

OUTLINES OF SWEDEN

by

E. Söderlund

and

Naboth Hedin

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New revised edition

INTRODUCTION

Sweden is one of the lands whence American folk and American culture sprang. Its institutions, its economic and social progress, its political stability and national solvency, as well as its high position in the arts and sciences, have aroused deep interest in the character of its people and the attributes of the land that have made such progress possible.

American ideas and ideals have not developed in a day; largely they represent heritages from the many European lands in which American culture has its roots. To benefit more fully from the centuries of European progress toward better civilization, to profit from the experiences through which our European ancestors have passed and the lessons they have learned, we must know something about their backgrounds—the geographies and histories of the lands which have moulded their customs, and shaped their destinies.

Ethnic attributes and cultural traits are sunk much deeper in the past than most of us realize, and to understand their own America our children must know as much as possible about the countries whence their forebears came. It is the unwritten dicta of age-old traditions rather than formal tables of enacted law that really govern.

It is particularly from Sweden's experiences and achievements in self-government and economic self help that we may learn something to help us solve our own problems. For various reasons we may not be able to apply the lessons directly, but at least they indicate the route we should like to travel and help us avoid the pitfalls into

which other nations have fallen. The clue to Sweden's success in social economy and democracy lies, in part, in its system of education, particularly in so far as it applies to moral training, but it also lies in the long, disciplined adaptation of the Swedish people to the physical characteristics of their country—the rigor of its seasons, its close contacts with the sea and its intimate relationship with Nature, particularly the forests. Especially inspiring is it to learn how the Swedish people have been able to control their own destinies and to help themselves economically.

Worcester, Mass. February, 1939.

W. Elmer Ekblaw

Professor of Geography, Clark University

PREFACE

In response to many requests for general information about Sweden, particularly from school children and college students, this booklet has been compiled from a variety of sources. "In our school we are studying about Sweden. Please send more information", runs the usual postal card request in childish handwriting. Ordinarily, these children are having their first lessons in European geography. The first chapter, therefore, tells in simple language the main facts about the geography of Sweden,—its location, boundaries, size, climate, vegetation, animals, population, and physical features.

The next chapter on "History" is a little more advanced, but yet simple enough for the average child in the closing grammar school grades. The following sections on Government, Industries, Social Reform, and Arts are intended for high school pupils who need outside material for courses in civil government or social welfare work. Even adult readers who are not otherwise familiar with Swedish affairs will here find authentic information in condensed form. Slightly different versions of the same text have already been published in a couple of languages. Like this one they are intended to satisfy the growing curiosity about Sweden, particularly on the part of young readers. More advanced students will find further details in the books listed at the end. Most of them ought to be obtainable at any good bookstore or library.

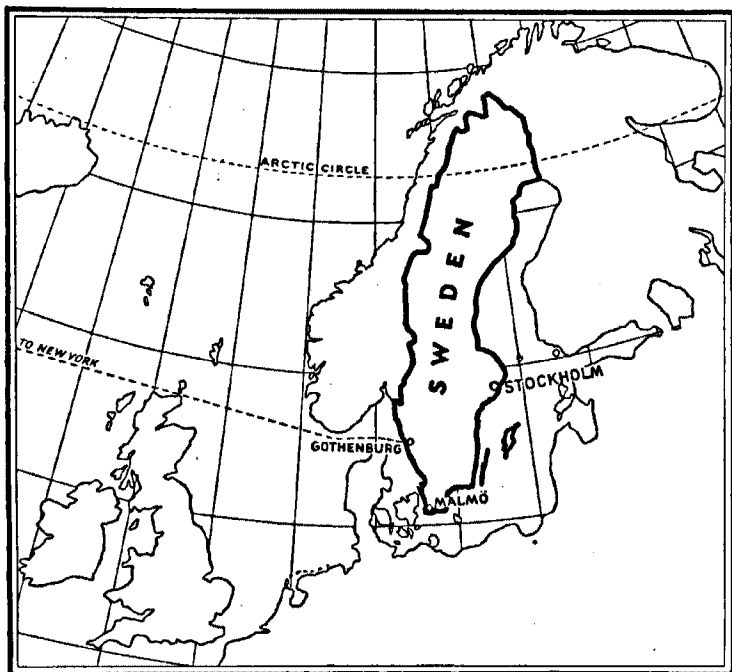
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GENERALSTABENS LITOGRAF. ANSTALT, STOKHOLM

I. GEOGRAPHY

At the top of any map of Europe you can easily imagine the outline of the Scandinavian peninsula and Finland as the shadowy form of a big dog or a bear, leaping out from the mainland in the northeast. The head and back are Norway, the forepaws and stomach Sweden, the hind legs Finland, and the tail the Kola peninsula, which is a part of Russia. Hanging with its head downwards, the animal seems about to spring upon Denmark, England and northern France, but this is not true, for the northern countries are today among the most peaceful in the world.

The backbone of this imaginary creature is a mountain range, which separates Norway from Sweden. In the history as well as



Forests of spruce and pine cover more than half of the area of Sweden.

geography of the two countries it has always been very important. Before railroads, modern highways, telephone lines and air routes were laid out it tended to separate the two nations, and yet they were of the same race, spoke nearly the same language, and followed the same customs. In the Middle Ages and again in the nineteenth century they were united under the same king and for about a hundred years each time, but, though each country had its own laws and local self government, the unions were not happy ones. While tied together in the back like Siamese twins, Norway faced west and Sweden east. In 1905 they agreed to separate and have been the best of friends ever since. After the World War they signed a treaty according to which all disputes shall be settled by peaceful means.

In physical geography also the mountain range exerts a deep influence, for, while the greater part of Norway is broken up by similar ranges, Sweden is more level and being protected by the mountains from the sharp northwest winds is better suited for agriculture and has a greater variety of industries. Both coun-

tries are warmed by the Gulf Stream, which brings warm water from the Gulf of Mexico and Central America, so that the harbors of the west coasts of both Norway and Sweden are kept open all winter. But when the southwesterly winds, which have been warmed at sea by the same Gulf Stream, strike the Norwegian mountains they are forced up in the air and get cooled off by the higher atmosphere. This lowered temperature causes the moisture in them to condense into rain or snow, some of which falls over Sweden. And in the same degree as the air is chilled, producing clouds, fog, rain or snow as it rises over the western slopes of the Mountain range, so it becomes warmer and drier as it descends again on the eastern side in Sweden, making the skies clearer, the weather fairer, and sunshine more frequent. Thanks to this good weather and sufficient moisture spruce and pine grow very well in Sweden as well as in Norway, even quite far North, while the melting snow and rain give rise to numerous rivers on which it is easy to float logs to the sawmills on the east coast. On her forests, as we shall see later, depends a great deal of Sweden's prosperity.

Like Norway, Sweden has a long sea coast and is, moreover, dotted by lakes of every size and shape and crossed by many rivers, some of which, with the aid of canals, are navigable for long distances. Since the only land connection with the rest of Europe is in the far north where traffic is difficult, if not altogether impossible in winter, Sweden and Norway form together, for all practical purposes, an island, just as much as do Great Britain and Ireland. Almost all communications with foreign lands have to be maintained by water, and the Swedes and Norwegians, like the Danes, the Dutch, the French and the British, have therefore always been good sailors, explorers and sea traders.

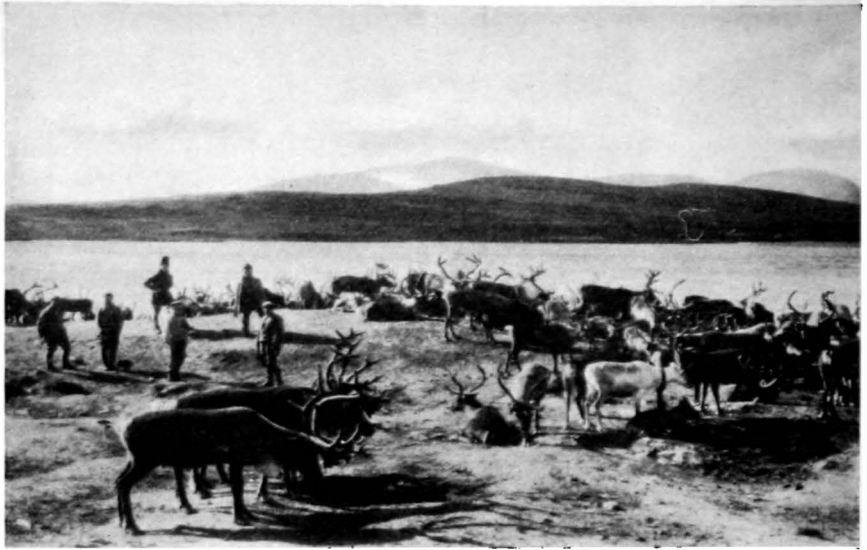
The sea on Sweden's east coast, separating it from Finland and Russia in the east, and Germany in the south, is called the "Baltic" in English and the "East Sea" in both Swedish and German. Being all but land-locked, like the Mediterranean, it has practically no tides and it contains very little salt. It therefore freezes quite easily. In the southern part of the sea, however, modern ice breakers when necessary keep the shipping lanes open all winter, and for the greatest part of the cold season in the northern parts as well. From Denmark, Sweden is separated only by a narrow sound, across



Smooth furrows ground by the ice in the bed rock show what mighty forces were at work during the glacial period.

which boats and ferries can pass in less than half an hour, and airplanes in a few minutes. Across the Baltic to Germany there are also special ferries which in four hours carry entire trains, sleepers and all, from Trälleborg to Sassnitz. Sweden's main seaport, however, is Gothenburg (in Swedish, Göteborg), which is situated on the west coast. It has direct boat lines to England, France, the United States and many other countries.

At one time, the geologists say, Sweden was connected with the rest of Europe to the south, so that the outlet of the Baltic to the North Sea and the Atlantic passed through central Sweden, where there is now a chain of lakes. Rocky clefts in certain hills between the lakes show traces of having been polished by running water. But as the great ice cap, which once covered all of northern Europe as it once did northern America (and still does part of Greenland), melted away, the land rose in the north and sank in the south. In the meantime the slowly moving ice masses, called glaciers, had ground off the mountain tops which were once much higher than they are today. When the ice began to melt, rushing glacial rivers washed the stone and gravel into the valleys, depositing annual layers that were thicker or thinner according to the varying tem-



Semi-tame herds of reindeer are still to be seen in the north of Sweden.

perature of the season. In the clay these layers can now be counted and measured like the rings of a tree, showing the actual growth of the soil, year by year, in prehistoric times. Smooth furrows ground by the ice in the bed rock, and immense boulders, dropped here and there, show what mighty forces were once at work. In the extreme south the land stayed under water the longest, and here a rich soil was deposited in a plain which today is the most fertile part of Sweden. This plain is almost entirely under cultivation, and resembles Normandy in northern France.

As the ice cap receded farther and farther toward the north, the hardier trees and other plants of the European mainland slowly followed northward. Not only spruce, pine, juniper, and other evergreens, but leaf trees like birch, alder, willows, and aspen appeared; and as the climate grew continually milder, less hardy trees like beech, elm, oak, maple, ash, and linden, all of which are still common in the southern half of Sweden, began to grow. In fact, willows and dwarf birches live farther north than any of the evergreens, which in Sweden begin to disappear about a hundred and fifty miles north of the Arctic Circle and at certain levels on the mountain sides, so that many of the highest peaks are quite barren.

With the trees from the main continent of Europe came other vegetation, such as grasses and herbs, and certain animals, such as squirrels and hares. There also came reindeer, semi-tame herds of which are now to be seen only in the extreme north, and other deer and moose which, however, are quite common everywhere even to-day. After these edible animals came the beasts of prey such as foxes—still to be found all over the land—and wolves and bears, now very rare, even in the far north. For many years the bear, like the eagle, has been protected by law against hunters throughout the year. A generation ago the moose, too, was in danger of extinction. Wise conservation laws, limiting hunting to a few days each fall, or forbidding it altogether in districts where such animals were scarce, have, however, restored their abundance, so that between 50,000 and 70,000 of these forest monarchs, it is now estimated, exist in Sweden. Each year about one-tenth of them, mostly bulls, are allowed to be killed by hunters, who have to pay a fee for each animal felled. Out of these fees a special public fund is built up from which the farmers are reimbursed for damages done to their crops by the moose.

Some of the birds which came north, such as crows, swallows, and starlings, are familiar to Americans, but others are not. One of the birds most frequently seen about the farm yards and city parks in Sweden, for instance, is the black and white magpie, while the cheery robin and the screechy blue jay are absent. The jack-daw and wagtail, on the other hand, are quite common, and so are golden sparrows, especially in winter. Ducks and geese, both wild and tame, abound as well as certain fairly large game birds such as the black cock ("orre") and a large wood grouse, called "tjäder". Pheasants are found in certain sections under more or less protection, but wild turkeys are unknown. In the far north the most common game bird is the ptarmigan, or mountain grouse, which like the hare turns white in winter. Tame turkeys and chickens were later brought by man, and so were such domestic animals as cats and dogs.

With the appearance of plants and wild animals, the land was soon ready for human inhabitants. Presently they came from the northern and central parts of the European continent, either by boats or over the same land bridge as the trees and beasts before



In central Sweden the fertile plains of the south roll into tree-covered hills that cup a thousand lakes.

them, bringing with them as time went on such domestic animals as horses and cattle, pigs and rabbits, sheep and goats. We know very little of the first inhabitants of Scandinavia, but some thousand years B. C. there seems to have taken place another immigration of a people from which the present-day Scandinavians descend. Like the Anglo-Saxons, who moved from Germany to Britain at a much later date, they were members of the great Nordic race. At first they lived by hunting and fishing, but gradually they learned to till the soil and raise cattle and other domestic animals.

