship Company **Eimskip** for many years. Also, he served on the Committee which was responsible for the founding of the Chair in Icelandic Language and Literature at the University of Manitoba. For a period of time he was a member of the Executive Committee of the Icelandic National League of America and was President of The Icelandic Canadian Club 1942-43. He was a faithful supporter of North American-Icelandic publications, serving for some time as President of the North American Publishing Co. Ltd.

Mr. Eggertson was the recipient of many honours, among which were the Commander Cross of the Icelandic Order of the Falcon and the distinction implicit in his appointment as K.C. (later Q.C.) in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

In 1920 Mr. Eggertson married Maja Gudjonsen Laxdal. For a number of years 'Arni and Maja', as they were always referred to by their friends, maintained a singularly attractive home, the most conspicuous traits of which

were warmth and hospitality. The two are survived by their sons, Arni Marvin formerly of Dauphin, and Dr. Sveinn Halldor Octavius of Winnipeg, and their daughter Olof Thelma (Mrs. MacDonald) of Winnipeg. Also, surviving Mr. Eggertson is his second wife Bonita Marion whom he married only a few months before his death.

—H.B.

STEINGRIMUR K. HALL

Steingrimur K. Hall

The well known composer and music teacher, Steingrimur Kristjan Hall, died at the Gimli Betel Home August 17, at the age of 92. He was born in Gimli, November 16, 1877, and three years later moved with his parents, Jonas and Sigurdur Hall to North Dakota where he grew up and acquired his primary education. S. K., as he was usually called, soon realized that music was his calling. In 1899 he graduated with honors in the Department of Music from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. He took postgraduate work in music in Chicago and in 1902 was appointed Professor of Music in the Gustavus Adolphus Conservatory of Music.

In 1904 he married the equally well known musician, Sigridur Anna Hördal, a soprano who Paul Bardal said "had a rare vocal quality". The following year they moved to Winnipeg where S. K. became the organist and Mrs. Hall the soloist in the First Icelandic Lutheran Church. Here they served until in 1936 when they moved to Wynyard, Saskatchewan.

Prof. S. K. Hall published three sets of music compositions: Icelandic Song Miniatures in 1924; Songs of Iceland in 1949; Songs of the North in 1954. Some of his compositions have not yet been published.

Mrs. S. K. Hall predeceased her husband and later he moved to the Betel Home for the Aged in Gimli.

—W.J.L

SENATOR G. S. THORVALDSON

Senator Gunnar S. Thorvaldson

A story has persisted that the late Solli Thorvaldson was one of those who persuaded Rt. Hon. John G. Diefenbaker to become a Conservative. If there be substance in the report it bespeaks the persuasive powers of the high school student of Nutana Collegiate in Saskatoon who was six years younger than the Prime Minister to be, who at that time was studying law in the University of Saskatchewan. However that be, they became close friends in Saskatoon and Gunnar Thorvaldson was one of the first senators appointed by Rt. Hon. John G. Diefenbaker.

The young politician was a Conservative by inheritance as much as by choice. His father, Sveinn Thorvaldson, M.B.E., the leading merchant of Riverton in his day, was a strong Conservative and served a term in the Manitoba Legislature under the late Sir Rodmond P. Roblin.

Gunnar Solmundur Thorvaldson, commonly known as Solli, was born in Riverton March 18, 1901. His mother Margaret, was a Solmundson, a well known family in the then New Iceland district.

The late Dr. Thorbergur Thorvaldson, a brother of Sveinn, was Professor in chemistry in the University of Saskatchewan when Solli reached high school and the promising young lad was sent to his uncle and Mrs. Margaret Thorvaldson where he stayed while attending Nutana Collegiate and the University of Saskatchewan from which he received his B.A. degree in 1922.

Solli Thorvaldson decided to come back to Manitoba and studied law with a firm of lawyers in Winnipeg headed by Sir Hugh John, son of Sir John A. Macdonald. He graduated in law in 1925 and opened an office by himself in the Confederation Life Building on Main St. Later he formed a partnership with the late Arni Eggertson, Q.C. and they opened an office in the Nanton Building under the name Thorvaldson and Eggertson. In 1918 they wisely entered into an arrangement with the well established firm of Andrews, Andrews & Co. to take over the firm under the name of Andrews, Andrews, Thorvaldson and Eggertson. Shortly after the Andrews brothers died the firm became Thorvaldson, Eggertson, Bastin and Stringer. In 1969 this firm of lawyers, after some changes had been made, merged with one of the oldest firms in Winnipeg, Aikins, MacAulay and Com-

pany, under the name Aikins, MacAulay and Thorvaldson, now the largest legal firm west of Toronto — 31 lawyers. It is understood that even though the late Senator was in the firm for only a few months it will continue under the name Aikins, MacAulay and Thorvaldson.

In his practice of law Senator Thorvaldson took his full share in the organization of the legal profession in Manitoba. He was a Bencher of the Law Society for many years and was President for the term 1956-1957, and in course of time became a Life Member. He was a member of The Manitoba and Canadian Bar Associations.

Senator Thorvaldson was a strong advocate of individualism and free enterprise. He found Chambers of Commerce useful instruments for the furtherance of private enterprise. He was President of the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce in 1953-54 and the following year became President of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. He virtually set aside the whole year for the nation wide organization and travelled extensively in Canada, the United States and in Europe.

For many years the Senator was Chairman of the Board of Directors of Western Gypsum Products Ltd. and also of Western Industries Ltd. He was President of The North Canadian Trust Company and The International Loan Company. He was a Director of Canadian Premier Life Insurance Co., Marshall Wells of Canada Ltd., International Laboratories (1957) Ltd., Marmac Products Ltd. (1957), Canadian Aviation Electronics Ltd., and Canada Security Assurance Co. Only a man with business acumen, qualities of leadership and successful public relations, would have risen so high in the business and commercial life of Canada. It was in that field that Gunnar S. Thorvaldson made his greatest contribution.

During the Diefenbaker regime Senator Thorvaldson filled some important posts in Canada's expanding external affairs. In 1958 he was the Canadian delegate to the United Nations. He was Chairman during the year 1960 to 1962 of the Canadian delegation to the conferences of the Inter-Parliamentary union in Brussels, Tokyo and Brazilia, in Brazil.

Solli did not find time to devote to Icelandic activities but followed them very closely and often gave good advice. In 1967 the Government of Iceland awarded him the Order of the Icelandic Falcon.

In 1926 Solli Thorvaldson married Edna Schwitzer, daughter of the late J. E. Schwitzer who became chief engineer of the Canadian Pacific Railway. He is survived by his wife, his three daughters, Eleanor, Nora and Ruth, and twelve grandchildren.

—W.J.L.

THE ICELANDIC FESTIVAL OF MANITOBA, 1969

After a prolonged rainy period, brilliant sunshine and blue skies favored the long weekend of August 2-4 and therewith the Icelandic Festival at Gimli, the eightieth in its succession.

The Festival was expanded this year in the direction of becoming a truly three-day event, with features to please every age from three to ninety-three and to attract people of other than Icelandic origin.

Saturday, August 2

A ten-mile road race, a feature of Icelandic celebrations before World War I and now revived, was the one event on Saturday, August 2. The route was the highway from Winnipeg Beach to Gimli. There were twenty-three entries, seventeen for the men's open and seven for the juvenile competition.

It was a good race. The two front runners, Lyle Myers and Ernie Wilson, of Manitoba Varsity Club, ran a beautiful race. Myers covered the distance in 52:51.4; Wilson in 53:4. Six runners covered the distance in sixty minutes or less. The previous record for the Icelandic celebration race was probably 57 minutes, set by Steve Holm (or Holmes) in 1911. Steve Cooper, of St. Vital, won the juvenile event, in 75:23.8.

Bob Steadman, rated the fourth best long distance walker in Canada, walked the ten miles while the others ran. His time was 82:03.6.

Myers was the first to win the Icelandic Canadian Club trophy, donated this year.

Sunday, August 3

An Interlake softball tournament, sponsored by the Gimli Viking Ball Club, was the forenoon event on Sunday.

After lunch, the Gimli District Band performed at the cenotaph on First Avenue, with streaking jets in a Canadian Forces Base fly-past adding overtones to the sound of music below. Also, the Gimli Kinsmen Club barbecue and games proceeded on the nearby beach.

On Sunday and Monday afternoons, there was at the provincial Training Centre a display of creative arts, including paintings, sculpture, ceramics, photography, and literature. Among the books were several of Laura Goodman Salverson's, including **The Viking Heart,** and a few of Vilhjalmur Stefansson's, including **My Life With the Eskimo.**

Concurrently, there was a continuous showing of an Icelandic film.

The unveiling of the Vilhjalmur Stefansson memorial at Arnes on Sunday afternoon was not a Festival Committee project but it was thoughtfully planned by the authorities concerned to coincide with the Festvial, and for those who attended both events the ceremony at Arnes was an integral part of the Festival. However, an account of the unveiling will come under its own caption.

