

The Present Anomalous Condition In Scandinavia



THE action that practically amounts to a declaration of independence on the part of Norway, dissolving the dual government which has existed between that country and Sweden since 1815, marks one of the most interesting crises in modern history and brings into the limelight the most democratic and accomplished reigning houses in Europe. The breaking of the ties between the two Scandinavian countries has long been foreshadowed. It grew, as most modern governmental troubles do, through industrial and trade conditions. Sweden is a protection country and Norway a free trade. While the two nations have had a common king, they have maintained separate constitutions and governments, at least in theory. Norway demanded a separate set of councils, and the vetoing of this demand by King Oscar II. brought on the rupture. The Norwegian ministry resigned in a body and refused to withdraw their resignations when requested to do so by the king. Oscar was unable to choose a new cabinet, whereupon the startling, the kindest feeling toward King Oscar and his family and asked him to nominate some one of his sons or grandsons, known as the Bernadotte princes, to occupy the vacant throne. The king vigorously protested against the entire proceeding, but as there seems to be no disposition on the part of Sweden to use force in continuing the union, the independence of Norway would seem to be an accomplished fact.

While the demand for a separate diplomatic and consular corps was the immediate cause that brought about disruption, back of this were other and graver questions. Norway is very democratic and long has yearned for freedom. This desire has been manifested on many occasions, not the least of which was at the crowning of the present king in 1872. There are dissimilarities between the two peoples. Each has its own flag and its own language. While the two tongues are

much alike, their very similarity made them, as was once said by an English after dinner speaker concerning the English and American languages, an unrivaled medium of mutual misapprehension. Sweden is more populous, wealthier and more powerful than her neighbor to the west; hence she is more conservative. These facts created in the minds of the Norwegians a constant fear of the invasion of their liberties. A growing irritation and protest resulted. The strain wearied King Oscar, who is now past seventy-six years of age, and early in the present year he practically abandoned his throne to his eldest son, Crown Prince Gustavus.

The king himself is very popular in both countries, but this popularity does not extend to Gustavus, who has been acting as regent. The Crown Princess Victoria is related to the present emperor of Germany and holds that monarch's views relating to the divine right of kings. Gustavus naturally shares these ideas, which are not welcome to the liberty loving Scandinavians. The unassuming Oscar, who mingles freely with his subjects, tall, blue eyed, capable, a writer of books, a poet, an orator, a compiler of laws in many lines and with a love compelling and kindly soul, has placed his people as they exist look on a smaller man than himself. The whole world has regarded Oscar as the ideal ruler. Whenever international questions were

Bernadotte because she regarded him as the only man in France big enough to become a rival of the ambitious Corsican. It is probable that she had little to do in creating the jealousy between the two men. However that may be, Bernadotte joined the allies, fought against Napoleon at Leipzig in 1813 and helped bring about the downfall of the emperor. It was in 1814 that Bernadotte forced the king of Denmark to cede Norway to Sweden. When the Norwegians objected, declared themselves independent and chose a king of their own, the former French marshal, then known as Crown Prince Charles John, marched against them and forced them to capitulate. This was the beginning of the ninety year union, which has just been dissolved.

In 1815 Bernadotte ascended the throne of Sweden and Norway under the name of Charles XIV. He reigned till his death in 1844, when his only son, Oscar I, succeeded him. As a king Bernadotte, while not especially popular, brought about many reforms, extended agriculture, made internal improvements and laid a substantial basis for future prosperity. He never learned the Swedish language, a fact which prevented him from attaining the hold on his subjects that his force of character and real greatness otherwise might have secured for him. Bernadotte was tall, of commanding presence, of great abilities as a general and ruler and possessed all those

one time this king promoted to a bishopric a preacher who was notorious for his frequent attacks upon the devil. The clergyman called to thank his majesty.

"Not a word, said Charles. "You owe me no thanks. You never would have been bishop but for your attacks on the devil. The Satan you should thank."

As the end drew near Charles was laid at Malmo. The great crowd started a lusty cheer, but when the people saw the emaciated form of their king the shouts died on their lips and he was received with respectful and sympathetic silence. "Ah!" exclaimed the dying ruler. "I perceive that I am really loved."