In the rich lands of southern and central Sweden man got his first foothold on the peninsula. Archeologists believe that southern Sweden (Skåne) has been inhabited for at least 10,000 years. The mildness of the climate and the fertility of the soil later made this province the "granary of Sweden." Rich estates were built here in mediæval times, and until the end of the 17th century rival Swedish and Danish kings fought for the southern provinces of the peninsula. Great nobles erected fortified castles, in some of which their descendants live to this day. Small farms alternate with these estates.

Here and there are groves of beech and other trees but there are no large evergreen forests. It is the most closely settled region in Sweden and it was over this checkerboard land, or "patchwork quilt" that Nils Holgerson began his flight on the back of a goose in Selma Lagerlöf's famous book, "The Wonderful Adventures of Nils."

North of the southern plain rises a wooded highland area, called Småland, containing less fertile soil but where the hardy residents have built up numerous industries to make their livelihood. Toward central Sweden, the highlands break again into fertile plains which, in turn, roll into tree-covered hills that cup a thousand lakes. Here cities and industrial districts have sprung up which produce everything from kitchen knives to locomotives.

Broad sweeps of pine and spruce cover most of the northern half of the country so that 56.5 percent of Sweden's entire area is covered by forests. Because of the northerly climate the Swedish woods grow slowly and attain a high quality. The Swedes have made the most of their forest riches, wood being the country's main building material and source of export. The people conserve their 57.3 million acres of timber carefully, replanting wherever trees are cut. So well are the forests maintained, although great quantities are cut for use at home or sale abroad, that Sweden's stock of timber has been estimated to increase annually. Wood is now sold in various stages of processing, from building materials to pulp, paper, or rayon fibre for artificial silk and even artificial wool.

Diagonally across the country, through the best forest districts, run a series of rivers, bearing to the sea the winter's cut of logs. Flowing at a moderate speed, these rivers are splendid carriers. They usually do not pile up the logs in rapids or leave them in marshes, but deliver them to the sawmills and pulp plants which dot the coast. The waterfalls in these streams—both on the east and west coasts—are valuable natural resources, harnessed as they are to supply the electrical power for running the railroads and the factories, lighting the cities and the farmhouses. Many lakes serve as reservoirs. The water power, which Sweden is developing on a national scale, offsets her lack of coal.

The highlands yield to Sweden another of her precious raw materials—ores, in the first place iron ore but also copper, silver, and gold. From the far north as well as from the central part of

the country come trains of hopper cars, carrying iron ore for smelting or immediate exportation.

One of the richest and most picturesque of the iron mines is located at Kiruna, in Lapland, north of the Arctic Circle, where the workmen are cutting off the top of an "iron mountain." In the summer their electrically driven shovels can be operated 24 hours a day in steady sunlight. During the few weeks of almost continual darkness in winter, they operate under a flood of electric lights.

The mines also make it profitable to utilize many of the other natural resources of the north. They support the railroad that carries the ore across the top of the peninsula to shipping points both east and west, on the Baltic in Sweden and on the North Atlantic in Norway.

In general, Sweden's mountains are only of medium height, not often more than 6,000 feet above sea level, though the highest peak, Kebnekaise, in Lapland, rises nearly 7,000 feet. Over the northern ridges roam the Lapps with their reindeer herds, both winter and summer. The Swedes, too, love to travel in these picturesque mountains.

The coast of Sweden, sandy in many places and rocky in others, is sometimes saw-toothed with countless bays and inlets, like the coast of Maine, giving the sea borders a rugged beauty. Here the Swedes have many of their summer homes, enjoy sea bathing, sailing and other sports. Lakes and rivers are also common. The former cover 15,595 square miles or 9 percent of the country's entire area.

The Swedes fish regularly their many costal and inland waters, their catch being far more valuable than the meat they get from game animals. The smaller fish are favorite tidbits on the "smörgåsbord", so much loved by Americans as well as by Swedes. The salt water fish are caught in large quantities on the west coast of Sweden. Of these the herring is most important. In the waters of the Baltic and the Gulf of Bothnia, which are less salty, a small and very tasty variety of herring is caught, known as "strömming." Among the many other fish are cod, salmon, trout, pike, flounder, and perch.

Although situated as far north as Alaska or Labrador, Sweden has a much milder climate, it being in fact neither as hot in

summer nor as cold in winter as, for instance, that of northern New England. These milder temperatures are due to the Gulf Stream, which makes most of Europe much warmer than the corresponding regions of America. Even north of the Arctic Circle, hay, barley and some vegetables can be harvested. In most regions the Swedish tillable soil is quite fertile and generally well-cultivated.

Sweden has a total area of 173,347 square miles. Among the European countries, her area ranks fifth, being exceeded in size only by Russia, Germany, France, and Spain. In fact it is one and a half times the size of Great Britain and Ireland combined. It extends almost a thousand miles from north to south, but only about 300 miles, at its greatest width, from east to west.

In both size and shape it somewhat resembles California. If it were laid out on the Atlantic seaboard, it would extend from Long Island Sound northward to Labrador and it offers about the same varieties in climate and animal life as the land it would cover. In central United States it would reach from Detroit to New Orleans, or from Chicago to New York. In Europe, if Sweden were pivoted on its southern tip, the northernmost extremity would reach southern Italy.

While Sweden ranks fifth in area, it stands only fifteenth in Europe's population, having 6,300,000 inhabitants. As in America, the population is very unevenly distributed. Parts of southern and central Sweden are thickly settled, while in the far north there are large areas where one may travel for hours without meeting a person.

As a whole, therefore, Sweden is not crowded, having only 42 persons for each square mile, compared with 699 in Belgium, 471 in France, 366 in Italy, 468 in Britain, and 41 in the United States. The Swedish people, consequently, have plenty of room in which to make a living, and to play.

II. HISTORY

The first inhabitants of Sweden were housed in caves and other rude shelters, supporting themselves by hunting and fishing. Stone axes were their chief tools, and animal skins their clothing. About 6,000 years ago the Scandinavians had learned how to raise cattle, build huts and boats, and eventually they began to plow the soil. The use of bronze and iron was learned from the more advanced people to the south, and excavations have shown that about 3,700 years ago a relatively high degree of culture, called the Bronze Age, had developed in Sweden and that 1,100 years later it was followed by the Iron Age. Huge flat stones, set in arches, called "dolmens", also prove contacts with western Europe in the Neolithic Age, since similar structures have been found in both France and Great Britain.

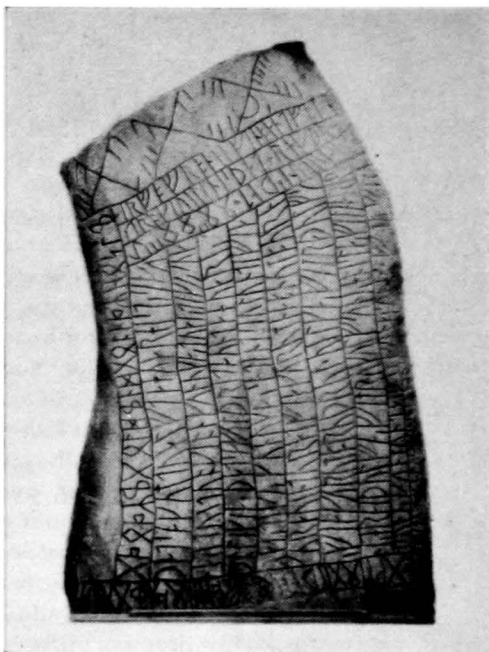
When Julius Cæsar conquered Gaul, that is present-day France, about fifty years before the birth of Christ, the influence of Roman civilization was extended northward, at least as far as Denmark and southern Sweden. In Latin the present southern Sweden was called Scandinavia. About 150 years later a Roman historian, Tacitus, wrote about a tribe he named "Suiones", living on the east coast of central Sweden, about where the capital, Stockholm, is now located. He said they were "powerful in men and ships". Their Latin name was a corruption of "Svear", as they called themselves. Their kingdom or realm they called "Svea Rike" or, in modern Swedish, "Sverige". In Latin it is still "Suecia", from which the French have got the word "Suède", the Germans "Schweden", and the English "Sweden".

South of the Svear lived the "Götar" or Goths, from whom the two provinces, "Västergötland" or West Gothia, and "Östergötland" or East Gothia, located on the western and eastern sides, respectively, of Lake Vettern, are named. The Anglo-Saxon epic poem, Beowulf,

tells about the kings who ruled over the Svear and the Götar and how they fought each other. About the year 600 A.D. the Svear conquered the Götar, and then set up a united kingdom. Sweden is, therefore, one of the oldest, if not the very oldest, political entity in Europe.

In the meantime, Europe had been violently disturbed by restless tribal movements, known as the "popular migrations", which led to the fall of the Roman empire in 476. It is most likely that at least some of the Gothic people who took part in those migrations came from southern Sweden. They crossed the Baltic and followed such rivers as the Vistula in modern Poland to southeastern Europe. There was always some traffic back and forth, and the earliest letters brought to Sweden were a corruption of the Greek and Roman alphabets, known in the north as "Runes." With these letters, but in their own language, the Swedes began to inscribe memorial stones, many of which are still to be seen in Sweden. Most of them, however, date from the end of the Viking era, about 1,000 A.D.

From about 800 to about 1,050 A.D. the more civilized parts of western Europe were attacked periodically by invading northmen, who called themselves Vikings, probably because they hid their ships in "vikar", or bays, of the sea. Those who landed and partly settled in Scotland and Ireland were mostly from Norway, while those who took control over large areas in England and northern France were chiefly Danes. Among them were probably some from southern Sweden, for parts of the cash tribute paid by the Anglo-Saxons to the Danes to get rid of them, called "Danegeld", or Dane Money, have been found buried in Swedish soil. Some of these Vikings sailed around both France and Spain, and entered the Mediterranean. The Vikings were traders as well as raiders and exchanged goods with those who were friendly with them. The Norwegians had also settled in Iceland and from there started a colony in Greenland, where the climate was then milder than it is now. One of the Greenland chiefs, Leif Eriksson, reached the North American continent, probably the coast of Maine, and called it "Vinland" or Wineland, because it had wild grapes. The Greenlanders made several trips back and forth, but by some disaster the Greenland colony was later wiped out and the memory of "Vinland



Runestone from the 9th century, the so-called Rök-stone; the longest runic inscription in the world.

the Good" was gradually dimmed. Five hundred years later Columbus reached the same continent though much further south.

The strictly Swedish Vikings of this period made their chief expeditions to the east. Their lakes and rivers emptied into the Baltic, and crossing that sea they sailed further eastward up the rivers of present day Russia. They were traders, too, and came back regularly to exchange goods. Along their trade routes they set up the first central government in Russia, the best known of their rulers being Rurik, from whom later the Russian czars were descended. The word "Russia" is of Swedish origin, "rus" or "ros" being the common local name for the blond Swedish Vikings. The name of the coastal district of "Roslagen", north of Stockholm, has the same origin. It is still the home of daring sailors.

In the heart of Russia the Vikings reached the watershed between the rivers along which they had come and those running south, and hauling their boats overland for a short distance, they were able to sail down the latter to the Black Sea. Before long they were in Byzantium and some of them are known to have served as a special

body-guard to the Eastern Roman Emperor. Many eastern medals of gold or gilt bronze have been found in Swedish soil. Like the contemporary Anglo-Saxon coins of the "Danegeld" they can be seen in the Historical Museum in Stockholm.

Other Vikings traded about the Black Sea and came in contact with the caravans which were carrying on the east and west overland trade between Europe and the Far East. In this way much of this trade was routed by boats northward and the goods of the Orient were distributed in the North about the Baltic. Evidences of this trade have been found in excavations of Swedish Viking graves on Björkö, an island in Lake Mälaren, west of Stockholm. Citizens of Birka, a town that has now disappeared, have been buried in garments of Oriental silk and Flemish broadcloth. Viking hoards of gold and silver coins, many of them Greek or Arabian, are also incidentally found almost every spring and fall when the Swedish farmers plow their fields, just as Indian arrow heads are most easily found at such times in the United States. The island of Gothland, in the Baltic, known to have been an important trading center, has been particularly rich in such finds. Literally thousands of Roman and Arabian gold and silver coins have been found there.

The early Vikings were worshippers of the gods of Valhalla, Odin, Thor and Balder, but in the ninth century Christian missionaries from France, Germany and England began to come into Sweden, as well as into Denmark and Norway, sent partly by these states who hoped that by converting the fierce Northmen to the Christian religion they could stop their onslaughts. The Vikings themselves did not long oppose acceptance of the religion as well as the manners of their southern neighbors. About the year 1000 King Olof of Sweden was baptized, and gradually the relations became more peaceful.

During the Viking era also Norway and Denmark had achieved national unity, but bloody contests for the honor of wearing the crown were common in the three Scandinavian countries. We have only a blurred picture of this period. Dim forms of kings appear and disappear and we know little about them, except their names and family titles. No sooner had the Vikings' raids stopped than the Finns in turn began to harass the Swedish coast. To stop this the Swedish king, Eric IX, later known as St. Eric, and still regarded

as the patron saint of Stockholm, invaded western Finland about 1160, compelling it to accept the Christian faith. The conquest was completed by his successors and from about 1300 Finland was a part of Sweden. As such it remained for over 500 years until wrested from Sweden by Russia in 1809.

