

# ICELAND



Hot Springs Near Reykjavik.

THE autonomy that has come as a gift of the war to Iceland merely follows upon a former home rule granted by Denmark to the island folk in 1874. Bordering the island does upon the arctic circle, it would seem anomalous indeed that the former home of the free-necked, all-conquering Vikings should be associated with aught but human liberty, or that the restraints and oppressions of autocratic governments should be familiar things in this little detached world. But Iceland has had its political struggles nevertheless, and from the very beginning of its history it became the refuge and sanctuary of a people seeking safety and refuge from the intolerable tyranny of a Norseman's rule.

Iceland's story is really the story of the Viking, says Christian Science Monitor. In a minor degree it is associated with the mission of the Celt and Anglo-Saxon in the early diffusion of Christianity. In 1890 the Icelanders actually celebrated the thousandth anniversary of the landing of the first Christians.

One is apt to picture the Viking as a sea-rover making his warship fast to that of his enemy while the shouts of the victor rise high above the clash and clang of spear and battle-axe upon shield and helmet. But war was not really his occupation nor was the sea his home. He only turned to the sea for plunder and recreation when he wearied of the pastoral life. If he was a man of wealth and influence, in the old Norse country, he was certain to possess many thralls or retainers, to own a great hall and possibly a temple. In the center of the hall would be a row of fires, and against the wall the high seat or place of honor, its great pillars carved and crowned with images of Thor, Odin and Frigg. The Viking himself would be magnificently attired, his garments bound with plates of gold, and his sword, "Fire-of-the-Sea-King," in a jeweled scabbard by his side. On his neck would doubtless be a collar of engraved gold, while his flowing cloak would be edged with gold.

Such, also, was the early Iceland in the early stages of his migration from the old Norse home.

**How Iceland Was Settled.**  
The Vikings peopled the remote island deliberately, as a land where freedom awaited them. Unlike other lands it had no prehistoric history. Fire-born, it had known not even the prehistoric savage. Man's coming began, it may be said, with a woman's whim, and a Viking's vow. Is it not all told in "The Story of Harald Hair-fair," and by Snorri in "Heimskringla"? How Harald sent his messengers to Gyda, daughter of Eric, King of Hordaland, with the request that she become his wife. How to them she replied that she would not, for the taking to husband of a king who had no more realm to rule over than a few folk, did not appeal to the proud princess. How Harald swore that he would not cut his hair nor comb it until he had gotten to himself all Norway, "with the seat thereof and the dues." How after years of strenuous effort and warfare he brought all Norway under a sway that was to be feared wherever the Norse tongue was spoken. How he solemnly bathed and cut his hair, held a feast, and wedded the exacting but now triumphant Gyda, queen of the world within her ken.

That was ten centuries ago, when Harald introduced to Norway that centralization and consolidation of power which was to make of him a tyrant and a blight upon the ambitions of the nobles who felt the weight of his sway. The freemen resisted as long as they could. Beaten again and again in fight, many of them withdrew from the land of their birth, preferring exile with their accustomed liberties to a vassalage which was an outrage to the free-born.

**Discovered by Naddodd.**  
Thus began the incursions and excursions of the Vikings. The fair-haired warriors of the North spread themselves over many lands, even in far-off Byzantium. For centuries the coast and river hamlets of England,

Scotland and Ireland were constantly on the alert in case of depredations and sudden descents. The distant lava peaks of Faroe ultimately became the homes of those who dared not return to Norway, until at last one of their number, the Viking Naddodd, left the isles and was driven by contrary winds in sight of the snow-capped peaks of Iceland. A landing was effected, but Naddodd found no trace of human beings. Christening the newly discovered country Snaeland, he immediately took his departure. Four years later, in 864, came Gardar, a Swedish Viking, who was the first to circumnavigate the island. He rechristened the land Gardar's Holm. Then came Floki, who found his way to the island by the aid of ravens, and who gave to the then inhospitable land the present chilly name of Iceland.

