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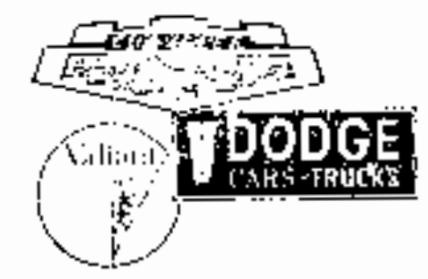


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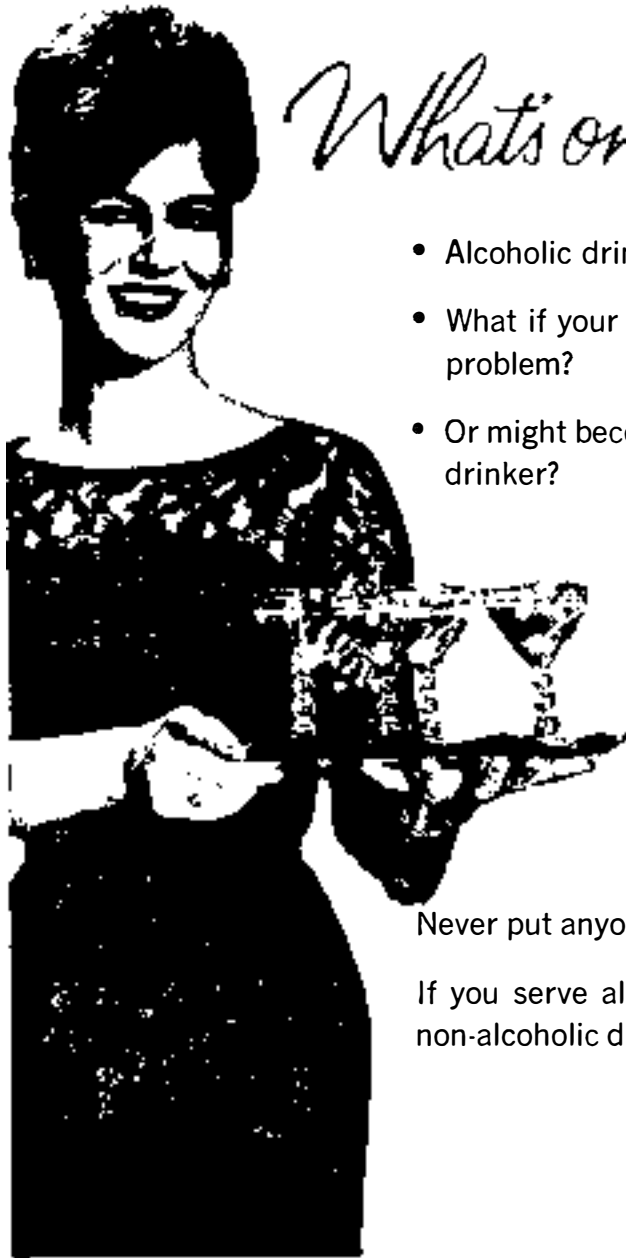
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The Icelandic Canadian

Vol. XXI No. 2

Winnipeg, Canada

Winter 1962

EDITORIAL Mary-Anne Valgardson

13

SPECIAL FEATURES

Sir William Stephenson, W. J. Lindal	15
The Laws and Regulations of New Iceland, with Annotations	19
Elswood B. Johnson, W. J. Lindal	32
The Lost Greenland Colony,	
Sequel to Article on Dr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson	37

MISCELLANEOUS

Emile Walters, Salome Halldorson	41
Icelandic Scholarships	39
Icelandic Canadian Club News	58

POEMS

Fog, Loftur Bjarnason	34
Northern Fall, W. D. Valgardson	60

BOOK REVIEW

Pættir úr Minnisstæðri Íslandsferð, Dr. Richard Beck,, reviewed by Haraldur Bessason	49
Scholarships	61
Golden Weddings	45, 47
IN THE NEWS	53, 55, 57
NEWS SUMMARY	61, 62, 64

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Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace

Merry Christmas !

To many people those words convey the image of a jolly little bearded elf in a red suit, the man with the ". . . little round belly, that shook when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly", who distributes toys to "good" children on Christmas Eve. Those words carry with them all the wonders of the holiday season; the decoratively lighted stores, homes and streets, the harried crowds of shoppers and the carols blaring from every public address system. They remind us of the food, the steaming, golden turkey flanked by all the delicacies the supermarket can offer. But for most people, the high-point of the season is the glittering tree, presiding over mounds of gaily wrapped gifts. As the last tattered wrappings are swept up, the family sighs, "That's Christmas for another year," and sits back to wait for the next one. Christmas for most of us in North America is a time of parties, gaiety and joy.

Let us remember that this Christmas we have a special reason for joy. In the light of recent world crises, each of us should be profoundly thankful that once again we have been saved, pulled back from the brink of universal disaster. Perhaps, also, we should review our Christian values and ideals. In our anxiety about money, the nuclear arms race and racial discrimination, do we remember and preserve the special meanings of Christmas? As Christians it is our duty and privilege to uphold the spiritual traditions of Christmas. The joy and pleasure of the season need not diminish. Our very natural joy in the season increases when we remember the reasons why we celebrate this very special Birthday.

When we count our blessings in our own places of worship this season, let us remember how very much we have to be thankful for. In the words of the well known carol "Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace".

A MERRY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL.

—Mary-Anne Valgardson



Sir William Stephenson

SIR WILLIAM STEPHENSON

A Canadian Press despatch of November 9, 1962, from Alan Harvey of London, England, opens as follows:

"After 17 tight-lipped years, a curtain was finally lifted today on the sensational cloak-and-dagger activities of Sir William Stephenson, perhaps Canada's top secret agent.

"In a book called *The Quiet Canadian*, wartime colleague Montgomery Hyde tells for the first time the full, fantastic story of the intelligence operations Stephenson directed from a skyscraper office in New York's Rockefeller Centre."

In 1954 most of the following material was prepared but not made available to the public. A letter from McKenzie Porter, then Assistant Editor, *MACLEAN'S* magazine, and internationally known reporter, wrote to the writer on Jan., 20, 1953 in part as follows:

"I must once again refrain from giving you the private address of Sir William Stephenson."

That indicates the precautions that had to be taken even at that time.

William Samuel Clouston Stephenson, M.C., D.F.C., Croix de Guerre with Palm, was born on Point Douglas in Winnipeg, January 23, 1897. (See footnote at end of article). His father William Hunter Stanger, was of Irish descent. His mother, Gudfinna, was an immigrant from Iceland. There were three children of the marriage, two daughters and William who was the youngest child. Bill was only one year old when his father died and an Ice-

landic couple, Mr. and Mrs. Vigfus Stephenson, who also lived on Point Douglas, adopted the boy and he was given the family name.

The Stephensons had four children of their own, two of whom are living, Jennie Hodgins, a widow, and Mundi, (Gudmundur K.) a plumber in Winnipeg. Mundi and William were much together in their boyhood years.

Bill Stephenson attended the Argyle School and early showed a bent for mathematics and manual training. He was fond of athletics and excelled as a boxer both at school and later in the army overseas.

When 16 years old Bill started to work for a railway company but soon after World War I broke out he enlisted in the 101st Regiment and obtained his commission before he was 19 years old. Within a year after he was in France he won the Military Cross. He was gassed and while convalescing learned to fly and on recovering transferred to the Royal Flying Corps. Within a period of six weeks he shot down 20 German planes and was awarded the D.F.C. One of his victims was a brother of the famous Baron von Richthofen. In 1918 he went to the aid of a French aircraft which was being attacked by five Germans. By mistake the Frenchman hit Stephenson's plane and he was forced to bail out on German territory and was taken prisoner. For this unfortunate incident the French Government awarded Stephenson the Croix de Guerre with Palm.

In the prison camp William got hold of a can opener which had been patented in the Central Power countries. He managed to escape from the prison camp and took the can opener with him to England. He made an improvement on it and had it patented.

At the end of World War I, William returned to Winnipeg but stayed only about a year and then went back to England. In 1924 he married Mary French Simmons, an American girl from Springfield, Tennessee.

In England Stephenson obtained patents for a number of inventions, the chief one of which was the development of a device for transmitting photographs. In 1924 the first successful radio-transmitted newspaper photograph appeared in the London Daily Mail. It had been sent and received on equipment invented by Sir William. This invention paved the way for television. It is reported that through this invention Sir William amassed a fortune of over a million dollars and became a leading industrialist in England. In the early thirties he was in control of many British corporations such as Sound City Films, General Aircraft Limited, Earl's Court Limited, Pressed Steel Co. Ltd., etc.

By the middle of the thirties Stephenson was operating on five continents. His contacts in high places and his skill in picking up information and dovetailing it together enabled him to see the approach of the second world war. He disclosed the facts to Baldwin and Chamberlain but could not persuade them. Winston Churchill listened and through Stephenson he obtained ammunition for his speeches on the growing might of Hitler.

When Churchill became Prime Minister in 1940 he needed a man to coordinate counter-espionage, anti-sabotage and secret intelligence extending to both North and South America. He had no hesitation in selecting William Stephenson.

Just before the fall of France Stephenson reached New York and set up a huge organization, The British Security Corporation, which carried out multifarious assignments on this side of the Atlantic for various branches of the British Secret Service. Before the war was over the headquarters staff in New York exceeded one thousand, a large number of whom were Canadians, more or less hand-picked. From Canada he recruited military personnel from the highest to the lowest and civilians from scientists and economists to farmers, policemen and others.

Sir William was in Ottawa the night that the cipher clerk Igor Gouzenko fled the Soviet Embassy, but that was no accident. Through secret channels Gouzenko had made it known that he had valuable information to disclose. Sir William strongly urged that this source of information be tapped and steps taken to protect Gouzenko.

It is interesting to note that Montgomery Hyde is reported to have said in his book that "but for Stephenson's intervention, Gouzenko might not have lived to tell his story".

Writing in Maclean's Magazine in December 1952 Mr. McKenzie Porter in part says as follows:

"Under Sir William's leadership B. S. C. trained hundreds of Canadian and American parachutists for jumps into occupied Europe; caused the sinking of many enemy submarines by decoding their radio signals and pinpointing their position at sea; delayed

Hitler's attack on Russia by six weeks with a few calculated indiscretions: neutralized a vast German sabotage ring in the Latin American republics; contributed to the smashing of dummy companies operated in various parts of the world by the German Industrial cartels of I. G. Farben."