Oscar II. is a worthy brother of Charles XV. A fit grandchild of the king, commanding, eagle eyed Bernadotte, a typical Scandinavian ruler of the line of kings that contained the beautiful soul of Olaf Trygvasson and the saintly soul of Old Haroldson. The most that can be said for Oscar is that he is more than a king; he is a man. Like his father, he is a poet and musician. He is more royal by nature than by the accident of birth. He is a viking soul, subdued and meliorated by culture and Christian gentleness. This is not more fulsome flattery. Nobody can write of this man without breaking into praise. A perfect, even in a great thing in this world, whether in king or homemaker, Oscar is one of those affable, warm hearted, magnetic, courtly old gentlemen that people just have to love. However much one may sympathize with Norwegian independence, he is forced almost to regret that it should have come at a time to so bitter the declining days of this amiable and able ruler. But the march of liberty goes on no matter who may be in the way. The imperial car of progress is something of a juggernaut. Voe to him who is cast beneath the wheels. Charles I. of England and Louis XVI. of France doubtless had good qualities, but they were crowned, and their heads were chopped off to get rid of the crowns. It is almost a fault to Oscar II. to mention him in the same breath with these, as he is a greater

man. There were deep breaths, glad eyes and hearts full of prayer and patriotic fervor. But a look or a hand-clasp he often more eloquent and more to good taste than a shout—at least so the simple Norse folk think.

What the outcome may be who can tell? There are wars and rumors of wars, but not for these people. The two nations are too much like brothers to fight. Among the more radical there is talk of a republic. A bold soul like Nansen might even precipitate such a thing, but Nansen has said that he will accept no office. Oscar has refused to let any of his offspring take the throne. There have been proposals looking to the election to the crown of Prince Waldemar, brother of Queen Alexandra of England, and youngest son of King Christian of Denmark. It should be said in passing that the Danes are in thorough sympathy with the Norwegians in the step that has been taken. But England is not pleased, and Russia, the ancient foe of the Scandinavian, is looking on with greedy eyes.

One possible outcome is foreshadowed, which would be welcomed by the whole world. That would be a Scandinavian union of Sweden, Denmark and Norway. Here would be a nation worth while. Such a result would not be more remarkable than that achieved by Denmark in the union of the German states. The three north countries are bound together by many memories, interests and common ties. There might be friction. Political parties in our hands are not without friction, but some one has happily said of it that it "keeps at the water's edge." The antipathies between the Scandinavian peoples might be expected to end at the boundary lines of the empire created by their union. The ever present menace of Russian aggression may force this pooling of forces.

All this, however, is in the future. In the meantime nothing can be done except to wait. The Swedish right to Oscar, in the vernacular of our own politics, is standing pat. The Norwegians are ready to fight for their independence without expecting to be compelled to do so. Some of the lead-

ing Swedish statesmen are quoted as saying that they will not resort to arms. That Norway's fate can be on her own head. But there is always the hidden element to be dealt with, and the situation is delicate. Here is the place for the diplomat and the political tactician. The Swedes are cheering their popular king, and Crown Prince Gustavus has hurried home from the German wedding. "This is the situation. Prudent as it is with possibilities, no one can tell what a month will bring forth. Yet the probability is that the separation will be allowed to stand. Sweden is rich, conservative and somewhat aristocratic. The people are fairly prosperous and contented and do not wish to be disturbed. If Norway wants to go—well, so much the worse for Norway. If she cannot appreciate her blessings, what would you? Sweden can take care of herself, as she always has done. Her outside alliances have been changed, she has lost her Baltic provinces and Finland, but in heretofore she has never been conquered. She would protect Norway, but if Norway does not desire protection so be it. This, in a word, is the Swedish attitude. In truth, except for the fact that they have had a common king the two countries have never been united affairs. So the Swedish subject is not much concerned about the matter.

It is otherwise, however, with King Oscar. He has been the ruler of both countries. So, in the last analysis, the decision rests with him. It is safe to say that Sweden is so loyal to him in other things that it expresses a desire to this day will feel herself bound to follow him. There are Norwegian representatives to the general Dieting, which meets on June 26 and they will report back to their nation.

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teresting, thus becomes doubly so. What will he do? His is the last of the Napoleonic thrones. Will his action be Napoleonic? He is the grandson of Bernadotte, who brought about the union. Will he permit the work of his



MAIN SECTION OF THE STOCKHOLM CATHEDRAL.

ancestor to be undone, the monument built by his fathers to be demolished? Thus there are his children to consider. Will he hand to his son, the Crown Prince Gustavus, a land heritage that he himself received? What will the crown prince himself say? For he is regent and therefore a powerful factor. Will he sit idly by while his future kingdom is divided? His is the blood

lineage. If Russia were as united as Japan—but that is beside the subject.

