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WHO DISCOVERED AMERICA?

II. THE PROOF.

(This is the third of a series of articles on the above subject specially written for the *Daily Record*. In it the writer adduces evidence in support of the statements put forward in his previous articles. This evidence will be further amplified in the article appearing tomorrow.)

The story has been told, the proof of the facts stated needs to be advanced. History, Sagas, Antiquities, and Cartography can be brought into court to prove that Greenland, geographically part of the American Continent, was reached by the Northmen, colonised by them in the tenth century of the present era, and that the Eastern American seaboard from Labrador to Virginia was frequently visited by the Greenland Colonists, Icelanders, and others, from A.D. 1000 to the middle of the fourteenth century. The ninth, tenth, and eleventh centuries correspond to the fifteenth and sixteenth as periods of great naval expeditions, discoveries, and conquest, the one by Spaniards, Portuguese, and British, the other by Scando-Goths.

(1). HISTORY.—As regards historical evidence of the Scandinavian pre-Columbian discovery of America, the first authority to be quoted is

(a) *Adam of Bremen*, a native of Upper Saxony, who became Canon of Bremen, the Rome of the North at that time, and Director of the Cathedral School in A.D. 1067. An historian of considerable eminence, he wrote a *Descriptio insularum aquilonis* in 1073, in which he gives an account of the Norse discovery of Greenland and Vineland, speaking of these discoveries in unmistakable and emphatic language. From King Sven of Denmark, whose court Adam visited, he received much information concerning the lands beyond Thule, i.e. Iceland. The *Descriptio* was first printed in 1595, and the account re the Norse discoveries is the first printed reference to Vineland (America). It contains also an account of an Arctic expedition of that famous and enterprising prince, Harald Hardrede—who was slain at the battle of Stamford Bridge in 1066—to explore the Northern ocean. He barely escaped the perils of fog and ice in Baffin's Bay.

(b) An independent, but not much later testimony, is that of the Icelander *Ari* (the eagle), A.D. 1067 to 1148, called "Hinn Frodi," the learned, the father of Icelandic historiography, the author of the following important works:—(1) The *Konunga-bök*, the Book of the Kings, the basis of Snorri Sturlasen's great work, a century later, the *Heimskringla*, or Lives of the Kings of Norway, a title derived from the introductory words of the history, "Kringla heimsius," i.e. the world's orb. (2) The *Landnama-bök*, or "Book of the discovery and settlement of Iceland," a sort of superior Domesday-Book, a classic of all classics in the world, unique in the whole field of literature. (3) The *Islendinga-bök*, i.e. the history of Iceland down to A.D. 1118; and (4) the *Kristina Saga*, the history of Christian Missions to Iceland and the introduction of the New Faith into that Island. The word *book* is distinctive of *Ari*; all preceding history was in *Saga* form, i.e. *viva voce tradition*. *Ari* distinguished his own written work from the then unwritten *Saga*, or "saying," corresponding to the Greek *logos*. In all these four books *Ari* makes mention of the settlement of Greenland, and the voyage to the newly discovered Vineland (America). *Ari's* information concerning Vineland came direct from his paternal uncle Thorkell Gellsson, of Helgafell—the district in Iceland whence had gone forth Erik the Red and Thorfinn Karlsefni

(Continued on page 4.)

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KAISER AND TSAR. AUSTRIAN AND BRITISH OPINION.

The German Emperor left Danzig on Tuesday night on board the Imperial yacht "Hohenzollern" for Finnish waters, where he is to meet the Tsar of Russia. This very interesting political event still engages the attention of German and foreign commentators, some of whom see in it a pending revolution of the European *status quo*, others merely a visit of courtesy and personal friendship. The significance which at first attached to the meeting has been considerably lessened by the later announcement that the Tsar, after meeting the German Emperor, will proceed to France, there to meet President Fallières, and later to England, where he will be the guest of King Edward. Thus it appears that the Muscovite monarch's tour is more or less a formal round of visits, and since that fact has been digested there has been a diminution in the sensational reports which formerly found place in the newspapers. In view of the not altogether smooth relations which now exist between Russia and Austro-Hungary, the following musings from the semi-official *Fremdenblatt* of Vienna are of interest:—

