



EUROPE'S NORTH

By CRIS NORLUND

Among the European nations, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway occupy a unique position. While they possess separate governments, they are at the same time much more closely interrelated than any other three nations of Europe and have a certain natural unity among themselves.

These three kingdoms, which had managed to preserve their neutrality and to keep out of the first World War, were able to live in comfort and prosperity while the rest of Europe was shaken by wars, revolutions, inflations, and other severe crises. No one who has been in Scandinavia during the years between the two World Wars could fail to develop, as I did, a sincere affection for these clean, hospitable, and friendly people and to understand their desire to continue their isolation. However, with the approach of the present war, there was a growing feeling among many of them that this time it would be impossible to remain aloof from the great world-clash of ideas. It might have been better for the Scandinavian nations to find their way to the new Europe by their own free will. But one of them proved to be not strong enough to carry out the difficult task of a neutral. Early in April 1940, Norway allowed England to violate her neutrality by the laying of British mines in her territorial waters. As a result, the war spread to Scandinavia.

The last two and a half years have tremendously accelerated the ideological evolution in Scandinavia. Some groups, mainly in Norway, still stubbornly cling to the old order and refuse to reconcile themselves to the new Europe which is emerging. Some of their reasons for this are put forward in the following article. Yet once before, in the religious wars of the seventeenth century, Scandinavia abandoned her traditional aloofness. Realizing that all vital decisions on the Continent must affect her also, she sent thousands of her young men to the battlefields of Europe and turned the tide in favor of her faith. Today the regiments of Scandinavia's volunteers are fighting again in the ranks of Europe's armies. They will return from these battlefields still as good Scandinavians, but, in addition, we believe, more consciously as Europeans.

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CYCLISTS' PARADISE

A PARADISE to cyclists—that is Denmark, her highest point not more than 477 feet, a mere pygmy among mountains. The country is one large farm. At harvest time, yellow corn waves everywhere in the breeze, while poppies droop their red heads among the swaying stalks, and the gold of her harvest mingles with the green of her grassy, cattle-strewn slopes and lovely beech woods.

The whole country is bordered by a rim of white foam when the North Sea roars over the sandy deserts of western Jutland and the Kattegat sends meek

rollers curling onto the beach. In the northern part of the island of Zealand you find all this charm assembled in a harmonious, happy unity. It is the favorite excursion goal of the Copenhageners, who, more than almost any other city's population, turn to the bosom of Mother Nature on weekends and holidays. Here they find woods and quiet, hidden lakes, old castles towering over moats and trees, peaceful cornfields and singing seas.

Copenhagen is the "Smiling City," the "City of Spires" or, less poetically, the "City of Bikes," as Denmark's capital is nicknamed by strangers. It is

an old place, dating back as far as the tenth century, and has played a great part in the history of Scandinavia and northern Europe. Scores of old castles, mansions, churches, and museums, peeping through the welter of modern buildings, bear witness to Danish contributions towards science, art, and history. Life is pleasant in this atmosphere of simple straightforwardness and warmhearted joy of life. In addition, the city is one of the amusement centers of Europe. With its one million inhabitants, Copenhagen has more night-spots than Shanghai, as well as seventy-three cinemas. An English hotel manager visited the big cities of the Continent shortly before the present war. Interviewed upon his arrival in Copenhagen he said: "Right now Copenhagen must be considered the merriest city in all Europe, even gayer than Paris."

When you fall into conversation with a Frenchman who has been to Copenhagen, he will be sure to tell you: "Ah, Tivoli, c'est merveilleux!"; and a German will say: "Ja, Tivoli, das ist wirklich wunderschön!" And, indeed, this pleasure ground is a place full of life and beauty, brilliant illuminations and fireworks, and many different distractions. But it is not the scenery, I think, which is responsible for the tourist's enthusiasm. It is rather the enchanting spell with which the air is pregnant, a spell which is due to the friendliness and directness of the people, a joviality found all over the country, and in a concentrated form in Tivoli.

