

from Germany in this matter. The independent or liberal press is cautious and reserved on the subject.

Most of the Conservative press, on the other hand, approve of the measure, the *Sydsvenska Dagbladet* declaring it ought to have been taken long ago. The *Skaanske Aftonbladet* and the *Örebro Dagbladet* both denounce Hr. Branting as "a Swedish Venizelos," a characterization which is illuminating in its way. Other organs of the Right preach an implicit and unquestioning confidence in the Government as the duty of all good citizens in a time of danger. To which call the *Afton-Tidningen* answers that it would be easier if the Government's policy were always clearly in agreement with public sentiment.

Of course party interests have their usual place in such newspaper warfare, but I think one may take it as a very fair reflection of Swedish sentiment at this time. Sweden's official neutrality at any rate can no longer be considered as precarious, especially after the recent conference of Swedish, Danish and Norwegian State ministers in Christiania. The terms of the "understanding" between the three Scandinavian countries have not been divulged; they are said to involve merely measures for the maintenance of their common neutrality, but that of Sweden must have been strengthened by the existence of such an understanding. One might hope it would lead to a closer union between the three countries. The existence of States too small to speak with a firm voice, too weak to resist pressure, too weak even to be trusted, has been a dangerous and embarrassing element in the present war.

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