In 1946 President Truman awarded Stephenson the Medal for Merit, the highest civilian decoration in the U.S., an honor which for the first time was given to a non-American. That same year he retired to Jamaica where he lived until early in 1951. It was while William was in Jamaica, that he was able to accept a Knighthood from the late King George VI without embarrassing the Canadian Government and became Sir William Stephenson.

In 1951 Sir William returned and originated "World Commerce", a British-Canadian-American company with headquarters in New York. The vice-president of World Commerce, John Pepper, said: "He is a great Canadian and has done more than any other man in the world markets to bring Canada's enormous potential to the notice of international investors."

The following are comments by world leaders in Secret Service work.

William J. Donovan, Head of the U.S. Office of Strategic Services: "Bill Stephenson taught us all we ever knew about foreign intelligence."

Ernest Cuneo, Wartime liaison officer between the British Security Corporation and Donovan's Office of Strategic Services: "Stephenson is the only man who enjoyed the unqualified confidence of Churchill and Roosevelt."

Alan Harvey's press despatch discloses that Sir William, as all top flight secret service agents, employed female spies and gives one particular instance. That indicates how revealing Montgomery Hyde's book must be. The Canadian public eagerly awaits the arrival of "The Quiet Canadian"—one may add, both the book and the quiet Canadian himself.

—W. J. Lindal

The certificate of Birth gives the following information: Name, William Clouston Stanger; Date of Birth, January 23, 1897; Place of Birth, Winnipeg; Name of Father, William Hunter Stanger; Maiden Name of Mother, Sarah Goodfina Johnston; Date of Registration, February 26, 1897.

Mrs. Stanger left Winnipeg with their two daughters. When World War I broke out Bill advanced his age one year in order to join the army.

Stjórnarlög
 í Framfarum í Framfarum,
 í Framfarum

Nýja Island.

1. gr. Landinn er skilinn í fjórum stöðum
 nefnd Vatnsþing og stöðir í þessum
 byggðum: ein nefnd Vatnsþing og stöðir
 innan í þessum byggðum N. 18, 19, 20, 21,
 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33,
 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44,
 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54,
 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64,
 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74,
 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84,
 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94,
 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

2. gr. Allir menn herra byggja skal í skattmuni
 fundi, og hollinn er 7 dag fundi holl,
 en þó fundi byggja eru vill 10, og herra 7 dag
 appi skattmuni, fjórum 5. skattmuni byggja nefnd,
 herra skattmuni byggja einn verra skattmuni fleri
 gja jökli byggja byggja skattmuni og fleri
 herra 7 byggja fleri fleri, einn og skattmuni gja

The Laws and Regulations of New Iceland

ARTICLE I Division of New Iceland¹

The Icelandic settlement in New Iceland is named Lake Region (Vatnsþing), and shall be divided into four Districts which are called:

- Viðines District, comprising Townships 18 and 19 in Ranges 3 and 4 East;
- Arnes District, comprising Townships 20 and 21 in Ranges 3 and 4 East;
- River District comprising Townships 22 and 23 in Ranges 3 and 4 East;
- Big Island District, comprising the whole of Big Island.

ARTICLE II: Election of District Committees and Conciliators

The inhabitants of each District shall, at a public meeting which is to be held annually on the seventh day of January, or on the eighth day of January, when the seventh falls on a Sunday, elect five men to a committee called District Committee, two conciliators and one vice-conciliator. They who receive the largest number of votes are duly elected members of the District Committee, but only if there are present more than half of the residents in the District who are eligible to vote in accordance with Article III of these Laws and Regulations. Should any persons present at such meeting, decline election others shall be elected in their place; but should any members of the committee be prevented from acting after the election meeting those who obtained the largest number of votes next after the committee members shall take their place. If some receive an equal number of votes for fifth places on the committees the tie shall be broken by another ballot limited for those who received equal votes. The same rule shall apply to the election of conciliators, as are herein set out for the election of members of District Committees.

ARTICLE III: Right to Vote and Eligibility for Election

Every man shall have the right to vote for the election of District Committee who is eighteen years of age, is a resident or owns real estate or who

¹⁾ The notes follow the translation by way of Annotations.

The opposite page is a photograph of the first page of the draft document, which was promulgated by publication in Framfari, January 11, 1878.

is a householder or has steady employment in the district, and who has an unblemished reputation³. All those who have a right to vote are also eligible for election to District Committees, except those who are incumbent clergymen or permanent public school teachers, but no one shall be eligible for election who is not twenty-one years of age.

ARTICLE IV: Duties of the Public

Section 1: Attendance at Meetings

The residents of each District shall attend a public meeting of the District between March 15 and April 15 at the place and date which the District Reeves⁴ decide, to discuss matters affecting the public welfare of the Districts.

Section 2: Road Work and Dues for Roads

Every male who is twenty-one years of age shall be obliged to contribute, annually, to the construction of public roads, two days labour of ten hours each, or shall pay two dollars to the road fund of the District in which he has a fixed place of abode; but those who have no fixed place of abode shall work or pay where they happen to be when road work is being done. The road work shall be done at such place and time as district committees determine.

Section 3: Notice of Deaths, Births and Marriages

Every householder shall be obliged to notify his District Reeve of deaths and births at his home, within a week from the happening of same. Furthermore every man who marries shall be obliged to notify his District Reeve within the same time.

Section 4: Reports on Husbandry⁵ and Population

Farmers and householders of each district shall give their District Reeves a clear account, annually, before the end of December, of the state of heir husbandry, also the number of people in their homes, in accordance with a form prepared for the purpose.

Section 5: Support of Widows and Orphans

The inhabitants of each district shall be obliged to support widows and orphans in accordance with such rules as the majority of the district residents approve; furthermore, those, also, who for special reasons cannot maintain themselves.

Section 6: Building of Public Halls

The inhabitants of each District shall provide for a public hall in the manner and at the place that the majority deems most practical.

Section 7: Payment for Public Needs

Every inhabitant of each District entitled to vote shall make a yearly payment of twenty-five cents which is to be placed in the Fund of the District concerned, and is to be collected in accordance with the directions of the District Reeve, and such payments shall be made before the end of September in each year.

ARTICLE V: Election of District Reeve, Treasurer and Secretary

Every District Committee shall elect from its group a foreman who is to be called the District Reeve, and a District Vice-Reeve. The District Vice-Reeves are to perform the duties of District Reeves when they are prevented from serving. Each Committee shall also choose from its group a Treasurer and a Secretary.

ARTICLE VI: Duties of District Committees

Section 1: Supervision of Roads

District Committees shall make provision for the making and improvement of roads, each in its own District.

Section 2: Appointment of Advisers and Trustees

The Committees shall see to it that widows have able advisers and and orphans reliable Trustees. The Trustees shall annually render an account of their trusteeship to the District Reeves.

Section 3: Concern for the Poor

The Committees shall be responsible for matters affecting the poor, in accordance with Article IV, Sec. 5.

Section 4: Supervision of the Building of Public Halls

The Committees are to arrange that the residents of each District provide themselves with a public hall in accordance with Article IV, Sec. 6.

Section 5: Election of Governor of the Regional Council

All members of Committees of each District are duty bound to attend meetings to elect a Governor and a Vice-Governor of the Region-

al Council. The meeting for this purpose is to be held on the seventh day after the meeting for the election of District Committees, one year at Lundi and the other at Gimli.

Section 6: Superintendence of Health

The Committees shall exercise superintendence of conditions of health, each in its own district, and take special measures to prevent the spread of contagious diseases, when necessity so demands.

Section 7: Encouragement of Community Activities and Achievements

The Committee members in each District shall urge and arouse the residents of their district to all manner of co-operation and community efforts that aim at economic welfare and progress in the district.

ARTICLE VII: Functions of District Reeves, Treasurers and Secretaries

A. Duties of District Reeves

Section 1: Notice of Meetings

District Reeves shall summon the residents of their districts to the meetings that are mentioned in Article II and Article IV, Sec 1, and preside at same. In addition they shall give notice of public special meetings when the Committees deem it necessary.

Section 2: Committee Meetings

They shall summon their associate committee members to meetings whenever there is need and preside at such meetings.

Section 3: Recording of Minutes

They shall see to it that the Secretary records the proceedings of all meetings in a book called No. 1.

Section 4: Recording of Census and Conditions of Husbandry⁵

They shall record reports on the census and conditions of field and other husbandry, in a book called No. 2.

Section 5: Recording of Road Reports

They shall record financial statements on road making and road improvements, together with a report on road work, annually, in a book called No. 3.

Section 6: Recording of Deaths, Births and Marriages

They shall record all deaths, births and marriages in their Districts in a book called No. 4.

Section 7: Recording of Inventories, etc.

They shall record inventories, valuations, auction sales, distribution of estates, and trusts in a book called No. 5.

Section 8: Attendance at Meetings of the Regional Council

They shall attend all meetings of the Regional Council and take the decisions of such meetings for publication to the residents of their districts.

Section 9: Production of Books of Office and Delivery of Reports

They shall bring with them all their books of office to the annual meeting of the Regional Council, for inspection; and they shall send to the Governor of the Regional Council, annually, before January 7, all reports that are mentioned in Sections 4, 5, and 6 of this Article.

B. Duties of Treasurers

Section 1: Supervision of District and Road Receipts

The Treasurer shall receive and collect all monies that go to the district and road funds and make disbursements out of same in accordance with directions of the District Governor.

Section 2: Recording of Revenues and Expenditures

He shall regularly make entries in a book of Revenues and Expenditures, which the District Committee shall audit at the end of each year.

C. Duties of Secretaries

Section 1: Recording of Proceedings at Meetings

The Secretary shall record all that is transacted at the meetings of the District Committee and at public District meetings.

Section 2: Preparation of Voters' Lists and Casting of Ballots

He shall prepare Voters' Lists and see to it that they are correct; he shall receive and count the ballots at all elections in the District and

the votes on legislative proposals which are placed before the residents of the District for their approval.