In Denmark every third person owns a bicycle, and the rush in the Copenhagen streets is terrific. From all directions they dash around corners to gather in front of the traffic signals. As soon as the green light twinkles they race off like hounds picking up the scent. Unless they are acrobats, it is dangerous for strangers to cycle between these devils.

ROCKS AND BOULDERS

Crossing the Sound, the narrow body of water between Denmark and the rest of Scandinavia, you arrive in Malmö, the third city of the country, the two

biggest being Stockholm (the capital) and Göteborg. If you have been told something about steep, snow-clad cliffs in Sweden and superb skiing grounds, you will probably be disappointed after your first glance at the landscape from your compartment window while traveling north towards Stockholm. The scenery does not differ greatly from the Danish panorama: rounded, soft hills dotted with black and white grazing cattle, large fields, inviting woods full of feathery ferns. But as you travel north you find an increasing number of huge boulders, gigantic stones scattered everywhere on either side of the track. You are nearing the more mountainous part of Sweden, and these boulders were pushed down here during the Glacial Period by the southward-flowing streams of ice which later melted away, leaving the boulders.

On the way to Stockholm you pass Lake Vättern, one of the four large lakes stretching between the Kattegat Sea in the west and the Bothnian Gulf in the east and forming a maritime highway that enables smaller vessels to go overland, following approximately the line Göteborg/Norrköping. Here the land rises, not, indeed, to baffling heights, but you might still call the elevations respectable rocks.

STOCKHOLM

While Copenhagen is situated on flat, soft land, the foundations of Stockholm are rocky and sufficiently solid for the many skyscrapers that have been built in recent years, especially in the suburbs. Steep, narrow, cobblestoned streets are typical of the old part of the city. The aspect of this capital with its elegant motorcars, sturdy busses, and crowds of smartly dressed girls is more metropolitan than that of Copenhagen. After you have paid the traditional visits to the cultural centers, the modern City Hall (shown on p.130 of the August/September issue of this magazine), Riddarholm Church, the Skansen Open Air Museum, the Nordic Museum, and the Royal Palace, you should go to the Skärgården. It is an archipelago of thousands

of islands and cliffs scattered about the waters, on which the beautiful city stands. On summer Sundays, hundreds of excursion steamers and private yachts bring Stockholmers out to fish, swim, sunbathe, and take part in all kinds of sports among the tiny, pine-clad rocks.

The night-life of Sweden's capital is calmer than that of Copenhagen; sense of humor and inclination for fun are less developed in the sturdy Swedish people than in the Danes. Besides, a more concrete fact makes itself felt: the law allows Swedish restaurants to serve alcohol only with meals: in other words, you cannot just go to a cabaret and order a whisky soda—you must eat something with your drinks. And since the price level in Sweden, as in the two other Scandinavian countries, is extremely high, frequenting nightspots becomes very expensive.

Of course, this law, like many others, is evaded in various clever ways. I remember having my lunch in a Göteborg restaurant, when two policemen entered the room and ordered something. The waiter brought two ordinary glasses and a decanter full of water which turned out to be *akravit*. We were the only

guests, so we started a conversation, and one of them explained that if some official should happen to pass by he would think they were drinking water.