A Hootenanny on Sunday evening at the Gimli Park Pavilion, followed by a nidnight "frolic" provided entertainment for the younger set.

Monday, August 4

On Monday morning, as the Gimli population was astir and hundreds converged on the town, the perambulating loudspeaker announced in stentorian tones the commencement of the stirring events of an exciting day.

A colorful parade featuring floats, bands, and other attractions, was led by the impressive Training Command Band from the Canadian Forces Base in Winnipeg.

First in the procession of vehicles was the conveyance of the Fjallkona, Mrs. Ingibjorg Lillian Asgeirsson, of Winnipeg, with her two attendants, Gail Eastman and Carol Jensson.

In another open convertible was former Prime Minister, Hon. John G. Diefenbaker who was on a short visit to Gimli. With beaming face and smiles he responded fully to the applause which he received along the route.

The most colorful and impressive part of the parade was the Shrine Group from Winnipeg, headed by Jón G. Johnson, Potentate of Khartum Temple, and the first potentate of Icelandic origin. Included were a motorcycle escort unit performing dashing maneuvers along the route; the always popular pipe band, the flag patrol and the Khartum Komedians. All these were warmly applauded.

The well-known Heather Belle pipe band, from Winnipeg was another attraction.

The Gimli Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion won the first prize for non-commercial floats with their truck showing the various activities supported by the Legion.

At one o'clock the Training Command Band entertained the people then assembling in the Park with a very fine concert.

At the commencement of the formal program of the afternoon, the Fjallkona brought the traditional heartfelt greetings from Iceland, the motherland of the Icelandic pioneers in Canada.

The chairman, Mr. J. F. Kristjansson, introduced the platform guests.

The represntatives of Premier E. Schreyer and the Government of Manitoba, and of Mayor S. Juba and the Council of Winnipeg were on this occasion both of Icelandic descent: Hon. Philip M. Petursson, Minister of Cultural Affairs, and Alderman Magnus Eliasson.

Frank M. Arnason, a Winnipeg electrical engineer, gave the toast to Canada. His talk was brief. concise, and had substance. He felt that the early explorers, such as Bjarni Herjólfsson and Leifr Eiriksson had needed more courage in the circumstances of their time than the Astronauts of today on their voyage to the moon.

Dr. Richard Beck, retired head of Scandinavian Studies at the University of North Dakota and now residing in Victoria, British Columbia, gave the toast to Iceland. Just back from Iceland he brought with him a sheaf of personal greetings, commencing with Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson. In his customary felicitous literary style, Dr. Beck expressed the warmth of his love for the land of his birth.

The afternoon musical program was excellent. Reg Frederickson, with his rich baritone voice and a selection of songs carefully chosen for the occasion gave a commanding performance. He was accompanied by Miss Snjolaug Sigurdson. A good contribution of the young generation to the day was the pleasing performance of the massed Gimli Choir, conducted by Mrs. Shirley Johnson.

The sports events commenced at 11 a.m. and continued into the afternoon. The sports events this year were endorsed by the Manitoba Track and Field Association and in charge were Doug Gudmandson, of the Manitoba Track and Field Association and Jim Daly, supervisor of the Pan-American Games in Winnipeg in 1967.

Several new trophies were added this year to the already existing Oddson Shield, The Skuli Hanson Trophy; and the Einar B. Johnson Trophy. They are the Svein Sigfusson Trophy, to be awarded to the individual winner of the men's juvenile events; the Janet Maddin Trophy, for the winner of the women's open events, and the Dr. Aldis E. Thorlakson Wengel Trophy for the winner of the women's juvenile events, all donated by the Icelandic Festival Committee; the Stewart Trophy for the winner of the juvenile ten-mile race, donated by Stewart Trophies & Engraving, of St. James, and the Icelandic Canadian Club Trophy for the winner of the open ten-mile race.

Bob Gislason, of Arborg, won the Hanson Trophy and, as previously mentioned, Lyle Myers won the Icelandic Canadian Club Trophy.

"This was the most extensive and well organized track and field meet held by the Icelandic Festival, assisted by members of the Manitoba Track and Field Association" says **The Lake Centre News.**

The community singing in the evening in the Park was conducted by Reg. Frederickson for the English songs and Herman Fjeldsted for the Icelandic songs, with Mrs. Jona Kristjanson at the piano and Neil Bardal with his banjo.

During a break in the singing, the ten festival beauty contest candidates were paraded across the stage and the winner announced, Miss Diane Johnson, seventeen-year old daughter of Johann and Mrs. Johnson of Crystal Lake, Illinois, and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Johnson, of Gimli. Runner up was Miss Sandra Breckman, of Lundar, and second runner up, Miss Allene Wald, of Arnes.

The songfest in the quiet and the cooling air of evening after the heat and the activities of the day brought to a relaxed close for many the manifold activities of the Festival. That is, except for those attending the dance in the pavilion, the very last event of the Icelandic Festival of 1969.

The Dedication of the Vilhjalmur Stefansson Memorial at Arnes, Manitoba

A memorial to honor the memory of Vilhjalmur Stefansson, renowned Canadian explorer, scientist, writer and Arctic consultant, was dedicated at Arnes, Manitoba, on August 3. Arnes, were Stefansson was born in 1879, is ten miles north of Gimli and near the shore of Lake Winnipeg.

Officials of the Federal and the Manitoba governments and several other prominent persons participated in the ceremony. Mr. Mark Smerchanski, M.P. for Provencher, represented the Federal government and Hon. Philip M. Petursson, Minister of Cultural Affairs, the Provincial government. Others on the platform included Mr. E. S. Russenholt, Manitoba mem-

ber of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada; Mr. John Bovey, member of the Historic Sites Advisory Board of Manitoba, and Mr. Grettir Johannson, Consul-General for Iceland. Chairman was Mrs. V. L. Sigurdson, Secretary of the Arnes Community Club, Present was Mr. W. Josephson, from Vancouver, nephew of Vilhjalmur Stefansson, and his youngest son.

Dr. Thorvaldur Johnson, former head of the Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology, and native of Arnes, was the main speaker, giving the life history of Vilhjalmur Stefansson. Other speakers, including Mr. Smerchanski, Mr. Petursson and Mr. Johannson, each added significant details to the picture delineated by Dr. Johnson. Dr. V. J. Eylands, past president of the Icelandic National League, delivered the dedicatory prayer.

Stefansson, "Prophet of the North", lived with the Eskimos and learned to live off the land. He played a leading part in the development of ideas for living and surviving and travel in polar regions. He was formally thanked for his work by the Canadian Governmen by order-in-council issued in 1921. In 1952, the Canadian Board of Geographical Names honored him by naming a large island north of Victoria Island after him.

A local choir gathered together for the occasion, containing people of varying ethnic background, directed by Mr. D. Tesch, sang several Icelandic songs. Mrs. Sylvia Sigurdson of Arnes, sang "Þótt þú langförull legðir". Mrs. L. Peterson was accompanist.

The memorial was a project of the Historic Sites Board of Canada, while the two-acre park in which the memorial is located is the contribution of the Manitoba Government, which also takes on the maintenance of the site.

The memorial is the work of the Toronto sculptor, Walter Yarwood. There are two separate figures. One is large, made of concrete blocks, and was inspired by an Eskimo stone structure known as "inushuk", a figure in the shape of a man built to frighten caribou into an area where they can be speared or shot. The other is a diminutive bronze statue of Stefansson, a seal-like figure in his Eskimo parka, looking northward. Inscribed on the main block of the massive "inushuk" figure is a quotation from Stefansson's writings, highly expressive of his life philosophy. It is in three languages, Icelandic on the front and English and French on the sides, "Eg veit hvað eg hefi reynt og eg veit hvers virði það er mér." "I know what I have experienced and I know what it has meant to me."

The diminutive figure of the explorer against a massive background suggests how puny is man against the vast expanse of the polar regions. The seal-like look of the body of the statue suggests the explorer's complete identification with his surroundings.

The park is simply but imaginatively and beautifully landscaped. Several long barrow-shaped mounds strewn about immediately suggest whale backs in this polar setting. A simple effective sign in plain brown letters is suspended over two huge boulders, one on top of the other. A brown-painted two-tier pole fence encloses the park.

After the ceremony the Arnes ladies did themselves proud with a bountiful spread of delicious refreshments in the community hall for the assembled host.

The attendance at the ceremony was estimated at five hundred.

—W. Kristjanson

The following letter from Mr. Walter Yarwood, the sculptor who made the Vilhjalmur Stefansson statue, arrived after the above report on the dedication ceremony was set in type.

We are pleased to have the sculptor's interpretation of his own work. —W.K.

"The small size of the figure is indeed intended to create a sense of smallness and loneliness of man in the Arctic, in a way no heroic size figure would do in this small park. The figure however is not intended to be a Seal Figure. It is more of a portrait of a man in Arctic clothing, bandaged against the cold. A bulky, awkward shape with almost no relation to the human figure within, a sort of shell if you wish. This is described sculpturally, I hope, by the deep cavity between the head and the parka, suggesting space between the outer clothing and the man.

