

# THE SCANDINAVIAN FATHERLAND.

Prepared from Special Cablegrams.

## SWEDEN.

Dr. G. F. Sjiercke, of Carlstad, died at the age of 85 years.

Natural gas has been discovered at Wilhelmsfelt near the city of Engelholm.

Dr. Elowson, of Carlstad, has been elected congressman from the Carlstad-Filipstad district.

Dr. E. Person, of Falun, committed suicide by hanging himself. He leaves a wife and three children.

The riksdag was opened Jan. 8th instead of the 15th, as has usually been the case.

The health of Queen Sophia has improved, and she has left the Drottningholm castle for Stockholm.

A. von Stockenstrom, the Swedish sculptor, took the first prize at the competition at Academie Julien in Paris.

A Swedish importing agency has been opened in Transvaal, Africa, by Captain Zweigbergk.

Their golden wedding was celebrated by Judge C. F. Erickson, of Baerby, and his wife.

The large Nordanas flour mill and steam saw mill near Ornskoldsvik was burned to the ground.

Mr. Paul Segerberg, a well-known citizen of Nederhoegen, Raetan, celebrated his 10th birthday.

The national emblem, the blue and yellow flag of Sweden, is now being hoisted on nearly all the public school buildings.

By cause of her sickness it is not probable that the Queen will accompany King Oscar when he leaves for Norway Jan. 23, as has been decided.

Hilma Nilsson, a young girl of Norrköping, was shot and dangerously wounded by her lover, who had just returned from America.

Diphtheria is raging epidemically in Naesinge and Krokstrand. Eleven children in Naesinge died within the course of a few hours.

Mrs. Anna Maria Jonasdottir, of Ersörpet, the oldest inhabitant in the Skeda parish of Ostergothland, died at the age of 100 years.

Emanuel Deutch, a former banker of Stockholm, who was very well known in business circles, died at the age of 85 years.

The government of China has agreed to pay \$40,000 as damages for the murder of the two Swedish missionaries.

On the tomb of August Blanche, the Swedish author, was recently laid a wreath, which had been sent by Swedes in America.

The history of the Bernadotte dynasty has now been written. The author is Mr. John Almen, and the work has already been published in an edition de luxe.

Small-pox has reappeared in Gothenburg. Several weeks ago it was thought that the epidemic had been stamped

out, but several cases were reported the other day.

The French paper *Le Figaro* contains a notice that Prince Louis Napoleon, who at present is serving in the Russian army, intends to make Stockholm his permanent home.

Dr. Sven Hedin, the famous Swedish explorer, arrived at the Taschkent in Turkestan, after having travelled from the Russian town Orenburg by means of horses and wagon. The distance from Orenburg to Taschkent is 1300 miles.

Miss Anna Zetterberg, the young actress, formerly of the Royal Dramatic Theater of Stockholm, is at present playing in London, and will soon appear at the Haymarket Theater in some of Ibsen's dramas.

A large singing festival will be held in Stockholm next June. The most prominent male choruses in the country will participate and compete for a money prize, the amount of which has not yet been fixed.

Chief Engineer S. A. Andre, who recently crossed the Baltic in a balloon and had a narrow escape from being drowned in the sea, proposes now to cross the Atlantic in a giant balloon, which will be especially manufactured for the purpose.

Prince Yorihiro Komatsu, of Japan, is at present staying in Stockholm, where he has registered at the Grand hotel under the name of Comte de Mishima. The prince is a son of Prince Nikahito, who attracted great attention, when he visited the courts of Europe in 1887, accompanied by a large number of servants.

Baron von der Kettenburg, who has sued the Swedish government for a debt of several hundred thousand kronor, which Sweden borrowed from some of Kettenburg's forefathers during the Thirty Years' War, made a friendly call on King Oscar the other day. The papers do not inform us whether Oscar and Kettenburg came to an understanding or not.

Sculpture has been practised by several Swedish women, and one of the first known amateurs in this branch was the late Princess Eugenie, sister of King Oscar. Of the present generation the most distinguished are Miss Agnes Kjellberg, who is a member of the Academy of Fine Arts in Sweden, and Miss Ida Mattson, who was represented at the Chicago exposition.

During the last decade many women have studied at the universities of Upsala and Lund, which—in spite of their old statutes, having no close "colleges" as is the case in England, for instance—present no difficulty to women for matriculating as university students. With their male fellow students they have partaken in public and private instruction; they have also entered as member of the provinces.

It is expected here, that the international skating tournament to be held in February, will be the greatest contest

of its kind which has ever taken place. The Swedes will have to fight it out against the most prominent American, English, Finnish, Norwegian, Danish and Dutch skaters in the world. The Swedish skaters seem to be very confident, and regard the Americans and Norwegians as their only dangerous rivals.

Funds contributed to the opening of reading rooms have very often been given by Swedish women. The largest reading room in Stockholm with lending library attached was founded in 1866 by the Baroness Adlersparre. It has afterwards been supported and further developed under female management. Many other reading rooms in the larger cities of Sweden are managed by women. The first reading room for working people in Stockholm was opened by Miss Ljungstedt in 1892.

A literary prize competition has been arranged by the newspaper *Idun*, a journal, which champions the rights of Swedish women. The prize to be given is 2,000 kronor and will go to the author of the best and most original novel. The author must be a Swede, and the action must take place in Sweden. Besides the money compensation the author will receive 500 handsomely bound copies of the book, after it has been published, the manuscript must be sent to the editor of the *Idun* before Sept. 1st, next year.

The representative of a French tourist bureau arrived at Gothenburg the other day to make arrangements for a trip through Sweden by a large number of American tourists who intend to visit Europe next year. They will arrive at a French harbor and travel through France, Italy, Austria, Turkey, Germany and Denmark. From Copenhagen they will cross the Sound, and visit the Swedish cities of Helsingborg, Gothenburg and Stockholm. After a short visit to Christiania they will return to their native country by way of Paris.

Norrbottnen, the largest of all the Swedish provinces, being 40,000 square miles, is about as large as Ohio, and the most northern provinces (Norrbottnen and Vesterbottnen) together 62,000 square miles) are somewhat larger than Illinois. These two provinces embrace the whole of the utmost north of Sweden and occupy one third of the entire area of the kingdom, but together contain only 230,000 inhabitants, or less than one twentieth of the entire population of the country. Half the inhabitants of Sweden live in the part of the country lying farthest south.

The Swedish Anthropological and Geographical Society at its last meeting elected Prof. H. Sjögren president and Dr. H. Stolpe vice-president. Dr. G. Nordenskiöld, a son of the famous explorer, delivered a lecture on the Björling-Kallstenius arctic expedition, and concluded by proposing, that something be done in order to get a full knowledge as to the fate of the two men. Prof. Nordenskiöld spoke also in favor of his son's proposition, and the society decided to appoint a committee, the purpose of which will be to organize a relief expedition. The two Nordenskiölds and several other prominent men were elected members of this committee.

## NORWAY.

The Mission church in Akers-garden was burned down.