In Sweden itself the influence of the Roman Catholic church grew steadily. The Pope began to take a greater interest in the country and gradually a new class of clergy grew up. Bishops and priests kept in touch with Rome and at times felt quite independent of the Swedish kings. More and more churches and monasteries were built and became the repositories of the oldest libraries, and Sweden came more and more under the influence of European civilization in general. Foreign merchants began coming in, too, chiefly from Germany, and the first cities were founded.

Under the influence of the feudal system in other countries still another class emerged, the nobles. This was made up of the wealthier land owners who could serve the king as horsemen or knights in the cavalry which was then growing in military importance just as aviation is now. In the Middle Ages the nobles took part in many dynastic feuds, making and breaking rulers by changes in their allegiance. Until about a hundred years ago, they played an important role in Swedish history, but today they have no special political privileges.

In the Middle Ages the majority of the inhabitants, however, were free men, living in village communities. They plowed, sowed, and reaped, clearing new land wherever possible for larger crops. Their tools were crude and all labor was by hand. Roads were poor—mostly mere paths through the woods—and, except by boat or horseback, there was little communication between the settlements.

The ships of the Vikings were slowly replaced by those of powerful traders, mostly foreigners, who formed the Hanseatic League, a business organization of commercial cities on the Baltic and North Seas, strong enough to defy many kings. One of the Swedish cities of this League was Visby on the Baltic island of Gotland. Its burghers built up a commanding position both in trade and politics. The circular city wall and the stately ruins of many churches still indicate their wealth and power. Since it retains much of the mediæval atmosphere, Visby is today a fascinating place to visit.



The old town wall of Visby, "the city of ruins and roses". Visby retains much of the mediæval atmosphere and is a fascinating place to visit.

The capital of the Viking kings had been Uppsala, reached by boat from the Baltic through Lake Mälaren, but in the middle of the 13th century Birger Jarl, a member of the Folkung dynasty, took up his residence at Stockholm, a small town on an island in the outlet of Lake Mälaren into an arm of the Baltic. Stockholm was originally intended as a protection against raids by pagan pirates on the older cities around the lake, but gradually it became the foremost city of Sweden. At the same time the power of the Swedish kings grew so that they were able to set up national laws and hold courts which all nobles and other local chieftains respected.

As the cities grew in importance, and trade developed, a fourth class of citizens, the burghers, arose, so that in the Middle Ages Sweden had four estates—the nobles, the clergy, the burghers, and the land-owning farmers or yeomen ("bönder"), not to be confused with the serfs of other countries, who had no land of their own.

There were several intermarriages among the royal families of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, and in 1388 Queen Margaret, who had already been chosen Queen of Denmark and Norway, was elected

queen of Sweden also. In 1397 an attempt was made to bring about a formal pact for a Scandinavian union, but, as far as Sweden was concerned, it was never definitely accepted. Between Norway and Denmark the union lasted until 1814. In Sweden a revolt was led by Engelbrekt Engelbrektsson, a mine owner of Central Sweden, and a national assembly which he summoned at Arboga in 1435 is regarded as the first regularly organized "Riksdag" or Swedish parliament. All four classes were represented and continued to be so until 1865 when the present system of two "Chambers" without class distinction was adopted. Being over five hundred years old the Swedish Riksdag ranks next to the British Parliament as the oldest national legislature in the world.

Some years after Engelbrekt's death the union was reestablished (1440). As the kings during the union generally resided in Denmark, they were represented in Sweden by regents, usually nobles, but to enforce their authority the kings at times invaded Sweden with Danish troops. The Swedes rallied around the regents and there were many battles. In these wars the members of the Swedish noble family of Sture became especially famous.

The really successful leader in the Swedish revolt against the Danish kings was another young nobleman, Gustaf Eriksson Vasa, whose father had been treacherously executed with about eighty other leading noblemen, bishops, and burgers in the central square of Stockholm in November, 1520. His mother and sisters were taken prisoners. He himself had been a prisoner in Denmark, where he had been unfairly taken in 1517 when he was but 21 years old, as a hostage for the king's personal safety in Sweden. When he heard the news of his father's death he was a refugee in central Sweden, having escaped from Denmark via Luebeck in Germany. Now learning that his own life was in greater danger than ever, he fled northward to Dalecarlia (Dalarna), where he not only escaped from the pursuing Danes, but by his eloquence and personal appeal stirred up the farmers and mine owners to revolt. They marched under his leadership toward Stockholm early in the spring of 1521. They won their first skirmish with the Danes, and, as they marched southward, gained more and more adherents. Two years later they had driven the Danes from Sweden and in June, 1523, Gustaf Vasa entered Stockholm as the elected king



The royal castle at Kalmar, a small town in the southeast of Sweden. It was built in the 16th century and is one of the most beautiful of the old castles in the country.

of Sweden. He ruled for nearly forty years and his descendants held the throne nearly 300 years, almost without interruption, until the present Bernadotte dynasty was established in 1818.

Gustaf Vasa found the country in poverty and disorder, ignorance and discouragement, but by his almost unbelievable personal energy and will power he built up the central government, organized a national army and navy, established foreign trade, promoted agriculture, mining and internal commerce. When elected he found the best land and revenues in the hands of the Roman Catholic Church, but he soon accepted the doctrines of the Lutheran Reformation, dispossessed the monks and nuns, defied the authority of the Pope, and established a national Protestant church which is still in existence. While personally honest and untiring, he was a severe task master, and several times the yeomen rebelled against his strong government. Once he faced the angry nobles at a Riksdag and told them bluntly: "Each one of you would like to see the ax in my neck, but no one of you dare hold the handle." Once he was

so discouraged that he planned to resign and leave the country, but when he died he was recognized as a great teacher, administrator, and statesman. Today his memory is revered as that of the founder of Sweden as a modern nation.

The King had married three times. By his second wife, who was also of purely Swedish stock, he had nine children. Three sons succeeded him in turn on the throne, but only the third one, Charles IX, had inherited his personal strength of mind and character. For a few years a grandson, King Sigismund, who had been elected King of Poland, was king of Sweden too. But the Swedes rebelled and drove him out of the country, fearing renewed foreign domination.

Like their Viking ancestors the Swedes of this period regarded the Baltic as their sea, and for the next hundred years Sweden was involved in continual struggles with Denmark, Poland and Russia for its domination. This was the time when Spain, France, Portugal, Holland and England built up colonial realms in the newly discovered world across the ocean, but Sweden did not compete with them. On the other hand one Baltic province after another was added to the Swedish domain, Germany was split by religious wars, and after Denmark had failed in its intervention on the side of the Protestants of the North, the Swedish king, Gustavus Adolphus, a son of Charles IX and therefore a grandson of Gustaf Vasa, decided to take preventive measures against a possible restoration of Catholic influence in Sweden. He had just won a war against Poland and, in the spring of 1630, after consulting the Riksdag, he sailed with an army of only 13,000 men to Germany. In the following year he won his first decisive battle at Breitenfeld and after that became the acknowledged leader of the Protestant coalition. Like his grandfather, he had a fine commanding presence, personal courage, and executive ability. His military tactics were brilliant and the discipline he maintained among his troops was unusually high. For one year he was hailed as the liberator of northern Germany and the hope of the Protestant cause. The shrewd Cardinal Richelieu of France, Catholic though he was, made advances toward an alliance and helped pay the cost of the campaign. There was even talk of making this ruddy-faced, blond haired "gold king" from the North the emperor of Germany. The Catholic forces were soon re-organized, however, under the famous general Wallenstein, and



Gustavus Adolphus is regarded as Sweden's greatest king. A champion of tolerance in an intolerant time, he fell at Luetzen at the head of his men, November 6th, 1632.

he promptly challenged the Swedish King to combat. On November 6, 1632, there was a battle at Luetzen in Saxony in which the king, as usual, took a leading part. In command of the cavalry he was unfortunately surrounded by the enemy troops and killed. As his horse ran about with an empty saddle, the news of the king's death spread among his troops, and embittered by the loss of their leader they won the battle.

Gustavus Adolphus was nominally succeeded by his six year old daughter, Queen Christina, but the real ruler was his chancellor, Axel Oxenstierna, who had collaborated with him closely throughout his reign. Together with the French and the German Protestants the Swedes continued in the Thirty Years War until the peace of Westphalia, in 1648, when Sweden received part of Pomerania and other north German districts for its share in the victory. The Baltic was now virtually a Swedish lake and Sweden one of the great military powers of Europe.

When she was only 28 years of age Christina gave up her throne and was succeeded by her cousin, Charles X. He declared war against Poland, but while he was fighting the Poles the Danes declared war. By forced marches the Swedish army left Poland, crossed Germany, and entered Denmark from the south, late in the fall of 1657. Not expecting attack from that direction the Danes were unprepared, but because of the intervening water the Danish king felt safe on his island in Copenhagen. But the winter turned out to be unusually cold. The Belts, or sea passages between the Danish islands, froze over, and one cold night in January the entire Swedish army took the tremendous risk of marching across the ice. Had the ice broken, Sweden would have been at the mercy of her enemies, but the ice held and the Danish king had no choice but capitulation. To get rid of the Swedes he had to give up the remaining Danish provinces on the Swedish mainland, the richest in the country, and in that way Sweden acquired its present natural boundaries.

Sweden was now at the height of its power, though the many wars had exhausted it economically and after the sudden death of Charles X, at the age of 38, the regents for his infant son, Charles XI, tried to maintain peace. This policy was followed by Charles XI himself when he became of age. But as his great grandfather, Gustaf Vasa, had found the best land in the hands of the church, so he discovered that there was too much of it in the hands of the nobles. As successful generals they had been rewarded by the gift of one estate after another, each including many farms—at times whole parishes. The king, therefore, decided to cancel the gifts of land, and although many wealthy families were made poor, the country prospered.

In his youth Charles XI had to repel another attack by the Danes, who wanted their provinces back, but on the whole he was able to maintain peace, and when he died in the prime of life in 1697, the public coffers were well filled and Sweden was still a great military power.

But no sooner had he died and been succeeded by his 15 year old son, Charles XII, than the country was attacked simultaneously by Russia, Poland and Denmark. Now was a good time, they thought, to get revenge. For nine years, from 1700 to 1709, the



Charles XII, the Warrior King, was only 18 years old when he defeated the Russian army despite its overwhelming superiority in numbers. As we see him here in his simple blue uniform he still lives in the memory of the Swedish people.

young king not only fought them off, but invaded their territories, winning one battle after another. Denmark was soon subdued, and in a snow storm over 40,000 Russians were beaten at Narva by a small Swedish army of 8,000 men. In Poland Charles deposed the king, Augustus the Strong, who was also Duke of Saxony, but then he made the fatal mistake of invading the heart of Russia, while Czar Peter the Great retreated before him. At Poltava, in the Ukraine, where he had planned to join the rebellious Cossacks under their leader Mazepa, he lost a decisive battle and the flower of his army was carried off as prisoners to Siberia. The King, himself, succeeded, however, in fleeing with a few followers over the Turkish border. In Turkey he stayed for some years, trying to persuade the Turks to go to war against Russia. He eventually succeeded, and Czar Peter the Great was nearly taken prisoner with all his army. But he escaped and could once more direct his forces

against Sweden. In 1714 Charles XII started for home again, followed by only one of his soldiers, riding all the way across Europe on horseback. The 1,000 miles from Vienna to Stralsund he made in eight days. After the battle of Poltava Sweden had been attacked again by Denmark and Poland, and Great Britain and Prussia had joined in the attack. But Charles XII raised another army and decided to retaliate for the new invasion by conquering Norway. Hardly across the border, however, he was killed one night in November, 1718, while inspecting the trenches in front of a Norwegian fortress. The dream of empire was over. The Baltic provinces had to be ceded to Russia, and Peter the Great could move his capital from Moscow to the marshy site of St. Petersburg, facing the Baltic. Only Finland, which had fought faithfully at the side of the Swedes through all the wars, remained. But despite his misfortunes, Sweden still honors Charles XII as a national hero.

Following the example of Louis XIV of France, Charles XI had made the royal power in Sweden practically absolute, though he still kept up the contact with the Riksdag. This power his son was held to have abused by leading the country into such disasters, and when he was succeeded by his sister, Queen Ulrika Eleonora, and soon afterward by her husband, Frederik I, a foreign prince of little consequence, the Riksdag took control, and by developing the country internally tried to make up for what it had lost abroad. This period in Swedish history (1718—1772) is called the "Era of Liberty."

Industries were promoted, particularly the production of iron. Science, literature, and learning were fostered. Scholars of European reputation appeared. Those best known today are Christopher Polhem, engineer and inventor; Carl von Linné, or Linnaeus, father of modern botany; Anders Celsius, a physicist, who designed the centigrade thermometer; Carl Wilhelm Scheele, a chemist, who discovered oxygen; and the most famous of all, Emanuel Swedenborg, mining engineer, scientist and inventor, who late in life became a theologian. In his voluminous writings he sketched such things as a submarine, a flying machine, the air tight stove, and was many years ahead of his time in outlining the theory of the structure of the brain. All knowledge seemed to be his province.

