The RING and the MAN

WITH SOME INCIDENTAL RELATION TO THE WOMAN

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SYNOPSIS.

A foolish young tenderfoot becomes fascinated with the bold, artful wife of a drunken prospector in a western mining town. They prepare to elope in a blinding blizzard but are confronted by the maudlin husband. He is shot by the wife, but the chivalrous boy pins a note to the body taking the crime upon himself. In their flight to the railroad station the woman's horse falls exhausted; the youth puts her on his own and follows hanging to the stirrup strap. Seeing he is an impediment, the woman thrusts her escort into a snow drift and rides on. Half-frozen he stumbles into the railroad station just as the train bears the woman away. Twenty-five years later, this man, George Gormly, is a multi-millionaire in New York. He meets Eleanor Haldane, a beautiful and wealthy settlement worker, and co-operates with her in her work. Gormly becomes owner of a steamship line and finds himself frustrated in pier and track extension plans by grafting aldermen, backed by the Gotham Traction company. An automobile accident brings the Haldanes to his country home. Gormly announces that he will be mayor of New York and redeem the city from corruption. The political declaration of the merchant prince produced a tremendous sensation. The whole machinery of the city's detective force is to be used to dig up something damaging to Gormly. The press heretofore unanimously favorable to the merchant candidate, under pressure, divides and the campaign waxes warm. A resolution is introduced granting a gratuitous renewal of the traction franchise. Gormly offers ten million dollars for the franchise. Miss Haldane congratulates Gormly on what she terms a new Declaration of Independence, and he makes an unexpected declaration of love. He is shocked by the confirmation of his suspicions that her father is the head and backbone of the notorious traction company which he is attempting to overthrow. Young Haldane discovers his father's connection with the Gotham Traction company, and is incensed. In an interview between Gormly and Haldane the latter practically offers his daughter's hand as a bribe for Gormly to withdraw. Gormly refuses. In an interview with Gormly Miss Haldane learns of her father's baseness though Gormly vainly tries to hide it. Members of the Ring find the woman for whose sake Gormly declared himself a murderer and decide to force him to withdraw under threat of prosecution. The chief of police visits Gormly, who makes a full confession of the truth.

CHAPTER XVI.—Continued.

"Why the woman told me she threw you down herself after you gave her your horse," said the chief of police.

"Don't put that down, Chaloner. That's not necessary. Now," said Gormly quietly, "just add this:

"After a frightful experience I succeeded in reaching the station. I came to Chicago, drifted about there for awhile, and thereafter came to New York determined to retrieve the past. Whether I have done so or not it is for you, my fellow citizens, to judge. Whether this story which I relate to you now, because I am compelled to do so—naturally not from choice—destroys your confidence in me and makes you believe that I am unworthy of your suffrages and thereby unfit to fill the office to which I aspire for your service, it is for you to decide. At any rate, I declare to you, what is now quite evident, that so far as I am concerned—conscious that however you may regard this solitary episode in my life, which I confess to my sorrow—I am now as confident of my competence and my integrity to do what I said I would do if you elect me as I was before the disclosure was made.

"I have informed the chief of police in closing that this statement is to be sent to every paper in the city. He and those associated with him who authorized this blackmailing proposition—and I point out that the fact that they made it is evidence of their quality—may do whatever they please in the premises. It only remains to add that in the west for some boyish whim I went under the name of George Fordyce. The last is my middle name, and I sign this statement therefore

"GEORGE FORDYCE GORMLY."

"Why, you infernal fool!" roared the chief, "you're not going to give the whole thing away like that?"

"Mr. Connell, that statement goes out, and by the hands of Somes, to every paper in New York as quickly as it can be typewritten. Mr. Chaloner, will you please make the very best speed possible to you?"

"Yes, sir."

"It won't serve your purpose," blustered the officer. "In the first place I can deny my part of it—I do deny it! You hear me, you short-hand man, before you go, and you, you English whelp! I say it's a damned lie! I never made any such proposition to him. It's just one of his grandstand plays."