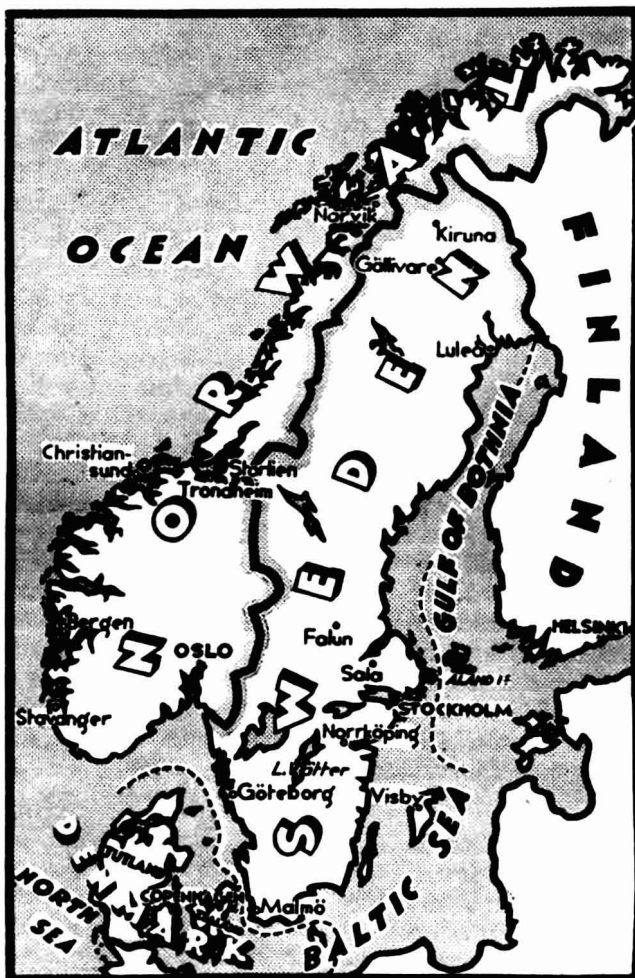
THE FAR NORTH

The highlands north of Stockholm present the picture usually conjured up by

the word "Sweden." Here are the grounds for skiing and other winter sports known to people who think of this country as a place of recreation. The climate up here is rather severe and permits of only scant agriculture during the short summer; moreover, the soil is greatly inferior to the fertile districts of Skane, the southern part of the country. But vast forests of pine and fir with their huge wealth in timber easily make up for this.

The northernmost, inhospitable area of Norrland is the home of the Lapps. Where

they came from and when, is veiled in obscurity, but as they are of the Mongoloid type it must be considered probable that their cradle is Asia. By nature they are nomads who keep reindeer, but contact with Swedish civilization thrusting upwards from the south taught them more or less to abandon this kind of existence, and they started tilling the soil or fishing salmon and trout in the foaming rivers and the Gulf of Bothnia.



They are simple, hardy people who keep very much to themselves.

SIGNBOARD IN A CLEARING

Going by train via Storlien, a famous winter resort, to Trondheim on Norway's west coast, you pass a big signboard reading "Sverige" at one end and "Norge" at the other. It has been placed in the geometrical axis of a 170-yard clearing in the fir forest, running from north to south for several hundreds of miles. That is the frontier between the two countries of the Scandinavian peninsula. Were it not for the signboard, you would not notice that you were in a new country. The forests on both sides look exactly alike; indeed, it is one single forest extending over the greater part of northern Norway and northern Sweden. The steep, bare mountains found on this side of the signboard do not differ in the least from the skiing grounds you have just left behind. As a matter of fact, you will see nothing new until the spires of Trondheim have been sighted; not that Trondheim differs particularly from any other medium-sized Scandinavian town, but because you have reached the west coast of Norway, which is cut like the teeth of a saw by numberless narrow bays and gulfs called "fiords." Silent, awe-inspiring rock walls, without so much as a tiny green blade, tower high above the fresh water of the fiords upon which Man sails and feels utterly lost in the vastness of Nature.

Northern Norway in summer is the land of sunny nights. Here from time immemorial the midnight sun has shone over barren glaciers, wild mountain peaks, and impressive, timeless emptiness. Spitsbergen, lying only a little over 600 miles from the North Pole, is part of Norway, and not an insignificant part either. Formerly a trading station for seal-hunters, it now supplies Norway proper with coal, which has been found in fairly large deposits; and on one of the islands the Soviets have a concession. Most of Spitsbergen is one large glacier of fantastic formations; some resemble castles and spires, and others have put on the guise of different animals.