ARTICLE VIII: Management of Estates of Deceased Persons and Revenue from Same

The District Reeve shall make an inventory of the estates of deceased persons to which fatherless or motherless minors, or to which persons who are not domiciled in New Iceland, have claims of inheritance; he shall appraise them and, if it is necessary, sell them at public auction, and make a distribution as soon as possible or within the next twelve months. At the making of the inventory and at the appraisal, the District Reeve shall have with him two members of the District Committee.

For making the inventory and valuation of an estate of a deceased person there shall be a fee of three percent; for auction sale and collection four percent, for distribution three percent; in each instance up to a valuation of \$500.00; but of the value of \$500 to \$1,000 there shall be paid two percent for the inventory and valuation, three percent for the auction and the collection, and two percent for the distribution; but of the value of \$1,000 or over, there shall be paid one and one-half percent for the inventory and valuation, two percent for the auction and collection, and one and one-half percent for the distribution. For all other auctions which District Reeves hold, fees shall be paid in the same proportions.

ARTICLE IX: Functions of Conciliators⁶ and Arbitrators

It shall be the duty of conciliators to seek to bring about agreement in all private disputes. The conciliators shall summon before them the parties to the dispute at some definite time and place in accordance with the wish of one of the parties and a notice in writing shall be a sufficient summons. If a settlement is not made the complainant shall pay each \$1.00 for their efforts at conciliation but should a settlement be made then both parties shall pay the same amount according to agreement. Payment is to be made when the efforts at conciliation are concluded. It shall be the duty of the conciliators to record settlements and attempts at conciliation.

If the attempt at conciliation does not succeed or should either of the parties fail to appear after lawful summons, then shall the parties, if either so demands, place the matter in arbitration before five impartial men whom the parties themselves select. Each party nominates his two and if they cannot agree on the fifth member he shall be the Governor or Vice-Governor of the Regional Council. The majority vote of the arbitrators shall determine the matter in dispute. It shall be the duty of the arbitrators to record their decisions.

ARTICLE X: Drafting of By-Laws by District Committees

Each District Committee shall draft proposed by-laws, which do not conflict with these Laws and Regulations, in regard to different matters that affect its district, such as by-laws in relation to the affairs of the poor, by-laws about fences and care of animals, and the handling of all unclaimed livestock, etc. These draft by-laws shall be placed before residents of the Districts, who have the right to vote, at public District meetings for their approval. If a majority of all the District residents eligible to vote, cast ballots in favor of the proposed by-laws they shall have the force of Laws.

ARTICLE XI: The Regional Council and the Governor of the Regional Council

Section 1: Formation of the Regional Council

Lake Region shall be governed by a committee of five, called the Regional Council. This council shall be composed of the District Reeves of the four Districts of the Region, and a man who is to be elected in accordance with Article VI, Section 5, and who is to be called Governor of the Regional Council.

Section 2: Election of Governor of the Regional Council

Every person is eligible for election to the office of Governor and Vice-Governor of the Regional Council who is eligible for election to a district committee (see Article III). A duly elected Regional Governor is the person who has obtained a majority vote of all members of District Committees⁷ in the Region.

If it should happen that no one obtains a majority vote then there shall be another ballot and it shall be limited⁸ for the two who received the most votes. If neither of them obtains a majority vote then the incumbent Governor shall continue in office until the next election meeting. The same procedure shall apply for the election of a Vice-Governor. If the Governor or the Vice-Governor decline then the balloting shall be repeated. If the man who is elected Governor of the Region is a District Reeve he shall resign his office of District Reeve before he takes office as Governor of the Regional Council.

ARTICLE XII: Meetings of the Regional Council

The Regional Council shall hold one main meeting annually which is to be held on the tenth of March or on the eleventh if the tenth is a Sunday. This

meeting of the Regional Council shall be held at Gimli in the years when the election meeting is held at Lundi, but at Lundi in the years when the election meeting is held at Gimli. In addition to this meeting the Regional Governor shall summon the Regional Council to additional meetings, when necessary, to be held at the place and on the day he, on each occasion, decides.

ARTICLE XIII: Functions of the Regional Council

Section 1: Discussion of Regional Affairs and the Drafting of By-Laws

The Regional Council shall discuss all matters that affect the Region as a whole, and which aim to further progress in some manner, e.g. obtaining an enlargement of the area of the Region, permitting natives of the country to settle therein, making arrangements with persons for launching productive and beneficial undertakings, etc. The Regional Council shall draft proposed by-laws concerning such matters which District Reeves shall submit to a vote at public meetings, each in his own district. Every proposed by-law which receives a majority of the votes of all the inhabitants of the Region having a right to vote shall have the force of Law.

Section 2: Supervision of the Main Highways and Inter-District Roads

The Regional Council shall be responsible for the building and the maintenance of the main highway of the Region, running north and south, and all roads that run between Districts from east to west, and the necessary building of bridges over rivers, streams and marshes on said highway and roads.

Section 3: Auditing of Books

It shall audit all the official books of the District Reeves and the account Book of the Regional Governors, and see to it that they are correctly kept.

Section 4: Settlement of Disputes between Districts

The Regional Council shall mediate if differences arise between Districts of the Region, or else the matters in dispute shall be submitted to arbitration in the same manner as provided for private disputes in Article IX.

ARTICLE XIV: Functions of the Regional Governor

Section 1: Notice of Meetings

The Governor of the Regional Council shall summon all meetings of the Regional Council and preside at same.

Section 2: Recording of Proceedings at Meetings

He shall record the proceedings at all meetings in a book called No. 1.

Section 3: Recording and Publication of Summary Reports from Districts

He shall record in a book called No. 2, excerpts from all reports of the District Reeves of the Region and shall annually publish such excerpts in print.

Section 4: Recording of Road Reports and Accounts

He shall record in a book called No. 3, reports and accounts of road construction which is within the jurisdiction of the Regional Council and produce it at the main meeting of the Regional Council.

Section 5: Reporting matters to the Government of Canada⁹

He shall refer to the Government of Canada all matters that concern the Region and are required to be referred; and shall notify the District Reeves of all its directives in so far as they concern the Region.

Section 6: Suggestions to District Reeves Concerning Diverse Matters

He shall bring to the attention of District Reeves matters that are required to be discussed at meetings of District Committees or at public District meetings, in preparation for meetings of the Regional Council.

Section 7: Sitting on Committees of Arbitration

He shall be a member of arbitration Committees in accordance with Article IX. For this service the Regional Governor is entitled to \$5.00 for each sitting.

Section 8: Review of Conditions in the Region

He shall at the meeting called for the election of the Governor of the Regional Council give a clear review of his work during the preceding year, and of what has been done and affects the Region as a whole; give an account of how conditions in the Region stand; explain what the prospects are for the future, and what, in his opinion, lies ahead to do in regard to matters of a public nature affecting the Region; and what policy, in his view, should be pursued in that regard.

ARTICLE XV: Validity of Elections and of Voting

All elections that are mentioned in these Laws and Regulations are valid only for one year, but the same persons may be re-elected. The majority of votes shall decide elections and decisions on matters at all meetings which these Laws and Regulations contemplate.

ARTICLE XVI: Payment for Writing Materials and Books

The Governors of the Regional Council, District Reeves, Treasurers and Secretaries are entitled to be paid out of district funds for stationery and books which they are duty bound to use and keep, including necessary printing, within reasonable amounts.

ARTICLE XVII: Coming into Force of These Laws and Regulations

These Laws and Regulations shall come into force when they are published in print.

ARTICLE XVIII: Amendments to these Laws and Regulations

These Laws and Regulations may be amended upon motions passed at a main meeting of the Regional Council, and subsequently approved by a majority of all eligible voters¹⁰ of the Region at District meetings which shall all be held on the same day.

Approved at a meeting at Sandvik,* January 11th, 1878.

The Laws and Regulations of Lake Region were published in Framfari (Progress) Volume 1, No 8, on January 14, 1878. They also appear in the Third Volume of "Saga Íslendinga í Vesturheimi", pages 78-87, written by Thorsteinn Th. Thorsteinsson.

* Sandvik is a farmstead near Sandy Bar which is on the lakeshore about three miles east of Riverton.

Translated by W. J. Lindal. Assistance, much appreciated, was given by Prof. Haraldur Bessason and Dr. Tryggvi J. Oleson in translation of a number of words and phrases. Former translations were perused and given consideration.

Annotations to the Laws and Regulations of New Iceland

¹⁾ The title, as it appears in its final form in Framfari is **Stjórnarlög Nýja-Ísland**.

The changes that were made in the heading of the document during the discussions reveal the concept the Icelandic settlers had of their duties in accepting the responsibilities of ruling in the territory charted to them by the Government of Canada.

In the draft, as shown on the photograph of the first page, the heading is **Samþykktir stjórnarfyirkomulags í Nýja Íslandi**, "Decisions reached on a Form of Government for New Iceland". At some time during the discussion stage this was changed to **Stjórnarlög fyrir Nýja Ísland**.

Definite decisions on most of the provisions of the document were reached by December, 1877, and in Framfari of December 22, these Temporary Decisions (less than half the length of the final document) appeared under the title **Samþykktir til bráðabirgðar stjórnarfyirkomulags í Nýja Íslandi**, "Decisions reached on a Temporary Form of Government for New Iceland."

In the final document, it should be noted, the name is hyphenated **Nýja-Ísland**.

A translation of the word **Stjórnarlög**, and of the name of the area **Vatnsþing** has to be made.

The word **stjórn**, the first part of the compound **stjórnarlög** means "government" but it can also mean "administration", a body exercising purley administrative functions. The word **lög** (plural only) has a number of meanings in Icelandic. The primary meaning is "laws", statutes of a legislative body. One of the secondary meanings is "by-laws, rules or regulations" the original meaning of "byelaw" or "byrlaw" having been retained, "the laws of a vill, manor, township" (Webster). The rules and regulations of an organization could be included. For instance there are **Lög Þjóðræknisfélags Íslendinga í Vesturheimi**.

The context of the final document shows that both meanings were included. It deals with the franchise, division of the area, and other subjects which in essence are statutory; it also deals with duties of officials, etc., matters which are purely regulatory.

The headings in the draft and the Temporary Decisions shows that the settlers had in mind to establish a form of government. Even the hyphenating of the name **Nýja-Ísland** indicates a desire to give the area a new name, not merely to call it a new Iceland. The administrative detail shows the thoroughness with which the drafters approached their duties.