"I beg your pardon, sir," said Somes, addressing his master, "but I can testify that he did make such a proposition."

"How can you testify?" asked Gormly.

"I listened, sir, at the door; my ear to the keyhole."

"You hound!" cried the officer.

"I don't generally resort to that practise, Mr. Gormly, as you know, sir," pleaded Somes.

"I believe you, Somes."

"But in this instance I did it because I knew the man was up to mischief, and I thought you might want a witness, sir. You know I am sufficiently devoted to your interests to have kept silent, if you had wished me, sir."

"Your statement is of the utmost value," said Gormly, smiling. "It will be entirely useless in the face of this proof for the chief of police to deny that he came here and for what purpose. You see there is my word, the word of Somes yonder, the corroborative evidence of Mr. Chaloner that you were here."

"And what about my word?"

"Well, if you say you weren't here," said Gormly, coolly, "that'll be about the strongest evidence that could be presented that you were."

"I'll swear that it's a damned conspiracy; that you inveigled me here, knowing that this was going to be made public, and turned it to your advantage in this way."

"You can swear anything you like."

"I'll take oath to what I said, sir," interposed Somes.

"Good," said Gormly. "Mr. Chaloner, I believe you are a notary public?"

"Yes," said Mr. Chaloner, looking up from the typewriter, which he was clicking busily.

"Will you kindly administer an oath to Mr. Somes here."

It was the first time that Gormly had ever dignified his valet with such a title, and the man's face gleamed with pleasure.

Chaloner picked up his pencil. "What is the oath?"

"Allow me to dictate it," said Gormly.

"I, William Somes, do solemnly swear that at half after eleven o'clock tonight I admitted to the apartments of Mr. George Gormly, in whose employ I am, one Ben Connell, to me known to be the chief of police of the city of New York; that on receiving permission, I ushered said Connell into the library, where he had an interview with the said George Gormly; that from my position outside in the hall I heard every word of said interview; that it took place exactly as it is described in the statement of said George Gormly; that the chief of police did offer to suppress the story if said Gormly would withdraw from the campaign."

"That covers it, I think."

"Yes, sir. Exactly, sir," was the answer.

"Add:

"Subscribed and sworn to before me, Philip Chaloner, notary public, and so on."

"Now, Mr. Connell, have you any other move to make?"

"You'll find yourself arrested for murder by your own confession in the morning," said the chief.

"Ah, Chief, Unfortunately You Were Late."

"That may be," answered Gormly, "although I hardly think so. There are probably cooler heads and wiser than yours in the ring which I am fighting, and I scarcely think they will desire to proceed to that extremity."

"I will see the district attorney at once."

"Do so, and ask him at the same time his opinion of your own course—whether as an officer of the law you have been criminally culpable in your action—and tell him that as soon as it is daylight, information, official and formal, shall be laid before him, and that you will be impeached, indicted, dismissed, imprisoned. And this whether I am elected or not."

At this moment there was a ring at the door of the apartment. The electric bell had been ringing before; but no one had noticed it.

"See who it is, Somes," said Gormly. "And as for you, keep silent."

In a moment the Englishman came back, followed by Livingstone Haldane in a great state of excitement.

"Mr. Gormly," he cried as he burst into the room, not seeing the chief, who sat on the other side of the open door and somewhat sheltered by it, "they are going to do you up! They have unearthed some cock-and-bull story and are going to force you out of the campaign. My father gave it away to me tonight. He said you would be out of it in the morning, and—"

"This," said Gormly coolly to the chief, "is confirmation of your plan, if we needed it."

"What!" exclaimed Livingstone Haldane, observing for the first time the other man. "Are you here?"

"I'm goin' now," answered the chief, rising.

"Before you go, remember that here is another witness that you were here," said Gormly, pointing to young Haldane.

"So he's been here with his dirty story, has he?" growled the young man.

"He has."

"And what have you done?"

"Chaloner is preparing a statement that I have issued for the press."