The environmental aspect of the memorial is achieved by the use of the large white "Inushuk", the cube for the plaque and the mounds.

Hope this reaches you in time to be of some use for your article."

TEN-MILE ROAD RACE REVIVED FOR THE ICELANDIC FESTIVAL OF MANITOBA

The sports program at the 1969 Icelandic Festival of Manitoba at Gimli, August 2—4, featured a ten-mile road race, the course being from Winnipeg Beach to Gimli. There were also 1,000 and 3,000 metre races.

The featuring of road races at the Festival marks the revival of a once prominent sports event in Manitoba, from the 1880's into the decade after the First World War.

Go-as-you-please or walking matches were popular around the 1880's. These were commonly 24-hour races with time out only for brief rests, refreshments and a rub-down, but in some cases there was a twelve-hour break between two twelve-hour grinds on the track. Good runners commonly covered more than 100 miles in the 24-hours, and the best were known to do more than 130 miles, depending on conditions of weather and track. Jourdan and McDermott were outstanding runners in the eighties and, quoting from memory, Jourdan, the burly Métis and Hudson's Bay Company mail carrier, once did 136 miles.

In the decade prior to the First World War, middle distance races were popular, the Telegram, the Tribune, the YMCA races being the annual events. Outstanding runners in this period were Alfred Shrubb and John Marsh of Winnipeg and Joe Keeper of Norway House. Shrubb and Marsh had both established world records before they came to Canada in 1907 and 1904 respectively.

It was in England after the turn of the century that Alfred Shrubb set seven world amateur and four world records for distances between 1½ and ten-miles. The ten-mile record of 50:40.6 Shrubb set in 1904. (Winnipeg Free Press, July 4, 1959).

John Marsh was stronger in the long distances. In 1907 he won over Tom Longboat and Alfred Shrubb in a fifteen-mile race. About 1908 he competed in a special marathon race on Hanlon's Island, Toronto, where he won a gruelling race over Tom Longboat, Durando, Shrubb, Hayes and other world outstanding marathon runners, setting a new world record

for the 26 miles, 385 yards of two hours 39 minutes and 34 seconds. Hayes, an American, had won the marathon at the 1908 Olympics in the time of two hours, 54 minutes and 36 seconds. This was the race where the Italian Durando, in the lead till then, collapsed fifteen paces from the finishing line.

Joe Keeper won the YMCA Thanksgiving five-mile road race from Deer Lodge to Vaughan Street four years in succession, 1910, 1911, 1912 and 1913. In the 1912 Olympics at Stockholm he placed fourth out of 75 competitors in the 10,000-metre race. He won the three-mile championship of the Canadian Corps in France in 1917 and in 1918, and in the Inter-Allied sports in Paris in 1919 he was second in the 10,000 metre race.

This article concerns road races in Manitoba in general and at the Icelandic Festival of Manitoba in 1969, in particular. Hence reference will now be made to runners of Icelandic origin in Manitoba who took an active and often creditable part in the past.

Icelandic settlers first arrived in Manitoba in 1875. A young man by the name of Sigurdur Antonius (born 1850) was one of the 1876 group. He spent one year in New Iceland (now the Gimli region), then two years on a farm west of Winnipeg. In 1879 he competed in a 24-hour go-as-you-please race in Winnipeg, placing second. He covered 132 miles and won the prize of $50.00.

In the 1880's Jon Hordal, Magnus Markusson, Thorarinn Jonsson and others were to the fore. Hordal on one occasion covered 124 miles and Markussn 122 miles. In a gruelling race in June, 1888, drenching rain and a heavy track handicapped the runners so badly that McDermott dropped out.

Hordal, then seventeen years of age, came first, with 101 miles and one lap to his credit, Jonsson second and Markusson third. Markusson, lightly built and a beautiful runner, also won a 25-mile race and a ten-mile race in Victoria Gardens in Winnipeg in 1888 and 1889. In the four-hour competition for boys June 25, 1888, Asmundur Eyjolfsson, aged fifteen, was the winner, covering 29 miles and 1½ laps.

In the decade before the First World War runners of Icelandic origin were still in the picture. Junius Jonsson of Arborg, Manitoba, twice won the Saskatchewan championship in the 12-mile distance, in 1909 and 1910.

Gudjon Hallson from the Lundar district placed third in the Winnipeg Telegram road race in 1908, and he won the 10-mile race at the Icelandic celebration in 1909 and 1910. In 1909 the time was 65 minutes.

Steve Holmes of the Lundar district competed in the years prior to his enlistment in 1914, including in the Winnipeg Telegram and T. Eaton road races, twice winning the latter event. Despite Joe Keeper's formidable record, Holmes bested him in a three-mile race in 1910. Holmes won the ten mile race at the Icelandic celebration in 1911, his time being 57 minutes.

A. ●. (Gusti) Magnusson from the Lundar district competed in the one to five-mile races in the period about 1915 to 1925. His running was mainly at Icelandic Celebrations and other local events where he was never pressed, so his potential remained unknown, but the veteran sports enthusiast, Paul Reykdal, considered Gusti a good candidate for the Canadian team if the 1916 Olympics had been held. He was light as a feather on his feet and a beautiful runner. "The three most stylish runners I have seen are Gusti Magnusson of Lundar, McDermott and Magnus Markusson", Paul Reykdal said.

Will Kristjansson, attending Wesley College, University of Manitoba, after the First World War, won the University of Manitoba indoor mile in 1920, the time being 4:53 1/5, and again in 1921. These were the two years in which this event was featured. He set a new record of three minutes and 21 seconds for the half-mile walk in 1923, and at Saskatoon in the same year at a meet of the four western universities he placed third to Cormack of Alberta, a former English harrier who won the race in 16 minutes and 15 seconds. T. Towns won the three miles at a Manitoba Championship meet in 1919 in the time of 16 minutes, 18 seconds.

The 23 contestants in the ten-mile road race at the Icelandic Festival of 1969 were faced with a high standard and they measured up. The winner of the senior men's open event, Lyle Myers, ran the distance in 52:51.4. He was thus the winner of the Icelandic Canadian Club trophy.

—W. Kristjanson

OUR ICELANDIC LEGISLATORS

The Manitoba politicians of Icelandic descent were re-elected to the provincial Legislature in the June, 1969 general election. A third man, also of Icelandic descent, was elected to the Legislative Assembly for the first time.

The Rev. Philip M. Petursson, who was first elected to the house in 1966, retained Wellington constituency for the New Democratic Party, and was appointed to the new Manitoba Cabinet as Minister Without Portfolio, charged with administration of the Manitoba Centennial Act and Cultural Affairs.

Rev. Petursson was born October 21, 1902, at Roseau, Minnesota ,and was educated in the public school at Foam Lake, Saskatchewan, the University of Chicago Meadville Theological School, The University of Iceland, and the Winnipeg Normal School.

He is retired after serving 35-years as minister of the Unitarian Church in Winnipeg. He was a member of the Winnipeg School Board from 1942 to 1951.

Rev. Petursson is married and has one son.

★

Henry John Einarson, a Progressive Conservative, was re-elected in Rock Lake Constituency, where he was first elected in 1966.

A farmer, Mr. Einarson served with the Royal Canadian Artillery in Canada from 1941 to 1943 and with the reinforcements overseas in 1944-45.

He began his political career as President of the Rock Lake Progressive Conservative Association from 1962 to 1966 and President of the Lisgar PC Association from 1963 to 1966.

Mr. Einarson is married and the father of four children.

★

Thorkell Wallace Johannson made his debut in the Legislature this past summer after winning St. Mathews Constituency for the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Johannson was born April 10, 1936, in Arborg, Manitoba, and was educated in Ardal School in Arborg, and the University of Manitoba, where he received Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education degrees.

He has been a history teacher in the Interlake School Division No. 21, Stonewall, a member of the Manitoba Teachers' Society and the Canadian and Manitoba Historical Societies.

—John Harvard

VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON

1879 – 1962

Address given at the unveiling of Vilhjalmur Stefansson memorial at Arnes, Man., Aug. 3, 1969

by DR. THORVALDUR JOHNSON

All of us who live in this district, or have lived in it, are today basking in reflected glory because of the fact that Vilhjalmur Stefansson was born among us—for he was, in his time, the most famous Icelander, or I should perhaps say man of Icelandic descent, on either side of the Attlantic. But we cannot lay too much claim to him for, after all, he was only two years old when he left us.

His parents were among the group of immigrants who arrived at Gimli in 1876, and they settled on the Hvammi farm, about a mile northeast of here, probably in 1877. It was there that he was born on November 3, 1879. The next year, 1880, was a year of disaster for many of the settlers. A year of rain and floods, loss of crops and cattle, and of serious illness. That year his parents lost two of their children: and like many others they decided to give up the struggle with the primeval forest and stony soil and moved away to greener pastures. The next year, 1881, they moved away to the new settlement then forming at Mountain, North Dakota, leaving their little log cabin to moulder and decay as the years went by.

