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IS TIRED OF ITS KING

NORWAY SEEMS ANXIOUS TO BECOME A REPUBLIC.

Recent Debate in the Storting Seems To Indicate a Desire to Abolish the Pomp of Courts—The King and Queen Seem Equally Desirous of Giving Up the Throne—Queen Feels For Her Son.

That Norway is tired of its King and Queen, and desire that a republican form of Government should replace the monarchy, was made plain in a recent debate in the Storting. The question was raised as to what would be done in the event of Prince Olaf, the ten-year-old son of King Haakon, dying before his father and it was decided that in that event no other heir to the throne would be nominated and that as soon as Haakon passed from the scene the monarchy would be abolished and a republic proclaimed. This decision, startling as it appears to those who are not familiar with recent events in Norway, was no surprise to those who know that King Haakon and Queen Maud were just as tired of Norway as their subjects were disappointed with the monarchy, and that the Queen especially has been exerting all her influence with the King to abdicate. In view of the debate in the Parliament, she is said to be more than ever determined to leave, because she regards the attitude of the Storting as placing a price on the head of her little son. Though Olaf is said to be one of the most charming princes in Europe, there are probably not wanting in Norway Anarchists who would think that if by making away with him they would bring their country within sight of a republic they would be performing a praiseworthy act. Only pressure brought to bear upon Haakon by his brother monarchs has kept him upon his throne up to the present time, and it would not be surprising if at any moment now he should decide to quit and either return to his home in Denmark or go to England, where his wife has a beautiful home, given to her by her father, the late King Edward. Both King and Queen are very wealthy in their own right, and the loss of the civil list voted by the Storting would not be an object. As regards a sacrifice in rank, they would lose little.

In fact, they would be treated with greater respect in any other country in Europe, even in a republic, than in Norway. The King is never called "Your Majesty" at the Court, but is referred to as "Mr. King" and the Queen as "Mrs. Queen." Of congenial society they have none. There is no aristocracy in Norway, and titles are unknown, even the "de" or "von" being absent prefixes, and these are entertained by Haakon. It is said, however, that the King's effort to be democratic and on hand with his guests has been misunderstood and criticized. What he has done to become so unpopular is not clear, but the fact is, probably, that the people in Norway, when they separated from Sweden, desired that a republican form of government should be established, and that they set up a monarchy because it was deemed expedient to do so.

At that time there were three German princes who, among their other titles, had been accustomed to call themselves "heir to the crown of Norway." The King of Russia had a similar claim. Norwegian statesmen feared that if they immediately established a republic one or other of these claimants might come forward with a demand upon the throne. Although Great Britain and France had pledged themselves to maintain the integrity of Sweden and Norway, in exchange for a pledge on the part of the Scandinavian kingdoms not to permit Russia to obtain a foothold of any sort in their territory, it was doubtful if these two powers would have gone to war over the succession to the throne, and it was with a view of enlisting the sympathy of Britain that Prince Charles, of Denmark, son-in-law of King Edward, was elected.

The situation has changed in the past six or seven years. Norway has become firmly established as an independent nation, and no longer fears that if she reverted to a republican form of government she would be attacked by sympathizers of the princes who make nominal claims upon the throne. Moreover, it has been learned that both France and Britain would offer no objection should Norway desire to abolish the monarchy. It is said that Russian agents are at the bottom of the present agitation, and that Russia believes that she could make some deal with a republican nation in the matter of an Atlantic port that would be impossible under a monarchy. However, apart from the activities of the agents of the Czar, there is sufficient discontent in Norway to make a change of government likely, especially when the King and Queen would probably welcome the opportunity to leave their unfriendly adopted country.

Progress.
"My wife knew nothing of house-keeping to begin with, but she's learning fast."
"That's encouraging."
"Oh, she's a bright little woman, if I do say it! It has taken only two weeks to teach her to keep away from the kitchen, and I suppose that's at least half the battle."

Suicide as a Luxury.
Suicide has often been regarded as a luxury, and Mithras, in ancient days, preserved a custom and a prison for many years under Roman rule. A dose of hemlock and aconite was allowed to any one who could show sufficient reason why he should deserve death. "This custom," says Valerius Maximus, "comes from Greece, particularly from the island of Ceos, where I saw an example. It was a woman of great quality, who having lived very happily ninety years, obtained leave to die this way, lest by living longer she should happen to see a change of her good fortune."

Persian Legend About Goats.
In Persia there is a legend regarding the goat, which tells us that the goat, without fault of her own, excited the prejudice of mankind until her life was unbearable. The powers then made it possible for her to find sustenance on inaccessible mountain tops where man could not molest her, and she was given the power to find by instinct the leaf of healing, so that she would never become ill. And after centuries of isolation she was to return and live again among the haunts of men, to be a "blessed" animal and to be indispensable to his needs, alone having power to save him from many troubles.

More Important.
Mr. Dustin did not approve of his son's choice of a wife and was trying to persuade him to see things as he did.
"Yes, you are quite right, father," said the son. "Mabel has her defects, she is vain, full of pretensions and grand ideas, with a very difficult character. But father, in spite of all, I simply adore her. I can't live without her."
"But that is not the question, my boy," said the father. "Can you live with her?"

A Judge of Music.
A concert was given at a German court in honor of some foreign prince. At its close the illustrious guest asked for a repetition of the first item on the program. The first piece was accordingly played over again, but the visitor failed to recognize it as the one he had liked best. Suddenly the musicians fell to tuning their instruments, during which process all the company stopped their ears with the exception of the foreign monarch, who exclaimed in a rapture of delight, "That is my favorite piece!"

Not a Case of Sympathy.
Teacher—Willie, did your father whip you for what you did in school yesterday?
Willie—No, ma'am; he said the licking would hurt him more than me.
Teacher—What nonsense! Your father is too sympathetic.
Willie—No, ma'am; but he's got rheumatism in both arms.

Not Tender All Over.
A beggar had been for a long time besieging an old, gouty, testy, limping gentleman, who refused his mite with great irritability, upon which the mendicant said:
"Ah, please your honor's honor, I wish Providence had made your heart half as tender as your feet!"

Russian Strong Drinks.
Vodka and quass are Russian drinks. The first is a species of whiskey or brandy distilled generally from rye, but sometimes from potatoes, and the second is a beer derived from rye instead of barley.

Just the Thing.
Employment Agent—You come from the country, you cannot cook and you have learned to do nothing else. Well, suppose for the present you try to get a position for general housework.

Touching.
"He certainly touched me with his story of hard luck."
"For how much?"

What Did the Bride Think?
The three times widower, with his newest choice, was once more making the necessary visit to the city official in Hoboken. Upon receiving the fee, the clerk exclaimed heartily, "Thank you! Come again!"

Advice.
"My wife wants to adopt a child. Would you encourage her if you were in my place?"
"If I didn't want her to adopt a child I would."

Prussian Blue.
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