

SCANDINAVIA UNITED AGAINST WAR

The Valiant Little Nations of the North That Once Were Foremost in Arms Are Now Armed for Peace Alone, and Pro-Germans and Pro-Allies, in Sweden, Norway and Denmark, Are United Only in Their Desire to Keep Their Countries Out of the Great Conflict.

By JAMES MORGAN.

Mr. Morgan tells the story of a race of famous warriors that is now keeping the peace on the very edge of the great battlefield of Europe, a story of Northmen and Normans, of Gustavus Adolphus and Charles XII and a story of the three little democratic kingdoms of Sweden, Norway and Denmark in the midst of the big warring empires.

The roll of the great war powers in the past that now are upholding the white banner of peace in the midst of this world conflict would be incomplete without the three little kingdoms of the north. For like the Swiss, the Dutch and the Spaniards, the Scandinavians long trod the ways of martial glory and have sounded the depths and shoals of military honor.

The Mediterranean and the Baltic are the two fountains of European civilization. Most of the great streams of mankind that have poured over Europe and irrigated that continent, took their rise in one or the other of those seas.

As Greece and Rome fell, the Mediterranean fell, whereupon a torrent of Goths and Vandals, Angles and Saxons swept down from the southern coast of the Baltic to replenish the land with fresh races of men. When the empire they formed under the crown of Charlemagne subsided, civilization in the Mediterranean basin ebbed once more, and then Europe was inundated anew by a human flood from the northern shore of the Baltic.

For the ocean of humanity always is seeking a level. This process is going on under our eyes today, only now the migratory hosts are armed simply with steamer tickets and no longer have to hew their way about the world with battle axes. But a far greater horde is led forth in a year by the enterprising steamship agent than followed Alaric or any of the martial chiefs of old.

From Norumbega to Kiev.

Visitors to Boston may smile at the statue of Leif Ericsson as a vain boast in bronze by the conceited and exclusive Bostonians that their town was the object of a special voyage of discovery 500 years before the rest of the country was brought to light. Nevertheless, the Northmen were ubiquitous in that eleventh century and, in the course of their globe trotting, they well may have taken in the Hub of the Universe.

It is certain they colonized Greenland then, and visited Newfoundland, whence it would have been but a short excursion to Boston. Sober historians agree that they made a side trip about the year 1000 to a place where the wild grape grew and that New England probably is the Venedland of the Viking song.

While Norumbega remains only the fabled city of the sons of Eric the Red, its legendary birth was in that golden age of the sea rovers, when they reared above conquered lands those castle towers and cathedral spires which remain the noblest legacies from the Normans. Until I saw these, I had not thought of coupling the Saga tales of Norse adventures in the New World with the more substantial if not more enduring monuments of their kinsmen in Europe in the same era. Nor had I appreciated how wide a swath the Scandinavians cut in that eventful eleventh century.

For it was in the century of Lief Ericsson's voyages that the Normans were busily laying the stones of the chateaux and churches and abbeyes, whose unfolding beauty still thrills the wanderer at Mont St. Michel, at Caen, at Fecamp and in other Normandy towns. It was then, too, that they erected the Tower of London by the Thames as a warning sign of their conquest of England in 1066. At the same time they were conquering another island on the opposite side of Europe, where that most beautiful of sacred edifices which crowns the heights of Montreuil above the city of Palermo is a lasting memorial of more than 200 years of Norman rule in Sicily. Meanwhile the Swedish rulers of Russia were lifting the Greek cross above their cathedral of St. Sophia, which continues to lure the curious traveler to the long-abandoned capital of Novogorod, and were rounding the seven domes that remain to this day the pride of the old city of Kiev.

The Northman's Job. In all their endless wanderings, men go only where they are needed. They are as subject as any commodity to the law of supply and demand, and the tide of immigrants rises and falls at Ellis Island with the ebb and flow of American industry. When mills and mines are busiest, and there are more spindles and picks than men, when there are rails to be laid and trees to be felled, the vacant job draws its man across the seas from the remotest Carpathian hamlet or Sicilian farm.

Now, the job that called the North-

men in the ninth, tenth and eleventh centuries was that of ruling and law giving. Wherever the Scandinavians went they implanted among insubordinate and distracted peoples the spirit of obedience, which is the first law of the stern North, where men learn to obey and to labor under the unspurring lash of Jack Frost.