"Be warned by me, Mr. Gormly," said the chief, his voice a singular mixture of entreaty and bullying, "don't send that fool stuff to the papers. Perhaps we can deal on some other basis. If we let you get the election and keep quiet about this thing, maybe we can get together and—"

"Somes," said Gormly, "show this man the door, and if he opens his mouth or says another word, I give you leave to accelerate his exit in any manner you may desire."

The chief of police opened his mouth.

"Remember," said Gormly, "if he says a single word, he is in your hands."

"At my feet, sir, beg pardon, sir," returned Somes.

Without making a sound, the chief turned, and, followed closely by the valet who hung on his flanks like a bulldog, his fingers itching to grasp his collar, the officer strode from the room.

"Now, what is it all about?" asked Haldane, when the door had closed behind them.

By this time Chaloner had finished one batch of the statements. Without a word Gormly took one and handed it to the young man. He read it through with staring eyes.

"You are going to send this out?"

"Instantly."

"It's the bravest thing I ever saw done."

"It has to be," said Gormly. "What will be the result of it on the people?"

"If I can judge by myself, it will settle the question forever in your favor."

"Then you don't withdraw from me because—"

"I am not the withdrawing kind," said Haldane. "You're a man through and through. You gave me a new hold on life, a new interest. You have made something of me. I am going to stick by you to the very end. Let me get my signature on that thing. I want to testify that I saw the chief of police here, and that I know from what he said in my presence that what you say is true. They will see that the Haldanes are divided, and that those on your side are not afraid or ashamed to support you."

"I can never be grateful enough to you," said Gormly.

"That's all right," said the young man, walking over to where Chaloner sat and dictating a line or two to be added to the statements.

"Do you know," said Gormly, "I don't think we're out of the woods yet. I believe that blackguard is capable of surrounding the house and preventing the delivery of any of these letters to the papers."

"What good would that do him?"

"It would give him time."

"Give me what you have written," said Haldane. "My car's down below. He won't have had time to do anything yet." He picked up the chief's pistol. "Give me this, too, and if anybody stops me, it won't be a happy thing for him."

"Good," said Gormly, taking the first batch. He marked them for the most important of the morning papers. "If you can deliver these, we'll chance the rest. I'll send the others out by Somes and Chaloner."

"Have you any objection," said Haldane, as he picked up the batch of papers and buttoned his coat, "to my telling Eleanor?"

"I wish you would do so. You will confer a favor on me by doing it immediately."

"I will. Jove! wasn't it lucky that I heard this from my father tonight and came down here to warn you? Goodby. We'll win yet."

He wrung the other's hand and darted from the room. As he stepped into his car a number of men turned into the street and approached the house. There were officers among them, but most of them wore plain clothes.

"Hey, stop that car!" roared a deep voice which Haldane recognized as that of Connell.

Gormly's suspicions were justified. The car had already fortunately started when one or two men leaped at him. One of them gained a footing on the car. With one hand Haldane threw on the high speed, with the other he shoved the pistol in the man's face. The man fell back. The car leaped suddenly forward. The chance was gone.

A moment after Gormly himself came out of the street door. The men were huddled in front of the apartment house. He could hear Connell cursing terribly.

"Ah, chief," said he urbanely, "unfortunately you were too late. The first batch of copies has gone by the hands of Mr. Haldane in that car. Good-night, gentlemen."

He turned and walked back to the hallway and took the elevator to his own apartment.

He had put a bold face upon the whole matter. He had taken the brave, the wise, course, which after all was the only prudent course to take. He had not weakened under the tremendous pressure of the situation for a single instant. He had borne himself with amazing coolness and courage. Yet the man was absolutely stricken to the heart. What the effect of the disclosures would be upon the campaign, how the people would receive it, whether or not he would lose their confidence, whether or not the honorable reputation he had built up by years of just and generous dealing, would vanish, he could not tell; and to be truthful, at that moment, these questions were not the chief of those which filled his heart.

He asked himself how Eleanor Haldane would receive the disclosure, and what effect it would have upon her. Although she had been overwhelmed by the revelation of her father's position, Gormly had learned from young Haldane that he had not thereby forfeited her regard.