OSLO

Of Norway's barely three million inhabitants, more than a third live around Oslo, the capital, in the friendly country encircling the northern tip of the Sea of Skagerrak. With its 300,000 souls, Oslo presents the picture of a thriving town populated by people who are doing their utmost to transform their city into a metropolis. Skyscrapers and modern-style apartments overshadow the old panorama. But on Oslo's old-timers this has no effect: to them the *Dramatiske Teater* still vibrates with Ibsen's immortal plays, and Oslo is still the cosy little place they loved in their youth.

Carl Johans Gaten is the leading thoroughfare. Its situation gives it this privilege, rising, as it does, towards one end and leading up to the Royal Castle perched high above the capital. Both sides are studded with luxurious department stores and elegant restaurants and hotels, and life throbs here. As in Stockholm, people take advantage of the water extending in front of them and use it for marine sports and regattas. In summer, the whole surface is covered with sailing yachts and pleasure cruisers taking the city's inhabitants out to the freshness of the sea, and all along the coast there is colorful life in the many sea resorts. Nature and Man blend in the magnificent harmony so typical of Scandinavia.

SAFE AND SOUND

The Scandinavian people, apart from the Lapps, are members of the Nordic race and share their basic outer characteristics—narrow head, blond hair, blue or (more seldom) gray eyes, narrow nose, fair complexion—with the North Germans, the Dutch, and the greater part of the British. The typical Scandinavian is tall and broad-shouldered. The farther north we go, the blonder the hair becomes and the bluer the eyes.

The Scandinavians have made a name for themselves as being honest, kind, and hospitable. Their life is comfortable and secure; with rare exceptions they are well off, though few of them are wealthy. As peoples who possess openheartedness,

trust in one another, and enough to live on comfortably, they are no less rich than those rolling in money or abundant in natural resources. The support of the aged, ill, and unemployed is a natural thing with them, as is sickness insurance; if a person is taken ill, the government's insurance department pays about two thirds of the medicine, doctor's fee, and hospital treatment, and he is even given a daily sum to support his family.

They practice democracy more thoroughly than the so-called great democracies. Perhaps some people are surprised to find socialist governments in Scandinavia, but it must be recalled that considerable industries have sprung up, giving birth to a great mass of workmen, even in Denmark, the most agricultural of them all. While the other sections of the nation are split up in numerous parties quarreling with each other, the workmen stand firmly together and form an almost unbeatable bloc capable of pounding through its aims. In the past, Scandinavia could afford her democratism, as, on the whole, she is wealthy and consequently grants to each member a fair amount of prosperity and contentment. As an American writer remarked in his description of Denmark: "While few people have three overcoats, none go without."

GLOOM AND HUMOR

The Norwegian people are often looked upon as stubborn, dour, and gloomy. To a certain degree this may be true, but this is not due to a natural unfriendliness. Rather does it spring from the conditions under which this gifted nation has lived. They have always been enclosed by high, bare mountains over which hangs clammy, dense fog; during the greater part of the year heavy rain pours down, or snow covers the scant lichens and grasses. Life deals pretty roughly with them, and they grew hardy and steeled through their struggle for existence. No blame can be thrown on them for this; their case is similar to that of the Scottish with their proverbial thrift.

Sense of humor has been most developed in the Danes, whose jokes, review songs, and anecdotes are legion. A saying goes that if a joke is told to a Dane, a Swede, and a Norwegian at the same time, the Swede will laugh at once, the Norwegian next day, and the Dane never—he has heard it before. Typical Danish wit has had many historical expressions. Ludvig Holberg, the Danish writer who lived in the first half of the eighteenth century, was well known for his outspoken humor and plain manners. Once he is said to have met two noblemen in a street which was covered with mud save for a narrow path in the middle. After having stared at Holberg for a moment, one of them said: "I will not make way for a swine for anything in the world!" Holberg smiled in reply: "In that case I shall have to make way for two!" With these words he stepped aside into the dirt, which splashed all over the noblemen's pompous garments.

