OUR STOCKHOLM LETTER.

The Strength of the Swedish Army and Navy—A Famous Lady Artist—Nursing in Sweden—Denial of a Sensational Report.

Correspondence of the Deseret News.

STOCKHOLM, Jan. 16, (Special.)—All the Danish papers duly lay the truth of the statement, made by the Berlin correspondent of the London Times that some Norwegian politicians were in favor of electing the Danish Prince Valdemar King of Norway, in case the Union between Sweden and Norway should be dissolved.

The Swedish and Norwegian politicians deny the statement emphatically. More or less public comment is to the effect, that the Berlin correspondent must have a very vivid imagination, and very queer views right out and again the correspondent "must be of all news paper writers."

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The extraordinary Diet, convened in 1893, decided that there should be important changes in the somewhat antiquated army in Sweden, with a view to greatly increase its defensive power. The new organization will, however, take a few years to complete.

In times of peace the Swedish army is about 2,000 men, always a fourth being enlisted, but the larger part consisting of so called "indelta" troops, which are generally called "soldier's servants," but, during the greater part of the year, take the small credit out apart for exercise by the landowners. The military tenure system, which makes a good and useful citizen of the soldier in times of peace, and a good soldier in time of war, the famous soldier-king Charles XII were chiefly men of this stamp) is however, rather expensive, and under the new organization just mentioned, will be chiefly confined to infantry, while the artillery and the greater part of the cavalry will consist of men that have enlisted, including the enlisted soldiers that have already served their time but have not attained the age of 33 years, it is calculated that in time of war the Swedish standing army would consist of 250,000 men. Besides this, conscription claims every male capable of military service between 21 and 32 years of age (about 50,000 men) the necessary training being imparted, in altogether six years, for the cavalry, for the first year and for the other conscripts during the first two years. The "landwehr," about 160,000 men, consisted of militiamen between 32 and 40 years of age, is intended only for local defense. The chief fortifications of Sweden are Karlskrona on the south coast; two fortresses outside Stockholm, viz Vaxholm and Oscar Fredriksborg; and, in the interior, Karlsborg, near Lake Vettern. A new fort will probably soon be built in the northern part of the country.

The navy consists of 3 first class battleships, 8 large and 10 smaller iron-clad monitors, 25 torpedo boats, 10 gunboats of the first class and 8 of the second, and about 25 other vessels, with altogether 200 guns, the crews numbering in all about 5,000 men, not including conscripts to the number of 10,000.

The entire cost of the defence of Sweden by land and sea rises to more than 12 million dollars a year.

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Sweden possesses vast quantities of ore, and mining has for several centuries been one of the chief occupations of her people. In days of yore the copper and silver mines were the most productive, but nowadays iron is the main stay of the Swedish mining interest. Swedish iron, as is well known, is deemed the best in the world. In consequence of its extraordinary quality, it fetches the highest prices in the markets of the world, but the comparatively large cost of production, owing to long freightage and want of coal, has thrown many obstacles in the path of the Swedish iron-works, during the present keen trading competition, and the progress made by the Swedish iron trade—as regards quantity—has been greatly impeded by this fact. During the past sixty years the production of pig-iron in Sweden has risen from 100,000 tons to 500,000, but the single Swedish district in the production of pig-iron for the whole world has decreased to a considerable degree; from more than 5 per cent in 1870 to 3 per cent, at the present time. The figures as to the production of steel from Swedish iron are more favorable, great progress having been made of late years, and it must be remembered that Sweden has taken an important part in the improvement of the celebrated invention of Bessemer. Of late years an eight per cent export duty has taken place, the new coming both from Central Sweden, and from the famous Gellivara, in Lapland, a vast mountain of iron, which is considered capable of supplying the present demands of the whole world, as regards iron-ore for centuries. As it is but a few years since a railroad has been built between Gellivara and the coast, it is as yet too early to express any opinion concerning the development which may attend the Lapland iron trade. Besides iron Sweden produces copper and silver and in the southernmost provinces, Malmöhus, alum stone is used, while the mining of slate ore is of no slight importance. As regards useful materials there is a great supply of many kinds, but nowhere visibly lacks the indispensable attendant salt.

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In Sweden, as elsewhere, nurses of a commercial class, just a check on the scientific methods of humane, professional strength, is manage to train, or to subject to thorough restraint, and it is often with difficulty that she can make his talent appreciated. Though the enjoys at present advantages that were not of her race in the first years, it is always in danger of stopping at what remains.

Among lady artists are, however, many richly gifted, who have been able to compete with men, but who during a preceding age would have refused an opportunity to develop their talent.

The most remarkable among them owes an account of the Swedish painter Alfred, is Mrs. Lea Landgren, better known under her married name of Lea Ahlstrom. Her ability was shortly attended with success, and she received medals at the Royal Mint, at Stockholm. After having married a rich and cultivated man, under the patronage of her former and her brother, who practiced the same art, she received the title of professor of his death in 1876. She was not the only one obtained a government salary which increased was the aid given to remarkable.

She has not only supported all the duties of life, but has also a number of those around her. Besides, she has exercised much in the social circle of the Landgren family, and has been a leader in many other good works, especially among young women who were trained by her artistic work in York to rich, in commemoration of the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America. The value of works executed by Mrs. Lea Ahlstrom amounts to nearly 400,000 kronen (or nearly $107,000).

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Among the European countries Sweden takes the preponderancy in the establishment of "lasarettet" (hospitals). This development dates a little more than half a century back, but has in a very short time proved a very beneficent institution for a great number of sick and wounded. Every county is provided with one "lasarett" or more, and in the larger towns there are several of such institutions. Besides these there are a great number of private hospitals, established by the different societies and corporations, and by the state and municipalities. All the hospitals are well managed and in a high degree.

For the admittance to the hospitals, however, a certificate from a physician is necessary, and in the country districts the sick have to be transported, for obtaining such a certificate, sometimes.

The hospital system calls for comment, the highest civil servant of the land, being the minister of the interior, who has the supervision of the hospitals and asylums. The executive power is entrusted to a "lasarettsstyrelse" (hospital board), consisting of a number of members, and the chairman of which is the governor of the county. The physician in charge of the hospital is entrusted with the management, and is responsible for the same. He is assisted by a "lasarettsläkare" (hospital physician), who is also responsible for the medical treatment of the patients. All the hospitals are well equipped and in a high degree.

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