

THE SCANDINAVIAN FATHERLAND.

Prepared from Special Cablegrams.

SWEDEN.

Editor Otto Sporsen, publisher of the *Vexio-Bladet*, died at Vexio.

Dr. Erik Nystrom and wife, the two well-known missionaries, have departed for Algiers, Africa.

Mr. J. F. Hondius of Næs, has been engaged as a teacher in "Sloyd" by the government of the Oranje Free State in Africa.

C. J. Barell, the most prominent merchant in the city of Kalmar died at the age of 80 years. He leaves a very large fortune.

Per Ny, of Vestanede, Norderon celebrated his 102nd birthday. He is still in good health. Ny has lived during the reign of seven Swedish kings.

Swedish granite is undoubtedly the best granite to be found in Europe. The great markets for the Swedish granite industry are in Germany, Denmark and England.

Chief engineer Andree, the Swedish aeronaut, has decided to cross the Atlantic in a balloon some time next summer. Preparations are already being made for the construction of the giant airship.

The social position of a lady teacher in Sweden—be it as a governess or a school mistress—is a highly esteemed one. Daughters of higher officers in public service or otherwise belonging to the best Swedish families devote themselves to this noble calling.

Prince Oscar Bernadotte, the second son of King Oscar, has always been very religious. During the last months he has made it a custom to attend the meetings of the Salvation Army once every week. On that account he has been given the surname "The Salvation Prince."

Mr. O'Neil, the American consul to Stockholm, who arrived there some time ago, is taking lessons in Swedish. He has already made himself very popular among the merchants of Stockholm. Hon. W. W. Thomas, the minister of the U. S. has assisted him in every way possible in forming valuable acquaintances.

The Norwegian consular question will probably come up before the Swedish Riksdag which was opened Jan. 8, S. A. Hedin, the most prominent politician in Sweden, and the standard bearer of the Left, will argue the cause of Norway, but surely in vain, as the majority of the members of the congress and all the members of the senate are anti-Norwegians.

The journalist, who makes the most money in Sweden is Alfred Hedenstjerna, editor of the *Smalands-Posten*. The *Smalands-Posten*, although a mere local paper, has a very large circulation on account of the editor's humorous articles. Mr. Hedenstjerna, who it better known by his pseudonym of "Sigurd," may be properly styled the Mark Twain of Sweden.

The industrial paper *Norden* some time ago arranged a prize competition,

Three prizes were to be given to the persons, who could best answer—in a newspaper article—the following questions: "What means ought to be taken in order to get emigrants returning from America, able and willing to remain in Sweden." One of the winners of the contest is Dr. Hugo Joll, Minneapolis, Minn.

The greatest dramatic actress of Sweden is Else Jacobson, afterwards Mrs. Hvasser. She left the stage in 1888, but will probably again appear before the public. Mrs. Hvasser's parts amount to nearly a couple of hundred, the types she has created were of various kinds, and the greater number of splendid effect. Amongst classical pieces may be mentioned, Mary Stuart, Ophelia, Desdemona, Clara, the Marquise, of Villemor; etc.

The greatest length of Sweden 1,600 kilometers, (about 1000 miles) falls on a line, which in the north stretches a good way into the arctic zone, and in the south reaches below the northeastern extremity of Russia, while the greatest breadth about 250 miles, falls on that parallel on which Haparanda, the most northern town of Sweden, is situated. The whole circumference, exclusive of the many fjords, which run up into the land, is 2,860 miles.

The whole number of physicians in Sweden amounts to about 900, or one to 5,500 inhabitants. The proportion, however, varies considerably for different parts of the country. Most favored in this regard are, of course, such localities where the medical schools are situated, for instance Stockholm, where the proportion between the number of physicians and the number of inhabitants is as 1:1,400, and the provinces of Upsala and Malmö whilst the ratio in several other provinces varies between 1:10,000 and 1:11,000.

The woods in Sweden consist chiefly of pine and spruce, which grow throughout the entire kingdom, either as pure forest or mixed, and provide the great bulk of the timber export. The pine appears unmixed on the gravel hills and more extensive heaths; the spruce on moist clayey soil and on brush; the larch, which in suitable situations attains a good size, has, of late, been largely imported. The birch occurs either as pure forest or in company with pines, firs and aspens. The beech is found only in the utmost southern part of Sweden. The oak appears in groves and parks. The island Visingsö has a large oak plantation of 1000 acres belonging to the state. The ash, elm, maple, lime and elder are not so very numerous. The aspen occurs over the entire country and gives a much sought for wood for the Sweden safety matches.

NORWAY.

Gunnar Berg, the famous Norwegian painter, died at Berlin.

Four people were killed by large snow slides at Lofoten.

General Booth, of Salvation army fame, spent the holidays in Christiania.

An association for mutual benefit has been organized by the telegraph operators of Christiania.

More than one thousand cases of influenza were reported from Christiania the other day.

Colonel John Mellbye has been appointed major-general and chief of the Christianssand infantry.

Bjornstjerne Bjornson has left for Rome, where he will probably stay for some months.

The value of Norway's import from Sweden is estimated at \$5,000,000, while the export is about \$9,000,000.

Two thousand cases of influenza were reported from Christiania during the week December 24-31.

Five thousand francs in gold, which were deposited at the post office of Christiania some time ago have been stolen.

Jonas Lie's famous novel "Niobe," has been translated into German, and will soon be published by a Berlin book dealer.

The most northern railroad in the world is the Sulitelma Stock Company's railroad, which is running east from Bodo in Norway.

A Bjornson craze is reported from London. Lectures on Bjornson are being held, and several of his dramas are to be given at the theaters.

Matrimonial frequency is nearly as low in Norway as it is in Sweden. The number of marriages annually contracted per 1,000 inhabitants is about 6.84.

The most important articles of import are materials for spinning (principally cotton and wool), colonial produce minerals (coal and salt) and diverse industrial products.

At a low calculation founded on statistics of emigration the Norwegian population in the United States—counting the children born thereof in America—must be about 500,000 persons.

Editor Friele, who has been editor in chief of the Christiania *Morgenbladet* for 36½ years, severed his connection with the paper Jan. 1. His successor is Dr. Vogt, one of the assistant editors.

Crime seems to be decreasing in Norway, as in certain other countries, at all events as regard more criminal offenses. The annual number of committals for felony in 1893 3.60 per 10,000 inhabitants.

The government has refused to acknowledge the sale of the country-mansion Hafsund to an English syndicate, because such sale would give the syndicate full control of the land around the outlet of the Glommen river.

The higher education for boys and girls is differently organized in Norway. That of the boys is taken in hand by the State and is free of cost whereas the girls' education is a private undertaking. Private schools, however, sometimes obtain state and municipal grants.

J. Wolff, the Norwegian violinist, had recently the honor of appearing before Queen Victoria, who spoke very highly of his ability and presented him with a magnificent diamond stud after the performance. The King of Portugal has appointed Mr. Wolff a Knight of the Royal Order of Christ.