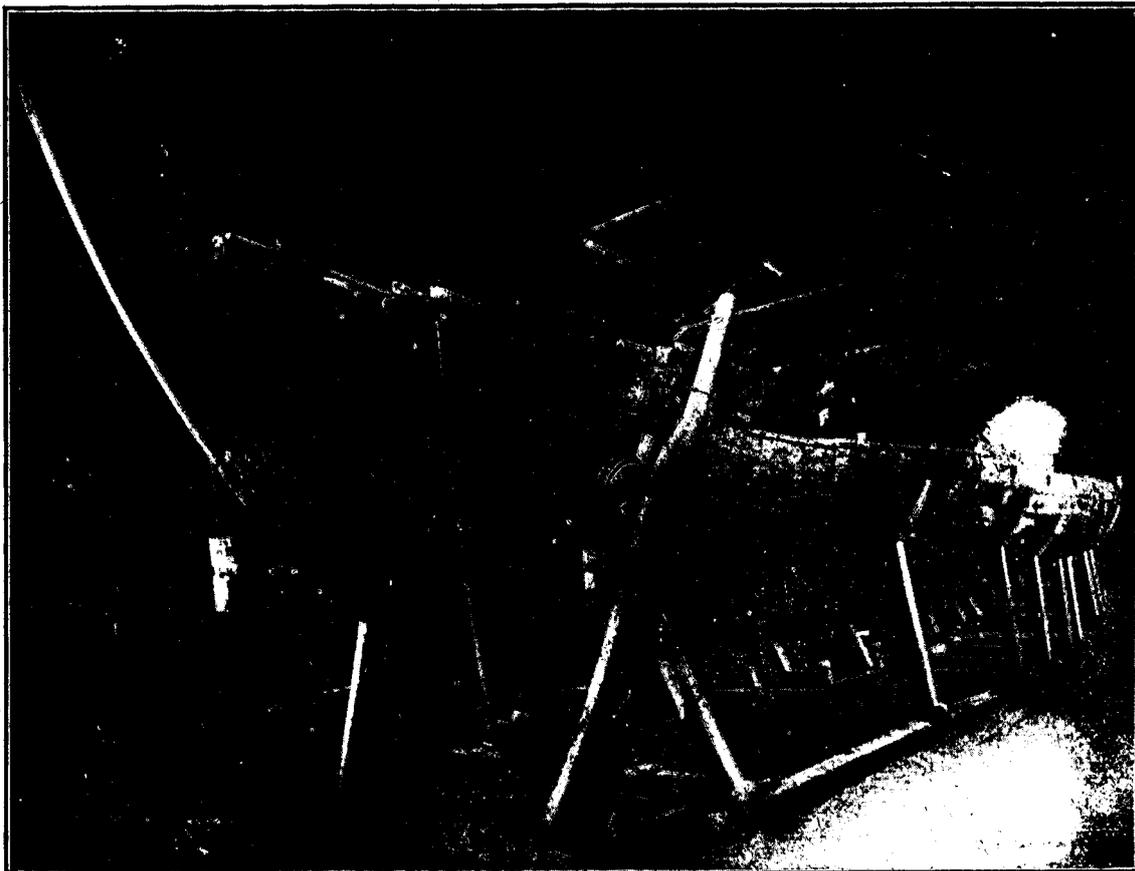


Christiania, the starting point of my ride.

During the evening I busied myself packing my touring valise, as well as a "Toura" bag for the back-carrier of my bicycle, as I had brought with me some concentrated foods, of which I particularly wished to test the value in a long cycling tour.

These I separated into daily rations. In the morning I was up early in order not to miss the beauties of the Christiania Fjord. And well was I rewarded, for a grand sheet of water greeted

modern, with some handsome buildings. The main thoroughfare, Carl Johan's Gade (Gade, Street), is very attractive. In it are located the Grand and Metropole hotels, which fully equal the most up-to-date London hostelryes. I breakfasted at the former, and then visited "The Viking Ship," a relic of the ninth century, which no one should fail to see. This ancient Norwegian war vessel was excavated twenty-one years ago, from blue clay, at a farm called Gokstad, in the neighbourhood of the Christiania fjord, and



THE VIKING SHIP IN THE CHRISTIANIA MUSEUM.

*Photo., O. Væring, Christiania.*

the eye, becoming narrower as progress was made, when it expanded in a beautiful manner, studded with pine clad islands and pretty villas. Then, at eight o'clock we ran alongside the quay at Christiania. Few cities have a more beautiful situation than this, which is just sixty miles from the sea at the northern extremity of the fjord.

As soon as I had booked my trunk by steamer to meet me at Stavanger, and engaged my return berth by wire from that port to Hull, I spent a couple of hours in the city, which is mostly

is in a good state of preservation, and in the bygone days must have been considered a fine specimen of shipbuilding. It was customary, when a Viking died, to bury him and his weapons with his vessel near by the sea he held so dear. In this instance the bones of the warrior were found in the sepulchral chamber together with the weapons and numerous ornaments, and the remains of twelve horses and six dogs were also found buried outside the ship, showing that all his worldly possessions were interred with him.

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