In order to embrace the full connotation of **Stjórnarlög Nýja-Íslands** the translation should be "The Constitutional Laws and General Regulations of New-Iceland". To shorten the title and bearing in mind that in practice the hyphen was dropped the words "Laws and Regulations of New Iceland" have been selected.

The viewpoint of the settlers is further elucidated in the name they selected for the territory. They called it **Vatnsþing**. The word **þing** has two primary meanings in Icelandic. The common one is "parliament", **alþing**. But from ancient times down through the ages it has a territorial meaning a "political division of a country" (Cleasby). It was in that sense of the word that the settlers called the area **Vatnsþing**. The closest translation is "Lake Territory" but it

could also be "Lake Province". At that time the area was a part of the North-West Territories. For that reason the word "Lake Region" has been selected. In the eyes of the settlers it was more than a **sveit**, a municipality; it was a **þing**, a division of a country.

Lake Region was charted out of unorganized territory in the North-West Territories, the South boundary being what was then a part of the North boundary of the Province of Manitoba. By an Order-in-Council of the Government of Canada, passed on October 8, 1875, an area included in "an application of John Taylor, Icelandic Agent", was created into an "Icelandic Reserve".

Many reserves were created by the Government of Canada, the most numerous being the Indian Reserves. Two Mennonite Reserves were created in Southern Manitoba, about the same time, the East Reserve in 1873 and the West Reserve a few years later.

It has never been clearly settled just what powers these Reserves had, particularly in unorganized territory. Tracts of land were granted for the exclusive occupation of a homogeneous group, be they Indians, Mennonites or Icelanders, what civic powers were included was not made clear.

Thus, by law and in fact, the Icelanders in this unorganized territory had much more civil powers than the residents of a municipality. It could be argued that they were not even limited to the legislative powers of a province. The context of the charter they created for themselves, and the names they gave to it during the period of discussion, show that the settlers were fully aware of their powers as well as their responsibilities.

On the other hand they fully realized that they were subject to the superior power of Canada as exercised by federal Orders-in-Council and Statutes. Their willing acceptance is shown in the use of the word **yfirstjórn**, "the superior government" in Article XIV, Sec. 5 of the Laws and Regulations.

The Icelandic settlers in New Iceland have been both praised for setting up a government of their own, and criticized for presuming to govern themselves in defiance of the Government of Canada. They are not entitled to the credit nor deserving of the censure. Subject to the superior power of the Canadian Government they enacted all the laws and passed the regulations they deemed necessary for the governance of the people in an area reserved for them in unorganized territory.

2) The settlers reached a decision in 1878 on a matter which is the subject of discussion at the present time—reducing the age limit for the exercise of the franchise to eighteen years. They, however, took the precaution of providing that a person could not hold office until he became twenty-one years of age.

3) At a time when the settlers had just recovered from a very severe epidemic

of small pox they tackled, (in an impractical way it must be admitted) a problem which the free world may some day have to face—limitations upon adult suffrage.

4) The word "stjóri", mostly found in compounds is used in the document to describe both the governor of the whole region, "þingráðsstjóri" and the head of a district "byggðarstjóri". To distinguish the two offices the word "reeve" is used to designate the chairmen of the district committees.

5) The Icelandic word is "búnað". It covers much more than farming, in fact, domestic management in general.

6) The present principles of conciliation did not enter into Canadian statute books until about half a century later, and so far, have been limited to labour disputes. The settlers in New Iceland contemplated the settlement of all private disputes by conciliation and arbitration.

7) Only members of District Committees are entitled to vote for the Governor of the Region, and the person elected must obtain a vote of over 50% of the District Committee members, who, under Article VI, Sec 5, are compelled to attend.

8) The Icelandic words are "bundin atkvæði". That means that the second vote is restricted to the two who received the largest number of votes. So, also, in the case of a tie, Article II, the second ballot is limited to the two receiving an equal number of votes.

9) Section 5 of Article XIV is one of the most important sections in the Laws and Regulations. For that reason it was felt that the original as well as the translation should be published. Both were given careful thought before a translation was approved. The original follows:

"5 gr. Flutningur mála við yfirstjórnina

Hann (þingráðsstjórinn) skal flytja öll þau mál er þingið varða og ganga þurfi til yfirstjórnarinnar, og tilkynna byggðastjórum allar fyrirskipanir hennar að því er þingið snertir."

The settlers fully realized how wide their powers were in a tract of land reserved for them in unorganized territory, and realized equally as well the limitation placed upon the exercise of those powers.

10) It will be noted that to amend the Laws and Regulations, or to pass by-laws of the Lake Region (Article XIII, Sec. 1) a favorable vote is required of over 50% of all eligible voters in the Region. So, also, by-laws of a District Committee must obtain a favorable vote of over 50% of all the eligible voters in the District. (Article X). A majority vote of those attending such meetings is not sufficient. See also Article II in regard to the election of District Committees. —W. J. L.

ELSWOOD B. JOHNSON



ELSWOOD B. JOHNSON

A characteristic of the Icelandic people which runs as a thread through their long story from their very beginnings to wherever destiny took them, may be summed up in the two words "reaching out".

When our forefathers set sail for the island far out in the Atlantic it was only partly to escape the rule of Haraldur Hárfagri.

The trek to America, a thousand years later, was only partly caused by economic conditions in their island home. Icelanders of that day found within themselves the same desire to reach out and to lay foundations for further Icelandic settlement. The best evidence of that inner prompting is to

be found in the Laws and Regulations laid down in New Iceland almost immediately after the first settlers opened that district in Oct. 1875. They gave equally as much thought to the laying of a true foundation for the future as to the satisfying of economic needs of the immediate present, dire though they were.

This quality of mind was passed on to the descendants of the pioneers and they soon scattered over a large continent. It found expression in the part these relatively few people have played in the meteoric economic expansion in North America during the last century. In the world of today this quality of mind may be called the gift of creating good public relations.

Free enterprise, which always seeks out the best, was bound to find men of Icelandic descent in whom it detected the very qualities needed for such expansion—an expansion which very soon crossed national boundaries and reached out to other continents. One of them is the subject of this sketch.

Elswood Brandur Johnson was born in Winnipeg, June 26th, 1901, the son of the Honorable Thomas H. Johnson and Mrs. Johnson, both deceased. He was raised in Winnipeg where he received his education. Although his father was a leader in the political life of Manitoba and prominent in the legal profession neither public life nor law attracted this young man. He felt an urge to enter into the industrial and commercial field which up to

that time had not attracted many young Icelanders. Possessed of a charming personality, inherited from his equally charming parents, Elswood found no difficulty in obtaining employment in his chosen field. He accepted an offer from the Hudsons Bay Company and while in their service was stationed in Winnipeg, in Saskatoon, and in Edmonton.

The qualities of this young man as a salesman, a public relations officer, and an ambassador of goodwill, were soon detected by representatives of big business and in 1927 he was offered an attractive assignment by the Canadian subsidiary of the American Chicle Company. He was at once given responsibility for the largest of the Canadian sales territories. It extended from the Head of the Lakes to Banff in Alberta.

In 1939, only twelve years later, Elswood Johnson was promoted to Export Manager at company headquarters in New York with responsibility for sales in foreign markets. Here was an opportunity to which Elswood felt an immediate response from within. He realized that to serve in this field knowledge of foreign languages had to be acquired. He speaks Spanish fluently and can converse in both French and Portuguese. He admits that his somewhat limited boyhood command of Icelandic has been neglected.

Rather than give second hand information on Elswood Johnson's success in this much wider field of service, it is better to quote what was said about him in the literature of the American Chicle Company in 1961 when Mr. Johnson was promoted to the position of Vice-President—Foreign Sales.

"When Mr. Johnson joined the Company in 1927, he was responsible for the largest of the Canadian sales territories. Twelve years later his responsibilities spanned the globe. Today he is a principal architect of the Company's leadership in the foreign field.

"During the first three years, his sales territory covered the 1400 mile stretch between Banff, Alberta, and Fort William, Ontario. Demonstrating talents in sales and administration, he was transferred to the main office at Long Island City as Export Correspondent; two years later he was appointed Assistant Export Manager.

"In 1939 he was promoted to Export Manager, with responsibility for sales in foreign markets. He played a major role in the development of our manufacturing subsidiaries and sales offices, collaborating in opening 8 of our 10 strategically located foreign plants.

"His foresighted pioneering in foreign sales led to Mr. Johnson's appointment as Vice-President—Foreign Sales in February of this year."

During the last twenty-five years the business of the American Chicle Company has expanded greatly. The present employee personnel totals approximately 3000 and sales, which cannot be released in detail, are between 50 and 100 million dollars annually.

Through his extensive travels abroad Mr. Johnson is in a specially good position to judge the so called anti-americanism. He states as his opinion that the existence of such feelings is greatly exaggerated in press

reports that make scare headlines. "Certainly" he says, "the supposed existence of Anti-Americanism has had no adverse effect on our international operations."

Elswood's father, Thomas Herman Johnson, the first Icelandic cabinet minister in America, was born in Iceland in 1870 and nine years later came to Canada with his parents who settled in Baldur, Manitoba. Elswood's mother, Aurora, was a daughter of Fridjon and Gudny Frederickson, who were in the first group of Icelanders who settled in Nýja Island in October 1875. Aurora was born in 1877 in Gimli. Fridjon Frederickson moved to Winnipeg in 1884 and to Glenboro in 1886, where he opened up a general store.

When Elswood was in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company in Saskatoon he met Vera Allen, whom he married. They have five daughters,

all married, and sixteen grandchildren.

It is to be hoped that when Elswood Johnson retires he will devote some of his time to public relations service, where his innate gifts and years of experience in the foreign field will enable him to add to the fine contribution he has already made to the people of his origin, the land of his birth, and the land of his adoption.

Footnote: Word has just been received that the two large corporations, American Chicle Company and Warner-Lambert Pharmaceutical Company have effected a merger and that Elswood Johnson will continue service in the joint organization on special assignment work arising in the Export Division.

—W. J. Lindal

FOG

I sat on a hill and watched the fog
 Come rolling in from the sea.
 It swallowed the lighthouse, engulfed the beach
 And came surging up to me.

I sat and watched, until at last
 The fog had hid the sea.
 The trees were trolls; the houses ghouls
 That were lying in wait for me.

