

SWEDISH PEASANT PARTY FOR DELAY

Pehrson, Leader of the Party, Talks on the Norway Crisis to The Journal.

By W. B. CHAMBERLAIN, Managing Editor of The Journal.

Stockholm, Sweden, July 15.—Happy for Sweden the feudal system never laid its blight upon this country. While the peasants of central Europe were reduced by its baleful influence to degraded serfdom, those of Svea held and maintained their traditional rights and privileges. Their freedom they never yielded up. As Sweden has never been conquered by a foreign foe and as the land has been inhabited by the race from time immemorial, it has resulted that the peasants of Sweden are among the most intelligent in Europe. The Swedish peasantry has thus always formed a powerful force in the politics of the country.

The constitutional reforms of 1865, which gave Sweden her present representative form of government, brought to the peasants an access of power that has made them when united an irresistible party. At the time the four estates—nobles, clergy, burghers and commons—were abolished and the first and second chambers of the riksdag took their place. The first chamber, as explained in a previous letter, was intended to replace the house of nobles and is elected by town and parish councils. It has been captured by the vested interests and corporations. The second chamber, however, has been the stronghold of the peasants and as it absolutely controls the budget and in case of dispute with the first chamber always prevails, the peasant party has been, when well led, the strongest governing force in the nation.

First Aim of Party.

The first aim of the peasant party after the reforms of 1865 was the removal of the onerous land taxes which had burdened the farmers. This aim was attained the peasant party was no longer so vitally interested in the extension of the suffrage as it had been. Indeed, the lack of a definite program for the party greatly and it has been very seldom of late years that the peasant members of the riksdag have stood together. Nor has the Norwegian crisis quite united them. The great majority of the peasant party is now conservative. Indeed, the peasants form the backbone of the conservative party in the second chamber. But there are moderate peasants and liberal peasants and peasants of every shade of opinion.

The peasant leader in the second chamber is Per Pehrson of Tornerød, who comes from southern Sweden and who has been elected vice chairman (assistant speaker). His importance is also indicated by the fact that he was named on the joint committee on the crisis. Being thus officially connected with the administration, Mr. Pehrson has been very busy. He has been in the city for several days and has been able to get a word out of him. I was therefore very fortunate to secure an opportunity for an interview with the peasant leader in his hotel quarters near the riksdag building.

His rooms were plain and simple almost in the point of bareness. But on the table were the inevitable telephone and the books and papers of a public man. Mr. Pehrson, in figure, face and manner, shows his peasant origin plainly. He is a large, well-built, square man, with "mutton-chop" whiskers and a heavy, serious manner only occasionally lightened by a smile. He is a type of the peasant leader who has schooled in the elements of public life by experience in the parish council and small public meetings, and who rises to leadership and is finally sent to the riksdag.

As Pehrson Views It.

He warned me plainly at the outset that owing to his membership on the joint committee, he could not answer any questions about the crisis. He would say on that point was that the committee had not yet agreed on a report, but seemed likely to do so within a week. All he could say in his opinion, the Swedish people wanted done. "Sweden," he said, "wants to settle the trouble without an appeal to arms. Yet it cannot do so because Sweden feels deeply insulted by the action of Norway in breaking the contract between the two countries. The union is not dissolved, simply because Norway says it is such a contract cannot be broken by one party unless the other consents. That action was entirely unnecessary. Norway should have come to Sweden and asked for its consent. If the union is to be dissolved, let us settle our differences by dissolving it." Then we could have negotiated and settled the matter peacefully and amicably. It has been much benefit to Sweden for the last ten, or perhaps the last thirty years.

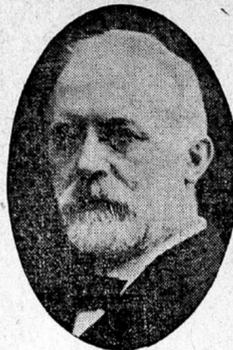
"At first, war was very tempting to us Swedes. We felt insulted and outraged. But with reflection a calmer feeling obtains. Still, we feel that Norway as the offender must come to Sweden and ask for its consent to the union. Then and then only can the conditions be discussed. Such negotiations may—Mr. Pehrson emphasized the word—may lead to dissolution. It will be a great relief to discuss the matter. But the proposal must come in such a way that it won't be an insult to Sweden."

