

RUSSIA WOULD CLOSE THE BALTIC SEA.

(Special cable to the Star.)

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Aug. 19.—(By Oscar Nelson.)—The reports that Germany and Russia would close the Baltic sea, indirectly with the assistance of Sweden and Denmark, with the object of protecting themselves against England, was at first treated here as a subject not worth mentioning. Suddenly, however, the supposed project has become a topic of general discussion. The German suggestion that the Baltic sea should be converted into a Mare Clausum, accessible only to the navies of the powers whose coasts are washed by the sea, may therefore be said to foreshadow a new alignment in European politics. And coming as it does just at this time when there is trouble between Norway and Sweden it presents some interesting complications.

One reason why the project of treating the Baltic as a closed sea is attracting unusual attention is found in the fact that the British naval visit to Baltic waters comes in a few days, being considered a sort of counter demonstration to the recent German visit. Newspapers and politicians here begin to regard it as a political demonstration of the first importance which is calculated to counterbalance, if not to outweigh, the impression created by the recent activity of German squadrons in the sea under discussion. The Russian coast has been observed with some what mixed feeling at Copenhagen, at Stockholm and at Christiania. The imperial meeting in the Gulf of Bothnia between the Czar and the Kaiser belongs in a sense to the same category. How imperative and how impressive the appearance of the German fleet in these waters may be gathered from the fact that no sooner had the news of this cruise on the part of the English channel fleet become known than the agitation was started in Berlin by a couple of Chauvinist journals.

The Baltic has been facetiously styled "the jumping off place for the admirals of the Atlantic." It is difficult to understand, outside of the mere politics of the matter, what interest Sweden could have in being condemned to a role in the Baltic either with Germany or Russia. Denmark, if under the obligation of closing the sound and the great little belt, would expose herself to an attack by the English, which would place her in a very awkward position. Russia, which has nothing to fear from a British fleet for the broken coasts of Finland, would have no great interest in tying her hands and indirectly consenting in advance to an invasion of Denmark by Germany.

At the same time it begins to appear to the students of diplomacy, as though the Mediterranean was not a sufficient field for the broken coasts of Germany and England. There are, however, those who regard the entire matter as a balloon d'essai by Prince Bulow to ascertain the present direction of diplomatic currents. Germany might succeed in closing the Baltic if she were to complete the absorption of Denmark and to impose her suzerainty upon Sweden.

Unfortunately for himself the Kaiser in his attempt to create the Baltic as a sort of Black Sea seems to have omitted the cables from his calculations. The result has been that the diplomatic juggling has been quickly discovered by the powers concerned. The German plans which succeeded so admirably in 1870 have been frustrated by the more modern and more rapid methods of communication. The schemes of the Kaiser have been made known to all of the Chancelleries shortly after they were propounded, and have consequently been rendered innocuous. The attempt of the Kaiser to place a prince of his house upon the throne of Norway failed because of premature publicity. The recent conference with the Czar suffered because of the hurried counter movements on the part of the other nations of Europe.

As a result of all this discussion, and of these attempts to drag Norway and Sweden into this closed sea controversy it is possible that the Scandinavian nations will be driven together and obliged to adopt at least some common means of offence and defence. This union of the two countries, possibly not under a single executive, but connected by some form of treaty or alliance might have been brought about in the near future in any event.

