

## NEWS OF SCANDINAVIA

Recent Occurrences of Interest in Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

### SWEDEN IS RICH IN FORESTS

One-Half of the Total Surface of King Oscar's Domain Is Covered with Trees.

#### SWEDEN.

Stockholm.

No country in Europe, with the one exception of Finland, possesses such a proportion of forest-covered land as Sweden. One half of the total surface of the country is woodland, there being nearly 900 acres of forest per 100 inhabitants, while the corresponding figure for Russia is 490 acres and for England only 7 1/2 acres. England is the principal customer for the products of the Swedish saw-mills, but France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Denmark and non-European countries, too, are also customers. Planks, boards and rafters are sent from our saw-mills as far as Egypt, the Cape and Australia. The by-products of the forest industry are of less importance than those of the saw-mills. In spite of the fact that competition has compelled the timber companies to observe a certain exactness in their methods of working, they have not yet learned sufficiently well the art of utilizing the great amount of refuse that arises in the manufacture of timber. The making of pitch and tar, which in the olden times was an important industry, is falling off more and more and the export of these articles is now less than the imports. Newer industries have come in its place, that of wood pulp, especially, making ever-increasing demands upon the forests of Sweden, while the many iron works of the country continue to procure their chief fuel and charcoal from the same source.

The new theater on Vasa street will be completed one of these days and open for inspection. The dedication day has not been set, but it is likely to be some day next week. The name-to-be of the new theater also has been kept secret and will not be announced until the day when the dedication shall take place. This theater is in many respects one of the finest in Stockholm, which by the way is getting to have a right respectable list of theaters.

Nov. 6—Gustavus Adolphus Day—was observed by all the colleges and public schools of the country and national festivals were held all over the country. In Stockholm there were exercises of a patriotic nature at all the schools and at all the theaters there was more or less observance of the day's significance. Services were held in the forenoon in the cathedrals and churches.

The 50th anniversary of the state railways was observed Dec. 2 with a grand reception in the hall of the North Latin school. To this reception had been invited the king, crown-prince and members of the diplomatic corps. About 1,000 persons were present. A regular program was rendered, a feature being the address of the evening delivered by Director Fleming.

A million kronor hotel is to be erected on Strandvagen, the fashionable boulevard, on the corner of Artillery street. When completed this will be the largest hotel in Scandinavia. The manager of the new hostelry will be Mr. Isak Hirsch, who is also one of the largest stockholders in the syndicate which has the enterprise in hand.

Brov Meyer, who holds the championship for fancy skating in Sweden, has been engaged for the season by the fashionable Skating club at St. Moritz, Switzerland, to give lessons in Swedish fancy skating. There are Swedish instructors in fancy skating in Paris, Herr T. Borg, and in London, Herr S. Soldan.

Hotel Continental in Stockholm has recently been sold to Kellarmastar John Henriksson of Rostanga. The price has not been reported, but it is believed that it was not less than 1,200,000 crowns. Mr. Henriksson will, it is understood, remodel the old hotel and erect a large annex.

Stockholm will in the near future have her first autobus line and the first one to start such a line in operation will be Mr. A. Kindgren. The bus autos will run from the villa section on King's island and Kungsbrolan. The fare will be 25 ore (about 12 1/2 cents).

Miss Greta Strindberg, daughter of the renowned author, August Strindberg, will make her debut at the Ostermalm's theater as "Toro" in a play entitled "The Prodigal Son." The play will be rendered some time in January.

King Oscar and Queen Sofia will celebrate their golden wedding June 6 next year. It will be a quiet affair and there will only be a private reception to which the members of the royal household only will be invited.

Henning Berger, who at present resides in Paris, is at work on the completion of a threeact play consisting of characters based on modern conditions of society. The play will be completed by Jan. 1.

There will be four Swedish consulates in Norway, namely in Christiania, Bergen, Trondhjem and Narvik.

Vice consulates will be erected in Stavanger, Kristiansand and other Norwegian cities.

A new Swedish opera entitled "Turandot" has just been composed by Erik Akerberg. The libretto, in four acts, has been written by Ernest Wallmark.

### NORWAY.

Christiania.

