

STATE OF MINNESOTA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ST. PAUL

PROCLAMATION.

Saturday, September 28th, will be observed in many places in America as Leif Erikson day. It is most fitting that we pay some tribute to the memory of this hardy Norseman, the first European to set foot upon the American continent.

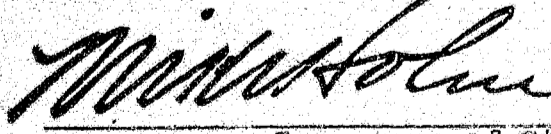
The Norse discovery of America in the autumn of the year 1000 is no longer a subject of controversy or doubt. It is recognized as an historical fact and so taught in our schools. Its importance has been minimized because it was not followed by exploration and settlement, but had political and economic conditions in Europe been the same in the eleventh century as they were in the fifteenth when Columbus rediscovered America, there is no question that Erikson's voyage would soon have been followed by permanent settlement. Nor can we doubt that the records and traditions left by Erikson and his men had an important influence in leading Columbus to his conclusion that land could be found by sailing westward.

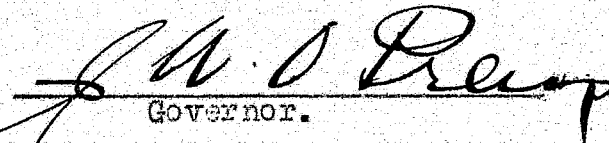
Later discoveries indicate that some of the early Norsemen penetrated the country as far as what is now Minnesota. Though the authenticity of the relics upon which this belief is based may be questioned, we have, nevertheless, a special interest in the history of Leif Erikson and his contemporaries, because of the very prominent part which the descendants of the Vikings have taken in the development of Minnesota during the last century.

THEREFORE, I, J. A. O. Praus, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby urge the people of Minnesota to observe Leif Erikson day this year and succeeding years, to give due tribute to the memory of this daring explorer from the North and to the importance of his discoveries. May I urge that they participate in celebrations, where such are arranged, and that they give due consideration to this interesting chapter of the history of our country.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed hereto this 28th day of September, 1923.

ATTEST:


Secretary of State.


Governor.

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STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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W. H. Tolson
Secretary of State