Possibly the movements of the German Emperor in reference to the closed sea have only precipitated matters. England which is friendly to Sweden, as will be shown by the coming of the channel fleet, may be relied upon to use her good offices with Norway. The decision of the Norwegian Storting to put the question of the dissolution of the union with Sweden before the nation in the form of a referendum marks a distinct advance towards a satisfactory settlement of the dispute between the two peoples. A referendum was one of the two alternative methods suggested by the special committee of the Swedish Riksdag of giving the Norwegian people an opportunity of manifesting their will clearly and categorically; the other was the dissolution of the present Storting and a general election. The Norwegians have chosen the shorter and less cumbersome method. A general election in the present temper of the Norwegian people would probably have made very little difference in the composition of the Storting. The Norwegian government therefore has not allowed itself to be influenced by the purely academic argument that the Norwegian constitution does not provide for a referendum. It does not but there is nothing in the constitution which prevents the Storting from passing a short act legalizing the practice. This it appears is the line which is to be followed. In their acceptance of the Swedish suggestion in their choice of the method of putting that suggestion into effect the Norwegians have taken a position which will make it easier for the two nations to co-operate in the future. The Swedish and conservative feeling is strong this is rather remarkable and to some extent minimizes the unfavorable impression created by the resignation of the Ramstedt cabinet. The Riksdag will still continue in extraordinary session, though the actual sittings will be suspended and the members allowed to return to their homes. They will be within reach of the telegraph, and can return to Stockholm when required to deliberate upon the action of Norway. When the referendum has been held the next step, according to the Swedish programme will be for Norway to "make representations to Sweden regarding a repeal of the Riksdag and the dissolution of the union." This step is probably the one which will bring the most interesting results. It will involve the virtual if not the explicit abandonment of the standpoint that the union is already dissolved. Sweden, if Norway can bring herself to make representations to Sweden in accordance with the report of the special committee of the Riksdag it is thought that the actual conditions laid down by Sweden ought not to present any very great difficulties. Some questions growing out of the dismantling of the fortifications on the frontier are likely to cause some differences of opinion. Norway has several forts along this line, all equipped with expensive modern artillery. Sweden is without a corresponding line of defence. Norway is called upon to sacrifice existing fortifications, while Sweden in return gives a pledge that she will not establish fortifications in the future. As a matter of fact the retention of the forts is not a matter of life and death to Norway and certainly ought not to weigh in the scales against the opportunity of an amicable settlement with Sweden. If Norway will not when it is remembered that the discussions between Norway and Sweden afford temptations to their large neighbors. One or two hundred fortresses, more or less, like those of Frederiksten and Kongsvinger are not likely to weigh in the balance with the important subjects discussed by Emperor William with the Czar at Bjorko, at the time that the Scandinavian question was taken up. Both Norway and Sweden are more interested in the question of the transference of the Black Sea into a Mare Clausum than they are in the fortresses of Frederiksten and Kongsvinger, though the former has been intimately connected with Norwegian history from the earliest days of the Norsemen.

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The Great Handkerchief Sale for 15 minutes tonight, 8 to 8.15

To PATTERSON'S

Daylight Store, Tonight.

Great Bargains All over the Shop.

A 15 minute Sale Tonight of Ladies Hemstitched Lawn Handkerchiefs.

Price 2c Each.

Sale starts at 8, stops at 8.15, only 5 to each customer.

Bleached Table Linen, Special.....	42c	Veiling, all colors.....	10c yd
\$1.75 Quality Ladies' Rain Umbrellas, (see window) ..	\$1.29	Tape Girdle Corsets....	29c pair
\$1.25 Quality Black Sateen Skirts,	98c	Lustre Shirt Waists,	87c
Men's Wool Shirts and Drawers, Special, (each),	53c	White Silk Belts,	25c

Stay a While

At Cor. Duke and Charlotte Sts.

THEATRICAL CHIT-CHAT.

THEATRICAL CHIT-CHAT. Theatre goers have been well looked after during the past week, as the Opera House has been visited by two first class companies. On Monday Quincey Adams Sawyer opened to good business, which unfortunately did not keep up for the rest of the visit. In some of the cases, the play or company, or else both, were bad, but not so with Quincey Adams Sawyer. The play is well written, and the company very good. No, the only reason for not doing such good business as it deserved to do, was the fact that the American debut in the theatre, and with increased prices of admission in view, people did not afford to go to the theatre twice in one week, consequently Quincey Adams Sawyer was given the go by.

The long looked for Dan Tyan has arrived, and is playing to excellent business. The company is a good one, and John C. Fisher, deserves all he can make for his enterprise in giving the St. John public a production good enough for any city in the world.

Altogether the most skillfully devised sensation of the summer roof garden season has been the dancer known as "The Girl with Red Domino." This young woman was last season the principal co-dancer of the company. She is a lovely little miss with a good deal of talent for the art of Terpsichore. In the early spring she was sent to Europe to be "prepared" for an American debut in the guise of an anguished mystery upon the roof garden over the New York Theatre. One of the best known press agents of the country was dispatched to London to do the boosting from that quarter. He had been a man of complete sobriety for a number of years, and was a great favorite in the British metropolis, he fell from his state of grace and was soon crazy drunk. In this condition he occurred to the agent that it was his duty in life to warn the newspapers against every form of deception, particularly "The Girl with the Red Domino." So he wrote himself to the London office of the New York Herald, and informed the person in charge that the domino affair was a fake intended solely for advertising purposes. After that the American press agent was sent to a sanatorium and the work of exploitation went on without him. The Herald people were kind enough not to expose the true condition of affairs and the domino girl came on as advertised. She has worn her red clothing and red mask whenever she has been in public day or night, and has undoubtedly "made good" in the way of dancing. Probably she is responsible for the part of the large business that has been done all summer at the roof garden where she has been appearing.