"But, Mr. Pehrson, supposing Norway insists on going her own way and refuses to apply in that way to your country? You say Sweden does not want war. How then can you force Norway to act as you believe she should?" "I cannot answer that question. It touches too nearly the secret work of our committee. We can only hope that matters will eventually be arranged peacefully and in such a way as to conserve the welfare of both peoples, whose interests are in many ways identical." This evasion of any attempt to define the weak point in the conservative program is, perhaps, significant of that party's desire to postpone a settlement until after the September elections. It is now well known that postponement is the purpose of the party and Mr. Pehrson's insistence on the technical maintenance of the union in the face of the fact that the union is really dead, is no doubt in line with that program. No conservative has yet been able to explain how Norway is to be coerced without war and none has yet admitted that war is possible. The formalists and sticklers for precedent can prove to you beyond cavil that Norway is wrong. But when you ask them how Norway is to be convinced and made contrite without the chastening effect of defeat in war, they cannot answer. But the conservatives would like a chance to appeal to the country, hoping thus to split the liberals with the wedge of "patriotism." If suffrage extension alone is the issue they fear defeat. These considerations make Mr. Pehrson's guarded utterances of great interest.

Before departing, I answered many questions from the great peasant leader about his countrymen in the American northwest. He said that he had learned how numerous they were and asked me to send them thru The Journal his kindly greetings.



P. C. MICHELSEN, Premier.



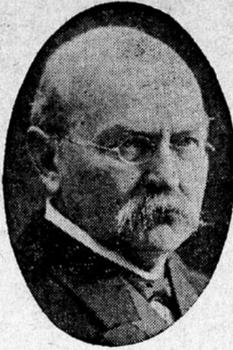
S. B. ARCTANDER, Minister of the Interior.



E. HAGERUP BULL, Minister of Justice.



HR. VINJE, Minister of Agriculture.



GUNNAR KRUGOSEN, Minister of Finance.



KR. LOVLAND, Minister of Foreign Affairs.



K. LEMKUL, Minister of Public Works.



K. BÖTHNER, Minister of Public Accounts.



CHR. KNUDSEN, Church and Education.



CHR. OLSON, Minister of War.

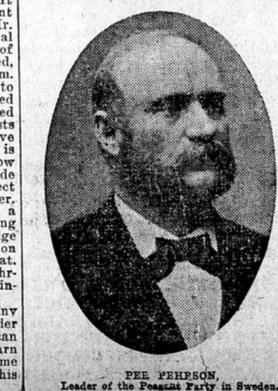
AT THE MINNESOTA EXPERIMENT STATION THEY ARE TEACHING WHEAT TO WITHSTAND THE RUST ATTACKS

Developing Varieties That Will Resist the Infection or Will Ripen Early and Escape It.

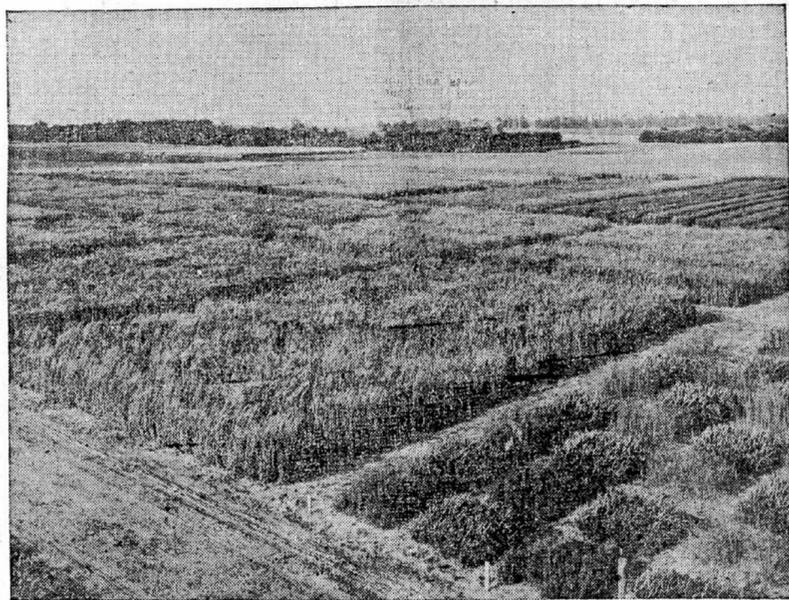
New varieties of wheat, which it is confidently hoped will be able to withstand or escape the ravages of the black rust, are being developed by the patient work of the experts at the state experiment station at St. Anthony Park. While scientists are laboring to learn the exact nature of the rust spores, and how they are transmitted, the local experimenters are going at the problem with methods that promise to be of great practical benefit, judging by the partial results already accomplished. It does not seem possible that science can prevent rust propagation in years that are favorable to the spores, but Professor Andrew Boss and his assistants at St. Anthony Park believe that with the new varieties well distributed, the farmers' danger of loss will eventually be reduced to a low minimum.