As the 18th century progressed, however, party strife in the Riksdag arose. As a result the country's independence was threatened through the influence of foreign powers, chiefly Russia and France. To remedy this situation King Gustavus III, whose mother was a sister of Frederick the Great of Prussia, staged a bloodless revolution in 1772, and then became the master of the Government. Like his uncle he was a great admirer of France, and was a personal friend of Louis XVI and his queen, Marie Antoinette. As we shall see later, he was the first neutral king to recognize American independence. But he was not a Republican at heart and after the French revolution he tried to rally the monarchists of Europe in defence of the Bourbons. He spoke French as readily as Swedish, and on the French model he founded the present Swedish Academy, which now awards the Nobel Prize in Literature. In fact he promoted all forms of art, especially the dramatic. But he was less interested in his administrative duties, and the economic condition of the country was not sound. To distract attention he engaged in a short war with Russia, which brought personal renown to himself, but no particular benefit to the country. In 1792 he was assassinated by some disgruntled officers at a masked ball in the opera house of Stockholm. His son and successor, Gustaf Adolf IV, began to reign in the critical period of the French revolution and the Napoleonic wars. He was conscientious and well-meaning but did not possess the personality required to lead his people in these difficult times. The defence of Finland against an attack by Russia was badly managed, and when Finland had to be abandoned he was forced to abdicate. For many years he lived in Switzerland, as a recluse.

He had believed he had a divine mission to oppose Napoleon, but some of his officers, especially the younger ones, felt that only by electing one of Napoleon's generals as king, could Sweden's old military glory be restored. Temporarily, his uncle, Charles XIII, inherited the throne, but he was an old man and had no legitimate heirs. It was then that the Riksdag chose Jean Baptiste Bernadotte, a French Field Marshal, as successor to the throne. Napoleon hesitated about giving his consent, since Bernadotte had always been a potential rival, but he finally said, "Let our destinies be fulfilled."

Instead of attacking Russia and re-gaining Finland, however, as he had been expected to do, the new Crown Prince, re-named Carl

Johan, who took command at once, joined Napoleon's enemies, and after the defeat of Napoleon at Leipzig in 1813, attacked Napoleon's ally, Denmark, and demanded Norway as a substitute for Finland. The Danes capitulated, but the Norwegians objected to the transfer, declaring their own independence May 17th, 1814. They had elected a Danish prince as their king, but when Bernadotte appeared with an army, he was able to persuade them to elect the Swedish king instead. Thus a new union was formed which lasted until 1905. This was the last war in which Sweden has participated.

After a peaceful reign of 26 years Carl Johan was succeeded by his son, Oscar I, who had married Josephine Beauharnais, a step-grand-daughter of Napoleon Bonaparte. He continued his father's policy of peace and internal improvements instead of war and foreign conquest. After the Napoleonic wars the three Scandinavian countries began to feel their racial kinship and the many interests they had in common, rather than their old rivalries, and much sentiment was expressed in favour of closer political relations. When Denmark was attacked in 1864 by both Austria and Prussia, King Charles XV, a son of Oscar I, personally favored giving her support, but the responsible political leaders of both Sweden and Norway sensed that the cause was hopeless and that it was better to let Prussia absorb the two, mostly German speaking, Danish provinces, Slesvig and Holstein. In Norway there was a growing discontent with the Swedish union in which the Norwegians felt they were overshadowed, especially in the management of foreign affairs. When they suddenly dissolved the union in 1905, some Swedes were in favor of reenforcing it by arms. But the great majority of them were opposed to bloodshed and preferred to let the Norwegians have their way. This feeling was shared by the aged King, Oscar II, a brother of Charles XV who had succeeded him in 1872, and the end of the union was arranged by peaceful means. Ever since then the two countries have been more and more friendly. By the marriage of Crown Prince Olav of Norway and Princess Märtha of Sweden in 1929, the breach may be said to have been healed completely.

In the World War the three Scandinavian countries joined hands to protect their neutrality, and to make outward display of this new unity the three kings met at Malmö early in 1915. In 1917 King

Gustaf V of Sweden, who had succeeded his father, Oscar II, in 1907, went even further and visited the Norwegian capital, Oslo, for the first time after the break in 1905. In clear language he asked that the past be forgotten and that the new friendship be made permanent. Now it is common practice for all the Scandinavian states to make no important move in foreign affairs without first consulting the others, although there is no formal obligation to do so.

During the World War, Finland, which had been separated from Sweden since 1809, regained her independence from Russia. In 1921 Sweden agreed to let the League of Nations decide the dispute that had arisen with Finland in regard to the Åland Islands which lie half way between the two countries and have a great strategical value. Prior to 1809, when they together with Finland were taken from Sweden by Russia, they had always been Swedish. To this day the people speak Swedish and in 1919 petitioned the League of Nations to be restored to Sweden. The League gave them local self rule, freedom from military service, and declared the islands neutral under the protection of the League, but gave the title to Finland. Sweden accepted the verdict, whereas in the old days the dispute would have been an ideal cause for war, exactly as the Norwegian break from the union would have been in 1905. But in return, both Norway and Finland are today on the very best terms with Sweden, and Finland is now regarded as a member of the Scandinavian group of states.

All four of these states joined the League of Nations at the very outset in 1919. The League having failed to maintain international peace and confidence, the Swedish government with the full approval of all political parties expressed its intention to maintain a strict neutrality, which, at the outset of the present conflict, was confirmed by specific governmental declarations and the issuing of neutrality rules, in common with the other nordic states.

In various international meetings, Sweden, together with other smaller powers, has worked for a lowering of the tariff barriers against international trade, and was one of the first European countries to sign a reciprocity treaty with the United States. Her own tariff rates have not been materially increased for many years, and since almost all prices of goods have gone up, the specific duties

have, in effect, gone down in proportion. Owing to the present war situation, Sweden has, however, been obliged provisionally to introduce a licensing system, whereby the foreign trade of the country is subjected to governmental control to a large extent.

SWEDES IN AMERICA

Sweden's first contact with the Western World began in 1638 when a colony called "New Sweden" was founded on the banks of the Christina River, a tributary of the Delaware, and a small fort was built on what is today the waterfront of Wilmington, Delaware. In the spring of 1638 the tercentenary of this event was celebrated, and a monument in Swedish black granite by the Swedish sculptor Carl Milles was erected to mark the spot of the first landing. The New Sweden colony, for which land had been bought from the Indians "as far west as the sunset", included parts of what are today the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, as well as most of Delaware and even a small corner of Maryland. Before William Penn was born, the Swedes had settled in what today is Philadelphia, and most of the land for the city was purchased for Penn from Swedish farmers, including the site of Independence Hall. On both sides of the Delaware River several forts or blockhouses were built by the Swedes. With the Indians they had no conflicts whatever, but disputes arose between them and the Dutch, whose headquarters were at New Amsterdam, the present New York, over land ownership and trading rights with the result that, after a bloodless siege in 1655, the Dutch took over the rule of the colony.

Until after the American Revolution Sweden kept up her religious and cultural contacts with the Swedish colonists, who had chosen to remain, first as Dutch and then as British subjects, but the political rights were never revived.

During the American war for independence the sympathies of Sweden—already pro-French—were on the side of the "brave colonists." At least one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, John Morton of Pennsylvania, was a descendant of the original Swedish settlers on the Delaware. Others served in the army under Washington, and in the French forces were ninety

Swedish commissioned officers—some of whom held commands on the French warships. The Swedish sympathies were later expressed in a treaty of friendship and commerce, signed in Paris between the Swedish ambassador and Benjamin Franklin and ratified in 1783 by the United States Senate, by which Sweden became the first neutral country in the world to recognize the new republic.

In the 19th century, the bonds of friendship between Sweden and the United States were further strengthened. Before the war between the states, Swedes began taking up homesteads in the West and later, when Sweden was afflicted by several crop failures, emigration to the United States began on a large scale reaching a top figure of 64,607 in 1882. Altogether, over a million and a quarter Swedes have sought new homes across the Atlantic. The virgin land they cleared in the Middle West and Northwest now blossoms with rich crops on many thousands of farms. In the industrial centers of the East, many Swedes have become skilled mechanics, but the majority of them have settled in the Great Lakes region, principally in Minnesota, where they found scenery and climate similar to those of their homeland. Today there is scarcely a family in Sweden which does not have a relative in the United States. There is practically no country in the world which the average Swede knows better than the United States and for which he feels greater sympathy. The influence of American ideas on Swedish life is noticeable everywhere.

Many of the Swedish immigrants have played important roles in their new country. During the War between the states, John Ericsson designed the Monitor—the first boat with a revolving turret. Previously he had perfected the propeller and invented the hot air engine, which was widely used before electric motors and gasoline engines became common. Other famous Americans of Swedish ancestry have been Admiral John Adolph Dahlgren, inventor of the Dahlgren gun, used in the War between the states; Colonel Charles Augustus Lindbergh, aviator; E. F. W. Alexanderson of radio and television fame, and Charles E. Rosendahl, Commander of dirigibles in the United States Navy. Greta Garbo, who received her first training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in Stockholm, has been called one of the greatest screen actresses of the day.

III. GOVERNMENT

KING

As far back as written history goes, Sweden always had a king. The Viking kings used to confer with their men in regard to future expeditions. When they agreed with him they banged on their shields, and when they disagreed they grumbled. In the Middle Ages the King was elected, but since 1544 he inherits the crown. At the end of the 17th century his power was almost unlimited and again at the end of the 18th century, but in general he has had to consult with the representatives of the people before taking any important steps. Even when most powerful he did not have the right to impose taxes. The King presides at all cabinet meetings, and is the head of the state. All governmental acts are in his name.

ROYAL FAMILY

The present King of Sweden is Gustaf V, born June 16, 1858. He has ruled since December 8, 1907, when he succeeded his father, Oscar II. His wife, Queen Victoria, died April 4, 1930. The heir to the throne is Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf, born November 11, 1882. Twice he has visited the United States—in 1926 and again in 1938. His first wife was the former Princess Margaret of Great Britain, who died in 1920. His second wife is Crown Princess Louise, also of English descent. The Crown Prince's oldest son and prospective heir to the throne is also named Gustaf Adolf. He was born in 1906 and is married to a former German Princess, Sibylla. They have three daughters, Margaretha, Birgitta, and Désirée. Other sons of the Crown Prince are Prince Bertil, born in 1912, and his younger brother, Carl Johan, born in 1916. A younger son of the King is Prince Wilhelm, who is a well-known author. The King's brothers are the Princes Carl and Eugen. Prince Carl, who has married a Danish Princess, Ingeborg, has for more than twenty-five years been the leader of the Swedish Red Cross; Prince Eugen is one of the leading Swedish painters.



King Gustaf V on the day of his 80th birthday, June 16th, 1938.

CABINET

During the years 1932 to 1939, with the exception of a few months in 1936, Sweden was governed by a combination of labor and farm leaders, representing the Social-Democratic, or organized labor party, and the Farmers' Union in the Riksdag. The Prime Minister was during all these years Per Albin Hansson, a self-educated newspaper editor. However, owing to the critical situation in Northern Europe caused by the outbreak of the Finnish-Russian war, it was considered necessary to form a national union government in which the four main political parties in the Riksdag were represented. The new Cabinet was constituted in December 1939 with Mr. Hansson still as Premier and Mr. Christian Günther, a carrier diplomat, as Minister for Foreign Affairs. The conservative leader, as well as the leader of the other opposition party, the People's Party, entered the Cabinet.

CONSTITUTION

At various times Sweden has had written constitutions. The one now in force was adopted in 1809 and is, therefore, the oldest written one valid in Europe. It provides the country with a constitutional monarchy which is quite similar to the government of the United States, except that the King inherits his office and holds it for life instead of being elected every four years. Furthermore the Swedish constitution, like the American, puts the executive power in the hands of the head of the state and gives him the right to choose any thirteen men he wants to as his Ministers. They need not be party leaders or even members of the Riksdag. The King addresses the Riksdag at the opening session in January, exactly as the President of the United States does Congress. He reports on the state of the nation, its foreign relations etc.

Though the King has the right to veto bills passed by a majority in the national legislature this right has been very sparingly used during the last decades. Personally he is not responsible to anyone for what he does, but none of his decrees or appointments is valid unless signed also by one of his Ministers and they are responsible to the Riksdag (parliament) for every act. This is where the Swedish system differs from the American. Furthermore, since the king cannot appropriate money, he needs approval by the Riksdag at every step. In practice, therefore, he finds it best to select his Ministers from the members of the Riksdag, so that, in effect, Sweden has a parliamentary government like that of Great Britain or France. While personally much respected, the Swedish King exerts less power than the President of the United States, and his position corresponds more to that of the King of England. The real chief executive is the Prime Minister, who is formally appointed by the King, but who gets his real power from a majority in the Riksdag. When he loses that majority he usually resigns, though he may advise the King to call for new elections and thereby appeal direct to the country. The final power is, therefore, in the hands of the people themselves.

Sweden, moreover, has no supreme court to interpret the constitution. If any changes need be made in the fundamental laws, a majority vote by two Riksdags in succession are sufficient, provided that between them there is a national election.

RIKSDAG

The Riksdag, or national legislature, meets every year early in January and is usually through by June. In 1935 it celebrated its five hundredth anniversary and is, next to the British parliament, the oldest national assembly with a continuous history in the world. In the past hundred years it has gradually gained more and more power, especially since the old system of four estates or classes was abolished in 1865 and a modern system of two Chambers or Houses adopted in its place. Since the end of the World War, it has asserted itself more and more so that a personal government by the King, though perfectly legal, would no longer be practicable.

The two Chambers have equal power and rank, but they differ in their organization. The First Chamber, sometimes called the Senate, has 150 members, and the Second, which corresponds to the House of Representatives, 230.

The members of the First Chamber are chosen for eight years, and each year one-eighth of the members are chosen by electors from the different provinces, exactly as United States Senators formerly were by State legislature. Though candidates need to be only 35 years old, they are, as a rule, persons with some experience in public life. Being chosen by legislators, who have themselves been elected some time back, they represent the second thought of the country, while the members of the Second Chamber, who are elected directly by the people every four years, express the current public opinion. Both men and women are eligible to either chamber and every citizen over 23 years of age has the right to vote and is eligible to the Second Chamber. Members of the First Chamber do not need to live in the district which they represent, so that an able and experienced man can be elected anywhere.