The North Dakota settlement can really lay more claim to him than we can, for it was there that he grew up to manhood. It was there, at the University of North Dakota, that he got his undergraduate education. At the university he was somewhat like Stephen Leacock's horseman who got on his horse and galloped furiously in all directions. He was not satisfied with being a brilliant student, which he was. He took up debating and developed his remarkable abilities as a public speaker. He wrote poetry (and good poetry at that) for the student paper. His idol at that time was Rudyard Kipling, but oddly enough such poems of his as I have read do not resemble the poetry of Kipling. He read widely. He developed interest in science by reading Charles Darwin; and he developed rationalistic religious views by reading the works of Robert Ingersoll. It was because of his religious views and his known debating ability that he made his first contact with Harvard University—for he was, in the summer of 1900 at the age of 20, chosen as a representative of the Winnipeg Unitarian Church to a Unitarian congress in Boston. This turned out to be an important event in his life, and the circumstances are rather interesting. At that time the Winnipeg church was being supported by funds from the American Unitarian Association. Rumors came to Winnipeg that this support was going to be withdrawn. This was a serious matter. The then minister was unable to go to Boston, or did not feel like tackling the authorities there. But, having heard of this phenomenal debater with liberal religious views he got in touch with Stefansson and proposed that he use his debating prowess to argue the authorities in Boston into continuing the support of the church.

Although Stefansson pointed out that he was not a Unitarian, still he took on the task. Not only did he succeed but he so impressed the man he dealt with (a Professor Fenn of the Harvard Divinity School) that he suggested that Stefansson should enter the Divinity School. This he actually did after graduation two or three years later, but he made a condition which was accepted by Professor Fenn—namely, that since he was not a believer he would like to study religion as simply 'folklore'. He made the further request that he be allowed to take one course in anthropology in the Harvard School of Anthropology across the street from the Divinity School. After one term in the Divinity School he entered the Harvard School of Anthropology and was launched on a career that led to fame.

It is a remarkable tribute to Stefansson's enterprise and initiative that within one year of entering the School of Anthropology he had persuaded Harvard University to finance a small anthropological expedition to Iceland. He, himself, was fifty per cent of the expedition, the object of which was to study the skeletal remains of early Icelanders. But in Iceland he ran into the difficulty that no one was permitted to dig up cemeteries. He got around this difficulty by finding an ancient graveyard of the 11th to 13th centuries) which was being eroded away by the sea. There he found plenty of material to study—no less than 82 skulls and skeletons lying on the shore. This was in 1905.

The next year, 1906, was perhaps the most decisive year in determining his career. He had joined an American arctic expedition which was to travel by ship around Alaska whereas Stefansson was to go down the Mackenzie River and meet them at the mouth of the river. The expedition got caught in the ice and failed to reach its destination that summer and, in consequence, Stefansson found himself stranded among the Eskimos. Actually, this suited him very well, for there was nothing he wanted to do more than to live among the Eskimos and study them.

It was during this winter (1906-07) that he acquired the key that gave him the mastery of the North—that is, he learned how the Eskimos 'lived off the land'. He learned their ways of hunting, preparation of food, travel, the building of igloos and many other things. And he learned their language. He was back in the United States in the fall of 1907, full of plans for the future.

Then came the bigs years: First, the joint American-Canadian expedition of 1908-12 in which he encountered the 'blond Eskimos' of Victoria Island, which most people have heard about, and second, the Canadian-sponsored expedition of 1914-17 in which he discovered the last unknown land masses of the American continent, that is the islands he named for members of the Canadian government: Borden, Meighen, Lougheed and Perley, and one he named for Mackenzie King whom he had known at Harvard. These were dangerous and spectacular operations, involving much travel on moving ice-floes—something that even the Eskimoes were reluctant to tackle. At one time he and his two companions spent 96 days on drifting ice, at times hundreds of miles from land. On at least two occasions the world had given him up for dead. The older among us will remember the headlines in the newspapers when he was reported to be safe.

I cannot close without saying something about the man, Vilhjalmur Stef-

ansson; but on this I am not well qualified. I met him only twice, very briefly, and attended two of his lectures. But I must say something about the man, for the man is behind the achievements.

Certain things are obvious. His brilliance as a student, in North Dakota, Iowa, and Harvard. In his early years he was full of self-confidence, high spirits and mischief, and some of his activities led to his expulsion from the University of North Dakota. His career at the University of Iowa was amazing. There he persuaded the authorities to let him write many of the examinations without having taken the courses—and got his degree in one year. He must have possessed a great deal of intellectual honesty. I think it was this that made him change his name from William Stephenson (the name on his birth certificate) to Vilhjalmur Stefansson when he was in his second or third year at the University of North Dakota. Evidently he felt that the anglicization of his name was beneath his dignity.

One of the amazing things about his career is the great impression he made, even as a young man, on important and influential people. He induced great financiers like Sir Edmund Walker, Sir Edmund Osler and Lord Strathcona to support his projects financially. He persuaded Sir Robert Borden, then Prime Minister, to make his 1914 expedition a purely Canadian expedition. It had been planned originally as an American project, but it occurred to Stefansson that he might discover new land in the far north which, as head of an American expedition he would have to claim for the United States. So he went to Ottawa and explained this situation to Sir Robert Borden who persuaded his Cabinet to finance the whole expedition.

One of Stefansson's characteristics was a great capacity for friendship. He had many intimate friends among the humble as well as among the great. One of his most intimate American friends was Orville Wright, the inventor, along with his brother Wilbur, of the aeroplane, and he spent many happy weekends at the Wright home. He spent much time in England where one of his closest friends was Sir Ernest Shackleton, the great Antarctic explorer. A close friend, also, was the idol of his school days, Rudyard Kipling; another was Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes. Still another friend was Agatha Christie who once arrived an hour late to a party at Stefansson's London apartment. She had lost the address. When he asked her how she ever found the apartment in a city of eight million people she said that she put herself in the shoes of Hercule Poirot and asked what he would do in a case like that, and within an hour she had solved the problem.

In conclusion, I would like to sum up some of his main achievements:

1. By making use of the knowledge of the Eskimos of how to live off the land he changed the character of arctic exploration.
2. He discovered and mapped the last unknown land masses of North America.
3. He left behind for posterity an enormous mass of writing on the Arctic: 24 books and hundreds of articles.
4. He built up at Dartmouth College the largest library in existence on the North.

He was not only the great authority on the North but he was also a prophet who foresaw perhaps more clearly than anyone else the future significance of the arctic regions in human affairs.

For us people of Icelandic descent I think there is reason for pride in

the fact that the exploration of North America was begun by an Icelander, Leif Erikson, and finished by another, Vilhjalmur Stefansson.

The memorial unveiled today will help to keep the memory of Vilhjalmur Stefansson alive. But he is now a part of the history of North America, and so long as the people of this continent are interested in the story of its exploration his name will live through his own writings and the writings of others about him.

AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING IN MORDEN

(An excerpt from an article that appeared in Lögberg-Heimskringla on June 11, 1969, by a visitor from Iceland, Þóroddur Guðmundsson, freely translated from the Icelandic —Ed.)

We arrived in Morden shortly before sunset. Paul Sigurdson was waiting for us at the bus depot with his children. He drove us in his car to his home. On the way we stopped at a Dairy Queen where I bought some ice cream which everyone enjoyed, particularly the children. It seemed that this delightful day was drawing to a close, but it still had a full measure of its treasures to bestow.

That evening unexpected visitors arrived at the Sigurdson home. They were a young couple of Icelandic descent, Len and Karen Vopnfjord. (Her maiden name was Thorlakson), both of them of striking appearance, he in bearing and looks like a Norse viking, she outstandingly pretty.

After we had greeted each other and exchanged friendly words, I said to the young man, "Is this lovely girl your wife?" She was fair, her smile warm and friendly like the rays of the morning sun.

"Yes", said this distinguished-looking young man, proud as a peacock, as he had every right to be.

Fascinated I repeated, "So exquisitely beautiful!"

"You can say that again", said Len, "and you must know what you are talking about judging from your gracious and charming wife. Each one gets what he deserves. Did you bring the summer and its sunshine all the way from Iceland?"

"Perhaps, perhaps only from New Hamphshire", I replied.

"Yes, I remember now that Paul told me that you had been visiting your

daughter and son-in-law. I expected to meet mature people, but you appear to me to be like young lambs".

"We are not as young as we used to be", I replied.

"But you are young in spirit, and that is what counts, taking everything into consideration", said Len.

"Is that a musical instrument you are carrying?" I said to Len. It was Paul who answered.

"Guitar", he said, "Len is an accomplished guitar player, and their singing is like that of angels."

My wife turned to me and said, "This is certainly our lucky day."

Then Len and Karen started to sing Icelandic songs as Len accompanied on his guitar. The songs which Paul had translated were as follows: "Sólskríkjan", "Nú er frost á Fróni", and "Sveitin Mín". It seemed to me that the translation was very well done. It was sweet music to my ears, skillfully done by the young couple. I cannot remember another performance of its kind more enjoyable and memorable as this one, so simple and unaffected.

