In the Scandinavian North

Gleanings of Important News of Norway, Sweden and Denmark, with Occasional Comments.

By MARTIN W. ODLAND.

DENMARK.

A report from New York says that Mr. Niels Poulson, the president of the Hecla Iron Works, has just set aside the sum of $100,000, the interest of which is to be used for the benefit of the American-Scandinavian society.

Mr. Poulson even before his last munificent gift to the society has alway been interested in its work. He has contributed liberally to and is at present supporting a student from his home country, Denmark, who is studying here at the Carnegie Technical Institute in Pittsburg. Mr. Poulson has not made any condition for the disposition of his last gift but it is understood that the matter he has most at heart is bringing students from the old world to this country.

Two new trustees have recently been elected in the American-Scandinavian Society. They are Captain Love Lange and Mr. T. W. Hvoslef, both Norwegians who are well known here.

NORWAY.

Speaking of the new Bergen railway, the Minneapolis Journal says: A wonderful bit of railway has been recently opened to travel in Norway, connecting the capital, Christiania, with the west coast port of Bergen, surmounting the wildest sort of mountains at a summit level of nearly 2,000 feet through the Gravenals tunnel, 5,311 yards long. The unity of Norway for a thousand years has been held by virtue of the sea. The descendants of the Vikings were compelled to go down in ships by reason of the impassable mountains which divide the country into three districts, the southern or Christiania, the southwestern or Bergen, the northern or Trondhjem. It was as late as 1880 before the railway to Trondhjem was completed, while only now is Christiania joined by steel to Bergen. These lines will do much for the kingdom commercially. The Trondjhem line has already done much for the development of the northern district, and the new line will undoubtedly work beneficially for both Bergen and Christiania.

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Christiania.—The Norwegian ski runners carried off the first honors in the international long distance ski run held in France today. The Italian troupe finished second and the French runners took third place. The distance run was 15 kilometers and each nation was represented by a team of three with captain. The Norwegian team, consisting of Sveinnung Troönnes, Harald Monsen and Thore Vikene, and Lieutenant Leif Broch as captain, finished the course in one hour and fifty-six minutes. The Italian runners made the finish in two hours and twenty-four minutes and the French troupe in two hours and thirty-seven minutes. The weather conditions were very unfavorable.

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Christiania.—In an interview with a representative of Aftenposten, Consul General Thoresen in St. Petersburg states that he is making closer investigations with regard to the duties placed on Norwegian articles in Russia. Fortunately the duty does not apply to the importation of fresh Norwegian herring. In reality this act on the part of the Russian authorities applies only to the importation of Sprat, the importation of which is considered detrimental to the country. That this should not affect Norwegian interests is the opinion of the general consul.

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Recently published statistics show that the total sum of exports from Norway to the United States during the past year amounted to 12,328,526.53 crowns. The preceding years the exports to this country amounted to only 7,507,780.67 crowns. Of this sum the exported wood pulp and fiber netted 7,173,903.53 crowns, paper 851,756.39 crowns, tanned and dried hides 2,565,306.09 crowns. The exported cheese increased from 26,902.27 crowns in 1908 to 71,283.93 crowns in 1909.

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Moss.—A part of the pulp factory of M. Peterson & Sons burned early this morning. The damage will cause a temporary stop in the work at the establishment, but the men thereby deprived of work will be given employment in the reconstruction of the plant.

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Christiania.—A report to Lloyd's from Venice states that an explosion occurred in the hold of the Norwegian steamship Ulrikken when enroute from England to that city loaded with coal. One man was injured in the accident and the ship was damaged although not seriously.

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Much to the surprise of his physicians, Bjornstjerne Bjornson, whose death was expected a week ago, is again feeling better. His vitality is wonderful and it is possible he will pull through another crisis.

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Christiania.—The steamship Vestfjord was grounded yesterday morning according to a special dispatch to a Christiania paper. Details of the accident are lacking. Vestfjord was on a route between Bergen and Tromsö and was under the command of Captain K. Wennberg.

