

THE SCANDINAVIAN FATHERLAND.

Prepared from Special Cablegrams.

SWEDEN.

Influenza is raging epidemically in Karlskrona.

The proposed temperance Riksdag will not take place.

The Nasafjell mines near Pitea have been sold to Mr. Alex. J. Porter for 300,000 crowns.

John Larson, the famous Swedish bicyclist, intends to make a trip all around the Baltic sea.

A railroad is to be built between Klaastorp and Rydsgard in Skone. The cost is estimated at 1,520,000 crowns.

The oldest living person in Sweden is Mrs. Katarina Jonassdotter, of Aashem, not far from Jonkoping. Mrs. Jonassdotter was born July 30th in 1788.

The emigration from Southern Dal is very large. In only one parish the population has decreased 2,238 during the last few years.

J. E. Nordquist and C. G. Sandberg, two sailors aboard the Helsingborg steamer Oskar, were drowned off the coast of Norway.

Two students of the university of Upsala have become crazy by want of food. It sounds incredible but is nevertheless true, says the Upsala *Posten*.

China is importing Swedish telephones. Engineer A. Lindstrom has departed for the far away country, where he will superintend the putting up of the telephones and the wires.

During the first nine months of the present year Swedish iron ore, amounting to 414,998,000 kilograms, was exported as compared with 275,079 kilograms during the same time in 1892.

The paper mill at Lilla Edet has now been rebuilt after the big fire a few years ago, and 400 people will immediately obtain work. The new buildings are much larger than the old ones.

When Gounod, the great French composer, died and information of his death had been received by King Oscar, the king sat down and wrote a short but beautiful poem, in which he eulogized the dead master. The poem was published by nearly all the Stockholm papers.

Alfred Wallner, a peasant of Bergsakern, is a lucky fellow. The other day he discovered (under a barn) no less than 1,260 old Swedish silver coins and 240 bronze coins, all about 300 years old. The government will without doubt pay a handsome price for the find.

Other nations are represented in Sweden by a very small number of Lapslanders (about 6,000) and Finns (about 20,000), both races living in the far north, as also a very small number of foreigners (altogether about 20,000 persons) chiefly from the countries nearest Sweden. More than 90 per cent of the population of Sweden consists of native Swedes.

In four of the Stockholm National schools the girls in the highest classes—generally to the number of 30 from each

school—have been taught cookery as well as baking, and have taken it by turns to carry out such work. The girls who also do the washing up and the house cleaning, etc., seem to keep up a lively interest in the matter, and many opinions expressed in the children's home show that the parents also duly appreciate the teachings.

There are two very conspicuous features which explain why Sweden, as regards the general character of its natural features, is so different from most of the other parts of Europe. The country is situated around the centrum of the ancient Scandinavian land-ice, and in the greater part of the country only two of the geological series, the oldest and the youngest, are represented. Thus the uneven, undulating surface of the rocks, belonging to the archaic series, is in general covered with the quaternary deposits of gravel, sand and clay.

The Swedes are acknowledged to be one of the tallest nations of the world. Instead of the race degenerating the contrary is the case. In Jemtland the mean height of the conscripts was no less than 172 centimeters and the same height has been found to be the average for scholars of the same age (20-21,) though at that time of life in this northern climate the men are not fully developed. In fact the very neat age-class (21-22) proves an increase in the mean height of conscripts of 1½ centimeters.

The Swedish Merchant Service, at the close of 1892, numbered 2,979 sailing vessels of 377,667 tons and 1,181 steamers of 152,493 tons, or altogether 4,160 vessels of 530,160 tons. The entire number of arrivals and departures from and to foreign ports was 60,941 of 11,285,335 tons; of which 26,508 were steamers of 8,137,775 tons. The gross freightage received by Swedish vessels for foreign shipping was not quite 10 million dollars. The home and inland navigation is very lively in Sweden. The number of arrivals to and departures from home ports in 1891 was 177,358 of 16,887,296 tons; of these vessels 120,036 were steamers of 14,051,354 tons and only 57,322 sailing vessels of 2,835,942.

As regards religion or faith in Sweden, the population is almost homogeneous, the Lutheran creed being that of the national church of Sweden, and no less than 99.09 per cent belong to Protestant denominations. During the last decades several sects have become more widely spread, as at present there are about 40,000 Baptists, close upon 20,000 Methodists and a couple of thousand members of the Salvation Army, etc. Moreover, one or two special denominations have arisen in Sweden, and though based on Protestant principles, have as regards their worship and rituals—as also in some degree in respect to creed—emancipated themselves from the Swedish church. The members of these two denominations—each reckoning some hundred thousand adherents—still belong to the national church in

name. The church of Rome has about 1,000 adherents, and the Jews number about 3,000.

NORWAY.

Henrik Ibsen is writing a new drama. A new church will be built in the Hammar parish.

The Kongsvinger-Flisen railroad has been opened for the public.

The emigration has been very large the present year, and is still going on.

Julius Bruun has been appointed bishop of Christiania pro tempore.

The conservatives will without doubt be victorious at the next elections in Christiania.

The bears are more numerous in the northern provinces than they have been for years.

Several Norwegian officers have entered the army of Congo, and will stay in Africa for about three years.

The Christiania workingmen's society will soon erect their own building on a recently bought lot.

The emigration from the Trondhjem Stift has been nearly double as large during the first ten months of 1893 as during the same period last year.

"Syttende Mai" (May 17th—Norway's Fourth of July) will be the name of the new paper which will be published in Christiania. The first number is to be, January 1st next year.

The study of general history in the schools of Norway begins at the age of eleven or twelve, and is carried on according to the same principles as those for Norwegian history. In the higher classes a thorough repetition is undertaken with the help of more detailed text-books than those used in the lower classes. In a few schools politics are taught.

The instruction in the National schools of Norway, as in Sweden, is free of cost and equal for boys and girls. Co-education is everywhere prevalent up to ten years of age; in the rural schools it is generally carried on throughout the schooltime. The cost of the school-houses is paid by the parish, and both are—particularly in the large towns—of superior quality. New schoolhouses are built every year, but nevertheless the classes in town generally hold thirty to forty children each.

DENMARK.

Denmark will soon have a new iron-clad.

A new church will be built in Roeskilde.

Two fishermen were drowned off Skagen.

A new epidemic of suicides is reigning in Copenhagen.

The population of Copenhagen is about 335,000.

The Danish crown prince and princess will take a trip through Europe.

Professor Carl Bogh, the famous painter, died at the age of sixty-six years.

Smallpox is raging epidemically in several of the parishes on the island of Fen.

Danish butter is being exported to England in larger quantities than ever before.

The schooner Kongen was wrecked near Helsingor. Two of the crew were drowned.