It was as if a magic spell were cast over me as I sensed the harmony and meeting of minds that reigned unadulterated within those walls. As the twilight deepened into dusk, we seemed to be in a trance of sheer delight and enchantment.

The following is a verse composed by the author loosely and inadequately rendered by the translator:

It seemed to me that in the sunshine of my dream world I was standing on the sea shore, when across the water, wafted by the breeze, celestial sounds broke the deep silence.

As we listened "the years dropped from us like the needles shaken from out the dusky pine", and we lingered for a short while in a green and friendly retreat of peace and enjoyment far from the stresses and strains of ignoble reality. It was an enchanted evening which passed all too quickly like a momentary glimpse of the moon on a murky night, the aquaintance equally unexpected and delightful.

Len, like an old friend bade us a fond farewell (Verið þið blessuð og sæl). Karen extended both her hands like a Greek goddess.

Thus ended an unforgettable evening in Morden.

FRON CHAPTER FUND DRIVE

Fron, the Winnipeg chapter of the Icelandic National League in North America, in September had received nearly $4,000 in its fund drive for $5,000 to finance reconstruction and furnishing of the chapter's home in the city. Donations have come from western Icelanders in various parts of Canada and the United States. Additional contributions are needed to complete the project and may be sent to Chapter Fron, c/o Jochum Asgeirsson, 126 Lodge Avenue, Winnipeg 12. Fron celebrated its 50th anniversary last spring. Skuli Johannsson is current president.

65°

"65°" is the name of a quarterly published in Iceland in the English language. The name, no doubt, was selected to remind the reader that Latitude 65 North passes through Iceland. That latitude passes through Canada about 100 miles north of the Chesterfield Inlet in northern Hudson Bay.

The magazine deserves credit for courage but on another ground. It takes courage to launch a publication in Iceland in the English language—and greater courage if the owner and editor is not of Icelandic stock.

The first number, Autumn 1967, contained words of welcome, from the former President of Iceland, Ásgeir Ásgeirsson:

"It is indeed an imaginative and courageous project to launch a quarterly publication in English on Icelandic life and culture, ...I like to express my sincere wish that it will enjoy a long and fruitful life."

The Editor and Publisher, Amalia Lindal, is an American girl who met her husband-to-be Baldur Lindal, in Boston, Mass. Both were on post-graduate work, she in journalism and he in geology.

It is not difficult to understand that the publication of the magazine would be an uphill struggle. The last number May 1969, reveals on the very front cover the real courage and determination of the woman who launched the magazine. On the permanent front cover of 65° there are two sketches of Iceland the lower one upside down—an original and attractive design. Across the top map and placed as if thrown there helter-skelter, appear the pert remarks: "We Shall Not Retreat", "I protest," "Me, too."

On the inverted map below are two swords and a pair of gauntlets peaceably at rest but within short reach.

An observation must be made on letters to the editor. From them one can tell whether the magazine is fulfilling a purpose. One correspondent says:

"I can't speak a word of Icelandic and am so happy to have found this magazine."

Mr. R. Cooper of London, England, writes: "I liked the marriage article. It is very interesting for us with only formal contacts with Iceland to have an idea of what is really going on, . . . So many of the articles written about Iceland in magazines seem to be full of information but have little of interpretation."

The longest (four pages) and the lead article, at least from the interpretive point of view, comes from an American psychiatrist, David J. Vail, M.D., under the title, "An American Psychiatrist Looks at Iceland." He raises a very interesting point, namely that of identity, both group and individual. He in part says:

"Identity is a very precious commodity for the human being, both at the individual and the group level.

"At the group level the major segment in the world these days is the nation. Icelanders have no difficulty identifying themselves as a nation; if anything, their nationhood is **over**-identified, thrusting, a bit strident and defensive . . .

"I have great difficulty with the **individual** identity of Icelanders. How can there be any identity in the absence of a proper surname?"

The final conclusion reached by Dr. Vail is encouraging:

"As we look at the jewel Iceland, we see in her depth many lights, many reflections. I am convinced that the key to the psychosocial structure of Northwestern European civilization lies there."

There is a very well written article on "Superstition in Iceland", by Árni Björnsson, now in charge of the folklore department in the National Museum. He points out that "it is nothing but natural to find a rich popular superstition" in Iceland. This, he says, is based upan "the tradition of composing and writing historical works as well as romances from the 12th century at least," producing "a great number of fairy-tales".

There is an interesting interview into which observations are woven by the interviewer. It combines comments on an immigrant artist from Spain, Baltasar Samper, who becomes an Icelandic citizen, referred to as an "adapted Icelander", and the artist's description of his art which he calls "An Art Style Of My Own."

Baltasar, who was born in Barcelona, acquired a sufficient training and education to obtain the degree of Arts Professor. This enabled him to teach at an art school, a museum or a university. After travelling through Europe he selected Iceland where he found the air "indescribably stimulating". This adapted Icelander said that what he needed was "freedom to use and project my learning." Coupled with the interview are four pages of pictures of paintings in Iceland by the artist. The most impressive is a full page reproduction of a painting entitled "Altar paintings at Ólafsvalla Church."

What is perhaps most notable for the permanent record is that an artist from Spain, fully trained, after visiting arts capitals of Europe ,should select Reykjavik, as his place of abode, from which he could travel in Iceland in search of settings for his art.

Two articles supply the type of information needed by the non-resident of Iceland. One is on grass and the other on birdlife in Iceland. The article on grass is by Sturla Fridriksson and he entitles it "The Importance of Grass". His account of the deterioration of grasslands during the middle ages, mostly caused by erosion, is one more bit of evidence to show what the Icelandic people have had to endure.

Finnur Gudmundsson writes an article on "Birdlife in Iceland", with special reference to the lake "Myvatn" in the northeast part of Iceland. He in part says:

"Myvatn is particularly renowned for its waterfowl abundance. This remarkable shallow lake, which has an area of fourteen square miles, supports Europe's and perhaps the world's largest concentration of breeding duck."

The artcle is illustrated by pictures of the kittiwake, (a large gull) puffins, pintail duck and ptarmigan, which closely resembles the ptarmigan of Northern Canada.

Former Ambassador to Moscow, Kristinn Gudmundsson, writes a brief article on "The Soviet Union and Iceland."

Stefan Juliusson expands on "The Icelandic Author's Dilemma". which has reference to the financial difficulties which the author has to contend with. He points out that the Writers Association has a membership of 130 and Iceland has a population of only 200,000.

65° has one permanent department under the heading "Iceland Periscope". It consists of about two pages of selected news items. Jon H. Magnusson, a former resident of Minneapolis and reporter in the U.S. for Tíminn, wrote the Periscope for the last issue.

There is an unsigned summary of reactions to business decorum in Iceland under the heading "Observing — Business".

The editor herself, who has a keen sense of humor, found ample material in an incident which had caused widespread comment. The United Kingdom had sent 250 members of the Royal Anglian Regiment to Iceland for practice in markmanship and military maneuvers. The leftist paper in Iceland had protested and Dr. Skuli Thoroddsen, who wrote as a "Commie", published a letter in which he challenged "Her Brittanic Majesty Elizabeth II" to a duel. It caused a sensation. Amalia could not resist the splendid opportunity afforded her of writing in a satirical vein on the whole episode.

With the addition of a few anecdotes the above is a summary of the contents of Number 6, of May 1969, of 65°

The price of this informative and interesting magazine is $5.00 per year —well worth it. The business address is Laugaveg 59, Reykjavik, Iceland.

—W. J. L.

DR. PAUL H. WESTDAL

Dr. **Paul H.** Westdal

A short time ago Paul H. Westdal, of Winnipeg, obtained his Doctor of Philosophy Degree from the University of Manitoba. His thesis was "Virus Diseases of Cereal Crops." In 1947 he received his B.Sc. and his M.Sc. in 1950, both from the University of Manitoba.

Dr. Westdal has now accepted a postdoctoral transfer of work to the Crop Research Division of Lincoln Agricultural College in New Zealand.

Dr. Westdal was born in Wynyard, Saskatchewan in 1921 and is the son of Paul and Helga Westdal, formerly of Wynyard and now residing in Winnipeg. Paul married Miss Mae Gillis of Winnipeg. They have three children, Lauren, Carol and Neil.

W.J.L.

CONTINUED FROM LAST ISSUE

Icelandic Then and Now

by John K. Laxdal

GOVERNMENT (continuation)

The framework of the original Icelandic code of laws was modelled after the Norwegian law with modifications deemed necessary to suit the new republic. Thus was created a federation of states with Althing as the central authority. Originally there were 13 local assemblies each presided over by three chieftains (godar) who ruled over the spring and fall assemblies. The Althing met for a fortnight each summer and was attended by three chieftains, their families and followers. It was presided over by a law-speaker elected for a renewable term of three years. He committed the code of laws to memory and recited a third of it each year to the assembly. While the Althing had both legislative and judicial authority, the executive authority was vested in the chieftains. There was a detailed criminal code which specified the fines or penalties for each offence. Persons accused of crime enjoyed the privilege of trial by jury, three centuries before the English gained this bulwark of British justice. Although the sessions of Althing were assembled, essentially, to conduct the affairs of state, the leisure hours during the sessions were, however, devoted to merry-making, intervisitations among friends and relatives,—a time for feasting, displaying of weapons, transmitting customs and culture. The young men competed in sports displaying prowess and agility; the families arranged marriage contracts, settled family feuds and discussed problems concerning their families or the state.

