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## Where Living Men Use Genuine Saga Language.

## Special Interview With Vilhjalmur Stefansson

Arctic Explorers.

Iceland has Linotypes. If newspapers had reached the simple perfection purity of composition is concerned. If eclipsed the rest of Europe. cisco operator were setting his linotype matter in the Saxon of King there is no farm, however lonely, that when Columbus sailed westward. Alfred, or compositors of France, Italy does not possess inmates competent to Because of this tradition of learn-

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One of the Most Famous of Modern | Stefansson, the famous Arctic explorer and ethologist.

What Vilhjalmur Stefansson Says. There are no elementary schools in of vers libre, this simple remark Iceland. There hardly are what we would be the whole story. Something should call high schools. It would more, however, seems to be required, follow, apparently, that the percentand therefore as a train, so to speak age of illiteracy is immense. The exto the majesty of the plain announce- act contrary is the fact. In this lonement, we add that Iceland's Linotypes ly seacaged place just under the are not operated by Polar Bears or the Arctic Circle there is absolutely no their lessons in the speech of the vik- inches wide. This will keep them Aurora Borealis, but by operators illiteracy at all. There never has ings. Iceland's business men talk busi- clean, and the strips can be changed. who "put it over" all other composing been any. Even the Dark Ages did not rooms in the world so far as classic eclipse Iceland as completely as they mendous chants of the Gunnar and

is competent as a matter of course. Books on Every Farm.

in English or German, or both.

Thus Iceland's youth not only is

Literature Stabilizes Language. It is literature alone that stabilizes to teach the Sagas in unmarred purity two companions, going from Alaska and truth. These Sagas were, and to Banks Island. In the following year they are, the unfailing springs on he penetrated still farther north with which folk-education has fed. When three companions and explored a big the Icelandic viking ships were fear- area west of Prince Patrick Island, ed on every coast, the best joy of the overs still was to sit amid Icelandic louseholds and hear the Skalds sing lay their peaceable descendants love to the fact that Icelanders had col

best to work the year's yield of wool in the long winter nights while chos- or forty writers and camera men. en ones read or recite to the gather-

age is as pure to-day as it was a thousand years ago. In that long period, function of importance so that St. all the languages of Europe have suf- John will really, as was predicted, be fered many and violent changes, on the map of the world as never Gothic has vanished. Latin has become a dead language. Saxon and kindred were not so happy as the absence tongues have passed from England, of sun naturally made their pictures Norman remains only as a ghost, and even Chaucer's English is hidden with- that they had been afforded every in a new edifice of speech. The speech and literary language of Norway Sweden, and Denmark changed almost beyond recognition under the deadly stupor of the Dark Ages. Only Ice-

land has kept its heritage. Business in Saga Words.

Iceland's children of 1919 learn Grettir sagas. Iceland's newspapers There has been so sustained a pre- tell to-day's news in a language that servation of knowledge that to-day the European world has forgotten

and Spain were linotyping pure educate the children. Some worker ing, Iceland's small population has Gothic, they would be doing something always is competent to act as tutor, produced distinguished men quite out to vie with those Icelandic men. They and every Icelandic father and mother of proportion to its numbers. One of the first physicians to win the Nobel Prize was selected from this community of less than 80,000 people. He was Not a single farm lacks books. Near- Vilhelm Finsen, famous among other ly every farm has books in more than achievements for his development of one language, and most Icelandic the Finsen light treatment for lupus, households have books in at least one of the world's destructive skinthree-Icelandic of course; Danish diseases. The sculptor Bertel Thor-(which is not Icelandic); and books waldsen (or Albert Thorvaldson, as his father called him) was an Iceland-