One story of Oscar is not out of place. As much as it involves a news-paper reporter, and reporters are always in a pinch, Oscar was going to deliver a speech to something or other, and this particular scribble wanted an advance copy. The king is so democratic that he cuts all the red tape possible so his subjects can get to him without any introduction, which they do in large numbers. The reporter went direct to headquarters and was told by his sovereign that his speeches were mostly of the extemporaneous, right off the bat sort and therefore nothing had been written. The reporter, after the manner of his kind, was persistent so the tallest and best person in Europe unbidden, took the scribble into his private car and dictated a speech that could appear in the morning paper.

And he does many little like kindnesses. That man is a good enough democrat to live in the United States, a great mass of his countrymen do live here, and by the way, they are mighty good citizens.

For that reason, and others, the American people extend their best wishes to both Norway and Sweden in their present trouble. May they join with Denmark and make a united Scandinavia that can make Russia take to the heels!

J. A. EDGERTON.

PROTECTING THE CZAR.

The army and police are the powerful bodyguards of the czar. Regiments of soldiers are stationed near each palace, and selected troops are detailed for duty in courtyards and buildings, where they form a cordon around the imperial apartments. In addition to the regular uniformed police who patrol the streets with particular care when the czar is passing, there is a large body of secret police, whose duty it is to discover and frustrate any possible plot against him.

They have agents in Berlin, London, Paris, Buenos Ayres, New York, Chicago and Paterson, N. J. Spies are in every city in Russia and in every department of life. The censorship of mails and telegrams, the passport system, the protection of frontiers, the compulsory announcement of arrivals and departures to the police by every household—all these are parts of the same system whose principal aim is the protection of the emperor.

When the czar travels other people wait. Not only stations, but entire railways, may be blocked for hours at a time. Between St. Petersburg and Tsarskoe-Selo a special line, with a private station at each end, has been built for the exclusive use of the imperial family. Every yard of it is guarded constantly and particularly when a train is to pass.

The emperor goes about St. Petersburg streets without a military guard. He may be seen driving down the Nevsky prospect in an open sleigh or carriage drawn by a swift black horse without a footman. He always arrives late and never until the secret police have reported that no suspected or unknown persons have procured admittance.

The czar is not so carefully guarded that an evil disposed person could not sooner or later find an opportunity to make an attempt on his life. Reliance seems to be placed in the ability of the police to keep persons who might be dangerous out of his vicinity. He is under closer surveillance when in his apartments than at any other time. The military guards inside the palace are never seen by the public. They are intended as a precaution against possible conspiracies in high quarters rather than against individual intruders, who are held off by the soldiers and police agents at the doors and gates.

KIPLING AS A PREACHER.

Rudyard Kipling once acted as a preacher. The quartermaster of the Empire liner, on which he was a passenger, died, leaving a widow and a large family. The following evening there appeared on the notice board half-way down the "entertainment program" this brief intimation: "P. M.—Sermon by a layman." The saloon was crowded with curious folk at the appointed time, and Mr. Kipling, from the front of an improvised platform, proceeded to preach a beguiling sermon of some fifteen minutes' length. The result was gratifying. From a congregation numbering less than 200 the sum of over \$250 was raised.

EYEGLASSES FOR ACTORS.

The enterprising optician has come to the rescue of stage folk who are afflicted with nearsightedness. Glasses fitted with tiny lenses are now made for use of the actor's eye, and who in defense to the character he is portraying may not wear the regulation eyeglasses or spectacles. These special glasses fit close to the eyeball and are hardly distinguishable from the front of the nose, save when the footlights are at their blindest pitch of illumination. The new piece of scientific contrivance is covered with a flesh colored material, which aids the illusion.

RADIUM FOR SNAKE POISON.

Professor Gluckson announced in a recent communication to the Parisian Academie des Sciences that radium emanations have the property of destroying the toxicity of serpent venom. A piece of cobra poison, if submitted to the action of radium, is said to lose its virulence after fifty or sixty hours of exposure.

One of the most interesting characters in the present mix-up in Mexico is the Norwegian premier, on whose shoulders the government of his country has practically fallen. He is able, dignified and conscientious. On this issue he has behind him an absolutely united country, and that is no small feat.

years was consummated recently when a 2,000 head oxen, purchased from a ranch near Van Horn, Tex., for \$150,000.

The latest and most fascinating method of teaching children to read is to put them at work on a typewriter. Recent excavations in Egypt have revealed a bond, dated A. D. 100, appointing a slave for two years to the "semiograph," to be taught to read and

fish could be elected. While this action was supported by a unanimous vote of both houses, the storming expressed the kindest feeling toward King Oscar and his family and asked him to nominate some one of his sons or grandsons, known as the Bernadotte princes, to occupy the vacant throne. The king vigorously protested against the entire proceeding, but as there seems to be no disposition on the part of Sweden to use force in continuing the union, the independence of Norway would seem to be an accomplished fact.