I heard as I left the siren moan,
 Warning the ships at sea
 That this had become a dangerous coast
 That should avoided be.

Original poem by LOFTUR BJARNASON

The Lost Greenland Colony

Sequel to Article in the Fall issue on the late DR VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON

Vilhjalmur Stefansson made extensive explorations and exhaustive researches in an attempt to establish beyond dispute that the White Eskimos of the Canadian North are descendants of the lost Norse colony of Greenland. A summary of his work is to be found in a book by him called "Unsolved Mysteries of the Arctic", published in 1939 by The MacMillan Company. Permission to use and quote from that book is much appreciated.

The first chapter in the book is entitled "Disappearance of the Greenland Colony." The first paragraph reads as follows:

"The Great Romance of the Middle Ages was the first crossing of the Atlantic by Europeans. The great tragedy of the westward movement was the disappearance of 9,000 Europeans from their first American colony. The great mystery is how and why they disappeared."

Vilhjalmur Stefansson points out that there are two schools of thought on the cause of the disappearance of the colony, the exterminationists and the survivalists. The former holds that the colonists had grown weak and were finally destroyed. The main cause was the breakdown of commerce with Europe: the colonists were not able to obtain the needed European foods; iron for weapons could not be secured; and finally the weakened whites were attacked by Eskimos and destroyed.

An explanation, however, had to be made to account for the fact that there actually are white Eskimos and mixtures of varying degrees of Eskimos and Europeans. Martin Frobisher and John Davis explored the eastern part of the Canadian Arctic in the latter part of the sixteenth century. By that time the European settlers had disappeared. The Danes re-occupied Greenland in 1721. Stefansson reports:

"Those who believe in the extinction of the medieval Europeans claim that all the European qualities, or practically all, are to be explained by mixture with Europeans since the time of Frobisher and Davis, chiefly through intermarriages since the Danes took over following Egede in 1721."

One might add, by way of footnote, that the first blond Eskimos Stefansson encountered were on the south shore of Victoria Island, close to two thousand miles away from the Greenland settlements.

The Extermination Theory

Most of the support for the "official" explanation comes from records in Rome, but, as Stefansson points out, it is possible that "cataloguing and arranging of the Vatican archives will reveal further documents." There can be no doubt that, as reported to the Vatican, the colonists suffered hardships. The main force of destruction, the scholars of the day contended, was malnutrition due to the lack of a mix-



Eskimo Mother and Child

sculptured by Frances Norma Loring,
R.C.A.

ed diet suitable to Europeans. To that were added reports that the savages, healthy and aggressive on a meat diet, decimated the weakened settlers.

Hans Egede, a Norwegian Missionary, landed in Greenland in 1721 and re-occupied it on behalf of Denmark. He reported that he did not hear Norse words nor could he find traces of European customs among the Eskimos. Some years later when the missionaries began to acquire command of the language they began to hear stories which were somewhat in line with the report to the Vatican. No systematic attacks, however, were reported. Egede himself made one very revealing report.

"Both the men and women . . . have broad faces and thick lips; they are flat-nosed and of a brown complexion. Still, some of them are attractive and of a **fair complexion**" (bold type added)

One Ivar Bardarson, who from 1341 to about 1360 was manager of a farm attached to the Bishop's seat in the South Settlement, sailed to the North Settlement where he saw some domestic animals but no people. Without landing he drew the inference that the people had died or been destroyed!

Poul Nörlund, writing in 1935, argues that because sketches showed that the colonists had suffered from rickets and other deficiency diseases, it was definitely established that the Europeans were weakened by malnutrition.

This, Stefansson points out, is on the "assumption that, although Eskimos are healthy on a meat diet, Europeans cannot be". He delights in pointing out "the Stefansson expedition, through the experience of more than

twenty non-Eskimos between the years 1906 and 1918, demonstrated that everyone who tried it was as healthy on a diet consisting wholly of animal tissue and water as he had ever been on any diet."

The crowning argument of the exterminationists is that the Black Death may have reached the settlements. Why it caused the death of Europeans only and not Eskimos is not explained.

The Survival Theory

The survivalist school of thought contends that the white Eskimos and those of mixed blood are descendants of the two colonies of Norsemen, mainly Icelanders, who settled in Greenland.

Vilhjalmur Stefansson reports:

"Immigration continued, chiefly from Iceland, and a government was formed similar to the Icelandic. By 990 the Greenlanders had their congress in session. . . .

"Life in Greenland at the height of prosperity, which was perhaps in the twelfth century, was similar to life in Iceland.

"The government was a democracy, with well developed legislative and judiciary sides but with a weak executive."

Stefansson says that the main attack on the extermination theory came from the Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Hansen. He refers to three previous survival advocates.

In 1774 the Icelandic missionary Egill Thorhallason, was in Greenland and visited both the Eastern and the Western Settlements. (Both were actu-

ally on the west side, one close to the southern tip of Greenland and the other some distance northwest). In an appendix to his *Rudera*, published in Copenhagen in 1776, Thorhallason ridicules the views of Egede and his successors. He regards as most absurd the Black Death theory and next to that the theory of extermination. As the inner part of the fiords were not attacked he very convincingly argues that if there had been any attacks on the colonists they must have come from European pirates. Stefansson reports Thorhallason's conclusions as follows:

"Thorhallason feels that, if not absurd, it is scarcely reasonable to suppose that the Europeans and the Eskimos were hostile to each other in Greenland, and that the Eskimos were the aggressors. His whole knowledge of this people, he says, inclines him to believe that they would have been friendly, helpful, sympathetic."

Eilert Sundt, a Norwegian sociologist and historian, in a note to his edition of Hans Egede's diary, writing in 1860, and apparently unaware of Thorhallason's reasoning, arrives, Stefansson says, at the same conclusion. He draws a parallel between Lapp and Norwegian intermarriages and the probable similar marriages between Eskimos and Europeans.

Gustav Meldorf, writing in 1906, held the opinion that "the 'barbarian' attacks upon the Greenlanders were made by European pirates or privateers." Stefansson reports him as holding "that probably those Europeans who survived the pirate raids were befriended by the Eskimos and eventually amalgamated with them."

Fridtjóf Nansen supported both Thorhallason and Sundt. Stefansson reports as follows:

"Nansen considers that Bardarsons interpretation of what he saw is preposterous; that it shows a complete misunderstanding of the situation in Greenland, of hunting peoples in general and of the Eskimos in particular."

"The truth was that the northern colonists were now mainly devoted to hunting, but they had not yet wholly discontinued the breeding of sheep and cattle. . . .

"Like Thorhallason, Nansen points out first that the Black Death may never have reached Greenland, and second that, if it did arrive, it must have killed natives as well as whites."

To further attack the position taken that the blending of Eskimos and Eskimo blood occurred chiefly through intermarriages after 1721 Stefansson quotes from a report by one Nicolas Tunes of Flushing, in 1656.

"Regarding the people who inhabited this country, our voyagers saw two sorts, who lived together with good relations and perfect amity. One sort had a very tall stature, well formed bodies, of a fairly white complexion. The others were much smaller, of an olive complexion, well enough proportioned in their members except that their legs were short and thick."

Conclusion

On one point all are agreed. Stefansson says:

"Both schools of thought with regard to its lost colony agree that, among the present 16,000 'Eskimos' in Greenland, few if any are without European blood, while some are so European in appearance that, con-

ventionally dressed, they would pass unnoticed in any American or European gathering."

Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the scientist, refused to state categorically that the admixture of European blood in the Eskimos is from the old Icelandic colonies in Greenland but he closes the chapter on the "Disappearance of the Greenland colony" by Sundt's comments on the passage in Hans Egede's diary, (already quoted).

"Egede had probably expected to find recognizable country men; but the indefatigable way in which he took care of the 'savages' that he found there will please us still more when there is reason to think that the remains of the Norwegian population really had assimilated with the Eskimos, so that he—though without understanding what he saw—had on his journey south (along the west coast of Greenland) a glimpse of his countrymen's fair hair and blue eyes."

The established fact that there are white Eskimos, whatever their origin, has been put in permanent and realistic record in a statue of a blond Eskimo mother and child, sculptured by one of Canada's leading sculptors, Frances Norma Loring, L.L.D., S.S.C., R.C.A., of Toronto. It is not without significance and most appropriate that in the same group in the National Art Gallery is a sculptured bust of Vilhjalmur Stefansson by the late sculptor Emanuel Hahn.

The explorations and researches of Vilhjalmur Stefansson and the Blond Eskimo mother and child will combine to convince most people that the Greenland colony did not disappear and has made its contribution to the culture of the Eskimos of Canada.

—W. J. Lindal

CANADA-ICELAND FOUNDATION and The Icelandic Canadian Club Scholarships

Seven scholarships were awarded this year.

Melinda Bardal, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Art Bardal of Winnipeg, \$200.00 Icelandic Good Templars scholarship. Melinda is in second year Arts at the University and is taking Icelandic. She was also awarded an Alumni Bursary of \$100.00.

Keith Eliason, son of Mrs. Gudlaug Eyolfson and the late Marino Eliason of Riverton, \$100.00, Canada-Iceland Foundation scholarship. Keith is taking second year Science in the University and is attending evening lectures in Icelandic. He has been awarded a Queen Elizabeth Bursary of \$300.00, and a University Entrance Bursary of \$200.00.

Karen Ingibjorg Johannsson, daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. Skuli Johannsson of Winnipeg. Karen is taking a course leading to a degree in Fine Arts and has selected Icelandic as a language option.

Carolynn P. Martin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert A. Martin, of Gimli, \$100.00 George Magnusson scholarship. Carolynn is at Teachers College this year and later will be taking Icelandic as an option in Second Year Arts.

Dennis Oleson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kari Oleson, of Riverton, \$100.00 Can-

ada-Iceland Foundation scholarship. Dennis is taking second year Science at the University and is attending evening lectures in Icelandic. He won a Riverton Women's Institute Scholarship of \$100.00, and has been awarded a University Entrance Bursary of \$500.00 and a Board of Governors Bursary of \$200.00.

Carolyn Sigurgeirsson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steini Sigurgeirsson of Hecla, Man., \$100.00 Canada-Iceland Foundation scholarship. Carolyn is taking second year Arts at United College and has selected Icelandic as one of her language options. She has been awarded a Government of Manitoba Bursary of \$500.00 and a United College Entrance Bursary of \$130.00.