W. B. Chamberlain says regarding England's move for the neutralization of Norway: "A very interesting report comes from London to the effect that at the request of Norway, England has set on foot a movement for the signature of a treaty between herself, Russia, Germany and France, guaranteeing the integrity of the Scandinavian peninsula, but neither Germany nor Russia ever assented formally to its provisions. And the Norwegian government fears that the separation from Sweden may abrogate whatever rights it had under that treaty. At the time of the union crisis, one of the chief arguments urged by Sweden against separation was that it would increase the danger of Russian aggression. Count Gylden Stolpe, the Swedish foreign minister, asserted with great emphasis at the Karlstad meeting that to divide the dual kingdom meant to invite the Russians to seize enough of the northern part of Norway to give her an ice-free Atlantic port. At any rate Norway declined to give heed to these arguments and pursued the policy which resulted finally at Karlstad in separation. The election of a king was especially pleasing to the German emperor, who believes even at this day of the world in the divine right of kings, and who was wont every summer to visit the fjords of Norway in his yacht. It was pleasing to England too, for the limited monarchy proposed closely resembled the English form of government. Moreover it enabled the storking to elect a king whose queen is the daughter of King Edward, and thus secure as the friend of Norway the foremost royal diplomat of Europe. With Germany and England her friends Norway has little to fear. Nor has Sweden. While the dispatches do not make it clear what position Sweden is to have in the proposed treaty of neutralization, it seems probable that the four great powers will agree to place both the Scandinavian kingdoms on the same basis with Belgium and Switzerland, so far as neutrality is concerned. It is also probable that the status of Sweden under the Anglo-French treaty of 1885, above referred to, has not been altered. But King Oscar's advisers are likely to secure signatures of Germany and Russia to such a treaty. When the danger of foreign aggression has been quite banished, a great obstacle to the reconciliation of the brother peoples will have been removed. Swedish resentment because of the separation will die out more quickly. The three Scandinavian powers if guided by wise statesmanship ought to be able one of these days to make a commercial and political alliance that will be at once honorable and profitable to each."

Raging snowstorms did not prevent people of Christiania from extending a great and hearty reception to Captain Roald Amundsen, the explorer, both on his arrival and during his progress through the streets of the capital on Nov. 21. The speech of welcome made by the mayor at the dock when the captain came ashore was vociferously applauded by the crowd. In the evening a banquet was given Captain Amundsen, which was attended by 600 persons. It takes rank as one of the most brilliant dinners ever given in the history of Norway. King Haakon telegraphed from London expressing regret for the absence of himself and his queen. All the foreign ministers in Christiania were present at the banquet and made speeches. United States Minister Pierce in responding to a toast, assured the guest of the evening that he had the admiration of Americans of every class and condition. He recalled the fact that the Norwegians were among the first to discover America, 900 years ago, and rejoiced that this daring race was still making claims to the gratitude of the world. He placed a high estimate on the importance of the addition which Captain Amundsen had made to the sum of human knowledge. Captain Amundsen replied in simple language, setting forth that his primary aim had been to bring honor to his fatherland. Geographical societies in many lands have sent congratulations to Captain Amundsen. Minister of State Michelsen on behalf of King Haakon, pinned the grand cross of St. Olaf on the captain, while the explorer's comrades were given the crosses of the Knights of the Order.

### DENMARK.

Copenhagen.

The Danish Colonial lottery, which is doing a big business now has a large patronage from both Sweden and Norway as well as Germany. There are not many who win any large sums, but it happens once in a while that some one makes a haul. On the other hand there are lots of poor laboring men who are thus squandering their money, winning small sums at times perhaps, just enough to encourage them to play again, but in the long run they become the losers and the Danish Colonial lottery keeps on, meantime, to enrich its treasury. It has government protection, however, so complaints against the lottery are of no avail. Copenhagen's population is rapidly increasing and will soon reach the 500,000 mark. Noticeable is the rapid increase in the Swedish population.

MARTIN S. NORELIUS

### THE WAILING WOMAN.

A Queer Old Legend of the City of Mexico.