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STATUE OF OLE BULL AT BERGEN, NORWAY.

to be arbitrated the kindly Swedish king was in demand. He seems almost to belong to another age, the old viking days with their glorious sea kings. In fact, he may be imagined to resemble one of the most famous of these, the first Olaf, he who converted Norway to Christianity some 900 years ago. Olaf, whom Carlyle has described as the most beautiful soul in the north and whose Longfellow has immortalized in his "Ballad of a Wayfarer's Inn," was tall and blue eyed, jovial and sunny, but a very Cromwell in his wrath. In the year 1000 he was surrounded at sea by a force much larger than his own and forced to fight for his kingdom. All day the battle raged and finally none of Olaf's ships, except his own, the Long Serpent, was left. Elvar Tamborskeiver, his best bowman, had fought till set of sun by the side of his monarch. At last the bow snapped in his hands, and Olaf asked, "What was that?"

"'Tis the realm of Norway breaking From this hand, O king!"

cried Elvar, and so it proved. In the end Olaf leaped overboard and never again was seen in Norway.

So one today might say to Oscar: "Tis the realm of Norway breaking From this hand, O king!"

Oscar II., who was born Jan. 21, 1829, is the grandson of the famous monarch of Napoleon, Jean Baptiste Louis Bernadotte, prince of Ponte Corvo, who ascended the throne of Sweden and Norway under the name of Charles XIV. in 1818. Bernadotte was the son of a lawyer of Pau, France, and distinguished himself as a soldier in the revolutionary wars. He occupied a diplomatic post at Vienna and in 1799 served as French minister of war. In 1805 he bore a conspicuous part in the battle of Austerlitz, for which Napoleon made him field marshal and prince of Ponte Corvo. Despite this fact, Napoleon and Bernadotte were never good friends, and the French emperor had nothing to do with the election of his field marshal as crown prince of Sweden in 1810. Bernadotte was required to abjure the Roman Catholic church and become a Protestant, which he did. Some time prior to this he had married Desree Clary, daughter of a French stockbroker and sister of the wife of Joseph Bonaparte, one of the present King Oscar's novels revolves around this incident, claiming that Napoleon was once engaged to Desree Clary himself. The Little Corporal was ordered away on duty, however, and forgot his young fiancée. Desree afterward married

qualities which have made his descendants so popular at home and abroad.

Oscar I., who ascended the throne in 1844, married Josephine, daughter of Eugene Beauharnais and granddaughter of the Empress Josephine. This Oscar was one of the most popular of modern Swedish kings. Affable, democratic, progressive, he combined in a rare way both the finer qualities of the artist and the manly strength of the man who does things. It is related that on one occasion the Emperor Nicholas I. invited him to join forces with Russia in the Crimean war. Oscar politely refused. "But what," said the Russian envoy, "would happen if my master should object to your neutrality and should send 100,000 men into Sweden to inquire into matters?" "Say to your master," replied Oscar, "that he would do well in such a case to send 150,000 men with a force afterward to try to find out what had become of the first 100,000."

The present King Oscar is the son of Oscar I. and Josephine. The ruler of today did not ascend the throne, however, immediately on his father's death, which occurred in 1859. An elder brother, Charles XV., reigned for thirteen years. Charles was even more liberal, progressive and unassuming than his father. He used to exchange places with his groom and other attendants about court and get out of the king business as much as possible. Come to think of it, this thing of being placed eternally on a pedestal may be rather wearisome, especially to a real flesh and blood man, such as these Bernadottes seem to have been. If all the royal nobles could forget the furs and feathers and be more like plain human beings they would doubtless increase both their comfort and popularity. Blue blood may be a good thing, but red blood is better. The democratic virus has got into the veins of the nation, and it is impossible to eradicate it. The liberty disease is contagious. Possibly that is what is the matter with Norway. At any rate, these descendants of the French bourgeoisie seem to have been unable to forget the creed of "liberty, fraternity, equality," which their ancestors learned in the first revolution. In Charles XV. the memory was very active. At

and better man than both of them rolled into one, but he is in a degree sharing their fate. If all the kings were Bernadottes, the tendency toward revolt might be temporarily checked, but unfortunately—or is it fortunately?—they are not. The tide of the sea did not stop for the royal broom of Canute nor does the tide of progress stop for the royal gown of Oscar II.