Leonard Vopnfjord, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Vopnfjord of Winnipeg, \$100.00 Icelandic Canadian Club scholarship. Leonard has entered the School of Commerce in the University and is attending evening lectures in Icelandic.

All these students have very good scholastic records, highest average 81, lowest 72. They all were highly recommended, not only because of their standing but also because of their community and school activities.

W. J. Lindal
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EMILE WALTERS

nationally known painter, which appeared in the News Chronicle, published in Pawling, State of New York, September 20th, 1962. The article was the reaction of the author, an art critic upon viewing paintings by Emile Walters on exhibit in the Quaker Hill Galleries in the Kast Residence, Quaker Hill, Pawling, N.Y.

Of the collection five are scenes painted in Iceland, and fifteen were done in Greenland. The remaining thirteen were painted in Dutchess County, where Emile resides.

The life of Emile Walters is well known to our readers and the sentiments expressed will strike many a common chord. It so happens that one of Walters best paintings, a scene in Greenland, is in Winnipeg awaiting arrangements to have it hung in an appropriate place.

Salome Halldorson

The article follows:

EMILE WALTERS DARES TO PORTRAY BEAUTY

Countless persons throughout the world know Emile Walters as a masterful teacher, generous friend and genial personality. But! What is Walters, the Artist? If the answer were limited to one brief phrase, the label might well be 'strength with restraint'. This is a



Emile Walters

rare combination today. Often where we find a seeming manifestation of restraint, a deeper study reveals merely a weak and insecure person. While the painting of dominance, we discover, is not truly a message of strength but one of bombastic ignorance.

Walters has had a very enriching life, success and failure, has accepted joy graciously and endured suffering silently, he has been the respected associate of the 'Laird of the castle' as well as the genial companion of the servant in the fields. These are important factors in the world of creative art. Such total experience is all too rare. This famine has blighted all the arts: the cinema is saturated with psychotics, the play's script are 'more

"STRENGTH WITH RESTRAINT"

The above is the striking phrase in an article on Emile Walters, the inter-

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often garbage than verbage, books chant degradation, and our televisions flash mayhem and murder.

In the area of fine art too many have no clear message, no concrete philosophy and, thus, can express only uncertainty, confusion and ugliness. They try to disguise their puzzlement as 'non-objective' representation which brings progress and a new freedom. You are not supposed to question it: merely buy it—at a high price!

Viewing this current one-man show of Walters at Pawling is like the fresh air of Spring and the comfort of a clean brook after confinement in a dank dungeon. Truly, here is strength with restraint. This is easily discerned in the scenes from Iceland and Greenland. It is more subtle, and rightfully so, in studies of rural Dutchess County.

One of the former which commands attention and lingers sharply in the memory is 'Pyramids of the North'. Startling, breath-taking heights of naked crests rise in bold outline against the cold blue of an Islandic sky. It would have been so easy to render a canvas where these peaks become the cruel teeth of a hungry shark and the background the withering grip of a killed child! Walters captured the strength, the might, the unconquerable peaks and he felt the cold fingers enfold him as he painted but he also had the wisdom and the vision to see the beauty of the area, a beauty that pleased humankind since the first Viking trod the area and trudged boldly on across countless miles in his adventurous Saga.

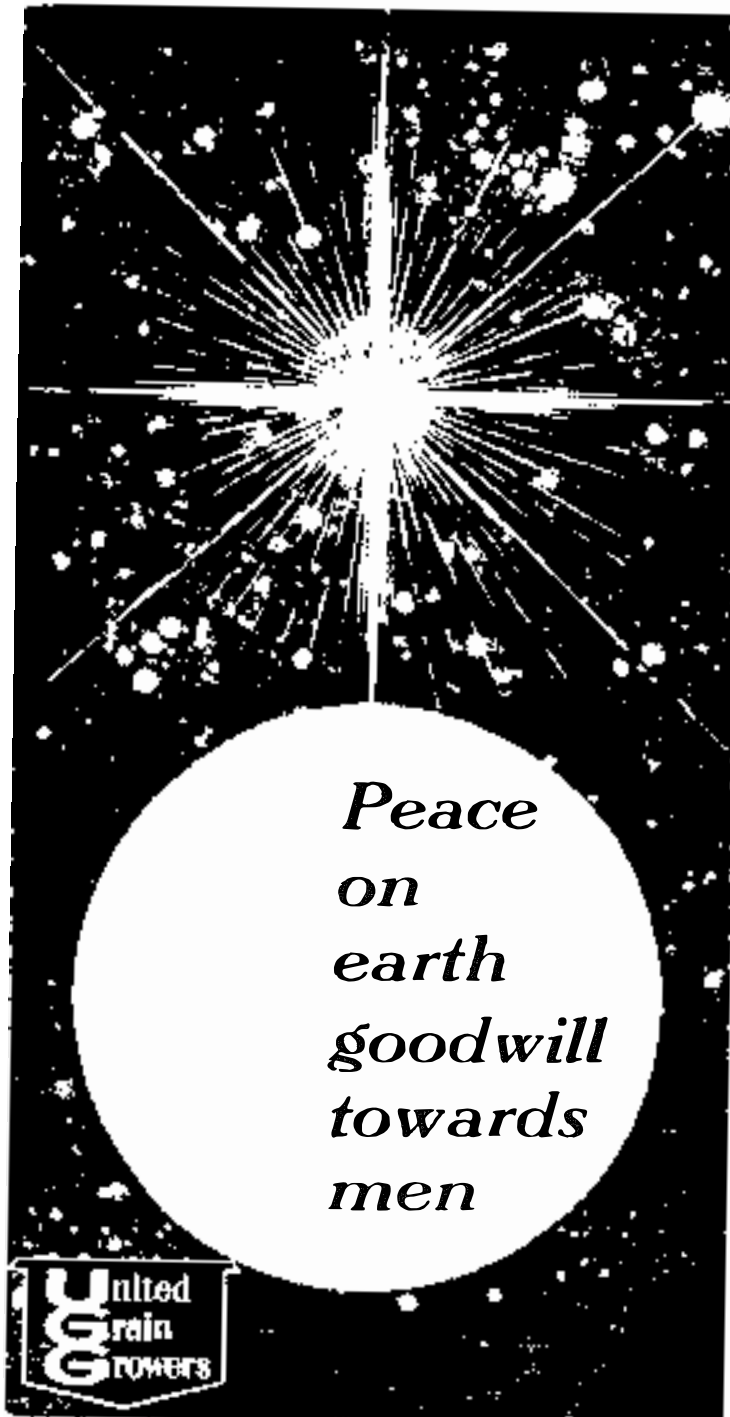
In a very similar manner we feel this respect for the austere of the scene and a simultaneous love for its beauty in

the canvasses painted in Greenland. We feel this strongly as we view bits of floating ice. They seem quite small. As we gaze, they grow . . . until we are aware of their great size! Many are higher than a ten-story building. Knowledge reminds us this is but a small fraction of what lies beneath the surface. Then, midst our awe, the colors and the carefully chosen pattern in the composition whisk us along as we seem to dance happily across this boundless expanse where Nature is still unsullied by the sophisticated trappings of Civilization. Of several cast in this mood, we feel one dominates successfully. Glacier Ice (Smith Sound).

The Dutchess County themes are more restrained but strength persists. Walters' individual strokes are dominant and daring but the final result is a smoothly woven fabric that presents an accurate essence of the loveliness which characterizes the Mid-Hudson region.

Perhaps 'Arise' might be termed a 'lesser' picture in this group but it is a compelling representation. This small painting is quite beguiling. Before you realize it, you are swept up the gentle slope into the fresh air and charming light of morning sunshine. The cheerful colors blend so smoothly that you are unaware of individual tones and experience only a feeling of elation and a sense of peace.

Today we all need more of Walters' art to view and more of its philosophy to use in our lives. We need the wisdom to see and the courage to live in a manner that has 'strength with restraint'.



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Golden Wedding Anniversary



Mr. and Mrs. Karl Frederickson

Mr. and Mrs. Kári Frederickson of Vancouver, B. C., received many greetings and good wishes from relatives and friends when they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently. They were married in Winnipeg on September 10th, 1912.

Mr. Frederickson was born in Glenboro, Manitoba, the son of Friðjón and Guðný Frederickson. Friðjón Frederickson was one of the early pioneers in the Gimli settlement and later on a merchant in Glenboro. Herdís Margrjet Frederickson, his wife, was born in Winnipeg, daughter of Jón Einarsson, formerly of Winnipeg and later of

Foam Lake, Saskatchewan, and his first wife Guðrún Jakobsdóttir.

Mr. Frederickson was a member of the Department of Finance and Assistant Receiver General in Toronto, and upon the establishment of the Bank of Canada in 1935, became Agent in Toronto. He retired in 1949 after a total service of 41 years, at which time the family moved to Vancouver.

Of their three children, an older son, John Frederick, died in 1949. A second son, Ted, is an Officer with the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, and a daughter, Margaret, is on the Staff of the University of British Columbia.

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Golden Wedding Anniversary



Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Knight

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Knight, of Sault St. Marie, Ontario, celebrated their golden wedding on Saturday, Sept. 15, which was also the birthday of Mrs. Knight. A family dinner was held Sunday at the Canadian Motor Hotel. Mr. Knight, who is desk clerk at the hotel, is retired from the Algoma Steel Corporation. He was formerly a part of R. H. Knight, Ltd., a dry goods business started by his father in 1895. Mr. Knight was born in Sault St. Marie and married Miss Kristin Thorsteinson of Winnipeg in the Lutheran church fifty years ago. They made their first home in Winnipeg. They now attend Central United Church.

Assisting at the anniversary celebrations were their three daughters, Mrs. T. R. M. Duncan (Evelyn), Mrs. H. E. Milner (Marjorie) and Mrs. E. R. Hargraves (Doris). Mr. and Mrs. Knight also have seven grandchildren. During the day telegrams of congratulations came from Governor-General G. Vanier, Lester B. Pearson, and many others.

Mrs. Thorsteinson is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jón Thorsteinson. Mr. Thorsteinson had a bicycle shop in Winnipeg in those early days, and later was the owner of the hotel in Gimli.