Trondhjem.—In the skating matches held here Saturday for the championship of Norway, Oscar Mathiesen, the famous Norwegian record breaker, carried off the first honors. Mathiesen skated 5,000 meters in 9 minutes and 15 seconds.

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Copenhagen.—Professor Matzen left last night for Stockholm where he will meet the Norwegian and Swedish arbiters in the question of the Swedish Nomadic Laps. Together they will travel north on a trip of investigation. During the coming month the board will again meet in Copenhagen to proceed with the investigation.

SWEDEN.

Price Eugen is making quite a mark as an artist and has already planned some of his work for the coming summer. He will spend about a month among the fine scenery of Vestergotland, taking up his residence at Uthem. He likes natural scenery and has found some excellent subjects in this neighborhood.

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Germany has been attempting to have a reduction of postal rates between that country and Sweden now that the facilities are better because of the Trelleborg-Sassnitz car ferry. Sweden has, however, answered that they can make no reduction at present owing to the financial conditions in their country.

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Simultaneously with the cost of living the expense of the annual riksdag has raised. Thirty years ago the session cost only half as much as it does at present. It is computed that this year's session will cost approximately $300,000, or about $4.00 per minute. The session lasts four months.

The latest move in the propaganda for anti-emigration sentiment is a series of plays put on with the approval of King Gustav. The plays aim to foster national pride and thus check emigration. The work will be especially pushed at Gothenburg, where most of the emigrants embark. The king deplores the fact that his country is annually being drained of some of the best talent and hopes that vigorous action will check this movement. The king has also engaged the distinguished explorer Nordenskjold for a series of lectures on national subjects.

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Count Rentlowska whose death occurred recently left his fine collection of antiquities to the Royal Museum, and the gift will be a fine addition to the collections already there. There are a great many valuable antiquities from the stone age in Sweden, most of them found in the vicinity of Ring lake in Skane.

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Prof. Martin Ekenburg, the Swedish scientist who was arrested in London last fall on the charge of complicity in several of the bomb outrages that took place during the summer, is now dead. After his arrest he went suddenly insane and had to be committed in England. It was arranged to have him extradited after his recovery but death came suddenly from apoplexy.

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Prof. Sv. Arrhenius, of Stockholm, delivered an important address at the last meeting of the Academy of Science, the lecture dealing with conditions on the planet Mars. The lecture was based on the observations made by Campbell last fall from the top of Mount Whitney. The party of astronomers were over 14,000 feet above sea level and the observations were made under the most favorable of conditions. The professor maintains that there is no trace of water vapor on the planet and possibly no carbonic acid gas. The temperature is 30 degrees centigrade and the planet therefore is uninhabited. Conditions are such as to render life impossible to beings such as we know, and the dream that it is inhabited by a superior race of beings will have to be given up, says the worthy professor.

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Madame Therese Andersson recently donated to Upsala university the sum of 40,000 crowns to be used for a physical laboratory and lectures, in order that the university may get the best in this line possible.

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The Riddarholm church in which the Swedish kings are buried is to undergo a systematic restoration and reparation. The Bernadotte chapel and the Karolinian and Gustavian choir lofts will be enlarged and improved. A heating plant will be installed to keep the church warm and dry.

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To prevent the extinction of the crawfish the government has prohibited the fishing in certain of the rivers and lakes. An epidemic of some kind has threatened the crawfish the past year and the government has been investigating it. This last rule will be in force until such a time as the reason for the dying of the crawfish can be definitely established.

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There has recently been quite an epidemic of typhoid fever at Karlskrona, considerable over 100 cases having been reported.

PLEDGE WAS KEPT

DOWNWARD REVISION OF THE TARIFF BY PAYNE BILL WAS SUBSTANTIAL.