Perhaps one could try to summarize the main characteristics of the Scandinavians as follows: the Danes are direct, hearty, and gay; the Swedes have a flare for elegance and polished manners; while the strength of the Norwegians anchors in persistence, hardiness, and industrious fighting.

"HUS" AND "HAUS"

The Scandinavian language belongs, with German, English, and Dutch, to the Germanic stock. The language spoken in Scandinavia in the old days, usually called "Old Nordic," was carried by Vikings and settlers from what is now Norway to Iceland at the close of the first millenium of our era, where it has been preserved almost unchanged to this day and offers an easily accessible opportunity for studying the ancient tongue.

Many words are still very similar in all Germanic languages. For example, "house" is in German: *Haus*, in Dutch: *huis*, in Swedish, Danish, and Norwegian: *hus*. Others were borrowed from languages spoken by the nations with whom

Scandinavia came into contact; thus the majority of English words were introduced to the Danes and Norwegians when the Vikings conquered large areas of England in the eleventh century. Trade with the North German Hanse cities of the early Middle Ages brought German words into the Danish and Swedish languages. As the idiom spoken at the various courts of Europe during the reign of Louis XIV was French, which later became the language of diplomacy, French words, too, found their way into Scandinavia.

Modern Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish are so similar that all Scandinavians can easily understand each other. Danish and Norwegian especially are very much alike, the main difference being the varied way of spelling certain words.

THROUGH THE AGES

Although Scandinavia has played an inconsiderable part in the European game of chess during the last few centuries, this has not always been so. The old Northmen were at one time feared all over the known parts of Europe, even as far south as Morocco and Byzantium (Constantinople). At that time, the name of the Vikings was on every tongue, and when the news arrived that the blond, broad-shouldered men were approaching, prayers were said in order to avert the dreaded danger. Land was conquered by them, cities were plundered, and immense riches taken back to their bases of operation. Their power culminated in the occupation of England and Ireland, invasions into the Carolingian Empire, and the founding of states in Sicily, Poland, and Russia.

The three parts of Scandinavia also fought among themselves. In 1320, King Magnus inherited the Swedish Crown from his father and the Norwegian one from his mother. Thus the two countries were united under one king. Soon afterwards the Danish king died without male issue, and Denmark also joined the union known in history as the "Union of Kalmar." There were several kings in succession who were King of Denmark,


Sweden, and Norway all in one; and it was a Danish king, Christian IV, who founded the city which was later to be Norway's capital, Christiania (now Oslo). But, in spite of similar traits of character, the three peoples soon started quarrels about certain border areas, disagreements which ended in wars between Norway and Denmark on one side and Sweden on the other, in the course of which the House of Vasa established itself as the new royal family of an independent Sweden.

INVOLVED ON THE CONTINENT


Although exhausted from fighting among each other, the Scandinavian states got themselves involved in some Continental wars. During the religious warfare in Europe, which reached its climax in the Thirty Years War, the King of Denmark and Norway, as a Protestant, sent his army against the catholic legions, only to be defeated by the great imperial general, Wallenstein. It was the brilliant strategist, the Swedish King Gustav Adolf, the "Lion of the North," who took up the cause and who is largely responsible for the existence of Protestantism in a great part of the world today.

The next time Sweden was to appear on the international stage was in the early part of the eighteenth century, when her brilliant young king, Charles XII, waged war with the Russia of Peter the Great, which even at that time was considered a serious menace. During the Napoleonic period, the adventurous Bernadotte, former marshal of Napoleon, through many complicated actions and strange circumstances got himself elected King of Sweden (thus founding the House of Bernadotte, of which the Swedish Royal Family are still members). For breaking with Napoleon he was rewarded at the Congress of Vienna by being given Norway, taken from pro-Napoleon Denmark. The free Norwegian constitution, however, was upheld. The dependencies of Iceland, the Faroe Islands, and Greenland, all of which had been occupied by Norwegian Vikings centuries earlier, were not ceded to Sweden and remained under the King of Denmark.