Practically all occupations and professions are represented in the Riksdag and there are more farmers, teachers, and journalists than lawyers. All elections in Sweden are based on the system of proportional representation, by which each party elects a number of candidates in proportion to the votes cast for it. This is intended to prevent "land slides" and to give to the minority a fair share in the government. In Sweden this system has now been used for over 30 years.

At the ordinary session of the Riksdag in 1940, the six parties were represented as follows:

	First Chamber	Second Chamber
Conservatives	38	44
People's Party (United Liberals)	15	27
Farmers' Union	24	36
Social Democrats (Organized Labor)	72	115
Socialists	0	3
Communists	1	5
	<hr/> 150	<hr/> 230

Members of the Riksdag have an unlimited right to introduce bills and resolutions. They may say anything they please about the subjects under debate and talk as long as they wish, exactly as United States Senators do. The Riksdag is, therefore, an open forum where any subject or proposed measure or alleged grievance can be discussed.

Before being acted upon, all legislative proposals are referred to committees. No government bill is voted upon without discussion in the appropriate committee and since at least some of its members are experts on the subject in question, the committee report usually carries much weight in the final voting.

BANK OF SWEDEN

Since by tradition the people's representatives have the power over the public purse as well as taxation, the Riksdag and not the government, has control over the bank of Sweden, the oldest bank of issue in the world (founded in 1668). The Riksdag also has control over the National Debt Office, which has charge of the government bond issues, the payment of interest, et cetera.

The gold standard has been suspended in Sweden since 1932, when the Bank of Sweden was instructed by the Riksdag to manage the currency so as to keep the cost of living as stable as possible. In this it has succeeded remarkably well.

In regard to the public debt the rule has prevailed for a century that the government shall borrow money only for productive investments. When emergencies have made it necessary to break this

rule, the income of special taxes has been reserved, sufficient to pay the debt within a short time. The result has been that the regular income from the government's long-term investments, chiefly in public utilities, has almost always been enough, not only to pay the interest charges on government bonds, but to leave a considerable surplus. Of the Government bonds about 95 percent are held in Sweden.

THE RIKSDAG'S POWER OF SUPERVISION

Besides its lawmaking and financial powers, the Riksdag has the right to review the acts of administration. One of its committees has the duty of looking over the minutes of the cabinet so that nothing can be decided by the King and his Ministers in secret. Any one of the Ministers can be called before either chamber to account for what he has done.

The civil service as well as the courts and the army and navy are likewise subject to supervision by representatives of the Riksdag. Any citizen who feels that a government official has not acted properly can get a hearing before these delegates of the Riksdag, no matter how high the rank of the official involved. This rule applies to judges and other civil servants as well as army and navy officers. Finally the Riksdag names each year twelve auditors who look over the outlay of public money in every department.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Government executive work is handled by local or national administrative officers. Most of them are named by the government and as a rule cannot be dismissed except when condemned by court to lose their office for misbehavior or mismanagement. For local administration, the country is divided into twenty-four countys or "län", each with a chief executive official, "landshövding", appointed by the government, and an elected County Council.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

In Sweden the rule over local affairs by the people themselves has a long tradition, dating from before the Christian era. In their present form most municipal laws were passed in 1862. They give

each community charge of its own finances and the keeping of law and order. Community boards have the care of the poor, the orphans, the ailing, and the primary schools. In the cities these boards also have supervision over public utilities—water, gas, electricity, and transportation—which are in general owned and managed by the municipalities themselves. To finance their undertakings, the local governments have the right to levy taxes. Sometimes special state grants equalize the tax burdens between different communities.

COURTS

Like the system of local self-government, the Swedish courts are based on very old traditions. The Swedish jury system goes back to the 13th century or even further. In the country district-courts the judge, who is appointed by the government, is assisted by a permanent jury of twelve men, elected locally. These jurors are no ordinary jurymen, but they deliberate with the judge, both on questions of evidence and of law. If unanimous, the jury can overrule the judge.

Similarly the lower city courts consist of a magistrate and a board of councillors. The magistrate, who must have had a legal education, is appointed by the government on nomination by the city's voters. Except in Stockholm, the councillors are chosen by the local boards of aldermen.

The four courts of appeal, of which the oldest dates back to 1614, are called the "Royal Courts" ("hovrätter"), and the judges are selected by the government from among the best educated lawyers in the country. The same is true of the judges in the two Supreme Courts, or final courts of appeal, which function in the name of the king. One of them deals exclusively with administrative matters. All Swedish judges are appointed until the legal retirement age and cannot be removed except if condemned by court to lose their office. On the other hand, they do not enjoy the same immunity from criticism as American judges, and cannot commit anyone to jail for contempt of court without an impartial hearing. The Swedes have high respect for their courts, based on their reputation for impartiality. Oaths to tell the truth are taken very seriously, and perjury is relatively rare. Sometimes a person is acquitted of a

crime if the evidence is not conclusive, and he takes an especially solemn oath that he is innocent. But if he is found out later, he is doubly punished. All Swedish law is codified and printed in one volume, a new edition of which has been published annually for sixty years. The language is so plain that almost anyone can read it. Lawyers are comparatively few in number.

CHURCHES

Complete religious liberty prevails in Sweden, which by tradition is a Protestant country. There is, however, an official Lutheran state church, supported by taxes, in which practically every child is enrolled at birth. In this way are kept the official records of births, as well as deaths, marriages and divorces, legal residences et cetera. The Swedish state clergy—as a rule highly educated men—have kept these records for more than two centuries and the Swedish vital statistics are therefore remarkably complete. Partly in return for this work the salaries of the Ministers and other church expenses are paid by special taxes, which everyone has to pay whether he goes to church or not, or whether he attends religious services elsewhere, which he is perfectly free to do.

When the Reformation was adopted in the 16th century, the King became the head of the Swedish church and as such he remains today. One member of the cabinet is Minister of Public Worship and Education, and in the King's name the government appoints the bishops and some of the rectors, though, in general, each parish elects its own clergyman, and the government chooses for bishop one of three candidates nominated by the ministers of the diocese. While each parish owns or at least controls its own church building, parish house and rectory, the government manages the church property in general, which includes forests and farms, scattered here and there over the country.

For administrative purposes the country is divided into twelve dioceses, each with a bishop at the head of it. The Arch-bishop of Uppsala, the primate of Sweden, ranks at the head of the Swedish bishops, but he has no special authority over them. Besides the state church there are a number of free religious organizations, Baptists, Methodists, Catholics, Free Covenanters, Jews, etc.

SCHOOLS

Since 1842, or for nearly a hundred years, all Swedish children have been obliged to attend school. Practically everyone, therefore, knows how to read and write. The schools are managed by the government and the local townships together. While they are supported by local taxes with government aid for the teachers' salaries, the course of study is prescribed by the central school board in Stockholm, which makes it easier to maintain a uniform standard. As a rule children have to begin school at the age of seven and continue until they are fourteen, or seven years altogether, but several start earlier than that and continue after they are fourteen. In recent years much money has been spent on new school buildings, up-to-date books, and modern equipment. Physical education—outdoor games, as well as indoor gymnastics—hold an important place in the daily schedules. Moving pictures, radio broadcasts, and even special theatre performances are used more and more to vary the routine.

Between the primary grades and the universities are the intermediary or continuation schools, special schools for girls, and junior colleges (gymnasiums) for both sexes. Most of these are run by the central government, some by the cities, and some by private interests. While instruction is free in the grammar schools, and the tuition fees in secondary schools are quite low (only about \$30 a year), there is no charge for instruction in any publicly owned institution to those who lack means.

In the secondary schools the study of languages is stressed. English and German are required subjects. In the junior colleges, French is also required. These junior colleges prepare the students for the universities and a variety of professional schools.

There are two complete state universities in Sweden, one at Uppsala, founded in 1477, or before Columbus discovered America, and another at Lund in southern Sweden, which is almost 300 years old. In both Stockholm and Gothenburg are privately supported universities, which, however, lack certain departments found at both Lund and Uppsala. Most of the special schools or colleges for medicine, commerce, forestry, dentistry, engineering, and agriculture etc., are likewise located in Stockholm or Gothenburg.

ADULT EDUCATION

In the civic and cultural training of the Swedish people, the voluntary adult education system has helped countless thousands. Especially influential has been the work of the temperance societies and the Educational Association of the organized industrial workers, (A. B. F.). Pioneers in the field were the People's Colleges (Folkhögskolor), which were originally intended for the farm youth. Now the cooperatives and the labor unions have similar schools for the training of future leaders in their own fields. Partly supported by the state, the People's Colleges as well as lecture clubs, study circles, and evening courses are planned to satisfy the educational needs of the working classes. Free public libraries, generously assisted by the state and municipalities, meet the growing demand for educational literature.

Aided by lecture courses and language lessons on the radio, this adult education movement has been able to reach the most distant provinces and the most scattered population groups. To illustrate the spread of the movement, it may be pointed out that the Workers' Educational Association in 1939 had over 60,000 members enrolled, and the temperance societies' courses over 30,000. A beginners' course in English by radio, which was started in September, 1937, was followed regularly by an audience estimated at 100,000 persons. For the United States, the corresponding number would be 2,000,000. Of a popular textbook on economics, called "Economics for Everybody", costing nearly a dollar and published by the Cooperative Union, over 50,000 copies have been sold. For the United States, a similar sale would be over 1,000,000 copies.

IV. INDUSTRIES

AGRICULTURE

Farming is still the most important industry in Sweden, giving support to over a third of the population. Eighty years ago over two-thirds of the people earned their living direct from the soil. The number of farmers, moreover, is growing steadily smaller and the shift in population from the country to the city is one of the social problems of the day.

At the beginning of the last century, however, farming was the most promising way in which the growing population could earn a living. This gave impetus to the clearing and drainage of much new land, so that in a hundred years the area under cultivation was more than doubled. That this could be done was partly due, of course, to the increasing use of machinery and mechanical power. But there was another reason. By new laws passed at the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th, the land held in common by the farmers living in the same village, was divided up among them and the fields that had formerly been inter-mixed were rearranged so that each farm became a continuous unit. Many farmers then moved out of the closely built up villages and settled on their new holdings. In this way farm houses became scattered all over the countryside, instead of being collected in closely built-up villages, as is still the case in many other European countries. This is one reason why the Swedish countryside resembles that of the United States. This rearrangement also afforded new opportunities for putting additional land under cultivation, giving each farmer more elbow room.

Then a new system of rotating crops was copied from England and other foreign countries. This helped protect the soil from exhaustion. The use of artificial fertilizer and modern methods of drainage have furthermore helped to increase the yield of the land and through studies and tests at agricultural schools and



Plains of Skåne, the southernmost province of the country. The mildness of the climate and the fertility of the soil have made this province the "granary of Sweden".

government experimental stations, the quality of seed has been so much improved that from this cause alone the Swedish crops gain an estimated extra value of more than \$ 10,000,000 a year. The total crop is now estimated to be worth on the average over \$ 250,000,000 annually and in spite of Swedens northerly position the average yield of grain per acre is exceeded in only a few other European countries.

After having enjoyed unusual prosperity during the world war, when there was a heavy demand for foodstuff of all kinds, the Swedish farmers, like the American, suffered a serious depression when the war was over. The foreign markets all but disappeared and the home demand was growing smaller. The Swedish farmers then organized to improve their marketing methods and from the government they got help in various ways. First of all the Swedish flour mills were required by law to use a certain proportion of native grown grain, (in 1939, ninety percent). By other measures, such as a guarantee in advance of minimum domestic prices on grain, and export premiums on butter and eggs, the government has tried to keep steady the prices farmers can expect for their

produce and thereby give them a share in the prosperity of the country. The interests of other classes have been kept in mind, too. Thus there is an import duty on foreign fruit only during those months when there are no domestic fruits or berries for sale.

At the end of the 18th century, or 140 years ago, when Sweden had only 2,350,000 inhabitants, compared to 6,300,000 now, about eighty percent of the population were farmers, but even so the country did not produce enough food, and large quantities had to be imported. Now only about 37 percent get their living direct from the soil, and yet the country is not only self-supporting in its principal food stuffs, but also produces enough for considerable export.

FORESTRY

Next to farming, forestry is the most important Swedish industry. Over half of the country's area (56.5 percent or 57,300,000 acres) is covered with forests, mostly spruce and pine. While the great majority of the houses in Sweden have always been built of wood, there was no other market for lumber, either at home or abroad, until about the middle of the 19th century. Then, as the English factory population grew, there arose an ever greater demand for lumber; both for industrial purposes, such as pit props in the coal mines and ties for the railroads, and for the building of houses. The English import duties were removed and this gave Sweden its opportunity.

Steam sawmills were set up at the mouths of the Swedish rivers; waterways were cleared for logging, new lumber companies bought up forest land or the right to cut logs, sometimes at very low prices. In the south more and more railroads were built to haul lumber from the interior to the coast. Soon axes were swinging in the snow-covered wood lands. By horse power the farmers hauled the logs to the nearest lake, river, or railroad line. When the ice melted, millions of logs were floated down to the coast. The sawmills cut up the logs into planks and boards which were soon carried by ships not only to England, but to France, Holland, and Belgium, where trees had become equally scarce. This was the first Swedish industry on a large scale. It brought in



On numerous rivers the logs are floated to the sawmills.

foreign money, which could be used for buying wheat, rice, coffee, sugar, fruit, cloth, and new machinery from abroad. The new wealth was distributed among the capitalists, farmers, lumber jacks, mill hands, and sailors, and helped to raise the general standard of living.

