

DR. FRITHJOF NANSEN TO RESCUE PRISONERS IN SIBERIA.

THE REPORT comes from Washington that Dr. Frithjof Nansen the Norwegian explorer, has been tentatively selected as the representative of the League of Nations in heading an expedition to Siberia for the purpose of rescuing and returning to their homes some 200,000 German, Austrian and other war prisoners who have been in captivity for five years.

The report goes on to say that the question of aiding the war prisoners in Siberia was referred to the league by the supreme economic council last February on the theory that under article 25 of the league covenant members already had pledged themselves to take interest in the "mitigation of suffering throughout the world." Some Jugo-Slav and Czechoslovakia troops are among the prisoners.

While every effort to aid the prisoners has been made by the American and Scandinavian Red Cross organizations, the reports to be laid before the council will show that their plight remains desperate and that an unestimated number already have succumbed to disease or starvation. It was for this reason and because it was realized, it was said that only an organized international effort could overcome the difficulties in the way of repatriation that the supreme council referred the matter to the league.

To meet this situation the league council will consider a proposal to appoint Dr. Nansen as a man of international standing to co-ordinate all efforts toward relief of the war prisoners and to take supreme charge of efforts to bring them back to their homes. The task would require concentration under such a man, it has been suggested, of all volunteer agency efforts, as well as the more formal steps by league machinery and by nations which are league members.

The problem of finding means of transportation, of setting adequate rest camps and of seeing to it that adequate facilities for protecting communities to which the prisoners would be returned from maladies with which the men might be suffering would require a substantial organization.

Dr. Nansen was mentioned during discussions at Paris last year in connection with steps toward sending food relief to the captives. Word has reached Washington that he already has been asked if he would be willing to serve as the agent of the league in attempting the repatriation. He had considerable experience with food questions during the war, having headed the Norwegian mission sent to the United States in 1917 to negotiate for needed supplies for his own country.

The report from Washington, while setting forth all the above information is silent in respect to details regarding where the prison camps are located, who are holding the prisoners and why they are being held.

THE BEST INVESTMENT.

VERY interesting contest was recently conducted by an eastern paper. The question, the best answer to which was sought, was this: What ought a young man to do with the first thousand dollars he has saved up?

The answers covered a wide range of wise suggestion, but five-sixths of them

advised the purchase of land in some form. Some of these suggestions were for the acquisition of a home, but the best ones were those that advised buying a good piece of farm land, fertile and well

THEY LIKE THE NORTHMAN.

To The Editors of The Northman:

Portland in particular, and Oregon in general, should welcome The Northman, the new weekly journal, with enthusiasm and give it a glad hand. The initial number gives the readers a true conception of the ambition, the service, the lofty ideals of the men who will guide The Northman through all kinds of weather to success.

Why I Like The Northman.

From childhood I have heard and read of the exploits and daring deeds of the Norsemen. They are old friends of mine. Grit, courage and faith speaks out of every page of the new Northman. Therefore, hail and greetings to my new friend!

George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, one the father of his country, the other a father to humanity, are seen in the pages of The Northman as its guiding spirit—omen of good will toward mankind and true patriotism.

Americanism being the keynote of The Northman, that is reason enough that in time it will become a great family paper that will find a hearty welcome in thousands of homes in the Northwest and throughout the country.

Higher citizenship, cleaner politics, more tolerance, a square deal to everybody, is a policy all must endorse. The people are prone to appreciate such efforts for education and enlightenment.

I am glad that The Northman has come and come to stay, to grow, to lead. May the efforts of the men at the helm and the personnel of the organization gain deserved reward, and may the people of the Northwest fully appreciate the service rendered in this wholesome, progressive, American publication.

Long live The Northman!

ARNOLD KELLER.

Portland May 5, 1920.

"The Northman has brought a message of the true principles of Americanism that is an inspiration, and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it at the home fireside with my family."—B. G. Skulason.

"I want to say that The Northman far exceeds my greatest expectations of a foreign language newspaper merging into American. I have read it through and through and I heartily endorse it, and firmly believe it will prove one of the great agencies, which, in American progress will do much in the days to come."—Dow Walker.

"The front page of The Northman alone tells more clearly the hopes and ideals of citizenship in America than I could possibly express them in my lecture this evening."—Dr. Ralph P. Boas, of Reed College.

situated with reference to transportation facilities.

It is a good sign of the times, this land hunger. It means much for the recovery of that balance between production and consumption, which means general prosperity. We have somehow got that delicate balance out of kilter. We have rushed to the cities and joined the great army of consumers. The accessories and appurtenances of the civilization of our day have wrought us to a point of costly living for those who consume, and greater opportunities and profits for those who produce. What more prudent, then, than for the young man to enlist among the producers?

A prominent educator, recently discussing farming as a vocation, pointed out that, far from being unattractive to the man of education and high intelligence, it is, on the contrary, one of the best vocational opportunities from which choice can be made. Even the ignorant farmer can wring a living from the soil, but the intelligent farmer can derive therefrom wealth. Practical agriculture, directed along scientific paths, is today one of the most lucrative of vocations.

Thus the young man who acquires for himself a bit of farm land is doing the wise thing. If he follows that up by becoming an expert, intelligent, energetic tiller thereof, his material fortune in this world is as sure as anything human can be. And it is not necessary that he strive for a large area of farm land. Much greater proportionate profits are to be derived from a comparatively small acreage intensively cultivated than from a large one tilled by the old method of taking everything out and putting nothing back.

The Northman will be pleased to hear from any and all who may have other ideas on the subject.

THE DESIRABLE BALANCE

It has been well and truly said that two principles govern the moral and intellectual world. One is perpetual progress, the other the necessary limitations to that progress. If the former alone prevailed, there would be nothing steadfast and endurable on earth, and the whole of social life would be the sport of winds and waves. If the latter had exclusive sway, or even if it obtained mischievous preponderancy, everything would petrify or deteriorate. The best ages of the world are those in which these two principles are the most evenly balanced. It is, therefore, the duty of enlightened citizenship to adopt both principles, and with one hand develop those things which in our day seem good and will carry us forward, and with the other exercise a fine restraint. It is well to cultivate the spirit of patriotism; it is wise to guide it into the channels of the Christian enlightenment of our time.

If a prophet had told the "forty-niners" that some day a man would drive his own vehicle from New York to San Francisco in six days he would no doubt have been considered insane, such has been the advance in the past half century.

They might not need me, yet they might;
I'll let my heart be just in sight.
A smile so small as mine might be
Precisely their necessity.

Emily Dickinson,