Now what difference would this make to her? She had said several times that what she admired in him was his splendid record, his unblemished honor, his unspotted past. And now what would she think?

He might have made his defense stronger. He might have said that the woman had shot the man. He might have declared her abandonment of him in the snow storm, her leaving him to die. He might have pointed out that he had assumed the guilt to shelter her; but chivalry was strong in Gormly.

He thought a long time about the situation, plunging in deeper and deeper gloom and sadness as the hours dragged by. At last he abandoned all hope of ever winning the woman that he loved. Well, he would devote himself with more singleness of heart on that account to the interest of the people; if indeed, after this, they still thought him worthy of leadership and service.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

COST HIM MONEY TO FALL

Balloonist Drops in at Football Game and Admission Fee Is Demanded.

Dr. Eldridge, the Philadelphia aeronaut, who recently broke the time and distance record, says that the sport is, he believes, one that takes less money from the spectators than any other.

Some sports, he declared, are commercial propositions purely and simply, but in the main ballooning is a free spectacle. In baseball and football, he points out that they are played for money, and he says the efforts to get a paying crowd would shame the energy of the circus proprietor.

Apropos of his thought, he told the following story.

"A certain balloonist, who had met with some sort of a mishap and who was compelled to come down in a hurry, and with little choice of a landing place, threw overboaord his drag rope as he came to a great field.

"The anchor caught in a fence and the jar shook the balloonist from the car and he fell to the ground, a distance of 20 or 30 feet.

"The field on which he fell was being devoted to a football game between rival colleges, and when he came to, after being liberally sprinkled with water, the managers of the teams came to him and demanded that he pay 50 cents.

"What for?" asked the dazed and shaken balloonist.

"'Admission fee,' replied the managers.

"'It's a good thing I didn't fall into the grandstand,' the air navigator said. 'If I had I suppose you would have charged me a dollar.'"

Galluses.

It is claimed that the galluses are disappearing as a feature of the apparel. They are not artistic, and certainly not aristocratic; that is what is claimed. The idea is that if a trousers is properly cut and fitted it sets so neatly on the hips that it needs no support, and therefore the presence of suspenders indicates that the man's apparel is the work of a cheap tailor, which is certainly not aristocratic.

If suspenders are to go, there is a better reason than this, and that is in the trick of the trade that leaves a weak point in the suspenders—a place that is always breaking and annoying the wearer until his patience is gone. Then he gets a belt and goes without suspenders, out of pure disgust. He would rather hitch up his trousers than tie up his galluses.

But this article of apparel is not disappearing—not as long as ready-made clothing is the joy of most men. The suspenders necesarily go with this habit, since the kidlike adjustment about the hips is impossible.

Hereditary Talent.

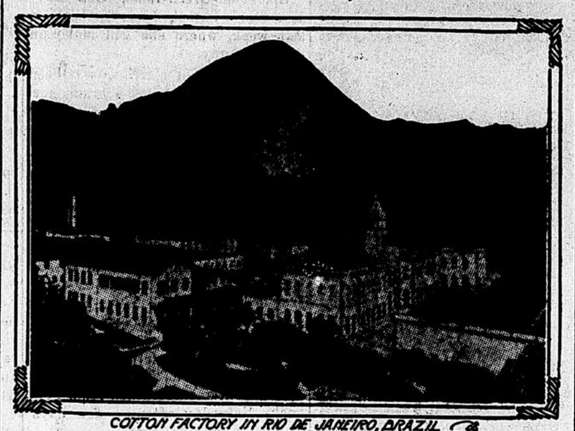
From the postoffice steps Freeman Davis watched Professor Lane cross the road and enter the wheelwright's shop on the opposite side.

"Goes in an' out free as you or me," Mr. Davis remarked to Jabez Sewall, "an' nobody knows how many letters he's entitled to write after his name."

Jabez nodded. "But what I can't just make out is how he come by all his smartness. Far's I know, none of his forbears ever amounted to much in a lit'rary way."

"What you talkin' about?" Mr. Davis demanded, warmly. "You know's well's I do that his father could spell Nebuchadnezzar quicker'n any other boy in school!"—Youth's Companion.