SCANDINAVIA



The Stock Exchange in Copenhagen. The boats in the center of the city are symbols of Denmark's close ties with the sea, while the gaiety of the twisted tower seems to express the lighthearted temperament of the Danes



The "white coal" of Scandinavia. The waterfalls of Tännfors in Sweden, one of the many torrents which serve to supply Sweden and Norway with power



Summer in Leksand, Dalarne (Sweden). The people of southern Sweden have the smiling calmness of their natural surroundings



Lysefiord, Ryfylke, a typical Norwegian scene. The somber, barren cliffs and the low-hanging clouds and fog have left their imprint on the population of the country

Much friction grew from the union of Norway with Sweden, a union which was dissolved in 1905. The Norwegians elected a Danish Prince, Carl, King of Norway; so once more a monarch of Danish family ascended the Norwegian throne. He took the ancient Norwegian name of Haakon VII.

EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE

Scandinavia's contributions to art and belles-lettres as well as to science are great, considering its small population. Some of the most daring expeditions into the arctic and antartic regions have been made by its sons, and many revolutionary inventions and discoveries were the results of the strenuous efforts made by its scientists.

It was a Swede—his name familiar to every layman—A. Celsius (died 1744), who founded exact thermometry. His scale of temperature, the centigrade, is in use throughout the greater part of Europe. Another Swedish chemist and engineer, Alfred Bernhard Nobel, made a name for himself by establishing the Nobel Prize. Through many inventions, particularly that of dynamite, and through the exploitation of the oil deposits of Baku (the Caucasus city now threatened), he created a fabulous fortune, the income of which, in accordance with his will, was after his death to be divided every year into five shares to be given to the most brilliant personality in each of the following five fields: chemistry, physics, medicine, literature, and efforts towards world peace and collaboration among the nations. Professor Niels Bohr is Denmark's foremost living scientist, and his name has gained recognition and appreciation all over the globe owing to his atom theory. Many people in Asia will recall his name, as he went on a lecture tour round the world a few years ago, giving lectures also in Shanghai and Tokyo.

The thirst for adventure so common among the old Vikings is still embedded in the blood of the Scandinavians of our century. Conquering unknown territories, even if only scientifically, was

always close to their hearts, and as the Scandinavian nations have been steeled through the ages by hard life and severe cold, they were naturally fitted for expeditions to the arctic and antartic regions. The discovery, exploration, and charting of those vast areas are mostly due to the persistent, tough scientists from Scandinavia. Names like Fridtjof Nansen, Roald Amundsen, Nordenskiöld, Sven Hedin, Knud Rasmussen, and Vitus Bering are the everlasting testimonies of Scandinavian participation in obtaining knowledge of our globe. The first two, both Norwegians, made expeditions, the former by boat, the latter by plane, to the North Pole, where the Norwegian flag was planted in the eternal snow on the exact spot which science calculates to be the Pole. In 1879, Nordenskiöld, a Swede, was the first to make the Northeast Passage, i.e., the route from Scandinavia along the Siberian coast to the Pacific; while in the eighteenth century a Danish mariner, Vitus Bering, explored the Bering Strait. Sven Hedin, another Swede, studied and explored eastern Turkestan, Tibet, and Mongolia; and the Dane Knud Rasmussen, whose love of the Eskimos of Greenland and the Labrador peninsula is well known, threw new light on the peculiarities of this little-known race.

CONTRIBUTING TO WORLD LITERATURE

All three Scandinavian peoples are well enlightened and have long had an excellent educational system. Illiteracy is completely unknown in Denmark today and nearly so in Norway and Sweden.

