

What's What the World Over

New Phases of the World's Thinking Recorded in Current Periodicals

Scandinavia's Pose

Pheasants Heard 'Em

His View of Empire

Albert's Heroes

SCANDINAVIA'S POSE

Does Not Altogether Please Anglican Bishop Who Studied it Recently

HERBERT BURY, Bishop for North and Central Europe, describes Neutrality in Northern Europe in the "Nineteenth Century." After speaking of Holland's eminently fair attitude he says: I have not found it so easy, however, to form a satisfactory opinion of the real feeling in Norway and Sweden during my recent visits to those countries. It is, one supposes, generally considered that while Norway's sympathies are with the Allies, the Swedes are with the enemy, or rather with German efficiency. The Norwegians are extremely prosperous just now, and many of them are rapidly accumulating very large fortunes. Their carrying trade has been enormous for such a small country for many years, especially in the other hemisphere, and extremely profitable; but even in this short time of war the profits, both of companies and private owners, in consequence of the largely increased prices for freight, have been quite colossal. It would seem incredible to English readers if I were to put down the extraordinary estimates I heard in Christiania as to the perfectly fabulous profits made in the course of a single year not only by shippers but by the firms of contractors who supply produce and canned meats, especially golasch—a kind of Irish stew—to the German army. The only route to Russia open throughout the year for ourselves and other Europeans lies through Norway and Sweden by way of Newcastle. One crosses to Bergen, by rail to Christiania, up the eastern part of Sweden to Haparanda, and then, after crossing the river Torneo not far from the Arctic Circle, down through Finland to Petrograd. It is a delightful and interesting journey of about seven days, especially after leaving



"An Old Sweetheart Of Mine."

—Evans, in Baltimore American.

Bergen, when the train passes along the southern shores of the great Fiord to Christiania. This route has brought much profit to Norway as well as Sweden. Commercial prosperity is evident on every hand, and yet, notwithstanding the growing national wealth, both peoples are apprehensively and sincerely, like the rest of the world, ever longing for peace. The sympathies of Norway are, I believe, almost entirely with the Allies. They have suffered more severely than any other people next to ourselves by the enemy's destruction of their shipping,

and are full of resentment. They say little about it but do not forget. With many it is a constant and sullen brooding upon losses which they feel they have done nothing to deserve and are powerless to redress, as they are determined like the Dutch to do everything which lies within their power to avoid being brought into the conflict. Yet one hears on all sides that no doubts are entertained as to the final issue. To Norway the Battle of the Marne was decisive and represented the enemy's failure to obtain alike their immediate object and their final purpose. "From that time we have felt," they say, "that you will increase in power and men, while they decrease, and the end, however long delayed, to us is perfectly clear." In the meantime, to their credit be it said, in Norway they do not neglect the duty which their commercial prosperity has laid upon them, and they—it is true of the Swedes also—contribute largely to funds for mitigating the hardships of French and Russian prisoners of war. No others need their help in the same way. There are large working parties for clothing amongst our own community as in other countries, and the usual supplies of bread and provisions are freely and liberally sent. If no war has called forth the same appalling suffering and hopeless misery and poverty, it is equally certain that no other has called out the same generous, eager, almost passionate, desire in both the belligerent and neutral countries to relieve them.

The situation in Sweden, even to its own people as well as to those long resident in the country, is far more complex than in any other neutral country, though it seems to have become simpler during the last few weeks. The Swedes are closely akin to their Finnish neighbours and entirely in sympathy with them. They have, therefore, deeply resented the attempted Russification of Finland a few years ago with all its undeserved hardships and evils.

When the struggle came, therefore, it was natural and inevitable that Sweden should be anti-Russian. Then, again, her "Kultur" is that of Germany. The admiration of her army for German military efficiency and thoroughness has been keenly appreciative for many years, and though the Swedes are a free people with intensely democratic instincts and ideals, as the Prussians certainly are not, the propagandists, who appear to be simply ubiquitous, have found very fertile soil for their industrious and untiring work of sowing tares. The pro-German spirit, therefore, has steadily grown and increased in the hearts and minds of the Swedish people. It is still difficult to say whether it is necessarily anti-English, for there have been varying waves of national feeling.

At the outbreak of the war, if the Allies had not included Russia, the national spirit would have been with us and at that time had no very strong animus against us. Then there came a very strong wave of bitterness as the propagandists got to work and spread the idea in the belligerent as well as in the neutral countries that Great Britain had brought on the war for mercenary and selfish reasons. The idea is strong and general still in probably the whole of Northern Europe—it will have to be reckoned with hereafter—that we could have prevented the conflict, even if we did not actually cause it. In Sweden for a time it was firmly believed we were cynically and selfishly the actual cause. For instance, a friend of mine, a Swede, at a large party ventured to say, while this misrepresentation was at its height, "Great Britain came into the war simply to keep her word to Belgium, and, if Sweden had been attacked by Russia, her action would have been just the same." The result was a perfect uproar of reproach, protest, and accusations of unworthy sympathy with an utterly selfish and entirely mercenary people. That wave of feeling, however, in due time spent itself, although during its flow the Activists, as those who desire intervention on the side of Germany are called, were numerous, ardent, and influential. Then came the fortification by Russia of the Aland Islands, and the flame burst up once more.

These islands are close to the Swedish eastern coast, a little above Stockholm, and when the Russian Government commenced military works there a short time ago great agitation resulted on the mainland. Opinions were fairly equally divided. The violent party furiously demanded interference.

Everyone knew that it had long been considered that the fortifying of the islands would be regarded as a direct menace and threat to Sweden if it should ever take place, and it was contended that, now it had begun, it was the tearing up of the treaty



Interrupted.

—Cassel, in New York Evening World.
Copyright, Press Publishing Co.

entered into with England and France, and known as the "Treaty of Paris." The more sober part of the nation, however, reminded their fellow-countrymen that this is not peace time, and that their Russian neighbours, not at enmity with Sweden, might be expected and sympathetically permitted to undertake temporary measures of defence, especially in their own territory, if they were clearly necessitated by the exigencies of war. The military works would disappear, they argued, when the war was over, in accordance with Russian assurances on previous occasions. Permission, however, was given, as the controversy went on, during the month of May for an interpellation to be made by Professor Steffens, to which the Foreign Minister had to reply, and the result was a complete and final answer. It is now passing entirely out of public thought and comment, and was probably the last flickering up of the flame before finally going out.

PHEASANTS HEARD 'EM

"Sounds" of Battle Disturbed Birds in Far Distant Parts of England

DISCUSSING the sound of big guns Charles Davison recalls in The Quarterly Review that on January 24, 1915, a Sunday morning, there was a running fight in the North Sea between the First Battle-Cruiser Squadron under Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty and the German cruisers "Derfflinger," "Seydlitz," "Moltke," and "Blucher," and other minor vessels. The "Blucher," as is well known, was sunk during this engagement. The position of the vessels during the action has not yet been made public, but they must have been some distance from the shore before our ships came within range of the enemy, for, while the sound of the firing was heard near the Lincolnshire coast, nothing but a "soughing in the ear" was observed about one hundred miles farther inland at Ripley, near Ripon. During the battle, from about 10 to 11.30 a.m., there was much agitation among the pheasants in various parts of the north of England. According to the parish clerk at Saxby in Lincolnshire, "There be rare goings on in the North Sea the morn; . . . the pheasants is all over the place with their fuss;" and his remark was made before the news of the battle arrived. Similar observations were made in various parts of Yorkshire, at Lowther near Penrith, and even at places in Cumberland which are probably 200 or 250