As is generally known, senior, many bad things are met with at night in the streets of the city, but this wailing woman, La Llorona, is the very worst of them all. She is worse by far than the Vacca de Lumbre, that at midnight comes forth from the potrero of San Sebastian and goes galloping through the streets like a blazing whirlwind, breathing forth from her nostrils smoke and flames, because the fiery cow, senior, while a dangerous animal to look at, really does nobody any harm, and La Llorona is as harmful as she can be.

Seeing her walking along quietly—at the times when she is not running and shrieking for her lost children—she seems a respectable person, only odd looking because of her white skirt and the white reboso with which her head is covered, and anybody might speak to her. But whoever does speak to her in that very same moment dies!

No one who has stopped her to talk with her ever has lived to tell what happens at that terrible encounter, but it is generally known that what does happen is this: Slowly she turns toward the one who has spoken, and slowly she opens the folds of her white reboso, and then is seen a bare grinning skull set fast to a bare skeleton, and from her fleshless jaws comes one single icy cold breath that freezes into instant death whoever feels it. After that, shrieking again for her lost children, she rushes onward, the white gleam of her gashing the darkness, and in the morning the one who spoke to her is found lying dead there with a look of despairing horror frozen fast in his dead eyes.

What is most wonderful is that she is seen in the same hour by different people in places widely apart, one seeing her hurrying across the atrium of the cathedral, another beside the Arcos de San Cosme and a third near the Salto del Agua, over by the prison of Belen, and all in the very same moment of time.

She is so generally known, senior, and so greatly feared that nowadays few people stop her to speak with her, and that is fortunate. But her loud, keen wailings and the sound of her running feet are heard often and especially on nights of storm. I myself have heard them, senior, but I have never seen her. God forbid that I ever shall!—Thomas A. Janvier in Harper's.

### WHEN NOT TO KICK.

When you get a bad shave or hair cut. Neither lasts long.

When you find you're going to die poor. They haven't begun making pockets in shrouds yet.

When your health goes back on you. Life isn't very long, anyway, and a healthy man dies just as dead as a sick one.

When you discover a mean streak in your neighbor. He has to stay with that mean streak day and night, and you don't.

When you can't pay all your debts at once. Your creditors would a great deal rather get the money in dribbles than not at all.

When you have had a bad meal set before you. You may get over it before the next meal even if you eat it, and you don't have to eat it.

When your wife isn't in good humor. She is partially balancing the books against some of your numerous disagreeable spells that you never make note of.—Chicago News.

### Tombstones to the Living.

"To a stranger the erection of a tombstone to a living person seems rather ghastly, but it's the custom in some New England villages," said the traveling man. "I was collecting quaint epitaphs for a magazine article, and after I had put up my motor car on my arrival in a village, I would go straightway to the cemetery on an epitaph hunt. There I would find, set up in lot after lot, tombstones of living people. Each stone would contain the name and the date of birth. Ghastly, wasn't it? I met a pretty girl in a hotel in New Hampshire. She was the landlady's daughter. She showed me her stone in the cemetery. The last name was left blank in her case. 'I may marry, you know,' she explained."—New York Press.

### Incapacitated.

As the "extra hand" rose from his dinner in the farm kitchen the farmer's son informed him that he was to pitch hay in the afternoon.

"I won't do it!" was the curt reply.

"All right, please yourself. It doesn't make any difference to me," retorted the farmer's son. "My father told me to deliver the message, and if you don't pitch you'll get into trouble with him."

"I won't do it for either you or your father!" rejoined the man. "You should have told me sooner. At dinner time I filled myself for raking, and I can't pitch."

### The First Scapegoat.

The word "scapegoat" originated in an ancient Hebrew custom practiced at the feast of the Passover. Placing a young goat upon the altar, the priests would pray over it, asking that all the sins of the people be visited upon the goat. Then, after each member of the tribe had transferred his guilt to the victim by laying on his hands, the animal was turned loose in the forests to be devoured by the wild beasts.

### All Pleased.

"I hear your club is going to give an entertainment. Do you think it will be a success?"

"Sure to be. We've arranged it so that every member is chairman of some committee or other."—Philadelphia Ledger.

### WEB OF THE SPIDER.

The Many Uses to Which Its Singular Spinner Puts It.