Reykjavik, the "smoking Creek," now the principal town, was recognized from the earliest times as an unfortunate location for a settlement and a capital. The original colony was settled here by Ingolf Arnarson, a high-born Jarl of Norway, who left his native land in the company of his foster-brother, Hjordleifr, ten years after the descent of Floki upon its shores.

Within 60 years from the coming of Ingolf, the population of the island is said to have numbered over 60,000. So much land, however, had been taken by the first comers that an agreement was made by which all late comers could take only as much land as they could encompass by fire in a day. This was done by building a huge fire in the center of the lot, whence the claimant traveled in a circle as far away from the fire as he could see the smoke.

**Kindly and Hospitable.**  
From this virile race, which scorned to bend the knee to Harald, the modern Icelanders are descended. They are kindly and hospitable to the stranger within their borders, while their homes are simple and quaint. Some are old dwelling places of turf and stone with an inclosed moving patch, the sheep folds, the byre and a small garden for vegetables. The spoken tongue of Iceland is no longer heard in the Norse valleys, but in the arctic isolation of their island home the Icelanders have retained it in its ancient purity; and sagas and traditions of the remote past are as familiar as household words to the inhabitants.

The government, down to the granting of autonomy, had at its head a minister, appointed by the king of Denmark, resident at Reykjavik, and responsible to the althing, or the parliament of the colony, for all acts concerning Iceland. The althing consisted of 36 members, of whom 30 were elected by the people and six by the crown. It was elected every two years, and was divided into two chambers, of which the upper was composed of six elected and six appointed members, while the lower consisted of 24 elected members. The king of Denmark had the nominal right of veto.

In 1911 suffrage was extended to women and servants, and the right is now possessed by all competent adults. The revenue of the country is derived almost entirely from customs. Elementary education is well provided for, and the number of illiterates is remarkably small.

**Siam's Boat Life.**  
The boat life of Siam is extremely interesting. Business and pleasure, health and happiness, all center in the river or its branches. A boat and a paddle are almost as natural and indispensable possessions to a Siamese as his arms or legs. He has no notion of traveling any distance except by boat, and the idea of living in a place inaccessible by water generally strikes him as absurd. Three weeks to come down stream with a full cargo, a week to dispose of it and indulge in the gayeties of the capital, four or five months to get back with the emptied boat, and the rest of the year for farm work at home—such is the program of many a Siamese family.

**Not a Strong Drink.**  
Aline and her brother attended a birthday party of a playmate. Ice cream, cake and lemonade were served. The boy asked for a glass of water.  
"Drink your lemonade," Aline said, interrupting.  
"I don't want lemonade. I want water," said the boy, looking pleadingly at his hostess.  
"Don't be silly. Drink your lemonade," said Aline. "It's just like water."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

When some people feel for the poor they never feel in their pockets.

When a fool offers to back up his argument with a bet a wise man shuts up.

WAYNE E. SAWTELL, Lawyer,  
Omaha National Bank Bldg.  
**NOTICE OF INCORPORATION OF KAFFIR CHEMICAL LABORATORIES**  
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned Madree Penn, Grace M. Jones, Eleanor C. Haynes, Fred C. Williams, John Albert Williams, Asa E. Fletcher and Larry N. Peoples, have associated themselves together for the purpose of forming and becoming a corporation under the laws of the state of Nebraska, and for that purpose have made, executed and adopted the following articles of incorporation:

The name of this corporation shall be Kaffir Chemical Laboratories. The principal office and place of transacting the business of said corporation shall be in the city of Omaha, Nebraska, but it shall be within the power of the board of directors to establish other places of business in the state of Nebraska and in other states in this United States and in all foreign countries. The time of commencement of said business shall be upon the filing of these articles with the county clerk of Douglas county, Nebraska, and its termination shall be the 1st day of October, 1920, unless sooner terminated or further prolonged by due notice in law. The general nature of said business shall be the manufacturing and dealing in pharmaceuticals, chemicals, drug preparations, medicines and all other things incidental to and connected therewith. It may purchase, own and sell trade-marks, copyrights, patents and formulas and direct the manner and the laws of the several states and of the United States and all foreign countries. It may purchase, own and sell stock in other corporations similar in nature. It may, purchase, own and sell stock in any corporation or corporations authorized to manufacture or distribute moving picture films or authorized to do a general printing, publishing or advertising business. This corporation may also engage in the business of manufacturing or distributing moving picture films and also the business of printing, publishing and advertising of whatsoever kind or nature. It shall have the power to establish schools of instruction and conduct the same, wherein shall be taught a general beauty culture, including chiropody and the manufacturing of hair goods. It may purchase, own, encumber and sell all kinds of real and personal property. The authorized capital stock shall be \$200,000.00 divided into shares of \$10.00 each which, when issued, shall be fully paid and non-assessable. \$200,000.00 of said capital stock shall be common stock with full voting rights, and may be paid for in cash, bankable notes or such property or services as the company may desire to use in the conduct of its business. \$300,000.00 of said stock shall be 7 per cent cumulative, preferred and voting and shall take priority over all other stock as to assets and dividends and no increased mortgage shall be hereafter placed on any of the property of the company without the written consent of the owners of no less than two-thirds of the outstanding preferred capital stock. Dividends shall be payable annually on the 1st day of June of each year and, in the event of liquidation of said company, the preferred stock shall be paid at par, plus accumulated dividends before any payment is made upon any other class of stock. This stock may be paid for in cash, bankable notes, or such other property or services as the company may need or be able to use in the conduct of said business. It shall be redeemable at 10 per cent above par and shall be convertible into common stock at any time at the option of the holder. The annual stockholders' meeting shall be held at its office in Omaha on the first Monday in January of each year, at which time there shall be elected a board of directors consisting of not less than three nor more than nine directors, each of whom shall be a bona fide stockholder of said corporation. They shall have complete control over the management and conduct of the business of said corporation and shall hold their offices until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until their successors are chosen and qualified. At all stockholders' meetings each stockholder shall be entitled to cast in person or by proxy one vote for each share of common stock issued to or held by him. Vacancies in the board of directors caused by death, resignation or otherwise, may be filled by the remaining directors. The first board of directors shall consist of the undersigned incorporators. These articles of incorporation shall be subject to the approval of the stockholders and until their successors are elected and qualified. Immediately after the annual meeting of the stockholders the board of directors shall hold a meeting and from their number shall elect a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, who shall hold office for a period of one year and until their successor in office is duly elected and qualified. Provided, however, that the office of secretary and treasurer may be held by the same person. Board of directors may by by-laws prescribe the duties of such officers, fix the salary of the same, and adopt such by-laws as they may see fit not inconsistent herewith. The highest amount of indebtedness to which said corporation may subject itself shall not, at any one time, exceed in amount, two-thirds of the capital stock of said corporation. These articles of incorporation may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all stock represented at any annual or special meeting, called for that purpose by the board of directors provided that notice thereof shall have been mailed to each stockholder at his last known address at least ten days prior to the holding of such annual or special meeting. The capital stock of said corporation shall be paid for in such manner and at such times as may be provided for by the board of directors but no share of stock shall be issued until the same is fully paid, and any indebtedness due or owing by any stockholder of the corporation shall be a first lien upon all his shares of stock in the corporation, and dividends earned thereon and any transfer shall be subject to such lien. The shares of stock of said corporation shall be transferable on the books of said corporation in accordance with such rules and regulations as may be adopted by the board of directors, but any stock-

holder who is about to sell, dispose of or transfer his share or shares of stock, or any of them, in said corporation, must offer the same to the board of directors at the same price for which he is about to dispose of or sell said share or shares, and said board of directors may purchase such share or shares at such figures or price, said purchase to be for the benefit of the remaining stockholders. Should any stockholder dispose of, or transfer his share or shares of stock without first offering the same to the board of directors or should any stockholder dispose of or transfer his share or shares of stock at a price or figure less than the price or figures at which he offered to sell the same to the board of directors, then, and in that event, the board of directors may refuse to recognize such transfer or sale and may cancel or annul said stock upon tendering to the holder thereof the price paid by him for such stock.  
In witness whereof we have set our hands this 6th day of October, A. D. 1919.  
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