BRYAN'S PLATFORM IS FALSE

High Prices in No Way Attributable to the New Customs Law—Pertinent Remarks by Congressman Boutell and President Taft.

Washington. — William Jennings Bryan is advising the Democratic papers of the country how to run the congressional campaign of 1910 and get a Democratic majority in the next house of representatives. He admits that he has given his advice to each Democratic member of congress, but that most of them have "overlooked" it. Now, here is Mr. Bryan's "platform," which he says is to bring success:

The increased cost of manufactured goods is largely due to an increase in tariff rates. The increase rather than a decrease in the tariff rates is due to a betrayal of the public by the Republican party."

As every schoolboy who is old enough to read knows, this statement is wholly untrue and every part of it is a malicious, abominable, wicked, vicious falsehood. There has been no increased cost of manufactured goods that can, in the least degree, be attributed to the new tariff.

Raw cotton is high, very high, though no one but an ignoramus or a knave connects the price with the tariff, for cotton is on the free list. If cotton goods are any higher, it can therefore in no way be attributed to the tariff. There was no increase in the duty on cotton goods save in the case of a few high-priced goods, which the masses do not buy. In regard to flax, hemp, and jute, and the manufactures from those materials, practically all the changes in the new tariff law were reductions of the duty. In wool and woolens there was no change. In iron and steel, and the manufactures of, there were very substantial reductions. The same can be said of wool and manufactures of wood, and of earth, earthenware, and glassware and chemicals. There was a reduction of the duty on boots and shoes, and the duty on hides was taken off altogether.

Revision Was Downward.

There were increases on silks and silk goods, and on spirits, wines, and beverages and other luxuries. There were 2,024 items in the Dingley law—1,150 were left unchanged, the duty on 220 was increased, and the duty on 654 was decreased.

The duty was decreased on goods having the consumptive value of $5,000,000,000, and, excepting luxuries, increased on goods having the consumptive value of less than $250,000,000. In other words, the decreases were more than 13 times the increases, considering consumptive value of products affected.

The public was not betrayed. The platform pledge to revise the tariff was not only kept, but it was revised very substantially downward, as the people were given to expect by the party leaders. Moreover, the new tariff has already fully vindicated the wisdom of its farmers, those who passed it, and President Taft, who signed it. From a revenue standpoint, it has really exceeded all expectations, there being an increase already of over $40,000,000. The revenues are now about equal to the expenditures, and the deficit for the year will be small, if it be not wiped out altogether.

Everyone in the country who wants work can get it, and besides we are taking care of nearly 100,000 immigrants a month. Wages and employment are at the highest level in our history, and the only cloud in a clear sky of prosperity is the high prices of certain kinds of food. This, however, cannot be in any way attributed to the new tariff law, as the duty was reduced on nearly all food products. High prices are the rule the world over, and it is to be hoped that the cause and remedy will be found, and that in the near future relief will come in this direction.

It is not believed that Mr. Bryan and his followers will be able to deceive the people as they were deceived in 1892. Never were our farmers so prosperous; never were our mechanics and laborers so well rewarded. Never were our savings so great as now. From every standpoint the new tariff is working splendidly, and under its operation we have entered an era of progress and prosperity against which Mr. Bryan cannot make much headway with his effort to preach calamity and treachery.

Boutell on High Price Probe.

As regards the investigations concerning high prices, they will be thorough and complete. In this connection the following extract from a recent speech of Congressman Boutell, of Illinois, is given:

"I would like to see the tariff experts appointed under the Payne tariff act take this up and look into the prices of imported articles. I would like to see the senate committee look into the whole subject of prices. I would like to see a committee of this house composed exclusively of members of the minority take it up.