Spiders form good subjects for rainy day study, and two hours spent in a neglected garret watching these clever little beings will often arouse such interest that we shall be glad to devote many days of sunshine to observing those species which hunt and build and live in the open fields. There is no insect in the world with more than six legs, and as a spider has eight he is therefore thrown out of the company of butterflies, beetles and wasps and finds himself in a strange assemblage. Even to his nearest relatives he bears little resemblance, for when we realize that scorpions and horseshoe crabs must call him cousin we perceive that his is indeed an aberrant bough on the tree of creation.

Nature has provided spiders with an organ filled always with liquid, which on being exposed to the air hardens and can be drawn out into the slender threads which we know as cobweb. The silkworm incases its body with a mile or more of gleaming silk, but there its usefulness is ended, as far as the silkworm is concerned. But spiders have found a hundred uses for their cordage, some of which are startlingly similar to human inventions.

A list of all the uses of cobwebs would take much space, but of these the most familiar is the snare set for unwary flies—the wonderfully ingenious webs which sparkle with dew among the grasses or stretch from bush to bush. The framework is of webbing, and upon this is woven the sticky spiral which is so elastic, so ethereal, and yet strong enough to entangle a good sized insect. How knowing seems the little worker as, the web and his den of concealment being completed, he spins a strong cable from the center of the web to the entrance of his watchtower. Then, when a trembling of his aerial spans warns him of a capture, how eagerly he seizes his master cable and jerks away on it, thus vibrating the whole structure and making more certain the confusion of his victim.

Those spiders which leap upon their prey instead of setting snares for it have still a use for their threads of life, throwing out a cable as they leap to break their fall if they miss their foothold. What a strange use of the cobweb is that of the little flying spiders! Up they run to the top of a post, elevate their abdomens and run out several threads, which lengthen and lengthen until the breeze catches them, and away goes the wingless aeronaut for yards or for miles, as fortune may dictate! We wonder if he can cut loose or pull in his balloon cables at will.

A most fascinating tale would unfold could we discover all the uses of cobweb when the spiders themselves are through with it. Certain it is that our ruby throated humming bird robs many webs to fasten together the plant down and lichens which compose her dainty nest.

Search the pond and you will find another member of the spider family swimming about at ease beneath the surface, thoroughly aquatic in his habits, but breathing a bubble of air which he carries about with him. When his supply is low, he swims to a submarine castle of silk, so air tight that he can keep it filled with a large bubble of air, upon which he draws from time to time.

And so we might go on enumerating almost endless uses for the web, which is nature's gift to these little waifs who ages ago left the sea and have won a place for themselves in the sunshine among the butterflies and flowers.—C. William Beebe in New York Post.

### An Ingenious Ruse.

Herodotus tells of an ingenious ruse employed to carry an important message through the lines of the enemy. Histiaeus, being anxious to give Aristagoras orders to revolt, could think of no means to send the message to his ally, as all the roads were carefully guarded. Finally he hit upon a scheme. Calling his trustiest servant to him, he ordered that the man's hair be shaven off. He then pricked the desired message on the scalp of the slave and, waiting until his hair had grown out, dispatched him upon the errand. The messenger passed safely through the lines, and when he reached Aristagoras his head was again shaved and the message read.

### Perfumes.

Perfumes exercise a peculiar influence over one's nervous system. A faint, subtle odor is nearly always enervating, while a pungent, rich perfume often has a bracing effect. Civet induces drowsiness, a faint breath of musk invigorates and the perfume of the aloe and the citron is positively soothing and comforting. The delicate, spicy odors of pinks, carnations, apple blossoms and sweetbrier are thought to be beneficial.

### Evolution.

Summer resorts go through three stages.

First.—People go there to enjoy themselves.

Second.—People go there to divert themselves.

Third.—People go there to flaunt themselves. Then the place is fashionable.—Life.

### If William Came to the Play.

"Most actors admire Shakespeare." "Some do," answered Mr. Stormington Barnes. "Others are too busy thinking of how Shakespeare would admire them if he could only see them do his plays."—Washington Star.

The second most deadly instrument of destruction is the dynamite gun; the first is the human tongue.—Jordan.

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