Increasingly bitter feuds among the more powerful families and the increasing wealth and influence exerted by the church gradually resulted in the deterioration and the eventual collapse of this system of government. During the years 1262-1264 Iceland came under the domination of Norway and hence the authority and the powers so ably executed by the Icelandic chieftains were now relegated to royal emissaries. Following the union of Denmark and Norway in 1382 and the completion of the Reformation movement in Iceland 1550, Althing was gradually stripped of all power and finally abolished in the year 1800.

Almost five centuries of Danish oppression brought only political stagnation and economic regression to Iceland. The crown confiscated all property of the church and imposed onerous taxes upon an already impoverished populace. In 1602 the king decreed an absolute trade monopoly following which the Danish imports soared in price and deteriorated in quality while the price paid for the Icelandic exports fell. No provision was made for an organized educational system. Elementary education was available for a few weeks each year under the tutelage of untrained itinerant teachers housed at the larger farmsteads. Secondary education was limited to one grammar school and one theological seminary. For decades there was virtually no indication of any prospect for a brighter future for this once proud progressive and enlightened republic, now reduced to a foundling colony of Denmark. It appeared that the breaking

point had been reached when some young vigorous Icelandic nationalists under the able leadership of Jón Sigurdsson (1811-1879) joined in a crusade pressing for a new constitution, national independence free from all foreign influence and interference. As a result free trade was granted in 1854, and gradually by overwhelming popular demand and continued insistence of the young nationalists Iceland gradually gained political concessions and some voice in its national affairs. The long dormant embers of nationalism now began to glow and soon the flame of freedom burst forth as Denmark further relented and granted the colony limited Home Rule in 1875, whereby Althing was reinstated and the nation given control over internal matters and finances while control over foreign affairs was retained by Denmark. Negotiations for complete self-government continued and were finally concluded in 1918, by an act of Union between Denmark and Iceland. This Act recognized Iceland as a sovereign state and relinquished Denmark's control over the foreign affairs of Iceland as soon as arrangements for the transfer could be completed. Repeal of the Act could be requested by either nation after December 31, 1940 subject to a two-third majority vote by either parliament. Following the Nazi occupation April 9, 1940, Denmark became powerless to act on Iceland's behalf in matters specified in the Act of Union so perforce Iceland immediately assumed full control over all external affairs. Immediate abrogation seemed, however, inappropriate and ill-advised. After due deliberation Althing on February 25, 1944, passed a motion to repeal the act of 1918, and following a plebiscite ratified by 97.35% of the electorate Althing was authorized to abrogate the Act. A unanimous vote, for repeal, by Althing June 6, 1944 completed the necessary arrangements for the long awaited rebirth of the Icelandic Republic. With due pomp and fitting ceremony Althing again met at Thingvellir, the site of the original assembly of 930. Foreign dignitaries, diplomats and other representatives of most governments of the western world as well as many people of Icelandic descent who had migrated to Canada and the United States of America brought greetings and well wishes. They rejoiced with the descendants of the founders of the original Althing of 930 as they laid the foundation for a new republic as free and unfettered by foreign influence as was the original republic of a thousand years ago.

Under the present constitution legislative authority is the joint responsibility of a President, elected for a term of four years, and Althing, also elected for a term of four years. Constitutionally the President appoints the Cabinet but, following Democratic tradition he appoints them as advised by the majority in the Althing. He exercises his executive powers through the Cabinet. The President and the Cabinet together constitute the Privy Council over which the President presides.

The Judiciary is independent of the executive power.

The present parliament consists of 60 elected representatives, one-third of whom form the upper house and the other 40 are members of the lower house. Each house has a speaker. Presiding over the parliament is a Prime Minister with six other cabinet ministers, four of whom have two portfolios each. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Finance each have a full time minister.

LITERATURE

The literary output of the early Icelandic writers has long been acclaimed by foreign scholars to rank with the best produced anywhere, both in the quality of literary style and originality. Unfortunately much of these earliest works is in the form of lyric poetry virtually impossible to translate with any degree of accuracy and consequently intelligible only to scholars who are masters of Old Norse or Icelandic.

The earliest Icelandic literary works were the Eddaic and scaldic poetry. The scaldic poems were generally composed to honor persons of rank. The exact time of their composition is unknown as they were passed on by word of mouth from one generation to the next, as it was not until the 11th century that the Icelandic scholars mastered the art of writing. Actually, it was not until the 13th century that most of this early literature was recorded. The scaldic poems were undoubtedly of Icelandic origin, but some of the earlier heroic Eddaic poems may have been of Norwegian or German origin. The best known and the most widely acclaimed of the early Icelandic literature are the sagas. Although the first century after settlement (930-1930) is spoken of as the Saga Age, since most of the events dealt with in the sagas took place during this period, nevertheless most of the actual writing of these by the learned men of Iceland extended over a period of the two centuries (1230-1430). The earliest sagas were principally the histories of the Norwegian kings. The sage and master of the early saga writers was Snorri Sturluson (1179-1241), who has been regarded by many foreign scholars as the outstanding writer and historian of the medieval period. His best known works "Heimskringla" which is the history of the Norwegian kings to 1177 well illustrates his factual accuracy, his superb style and vivid imagination. His Edda, a textbook of mythology and poetic diction, served as a model for the young writers of the age as well as an inspiration to other writers. In all about 40 sagas which dealt principally with the evolution of settlement, the histories of the prominent families, their exploits and feuds at home and abroad. Njal's Saga, available in a fine English translation by Sir Geo. W. Dasent, is generally regarded as the most imaginative work of all the sagas. Also written were a number of short stories (þættir). These were essentially narratives of Icelanders abroad, and their associations with foreign kings and other dignitaries. Heroic narratives of Norse legendary figures formed the greater portion of the remaining literary output of this period.

During the four centuries, 1350 to 1750, little good literature was produced. It appeared as if the whole nation were engulfed in a cultural regression that coincided with the economic hardships and political stagnation of the period. Jón Arason, the last Catholic bishop of Iceland, however, obtained a printing press in 1530 so that by the year 1600 numerous hymn books, a translation of the Bible and some law books had been printed. The two outstanding works of this period were the Passion Hymns of Hallgrímur Péturs-son (1614-1674) of which there have been some 60 printings and Jón Vídalín's "Húspostilla" of which there have been 12 printings. Both of these were read in every Icelandic home. These two volumes virtually became the textbooks of the period for children learning to read.

Iceland's former record of literary eminence was restored by many outstanding poets of the 18th and early

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IN THE NEWS

MOTHER AND SON GRADUATE

Ella F. Ramsay

Irving D. Ramsay

Ella F. Ramsay of Waskada, Manitoba, received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Manitoba in May of this year.

Her son Irving D. Ramsay received his Bachelor of Music Degree from the University of Calgary on the same day.

Mrs. Ramsay is of Icelandic descent, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Elias Eliasson of Westbourne, Manitoba. She graduated from the Jón Bjarnason Academy in 1936, and from the Winnipeg Teachers' College in 1937. In 1939 she married Fred C. Ramsay of Waskada, a farmer who has been active in the field of education and other public service.

The oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Ramsay, Vaughan, graduated in Agriculture in 1965 and now farms four sections of land at Waskada. The second son, Fred H., graduated "cum laude" from the University of Manitoba in 1964 with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. In 1968 he obtained a degree in Chartered Accountancy. Abidonne Oils Limited have recently announced his appointment as Comptroller for their company. The company has its head office in Calgary. As has been noted above, the third son, Irving D., has now received his academic degree in Music. He has accepted a position at Kimberly, B. C.

Miss Tanyss Ramsay, who is the youngest of the Ramsay children is studying radiography at the Children's Hospital in Winnipeg.

The family was saddened this spring

by the sudden death of the husband and father, Mr. Fred C. Ramsay, on May 17th. Because of this, neither Mrs. Ramsay nor her son Irving were able to attend their convocation services.

★

Ross Legrand

Ross Legrand, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Legrand of St. Louis Park, Minnesota, and grandson of Mrs. G. T. Athelstan and the late Mr. Athelstan of Minneapolis, was awarded the degree of Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Minnesota. A graduate of Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, Mr. Legrand is currently Assistant Professor of Psychology at St. Olaf College, also in Northfield. He is married and has a daughter.

★

CIVIL ENGINEER TAKES UP DENTISTRY

Dr. Irvin Hjalmar Olafson, who, as reported in the summer number of this magazine, graduated in dentistry last spring and is now practising in Selkirk, was formerly a Civil Engineer and worked for ten years in Sarnia, Ontario. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Oddur Olafson of Riverton and is married to Lois, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. V. Sigurdson of Riverton. They have four children: Christine, who is registering this fall in Interior Decorating at the University of Manitoba, Steven, Laurie and Eric.

