NORSE WERE HERE EARLY

James Curran Seeks To Prove Vikings First Settlers In North America

By ELMER DULMAGE
Canadian Press Staff Writer

TORONTO, Sept. 6: (CP)—Vinland is the variously identified part of North America visited by the Norsemen perhaps 500 years before Columbus "discovered" the continent. Norse sailors ventured westward from Iceland to Greenland and then to the mainland.

From old Norse tales the belief has prevailed for hundreds of years that Vinland, the land of "self sown wheat" and "grapes," abundant fuel and great trees, must be Nova Scotia or the New England States or even Virginia so well do they fit the descriptions left by the Vikings.

In his book, "Here Was Vinland," James W. Curran, editor of the Sault Daily Star at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, draws a fascinating conclusion that Vinland was the Great Lakes region of Canada and the United States. His theory is the Norsemen ventured into Ontario, Manitoba, North Dakota and elsewhere around the year 1000.

Will Evoke Interest

"Here Was Vinland" may or may not be accepted by the experts but the results of Mr. Curran's painstaking search for evidence are certain to be read with interest by scholars and archaeologists no less than by people who will just want to know about the almost-legendary Norsemen.

Mr. Curran is already famous as the unofficial publicity man of the modest wolf that inhabits the bush country of his Algoma district. It was he who passed on to the world that celebrated assertion: "The man who sez he was et by a wolf is a liar." Perhaps, in the further interest of Algoma's tourist trade, Mr. Curran also has proclaimed that "an Algoma bear is about as dangerous as a lame duck."

But in "Here Was Vinland" Mr. Curran tells a compelling story of Algoma's—and North America's—first white tourists. The story is all the more engaging because he does not insist he is right. He expects the story to be discredited in certain quarters but he hopes it will arouse interest. That is the full purpose of the volume.

The theory is that Norsemen sailed through Hudson Strait and into Hudson Bay more than 600 years before they were explored by and named for Henry Hudson. Mr. Curran holds these bold adventurers found Lake Superior and eventually explored along much of the Great Lakes region.

Refers To Relics

In support of his theory he cites relics of probable or possible Norse origin found in such scattered places as Ontario, Minnesota, New York, Michigan, Wisconsin and North Dakota. Among these are a sword, axe and shield found near Beardmore, Ontario, in 1930 by James Edward Dodd. The suggested dates of their origin are from A. D. 800 to 1100.

Mr. Curran stresses the importance of the relics but he does not stop there. He mentions the "white Indians" who live on the west shore of James Bay and who may have descended from early adventurers whose vessels were blown ashore. The Ojibways do not believe they are "real" Indians. He relates the strange tale of the Mandans of North Dakota, another white tribe, found in 1741 by the French explorer, Pierre Verendrye.

Mr. Curran has included detailed results of his own investigations, published in the Sault Daily Star between August, 1938, and February, 1939. These original articles are not the least interesting part of the volume.

He suggests that all available relics bearing on Norse visits to America be assembled next summer at some central point, preferably the Sault, for inspection and comment by experts.

Because he knows all the Norse stories, including those that vary in detail from the one he chooses to think may turn out to be the correct story, Mr. Curran frankly relates them. But "Here Was Vinland" stands primarily as the case for a wider investigation of the Viking and his explorations.

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Announcements

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Catholic Tea September 14.

Presbyterian Tea, Mrs. Spencer's, September 15.

Eagles Bridge September 20.

Queen Mary Tea Mrs. Lineham's September 21.

Hospital Bazaar, October 4.

C.C.F. Bazaar, October 7.

Catholic Bazaar October 11, 12.

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LOCAL NEWS NOTES

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S. O. N. Meeting and Dance, September 7.

Mrs. M. P. McCaffery returned to the city on the Prince Rupert this morning from a brief trip to Vancouver.

Provincial Constable and Mrs. L. F. Requa of Stewart were passengers aboard the Catala today going through on a vacation trip to Vancouver.

Mrs. George Kelsey returned to the city on the Prince Rupert today from a trip to Vancouver and elsewhere in the south.

Mrs. Ole Phillipson and family of North Pacific sailed this morning on the Catala for a visit in Vancouver.

STORES TO CLOSE

Prince Rupert stores will close tomorrow (Thursday) afternoon.
Retail Merchants Association

David Watt of Premier, father of Mrs. B. F. Smith, was a passenger aboard the Catala today going through to Vancouver.

Mr. and Mrs. James Foreman and family, who have been on a trip to Vancouver and elsewhere in the south, returned home on the Prince Rupert this morning.

Mrs. S. D. Johnston, who has been on a trip to Victoria owing to the illness of her sister, returned to the city on the Prince Rupert this morning.