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BOOK REVIEW

DR. RICHARD BECK: Þættir úr minnis-
stæðri Íslandsferð.
p.p. 51, Columbia Printers, Winnipeg 1962

This handsome book is a reprint of articles which previously constituted a series in Lögberg-Heimskringla. As indicated by the title the book deals with the author's experiences in Iceland when he went there at the invitation of the University of Iceland in the fall of 1961.

From New York to Iceland the author went by "Eiríkur rauði", one of the airplanes of The Icelandic Airlines. As can be seen in the opening chapter of the book, the name of the plane recalls to the author's mind some of the heroic deeds of early Icelandic explorers. The next chapter deals in considerable detail with the celebration held at the University of Iceland on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. In these chapters the author does not only dwell on this historic event, but he also succeeds in drawing up memor-

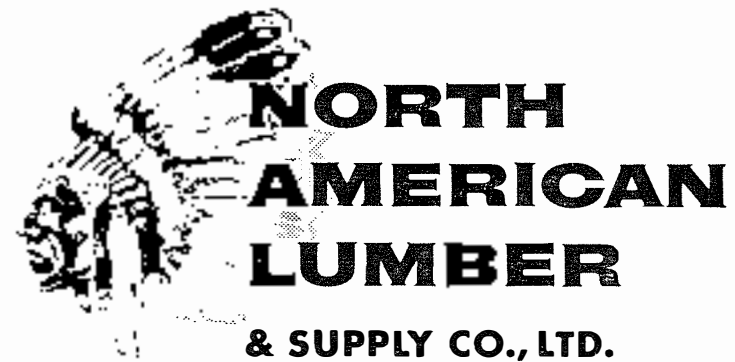
able sketches from the history of Iceland and in sorting out various elements which constitute the foundation of its highest seat of learning.

Furthermore, the book deals with many other important institutions and places in Iceland, as for inst., Þingvellir, the Icelandic Alþing, and the residence of the President of Iceland, Bessastaðir.

As one might expect, the book is well written and highly informative. Every sentence in it clearly reflects the author's love and respect for the culture of his native land to which he has devoted the greater part of his life. It was, indeed, this unflinching devotion which brought Professor Beck the highest honor the University of Iceland can bestow upon any man,—an honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree.

The book is most fittingly dedicated to the author's wife, Mrs. Margrét Beck, who accompanied her husband on his historic journey to Iceland.

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Scholarships

William Dempsey Valgardson, B.A., 1961 has been awarded a Manitoba government teacher's "B" bursary in the amount of \$350.00. He is taking first-year Education. He is the son of Dempsey Valgardson of Gimli, Man.

Bill is the Vice-President of The Icelandic Canadian Club and his wife Mary-Ann is on the Editorial Board of this magazine.

*

Michael Evans, son of William and Agnes (nee Nordal) Evans, 2065 Fraser-view Drive, Vancouver, B.C., has been awarded a Track scholarship to Washington State University, Pullman, Wash., U.S.A. Michael earned many awards academically, and in sports during his high school years. He graduated this year from David Thompson High School, and was then awarded a \$200.00 scholarship in Basketball, and a \$100.00 Legion scholarship for UBC, which he turned down when he was offered a chance to go to the United

States. Michael is only seventeen years old, he is the grandson of Mrs. Jacobina Nordal, 624 Agnes St., Winnipeg, and the late Magnus J. Nordal, who long resided at Bru, Manitoba.

—:—

Three scholarships were recently presented by the Jon Sigurdson Chapter of the IODE. They included:

The Johanna Gudrun Skaptason Memorial Scholarship in English, Gr. 12, for \$100.00 to Miss Linda Jean Vincent, 249 Renfrew St., with 91 per cent.

The Jon Sigurdson Chapter IODE Musical Scholarship to Miss Thelma Kerrine Wilson, Grade 9—with 85 per cent, (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kerr Wilson).

The Elinborg Hanson Memorial Scholarship, valued at \$75.00 to Berthor Palsson, of Hecla, Man., for satisfactorily completing Grade XI in Big Island School District.

WINS GOVERNOR

GENERAL'S MEDAL

Kristjan Fredric Stefanson, was awarded the Governor-General's Medal for outstanding achievements in both academic and extra-curricular activities during his high school years.

Kris was also chosen class valedictorian at the 1962 Graduation exercises held at the Gimli Composite High School.

He is the son of Eric Stefanson, member of Parliament for the constituency of Selkirk and Mrs. Stefanson.



Kristjan Fredric Stefanson

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IN THE NEWS

ELECTED PRESIDENT OF Manitoba Medical Association



Dr. Kjartan I. Johnson

Dr. Kjartan I. Johnson of Pine Falls was elected president of the Manitoba Medical Association at the annual meeting in Winnipeg in October.

A graduate of the University of Manitoba Medical School in 1937, Dr. Johnson was born in 1910 at Lundar, Man., the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Einar Johnson. He received his elementary and high school education at Lundar.

He was married in 1937 to Dorothy Morton, daughter of the late Hon. William Morton, long a minister in the Manitoba cabinet, and Mrs. Morton. Dr. and Mrs. Johnson have three children, daughter Margaret Lilja who graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1961 and is now married

and living in Halifax, N.S., daughter Linda Dorothy in fourth year at Manitoba University, and son Stefan Willian in Grade 10 at Pine Falls High School.

Dr. Johnson is a member of the Canadian Medical Association, General practitioners of Manitoba, College of General Practice in Canada and the Industrial Medical Association in Canada. He has been on the executive of the Manitoba Medical Association for the past five years.

DR. THORVALDUR JOHNSON RETIRES



Dr. Thorvaldur Johnson

Dr. Thorvaldur Johnson, Canadian scientist who over the years has won international acclaim for his research in developing rust-resistant cereal grains, retired in October from his

TO THE PEOPLE OF GIMLI . . .

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post of director of the Canadian government's agriculture department research station at Winnipeg in Manitoba.

Dr. Johnson, 65 and a native of Arnes, Man., in his post was responsible for co-ordinating all research projects on rust and mildew diseases of cereals in Canada, and for special studies of stem and leaf rust of wheat, stem rust in oats and for the testing of new wheat and oat varieties.

An agriculture statement announcing Dr. Johnson's retirement said "under his leadership the station's plant pathology laboratory, where he spent most of his years in research, gained a reputation of being the world's leading centre for research on cereal rusts.

"His annual rust surveys, analyses and interpretation of data on the various races of rust were vital in the plant breeding program to develop resistant varieties."

★



Mrs. Wilhelmina (Jonsson) Mabb

Mrs. Wilhelmina (Jonsson) Mabb, mathematics professor at United Col-

lege in Winnipeg, Manitoba, last July won her master's degree in pure mathematics at the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis.

Mrs. Mabb is a medal winner and graduate of the University of Manitoba.

She visited Iceland last summer.

★

GRADUATES FROM NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



Arni Ronald Fafnis

Arni Ronald Fafnis, son of the late Rev. Egill H. and Mrs. Fafnis, graduated last June from Northern Illinois University at De Kalb, Ill. with a degree of bachelor of science in business management.

Graduating from high school at Mountain, North Dakota, Mr. Fafnis attended North Dakota State University at Fargo for two years, then spent two years with the United States immigration and naturalization service on border patrol first on the U.S.-Mexican border and later the U.S.-Can-

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adian in the state of Maine. He joined the United States army in 1958 and spent two years at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. Following discharge he entered Northern Illinois University.

Mr. Fafnis is presently material control engineer with the Bell Aerosystems Company at Tucson, Arizona. He is married in 1960 to Wilma Winterton, a nurse from Bryon, Ill. They have one son and live in Tucson.

★

APPOINTED VICE-PRESIDENT OF INVESTMENT FIRM



A. R. Swanson

A. R. Swanson, the Resident Director of Burns Bros. & Denton Ltd., has been elected a Vice-President of this national firm of investment dealers. The company has offices in Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, Hamilton, Calgary, Vancouver and New York. Mr. Swanson has in the immediate past travelled on behalf of the company from coast to coast, the last trip being to Van-

couver and the one before that to New York. He hopes that the widened responsibilities in the Winnipeg office may keep him more at home.

Bob, as he is nicknamed, a graduate of the University of Manitoba, is President of The Icelandic Canadian Club and has just recently accepted the position of vice-president of sales and public relations officer of the Manitoba Theatre Centre.

★

SALES REPRESENTATIVE FOR TRANS-CANADA AIRLINES



The appointment of V. S. "Vlad" Slivitsky as ethnic sales representative for Trans-Canada Airlines in Winnipeg, was announced recently by L. B. Sampson, district sales manager. Prior to coming here, Mr. Slivitsky was a traffic analyst in Montreal. He has also had experience as a passenger and ticket agent. Born in France and receiving part of his education at Cambridge, Mr. Slivitsky speaks English, French, Russian and German. He is married and has one child.

Icelandic Canadian Club News

At the opening of this year's activities in the Icelandic Canadian Club the President, Arni R. Swanson launched a series of three meetings, all designed to give members and others attending, an opportunity to obtain a bird's eye picture of present day Iceland.

At the first meeting, held in the new auditorium of the First Lutheran church, attended by well over a hundred people, a panel of three people who visited Iceland last summer, gave their impression of Iceland today. The speakers were Mrs. Ingibjorg Jonsen, Editor of Lögberg-Heimskringla, Arthur A. Anderson, who was in charge of the group that visited Iceland last summer, via Loftleiðir, and Heimir Thorgrimsson, a Canadian born in Iceland. The three speakers presented a pleasant and informative variety of impressions of Iceland. Their sketches were followed by a question period which indicated how interested the audience was in the subjects discussed. This was followed by very vivid colored slides of scenes in Trinidad presented by Miss Helen

Josephson who recently visited Trinidad where a childhood friend, Mrs. Asa Wright, operates a large coffee and fruit plantation.

At the second meeting, held in the Unitarian Church, Monday, Nov. 19, also well attended, a most informative address by Professor Olafur Bjornsson, Head of the Department of Economics, University of Iceland, was read by Consul G. L. Johannson. The address will appear in the next issue of the magazine. Mrs. Kristin Johnson, who visited Iceland last summer, showed a number of excellent color slides of personalities and scenes in Iceland.

The next and final meeting in the series, being held Dec. 17, will be addressed by the following: Dr. George Johnson, Health and Public Welfare in Iceland; Prof. Haraldur Bessason, the Educational System in Iceland; and Hon. W. J. Lindal, the Icelandic Form of Government.