The Norwegian storming represents the will of a sovereign people, its supreme over its own. Not with indecency and haste, but gently and in order, it has declared the old regime ended and the new regime begun. When the supreme action was taken there was no choosing either within or without the chamber. The gray headed legislators, as they left the hall, were received by the multitude, as the tottering Charles XV. had been, with respectful and sympathetic silence—not that they were falling, they were rising. But the throne of Oscar II. was empty, and this hour was somewhat out of kindness toward him. It was a momentous thing that was happening. The finger of fate was writing an edict for the children of the north. As men are silent in the sacred air of a cathedral or before a grave, so were they quiet before the face of this burial of the old regime and the birth of a new one. There was no apathy indicated by the lack of noise—rather a deep and reverent determination. There had been plenty of enthusiasm a few days before, when Dr. Pihlstr. Nansen, the famous Arctic explorer, had declared before a great assembly at Christiania that the time for independent action had come. And when a leading literary man proposed that this same Nansen should lead the people there had been such a burst of cheering as had never been heard in the old Norse capital. But now that separation actually had come it was too grave a time for up-

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It is otherwise, however, with King Oscar. He has been the ruler of both countries. So, in the last analysis, the decision rests with him. It is safe to say that Sweden is so loyal to him in other things that it expresses a desire to this day will feel herself bound to follow him. There are Norwegian representatives to the general Dieting, which meets on June 26 and they will report back to their nation.

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ing Swedish statesmen are quoted as saying that they will not resort to arms. That Norway's fate can be on her own head. But there is always the hidden element to be dealt with, and the situation is delicate. Here is the place for the diplomat and the political tactician. The Swedes are cheering their popular king, and Crown Prince Gustavus has hurried home from the German wedding. "This is the situation. Prudent as it is with possibilities, no one can tell what a month will bring forth. Yet the probability is that the separation will be allowed to stand. Sweden is rich, conservative and somewhat aristocratic. The people are fairly prosperous and contented and do not wish to be disturbed. If Norway wants to go—well, so much the worse for Norway. If she cannot appreciate her blessings, what would you? Sweden can take care of herself, as she always has done. Her outside alliances have been changed, she has lost her Baltic provinces and Finland, but in heretofore she has never been conquered. She would protect Norway, but if Norway does not desire protection so be it. This, in a word, is the Swedish attitude. In truth, except for the fact that they have had a common king the two countries have never been united affairs. So the Swedish subject is not much concerned about the matter.

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STRAY BITS.

A Vienna newspaper says that Kuba, the violinist, will soon become the owner of a string of race horses.

A motorist was charged with recklessness in Chicago streets and was said by one witness to be traveling at twenty miles an hour. When asked what experience of motors he possessed, the witness replied, "None but seeing them on the street and getting out of their way."

It is stated that extensive lodes of tin have been discovered in the Transvaal, thus foreshadowing a tin industry in South Africa. Rich cassiterite deposits have been located at Vlakfontein and elsewhere, and although at present their extent and precise metal-

urgical value have not been established, great expectations are entertained of the result of the operations now in progress.

One test for distinguishing diamonds from glass and paste is to touch them with the tongue. The diamond feels much the colder.

The crown forests of Russia comprise 55,000,000 acres belonging to the state and 302,000,000 farmed by the national

exchequer. The east employs 35,000 wool police, who cut 12,000,000 tons a year, chiefly for the north.

Twenty years ago wood cutters in the United States felled timber covering 10,000 acres daily.

A log raft 700 feet long, drawing twenty-five feet and containing 8,000,000 feet of lumber, is to be towed from Seattle to San Francisco. Skating men are afraid it may break up on

route and cover the sea with dangerous floating timbers.

According to an English professor, appendicitis is often due to bad teeth. He says the same organisms are present in defective teeth and in the diseased appendix, which proves that dental decay is capable of causing appendicitis.

The largest sale of cattle which has taken place in Colorado within ten

years was consummated recently when 2,000 head oxen, purchased from a ranch near Van Horn, Tex., for \$150,000.

The latest and most fascinating method of teaching children to read is to put them at work on a typewriter. Recent excavations in Egypt have revealed a bond, dated A. D. 100, appointing a slave for two years to the "semiograph," to be taught to read and

write shorthand, or "the signs that your son Dionysius knows"—the teacher receiving in all 120 shillings—about \$25.

Professor Retenauer of Berlin, a recognized authority on Russian affairs, in a recent interview said that 10,000,000 inhabitants of the Russian empire are literally starving.

Japan persists in its refusal to allow foreigners to secure any property, mines, mortgages or railways.