Work is proceeding along two lines. In one field the experimenters are going to develop plants with special qualities as rust resistants, from which to propagate a new variety. In other parts of the field the experimenters are developing extra-early varieties, which promise to mature before the rust can get in its deadly work. Late wheat, requiring more time to ripen, is in greater danger from injury by rust, and a few days' time is of vast importance in maturing the crop.

A Journal man visited the experiment farm the other day and saw the process of developing the new varieties in all its stages. The work toward breeding a rust-resisting wheat is comparatively simple, and along common-sense lines it began several years ago, when there was a season of unusual damage from the rust. Professor W. M. Hays, now assistant secretary of agriculture, was then at the head of the work, went out with his assistants into the field of rusted wheat and picked out the plants that had no rust spores from their surroundings. This seed was sowed the next year and another selection made. It has not been possible to make progress every year, because there are some seasons when rust does not develop at all, but last year was a bad one for rust, and the fields at the state farm were severely attacked. The wheat selected for resisting rust weathered the plague best of any, and another seed selection was made from the plants that were not infected, although apparently exposed to it as much as the rest. This year there are 20,000 plants, in round numbers, of this selected wheat. Although rust is invading the nursery in spots, there is great difference in the amount on different plants. Professor Boss, who is now in charge of the work, is not satisfied of having secured a rust-proof variety until further tests have been made, but he is confident that a great deal of progress has been accomplished, and that there is a great difference in the ability of different plants to withstand rust.



PER PEHRSON, Leader of the Peasant Party in Sweden.



CROP BREEDING NURSERY AT UNIVERSITY FARM.

The Minnesota experiment station is proceeding along the same methods, but is specializing on field grains and grasses, and working on the largest scale ever known. There are twelve acres devoted to the nursery alone, each tiny plot being subject to the most minute attention and inspection. There are not less than 600,000 individual plants being dealt with this season, and 10 per cent of those, or 60,000 in round numbers, will be dealt with as individuals, their seed weighed and kept in separate envelopes with accurate records, ready for use in next year's nursery work. Individual varieties are developed usually by cross fertilization of two kinds of wheat or other grain. The grain grown from the crosses may show entirely new characteristics, reverting back to some remote ancestor, sometimes as many as five different types developing from a single head or "spike." Experiments in the nursery for a year or two will develop whether the new type that has been cross-fertilized is worth further attention. If it gives promise, the seed will be planted over a larger area for a "field test" in comparison with standard varieties and other experiments, which will give accurate lines of comparison as to yield, strength of stalk, early maturity, etc.

While the main object of the experiment station is to develop heavy yielding varieties, a work in which it has already accomplished results of great value to Minnesota wheat raisers, the work of producing early varieties is of barely secondary importance, considering the great menace of rust. This work is progressing very satisfactorily. A cross made in Canada by Dr. Mm. Saunders of the Indian Karsch on an Anglo-Canadian foundation, was sown in the nursery at the experiment station during the past ten or twelve years. It is one of the heaviest yielders, and matures about a week earlier than the average variety. Last year it was well matured before the rust scourge struck the wheat at the experiment farm, and so escaped serious damage. This leads the experts to believe that its early maturity may be useful in circumventing rust. The main fault of this variety is that the berry is comparatively soft, like winter wheat, and that it will grade No. 1 in weight, it has not the best milling qualities. The effort is now being made to develop a spring wheat with the early maturity qualities of this wheat by crosses in which it is used as a foundation.

Taught It to Stand Cold. Other varieties are also being developed by selection for the purpose of early maturity. Winter wheat, as is well known, matures much earlier than the spring varieties, but it has not

been grown in the northwest because it was almost sure to kill out in a severe winter. At the St. Anthony Park station, by years of patient work, a winter wheat has been developed that will live and make a heavy crop, threshing out 20 to 25 per cent better than the average spring wheat surrounding it. A good part of the nursery is being given over to this winter wheat for the purpose of developing sterling varieties for distribution. The work began seven or eight years ago, when seed was secured from all the varieties of winter wheat, and sowed in the fall on individual patches. Very few plants lived to flourish the next spring, not enough to be worth using so much ground, so they were transplanted, brought to maturity, and the seed saved for next year. This process was continued till now the wheat seems hardy and capable of standing severest winters. Last year and this there were good stands and good yields, and apparently there is no more selecting to do, except for yield, before the new variety is worthy of distribution to the farmers.