As a consequence of enlightenment and highly developed spiritual life, literature has blossomed in the three countries from the early Middle Ages up till the present day. The hard struggle for existence and the severe climate are reflected in Norwegian literature, whose two foremost representatives of the past are the realists Henrik Ibsen and Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson. Bjørnson was extremely conceited. Once he was traveling on a Danish steamer bound for Denmark. The captain came on the bridge and, finding

Björnson there, politely told him to leave the place. The poet got angry and answered: "Do you know, my good man, who I am? I am Norway's greatest poet!"—"Well, Mr. Ibsen, you will have to go all the same," the Dane persisted. Among Norway's living writers, Knud Hamsun and Sigrid Undset are known throughout the world.

In Swedish literature, Selma Lagerlöf, whose truly Nordic novels and tales are popular, and the forceful August Strindberg are the leading lights.

In Denmark, Grundtvig, who lived in the early nineteenth century, raised the intellectual life of the Danish nation by founding the Folk High Schools, which have played an important part in the enlightenment of the country. Most renowned and highly esteemed of Danish authors through the ages is Hans Christian Andersen, whose fairy tales have been translated into almost every living language—both European and Asiatic—and have become a part of children's reading material everywhere. The choice of words, the ungrammatical construction, and the many direct addresses to the reader were meant for children; but beneath the story and easily conspicuous to the thoughtful reader lies the moral of the tale which was made for the benefit of the adult reader. The fact that his fairy tales can be read with equal profit by people of any age accounts for their immense distribution.

HOME OF GARBO AND THE SKI

Since the coming of the talkies, the Scandinavian film industry has confined its production mainly to home markets; but formerly they were shown in Germany, England, France, and even the USA. In the early days of the industry, it was mainly Danish pictures which were released and sold to foreign countries; mysticism and the great problems of life were their favorite themes. Later on, however, they acquired more and more local color and consequently aroused less interest among moviegoers abroad. Although Sweden has no sparkling Hollywood, her Greta Garbo, Ingrid Bergman,

and Gösta Ekman have shown that the Swedish people appreciate fine acting. Superb acting and beautiful Swedish scenery characterize modern Swedish films.

In the field of sports, Norway comes first, with Sweden a close second, in skiing and skating. The sloping, snow-covered *fjäll* of the two countries present perfect skiing grounds, and the skiers of Norway have participated in many olympiads and contests and often brought the European, at times even the world championship home to their fatherland. The great opportunities for skating naturally fostered clever skaters, one of whom is Sonja Henie, now of Hollywood fame.

DENMARK—ONE GREAT FARM

Denmark is mainly a farming country. The soil is very suitable for agriculture, and grain is grown profusely. Cattle, pigs, and poultry are kept, and butter, eggs, and bacon constitute the country's three major exports, in great demand because of their high quality. Incidentally, Siberian butter, formerly considered among the best, was the product of dairies founded by Danish dairy experts. The leading feature in Danish agricultural development is the co-operative system. The indirect cause for the Danes having created this system was the miserable state in which the country lay after the exhausting war against Prussia and Austria. The cultivated areas were ruled feudally by the land-owning nobility, and peasants tilled them as serfs who were part of the estate and belonged to their master as his property. The creator of the co-operative movement was the aforementioned Grundtvig.

The first dairy co-operative was founded in 1882. Today dairy co-operatives number some 1,500, patronized by 192,000 of the total of 206,000 farmers, taking care of the milk supply and the butter production. Analogous co-operative organizations have been formed to deal with other branches of agriculture: slaughter houses for the bacon industry, associations for the improvement of livestock, societies providing the best sorts of seeds,

and purchasing co-operatives which enable the farmer to buy implements, machinery, fertilizers, etc., at reasonable prices. Spurred on by a fervent desire to control the conditions under which they live, experienced Danish men and women lead these co-operatives, which have ameliorated the agricultural standard immensely and brought it to rank among the foremost of the world.

