

RUINS TELL STORY OF VIKING EMPIRE

Clues Along Baltic Littoral Examined by Archeologists.—Wandering of the Goths Shows Great Migration Southward.

Archeological research in the Baltic States continues to add supporting evidence to the theory that a powerful "Viking Empire" was in process of forming in these regions more than a thousand years ago.

In Sweden the two seemingly inexhaustible reserves of soil awaiting the spade and measuring rod are the Island of Gothland, nearly midway in the Baltic Sea, and Oland, just off the Swedish mainland, on the southeast coast.

when mortar was not yet in use in the North. The constructed wall is two kilometers long and it is estimated that, with its height of 4 to 7 meters, and its width a maximum of 24 meters, more than 2,000 men were required to complete the work in three years.

According to the Guta Saga, recorded in the 14th century, Torsburgen was an important refuge in earlier centuries. The island became overpopulated, runs the story, and lots were cast to see which of the inhabitants would be forced to leave their homes.

Along the eastern coast is Torsburgen, an irregular circular fortification on the highest point of land. Its north and west walls are a natural rock formation, but the walls to the south and east were built of the limestone found in loco, the work dating from a period



Every Piece Tells Its Own Story

FOLLOWING a tradition which began more than thirty years ago, H. H. Melanson, Assistant Vice-President of the Canadian National Railways, was presented with a historic gavel at the annual convention of the American Association of Passenger Traffic Officers, of which he is the 75th president.

tree which grows in front of the house of Mr. Melanson's father in France; a piece of an apple tree from Acadia; a piece of wood from the school where Mr. Melanson made his first studies; a piece of the first desk he used when he joined the railway; pieces of steel from the "Samson" and "Albion," the first locomotives operated in the Maritime Provinces; a piece of lumber from Mr. Melanson's first private car, No. 34 of the Intercolonial Railway, and a

piece of hickory from the woods along the Canadian National lines in the State of Michigan. In addition to the gavel, Mr. Melanson received a collection of relics from all parts of the world, such as gold from Bonanza Creek, Yukon, gathered in '98; jade from New Zealand; Conemara Marble from Ireland; granite from Scotland; opal from Australia and a piece of metal from the last sleeping car built by the Pullman Company in the United States

devastation and some forceful evacuations of populations in the same period—the centuries before and after 500 A. D. The largest fortification, Graborgen, was probably constructed at this time. Another, Ismanstorp, enclosed no less than 88 houses. An interesting fact disclosed by the recent aerial survey was that the houses were built around a rectangle or square, a type of building heretofore identified with the Middle Ages.

This work is supplemented with equally important work on the continent to the south and southeast. Prof. Birger Nerman, Swedish archaeologist, has concentrated on Grobin, in Latvia. He has identified Grobin as the Seeburg of legend, where King Olaf came in the middle of the ninth century, plundering first Seeburg and later Apulia, now identified with the section called Apule.

Hedeby, an old Viking centre near Schleswig, is about to be made the subject of special study and will therewith become the first Viking town to be excavated on a comprehensive scale.

The connections between Hedeby and Birka, a Viking town once flourishing on the Island of Bjorko—the picturesque and idyllic Swedish "island of birches"—are being stressed, and various theories are offered as to the relation between the two. Either Hedeby

was a transit port established for the trade of Bira, or according to one speculation, Birka was a far northern outpost of Danish trade.

TO DEVELOP MARKETS FOR CANADIAN FLOUR The Federal Government Arranges for Demonstrations in Europe of Its Uses.

In an effort to develop the markets for Canadian wheat, the Dominion Government has appropriated a sum of money to be used in practical demonstrations of the use of Canadian flours for baking purposes.

These demonstrations will take place first at different points in the United Kingdom. Subsequently they will be expanded to European countries.

The idea is to give to the people of the United Kingdom and Europe actual practical evidence of the value of Canadian wheat and flour.

CATTLE STRAYED STRAYED FROM MY PREMISES, Lot 30, Con. 2, S.D.R., Glenelg, on or about October 18, five (5) two-year-old cattle three heifers and two steers, Finder notify Angus Hooper, Phone Durham 605 R 32, Priceville, R.R. 1

THE STARS THAT NEVER SET

By D. H. and J. F. Chappell, Lick Observatory, University of California.

In the spring and fall when the coming of the new season is slowly bringing high into the sky a different set of stars, there is a disturbing sense of change similar to the stirring we feel at ice floes or ploughed land. During those weeks of noticeable sky shifting, when we miss the steady Orion of midwinter or the delicate Corona of midsummer, we look almost with relief into the faithful north, where the stars shine that never set for us.

The North Pole of the earth points to a comparatively empty spot in the sky, the nearest bright star being Alpha Ursae Minoris. We call it our pole star, but it is really one and one-sixth degrees from the pole of our heavens. It has been said that two moons like ours could be "driven abreast" between the true pole and our pole star. This star, Polaris, is an interesting one. At a glance it appears to be one star, but a more careful scrutiny shows it to be a visual double, with apparent separation of eighteen seconds of arc. The larger, a yellow star, measures 2.6 magnitudes, and the smaller, a blue star, 9.0. (Star magnitudes rate like a golf score; the brighter is the lesser number.) The parallax of Polaris is about 0.01 seconds of arc, its distance from us being 320 light-years. The stars revolve about their common centre of gravity in a period thousands of years long. The earth's motion causes them to appear on opposite sides daily (just as all circumpolar stars seem to shift about the pole), but actual measures show only about five degrees of relative change in a hundred years, a value that may be due to inaccuracy in the old measures.