Mrs. W. P. Armour and daughter, Miss June Armour, sailed today on the Catala for Vancouver where the latter will resume her studies at the University of British Columbia.

Mrs. R. G. Macaulay and son, Douglas, who have been on a visit to Chilliwack in the Fraser Valley with relatives, returned to the city on the Prince Rupert this morning.

The marriage of Miss Bessie Thompson and Harry Ward is taking place this afternoon at the chapel of the Church of the Annunciation with the parish priest, Rev. Father Lantagne, officiating.

Bert White's Show Boat Entertainers return engagement. Grand vaudeville show followed by dance Friday night at 8, Moose Hall, admission show and dance 50c. Children 15c. (208)

Miss M. Colwell, who has been spending the summer vacation at Port Simpson with her parents, Rev. and Mrs. T. C. Colwell, was a passenger aboard the Catala today going through to take up studies at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

Engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cameron, 602 Thompson Street, announce the engagement of their eldest daughter, Elizabeth Lindsay, (Betty), to Morley E. Patterson, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Patterson of Ocean Falls. The wedding to take place October 6 in First Presbyterian Church.

TO ERECT CAIRN

YARMOUTH, N.S., Sept. 6: (CP)—A move to erect a cairn to mark the landing place of the first of the United Empire Loyalists from New England in Nova Scotia has been made by the Yarmouth Historical Society. A committee has located the site.

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Harold Fisher sailed this morning on the Catala for Vancouver.

Mrs. Pelton arrived last night from Massett on the Prince Charles.

Miss Barbeau returned home on last evening's train from a visit in the south.

The Women's Auxiliary Canadian Legion general meeting Thursday September 7. All members requested to attend. (209)

Lorne Falconer of Alice Arm was a passenger aboard the Catala this morning going through to Vancouver.

Showboat Dance Orchestra, Wednesday and Saturday nights, Boston Hall, First 10 ladies admitted free. Prize spot dance. Admission 35. (208)

Alex Turnbull, the new inspector of schools, and Mrs. Turnbull will take up residence in the house on Graham Avenue which is being left by Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Borland.

Albert Farrow, steamboat inspector, arrived in the city on the Prince Rupert this morning from Vancouver, being here on official duties.

Miss Eileen Hamblin, who has been on a trip to Vancouver and elsewhere in the south, returned home on the Prince Rupert this morning.

Rev. A. Abraham, Anglican church missionary at Massett, arrived in the city from the Queen Charlotte Islands on the Prince Charles last night.

Jack Henning of Chicago, son of Fred Henning, formerly of this city, arrived in the city for a two weeks' visit with Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Nickerson. He is receiving a hearty welcome from many friends.

Mrs. Arthur Holland arrived last night on the Prince Charles from Massett to meet her daughter, Barbara, who has been spending the past two months visiting her grandmother, Mrs. Hodson in Vancouver. While in the city Mrs. Holland is the house guest of Mrs. Lionel Holtby.

Fred Read of the Capitol Theatre staff here is believed to be now in New York or on his way west following a visit to England. He was to have left England on the Queen Mary on August 30. The Queen Mary landed in New York Monday. There had been rumors that Mr. Read was on the Athenia.

Bert White's Show Boat arrived in port Sunday evening from Alaska. Bert says they had a very successful tour including performances at Premier, Stewart and Big Missouri. At Big Missouri they made a presentation to the first baby born in the camp.

Dr. and Mrs. W. T. Kergin and Mrs. W. H. Kergin, who are leaving Prince Rupert to take up residence in the south, expect to make their departure on Friday of next week. If weather is favorable, they will proceed to the interior and motor south.

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Navy League Has Meeting

Activities of Local Sea Cadets Under Discussion Last Night—New Arrangements Likely

The executive of the Prince Rupert branch of the Navy League of Canada was in session last night at naval headquarters with President R. M. Winslow in the chair, to consider plans for the coming year's activities of the local Sea Cadets. There is a possibility that, owing to naval activities in view of the war situation, headquarters of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve may not be available to the corps for drill purposes. For the same reason, Chief Petty Officer Instructor A. G. Bird may not be able to carry on as Sea Cadet instructor. A new commanding officer of the corps has also to be found in view of the retirement of Lieut. Croft Brook. To consider these problems a special committee consisting of the president, Dr. L. W. Kergin and Dr. R. G. Large was appointed and will report back to another executive meeting two weeks hence.

It was reported that instruments for the bugle and drum band which is being reorganized in connection with the Sea Cadets were on order and expected to arrive soon.

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1 Dresser—With large mirror $19.00
2 Washing Machines—From— $35.00 to $47.50
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