

RUSSIA WOULD CLOSE THE BALTIC SEA.

(Special cable to the Star.)

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

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

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

At the same time it begins to appear to the students of diplomacy, as though the Mediterranean was not a sufficient field for the broken operations of German enthusiasm and energy. There are, however, who regard the entire matter as a balloon d'essai by Prince Bulow to ascertain the present direction of diplomatic currents. Germany might succeed in closing the Baltic if she were to compel the more modern and more rapid methods of communication. The schemes of the Kaiser have been made known to all of the Chancelleries shortly after they were propounded, and have consequently been rendered innocuous. The attempt of the Kaiser to place a prince of his house upon the throne of Norway failed because of premature publicity. The recent conference with the Czar suffered because of the hurried counter movements on the part of the other nations of Europe.

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

Possibly the movements of the German Emperor in reference to the closed sea have only precipitated matters. England which is friendly to Sweden, as will be shown by the coming of the channel fleet, may be relied upon to use her good offices with Norway. The decision of the Norwegian Storting to put the question of the dissolution of the union with Sweden before the nation in the form of a referendum marks a distinct advance towards a satisfactory settlement of the dispute between the two peoples. A referendum was one of the two alternative methods suggested by the special committee of the Swedish Riksdag of giving the Norwegian people an opportunity of manifesting their will clearly and categorically; the other was the dissolution of the present Storting and a general election. The Norwegians have chosen the shorter and less cumbersome method. A general election in the present temper of the Norwegian people would probably have made very little difference in the composition of the Storting. The Norwegian government therefore has not allowed itself to be influenced by the purely academic argument that the Norwegian constitution does not provide for a referendum. It does not but there is nothing in the constitution which prevents the Storting from passing a short act legalizing the practice. This it appears is the line which is to be followed. In their acceptance of the Swedish suggestion the Norwegians have taken a position which will make it easier for the two nations to co-operate in the future. The necessity or in emergency provided they are menaced by outside foes.

The Swedes on their side have been fairly expeditious, and both chambers have adopted the proposals of the special committee unanimously. In the case of the first chamber in which the aristocratic and conservative feeling is strong this is rather remarkable and to some extent minimizes the unfavorable impression created by the resignation of the Riksdag. The Riksdag will still continue its extraordinary session, though the actual sittings will be suspended and the members allowed to return to their homes. They will be within reach of the telegraph, and can return to Stockholm when required to deliberate upon the action of Norway. When the referendum has been held the next step, according to the Swedish programme will be for Norway to "make representations to Sweden regarding a repeal of the Riksdag and the dissolution of the union." This step is probably the one which will cause the most serious consideration. It will involve the virtual if not the explicit abandonment of the standpoint that the union is already dissolved. Sweden, if she holds out for a resuscitation of the old union but for her right to assist at its obsequies and Norway has nothing to gain by challenging her on this point. Even this step, however, if Norway can persuade her to make representations to Sweden in accordance with the report of the special committee of the Riksdag it is thought that the actual conditions laid down by Sweden ought not to present any very great difficulties. Some questions growing out of the dismantling of the fortifications on the frontier are likely to cause some differences of opinion. Norway has several forts along this line, all equipped with expensive modern artillery. Sweden is without a corresponding line of defence. Norway is called upon to sacrifice existing fortifications, while Sweden in return gives a pledge that she will not establish fortifications in the future. As a matter of fact the retention of the forts is not a matter of life and death to Norway and certainly ought not to weigh in the scales against the opportunity of an amicable settlement with Sweden. If Norway can get Sweden to agree to the actual conditions laid down by Sweden ought not to present any very great difficulties. Some questions growing out of the dismantling of the fortifications on the frontier are likely to cause some differences of opinion. Norway has several forts along this line, all equipped with expensive modern artillery. Sweden is without a corresponding line of defence. Norway is called upon to sacrifice existing fortifications, while Sweden in return gives a pledge that she will not establish fortifications in the future. As a matter of fact the retention of the forts is not a matter of life and death to Norway and certainly ought not to weigh in the scales against the opportunity of an amicable settlement with Sweden. If Norway can get Sweden to agree to the actual conditions laid down by Sweden ought not to present any very great difficulties.

