

courts of justice to make proper laws for their government or unite the people. All they had was a national language.

However, Thorstein Ingolfson, who resided in Reykjavik, got the people together and called an assembly of people of the south-quarter to a 'Kjalnething' or legislative assembly and caused to be appointed juries, not only to try the criminal cases, but also to settle disputes and disagreements between settlers. This was the first legislative assembly ever in Iceland.

A certain man by the name of Ulfjot, went over to Norway to learn what he could of 'Gulathings law' called at that time 'Breast law.' He remained and studied in Norway for three years, when he returned to Iceland thoroughly posted and learned in the law. This 'Breast law,' as it was called, became the popular law of the Icelanders and was by them called 'Norwegian law.' It had been in force in Norway for many years and the people of Iceland were somewhat acquainted with it, also with Norwegian rule generally. So Ulfjot educated many of the young men in the law and they became lawyers.

The Althing Organized

As soon as a suitable spot could be found, the people came to it and held thereon what was called 'Althing' or Congress, and the place named "Congress lawn" or 'Thingvall' at that time they had no building to meet in but all the population were called together to discuss and hear the Norwegian law. And it was adapted as the law for the future of Icelandic government. A republic was established by these means in the year 930, and they protected their autonomy for more than three centuries or up to 1264.

Icelandic Republic.

The first period of our history after the full settlement of the country was when the Republic was organized, which was during the years 930-1030, was called the Historical Century on account of the number of great events which happened during this period.