The Scandinavians abroad were a great unifying force, but at home they have failed to achieve a permanent union among themselves. By royal marriages, the three crowns were merged early in the fourteenth century, and under the leadership of Denmark, they were held together by main strength for a period of 200 years. Then a Swedish nobleman, Gustavus Ericsson, or Gustavus Vasa, stole back from exile to liberate his country from the Danish King.

While tramping about in disguise and working in fields and mines, Gustavus prepared the revolution of 1521, which made Sweden independent and which seated her deliverer on a newly set up throne. For nearly 300 years Sweden remained beneath the rule of the descendants of Gustavus I, who found her small and made her great, but left her smaller than they found her. The Vasa converted a little, remote nation into a conquering military power, but their surest titles to remembrance are in the fame of Gustavus Adolphus and Charles XII, two of the most extraordinary monarchs in history.

Gustavus Adolphus. Gustavus Adolphus, who was the grandson of the Revolutionary founder of the Vasa dynasty, came to the throne at 17 and was yet only 28 at his death. But in the course of his brief reign of twenty-one years—from 1611 to 1632—he carried the banner of Sweden in triumph around the shores of the Baltic and made that sea a Swedish lake.

First he whipped Russia and shut her out from the Baltic, incorporating in his kingdom the boggy soil where Peter the Great stood. Next he whipped Poland and carried his frontier down the southern shore clear to Riga.

Then came the Thirty Years' War, in which Gustavus was the daring chieftain of the Protestants and the ally as well of Catholic France. Although he fell at the battle of Lutzen, in the midst of that devastating and calamitous struggle and left his throne to his 6-year-old daughter, Christina, Sweden reaped a rich reward for her martial prowess, when the Peace of Westphalia was made.

By the terms of that settlement the girl Queen of Sweden received the two German ports of Stettin and Bremen and various strips of the German coast. In her reign Sweden reached out even across the Atlantic, where the colony of New Sweden was planned on the American shore, but only to be taken by the Dutch, and finally to become the English colony of Delaware. But the restless Christina simply could not bring herself to marry and settle down on a throne. So, throwing away her crown, like a last season's hat, she bade farewell to her kingdom at 28 and wandered

over Europe the remaining 35 years of her checkered life. The cousin to whom the wearied Queen resigned her throne was succeeded by a 4-year-old son, who in turn was succeeded by a 15-year-old son, Charles II. The coronation of this care-free youth was seized upon by Denmark, Russia and Poland as an opportune time to recover the conquests which Sweden had made at their expense.

But that league against him aroused Charles from his youthful pastime. Drawing his sword at the head of his army, he waded to his neck through the waters that separated him from the Danish shore, and at 18 he was victorious over Denmark. Hastening to the opposite end of the Baltic, the young conqueror overwhelmed Peter the Great at Narva. Although he was outnumbered in that battle more than two to one, he took so many Russian prisoners that he could not feed them, and cutting off their Oriental skirts, he sent them back bare legged to the czar.

At once the victor of Narva turned and put to rout another army of Poles and Saxons. At 21 he was the conqueror of Poland, with her crown at his disposal, and the simple blue coat of his invincible warrior of the north was almost as celebrated as the gray coat of his Corsican successor on those war-torn fields just 100 years afterward.

Like Napoleon, too, Charles was lured to his fate by the unconquerable wilds of Russia, which tempted him on into their limitless spaces. While pondering about on the long road to Moscow, he saw his army at Pultava, in 1709, and saved himself only by fleeing to Turkey.

For five years he was first the guest and then the prisoner of the Sultan. When at last he was freed, he found four nations, Russia, Denmark, Saxony and Prussia, banded together in overwhelming strength and determined to dismember his kingdom. To distract or divide them, he invaded Norway, which then belonged to Denmark, and there a bullet put a period to his strange career, at the age of 36. Whether the fatal ball was fired by a Danish foe or a Swedish traitor long remained an open dispute, in the course of which the King's body was twice taken from the tomb for surgical examination. The second operation took place as recently as 1859, almost 150 years after his death. Then at last it was definitely determined that he was not shot from behind, and thus the Swedish character was cleared of the charge of assassination.

The bachelor King was succeeded by his sister, Ulrica, but she shrank from the ordeal of rearing the whirling child that her brother and his predecessors had sown, and she passed the crown to her German husband. Revenged neighbors pressed against the frontier, clamorous for an accounting with their long-time conqueror, and to appease them Sweden had to disgorge nearly all the spoils gathered in 100 years of conflict. In the end she did well to escape the fate of partitioned Poland, which Frederick the Great would have meted out to her.