H. B. Warner, who has arrived in New York from London to become the leading man with the company supporting Eleanor Robson, may conclude to remain permanently in this country. He is a fine, stalwart young fellow, and is said by those who have seen him in England to be an exceptionally impressive and convincing actor. If this report is correct, young Warner comes of his talent by heritage. He is a son of Charles Warner, as great an actor as England has produced in a score of years, and as fine a man as one will discover in a long day's ride. Warner was here last season with a revival of "Drink," in which his performance of the honest laborer reduced to ruin and death through liquor, is a veritable masterpiece. He is at present playing in London, where he has achieved a renewed and almost startling success. This assures his return to America under the Frohman direction.

and probably the first visit to this country of his gifted daughter Grace Warner.

The young woman, who, under the name of Carmencita is back-jumping a la Espanole at Oscar Hammerstein's roof garden, is a source of considerable interest to the theatre-going public. The real Carmencita, but persons who are familiar with that Spanish dancer when she was in this country do not think that the present wearer of the title. Indeed, persons with an inordinate desire for amusement have gratified themselves with the past few days by putting questions to the alleged Carmencita that were designed to entrap her. For example, one of these mischief makers in the course of a conversation the other night reverted to old times at Koster and Bait's, and among other things asked "Carmencita" if she remembered the magnificent dance which was hung at that establishment. The young woman went into ecstasies over the beauty of that particular dance, and then, thus revealing the fact that she was not at all familiar with the Koster and Bait roof, where there was no curtain at all, and the conversation of an outspread fan between the performers and the audience. However, this Carmencita is quite as good a dancer as her predecessor, and is accompanied by a very pretty and skilful girl dressed as a tenebrous-faced dero who usually plays the opposite to persons coming from sunny Spain to show us how to dance upon our heels.

Luna Park will make vastly more money this summer than ever before—a condition due in the first place to increased attendance but more than that to the fact that the outside expenditures of this vast entertainment have not been as large as they were last year. To be sure, the shows are even more numerous and costly than those placed upon exhibition heretofore, but there has been a heavy curtailment in the matter of bill-board advertising. Last season, when they saw approaching a possible competitor in Dreamland and the London Coliseum is no longer to be doubted. The cables have been hot for the past two weeks transmitting messages between the two great cities, with the result that at the end of its revival run in New York A Yankee Circus on Mars' will be sent to the London Coliseum to produce a spectacle upon a much enlarged scale to be presented in New York, and later still if the London Coliseum produces anything of a striking and large character it may be brought to this city. Mr. Thompson the other day said that most of the Hippodrome schemes for the season in relation

press agents' dreams, as he had been unable to locate anything tangible in all that has been written thus far. In future, Thompson and Dundy may build in Chicago, Philadelphia and Boston, but absolutely nothing to that end has been presented upon almost imminent looked to as an outlet for the big Hippodrome shows.

The first gun of the season is to be fired tonight (Thursday) at the Academy of Music, when William A. Brady will revive the wonderful and everlasting "Way Down East." This play has been accomplished and London is now able occasions in New York, yet its strength is such that Mr. Brady is justified in putting it on for a ten weeks' season at the Academy at this time. Brady long ago became the owner outright of "Way Down East," but every week he paid royalties to a trust fund for his wife and children, who are thus in possession of a very comfortable fortune.

Next week there will be something of a looking up in the theatres, Frank Daniels, accompanied by Blanche Ring, will then come back to the Knickerbocker. A week later Raymond Hitchcock will step into Wallace's with Edward E. Kilder's new comedy called "East Dawson." From that time on the first nights will fall in rapid succession.

JIM THE PENMAN.

