

to turn the current of emigration to Norrland.

Edward Schmidt, the Swedish-Norwegian consul general at Berlin, has been appointed court banker of the Empress of Germany.

The king has appointed a committee to distribute the \$13,500 appropriated for the support of different artisans who are to attend the World's Fair in Chicago.

"The Blue Cross," a kind of temperance organization, which has had a fair run in Switzerland and certain German localities, has just gained a footing in Gothenburg.

Mr. Modig, of Atwastra, has christened his twelfth son "Charles the Twelfth." In the same neighborhood a peasant called his twelfth daughter "Tolftina" (Twelfthina).

A fire in a store at Roderos, Smaalenene, Norway, gained such headway when discovered, that several men who were present did not dare to enter the building to save the goods. Not so Tilda Bryntesdatter, a Swedish girl from Tagetorp. Having broken the sash of a window by means of a balance-weight, she entered the store and saved goods to the value of \$1,800. Among other objects she took out a desk, which it had taken two men to handle. The brave girl came out of the ordeal unharmed, and she will receive a handsome reward for her performance.

NORWAY.

The annual consumption of intoxicants in Norway is estimated by the *Verdens Gang* to represent a value of about \$7,000,000, of which something like \$2,300,000 is in liquor and \$3,000,000 in beer. To this should be added the wine consumed, not a very large quantity, however, and the cost of handling the goods and the profit on it made by middle men.

The Norwegian herring is being distanced in foreign markets by the Swedish product, the latter being cured and packed with more care and according to the best modern methods, while the Norwegian exporters are slovenly and careless, their barrels in particular being poorly constructed. The matter is of no little importance; the great interior markets on the continent are gradually being lost, and new markets will hardly open as long as no steps are taken to improve the goods and present them in a condition acceptable to the customers.

DENMARK.

The Norwegian painter, Grohwoldt, will spend the winter at Copenhagen.

The sculptor Niels Høgh has sold his statue called "The God of Song" to a rich merchant for \$1,080.

Ludwig Koch, who was the captain of a steamer on Congo river in Africa for three years, has returned to his home in Denmark to take a rest.

Through passenger trains from Copenhagen to Christiania now cover the distance between those two cities in 20 hours. The cars are of course carried across the sound on ferries.

The barbers of Copenhagen are having a good deal of trouble. A majority of them have agreed to charge from 3 to 4 cents for shaving. But a number of scabs are charging only 2 cents. The

union barbers are now discussing the feasibility of freezing out the scabs by opening a few temporary shops, charging only one cent per shave.

The Ibsen craze is growing worse than ever.

The description of the reception of the latest manuscript of Henrik Ibsen at Copenhagen reads like a medieval legend. Wherever the train on which it was carried, stopped on its way from Christiania to Copenhagen, crowds of people were present to give vent to their joy and pride. At Helsingør the whole city was in commotion.

Jacob Hegel, Henrik Ibsen's publisher, met the manuscript at this place, and as the manuscript car rolled from the ferry on to the track on Danish soil, his voice was heard through the solemn silence: "welcome to Denmark!" Immediately the surrounding throng shouted "Long live Ibsen's publisher!" At the depot at Copenhagen a number of societies with their banners paraded the street. As the case containing the costly manuscript was taken out of the car, Mr Hegel and those around him uncovered their heads, and Mr. Hegel and three Danish authors carried it out on the street where the rejoicing of the people knew no bounds.

The case was next placed in a carriage drawn by six horses, and the procession moved slowly towards the Hegel publishing house where "the Ibsen typographers" were parading at the entrance.

It is a curious fact, that these type setters only set up the type of the works of Ibsen every other year and receive a pension from Mr. Hegel for the rest of the time.

In delivering the manuscript to the foreman Mr. Hegel made a short speech in which he emphasised the tremendous responsibility of the type setters in regard to the peering of their work on the development of the world. The foreman answered that he was keenly appreciative of the honor which had been bestowed upon him and his profession. So highly is this work thought of that the type setters wear special uniforms during working hours: white coats, white ties and white gloves.

O. B. Wahlund, a Swede, who lately has spent several months at St. Petersburg and other Russian cities, seems to be a veritable Hercules. In the presence of one of the most noted physicians in Russia and a number of athletes he performed feats of strength which break the world's record. He hoisted a "strength meter" indicating 1890 pounds and raised a weight of 2,980 pounds from the ground, a performance equal to that of 22 men of average size.

It appears that there will be no special exhibit at the World's Fair of the productions of Norwegian women. A sub-committee of ladies appointed to further the matter, has disbanded after being refused the small monetary assistance asked for from the main committee and the *Nylænde*, the organ of Norwegian womanhood, feels justly depressed and chagrined at this sad ending to its fond anticipations and hopes.

A cablegram has already informed us that the discussion of the military bill in the Swedish Riksdag resulted in a great victory for the government. The upper house passed the bill without taking a vote, and the majority in favor of

the different paragraphs of the bill in the lower house varied from 40 to 64.

The crowds surging into the lower house showed plainly that something was at stake. Every seat was occupied, and the little niche dubbed, "the diplomat box" contained as many of the members of the royal family as the constitution permits, all except the king himself.

The great event of the first session was the speech of the minister of war. At first he seemed to hesitate, but as he proceeded, he grew warmer, stronger and firmer, and the opponents of the bill readily admitted that it was "a dangerous speech." The matter of defenses he said had been on the tapis for the last 30 years, but without any practical results. He considered it to be of such paramount importance, however, as to demand a speedy solution.

He reasoned as follows:

"The cause of the sad consummation of Sweden's last war was not the lack of individual courage, nor was it the numerical weakness of the forces, but it was deficient organization and deficient training. When we, in 1809 almost miraculously escaped the fate of Poland, it is simply astonishing that we did not take immediate steps to improve our defense. When the Russians were crushed in 1806 they speedily re-organized their army. The French, whom many are in the habit of looking down upon, after 1871 immediately went to work to arrange their military affairs in such a manner that I think any power will be careful not to approach the boundaries of France. We, on the contrary, followed the advice of "reconquering Finland within the borders of Sweden." But we have seen that that curse of war is not yet a thing of the past and the millennium is still far away: The caonade at Bomarsund and the defeat of Denmark have aroused us."

The speakers closed with this appeal:

"It is my conviction based on the experience of the past, that this bill will give us an army, which will be able to defend our dearest boon, will be able to protect our independence. Therefore you cannot wonder that I entreat every one of you from the depth of my heart to support the bill. You will thereby throw a safe guard around the independence of your father-land and receive the blessing of posterity."

The bill now passed will make Sweden a stronger power than it has been during this century. The army will without doubt number at least 400,000 in time of war. The military districts are to be so arranged that five of the six will include a portion of the Swedish coast line. The sixth district will be a sort of inland reserve ready to be directed on any threatened point.

IN ANTAGONISM to the theory that the Chinese are incapable of understanding and accepting with sincerity the doctrines of Christianity—that they have in fact no part in the Atonement and are not designed to be christianized, statistics have been furnished showing that on the Pacific coast over two thousand of them have become thorough Christians, have been received into membership in the various evangelical churches, and are genuinely converted and in some instances persons of great worth. Not a few of them have returned to their own land to operate as missionaries.