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SCANDINAVIAN CRISIS.

The grave crisis in Scandinavian affairs following immediately upon the King's resumption of his functions is creating considerable interest in Astoria, where a large number of former residents of that country reside. The king is exercising his prerogative to an unusual extent, and has refused to sign a measure enacted by the Norwegian parliament, and in consequence the Norwegian minister has resigned. This is the latest and thus far most serious development in a process that for some time has seemed to be making strongly toward Scandinavian disunion. The overtures of the Crown Prince Regent to the Norwegians have failed of their desired effect and the western kingdom is pursuing its own way regardless of its partner. The controversy between them, it will be recalled, has of late chiefly turned upon the question of separate consular services, and seeing that one country is protectionist and the other inclines toward free trade, the Norwegian desire for such separate services seems not unreasonable. Now, failing to come to an agreement with Sweden upon the matter, the Norwegian government has sought to settle it for itself by enacting the establishment, beginning on April 1, 1906, of an independent Norwegian consular service, which is to be under the direction of a Norwegian government bureau and in no wise subject, as in the present consular service, to the ministry of foreign affairs which is common to both kingdoms. Seeing how largely consuls have to do with political and diplomatic matters, the significance of the step is apparent. It practically means that Sweden and Norway will hereafter present not a united, but a divided front to the rest of the world. If in their foreign relations they are divided, they can scarcely remain closely united in domestic affairs. It is scarcely to be wondered at that King Oscar declines to approve so revolutionary a measure. A few years ago Norway moved for a remaking of the national flag so as to obliterate from them the symbol of union. To this Sweden would not assent, and the Swedish flag still remains unaltered. But Norway did for herself what she had suggested, and today her flag exhibits no sign of the union with Sweden. She is now, by legislative and administrative, acts putting into practice what she then sought in theory and in insignia, and it will take a few more steps to complete the dissolution of the union that has existed since 1814. There is no thought that Sweden will try to prevent it by force, and even peaceful efforts to avert the rupture are now being much relaxed as hopeless. It would not be surprising, then, if in the near future the union were dissolved, as Norway apparently wishes and intends it should be. What then? It is understood that Norway would seek to make, in place of the union, a defensive alliance with Sweden. There are, however, grave reasons for doubting whether Sweden would accept such an arrangement. Many of her most representative and influential men are strongly opposed to it, and are demanding that Norway, if she persists in severing the union, shall be left to her own devices, to work out her own salvation. It is pointed out that Norway, left to herself, might soon become the object of Russian aggression. Russia has long been trying in some way to get access to the Atlantic through Finmark and Tromsø and if Norway were unsupported by any other power, Russia would have no trouble in seizing those provinces, especially since Norway has neglected to fortify them in any way, expending her military preparations instead upon the Swedish

frontier, as though Sweden and not Russia were the possible foe to be feared. The extension of Russia's boundaries from the Varanger to the Ototen Flord might easily, therefore, be a prompt sequel to the dissolution of the Scandinavian union. Sweden might acquiesce in it, upon the supposition that Russian expansion to Tromsø would lessen Russian pressure along the Tornea Elf, as well it might for a time. It can scarcely be doubted that the separation of Sweden and Norway would increase Russian activity in that direction, and it must not be forgotten that the czar nominally claims to be the rightful lord of Sweden, Norway and Denmark. That is a claim that will probably never be realized, but there is no doubt but the czar is watching the Scandinavian trouble with interest.

CENSUS RETURNS.

The census returns of Clatsop county have been nearly completed. The returns show an increase in the population of Astoria during the past five years of about fifty per cent. In nearly every country precinct the returns show a falling off, in some instances 25 per cent. The decrease is more noticeable in the farming districts, and a very poor showing is made. From the returns it may be deduced that there are no new farmers coming to Clatsop county. It is an admitted fact that thousands of farmers from the Eastern states are coming to the Pacific coast, but Clatsop county has not received or added to its population one single farmer. A number of farmers have come here and investigated the conditions. They found an abundance of the best farming and dairying lands at reasonable prices, but the principal obstacle was the lack of county roads. Clatsop county has been settled for 100 hundred years and there is not 50 miles of good roads in the entire county. Not a half mile of county road has been built a year, although thousands of dollars have been spent on roads. Last year the county court spent nearly \$50,000 on county roads and bridges, with very little to show for it. There is something wrong somewhere. It is impossible to people a county with the enterprising farmers of the east and middle west unless a way is provided for them to get their effects to market without the use of a pack-horse.

In the east, the sons and daughters of farmers, raised on farms, as a rule, continue in the farming business, with a few exceptions. In Clatsop county, as soon as they are old enough to leave the farm they go to the cities. There is no inducement for them to waste their lives trying to make a living on a farm when there is no facilities for transporting their products to market. Every young man has, or ought to have ambition, but it appears to be lacking in the sons of Clatsop county farmers. They are just as desirous of making a good living and acquiring a competency as the young men who live in cities, and the attractions in the city are greater than in the country.

The trouble is, there has not been sufficient attention paid on the part of deliberate and commercial organizations to the farming interests of the county. There is no county in the state, or on the coast, that has as fine agricultural and dairying lands as in Clatsop county. There is no soil more productive, yet nine-tenths of all the farm products consumed in Astoria are shipped in from other states. A failure of a crop, such as has been raised, was never known in this county, but farmers do not attempt to raise any more than they need for home consumption, as there are no facilities for getting in to market. If Clatsop county was settled by 1000 thrifty farmers, the salmon industry would rank second in importance in the revenues distributed throughout the county. Even now a number of farmers are compelled to leave their farms and come to the city and fish in the summer to make sufficient money to support themselves and families during the winter.