While the farmers and the government still own a large proportion of the forest bearing land, the lumber industry is in the hands of a comparatively small number of private companies. They also own large tracts of forests themselves, and assist the government in preserving the supply of raw materials by systematic replanting and by developing new ways of using forestry products. According to law all cut-over land must be replanted promptly. Each year 50,000,000 new plants are set out and 35,000 pounds of pine or spruce seed are sown. By digging nearly 4,000 miles of new ditches a year much swampy land is drained, so that trees can grow on it. Since the new forms of industry make use of trees of smaller size than the sawmills, forest-bearing tracts can be cut over or "harvested" more frequently than before. Careful government surveys have shown that at the present rate of cutting, the Swedish forestry reserves will last indefinitely, the regrowth per year probably being greater than the consumption.

This industry based on forestry products still holds its prominent position in Sweden. As early as 1870 the value of its exports amounted to forty percent of all sales abroad. This figure has now



Sawmill at Ljusnan River. Millions of logs come floating to the mouths of the rivers where the sawmills are located.

been increased to nearly fifty percent. It is, however, no longer rough-hewn timber, planks and boards that make up most of the forestry products Sweden sells abroad, but rather wood in more refined and therefore more expensive forms: pulp, paper, wood alcohol and other chemical byproducts, and finally pulp for artificial silk. Twenty years ago the value of the pulp and paper exports alone was greater than that of the sawmill products. Today it is more than twice as much. In 1937, which was a record year, the export of forestry products in their various stages of refinement brought to Sweden considerably more than \$ 200,000,000.

Mining

The oldest Swedish export industry is mining. As early as during the 17th and 18th centuries efforts to develop the production of iron on a large scale were made. Iron is also the oldest Swedish article sold in America. During the Revolution, for instance, advertisements offering it for sale appeared in the Boston and Providence newspapers. But never until recent times did mining or the manufacture of iron support any large part of the Swedish

population. Prior to 1800 an abundant supply of charcoal was required for the production of iron anywhere and, since Sweden had plenty of it, she could sell her iron abroad. In the beginning of the 19th century, however, new and cheaper methods of smelting iron ore with coke were discovered and as Sweden was poor in coal, other countries, rich in coal, such as Great Britain, Belgium, France, and Germany, to say nothing of the United States, took away her foreign markets.

Then it was discovered that Swedish iron and steel, in some degree because they were made with charcoal, were better in quality than any others, and step by step new markets were found, so that today razor blades, piano wires, watch springs, fine tools, high speed drills, surgical instruments, and the best ball bearings are made of Swedish steel. Some of these products are worth more than their weight in gold. Swedish wrought iron is also tougher than any other, and it is used for certain purposes in Pittsburgh itself. Gradually the many little Swedish iron works were combined into larger plants. Then the railroads, built in the meantime, made it possible to carry the charcoal and ore for longer distances. The present Domnarvet steel works, for instance, has replaced nineteen smaller plants, and this development is typical. What the new establishments benefited from most was the skill of the workers, which had been handed down from father to son for many generations.

Most of the iron ore which is mined in Sweden today is not refined within the country, chiefly because of the expensiveness of coal and coke. Except for high quality iron, charcoal itself has become too expensive for smelting ore, particularly since the pulp mills began to use up the smaller sizes of trees. The cheaper grades of iron Sweden itself buys partly from abroad. Smelting iron ore by electricity has been adopted at places where electric power is cheap but in both central and northern Sweden large quantities of iron ore are mined for export, mainly to Germany and Great Britain. In some years this export has amounted to more than 12,000,000 tons — the largest quantity shipped in foreign trade anywhere. The greater part of these shipments come from the mines in Lapland, north of the Arctic Circle, where new communities have grown up in recent years. The existence of these deposits, veritable iron mountains, had been known for centuries, but until

a railroad could be built to reach them, there was no way of getting the ore out. Now ore trains run by electric power both to the Norwegian port of Narvik, which, despite its northerly location is always free from ice thanks to the Gulf Stream, and to the Swedish port of Luleå on the Bay of Bothnia, where shipments cannot be made in the winter. To get light and power for the mining as well as for the operation of the railroad, an electric power station was built nearby, and the ore line, located mostly north of the Arctic Circle, was the first one to be electrified in the whole country. The known ore supply is so large that it is expected to last for centuries. In fact, no definite limit has yet been found. The Swedish government is part owner of the Lapland mines, which are worked by a private company on a profit sharing basis.

Gold ore was found in northern Sweden about ten years ago. With a yearly output of gold, amounting to about \$ 6,000,000, which is only about one-twentieth of the production in the U. S. A., Sweden ranks, nevertheless, second among the European gold-producing countries.

METAL INDUSTRIES

In view of the supply of iron and steel of good quality and the traditional skill of the workers, it was natural that the metal and machine industries should get an early start in Sweden. The oldest line of manufacture was that of arms, which, due to Sweden's military prominence, flourished as early as in the 17th century. From this time date the machine shops of Eskilstuna, an old city southwest of Stockholm, which has been called "Sweden's Sheffield." It is still noted for its fine cutlery and other metal products, so that many pocket and carving knives, made at Eskilstuna, are sold in foreign countries. The rifle works are also famous and it was here that the Johansson system of precision measuring blocks, which are now used in the mass production of automobile parts at Detroit and other cities, was first developed. The most important modern Swedish munition plant, however, is located at Bofors in the province of Värmland. It is noted chiefly for its guns, but it also makes other purely commercial steel goods.

With regard to its extremely high quality the Swedish cold-rolled steel has gained a world-wide reputation.

Being experienced sailors, the Swedes naturally have also been boat builders and shipwrights from the earliest times. Now the sailing vessels are all but gone and the ship building industry is concentrated on motor driven vessels up to about 10,000 tons. The main yards are located at Gothenburg on the west coast, and one of them produces regularly one such motor ship a month, chiefly for foreign customers. The larger Swedish passenger vessels, on the other hand, have been built abroad, as it does not pay to construct such big ships unless there are regular repeat orders. In normal times the value of ships built at Swedish wharves is over \$ 25,000,000 a year, which makes Sweden one of the more important ship building countries in the world.

Several Swedish industries which employ many people in Sweden, and also have branches in foreign countries, are based on inventions or improvements in production made by Swedish engineers. The most important of these products are cream separators, ball bearings, automatic beacons and cross road blinkers, automatic telephones, electric motors, refrigerators, and the little kerosene burners, known as Primus stoves, which have been used by many explorers, including Admiral Byrd, Roald Amundsen, and S. A. Andrée. Altogether the Swedish metal and machine industries now employ about one-fourth of the workers and their annual output is valued at more than \$ 500,000,000. About one-fourth is sold abroad.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

One of the oldest of Swedish exports of to day is that of safety matches, which are a Swedish invention. The original factory is still located at Jönköping, but there are plants in other cities, too. Matches were probably the first articles of mass production anywhere, as the automatic machinery, also invented in Sweden, was installed quite early. In this way matches were made not only safe but cheap, and in the past seventy-five years they have affected daily life everywhere, perhaps more than any other industrial article.

A number of other industries, chiefly clothing and food products, were already started in Sweden, when a mildly protective tariff was adopted in the 1890's. Swedish hard bread and canned varieties of herring have even gained a large market abroad thanks to the popularity of the Swedish "smörgåsbord". Swedish-made skis and

clothing for winter sports are also becoming popular in foreign countries.

The same is true of industrial art goods, such as engraved glass, pewter, silver and porcelain. In general, Sweden produces chiefly articles of high quality and has practically never achieved any successful mass production of cheap goods. On the other hand, its own industries make a great variety of articles so that, except for a few special articles, it could be self supporting to a remarkably high degree. This was demonstrated during the World War and much progress has been made since then.

POWER DEVELOPMENT

Until electricity could be produced by water power, Sweden's industries lagged. There was practically no coal to be found in the country and the waterfalls were often located in distant places, to which workers and raw materials could not be transported profitably. The use of steam engines helped somewhat, but except in the case of the sawmills, the lack of cheap fuel was a serious handicap. Imported coal was too expensive. Now, however, electric power is abundant and cheap. Factories can be located where the workers live and the power brought to them. Even in Lapland the ore deposits are worked and the ore transported by hydroelectric power. The miners' houses are lighted and heated by electricity. On more than half the farm area grain is threshed and milk separated by the same means. Much capital has been invested, both by the government and individuals, in this power system which makes life so much easier, particularly in a northern country like Sweden. At first the smaller waterfalls in the more thickly settled southern provinces were developed, but gradually some of the bigger falls in the north were used, too. In per capita consumption of electricity, Sweden now ranks second in Europe and yet only one-fourth of the available water power has been harnessed. Some of the hydroelectric power in southern Sweden is exported to Denmark—a remarkable proof of international confidence.

TRANSPORTATION

Since Sweden, like the United States, is a relatively thinly populated country with long distances between the various com-

munities, the problem of transportation has always been a serious one. In the early days the sea and the natural waterways, lakes and rivers, were the chief means of both travel and transport. Gradually the cart tracks and foot paths through the woods were widened into roadways and a system of public highways was built up.

For many years the idea of connecting the various lakes and rivers in central Sweden into a canal route across the country was discussed, and more than a hundred years ago the Göta Canal was finished. One of the motives back of this project was to avoid paying the toll collected by the Danes from all ships passing through the Sound between Sweden and Denmark. There was also a military reason, similar to the one that led to the building of the Panama Canal. Warships were to be shifted from one side of Sweden to the other, independently of the Danes. Now the Danes no longer collect tolls, the canal is too narrow for warships, and since railroads were built, its importance as a freight line, except in the western end, is small. Only as a tourist route is it a success. Other minor canals were built, but on account of the long distances and the hilly character of the country, the Swedish system of artificial waterways never gained the same importance as those in Germany, Belgium, Holland, England or France. In this respect too, Sweden resembles the United States.

Railroads, on the other hand, revolutionized transportation in Sweden, as they did in America. Some foreign capital, chiefly English, was borrowed to build them, but this has long since been paid back. From the start it was decided by the Swedish Riksdag that the main lines were to be built and owned by the government, while private companies were given the right to build local lines as feeders. In proportion to population Sweden has the most extensive railroad system in Europe, and though some of the shorter private lines have been abandoned or taken over by the government because of motor traffic competition, the main trunk lines still earn a fair return on the capital invested. Since Sweden has but little coal of its own, the chief lines of the Swedish state railways have now been electrified. A start was made in 1910 with the ore line above the Arctic Circle in Lapland, but most of the work has been done since the depression began in 1929, partly

because prices on materials were low and partly to provide more jobs. As a result, Sweden is now less dependent on foreign coal than it used to be. Measured in distances, about fifty percent of the state-owned lines had been electrified by 1939, but in terms of traffic, about seventy-five percent.

The motor traffic, while not as highly developed as in the United States, is growing in importance. Many of the old roads have been rebuilt and straightened. The cost is borne by special taxes on automobiles and gasoline which bring to the government over \$ 30,000,000 a year. Much still remains to be done, however, as the Swedish climate creates difficulties in roadmaking which are not known in more southerly regions. At present the Swedish roads resemble those of Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. Some are paved with cement, others with asphalt, others with cut stone, while many are still only macadamized, but as a rule, all Swedish roads are kept in good repair.

SHIPPING

Because of its geographical situation, Sweden has always had to use the sea for its traffic with other countries, and today about one-half of the shipping which carries goods to and from Sweden is of Swedish ownership. In 1939 the commercial fleet consisted of nearly 850,000 tons steamships and 700,000 tons motor ships. Railroad ferries carrying entire trains connect the country with both Germany and Denmark, while Swedish steamship lines maintain regular traffic with Finland, the Baltic states, Germany, Denmark, Great Britain, France, Spain, Italy et cetera. Other lines run to the Far East and South America. Some ships go direct from Sweden to California, via the Panama Canal, others to Mexico and the American Gulf ports. Some ships are in American charter to carry ore from Chile through the Panama Canal to Baltimore. In 1915 the Swedish American Line was started for direct passenger traffic between New York and Gothenburg and its effect on the relations between the two countries has been tremendous. Sweden's net income from freight and passenger business abroad exceeded, before the outbreak of the war in 1939, \$ 25,000,000 annually, which has helped to offset the normally unfavorable trade balance.

FOREIGN TRADE

At the middle of the 19th century the total turnover of Sweden's foreign trade amounted to only about \$ 25,000,000 a year. At the end of the century it was ten times that amount or about \$ 250,000,000. The year before the World War it was over \$ 400,000,000 and in 1929 over \$ 900,000,000. Then there was a considerable drop due to the depression, but in 1937 it reached a new record of over \$ 1,000,000,000 and in 1938 it was very close to this sum.

Under ordinary circumstances Sweden's foreign trade balance always appears to be unfavorable. In other words, Sweden is a greater buyer than a seller of goods abroad. The highest excess of imports over exports recorded in recent years was that for 1931, when it was over \$ 75,000,000. Part of the deficit, as stated above, is covered by the earnings of Swedish shipping and part by the returns from foreign investments. Inheritances and gifts from emigrants make up another slice, and so do royalties on patents, etc.

Some of the excess of imports over exports is due to Sweden's liberal tariff policy. There are in normal times no restrictions on either the amounts imported or on the supply of foreign money with which to pay for them. Nor are the quantities of imports of industrial products limited by quotas, and the duties average only ten percent of the value of the goods. Sweden is therefore relatively a free trade country and it was one of the first in Europe to sign a reciprocity trade treaty with the United States. However, as mentioned above, the outbreak of the war in 1939 obliged the Swedish Government to introduce a control of the foreign trade of the country. Thus, most of the Swedish exports and also part of the imports are now subjected to a licensing system.