★

NORTH STAR CO-OP TOPS ALL

Kris G. Johnson

Mr. Kris G. Johnson of the North Star Locker Plant, Arborg, Man. received trophies for firsts in all three events: Standard Ham, Tenderized Ham and Side Bacon. The products were judged at the tenth annual Manitoba-Saskatchewan-Alberta Ham and Bacon show. The show is sponsored by the Locker Operators Association and was held in Saskatoon, Sask., February 9 to 11th, 1969.

This is the first time the same man has topped all three events at any of these shows.

Kris is the son of Mrs. Bertha Alexander and her former husband, the late Elimann Johnson, Arborg.

OLAFSON BROTHERS EXCEL

Dr. James Olafur Olafson

Dr. Gordon Albert Olafson

In this day and age, when some young people are frittering away their time in the militant advocacy of some nebulously Utopian philosophy, it is reassuring to know that there are still with us youthful exponents of the time-honored virtues of self-reliance, initiative, and industry. An account of what the Olafson brothers have accomplished is not exactly a "rags-to riches" story. It is, nevertheless, a record of accomplishment in the tradition of Horatio Alger.

The Olafson brothers, born in Selkirk, Manitoba, moved to Vancouver with their parents, Albert and Jean (nee Hendry) Olafson, where the family has since resided. The untimely death of their father, when the boys were still in High School, and the resultant financial pinch threatened 'to terminate a promising educational career, but the boys were made of sterner stuff. Whatever time they could spare from their studies, evenings, week-ends, summer holidays, was spent in working at whatever jobs they could get. In their struggle they were sustained by their mother's gentle but constant encouragement and cheerful optimism.

Pericles' reference to the ancient Athenians, "And we have not forgotten to provide for our weary spirits many relaxations from toil; we have regular games throughout the year," applies equally to Gordon and Jimmy. Somehow they found time to achieve outstanding success in athletics.

A brief summary of Gordon's educational career follows.

Bachelor of Physical Education, University of British Columbia, 1962; Master of Physical Education, U.B.C., 1966; Master's Thesis—"The Effect of an Endurance Programme on the Cardiovascular Fitness of a Group of Middle-aged Men"; Doctor of Physical Education, University of Illinois, 1969; Doctoral Thesis—"Leader Behavior of Junior College and University Physical Education Administrators". All this he has accomplished at the youthful age of 30.

From 1964 to 1967 he was an instructor in Physical Education at the Van-

couver City College. This year he was appointed Professor of Physical Education at the University of Windsor, Ontario.

Dr. Olafson's wife Pauline (nee Grauer) who has been his faithful helpmate since their marriage, holds the degrees of B.A. and B. Ed. from U.B.C. For some time she has taught Secondary School subjects in Vancouver and Urbana, Illinois.

Summary of Jimmy Olafson's career: two years younger than Gordon, he has loved animals since early childhood. Never did he deviate from his purpose of eventually administering to them and alleviating their sufferings.

Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, U.B.C., 1963; That same year he and his young wife, Beverley (nee Ramsey), left for a five-year stint at the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, with plenty of optimism and boundless determination, but not much else. The path they had chosen seemed to some a long, long trail strewn with seemingly insurmountable obstacles, but they found the pot of gold, so to speak, at the end of that arduous journey. Bev, with her R.N. credentials and excellent recommendations from the Vancouver General Hospital, obtained a position as instructress in the Faculty of Nursing. Jim worked at whatever he could get. Thus they were able to finance his course. He graduated in Veterinary Medicine in May, 1968. Dr. Olafson is at present associated with the Central Park Veterinary Hospital, Burnaby, B. C.

The grandparents of these enterprising brothers: Arndis and the late Olafur Olafson, formerly of Piney and Selkirk, Manitoba.

★

Charles Dennis Anderson

Charles Dennis Anderson has won the Litvak Gold Medal as the outstanding member of 95 graduates receiving the Masters of Business Administration degree at the McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont. He attended high school in Selkirk before graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1964. He is the son of Asdis and the late Thorstein A. Anderson, formerly of Libau, Man. and is a grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Einar Guttormson. Dennis and two of his brothers, James and Fredrick went back to University to further their education—James to get his Masters Degree in Political Science and Fredrick a Masters Degree in Business Administration. They each have one more year to reach this goal.

★

Glenn Sigurdson, son of Stefan Sigurdson and grandson of S. V. Sigurdson of Riverton, Manitoba, has entered Osgood Hall, Law School in Toronto to study law.

GRADUATES OF THE U. N. D. Grand Forks.

CLIFFORD ALVIN NORDAL, B.Sc., Feb. 2, 1969.
Parents: Jonas and Maria Nordal, Arborg, Manitoba.

VICTOR BORGFJORD, B.A. Industrial Arts, Aug. 9, 1969.
Parents: Mrs. Stefania Borgfjord, and her late husband Victor August Borgfjord.

★

Ralph R. Einarson

Ralph R. Einarson received his bachelor of arts degree (economics) at the University of Victoria at the university's convocation in May.

Mr. Einarson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lew Einarson, Penfield Road, Campbell River, B.C. His paternal grandparents are Mrs. Vilborg Einarson of Campbell River and the late Thorsteinn Einarson, formerly of Arborg and Winnipeg, Man. His maternal grandparents were the late Mr. and Mrs. D. W. C. Blake of Ellerslie, Alta. Mr. Einarson received his primary and secondary education in Campbell River and is a graduate of the Junior-Senior Secondary school there. He is presently employed as manager trainee at Simpson-Sears Limited Victoria branch at Victoria.

★

David C. Bjarnason of Winnipeg this summer was appointed associate legal officer of the Great West Life Assurance Company at its Winnipeg Headquarters. Born in Ottawa and raised at London, Ont., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Bjarnason, he graduated in law at the University of Manitoba in 1955 and later received his master's degree there. Married, his wife is the former Patricia Armstrong. They have five children.

★

PROF. D. SWAINSON GIVEN SABBATICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Professor Donald Swainson of Queen's University at Kingston has been awarded sabbatical leave for the 1969-70 academic year. Born in Baldur in 1938 Dr. Swainson graduated from the University of Manitoba (B.A. Hon.) and from the University of Toronto (M.A., Ph.D.). He held several undergraduate scholarships plus a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship and a University of Toronto Special Open Fellowship. Professor Swainson lectured at the University of Manitoba Summer School 1961-63. He joined the Department of History at Queen's in 1963, and the Queen's Graduate Faculty in 1964. For the past several yeears he has conducted graduate and undergraduate seminars on Confederation Era Politics, Canadian Political Parties, French Canada and the Canadian West. He is joint author of **The Prime Ministers**

of Canada: Macdonald to Trudeau (Toronto, 1968) and author of **Ontario and Confederation Ontario et la Confédération** (Centennial Historical Booklet No. 5). Professor Swainson has contributed articles and reviews to several Canadian publications. He is a member of the editorial board of the Methuen Company's **Canadiana Facsimile Reprint Series.** Donald Swainson will use his sabbatical, assisted by a Canada Council grant, to study nineteenth century Canadian politics. This work will be done in Winnipeg, Toronto and Ottawa.

Dr. Swainson is married to Eleanor Garson, daughter of Hon. and Mrs. S. S. Garson, former Minister of Justice of Winnipeg. They live in Kingston and Garden Island with their cat Lucifer. In the recent Manitoba election he was campaign manager for W. T. Johannson, M.L.A. (N.D.P. St. Mathews). Dr. Swainson is the son of Liney and Ingi Swainson of Winnipeg.

★

EINARSSON BROTHERS EXCEL

Two brothers, **Harold S. Einarsson** and **Joseph Einarsson** won distinction last spring. Harold was elected president of the Manitoba Master Barbers' Association, and Joseph Einarsson won three awards at the Manitoba Dairy Asscoiation competition held in the Marlborough Hotel.

The Einarsson brothers are sons of Mrs. Einarsson and her late husband, G. O. Einarsson of Arborg.

★

RETIRED AMBASSADOR, JOHN P. SIGVALDASON ON BRANDON UNIVERSITY STAFF

J. P. Sigvaldason, recently retired Canadian ambassador to Norway and Iceland has joined the staff of Brandon University as a sessional lecturer in the political science department.

Mr. Sigvaldason is one of 22 new appointments for the 1969-70 academic year here.

He is also a former ambassador to Indonesia and member of the Canadian Foreign Service. A Manitoba native, Mr. Sigvaldason was a former Manitoba teacher, inspector of schools and acting chief administrative officer of the department of education.

★

CLARE SWAINSON GOING TO ST. LUCIA, WEST INDIES

Clare Swainson, English Dept. head of Garden City Collegiate has left for two years on a teaching asignment in St. Lucia, West Indies

Clare is working through the Canadian International Development Agency (C.I.D.A.) under the External Aid Office. He will be teaching at St. Lucia Teachers College, Castries, St. Lucia, West Indies.