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

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THEATRICAL CHIT-CHAT.

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

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

Altogether the most skillfully devised sensation of the summer roof garden season has been the dancer known as "The Girl with Red Domino." This young woman was last season the principal co-dancer of the company. She is a lovely little miss with a good deal of talent for the art of Terpsichore. In the early spring she was sent to Europe to be "prepared" for an American debut in the guise of an anguished mystery upon the roof garden over the New York Theatre. One of the best known press agents in the country was dispatched to London to do the boosting from that quarter. He had been a man of complete sobriety for a number of years, but in giving the St. John public a production good enough for any city in the world.

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

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

The young woman, who, under the name of Carmencita is buck-jumping a la Espanole at Oscar Hammerstein's roof garden, is a source of considerable interest. She is supposed to be the real Carmencita, but persons who were familiar with that Spanish dancer when she was in this country do not think so. The present wearer of the title. Indeed, persons with an inordinate desire for amusement have gratified themselves within the past few days by putting questions to the alleged Carmencita that were designed to entrap her. For example, one of these mischief makers in the course of a conversation the other night reverted to old times at Koster and Bait's, and among other things asked "Carmencita" if she remembered the magnificent dance which was hung at that establishment. The young woman went into ecstasies over the beauty of that particular scene, and faced back at the questioner with the air of an outspread fan between the performers and the audience. However, this Carmencita is quite as good a dancer as her predecessor, and is accompanied by a very pretty and skilful girl dressed as a tenebrous figure, thus revealing the opposites to persons coming from sunny Spain to show us how to dance upon our heels.

Luna Park will make vastly more money this summer than ever before—a condition due in the first place to increased attendance but more than that to the fact that the outside expenditures of this vast entertainment have not been as large as they were last year. To be sure, the shows are even more numerous and costly than those placed upon exhibition heretofore, but it has been a heavy curtailment in the matter of bill-board advertising. Last season, when they saw approaching a possible competitor in the advertising space within many miles of New York and covered every inch of it with signs extolling the beauties of Luna Park. This proceeding cost them a round one hundred thousand dollars, but it served its purpose. For Luna Park had its adversaries completely snowed under, if one may apply such a term to a hot weather show setting. It has not been necessary to repeat the investment this season and the amount of last year's outlay will naturally be added to the dividend in September.

Advertisements in the summer papers read:

"WAK IS HELL,"—Sherman.

"SEE THE BOER WAR."—Is that one of inviting the public to "go to?"

"That an affiliation is being formed between the New York Hippodrome and the London Coliseum is no longer to be doubted. The cables have been hot for the past two weeks transmitting messages between the two great cities, with the result that at the end of its revival run in New York A Yankee Circus on Mars" will be sent to the London Coliseum. At that time an entirely new spectacle upon a much enlarged scale is to be presented in New York, an arrangement of a striking and large character it may be brought to this city. Mr. Thompson the other day said that most of the Hippodrome schemes for the season in relation

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

The first gun of the season is to be fired tonight (Thursday) at the Academy of Music, when William A. Brady will revive the wonderful and everlasting "Way Down East." This play has been accomplished and London is now able occasions in New York, yet its owner outright of "Way Down East," but every week he has paid royalties to a trust fund for his wife and child, who are thus in possession of a very comfortable fortune.

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

JIM THE PENMAN.

KNEIPP CURE FOR J. D. ROCKEFELLER.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HATCHING, CATCHING, AND CANNING LOBSTERS ON NORTHUMBERLAND STRAIT.

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

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

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

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

The greater proportion of the lobsters caught are transferred alive to the lobster factories, where they are at once cooked and canned. A description of one factory would be typical of all. In the process of canning the lobster enters the building at one end full of life and emerges from the other end in half-poultured tin. The whole process takes very little time, and as each factory hand has only one branch of the canning to do all become skilled in their special work. After weighing, the lobsters are immediately dumped into closed tanks of boiling water. The top is taken off in two minutes and the lobsters, red and steaming hot, are dipped out by scoops. When they are cooled sufficiently the shells are broken off and the claws and tails are put in separate pails, most of the body being thrown away.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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