The WORLD'S GREATEST STAPLE



COTTON FACTORY IN RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

WHEN and where cotton was first utilized in the industrial activities of the world cannot be definitely established. It does not appear to have been cultivated or woven into fabrics in ancient Egypt, and expert chemical analysis of the cloths used for wrapping Egyptian mummies proves that these materials were of linen and not cotton. The records of India, on the other hand, demonstrate that from time immemorial the cotton plant was cultivated and its fiber converted into wearing apparel, and employed in the useful and ornamental arts. Cotton has also been known and used for a thousand years, at least, in China and Japan. In the rich literature of India this beneficent plant is hardly more than incidentally mentioned. Its textile value and uses were known to the Hebrews and Phoenicians, and probably, through the latter, to the Greeks and Romans.

The Arabs and Saracens introduced cotton into western Europe in the ninth century, but it was not until the fifteenth century, when merchants of Genoa brought cotton to England, in exchange for woolen goods, that its possible commercial and industrial importance was realized. Although Columbus gives no description whatever of the cotton plant, later Spanish and Portuguese explorers found cotton garments worn and cotton extensively cultivated by the Indians on the islands of the West Indies and in Mexico, Peru and Brazil. Cortez speaks highly of the skill of the Mexican natives in cotton weaving and spinning. Pizarro found cotton fabrics in ancient Peruvian tombs which some modern archaeologists trace back to a civilization antedating that of the Incas. Early Portuguese historians describe cotton as they found it in Brazil.

The word cotton is derived from the Arabic qutun, which originally denoted flax.

The cotton plant is a member of the Malvaceoe or mallow family, and the total number of species actually existing is very large. In its wild state it is apt to be a perennial, but when cultivated it frequently becomes an annual. In size the plant varies from less than a foot high to sixteen or more feet. The flowers are either single or in clusters, varying greatly in size, while the color ranges from a yellowish white to a pale yellow and a rusty red. There are infinite variations in the form and size of the leaves, some being smooth and glossy and others hairy, but they are always lobed, having three, five or seven lobes. What is known as the "boll" is, for manufacturing purposes, the most important part of the plant, as it contains not only the seeds but also the floss. The pure white varieties of floss, obtained by careful cultivation and selection, are preferred, but among the brown and rust-colored varieties there are some of high industrial value. The cotton bud develops in the following manner: First, the flower; then the matured "boll" or pod; next, the hard outer covering opens, revealing the white wool-like material within, and, finally, when the white material containing the seeds is removed there remain the four husks of the boll.

Cotton is primarily a native of the tropics, and the number of species diminish rapidly in direct ratio to their distance from the equator. The cotton plant, whether wild or cultivated, is found in a belt of land encircling the globe between 45 degrees north latitude and 30 degrees south latitude, though only where local climatic conditions are favorable can cotton be raised as far north as 45 degrees, as for example in Asiatic Russia, which has the same latitude as Massachusetts.

The chief cotton-producing areas of the world embrace: In the United States, the southern states, including all those parallel with or south of North Carolina, as far west as New Mexico; practically all of British India; and Egypt, which ranks third as a cotton-producing country, followed by Asiatic Russia, Central China and Japan, Brazil, Mexico and Peru. Among other countries where considerable quantities of cotton are grown, or can be grown, are Paraguay, Colombia, Venezuela and Central America. The Latin-American field has remarkable possibilities.

In the seventeenth century the first attempt to grow cotton was made in Virginia, and by 1653 the staple had already become of much national importance in the British colonies of North America.

Cotton in England became a competitor to the then strongly intrenched woolen industry, and its manufacture being made profitable through the great inventions of Arkwright and others, it received governmental protection and encouragement. Arkwright's and other English patents were introduced into America, and at the close of the eighteenth century Whitney's gin was invented.

The cotton industry in the United States was terribly paralyzed by the Civil war, and it cost the southern states 13 years to regain their former supremacy. At present the most remarkable fact in regard to the United States is that the southern cotton-growing states are becoming rivals of the northern non-cotton-growing states, and particularly New England, in the manufacturing of cotton textiles.