The chief Swedish articles of export, the products of forests and mines, already have been explained. They are, as a rule, half finished or semi-raw materials—producers' rather than consumers' goods. Sweden does not compete with other nations on the basis of low wages or mass production for mass consumption. To the U. S. A. Sweden exports chiefly pulp, and in 1938 about one-third, worth about \$ 30,000,000, of its total export of these products went to the U. S. A.

Among the imports coal, kerosene, gasoline, oils, and other petroleum products rank first. Next come non-precious metals as well as clothing and raw materials for the Swedish textile industry, such as wool and cotton. Together these three groups make up about one-half of the total. In foodstuffs the leading imports are fruit and coffee, of which the Swedes are very fond. From the United States the principal articles of import are automobiles and their equipment, and petroleum products. More than half of the amount which Sweden spends for automobiles regularly goes to the U. S. A. (in 1938 about \$ 14,000,000), and in 1938 about one half of the gasoline and oils came from the U. S. A. too. Of the cotton used in Sweden more than three-fourths, of the tobacco about one-half, and of the fruit more than one-fourth have grown in the U. S. A. In all, Sweden in 1938 bought American products for about \$ 80,000,000, that is about twice the value of Swedish exports to the United States in the same year.

FOREIGN CAPITAL

The change in Sweden from a primitive farm country to one of modern industry has taken place in only a little over fifty years and, naturally, enough capital for this change was not available within the country itself. Like the United States, Sweden, therefore, had to permit investments by foreign capitalists, chiefly English, French and German, and—again as in the United States—this process went on until the end of the World War. Since then Sweden has not only paid off the major part of its foreign debt, both private and public, but has invested money abroad so that in 1935, which was relatively a poor business year, the Swedish income from foreign investments was estimated at over \$ 30,000,000, while the corresponding Swedish dividends paid to foreign capitalists was only about one-fourth of that amount.

STANDARD OF LIVING

The shift in population from the farm to the factory and office has brought about a much higher standard of living, shorter working hours and a better use of leisure time. In 1938 a bill was passed that provides for workers' vacations with pay, and a project is on

foot for vacations for housewives, too. On the other hand the present number of births is not enough to keep up the population, the current increase being due to the fact that people live longer than they used to. The tide of emigration has, therefore, turned. Furthermore, while the industrial output is steadily increasing, the number of industrial workers in relation to the rest of the population has only increased by a half percent in the past fifteen years. It is greater efficiency and better production methods that explain the increased output, and this process seems likely to continue.

V. SOCIAL WELFARE

The industrial revolution or the change from manual to machine production in the 19th century did not cause as deep social upheavals in Sweden as in some other European countries. Instead it seems to have raised the standard of living almost immediately. At first the only social legislation passed concerned such things as child labor and better safeguards for health.

But gradually, under pressure from organized labor, one step after another was taken. Thus in 1919 the eight hour working day was legalized. Workmen's compensation for industrial accidents had been provided in 1912. In 1928 the Labor Court was set up and collective bargaining was authorized by law. In 1933 state aid for unemployment insurance was provided. Several labor unions already had their own insurance funds and some of them accepted state supervision in return for public contributions while others did not. On the subject of minimum wages, on the other hand, Sweden has never had any law. The labor unions prefer to take care of that subject by direct bargaining with the employers.

For the better care of the poor, the sick, and the aged, Sweden has adopted a whole series of measures. Mutual sick benefit societies attend to many cases with some government aid, while free medical care is provided by the state for those in need. Expectant mothers are not allowed to work for a certain number of days before or after delivery. If not already provided for by voluntary insurance, material aid is given by the state, partly in the form of free medical advice and partly by daily allowances of cash. Every mother whose family income is below a certain level gets a cash bonus for each baby. This applies to about ninety percent of the population. A special pension is paid to every blind



Mr P. A. Hansson, Prime Minister of Sweden since 1932, except for a few months in 1936.

person. An old age pension system to which every one over 18 must contribute was started in 1913. Payments begin at the age of 67, or earlier if the person is disabled. Those not in need of help get only a certain percentage of what they have contributed themselves, according to regular insurance rates, but to those in need the government grants extra pensions, which, in time, are intended to take the place of poor relief. These extra pensions are graded according to the local cost of living and the income already enjoyed. The maximum payments, though small, are sufficient to provide the barest necessities.

In recent years much has been done in Sweden to improve housing conditions, both in cities and on farms. Building loans have been granted at low rates of interest, and at times there have been outright subsidies. Especially favored have been families with a large number of children. In publicly subsidized apartment houses their rent decreases for every new child born. Needy orphans have also been aided by the state. Finally the unemployed have

been helped, either by direct gifts or by jobs on public works, though this problem is not now so serious as it was in 1932—33. The unemployed numbered, before the outbreak of the war, only some thousands—the lowest on record. Altogether Sweden pays out for social relief purposes about \$ 50,000,000 a year, not counting what is paid by the cities and towns and provincial legislatures. It is one of the biggest single items in the government budget which for 1939—40 balances at about \$ 340,000,000.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

The main railroad lines in Sweden are owned by the government, and also some of the electric power stations, producing about one-third of the energy. On the other hand the government at times helps to build private stations, wherever they may be needed and if they seem likely to be able to pay a fair interest on the money invested. Rates to consumers, which in Sweden are generally quite low, are fixed in the final instance by a government commission. Disputes are rare. Most of the towns own their gas and electric light as well as water and trolley or bus services. Sometimes they produce the electric power themselves and sometimes they buy it from the government or from a private company.

The postal service in Sweden has been in government hands since its beginning in 1636, and it is, in proportion to the invested capital, the most profitable of all the public utilities. The government also owns the telephone and the telegraph systems, which pay a handsome dividend, and yet rates are low. It also owns the radio, which is operated by a special company in which the government has the controlling interest. No advertising or partisan political speeches are allowed, but each of the more than 1,300,000 owners of receiving sets has to pay an annual fee of \$ 2.50. This pays for the programs, which are made up by a special board. The night before each election there is a political radio debate, in which leaders of the various political parties take part.

The government likewise has control over the company that runs the air lines, which are, as far as possible, coordinated with the railroad trains. Most of the mail to other European countries is in normal times carried by air.

The importation and manufacture of tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes, but not the retail sales, are also government business in Sweden. Again the operations are in the hands of a special company in which the government owns a controlling share. There is some private capital in it, but the dividends are limited to five percent. The main objective is to obtain the greatest possible public revenue, and not private profits. The same is true of the betting on horse races and football games, which the government does not forbid, but tries to tax as hard as possible. The liquor monopoly is different, for while it yields large tax revenues, its chief purpose is to restrict the abuse of alcohol.

This system of liquor control has been in effect since 1914 and on the whole it works satisfactorily. All manufacture, importation, and distribution of wines and spirits, but not beer, is in the hands of a company, which the government controls. In districts which vote in favor of liquor sales, sub-companies located over the whole country are in charge of the distribution of wines and spirits. All profits above five percent on the invested capital go to the government. There is, therefore, no extra private profit to be had from larger sales. Every customer has to be registered, and is given a pass book, similar to a bank book, in which all purchases are recorded. The amount each person may buy is also limited. It varies with his income and social obligations, but in no instance is it more than a gallon of hard liquor per month, and usually less than that. In restaurants liquor is sold only to those who also order a cooked meal and then only a glass or two to each guest.

This reform of the liquor traffic would probably not have been possible had there not been in Sweden for the past hundred years a very active temperance movement. It was partly inspired from the United States and some of the temperance societies such as the "Good Templars" were originally founded in America. The question of prohibition also has been brought up, but in 1922 it was rejected in a special plebiscite by a narrow margin. The temperance leaders still insist on the ultimate suppression of liquor and as an intermediate step favor higher excise taxes. But higher taxes mean higher prices and they make smuggling profitable.

COOPERATIVES

About forty years ago a few Swedish households, mostly those of workingmen, began to combine into cooperative societies for the purchase at wholesale rates of foodstuffs and other necessities. At first they merely divided the goods among themselves, but as the idea spread they opened regular stores, distributing the profits among the members in accordance with the amounts purchased. Now more than 600,000 households or, figuring four to be the average number in each family, more than one-third of the entire population, are organized in this way for mass buying. In 1908 the total retail sales of the cooperative societies was about \$ 5,000,000. Now the corresponding figure is about \$ 125,000,000.

In order to bring down their expenses still further the societies organized a wholesale agency, called the Cooperative Union. Its annual sales now amount to more than \$ 50,000,000 a year. In 1921 the union began to manufacture articles, on which the regular market prices seemed artificially high. It now owns margarine and vegetable oil factories, flour mills, shoe and rubber factories, an electric bulb plant, etc., and it also makes the raw materials for rayon silk, some household chemicals, and porcelain. Likewise it owns a department store in Stockholm.

Aside from its commercial and industrial work the Union publishes popular educational books at a low price, runs training schools for its own employees, provides auditors for the local retail societies, and sets up model equipment and bookkeeping methods, provides lecturers, organizes study circles and publishes weekly and monthly periodicals. It also runs a savings bank system. Two cooperative insurance societies are affiliated to the Union. The Union has its own architects' office, which is the largest in Scandinavia.

In the entire retail trade the cooperative share amounts to about 12 percent, but in lines in which it makes its own goods, to between 15 and 30 percent. It is especially strong in foodstuffs (close to 20 percent).

In addition to the consumers cooperative movement there are in Sweden, as in the United States, many producers' cooperatives, especially among farmers, who combine to sell their products at



Apartment houses in Stockholm, built and managed by the Stockholm Tenants Building Cooperative Society (H. S. B.).

the lowest possible costs. The farmers' own creameries control about 90 percent of the total amount of milk weighed in at all the dairies in the country. Their marketing associations handle more than 50 percent of the slaughtering and about 40 percent of all the sales of bread cereals. For the marketing of eggs, fruit, and vegetables, too, the farmers have their own sales organizations. There also exists an extensive farm banking system for supplying the farmers with operating credits. Close to 300,000 farmers are members of one or more of these Farmers Marketing Cooperatives. Naturally they are independent of the consumers' organizations.

In the large cities, such as Stockholm, there are, furthermore, "rent payers' cooperatives" which build and manage their own apartment houses, sometimes with credit aid from the municipalities and sometimes independently. On the whole, the educational effect of the cooperative movement has been beneficial. The

people have learned how to help themselves by combining with their neighbors.

LABOR UNIONS

The right of workers to bargain for wages collectively has been recognized in Sweden for over a generation. Formally there is no rule about a "closed shop" but since labor is nearly ninety percent organized, the effect is the same. On the other hand the "check-off", or deduction of labor union dues from the pay envelope by the employer, has never been practiced in Sweden. The employers are also organized and the rates of pay are determined by direct negotiations for each industry throughout the whole country. While these collective agreements are in force they must be lived up to by both sides, and the labor unions as well as the employers are financially responsible for their fulfillment. The special Labor Court, representing the government, the employers, and the labor unions, interprets the meaning of agreements, and during disputes work must go on. The court also decides on damages for violations of agreements by either party, and from its decisions there is no appeal.

In the past there have been many prolonged strikes in Sweden, but gradually each side has learned to respect the other. During the recent boom, for instance, from 1934 to the present time (1940), there were no really important strikes in Sweden, and recently agreements have been reached between labor and capital to forestall both strikes and lockouts.

Swedish labor is organized not only economically in trade unions, but politically in the Social-Democratic party, now the largest in the country. For several years it has been in charge of the government. There are also minor political labor parties, such as the Left Wing Socialists and the Communists, but while they are not outlawed or suppressed, they have not progressed very far. Free speech, a free press, and the right to organize are inherited by all Swedes.

VI. CULTURE

LITERATURE

The earliest written references to Sweden occur in books by foreigners,—the Roman historian Tacitus, the Greek geographer Ptolemy, the Icelandic Saga writers, the Anglo Saxon author of Beowulf, the German historian Adam of Bremen, etc. There are, however, in Sweden pre-historic rock carvings which indicate that the Germanic myths of Siegfried and Nibelungen were known in the north, and some of the runic inscriptions quote from historical poems which also occur in the Icelandic sagas. The oldest written documents in Swedish are the provincial codes of law dating from the 13th and 14th centuries. They contain rules and principles which had been handed down by word of mouth, probably for centuries.

.When Christianity was introduced about 1000 A. D., the foreign missionaries also brought a knowledge of Latin. During the Middle Ages Swedish students began to attend the university at Paris, and later the German universities, but they also wrote in Latin. The revelations, for instance, of St. Birgitta, the most notable Swedish woman of the Middle Ages, which she described to her followers, were likewise written in Latin. In the convent which she founded at Vadstena a few religious books were translated from Latin to Swedish, but they were very meagre. Certain folk songs from the period also survive in Swedish, but in garbled form. The earliest attempt at writing Swedish history was the Eric Chronicle, a record of kings in the 13th and 14th centuries, which was composed in the native tongue about 1325.

The Reformation, however, brought a desire to convey the principles of Christianity and the contents of the Bible to the Swedish people in their own language. Olaus Petri, who had been a student



Selma Lagerlöf was the first woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. Portrait painted by the Swedish artist Carl Larsson.

under Luther in Germany, translated the New Testament into Swedish and published many of his fiery sermons and religious tracts in the same language. He is, therefore, known as the "Father of Swedish Prose."