The brighter star varies every 3.97 days both in light (0.1 magnitude difference) and in velocity in the line of sight. This variance marks it as a Cepheid variable, a pulsating star. A still further spectroscopic report shows it again to be a double. With its invisible companion it revolves about their common centre of mass every thirty years. Besides all this wealth of interest in the pole star itself, it has been said to be the most important star in the heavens because of its position and its resulting use to navigation and commerce.

The pole star, being only of second magnitude—just one of the seventy that are as bright or brighter—is not simple to distinguish unless one follows along with the eye from the two pointer stars, the two end stars of the Big Dipper. These pointers always single out the pole star for us, no matter on which side the dipper may hang. The pole star itself is in the handle of the Little Dipper. These two dippers looked like bears, a big bear and a little bear to the ancients, and are still so called: Ursa Major and Ursa Minor. They are such striking patterns that one can trace them easily at any position.

For us in Canada the circumpolar space is quite an extent of sky, and we can find therein not only stars but also star clusters, doubles, comets, and nebulae. The planets cannot wander into this region, for they, with us, circle the sun in such planes that they are always projected near the ecliptic, the apparent path of the sun in the sky. If we travel far south, the northern stars disappear, and the southern constellations, invisible here, shine. At the equator, there are no circumpolar stars. At either pole the entire heavens are circumpolar.

It is fairly clear that no matter decision, or indecision, marks the fence, the final judgment will with the electors of Britain in the near future. Stanley Baldwin has ready nailed the Conservative standard to the policy of inter-Empire ferences. In so doing he has apparently succeeded in patching up serious factions within his party and from point to the general election he was found advocating in general terms adoption of the Bennett plan.

Simultaneously the Labor party cluding ministers of the Macdonald government are fanning the cent old prejudice against taxes on food Britain. But the cheapest food in world is inaccessible unless one has money to purchase it, and it is upon certainty of a vastly increased purchasing power under Empire preference that Mr. Baldwin is building his case. The Canadian delegation to London is not expected home for a month. When Mr. Bennett gets he will find all the machinery which created to relieve unemployment in motion. The agreements have completed with all the provinces they, in turn, have their major gram worked out with the cities already launched. Employment figures indicate that business generally is ing a more optimistic outlook. most critical situation, unhappy that confronting the grain grower it is to the solution of it that Mr. nett and the Department of Trade Commerce are bending every effort

Travel, they say, is broadening. This can be overcome if you walk a short distance every day instead of sitting on the soft cushion.

Our Ottawa Letter

Not any Government, but the people of Great Britain will decide whether or not their foodstuffs are to be in order to provide a vastly greater market in Canada for manufactured goods in return for a preferential market for Canadian wheat in the British Isles.

Such is the belief here among those who have been following closely overseas reaction to the Bennett policy of inter-Empire trade preferences.

By the present Labor Government acceptance of Premier Bennett's plan is possible only at the cost of wrecking the ministry and while it is in order to provide a vastly greater market in Canada for manufactured goods in return for a preferential market for Canadian wheat in the British Isles.

This week may see other alternative plans presented for consideration the Conference and its expert advice but up to the present writing bulk of Canadian wheat under the quota system of milling is the suggestion advanced to take the place of the Bennett scheme.

The suggestion has been thrown that under such a scheme an market for another 100,000,000 bushels of Canadian wheat might be found. The total import figures for the nine months of this year, however, do not bear out such a belief for from sources they scarcely reach 100,000 bushels and under a quota system the Canadian wheat content of British bread to not more than 40 cent no such market would be created. Neither the principals nor the experts attending the conference are arbitrating any proposals. This, with others which may come, will be fully analysed and if it offers a practical degree of relief to the Canadian grain grower efforts to secure benefits until a broader and better agreement can be arrived at may be looked for. One of the immediate difficulties lies in the manner in which the price of wheat would be arrived for Canada wants not only a market but a reasonably profitable market for her wheat.

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Simultaneously the Labor party cluding ministers of the Macdonald government are fanning the cent old prejudice against taxes on food Britain. But the cheapest food in world is inaccessible unless one has money to purchase it, and it is upon certainty of a vastly increased purchasing power under Empire preference that Mr. Baldwin is building his case. The Canadian delegation to London is not expected home for a month. When Mr. Bennett gets he will find all the machinery which created to relieve unemployment in motion. The agreements have completed with all the provinces they, in turn, have their major gram worked out with the cities already launched. Employment figures indicate that business generally is ing a more optimistic outlook. most critical situation, unhappy that confronting the grain grower it is to the solution of it that Mr. nett and the Department of Trade Commerce are bending every effort

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