Strange Ruins on Labrador Coast

Morrissey Expedition Examine Relics that May Mark Norse Visits Nearly 500 Years Before Columbus

The Putnam expedition into our north country is creating some interest in the States. George Palmer Putnam is keeping the American Press supplied with many columns of interesting details of his discoveries and experiences. Recently he dealt with the old ruins on Sculpin Island as follows:

Newfoundland was the "Markland" of the Danish sages, and Nova Scotia was possibly "Kjalarness." On the other hand, "Wineland the Good" may have been Nova Scotia, perhaps reaching far to the south and west. Possibly the students of these problems never will be entirely agreed. But for the main premise there is agreement and sound evidence. Leif Ericson and Thorfinn Karlsefni came to America fom Greenland 492 years before Columbus.

Up here midway along the coast of Labrador and not far from the settlement of Nain, are ancient ruins, possibly of Norse origin. For years they have been known and periodically investigated. Soon, it is understood, they are to be the subject of thoroughgoing study and archaelogical research, which well may settle their exact status and possibly fill an alluring gap in early American history.

In our own brief visit we could obtain at best only a cursory glimpse of the country. We found the ruins on a smaller isle to the east of Sculpin Island, accessible from it at low water. Sculpin Island lies some twenty miles from Nain, say two-thirds up the coast of Labrador.

The ruins themselves are on a small rocky peninsula a few hundred yards long with an average width of 150 feet. The group contains eleven major structures about fifty feet from the water. Close at hand is an excellent protected landing place for small craft, with some indication of an artificial breakwater.

Substantial Ruins.

The maximum height of the walls is about three feet and the dimensions of a typical large house are approximately twelve by eighteen feet. Most of them are oblong in shape. The main walls apparently averaged about eighteen inches in thickness and were constructed of flat natural stones. In at least one building a clearly defined doorway remains, with a rectangular passage beyond it. Several of these outside entrance approaches were evident. Except for their rectangular shape they closely resemble the cold-protecting entrance tunnels of many modern Eskimo igloos encountered in Greenland and elsewhere. In addition there were some round houses, while adjacent were remains of characteristic Eskimo dwelling and tent rings, where later residents evidently had camped.

P. Hettisch, the Moravian missionary at Nain, told us that the Eskimo [illegible] uins signifies "the [illegible] people." Ap- [illegible] thing American residence was in Wineland. It seems illogical that these early mariners should have halted on these hard shores long enough to require stone houses, or to have completed and occupied a community of them, as indicated by the relics.. But again one may rejoin that perhaps Winter overtook them, compelling them to camp where they were. Only then, perhaps, they would have gone just a bit further, to the mainland, where a few hours' sail would have brought them to timber and abundant water. Al lof this, of course, is purely conjectural.

TShere are authorities like Babcock who take a pessimistic view as to the likelihood of finding any authentic Norse relics. They even doubt the existence of any.

"It seems," says Babcock, "that so far as investigation has gone there is not a single known record or relic of Wineland, Markland, Helluland or any Norse or Icelandic voyage of discovery extant at this time, which may be relied on with any confidence."

And on the other side of the picture there are those who place considerable reliance upon the "relics" and the evidence on record, and who pursue further possibilities, such as the ruins on the Labrador coast, with hopeful enthusiasm. But it would be presumptuous for one who is not a student of the problem to enter into the discussion. All that can be said is that the details have been sifted and battled over for some decades.

The Norsemen's Landing.

By and large, it may be well to give the "ruins" the benefit of a historic doubt. If not themselves of Norse origin, there is small doubt that Norsemen made their first landfalls hereabout. And what an extraordinary story lies in those voyages—a story that may never be adequately recorded.

It begins in Ireland, for Iceland was originally largely peopled by the Irish. And in Iceland, before the year 1000, Eric Raudi, or Eric the Red, appears to have led a strenuous life. Not himself a trouble maker, he seems frequently to have been in trouble. As a result of his difficulties he was for a time practically an outlaw. Later, helped by friends, he fitted out a ship and disappeared to the westward.

Three years later he returned. He had found Greenland. A considerable fleet of adventurous pioneers followed him back to the new country about the year 985, eleven vessels being lost in storms on the way. And after that Greenland wos Norse for 500 years. An epic of colonization began only to end in tragedy, for the colony was mysteriously wiped out. From, say, 1450 to 1721, when Hans Egerde rediscovered and revived it for the Danes, Greenland was a lost and desolated land.

Then came Leif. Tradition sets his exploit in finding Wineland in the year 1000. From his home in Greenland he sailed for Norway, and was driven south to the Hebrides. After a romance there he proceeded to the Court of King Olaf Tryggvason, was converted to Christianity and reverently assumed the mission of carrying his new-found religion back to Greenland. On the return voyage he encountered continental America.