The beneficence of the cotton plant as an agent of civilization can hardly be overestimated. Its sudden development is almost unparalleled in the history of economic products, and its enormous importance today in the agricultural, commercial and industrial life of the world renders it difficult to believe that scarcely more than 200 years ago cotton was practically unknown to the civilized nations of the west. The superiority of raw cotton for the purposes of textile manufacture consists in the fact that the fiber of its floss has a natural twist possessed by no other vegetable fibers, which renders it peculiarly adaptable for spinning and weaving.

Cotton and cotton wool, in medicine, surgery and dentistry, have an ever-increasing number of applications. Finally, goods manufactured out of cotton are relatively cheap.

The usefulness of cotton does not end with its adaptability for spinning and textile manufacture. Its seeds furnish an oil which is edible and of industrial value. The stems and leaves furnish an admirable fodder for live stock. Indeed, there is no portion of the plant that has not a high value. Human ingenuity has constantly discovered new applications of its products, notably, the manufacture of gun cotton, a highly explosive substance, obtained by soaking cotton in nitric and sulphuric acids, and then leaving it to dry. This substance, when dissolved in a mixture of rectified ether and alcohol, yields an adhesive liquid called collodion, much used in surgery.

Every republic in Latin America grows cotton. In some of them—Peru, for instance—and along various parts of the Caribbean coast, cotton is an indigenous plant, and was used

Open Boll of Egyptian Cotton.

by the natives before the discovery of America; in others it has been introduced because the soil and climate were found to be particularly well adopted to all the needs and requirements of successful cultivation.

Mexico, Brazil and Peru are the three republics in which cotton cultivation has the widest extension. In Mexico the native cotton was found along the eastern shore, but every state in the republic can grow or is actually growing cotton today, and the annual yield would be very much greater even than it is if other crops did not prove at present more profitable.

The same assertion may be made in regard to Brazil. Every state has its cotton fields, but only along the Atlantic seaboard of the mid-tropic state is it cultivated sufficiently to form a staple for export. Almost every state in Brazil also has cotton mills, and these form a very prosperous industry in the country. One-third the entire industrial capital of the country, representing $60,000,000, is invested in cotton mills.

Before the time of modern commerce the manufacture of the raw material into the finished product was necessarily a matter of domestic activity, but as the mechanical arts progressed in the United States and Europe raw cotton was exported, manufactured abroad into cloth, and as such imported by the country growing it. The United States even today continues this practice, as great quantities of raw cotton are exported to the spindles of Europe to be returned transformed into delicate fabrics. The same process is going on in Latin America. The factories of these countries cannot keep pace with the demand for cloth.

Hat Masculine and Feminine.

Let us thank heaven that the hat masculine is no worse than it is and of the hat feminine paraphrase the words of Hamlet when he held in his hand the grinning skull of Yorick: "Now get thee to my lady's chamber and tell her that no matter what her hat to this complexion she must come at last."

SCANDINAVIAN NEWS

Principal Events Gathered in the Old Scandinavian Countries

DENMARK.

The Danish crops turned out rather better than was expected. The barley crop is the poorest. But the oats and the wheat are good. The rye crop varies with the different kinds of soil.

"Brother Ansgar," a Dane who fled from a monastery in Scotland, held a meeting in Copenhagen, at which he spoke strong words against monastic life. Some Catholics attended the meeting, and a war of words followed "Brother Ansgar's" talk. A Catholic, the poet Jorgensen, finally asked his comrades to leave the meeting.

Things are very apt to disappear from the Drachmann museum at Skagen. No object was flightier than the poet's penholder. But the managers were equal to the occasion. As soon as a penholder was gone they put a new one in its place, and now there are about 500 persons who can boast that they are in possession of Holger Drachmann's penholder!

The Danes are having trouble with their paper money. The 50 and the 500 kroner bills are so much alike that the one is apt to be mistaken for the other. Bankers are supposed to be more careful than other people in handling money. But even at a bank a 50 kroner bill was accepted for one of 500 kroner. And the 100 kroner bills are so stiff that softer ones are demanded by the business people.