In the Last Great War. Sweden's "crowded hour of glorious life" was closed and her people gladly turned to "the inglorious arts of peace." But as she fell forever from the heights of a great power abroad, she gained prosperity and liberty at home. Nevertheless, the memories of her martial days urged her into a losing strife with Russia, into the Seven Years' War, into the wars against the French Revolution and finally into the struggle with Napoleon, when she lost Finland, the last of her outlying territory.

The Scandinavian States today are profiting by the lesson they learned in that great conflict 100 years ago. They rashly ventured too near the fire then and their fingers were badly burned. First Denmark felt the heavy hand of England, which chided her for having joined in the League of Armed Neutrality in 1800. For that presumption, a British fleet bombarded Copenhagen, where Nelson held the spy glass to his blind eye, so that he might not see the signal to cease firing, which he was told his commander-in-chief had hoisted on the flagstaff.

Sweden incurred a still heavier penalty at the hands of Napoleon for abandoning the League of Neutrals and joining England and her allies. In this abandonment of the league she only followed Russia, but when Napoleon and Alexander made up at the love feast of Tilsit, the French Emperor sealed their friendship by giving the czar permission to snatch Finland from Sweden.

At the same time Denmark, which remained faithful to the principles of the league, received another severe punishment from England, which swooped down on Copenhagen, grabbed the entire Danish navy and carried it off for "safe keeping." Naturally that degradation drove the Danes into the open arms of Napoleon, whose faithful ally Denmark remained to the bitter end.

And it was indeed bitter enough for when Napoleon was overthrown, the congress of Vienna took Norway from Napoleon's Danish ally and handed it over to the King of Sweden as a reward for Swedish assistance in the Napoleonic wars and as a compensation for the loss of Finland.

But Denmark did not drain the glass at Vienna. It remained for Bismarck to press it to her lips again forty years had passed and give the Danes the first of his drastic doses of blood and iron.

Minding Their Own Business. Although Denmark is Scandinavian in her culture, she is not Scandinavian in geography. She does not belong to the peninsula which hangs down from the top of Europe, but is joined to Southern Europe and to Germany. For hundreds of years her Kings had also been Dukes of Schleswig-Holstein, the ancient Germanic Empire.

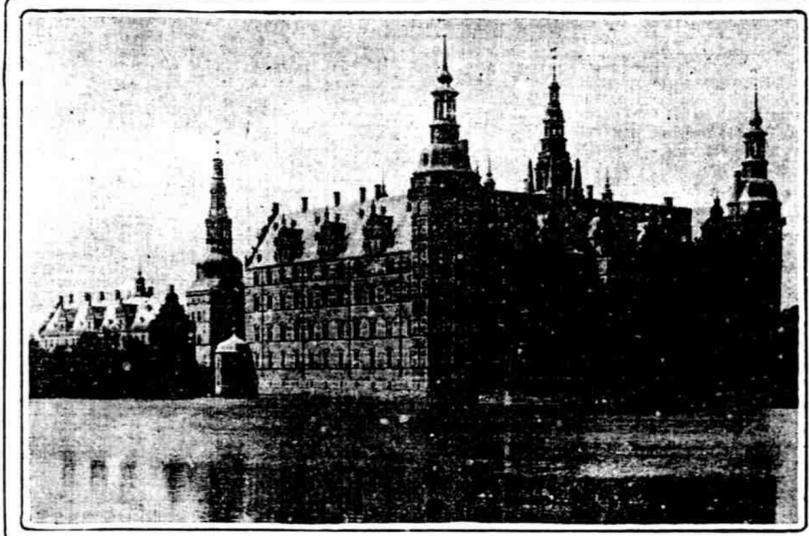
When Prussia began to form a new German Empire, almost her first step was to take those provinces away from the Danish crown. This surgery was attended by some blood letting in the course of a six months' war in 1864, when the Prussian military machine crushed its way slowly into Denmark herself and compelled the cession of the disputed border.

With the loss of Schleswig-Holstein, the Scandinavians had parted with their last holding in Europe outside of Scandinavia and were shut in among themselves. But there are about 11,000,000 of them in all—quite enough to keep one another company. They have their regretful memories, but without things that don't belong to them and with nothing to do but mind their own business.