KNEIPP CURE FOR

J. D. ROCKEFELLER.

Head of the Standard Oil Company Walks In Bare Feet Over Grass Wet With Dew.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Aug. 18.—John D. Rockefeller has decided to try the Knipp cure. After science and medicine have failed to relieve his health, this morning he took his first "treatment."

It was soon after dawn, when the lawn was still wet with dew, that Mr. Rockefeller was seen to come from the kitchen door of his Forest Hill home and step out upon the lawn. Around him he drew a bathrobe and shivered at the chill morning air swept about his skirts and displayed his bare feet. Plunging boldly on, Mr. Rockefeller walked over the grass, his figure resembling a restless spirit as he strode back and forth and around the house.

Mr. Rockefeller did not seem to care who saw him. Possibly he thought that the early hour would prevent curious eyes from prying, but he neglected to count on the milkman, the news carrier and a few belated pedestrians who stepped on their way to witness the spectacle of the wealthiest man in the world parading upon the lawn with a look of firm determination on his face. Although Mr. Rockefeller was once a barefooted boy, his feet had long grown tender by his incensement in modern footwear, and he was heard once or twice to murmur "ouch" as he stepped upon rough places. This convinced the interested spectators that Mr. Rockefeller was not walking in his sleep, as was suggested by a "night hawk" cabman, who stopped to witness the performance.

After half an hour's vigorous exercise Mr. Rockefeller returned to his room. Evidently of perspiration stood on his brow, and his face was a ruddy color. He appeared in excellent spirits and seemed to enjoy the exercise.

Mr. Rockefeller's adoption of the cure originated by the Rev. Father Farrer Knipp is only part of a general scheme which he has decided to follow in the hope that his health may be restored to normal conditions. Sunshine, fresh air and early morning walks on the wet grass will continue to be his remedies. His fondness for golfing will furnish the former and the beautiful lawn surrounding his Forest Hill home in this city the latter.

Friends of Mr. Rockefeller, however, are wondering whether or not he will vigorously follow the advice of Father Knipp. If he does he must walk in the name of religion.

THE ROYAL BAKERY,

Cor Charlotte and St. James Sts.

FRESH CUT FLOWERS

Special and prompt attention given to funeral, wedding and party decorations.

W. & K. PEDERSEN, Florists, City Market Greenhouse—Sandy Point Road. Phone 1429.

Wanted To Purchase.

Gentlemen's cast-off clothing, fur coats, ladies' furs, jewelry, musical instruments, fire arms, tools, bicycles, old coins, old postage stamps, medals, sample goods, etc. Send postal to H. GILBERT, 24 Mill Street.

Wanted Immediately

Two or Three First-Class Carpenters.

A. E. HAMILTON,

Hard Wood, Best Quality Beech, Birch and Maple,

sawed in stove lengths delivered to your door at \$1.90 per load.

J.S. GIBBON & Co

8mythie St. and 6; Charlotte St. and Market St. Telephone 676.

18 lbs. Granulated Sugar for \$1.00.

Choice Butter in Tubs. Fresh Eggs.

MEGARITY & KELLEY,

Telephone 820.

HATCHING, CATCHING, AND CANNING LOBSTERS ON NORTHUMBERLAND STRAIT.

Few people in St. John realize the extent of the lobster industry as it exists on our coast. The larger percentage of these toothsome shellfish sold in this city, as well as a large part of the canned goods used throughout the country, are caught on the shores of the Northumberland Straits. Hundreds of fishermen earn their livelihood during the open season on the coast, while their wives and daughters add to the family income by working in the factories. Along the coast are many of these factories, and the business which they are doing is increasing year by year.

These fishermen, as a class, are hardy, quiet and industrious, a large number of them being of French descent. While they do not suffer the same perils as their brethren who earn their living on the deep sea, yet their life holds many hardships and is not without its dangers. Embarking in their boats, late or early, whenever the tide is suitable, they make off with the necessary irregular. Still the fishermen like the life. No millionaire glazing over his gold ever had the satisfaction of the fisherman returning with a big "haul." During the winter a great many of them find employment in the lumber woods, but they are fishermen by choice, and next season finds them once more on the water. After the close of the season on the fall, although there are plenty of opportunities for work in the hayfields, they do not take kindly to the work.

