

King is vested with full power. He appoints the Council of State, the high officials in the Church army navy etc. and may declare a defensive war and has full control of the army and navy. He has a power of veto over bills passed by Parliament (storthing) but, if three successive Parliaments approve the measure, it becomes law in spite of his veto. All males over twenty-five years of age are entitled to vote, and by a measure passed in June, 1907, women who pay taxes, or whose husbands pay taxes, were granted the franchise.

Owing to causes, which it is not necessary to particularize, drunkenness was one of the national characteristics of the people, and resulted, as elsewhere, in much poverty and misery. But in the sixties of last century a temperance movement was organized to cope with the problem. A very strict licensing law was introduced in 1871, and since then many additional measures have been put in force. All retail trade in spirits is controlled by companies, and the sale of beer and wine is also controlled, though to a lesser degree. In some towns, total prohibition is in force. All profits are applied directly to concerns which, in some way, serve the public.

Some of the ancient customs are still retained, such as the lighting of the midsummer fires. At weddings in certain districts traditional ceremonies still find a place.