There are several ways of casting up a country's possessions. One is by counting the number of people it holds in subjection. Another is to count up the deposits in its savings banks. Now, Great Britain has hundreds of millions of subjects, but her people at home have only an average of about \$20 in the savings bank, where the Swiss have an average of \$36, Russia has more people than she ever has been able to count, but the Russians have hardly \$5 apiece in the savings bank, while the Danes have \$67, the Norwegians \$62 and the Swedes about \$45. It does pay to mind your own business.



THE THREE KINGS OF THE NORTH MEETING AT MALMO. They Are From Left to Right—KING HAARON OF NORWAY, KING GUSTAF OF SWEDEN AND KING CHRISTIAN OF DENMARK



THE DANISH ROYAL PALACE AT COPENHAGEN



THE SWEDISH ROYAL PALACE AT STOCKHOLM



HEAVY BLACK LINE INDICATES PRESENT BOUNDARIES OF DENMARK, NORWAY AND SWEDEN, HEAVY BROKEN LINE SHOWS LANDS THEY HAVE LOST



TRONDHEIM CATHEDRAL, WHERE NORWAY CROWNED HER KINGS

and people are only counters in the game, but she holds a higher place than ever in the clearing house of the world's business. With hardly more than 1,000 square miles of land that she can cultivate, Norway is fourth among the great maritime nations. She has more tonnage than Russia or France, Austria or Italy and only England, the United States and Germany exceeded her total. Sweden ranks eighth in a fundamental test of national strength, the production of iron, and Norway stands high as a producer of copper. Little Denmark has doubled her population in a century and has become the dairy and garden of England.

And there are empires of brains as well as empires of bayonets. The choir of Thorwaldsen, the brush of Zorn, the bow of Ole Bull, the pens of Hans Christian Andersen, Bjernsen and Ibsen have made Scandinavia a world power with a far wider sweep over men than she won by the sword of Gustavus Adolphus and lost by the sword of Charles XII. And where are there braver soldiers and conquerors than Nansen and Sven Hedin, those daring explorers of the wild north and wild east?

A Rosewater Revolution. So well have these once-warlike peoples learned peace that in 1905 they set before the world the example of a political revolution by peaceable means. Although Norway for 500 years had been first under the Danish and next under the Swedish crowns, and even her ancient language had been virtually supplanted by the Danish tongue, she never ceased to regret the loss of her independence. Finally when political and economic considerations were brought to the support of this sentiment, the national aspiration was realized.

Norway was not a dependency of Sweden. They were two independent kingdoms but with one king, who governed each country through a cabinet of its own, except that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs served both. As the Swedish Parliament, however, gained the mastery of the Swedish Cabinet, including the Foreign Ministry, it necessarily brought the foreign affairs of both kingdoms under its control. Whereat the Norwegian Parliament complained. And since Norway's foreign trade was much larger than that of Sweden, it passed a bill providing for a separate Norwegian consular service. This measure—being vetoed by the King under the advice of his Swedish ministers, the Norwegian Parliament proposed to the people of Norway a dissolution of the union.

On that momentous referendum, nearly 400,000 votes were cast for secession and fewer than 200 for maintaining the union. Whereupon the King was coolly declared "out of office."

Did the King call for his sword and horse? Did Sweden, twice the size of revolted Norway, sound horns and saddles? Not at all. On the contrary, she repressed her bitter emotions, and with her sober second thought adopted the watchword of Gen. Winfield Scott at the outset of the Southern secession in 1861, "Wayward sister, depart in peace."

Europe thought there were republics enough already, and they chose a Danish prince. And this prince, who had married his English cousin, the Princess Maud, daughter of Edward VII and Alexandra, was crowned King Haakon VII in the old cathedral of Trondhjem.

Although the Scandinavians now have three Kings, they are chiefly decorative. Norway and Denmark at least are more democratically governed than any republic except Switzerland. Needs must have its patents renewed each day and must be forever polishing its decorations.

Norway might be called a peasant nation. For when nobles were in the making there was no Norwegian King to make them for Norway, and the only aristocrats she saw were Danes. Her native aristocracy, therefore, is the nobility of merit which needs must have its patents renewed each day and must be forever polishing its decorations.

Denmark, too, is under peasant rule. In the United States a third of the farmers are tenants. But in Denmark 90 per cent own their farms. Not only that, but by an elaborate system of co-operation, the Danish peasants own nearly all lines of business that touch their welfare. They are their own middlemen and their own bankers. Naturally, such men are their own rulers, nearly half the members of the popular house being peasant farmers and the same class holds several portfolios in the cabinet of the King.