Some boys made a rich antiquarian find in a garden at Terslev. There was a necklace three feet long, a thick gold wire, a neck chain four feet long, many bracelets, two silver bowls, parts of ornaments, a dagger with a silver chain, and about 500 silver coins of different kinds. The coins are said to date from the time of Sven Forked-Beard. Representatives from the National Museum were sent to the place at once.

SWEDEN.

Three Danish theaters are going to present dramas by August Strindberg during the coming season.

The total exports of lingons (small red berries) are said to be only one-twentieth of the exports for 1910.

The price of butter is soaring so high that the common people begin to look around for artificial butter.

The prices of tickets to the Olympic games in Stockholm next summer will range from 50 cents to five dollars.

The steamer Viking returned with Hogbom's expedition from Spitzbergen. The cargo consisted of 100 tons of coal and 100 tons of plaster of Paris.

The Swedish shipowners have raised the wages of their men $1.35 a month largely because the wages of the seamen of the neighboring nations have been raised.

The Varends wood works at Hulvik, Smaland, were destroyed by fire. Valuable stocks on hand were also reduced to ashes. The insurance on the property was $30,000.

The wife of a confectioner at Boras is subject to epileptic fits. Her husband tried to get a divorce on this ground, but the national board of health refused to grant his petition.

No applications have been received for the positions of instructors in Swedish, German and English at the co-educational school in Haparanda, and of instructors in chemistry and biology at the Hudiksvall high school.

No less than 400 different parties bought lingons (small red berries) in northern Sweden, and although the crop was light the price was so high that experts in handling the picking machine could make as much as $10 a day.

The first military flying machine to carry passengers in Sweden was a Bleriot machine at the Ljungbyhed military grounds. Lieutenant Dahlbeck made fourteen successful trips in one day, and on four of these he carried two passengers.

The production of gold and silver is going down from year to year. Ten years ago Sweden produced almost 200 pounds of gold, but last year the production was less than four pounds. The production of silver for the year 1910 was about 60 pounds.

The Southern Swedish Power company has issued new bonds for $800,000, to be redeemed between the years 1916 and 1935, and convertible in 1921. Security was furnished by the cities of Malmo, Lund, Landskrona, Helsingborg and Halmstad.

The Swedish government will have to pay almost $3,000 in damages to persons who were to furnish horses and provisions for the maneuvers which were to take place in Ostergotland, but which had to be abandoned on account of the prevalence of infantile paralysis in that section of the country.

A most extraordinary freak of a calf was born at Klippan, Skane. It had no upper jaws, and for nostrils it had only one hole. The left eye was located in the middle of the cheek. The front legs terminated at the knees, and the hind legs at the lower joint.

Two Mormon missionaries who had been preaching in Jamtland were ordered by the government to leave the country within 48 hours or run the risk of being expelled. This step is taken to mean that the government is at last going to check the Mormon propaganda in Sweden.

The ski tower at Fiskartorpet was destroyed by fire some time ago, and the loss was complete because the insurance had expired a short time before the fire. Money is being raised by private subscription for the erection of a new tower.

Stockholm, Sept. 28.—The elections for the second chamber, the first held since universal suffrage and proportional representation were introduced, show a notable accession (to the strength of the Socialists. Returns from 204 out of 230 seats give the following results: Right, 61; Left, 87; Socialists, 56.

The Helsingborg and Hessleholm Railway company has issued new bonds for $500,000, which are to draw 5 per cent interest.

A stock company has been organized in Stockholm for operating steel sailing vessels. A part of the scheme is to take young Swedes on long voyages in order that they may become practical seamen.

Three new cases of infantile paralysis occurred in one day in Svarta parish, Jonkoping lan. The public schools of the city of Sunsvall have been closed on account of the same disease. On account of a new case at the Malmslatt drill grounds, a whole company was shut off from the outer world. Tents were pitched for the men in Lagerlunda forest, where they board all by themselves. Six new cases were reported in Stockholm in two days, and the whole number for that city is 90. It is pointed out that this is a small number out of a total population of 350,000. The cause of the spreading of the disease is still a puzzle to the medical profession.