An Indian Rock Carving Found

What is said to be the largest petroglyph, or Indian rock carving, in Canada has just been reported to the archaeological office of the National Museum at Ottawa. This petroglyph is said to be over 50 feet long and to be carved on a vertical face of reddish rock rising from Fraser River Valley.

The place is only about twelve miles from Yale, B.C., on the railway line, and as it is the most available petroglyph to two transcontinental railways, an effort will be made to have it set aside as a national monument. Previously to this discovery the largest known petroglyph in Canada was on the west side of a seventy-foot canyon near Bella Coola, about one mile south of Mackenzie Highway.

Girls' Choice is Love or Learning

London—Love or learning seems to be the choice confronting the modern girl.

Statistics covering seven years show that only five per cent. of the girls passing through Oxford University have obtained husbands—though they do not show how many wanted them.

Women educators say that men feel abashed in the presence of the female intellectual giants turned out by British colleges, and are picking the girls whose thoughts run to the intricacies of the latest dance.

Gentleman of the World—"A salesman has a sweetheart in every town—a sailor a girl in every port—"

Collegian—"But only a college man has a co-ed on every davenport!"

Though both training and circumstances make it practically impossible for members of the royal family to earn their living, it will be different, presum[illegible] with their children.—H[illegible] the ex-Kaiser.

Senator Raul Dandurand
Canada's representative to the League of Nations.

Books of Witchery For Your Child

Every child loves to hear stories of magic and whitchery. Here is a list of the best books of this type, compiled by the book editor of "Child Life," The Children's Own Magazine:

Black Cats and the Tinker's Wife, by Margaret Baker; Boy who Knew What the Birds Said, by Padraic Colum; Donegal Wonder Book, by Seaumas MacManus; Down-A-Down-Derry, by Walter de la Mare; Elfin Pedlar and Tales Told by Pixy Pool, by Helen Douglas Adam; Moonshine and Clover, by Laurence Housman; Mystery Tales for Boys and Girls, by Elva S. Smith; North Cornwall Fairies and Legends, b Enys Tregarthen; Shen of the Sea by Arthur B. Chairman; Tale of the Good Cat Jupie, by Neely McCoy.

Conference of Irish Leaders is Planned

Cork, Irish Free State.—President Cosgrave, whose government came out victorious by a small margin in the recent general elections, and Eamon de Valera, Republican leader, who heads the Opposition, have been invited to attend a conference here to consider the economic position of the country and the question of conciliation and unity.

The invitation emanates from J. F. Daly, chairman of the Cork Harbor Board, who at a meeting appealed for unity by the political parties in the national interest.

PRINTING DEVICES OUTRIVAL WORK OF SKILLFUL FINGERS

Mechanical Task of Feeding Sheets of Paper to The Press Has Been Perfected

Great ingenuity has been shown by the printing industry in devising methods for feeding single sheets of paper into the presses mechanically. The system of feeding from rolls, such as is used in the large newspaper presses, is common knowledge to-day, but in the job printing industry even that remarkable invention has been surpassed. Nothing is left for the human hand ot do beyond putting a stack of paper within reach and keeping the parts in working order.

The distance the industry has come can be seen when one recalls how in the fifteenth century the old German printer, Gutenberg, the first man in the Western world to use movable type, had to lay his parchment sheets on the type by hand and press a block on them laboriously to obtain the impression. The work of feeding the presses for ordinary job work, in fact, seemed to have arrived at a high state of perfection a generation ago. Presses in use then opened and closed automatically, like the jaws of a frog, carrying the paper up to the type and then away again, so that the printer could take out the printed sheet with one hand and slide a fresh page in with the other. By means of rubber grippers on the thumbs and forefingers, and after a good deal of practice, the sheets could be shifted in and out with something approaching mechanical regularity.

To-day the new devices do that work far more rapidly and with greater accuracy. One automatic feeder, for example, which was shown at the recent exhibition of the graphic arts at the Grand Central Palace, actually lifts single sheets up off a pile and passes—one could almost say hands—them into the rollers that guide them down an incline into the revolving press.

Complicated devices do all the work. At the two far ends of the pile away from the rollers are wheel-like arms. These revolve slowly and as the pile of paper is lifted up, they bite in at the corners and keep a small number of sheets raised slightly in the air. Above these are other wheels that come down on the top of the pile at intervals and revolve, butting their humpy surfaces onto the paper to jiggle it and help separate the sheets.

Near these is the first pair of magic hands, composed of rubber cups, like the ones on the toy arrows that used to stick on walls. Operated by compressed air, they snap down on the pile of paper when their turn comes and in another moment snap back, holding the sheet aloft.

Just at the crucial moment in that process, blasts of compressed air, blown through cracks in the flattened ends of pipes, are shot under the sheet from several angles, setting it to fluttering freely. Suddenly another pair of rubber-suction hands closes to the rollers, snaps down and seizes the sheet; the other "hands" let go, and while the air keeps the sheet fluttering, the second "hands" carry it forward to the rollers and release it.