Readers are reminded of the Annual banquet and dance on Friday, January 18, at the Marlborough Hotel.

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Northern Fall

The flicker's flashing yellow wing is gone,
 The trees along the roadside flame and die;
 Above the marsh, the geese begin to fly.
 The chill of early mornings warn the fawn
 Of changes in the forest ways. Along
 The beach the few remaining gulls begin to ply
 Against cold winds as autumn clears the sky
 Of weakling summer birds; only the strong
 Remain. The wind has found its will;
 In gusts, it silences the earth's last cries.
 At dawn, the shore is rimmed with ice. The strain
 Of winter song rebounds from hill to hill;
 The air is touched with snow; Nature, startled, dies;
 And dying, in that moment, lives again.

—W. D. Valgardson

WITHOUT FANFARE

In every country there are many divisions in its society, regardless of the degree of advancement and culture achieved. The most striking division is most easily recognized when comparison is made between developing countries and countries with highly developed industrial, financial and commercial systems.

There are divisions in tribal societies as there are in societies enjoying a high standard of living. Time and progress have not eliminated divisions; rather they have created more.

A division not so easily recognized is that which exists between simple folks and more sophisticated people. Sophisticates make the headlines. Simpletons, too, get undeserved attention. But simple folks, just ordinary plain people, go about their daily tasks with little fanfare: It is those folks, working at the less glamorous occupations, who make all other tasks possible.

A tribute is due to those men who fish our seas and plow our soils: These are the simple folks who feed the nation.

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NEWS SUMMARY

Harold F. Bjarnason Jr., recipient of the Government of Iceland Scholarship in Icelandic for the year 1961-62, has returned to North America after touring Europe. He has been granted a graduate assistantship at the University of South Dakota where he will be taking his master's degree in agricultural economics.

He is the son of Harold Bjarnason of Victoria, B.C., formerly of Gimli, Man. He received his B.A. degree from the University of Manitoba in 1960. He said he enjoyed his year in Iceland very much and is sincerely grateful to the Icelandic government and the Icelandic National League which recommended him for the scholarship.

Mrs. Ingibjorg Goodridge of Winnipeg was re-elected president at the annual meeting in September at Riverton of the Icelandic Lutheran Women's League of Manitoba. Named vice-presidents were Miss Mattie Hall-dorson and Mrs. W. G. Johnson, both of Winnipeg, and Mrs. B. K. Johnson of Glenboro. Mrs. B. Bjarnason of Langruth is past president. Mrs. C. H. Scrymgeour was named recording secretary, Mrs. G. Eliasson corresponding sec., Mrs. T. H. Freeman treasurer, Mrs. E. Hallson assistant treasurer and Mrs. B. Bjarnason representative to the Alcohol Education Service Board. The league is made up of 21 societies in the province.

Eric Stefanson, Progressive Conservative member of the Canadian parliament for Selkirk, has been appointed to four standing committees of the House of Commons. These are the public accounts, agriculture and coloni-

zation, marine and fisheries, and miscellaneous private bills. He was also named to the restaurant committee which is composed of members of the Senate and Commons.

Six members of the executive of the Icelandic Celebration (Islendingadags) organization were re-elected for a two-year term at the annual meeting in the Unitarian Church in Winnipeg in November. They are Jochum Asgeirsson, prof. Haraldur Bessason, W. Snorri Jonasson, L. Helgi Olsen, Gudmundur Stefansson and Jakob F. Kristjansson. Added to the committee was Gustaf Kristjansson. All are in the Winnipeg section of the executive. The celebration is held traditionally at Gimli in August of each year.

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BRANCH AT EDMONTON, ALBERTA

Meredith Hawkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Hawkins of Jamestown, N. D., was one of four North Dakota state winners this year in the junior women's division of Pillsbury's annual recipe and baking contest. Meredith is a sophomore in Jamestown High School. Her mother is the former Margaret Benson, daughter of Judge and Mrs. Asmundur Benson of Bottineau, N.D.

★

Two Americans of Icelandic origin were elected to high state offices in the United States elections in November.

Valdimar Bjornson of Minneapolis was re-elected state treasurer of Minnesota and in North Dakota Helgi Johannesson of Bismarck was elected State attorney-general.

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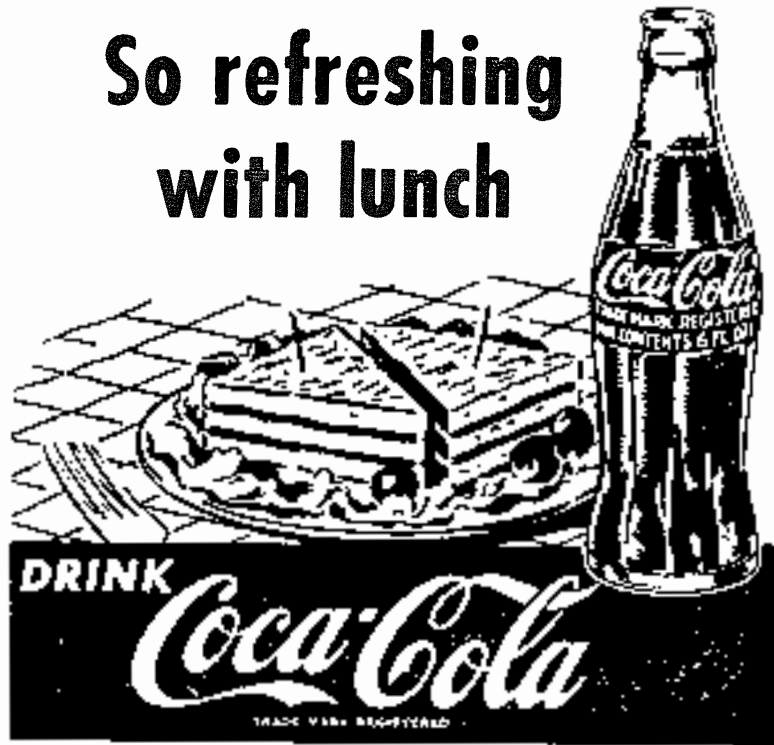
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INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

All Ways Travel Bureau	50	Manitoba Sugar Co. Ltd.	-
Asgeirson's Ltd.	59	Marlborough Hotel	56
Arlington Pharmacy	64	Martin Paper Products Ltd.	1
A & W Drive-In of Can. Ltd.	46	Midwest Net & Twine Co.	59
A. S. Bardal Ltd.	59	Modern Furniture	64
Beaver Moving & Storage	42	Montreal Trust Co.	1
Benjaminson Construction Ltd.	40	MacLeod Authorized Dealer	8
Bird Construction Co. Ltd.	9	McCabe Grain Co. Ltd.	54
Blackwoods Beverages Ltd.	48	McCurdy Supply Co. Ltd.	58
Broadway Florists	59	McDonald Dure Lumber Ltd.	52
Canada Safeway Ltd.	4	McKague Sigmar & Co.	3
Canadian Wheat Pools	60	McLean J. J. H.	48
Century Motors Ltd.	1	National Grain Co Ltd.	46
Chief Home Bakery	59	Nells Flower Shop	52
City Hydro	42	North American Lumber & Supply	49
Coca-Cola Ltd.	62	Orchid Florist	64
Codville Co. Ltd.	9	Park-Hannesson Ltd.	54
Community Chevrolet	40	Peerless Laundry & Cleaners Ltd.	4
Consolidated Motors Ltd.	Cover	Perths Ltd.	48
Community Hotels	42	Quintons Ltd.	9
Eatons of Canada	Cover	Ramsay-Matthews Ltd.	50
Eggertson & Eggertson	50	Richardson, James & Sons	1
Fort Garry Hotel	5	Rich Bros.	50
Fort William Elevator Co. Ltd.	10	Riverton Boat Works Ltd.	8
Free Press Prairie Farmer	7	Roberts & Whyte Ltd.	59
Gelhorn Motors Ltd.	54	Rudds Tom Boy Stores	8
Gensers Lt d.	40	Sigurdson and Sons Ltd.	50
Gibbs Drug Store Ltd.	64	Sigurdson Dr. L. A.,	3
Gimli Auto & Implements	7	Sigurdson Ltd.	8
Gimli Medical Centre	8	Selkirk Garage	8
Grannville Salary Replacement	5	Shop Easy Stores	2
Green, Blackstein, Russel Assoc.	6	Soudack Fur Auction Sales	56
Grey Goose Bus Lines	3	Standard Dairies Ltd	46
Greyhound Bus Lines of Can.	10	Supercrete Ltd.	46
Guttormson, P. T.	8	The Red Cross	3
Hercules Net and Twine Co.	12	Tallin, Kristjanson	52
Hercules Smallware Co.	52	Tergesen, H. R.	50
Holt Renfrew & Co. Ltd.	4	Tip Top Meats	50
Hudsons Bay Co. Ltd.	Cover	Thorarinson S. A.	50
Independent Fish Co. Ltd.	8	Thorvaldson, Eggertson	50
Karsin Radio Electric	8	Toronto-Dominion Bank	9
Keystone Fisheries Ltd.	40	Town & Country	42
Kirkfield Park Hotel	40	Town of Gimli	54
Kristjanson, Dr. G.	3	Town of Selkirk	10
Lakeland Dairies Ltd.	40	Union Loan & Investment Co.	8
Leckie John Ltd.	61	United Grain Growers Ltd.	44
Leland Hotel	40	Viking Printers	50
Greetings from a Friend	48	Vopni, R. B. & Co.	3
Maple Leaf Mills Ltd.	Cover	Weston Bakeries	64
Manitoba Com. on Alcohol Ed.	6	Winnipeg Clinic	3
Manitoba Hydro	5	Winnipeg Construction Co.	62
Manitoba Rolling Mills	2	Winnipeg Paint and Glass Co. Ltd.	62



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A second mimeograph printing of 40 copies was made this fall of the book Pioneer Sketches, of which S. B. Olson of Vancouver is author. The 134-page English-language volume, with many pictures, is on the pioneer life of Icelanders in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Copies of Pioneer Sketches may be obtained at \$2.50 per volume from Mrs. H. F. Danielson, 869 Garfield Street, Winnipeg, or from Mr. Olson at Ste. a, 2404 Guelph Street, Vancouver 10, B.C.



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