Josephine—Mother of Kings. The throne is a soft, if not luxuriously upholstered berth in Scandinavia. The crown is a sinicure.

Nevertheless, Scandinavian royalty is a rather interesting crowd. The Danish royal family, for example, supplied Kings for both Greece and Norway. And the Dowager Empress Maria of Russia and the Dowager Queen Alexandra of England are Danes.

The origin of the Swedish royal family is one of the romances of history. The Corsicans proudly pointed out to me a stone bridge which the founder of the reigning house of Sweden helped to build while serving in that island as a French sergeant of marines.

When a childless old man sat in the twilight of the kingly race of Vasas, Napoleon stood at his blazing meridian and the Swedes turned to France for a successor to the throne. But wittingly or not, they proposed to take that one of his marshals whom the emperor disliked and distrusted most of all. Nevertheless, he consented to their selection of Bernadotte, and bade the new crown prince of Sweden "go and let our destinies be accomplished."

the mother of his dynasty, it was her destiny to become the mother of the Bernadotte dynasty in Sweden and a maternal ancestor of all three of the reigning Kings of Scandinavia. For when Napoleon's godson, Oscar, Bernadotte, went a-wooing as the Swedish crown prince his choice fell upon the Princess Josephine of Leuchtenberg, daughter of Eugene Beauharnais and granddaughter of the divorced Empress of the French. And a daughter to this Queen Josephine, as she is known to Swedish history, became the mother of the present King of Denmark and of the present King of Norway. But no drop of Napoleonic blood courses beneath a crown anywhere.

A Triple Alliance Against War. At the breaking up of the union of Sweden and Norway there was a natural fear that in the enmity aroused by the separation, the two kingdoms would no longer stand together against foreign foes. But quickly reunited them in an agreement that amounts to a sound, working alliance for all defensive purposes. This pact was followed last September by the meeting of the three Kings of the North in a conference at Malmo on the Swedish shore, and there the foreign ministers of Scandinavia laid plans for defending its neutrality.

For several years before the war the countries were agitated over the question of military preparedness for the inevitable struggle, but radical and anti-militarist ministries were in power. Nevertheless, large amounts of money for the military and naval equipment were raised by public appeals. In the spring, before the outbreak of hostilities, a great demonstration by the advocates of preparedness was made at Stockholm. The King having manifested his sympathy with it, the cabinet resigned, but in the election that followed the King gained some added supporters for the plan of military expansion.

Since the war came, the kingdoms have anxiously counted noses and have marshaled their forces. Almost all Scandinavians of military age are taking turns with the colors and there is a continual going and coming between farms and shops and camps. The boast is made that Scandinavia will soon have a full million of more or less trained men.

But the jealousies of the great are the surest protection of the small states. After Norway had set herself up as an independent nation, England, Germany, Russia, and France united in guaranteeing her independence. And no one of them would stand idly by while another tore up that scrap of paper. Germany does not want Russia over her head, and, of course, no one wants Germany to become the sole keeper of the Baltic. Perhaps England might like to seize a Scandinavian base for an invasion of North Germany. But she ought to hesitate to yield to the temptation while Germany is "in being" for if she did undertake such an operation, the Kiel Canal would be on her right flank.

United for Peace, Divided for War. The Scandinavians are likely to cling more earnestly to their neutrality because it is the only thing they can surely agree upon amid the distractions of the war. For they view the strife from very different standpoints. Every nation has its own favorite bugbear and the Russian bear is Sweden's and Norway's. They know that their territory hangs like a curtain over the window which Peter the Great opened on Europe when he planted Russia on the shores of the Baltic.

Down in Denmark, on the other hand, the German Michael is the bogey man. For Prussia's Schleswig is the Danish Irredenta, and there was long a lively suspicion that the mailed fist might close in on Denmark, which is the gate of the Baltic. The construction of the Kiel Canal relieved that situation, however, by giving Germany her own exit from the northern sea. But the Danes no more than the French forget the "lost provinces" in Prussian captivity. At the same time, Sweden remembers her "lost province" in Russian captivity. Although she hardly dreams of regaining Finland, she and Norway dread the next westward step of the bear in his unrelenting, but long-buffed search for warm water. And he knows only too well that the Gulf Stream never lets the ice thicken in Norwegian harbors.

It is well that the peoples of the north are so firmly united for peace. If unhappily that should fall them, it might not be easy to unite them for war. (Copyright, 1915, by James Morgan.)