Another automatic feeder uses the older method of taking the sheets off the pile by a series of wheels. The wheels to-day are so finely adjusted along the way down the incline that if an extra sheet has got started, it is mechanically held back to await its turn.

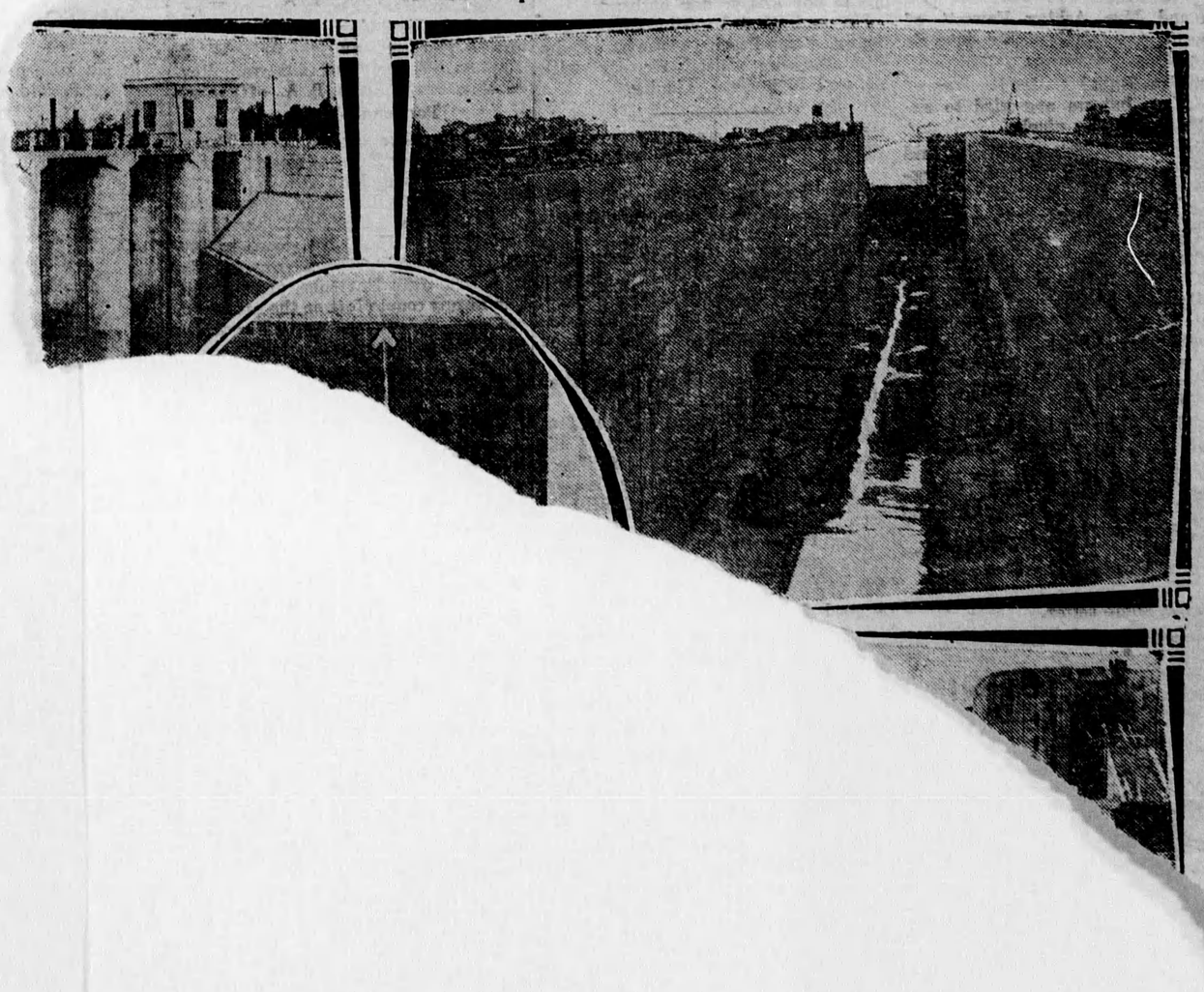
Airplane Crashes Pilot Escapes

Grampian, Pa.—The airplane City of Olympia No. 31, an entry in the air races at Spokane, Washington, crashed to earth in the Pennsylvania hills near here. Lieut. Valentine Gephart, of the Marine corp reserve, the pilot, jumped with a parachute when the motor went dead 2,000 feet in the air. He made a good landing and was uninjured..

The Smoke Nuisance

Le Devoir (Ind.): Do people take seriously this smoke which pervades the atmosphere, covers everything with dirt and shuts out the sky? Do we stop to think how poisonous it is? Since its supression restores health, is not this an additional reason for ignoring it?. Because mygiene as seen from the scornful treatment accored those who have the direction of the Health Services, is just shelved.

Thomas Hitchcock
The man responsible for the American polo team defeating the British Army in India team.

A stop in time saves a fine.

The New Welland Nears Completion