Somebody in Stockholm claims to have discovered the real root of the infantile paralysis pest. He says that there is too little phosphoric acid in the vegetables eaten by those who are attacked, and this lack of phosphoric acid is in turn due to the excessively hot and dry weather. In support of his theory he points out that the people living near the sea have not suffered so much as the people in the rural districts; the former eat more fish than the latter, and fish contains much more phosphoric acid than vegetable foods; therefore, the amount of phosphoric acid consumed determines the prevalence of or the immunity from infantile paralysis. The medical profession is slow to accept this theory, however.

NORWAY.

A fisherman at Horten caught a six-foot swordfish in his nets. The sword was two feet long.

Normandsforbundet, a world-wide Norwegian association, has recently received many new members in Africa.

The Norwegian-American Steamship company has asked for bids for the construction of a steamer of 11,000 tons. It is to be 501 feet long, and must develop a minimum speed of 15 knots.

About 700 graduates from the agricultural college (and its predecessor, the Aas agricultural college) are now engaged as farmers, forest wardens, gardeners, dairymen, etc., in different parts of the country.

Thoger Andresen, of Larvik, has been permitted to hunt whales along the coast of Mozambique, and a stock company has been organized with a capital of $200,000 for the purpose of taking advantage of this chance. The company will make a start with two new whaling steamers.

Alfred, Me., Oct. 3.—The will of the late Mrs. Ole Bull Vaughn, daughter of the late Norwegian violinist, Ole Bull, was filed yesterday with Judge Hobbs of the York county probate court. The bulk of the estate, which is believed to be worth half a million dollars, is bequeathed to Sylvea Bull Vaughn, a minor, and adopted daughter of Mrs. Vaughn. Dorothy Shapleigh and David Miller, two children who had been under Mrs. Vaughn's care, received $25,000 each. To the "Ole Bull Fund committee" of Bergen, Norway, is left a fund yielding an annual income of $30,000 for preserving, maintaining and making improvements upon Lysoen, Norway, the home of Ole Bull.

Captain Sagen, who had trouble with his soldiers at Porstadmo, has again placed himself before the eyes of the public. He wrote a letter to the king, and just after he had sent it he read it to his company. He petitioned the king to dismiss the company on account of the impending courtmartial. Not only the soldiers, but the entire population of Gudbrandsdalen look upon the action of the government as an insult. The people of that part of Norway are a proud set, still remembering that they licked a Scotch army 300 years ago. The soldiers would also like to go home to tend the fall work on their farms. The petition was written in dialect Norwegian, and part of it reads as follows: "I ask you, Mr. King, to save the Twelfth company from the disgrace of being treated as captives of war in their own country and being guarded by their own comrades holding guns with loaded cartridges." After the reading of the letter every soldier in the company gave his word of honor that he would remain on the grounds as long as the courtmartial was in session. The Twelfth company and a guard company are the only soldiers at Jorstadmo that were not dismissed as usual.

Bishop Erichsen, of Bergen, has refused to ordain a theological candidate until he shall give an affirmative answer to the question whether he believes in the virgin birth of Christ. This is a new case of its kind in Norway, and if the matter is carried to extremes it may cause much unpleasant fuss.

The grain crop was both large and fine in Hallingdal, but the potatoes were simply miserable—that is, where there were any potatoes at all. Game is plentiful this season, and there are more hunters in the valley than ever before.

A big viper crawled into the house through the open door at Fagerli, near Larvik, and the housewife stepped on it without seeing it. Instantly the snake coiled itself around her leg, and she had some trouble in getting rid of it. The leg began to swell at once from blood poisoning, but fortunately a doctor was within easy reach, and he saved the woman's life.

A strange accident occurred at Dale, Romsdal. While a young man was bathing he was bitten by something which was supposed to be a fish. His whole body turned blue, and he died the same day.