The daily catch varies greatly, depending on the season, weather and "luck" of the men. Some will bring in only 150 lbs., while a rival perhaps will arrive with a catch of 700 lbs. Many crabs are caught in the traps, and these, with the lobster shells, are used as fertilizer on the farms along the coast. The traps are about 3 feet long, resembling the rat trap which catches its victim alive. The body of the trap is made of laths, the entrances being made of netting. After the lobster has entered he finds great difficulty in leaving, as the opening is so small. The greatest surprise to one seeing the size of the hole is that he ever got in. The herring, which is used as bait, must greatly appeal to one seeing the size of the hole is that he ever got in. The herring, which is used as bait, must greatly appeal to one seeing the size of the hole is that he ever got in.

A live lobster is quite formidable looking, and is not as clean and tempting in appearance as the red cooked variety known to the housekeeper. When in his natural state the lobster is dark in color, generally greenish black, though showing patches of red, and once in a while blue lobsters are found. The large claws are strong, and would inflict quite an injury to a person caught by one, as can easily be seen by letting one seize a piece of wood and noting the deep mark. They are, however, easily handled by grasping the back, when the lobster is powerless.

The greater proportion of the lobsters caught are transferred alive to the lobster factories, where they are at once cooked and canned. A description of one factory would be typical of all. In the process of canning the lobster enters the building at one end full of life and emerges from the other end packed in half-pounds tins. The whole process takes very little time, and as each factory hand has only one branch of the canning to do all become skilled in their special work.

After weighing, the lobsters are immediately dumped into closed tanks of boiling water. The top is taken off in two minutes and the lobsters, red and steaming hot, are dipped out by scoops. When they are cooled sufficiently the shells are broken off and the claws and tails are put in separate pails, most of the body being thrown away.

After being washed these are carried to their right places at the long tables where the women and girls are busy packing the tins. First the empty tin is taken and paper lining put in. The tins immediately pass to a girl who puts in certain measure of pickle. In this way the tins pass down the tables and the different parts of the lobster are successively put in. After closing, the cans are put in boiling water and boiled for a long time. They are then punctured to allow the air out and again closed and boiled. If after boiling against the tops of any of the tins are bulged out by the air they are again punctured.

The tins are then put up in cases containing 70 cans and shipped away. A visit to one of these lobster factories is very interesting to one seeing it for the first time. The quickness and cleanliness of the work are remarkable upon any visit.

The lobster catch this year is a good one, though the lobsters are much smaller than they formerly were. Some caught and sold must certainly be under the regulation size. People living near the factories consider the government rather lax in this respect. Once lobsters could be caught along the shore at low tide, but now the fishermen have to get their traps in deep water. P. E. L. fishermen often working inside the lines of the N. B. boats.

Though the lobsters are still plentiful the Dominion government is looking forward to the time when they will not be so numerous. A lobster hatchery has been established at Smeagoe, N. B., under the charge of Mr. Nap. LeBlanc. Spawns is procured from the factories near by two gasoline launches and later the young lobsters are distributed along the shores. Whether this is of any real benefit to the fishing is disputed by many, who allege that most of them die after being put out in the water, if they are not already dead.

Still a visit to the hatchery cannot but convince a person that thousands if not millions of young lobsters are brought to life and deposited in the water, and there seems no reason why they should not be the same chance as the young with the more natural birth. The authorities claim that 100,000,000 are distributed each year.

On entering the main building of the hatchery one notices three or four large tanks, while on both sides are hundreds of glass jars arranged on shelves, with wooden troughs running beside the jars. Through all these jars, extra salt water runs, which is pumped up from the shore through large pipes. The spawn, which resembles fish roe, but is dark in color, is placed in these jars and sunk to the bottom. When the young lobsters come to life they float to the surface and are carried off by means of a trough to the tanks. Most of the water is strained off and the young lobsters are kept on a few days before being put one in the sea.

When young the lobsters are very interesting and look like little insects in the water and are about one-quarter of an inch long. When they are put out they become partly red in color and look as perfect in form as the full grown fish.

Even after one or two years they are only an inch or two long, and it is not till four or five years that they reach the mature state. It is to be hoped that the government by means of hatcheries and in other ways will be able to prevent the extinction of the lobster fishery on the shore of our coast, and thus preserve for us one of the finest of our table delicacies.

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—have us do that for you. We use the same high-class materials you use at home—the finest creamery butter, etc.

Have us bake a Pie or Cake for you on a trial order.

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