Evolution of a Variety. The selection in the nursery, which is conducted not only for wheat, but for oats, rye, barley, flax, corn, clover and alfalfa, is made with scientific accuracy. The plants are selected for their ability for propagation is threshed by hand and the grains planted in a tiny plot, fourteen rows square. When mature, the two outside rows are pulled out, because plants on the border are not likely to be uniform, leaving 100



CROSS FERTILIZING & FLAX PLANTS. Cross breeding induces great variation, giving opportunity for selection.

Winter Wheat Varieties Have Been Developed That Will Withstand the Cold Winters.

free from rust, altho side by side with the infected spots. Professor C. P. Bull, one of the assistants at the station, has been doing some laboratory work investigating the nature of rust. He is inclined to agree that the yellow, red and black rust are merely different stages of the same plant, but has found nothing to lead to the surmise of Professor Bolley of North Dakota, that the rust is transmitted in seed. The nursery work in grains is in the hands of specialists under Professor Boss, who has charge of the departments of agriculture and animal husbandry. Work with wheat and oats is being handled by E. C. Parker, corn and the grasses by C. F. Bull, and the legumes, clover, peas and alfalfa by A. D. Wilson. All are "assistants in agriculture," and thoroughly trained students, who have worked for years under Professor Hays.

WHAT THE MARKET AFFORDS

Salt and smoked meats give a filip to the jaded appetite, and corned beef is excellent for summer use. Its price is about the same as corresponding pieces of fresh beef, but as the inferior pieces are used for corning it is a cheap meat, but not so nutritious as fresh meat. Boiling or stewing is essential for cooking corned beef. Corned beef is associated in many minds almost entirely with the frying pan, but it is equally good in a variety of stews which are very convenient for use on moderately cool days in summer. Fried beef furnishes the meat flavor of this potato pot. Slice quarter of a pound of bacon and cut two pounds of fresh corned beef in small pieces; brown in a frying pan with two sliced onions. Peel and quarter about a double quantity of medium-sized potatoes; put the browned meat and potatoes in alternate layers in a baking dish. Pour a pint of boiling water into the frying pan and thicken with two teaspoonfuls of flour made into a paste with cold water; pour this gravy over the meat and potatoes and bake in a quick oven; the meat will be done in about an hour. If meat is wanted for slicing, get a piece of brisket weighing about six pounds, cut so that its length is about three times the width; wash in cold water, season with pepper, roll and tie tightly. Put in pot, covering with cold water, and bring slowly to the boil; pour off the water, covering with fresh water, to which add half a pint of vinegar, and sliced with ten cloves, a small red pepper, a blade of mace, a stalk of celery or parsley with root attached. Boil gently until done, allowing about half an hour to each pound. When done take out a pint of the liquor and if too salt for gravy, add water and a very little vinegar; brown a tablespoonful each of butter and flour in a saucepan, add the pint of liquor, season to taste and serve with the beef, which should be accompanied by boiled beets, cabbage or turnips, cooked in some of the liquor taken from cold let cool in the liquor. Any cut of corned beef may be cooked in the same way.

See Stockwell Broom—That life insurance—The Penn Mutual. Andrus bldg. Do You Know The Northern Pacific Ry. is becoming one of the greatest tourist lines in the world? The reason for this is the magnificent train service offered. The North Coast Limited train cannot be excelled anywhere on earth for comfort and convenience, and the greatest of all tourist attractions, the Yellowstone National Park, is reached from the main line at Livingston, Mont. The Grandest Summer Tours Ever Offered Are being offered by the Northern Pacific Ry. in connection with the rate for the Lewis and Clark Exposition. The Yellowstone National Park, the Rocky mountains in Montana and the Cascade mountains in Washington, Oregon and California, not to mention the ocean trips to Alaska and the Orient. Call at City Ticket Office, No. 19 Nicollet House Block. If you want a hurry-up job of roofing done, telephone W. B. Nott Co., 374.

KEYSTONE STATE FULL OF SNAKES

Pennsylvania Seems a Wriggling Center of Reptile Incidents—Mouse and Tortoise, Too.

Gettysburg, Pa., Aug. 5.—While Miss Margaret DeWitt, who lives near this place, was making up her brother's bed this morning, a large black snake sprang from under the pillow and coiled itself around her right arm. The girl attempted to tear the snake away with her left hand, but in an instant the coils had encircled her left wrist, and her arms were squeezed together, as if by a vise. Screaming for help, she ran to her brother. He could not kill the snake with a club, for fear of injuring his sister, but succeeded in cutting off the reptile's head with a penknife. The snake made no effort to bite the girl.