There is not enough interest taken by the residents of Astoria in the farming industry. They have become so accustomed to depend upon the fishing industry, that all other resources have been overlooked. With a good farming community Astoria would have a population of 20,000 and would grow and prosper. Its growth during the past five years can be attributed solely to the increase in the fishing and lumber industries, and had the farming industry kept pace with these, there would be an appreciable increase in population and wealth.

Good advice to women. If you want a beautiful complexion, clear skin, bright eyes, red lips, good health, take Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea. There is nothing like it. 25 cents, Tea or Tablets, Frank Hart's drug store.

How Webster Spoke. Webster had a full, clear, resonant voice that could be heard by 10,000 people at once. His style of delivery was impressive, and his tricks of oratory were inimitable. Whenever he was about to make a telling point he would pause for what seemed a long time in order to secure the full attention of his auditors.

Greeley's Mistake. It is told of Horace Greeley that he once said, "I have made plenty of mistakes in my life, but they were always new mistakes."

Frederick William. Frederick William, the father of Frederick the Great, was slightly deaf and generally conversed in a yell. Although professing to be pious, he often lapsed into profanity in conversation and commonly ended an argument by cursing his opponent.

Fishing Day in Virginia. One old time Virginia fashion has never changed. Easter Monday is still a great fishing day in that state.

His Own Ancestor. "I am my own ancestor" was an expression used by Napoleon's famous marshal, Junot. After he had been created Duc d'Angoulême he was asked by one of the old nobility who were his ancestors, the question eliciting this naive but forcible retort.

The Spartan Soldier. Clearchus, the Spartan, laid down as one of the maxims of war the statement that a soldier ought to fear his own general more than he did the whole hostile army.

The Easter Bunny. The "Easter bunny" is fabled to have been a bird at one time which drew the chariot of the goddess of Spring and was turned into a hare. Every year, as the anniversary of her coming rolls around, the hare remembers and in remembrance of the original bird nature lays the eggs as an offering to Spring and to Youth, which she symbolizes.

Goats in Montenegro. There are over a million goats in Montenegro, where these little animals constitute the chief source of meat for the inhabitants.

Belladonna. Belladonna is a preparation from the deadly nightshade, a plant familiar to most persons from being frequently seen as an ornamental shrub in the flower gardens. All parts of the plant are actively poisonous.

Scotland's Red Castle. Red castle, Rosshire, is said to be the oldest inhabited residence in the highlands of Scotland. It was built by William the Lion in 1179.

The Word "Topaz." The word "topaz" comes from the Greek verb signifying to guess. The jewel was brought from the east and reported to have come from an island, and men guessed at the location of the isle which produced such beautiful gems.

Protein Foods. Government statistics show that codfish contains 22 per cent of protein, which builds up the body; sirloin steak contains 17 per cent; breast of veal, 16 per cent; ham, 14 per cent.

Air and Sunshine. Remember that plenty of air and sunshine is the greatest foe to germs of all kinds and that dust, which is responsible for the presence of the majority of germs, should be gathered with a damp cloth.

Pin in Candle Auction. A curious old custom survives at Great Oakley, England, where parish lands are let by "pin in candle" auction. The local clergyman presides. A pin is inserted in a burning candle, and so long as it remains in its tallow resting place bids are taken. The last bidder before the pin drops becomes the tenant of the year.

Russian Baby Baths. The Russian peasant woman has a peculiar method of washing her baby.

She fills her mouth with water and expertly sprays it over the object of her maternal solicitude. Flowers are often watered in the same manner.

The Chestnut Tree. The chestnut tree is one of the most rapid growers and has been known to bear fruit at five years of age.

Dual Capitals. The two capitals of Rhode Island came because there were two different settlements, that of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation, so named in the constitution. Similarly in Connecticut there were two settlements, New Haven and Hartford, one by way of the sea, the other overland from the north. The legislatures met respectively at Providence and Hartford.

French and English Hotels. In spite of the cordon rouge, in spite of the universal cookery exhibition, the best hotel in England is not as good as any second class French one, says Food and Cookery.

The Indian Oriole. There is a common belief in India that the Indian oriole lights his hanging nest with freedies. It is said that the bird catches the insects and fastens them head first in a bit of moist clay. Naturalists have found the insects thus imprisoned.

Lake Mayami. Lake Mayami, in Florida, was named by the Indians Mah-ni-wa, "great water."

Special Round Trip Excursion Rate for Astoria Day at Lewis & Clark Exposition—Tickets sold June 8, 9 and 10.

On June 8, 9 and 10 the A. & C. R.R. will sell excursion tickets from Astoria to Portland and return at \$2.70 for the round trip, tickets good to return until June 20, and to accommodate Astorians who desire to witness the evening exercises "Astoria Day" at the fair, the evening train of June 10 will leave Portland at 10:30 p. m. instead of 7:00 p. m.

Saved by Dynamite. Sometimes a flaming city is saved by dynamite a space that the fire can't cross. Sometimes, a cough hangs on so long, you feel as if nothing but dynamite would cure it. Z. T. Gray, of Calhoun, Ga., writes: "My wife had a very aggravated cough, which kept her awake nights. Two physicians could not help her; so she took Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, which eased her cough, gave her sleep and finally cured her." Strictly scientific cure for bronchitis and La Grippe, at Chas. Rogers' drug store, price 50c and \$1.00; guaranteed. Trial bottle free.

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