Clare and his wife, the former Bernice Lockhart of Flin Flon, and their two children, Paul, 11, and Jocelyn 9, left Sept.3, for St. Lucia.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. I. Swainson, 471 Home St., Winnipeg.

★

Mr. Tom E. Oleson, a Glenboro, Manitoba, businessman, has been appointed a magistrate. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Oleson served as a Justice Of The Peace for 15 yeears.

The son of a prominent Icelandic Canadian family, Mr. Oleson will serve the Glenboro, Treherne, Carberry, Souris, Killarney, Boissevain and Deloraine districts.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 46

ICELAND THEN AND NOW

19th century. It was not, however, until the middle of the last century that the modern novel found a place in Icelandic literature. Novelists and dramatists seemed to share the literary prominence for the first 35 years of the present century, but currently the novelists seem to play the leading literary roles, although poetry of literary excellence still holds an honored place. Outstanding among the present day novelists is Halldór Kiljan Laxness, (Nobel Prize award winner in 1955) who is considered one of the world's best novelists. The works of many other Icelandic authors e.g. Gunnar Gunnarsson have been widely translated. Extensive research in the field of Icelandic studies is still in progress by the nation's leading scholars. One of the major projects in this category is a 35-volume work on the ancient Icelandic manuscripts, now about half finished.

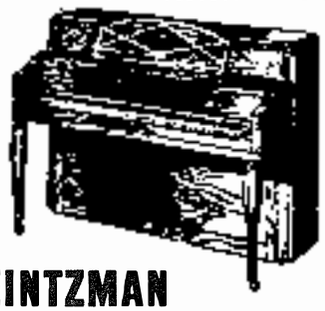
EDUCATION

The first schools in Iceland were the cathedral schools founded by the native bishops at Hólar and Skálholt. These schools were intended, essentially, to train young men for the priesthood. Somewhat later but still during the Middle Ages several of the monasteries also operated schools, teaching principally, Latin, poetry and music. In 1801 the cathedral schools were moved to Reykjavik, combined and operated as a grammar school. Until regular schools were established elementary education was conducted on some of the more centrally located farmsteeads under the supervision of the parish priests.

The first real blueprint for an educational system was drafted by the

great statesman Jón Sigurdsson. His suggestions eventually formed the framework for the establishment of elementary, special and secondary schools designed to meet the educational needs of the nation which could no longer be adequately served by the individual homes and itinerant teachers. In 1880 a law was passed which made the parents responsbile for providing instruction for their children in the three R's. By the year 1907 the state began to assume some of the cost of providing schools. The first school attendance act instituted compulsory attendance for all children between the ages of 10-14 years. The present school act provides for compulsory attendance for all children between the ages of 7-15 years with the last two years in a secondary school. The elementary school curriculum includes physical training, swimming, handcrafts and music in addtiion to the core subjects.

In the sparsely populated districts boarding schools have been established. These are, where feasible, built in areas where geo-thermal heat is available for heating the buildings, swimming pools and warming the soil for growing vegetables. Thirty nine such state-supported elementary schools are now in operation. Eight secondary schools are also located in geo-thermal areas. These offer two year courses with emphasis on Icelandic, physical education, music and technical subjects. Only a portion of the cost of the food required by the pupils attending these boarding schools is assumed by the parents. The Education Act of 1946 provides for three types of secondary education: a two-year secondary, a three-year middle school course and a general secondary course of four-year duration. These offer the usual academic subjects with a wide range of elective options. Students obtaining a satisfactory standing



in the academic subjects after three years in the middle secondary school courses qualify for entrance to the grammar schools which offer the university entrance courses. The academic courses which the students select in the grammar schools depend on the university courses they propose to enter. The Teacher Training College offers a four-year course to students with grammar school entrance certificate. Specialized courses are offered for prospective teachers of physical education, domestic science or handicrafts. Teachers in the secondary schools or special schools are expected to hold university degrees and have majored in the subjects they teach. Numerous vocational, technical and commercial schools as well as schools of art and music are available to prepare students for their chosen careers. There are also special schools for the deaf, dumb and blind.

The primary and the secondary schools as well as the domestic science and the technical schools are all built and administered by the state in cooperation with the local authorities. The state also pays one-half of the initial cost for the day schools and three-quarters of the cost of the boarding schools; the balance is paid by the local communities. The state also pays 95% of the salaries of the teachers in the primary schools in additoin to paying one-quarter of the operating cost of such schools. The parents pay a small rental for all text books used in the compulsory schools. The state also assumes most of the cost of construction and operation as well as the cost of teachers' salaries of all permanent teachers engaged in all post-elementary schools of all types. When teachers reach the age of 55 years their teaching load may be reduced by one-sixth ,and after the age of 60 they assume only two-thirds of a normal teaching load, but retirement age is 70 years. Sabbatical leaves are granted for overseas study.

The University

The University of Iceland was founded on the 100th anniversary of Jón Sigurdsson's birthday June 17th, 1911. Prior to this independent faculties of Theology, Medicine and Law were in operation. At the time of founding the University a Faculty of Philosophy was added. Faculties of Dentistry and Pharmacy have now been added to the Faculty of Medicine and a faculty of Economics has been added to the Faculty of Law. The Faculty of Philosophy has been expanded to include foreign languages, mathematics and the physical sciences. The first half of a degree course in Civil Engineering has also been added but the course must be completed abroad. At the time of founding only 45 students were enrolled, but in 1965 the enrolment had risen to 1095. Extensive research projects are being undertaken in a wide

range of subject fields. with the main emphasis on projects in the fields of agriculture, marine life and medicine. The rector of the university is elected for a term of three years from the faculty by its members. He, together with the council and deans, exercises almost complete autonomy regarding courses offered and research projects undertaken.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The confluence of the branches of the warm Gulf Stream and the cold polar current between Greenland and Iceland is the principal factor responsible for the great wealth of marine life in the waters over the continental shelf surrounding Iceland. Over 130 species of fish are found in these waters. Only 66 of these, however, propagate there and only 15 have any appreciable commercial value. Of greatest commercial value is the herring which in 1966 formed 56% of the total fish catch. 80% of this is processed either as herring meal or oil. The balance is marketed frozen or pickled. The frozen pack finds ready market in the U.S.A. while the pickled herring is sold mostly to Sweden and the bulk of the meal exported to the U.K. In 1963 Iceland was the world's largest exporter of salted herring totalling 25% of the international trade. Second in commercial importance is the cod catch which in 1964 made up 29% of the nation's catch. Before the modern quick freezing, refrigeration and acceptable storage facilities became available most of the cod catch was salted and exported wet or dried and sold as klipfish. Now 44% of the catch is quick frozen, 20% marketed as stockfish and 22% as saltfish or klipfish. The saltfish and the klipfish are in great demand in the Mediterranean countries, West Africa and South America. The Nigerian war has temporarily closed the West African market. Other fish varieties of lesser commercial value are: haddock, perch, sole, saithe and plaice.

In the last twenty years the fishing fleet has undergone complete re-building and outfitting. The small dangerous open row-boats and the deckless motor boats of former years have been replaced by larger and safer motor boats ranging in size from 10-300 gross tons and larger motor vessels and trawlers of 600-1000 gross tons. The fishing fleet is now equipped with the finest and most modern equipment available for fish detection and the handling of the catch and as a result of research and superior equipment both guesswork in locating schools of fish and the former laborious work of the fishermen have been largely eliminated. The whaling industry, in recent years, has shown marked increase.

Virtually unregulated over-fishing by Icelandic and foreign vessels which

fished within the three mile limit threatened to deplete the fish stocks in Icelandic waters in the 1930's. Since the island's economy was at that time almost wholly dependent on the ocean harvest this over-fishing and foreign encroachment became a matter of deep concern for they threatened to deal the death blow to the country's economy which was already stifled by the world wide depression. In an attempt to safeguard its livelihood the Icelandic government after the U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea in 1958 issued regulations establishing a twelve-mile off-shore fishing limit for foreign vessels. These resolutions however were not recognized by the U.K. which sent its fishing boats, under the protection of naval vessels, within the newly established limits. This led to a situation which was dubbed the cod fish war that gave rise to both serious and amusing incidents. Since March 1961, however, the U.K. has officially respected these limits although individual trespassing occasionally occurs. The importnace and extent of the Icelandic fishing industry is perhaps most effectively emphasized by comparing the per capita catch of the Icelanders with the per capita catch of the other principal countries fishing in Iceland's waters. In 1960 Iceland's per capita catch was 3369.3 Kgs, Norway 446.3 Kgs., U.K. 17.6 Kgs. and that of the Fed. Rep. of Germany 12.6 Kgs. At present the Icelandic fishing industry produces about 24% of the country's national income while the percentage of the national income derived from the fishing industry of any of the other nations fishing off the Icelandic continental shelf is less than 1%. Although Iceland's dependence on the fishing industry is gradually diminishing, its economic barometer still rises or falls depending on its success or failure.

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