"The two monarchs who through their friendly relations maintain the traditional cordiality between the houses of Romanoff and Hohenzollern, will greet one another in Finnish waters and take the opportunity of strengthening their mutual friendship. It is certain that the good relations between the German Empire and Russia, which are threatened by no opposing interests, will be refreshed and invigorated by this intercourse of the two Emperors. We, on our part, can only offer our sympathetic congratulations if, owing to this Imperial meeting, the good and neighbourly conditions between our ally and Russia are improved. Cordial personal relations between individual members of the two groups into which the great European Powers have formed themselves are powerful guarantees for the maintenance of peace in Europe. That the utterances of the two Emperors will go further than on the previous occasion of two years ago is improbable; and the somewhat unfounded conjectures which were formerly made in regard to the meeting are nullified by the news that the Tsar is also to meet the King of England and the President of the French Republic. No new grouping of the Powers will be propounded in Finnish waters, but the meeting of Emperor William and Tsar Nicholas and their accompanying Ministers will certainly not occur without having a clarifying effect, an effect that will be viewed with gratification from the Austro-Hungarian point of view."

(DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT.)

London, June 15.
The extreme Radicals and Labour members are apparently determined to make themselves foolish in connection with the forthcoming visit of the Tsar of Russia to Cowes. They are now busily engaged in organising a great public indignation meeting in Hyde Park, when doubtless the usual amount of airy verbiage will be expended in an indictment of the crimes of the Tsar. We are be-

coming weary of the cloak of self-righteousness in which it is the custom of the Radical element to enwrap itself, and it may be taken for granted that his Russian Majesty will receive a hearty welcome from the vast majority of the British public. It is a fact not without humour that the peace-loving, sentimental Radical party, who cry aloud against any sort of naval or military preparedness, are always the first to endorse anything calculated to engender friction in our relations with foreign countries. That is a peculiarity of the party. A few weeks ago a Radical member coolly suggested that Great Britain should blockade the Congo river as a protest against the alleged Belgian atrocities, calmly ignoring the obvious fact that such an action would most probably have involved us in all sorts of international complications. The Radical conception of foreign policy is apparently this: "First throw away your gun, and then strike your enemy in the face."

KING EDWARD EXPECTED AT GMUNDEN.

It is reported at Gmunden, Upper Austria, that King Edward will pay a visit to the Duke of Cumberland in the course of the summer.

GERMAN POLICY IN THE NEAR EAST.

Carlsruhe, June 16.
The *Süddeutsche Reichskorrespondenz* comments on a sensational report published in a Paris newspaper that Germany applied to Turkey for a naval station at one of the Turkish islands in the Archipelago; an inconvenient request to which Turkey replied by referring Germany to Tripoli, the result after all to be dependent on Germany's giving effective support to Hilmi Pasha's Ministry in the Cretan question. "Not one word of truth," remarks the *Süddeutsche Reichskorrespondenz*, "is there in this revelation. Not in Tripoli, nor in the Archipelago, nor anywhere else is any part of the Ottoman territory in danger from German covetousness. But in the Cretan question the Porte requires no support in the form of a special activity of our diplomacy. The very fact that we remain inactive, that Germany like Austria-Hungary takes no part in the attempt to solve the Cretan question, is a relief to Turkey; protecting her from European pressure and ensuring her being treated with consideration." Turning then to another subject, the anxiety of a second Paris newspaper lest Germany should render service to Russian policy in Persia with the object of separating Russia from England, the *Reichskorrespondenz* protests: "The journalists of the Triple Entente should really show more confidence in the firmness of that structure. We will not lead Russia astray in Persia or anywhere else. It is enough for us that Russia has not allowed herself to be influenced against Germany."

AN INCOME TAX FOR AMERICA.

Washington, June 16.
It was proved at yesterday's sitting of the Cabinet that President Taft is in favour of taxing the net income of corporations, in order to have a hold over them. The amount of the tax proposed for that purpose is said to be 2 per cent, and the estimated result 50,000,000 dollars a year; a sum which would materially contribute to make good the Treasury deficit. A resolution will also be laid before the Judicial Committee, proposing an amendment of the Constitution for effecting the introduction of an income tax by plébiscite. This implies a considerable delay in instituting a tax of that kind.