

THE SCANDINAVIAN FATHERLAND.

Prepared from Special Cablegrams.

SWEDEN.

Influenza is raging fearfully in Stockholm.

The island of Gothland in the Baltic will be connected with the Swedish continent by telephone.

The schooner Olga, Captain Jansson, was wrecked off Sandhammaren. The crew was saved, but had a narrow escape.

Three of the Laplanders, who were exhibited in the Lapland village at the World's Fair, arrived at their old home the other day.

Steam turbine fire engines are now being manufactured by Dr. Gustaf de Laval, the great inventor. They work much more satisfactory than the old fire engines.

Sweden, as is known, is chiefly an agricultural country, there being close upon one and three-fourths acres of arable land per inhabitant, an unusually high figure for Europe.

The oath, which the state church demanded every one of her clergymen to take before the preacher was allowed to be a minister of the gospel working in the interest of the national church, has been abolished. A solemn promise will take the place of the oath.

Many English and Dutch skaters will participate in the international skating tournament to be held in Stockholm next year. Harald Hagen, the Norwegian champion, will be there, and two Americans are also out for the stuff. The king and the whole royal family will view the "races" from boxes especially built for the purpose. The contest will decide the world's championship.

In the manufacture of gloves Sweden has obtained a certain reputation abroad in consequence of the introduction into the market of gloves, in which the leather is placed with the hair-side in and the flesh-side out, contrary to the ordinary custom. These gloves, fashionably known as "Gants de Suede," are manufactured solely in the province of Skone, where there are nine such factories, with a produce-value of \$140,000.

Of late years, however, in Sweden, as in most other European countries, the soil has not yielded sufficient food for the needs of the population, chiefly in consequence of the increase in consumption, and also because, owing to the increasing importance of cattle rearing, more stress has been laid on producing fodder than on growing cereals. The value of all the ground farmed in Sweden is computed at about \$783,000,000.

The Swedish soil is divided into about 336,000 parcels, 280,000 being farmed by the owners themselves, and but 50,000 by tenants. Most of the ground belongs to small landowners, even if there are, in certain provinces a number of large estates. The Swedish peasant has always been free and independent, the feudal system and consequent serfdom for the agricultural laborer having never gained a footing in Sweden. Agriculture

has made great progress, and the return yielded by the soil is very fair. For instance, wheat yields 20 to 22 bushels per acre, while the average for western and southern Europe is 17 bushels, and for the United States but 12 to 13 bushels.

NORWAY.

The Hoelgenæs Hotel in Romsdalen was burned down.

A moderate-conservative club has been organized in Bodo.

Small landslides are still reported from Værdalen.

A new Methodist church will probably be built in Christiania.

The sixth Norwegian labor convention will be held in Skien Jan. 21.

The railroad line between Ekersund and Flekkefjord will be completed before 1897.

B. Bjornson's "Mary Stuart in Scotland" was performed at the Christiania theater for the tenth time.

The majority of the grocery clerks of Christiania have organized a union for mutual benefit and protection:

Thomas Angell's Institution has bought the country-mansion Lerfossene and large forests in Selby and Tydalen.

It is said that King Oscar will spend the greater part of next year in Christiania. The king and the queen will arrive at Christiania Jan. 23rd.

Ex-minister Berner made a speech in a mass meeting in Stavanger the other night. The Radicals of the city gave later a banquet in honor of Mr. Berner.

The circulation of all the conservative papers of Christiania is said to be much larger than last spring; and the circulation of the organs of the left has decreased a little.

DENMARK.

The first private telephone in Samsø was put up the other day.

Miss Amesen-Kall, Denmark's oldest authoress, celebrated her 80th birthday.

The prominent hotel keeper Stauguard, one of the oldest citizens of Loegstoers, is dead.

The Duchess of Chartres, Princess Marguerite and Prince Henri of Orleans paid a visit to the royal family.

The Workingmen's Building Association of Copenhagen completed its 1000th house.

Scarlet fever is raging epidemically in Copenhagen, and many hundred cases are reported.

A tunnel may soon be built under the Great Belt between the island of Sjælland and the Jylland peninsula.

About fifty Danish fishermen perished during the last storm. Only off Hanstholm 22 were drowned. Off Agger 13 were drowned.

Sofus Birch, the author has written several new plays which will be published next year by Book Dealer Jacob H. Mansa.

A bill granting municipal suffrage to

women passed the Folkething by a vote of 39 to 13, but it is next to certain, that it will be defeated in the Landsting.

Martin Christensen, of Lungby who had the exceedingly rare pleasure of attending the golden wedding of his daughter, recently died at the age of 94 years.

C. Schmidt-Hansen, the painter, has sold one painting to Munich for 25,000 kroner, and "Funeral on Board the Ship" to the Dantzig picture gallery for 8,000 marks.

Since the great importance of needle work instruction in the schools has of late been more and more acknowledged, the equally great importance of following a fixed method has become apparent. The first person who introduced a properly organized system was Rosalie Schallenfild in Germany. In 1881 the Stockholm institution "In Memoriam of Lars Hiarto" sent a Swedish teacher, Miss Hulda Lundin, to Germany, in order to learn the new method of needlework. On Miss Lundin's return from Germany the Schallenfild method was under her superintendence introduced in some of the national schools of Stockholm, and courses were arranged by her for educating teachers in needlework. After having further studied foreign systems Miss Lundin was in 1885 nominated superintendent of the national schools of Stockholm.

She afterwards independently developed these ideas herself and created a pedagogical working system which is more and more recognized as Swedish.

Miss Lundin gives courses of instruction in needlework to teachers, who afterwards spread her method all over the country. Her system has gained many friends in other European countries, and especially in America.

Models of these works as well as explanations of the manner of working were exhibited at the Chicago Exposition, and attracted general attention.

OAKS OF BRITTANY.

About half way down the room, on the east side of the hall in which the Art Exhibition is now being held in this city, hangs a pretty picture, showing a scene of combined forest and field. It is encased in a plain, broad, gold colored frame, on the lower part of which is the inscription in small Gothic letters, "Oaks of Brittany." The central object in the painting is a large, scraggy oak, around which are large boulders of granite, while the background is a dense forest of the giant trees. The foreground of the picture is an open, grassy plat, through which there passes a winding path to a wicket gate leading through a stone fence near the right side of the scene depicted.

The painting is by a Utah artist, J. T. Harwood, of Lehi, who made the sketch from nature while on a visit to northwestern France. The scene is near a village in North Brittany, or Bretagne, as it is called in France. Beyond the wicket gate and a short distance into the woods there runs a pretty brook, which is notable as the scene where is spent a great portion of the time of a man who is unlike any other man in the world. He is vigorous in body, tall and erect, and of muscular build. He has no eyes,