"I would like to see an investigation into this matter of prevailing high prices made by a committee composed of one delegate each from the boards of trade of every southern state. But you gentlemen from the agricultural districts, you do not want an investigation, and the country is getting onto your bluff. You are getting letters from your constituents, and they are saying, 'We do not want any investigation that will reduce the price of cattle. We do not want any investigation that will put cattle on the free list. We do not want any investigation that will reduce the price of wheat, of corn, of oats, of rice. That is the trouble; you have made a mistake; you have put your heads into the noose, and we are going to draw it tighter and tighter, and we are going to show the country the blunder you have made in attributing an advance in prices to the Payne tariff.

"I close with a statement which everybody who has studied the Payne tariff knows is true. Every man in this body ought to know it. Investigation by a commission such as I have suggested, made up exclusively of Democrats from agricultural districts, would prove it, and it would be a unanimous report of all that investigated this subject of high prices: There is not in the Payne tariff law a single advance in rate above the Dingley rates that justifies an increase in the final retail price to the ultimate consumer of a single necessary article of food, of clothing, or of household use. Read that statement in the Record tomorrow morning and ponder it. That is what you gentlemen of the minority do not want to have shown. And the agricultural districts are opposed to any agitation that threatens the present high prices of their products."

Taft's Lincoln Day Speech.

Here are some pertinent extracts from President Taft's Lincoln day speech in New York:

"In what respect has the Republican party failed in its conduct of the government and the enactment of laws to perform its duty? It was returned to power a year ago last November by a very large majority, after a campaign in which it made certain promises in its platform, and these promises it has either substantially complied with or it is about to perform within the present session of congress.

"We did revise the tariff. It is impossible to revise the tariff without awakening the active participation in the formation of the schedules of those producers whose business will be affected by the change. This is the inherent difficulty in the adoption or revision of a tariff by our representative system.

"Nothing was expressly said in the platform that this revision was to be a downward revision. The implication that it was to be generally downward, however, was fairly given by the fact that those who upheld a protective tariff system defend it by the claim that after an industry has been established by shutting out foreign competition, the domestic competition will lead to the reduction in price so as to make the original high tariff unnecessary.

"I repeat, therefore, that this was a downward revision. It was not downword with reference to silks or liquors or high-priced cottons, in the nature of luxuries. It was downward in respect to nearly all other articles except woolens, which were not affected at all. Certainly it was not promised that the rates of luxuries should be reduced. The revenues were falling off, there was a deficit promised, and it was essential that the revenues should be increased.

"It was no violation of the promise to increase the revenues by increasing the tax on luxuries, provided there was downward revision on all other articles.

Customs Receipts Growing.

"Of course, as the country increases in population the customs receipts increase, but even considering the population, the increase in the tariff receipts has been marked. Under the Wilson tariff the average annual customs receipts per capita were $2.38; under the Dingley tariff $3.22, while under the Payne tariff they are $3.71.

"For the six months that the Payne tariff has been in force the total receipts both from customs and internal revenue have been $328,899,231.91, while the disbursements have been $332,783,283.08, showing that the expenditures exceeded the receipts by only $8,844,051.17, with no collection as yet from the corporation tax. For the corresponding period last year the expenditures exceeded the receipts by over $40,000,000. This showing indicates that under the present customs law the deficit will be promptly wiped out, and that to meet our normal expenditures we shall have ample revenue.

"If the Democratic party were a solid, cohesive opposition, guided by one principle and following the same economic views as they hold, the situation would be far more discouraging than it is. The Republican party has been the party responsible for the government for the last 17 years. It has discharged those responsibilities with wonderful success. The problems growing out of the Spanish war and those which have come from the rapid accumulation of wealth and the greed for power of its accumulators it has fallen to the party to meet, and while they have not yet all had a perfect solution, the record is one of which we have no reason to be ashamed.

"We shall be called upon to respond to the charge in the next campaign that the tariff, for which we are responsible, has raised prices. If the people listen to reasonable argument, it will be easy to demonstrate that high prices proceed from an entirely different cause, and that the present tariff, being largely a revision downward, except with respect to silks and liquors, which are luxuries, cannot be charged with having increased any prices.