

curious mixture of idealism and practical instincts. Both as individuals and as a nation they are seized at times by an irresistible passion for adventures, for tremendous achievements. The spirit of Charles XII is not quite dead in the country. From time to time the old dreams of world-power seem to haunt the nation, bringing it to a dangerous point of disregard for the hard realities of the current hour.

Perhaps this spirit of adventure will never depart entirely from the Swedish character. Perhaps its departure would be a distinct loss not only to the Swedes but to the world at large. But of late it has turned in a new direction, at once safer and more promising. The Swedes have begun to see visions of power based not on conquest but on internal development. The richness of their natural resources, particularly in metals, has long been known. Up to a brief time ago there seemed small hope of their extensive exploitation, because the needed fuel had to be imported. The progress of electricity has changed this situation radically. Swedish electrical engineers are counted among the best in the world to-day. The waterfalls, in which the country abounds, can now be put to use. New methods of smelting the ore have been devised and are constantly being perfected. The ore can be used at home instead of being shipped abroad. As I was coming across the ocean a few weeks ago I heard an English metallurgist remark that men of his profession expect the Swedes in less than fifty years to lead the world in steel production.

The Swedes have firmly grasped these new possibilities, in which there is adventure enough to suit their ardent souls. To make their new dreams real, they need nothing but their own ingenuity, industry, capacity