> thoroughly well equipped to enter the (Editor's Note.) Mr. Stefansson, College of Iceland or colleges of the Canadian-born, but of Icelandic blood, outer world, but the love for literature has twice conducted important rewhich has flourished for a thousand searches in Iceland, after which he turned to the American Arctic. In the country a rich and unique possession. winter 1906-7 he lived with the Eski-They own to-day the beautiful wild mos at the mouth of the Mackenzie Sagas in their original purity. Of all River. From 1908 to 1912 he journeythe land on earth, Iceland is the one, ed many thousand miles, depending and the only one, that has preseved on his rifle for subsistence; and it was in the course of this long adventuring that he found hitherto unknown Eskia language. Literature fied from Eu- Age. In 1913 he sailed from Victoria, rope during the Dark Ages, but never B. C., in command of the Canadian has there been a time in Iceland when Arctic Expedition, and among other it lacked men and women with the extraordinary feats, he crossed the knowledge, the passion and the power Arctic Ocean on moving ice with only

> > In his book, "My Life with the Eski-

ntier of America, and that it was Norseman, sailing to visit his father to Greenland, who discovered the American mainland in the year 1,000. mmunication with Greenland had mystery that has not yet been solved sed in upon the Icelandic colonies. hen William Davis practically rered Greenland after its 300 years of isolation, he found no Eu-

solated group its excellence of national records. A quarter century before English Elizabeth ascended the throne, Iceland had a printing office, A Bible, and a very elaborate one, was printed in Iceland in 1584, four years pefore the Spanish Armada set sail, It seems crudely modern to mention Linotypes in connection with such gaudy antiquity. Most apologetically we mention that the first one was installed in 1914.—From the Mergenthaler Lines O' Type News.

### Newspaper and Camera Men Are Much Pleased.

Before leaving the city, last evening, the visiting newspaper men expressed themselves as delighted with the treatment that they had received at the hands of the provincial and civic authorities, as well as the hospitality that had been extended to hem by individuals. Newspapermen of international reputation, who were here, to "cover" the prince's visit, stated that they had never in all learted hospitality. A special train was provided by the department of reached, when further detailed arrierangements will be made. J. C. Berrie was a busy man, yesterday,

in charge of the convoy of motor cars, provided by the provincial government, which either preceded or followed the prince to every point visited and which carried some thirty

The "movie" men were very much So stabilized, the Icelandic langu- snapped or rather "movied" the before. The "still" photographers less sharp, but they were satisfied facility.-St. John, N.B. paper.

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LORD MORRIS AND IR. W. F. COAKER.

London, July 30th, 1919. Evening Telegram. attached copy of a letter written Coaker, with a request for its

> Yours truly, MORRIS.

d to Lieut.-Colonel Franklin of do as desired, as you had been med of harsh treatment by Govor Davidson towards Lieut-Colonel klin and that you consider Gov-Davidson would not have reto recognize Lt.-Col Franklin ti the head of the Regiment, or have age aced him without consulting me." surely must have seen by a perof my letter to Lt.-Col. Franklin d his reply that there are no nds whatever for your continuing pelieve that there ever was, at an time, any justification for this in arge. You say "you were informof harsh treatment." Now, it is to you, I think, to give the name your informant.

In my letter to Lt.-Col. Franklin. hich you will have bet vill notice I say that whatever deion was arrived at in his case retive to the commanding of the Newundland Regiment in Europe "was ne only after consultation with, and the unanimous decision of the amittee of the Patriotic Associa-" That the Newfoundiand Govnment "had nothing to do with the pintment of officers or the grantg of commissions, that this was all me by the Committee of the Patric Association in charge of this parular branch of regimental work, at Lt.-Col. Franklin's name or his ich led to his ceasing connection th the Newfoundland Regiment ver once came before the Newindland Government," and that the st intimation I had of his ceasing act with the Newfoundland troops

as when I read it in the Press. You go on to say "you have for ur years blamed me for harsh eatment of Lt.-Col. Franklin and if our information is incorrect, you equire a fuller explanation to connce you that I and Governor Davidon did not act harshly with Lt.-Col ranklin." Here let me draw your tention to why you fell into this de or of blaming me, you jumped at Da clusions without making any en-914, that you should have allowed ur years to transpire without makng any reference to it; at least, you ver made any complaint to me alugh I was with you in the public ha sions of the Legislature of 1915-

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