The Vasa kings encouraged learning. Gustavus Adolphus gave land as well as money to the University of Uppsala, and his daughter, Queen Christina, invited several foreign schoolars to Stockholm. i. a. the great French philosopher Descartes.

The father of Swedish poetry was Georg Stiernhielm, who died in 1677, but his best known patriotic poem "Hercules" was modeled on the classic Greek and Roman epics. The Swedish writers of the 18th century followed French models. Few of them have any popular appeal today. An exception, however, is Carl Michael Bellman, who composed and sang gay and graceful ditties about the life and people of Stockholm. He is the first really Swedish poet, and is still widely read and sung.

Early in the 19th century two first-class writers appeared, Erik Gustaf Geijer, who was both a poet and an historian, and Esaias Tegnér, some of whose work Longfellow translated into English. These men were inspired by a genuinely national feeling, and to this day stand out as giants in Swedish literature. Tegnér's "Fritiof's Saga" has been translated into over a dozen languages, and many times into English.

Fiction as a literary form began to appear before the middle of the 19th century. One of the first writers of novels was Carl Jonas Love Almquist. For several years he lived as an exile in the United States, and in recent years some of his books have been translated into English.

The first Swedish fiction writer to become personally known in England and the United States was Fredrika Bremer. In the early fifties she visited the United States and was much fêted by the literary lions of the day, Longfellow, Emerson, Lowell, and others. She was a champion of women's rights and is still regarded as the patron saint of the feminine cause in Sweden.

Another literary figure of importance in Sweden was August Strindberg, a many-sided genius, who wrote novels, plays, poems, and personal memoirs. Most of his works, written in the eighties and nineties, have been translated into several foreign languages, but he has never become as well known in England or the United States as in France and Germany, and yet Eugene O'Neill, the American dramatist and Nobel Prize winner, has several times acknowledged him as his best teacher.

While Strindberg was influenced by the great French realists, Flaubert and Zola, the next Swedish author to win renown outside of Sweden, Selma Lagerlöf, was inspired in her early youth by Thomas Carlyle, the great Scottish writer. Her books, legends, and novels, written in a poetic, romantic style, are, however, distinctly Swedish in both contents and feeling. She was the first woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, and is now a member of the Swedish Academy.

As a rule Swedish writers of verse have been more gifted than the writers of prose and that perhaps explains why so few of them have become known outside of their own country. Since Tegnér



The Royal Palace in Stockholm, designed by N. Tessin Jor., the most famous Swedish architect of the 18th century.

the most noted poets have been Gustaf Fröding and Erik Axel Karlfeldt, the latter a Nobel Prize winner. Another intensely Swedish writer is Verner von Heidenstam, who has also been awarded the Nobel Prize, but few of his works have attracted as much attention abroad as they deserve. In the past fifty years there have been a host of other Swedish writers in both prose and verse. Some of the younger ones whose books have been translated into English are Hjalmar Bergman, Sigfrid Siwertz, Gustaf Hellström, Pär Lagerkvist, Vilhelm Moberg, Olle Hedberg, and Harry Martinson.

ART

Except for the native art, which was developed by the common people themselves, most of the early art in Sweden was created by foreign artists, mostly French, Dutch or German. The first notable Swedish sculptor was J. T. Sergel, a pupil of the Frenchman P. H. Larchevêque, who had been invited to decorate the Royal Palace, built in 1697—1754. In return, some Swedish painters such as Alexander Roslin, P. A. Hall, and Nicholas L. Lafrensen became famous in Paris during the second half of the 18th century. In Sweden, King Gustaf III played patron to artists as well as

writers and actors. The best known painter was K. G. Pilo whose unfinished picture "The Coronation of Gustaf III" is regarded as one of the most notable paintings of this era.

The next flowering of Swedish art occurred about a hundred years later, when a number of young painters who had been trained in Paris, returned to Sweden and under the influence of Swedish scenery and life developed a distinctly national style. One of these was Anders Zorn, whose portraits, etchings and landscapes are well known in almost every country. Several times he visited the United States and painted portraits of its leading citizens. Another great Swedish painter of this period was Carl Larsson. No one has pictured Swedish home life as enthusiastically and artistically as he. As a painter of wild animal life Bruno Liljefors ranks high. The most noted of modern Swedish sculptors is Carl Milles. Though he was trained in Paris and is now living in the United States, much of his best work is found in Sweden. Another prominent Swedish sculptor is Carl Eldh, who now lives in Stockholm. Several of his statues adorn the public gardens of the capital. In recent years the Swedish art that has become best known, however, has been that of the industrial arts—engraved glass, pewter, textiles, furniture, wallpaper, etc. Similarly it is Swedish architecture rather than painting and sculpture that has had a golden era in recent years. Ragnar Östberg's Town Hall in Stockholm, for instance, is widely recognized as one of the most notable public buildings erected in Europe since the World War. It marked the end of a period rather than the beginning of a new one, however, and the more recent architecture has been modernistic rather than distinctively Swedish.

MUSEUMS

The principal Swedish museums are situated in Stockholm. The State Historical Museum has already been mentioned. The National Museum, also in Stockholm, has a very valuable art collection, divided into three sections: painting and sculpture, drawings and engravings, and handicrafts. "Skansen", the world-famed open air museum, showing typical buildings and native customs and crafts, is beautifully situated on a hill on the outskirts

of Stockholm. By plants and animals it also illustrates northern Flora and Fauna. Skansen is a section of the Northern Museum, founded by a private citizen, Dr. Arthur Hazelius. Its aim is to provide knowledge of the cultural history of Sweden. Other valuable collections of different kinds are found in the Gothenburg museums and others. In various parts of the country there are open air museums of the Skansen kind, illustrating provincial culture and history.

MUSIC

Simultaneously with the national rebirth in literature at the beginning of the 19th century, there developed a desire to collect and preserve the old native music, the songs and ballads which had lived among the people since the Middle Ages. Since then Swedish folk music has played a very great part in the subsequent development of vocal and instrumental music. During the 19th century the music interest was centered primarily in singing, and among the composers from this period whose songs are still sung may be noted Prince Gustav, the son of King Oscar I, and the poet Erik Gustav Geijer. Jenny Lind, "the Swedish Nightingale" beloved and acclaimed on both sides of the Atlantic, lived at this time. The distinctly national compositions of Karl August Söderman, for example, "A Farm Wedding", belong to the best known works of Swedish instrumental music. Among Swedish composers of the present century may be mentioned H. Alfvén, K. Atterberg, O. Lindberg, W. Peterson-Berger, W. Stenhammar, and T. Rangström. They are in the main national, although their production shows certain international influences. Present composers who are more strongly influenced by the latest international currents in music are L. E. Larsson and H. Rosenberg.

The opera is of old standing in Sweden. As early as in the 18th century works of native composers were presented at the Royal Opera, founded by King Gustavus III. Many of the composers mentioned above have written operas with national motifs, for example, "Arnljot" by Peterson-Berger, and "Kronbruden" by T. Rangström. Naturally, all the great international operas are also given. The Stockholm Opera is famous for its outstanding singers, many of whom have performed at the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

In Stockholm, Gothenburg, and many other towns there exist state supported symphony orchestras, which naturally have aided greatly in stimulating interest in music throughout the country.

SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

The reputation gained by Swedish science and research in the 18th century through the epoch-making discoveries of Linnaeus and Scheele has been maintained during the past century by a great number of brilliant research workers. It is chiefly within the natural sciences that the most significant advances have been made, which no doubt is associated with the special interest in technical and scientific questions so typical of the character of the Swedish people. In chemistry the foremost scientists have been J. Berzelius, and The Svedberg, while the outstanding physicists have been S. Arrhenius, A. Ångström and M. Siegbahn. In medical research among others G. Forssell, H. Olivecrona, and J. Reenstierna have made important discoveries. An outstanding botanist and one of the pioneers in modern heredity research is H. Nilsson-Ehle. His work in the improvement of grains, especially wheat and oats, has been of great economic importance. G. De Geer, the eminent geologist, has developed a general geocronology. Among the explorers should be mentioned A. Nordenskiöld, who discovered the Northeast Passage in 1882, and Sven Hedin, who has devoted his life to the exploration of Central Asia.

Some Swedish inventions have already been mentioned. Among the inventors some of the most prominent have been G. de Laval, who in 1878 constructed the first cream separator, S. Wingquist, the inventor of the S. K. F. ball bearings, G. Dalén, who won the Nobel Prize in Physics for the construction of the automatic beacon, and the two young engineers B. von Platen and C. Munters, who invented the Electrolux refrigerator.

THE NOBEL PRIZE

The Swedish interest in the natural sciences has also found its expression in the Nobel prizes. Alfred Nobel (1833—1896) willed

his entire fortune to a fund, the interest of which is distributed each year in the form of prizes intended to encourage scientific research in medicine, physics, and chemistry. Prizes are also given in literature and for work promoting world peace. The amount of the awards varies somewhat in different years. Generally, it lies between 40,000 and 50,000 dollars. The Nobel prize winners are selected by different Swedish institutions from the citizens of all countries of the world. The peace prize, however, is awarded by the Norwegian "Storting" (parliament). Among the Nobel prize winners have been many Americans. Sinclair Lewis, Eugene O'Neill and Pearl Buck have received the prize in literature, and A. A. Michelson, R. A. Millikan, A. H. Compton, C. D. Anderson, C. J. Davisson and E. O. Lawrence in physics. American chemistry winners have been T. W. Richards and I. Langmuir and in medicine K. Landsteiner, T. H. Morgan, and W. P. Murphy.

The Nobel Foundation is the living evidence of the founder's belief in international cooperation and good will among nations. Modern Swedes regard the realization of these ideas the foremost goal of all human aspirations and activities.

SPORTS AND GAMES

Sports and games constitute a considerable part of physical education in Sweden. There are nearly 5,000 societies and clubs for gymnastics and athletics, grouped under one association, "The Swedish National Federation of Gymnastic and Athletic Associations". In every town and many places in the country there are athletic grounds, and games of various kinds are eagerly pursued in Sweden both in summer and winter. In winter, skiing is the principle sport, and Swedish ski-runners and ski-jumpers have often distinguished themselves in international competitions.

Swedish gymnastics, "Swedish drill", is known all over the world. It is based on a system founded by P. H. Ling. In the summer of 1939 Sweden celebrated the centenary of his death with a big gymnastic festival. Gymnastics are taught in every Swedish school, and the instructors are trained for several years at The Royal Gym-

nastic Central Institute in Stockholm, founded in 1813. The institute also trains medical gymnasts, many of whom are active in the U. S. A.

Swedish athletes have taken part in the Olympic games since their beginning. The games were held in Stockholm in 1912 when Sweden was the winning nation, followed by the U. S. A. Even in earlier and later Olympics Sweden has always been among the best nations.

SOME FIGURES AND DATA CONCERNING SWEDEN

Area: 173,347 English square miles

Population: 1800	2,347,303	of which in the towns	9.77 %
1850	3,482,541	» » » »	10.09 %
1900	5,136,441	» » » »	21.49 %
1938	6,310,214	» » » »	36.11 %

Population of the biggest towns December 31, 1938:

Stockholm	570 771
Gothenburg	275 753
Malmö	151 247

State expenditure (yearly average):

1912—1915	298,480,169	kronor ¹
1921—1925	885,036,290	»
(budget year) 1935—1936	959,938,529	»
» » 1936—1937	1,058,991,142	»
» » 1937—1938	1,196,970,500	»
» » 1938—1939	1,294,668,700	»

Value of all crops in 1937

1,183,206,000 kronor

Value of industrial products in 1936

5,548,445,000 »

External trade

	Imports	Exports	Excess of exports or imports
	millions of kronor	millions of kronor	millions of kronor
1913	846.5	817.3	— 29.2
1929	1,782.6	1,812.3	+ 29.7
1931	1,427.5	1,122.4	— 305.1
1935	1,476.3	1,297.4	— 178.9
1936	1,632.7	1,514.2	— 118.5
1937	2,111.2	1,993.9	— 117.3
1938	2,081.9	1,843.5	— 238.4

Leading exports in 1938

	kronor
Wood and manufactures thereof	199,615,000
Paper, pulp, cardboard and paper	473,242,000
Mineral and mineral manufactures	265,987,000
Metals and manufactures thereof	317,051,000
Machines, means of conveyance etc.	256,539,000
Other articles	331,105,000
Total	1,843,539,000

¹ At present (1939) 4.25 kronor correspond to about 1 dollar.

PRIME MINISTERS AND MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SINCE 1924

Prime Ministers

K. Hj. Branting
(resigned as Prime Minister
January 24, 1925, on account
of illness; died February 24,
1925.)

R. J. Sandler

Social democratic, October 18, 1924—June 7, 1926.

C. G. Ekman

People's party, June 7, 1926—October 2, 1928.

S. A. A. Lindman

Conservative, October 2, 1928—June 7, 1930.

C. G. Ekman,
from Aug. 6, 1932

Felix Hamrin

People's party, June 7, 1930—September 27, 1932.

P. A. Hansson

Social democratic, September 27, 1932—June 16, 1936.

A. A. Pehrsson

Farmer's Union, June 16—September 24, 1936.

P. A. Hansson

Social democratic and Farmer's Union, September 24, 1936—December 13, 1939.

P. A. Hansson

National Union, December 13, 1939—

Ministers for Foreign Affairs

Ö. Undén

J. E. Löfgren

E. Trygger

Baron S. G. F. T. Ramel

R. Sandler

K. G. Westman

R. Sandler

C. Günther

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A more comprehensive list of Swedish authors and books about Sweden in foreign languages will be sent free of cost on application to Fritzes Hovbokhandel, Fredsgatan 2, Stockholm.

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