SNAKE AND GIRL IN HAMMOCK

One of Camping Party Finds Copperhead Coiled in Her Lap.

Bloomington, Aug. 5.—Miss Tillie Bough, of Berwick, one of a party of young ladies camping near Almedia, took a nap in a hammock swinging between two trees yesterday afternoon. When she awoke she was horrified to find a copperhead snake coiled in her lap. Her screams brought to her aid Misses Katharine Gray and Edith Phillips, who advised her to lie still and they then killed the snake with clubs. Miss Bough was thoroughly frightened, but escaped injury with the exception of a few bruises caused by the clubs used by her friends. The reptile measured thirty inches in length.

A REAL SNAKE STORY

When Pursued, It Turned and Tied Major Alport to a Tree.

Altoona, Aug. 5.—While Major James H. Alport, a coal and trolley magnate, of Cambria county, and Captain W. L. Malin, a telephone expert, were walking thru the woods near Barnboro they discovered a black snake stretched out sunning itself. The major grabbed a club to kill it, and the reptile made off, with the major in pursuit. He was pressing it hard, when suddenly it threw its tail around a sapling and twining itself around the major, firmly bound him. Unable to release himself the major yelled for Captain Malin, who killed the snake, which measured 10 feet 7 3/4 inches, being the largest ever seen in Cambria county.

DRIVEN OUT BY MOUSE

Women Flee Prayer Service After Elder's Blow to Intruder.

Oxford, Pa., Aug. 5.—A mouse effectually broke up a prayermeeting in the Presbyterian church here last night. Just when the prayer meeting was at its most devout line of thought the little creature tried to ascend Squire Fulton's leg and perch on his knee. Elder Fulton handed the mouse a good worldly pun and the little bundle of gray fur landed in that zone occupied chiefly by the sisters. In record-breaking time every fair worshiper was without the walls, their skirts tightly gathered. In vain the brethren implored the fearful ones to return. The chain of meditation had been broken. The meeting abruptly ended. The sexton extinguished the lamps and the mouse held the fort.

TORTOISE 200 YEARS OLD

Has Been Pet in a Pennsylvania Family in Three Centuries.

Boyetown, Pa., Aug. 5.—Since 1796 a tortoise marked with the initials "D. W." has been waddling about the Wiest farm, in the Oley valley, and thru its more than a century of known existence the Wiest family has kept track of it. How old the tortoise was at the time it was decorated with the initials there is no means of telling. David Wiest, a boy 15 years and a grandson of John Wiest, who settled on the farm in 1740, was the person who first sunk his jack-knife into its shell. The same year David Wiest marked the tortoise and renewed the inscription until ten years ago, when at his death, James Wiest took charge. The tortoise is seen nearly every month by some member of the Wiest family.

OUT HERE IN THE WEST

Duluth Men Bait for Fish and Catch a Black Bear.

Special to The Journal. Duluth, Minn., Aug. 5.—C. O'Flynn and Marshall A. Worth of Duluth have returned from Isle Royale with a young black bear, which they say was captured in a novel manner. The men were fishing near the mouth of Big Siskiwit river, and Alworth sent a leader down stream, to which was attached a hook baited with a good sized shiner. The line was carried by the current, and the shiner, which seems to have been fishing alone, caught the shiner and was himself caught, the hook fastening firmly in the lips.

Snake Attacks Girl at Play.

Potterville, Aug. 5.—Mary Miller, aged 6 years, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Miller, while playing with some other girls in a vacant lot adjoining her home here today, was attacked by a large blacksnake. The snake coiled around her leg and stuck its fangs into her dress several times, just missing her body. Several of her companions finally beat it off with sticks.

Hoodwinks the Oculist. Madden Eye-Medicin cures eyes. (Don't smart.) 25c.

Lewis and Clark Exposition

Is attracting more attention than any exposition in recent years for the fact that there are many attractions in the great northwest for tourists. The greatest of all these is the Yellowstone National Park, on the line of the Northern Pacific Ry. Call at City Ticket Office and ask for the tourist publications.

The Fishing Season.

The best fishing lakes in the state of Minnesota are located on the line of the Northern Pacific Ry. They are from twenty to two hundred miles from the city and are made easily accessible by frequent train service. Week end and summer excursion rates are now in effect. Call at City Ticket Office, No. 19 Nicollet House Block, for further information.

Short and Long Trips.

The Northern Pacific are offering a great variety of short and long summer tours, east via Duluth and the Great Lake steamer lines, and west via the Yellowstone park, the Pacific coast, Alaska and the Orient. If you will call at the City Ticket Office, 19 Nicollet House Block, we will gladly give you all information.