A considerable fishing industry exists. Most of the fish is consumed by the Danes themselves, although fish caught on the west coast of Jutland are sent in small quantities to the fish markets of Hamburg. Cod fishing in the waters round the Faroe Islands, northeast of Scotland, yields a fair revenue, the fish being sundried on the rocks and sent to Catholic countries such as Portugal and Spain, where it forms the main food during fasting periods. Minerals are completely absent, so that Denmark has to be dependent upon other countries for metals, as well as for oil and coal. A few years ago oil was discovered in the southern areas of Jutland, but the deposits are apparently too small to be worked on a large scale. Raw materials bought from abroad are finished in factories and distributed on the home market solely.

WHITE COAL AND IRON

The situation is just the other way round in Sweden, where mainly minerals and forestry contribute to the wealth of the country, while agriculture occupies only a small part of the assets. Only the southernmost districts and the area around Stockholm and the big lakes possess soil sufficiently fertile for agricultural purposes; between one sixth and one seventh of Sweden is suitable for farming, the rest consisting of rocky mountains and extensive forests. But large profits flow in from these; the mountains are interlaced by wild, foaming rivers which at intervals splash over precipices, thus producing waterfalls, the "white coal" of Sweden. As in Denmark, coal is almost nonexistent, but some of the largest iron-ore deposits of Europe are found in Lapland near Kiruna and

Gällivare. The steel industry produces a quality which comes next to that of Sheffield and Solingen products. The copper mines of Falun and the silver mines at Sala at one time contributed a good deal toward Sweden's wealth, but now the mines are worked out. Thanks to the huge forests of the North, Sweden has been able to develop a first-class forestry. Large quantities of raw timber and manufactured timber in the form of furniture and wood pulp are exported and form one of Sweden's national assets.

THE NORWEGIANS FISH

What holds good for Sweden goes to a varied extent for Norway too. Here the cultivated areas make up an even smaller percentage of the national resources, since only the southern districts around Oslo and some few valleys in the central part of the country can be tilled for agricultural purposes. Norway, therefore, is dependent on two branches of economic life: forestry and fishing. The latter is carried out to a much wider extent than in the two other Scandinavian countries, being, in fact, the principal means of livelihood; every port, large or small, along the whole of the Norwegian coast is a base of operations for fishermen who go as far as Iceland, Newfoundland, and the Dogger Bank for their catch. Some profit derives from the Spitsbergen coal mines, which yield about 300,000 tons annually, far more than is produced by Norway proper. For energy, however, the country is not dependent solely on coal, as the "white coal" from its countless waterfalls represents a large amount of electricity.

SCANDINAVIA TODAY

In considering the situation of Scandinavia since the outbreak of the present war, it is necessary to bear in mind certain economic and commercial circumstances. Norwegian shipping was never confined solely to the homeland; on the contrary, great enterprises founded in Norway established branches in ports all over the world, thus spreading the activities of the Norwegian mercantile marine to countries far from its birthplace. Moreover,

many Norwegian ships were chartered by foreign powers. As the bulk of Norwegian shipping was carried out primarily in those parts dominated by the Anglo-Saxon powers, an affinity with this bloc quite naturally arose; and perhaps the contact with British people, into which Norwegian fishermen and sailors frequently came, contributed to it.

In Denmark, other factors were potent, but with the same effect; the high prices demanded for Danish products could only be paid by a wealthy nation such as England; as the principal buyer of Danish products, Great Britain naturally became the favorite of the national export business and consequently played a greater role in the nation's general consciousness than other countries. American millionaires spent money like water on their pleasure cruises to Scandinavia and the Baltic countries, and so the American came to stand for the ever-welcome God of Mammon. Generations earlier, tens of thousands of Scandinavians had migrated to the United States, where their sound intelligence and honest character blended in the international melting-pot of that country, bringing about a close bond between the old and new homes of the immigrants.

As a result we find in Norway and Denmark a traditional sympathy toward the Anglo-Saxon nations, while Sweden had closer ties with Germany. On the other hand there are many people in Scandinavia who feel, in spite of the comfortable and well-to-do life in their countries, that Scandinavians should not stand aloof from the new order emerging in Europe, but rather contribute their efforts and assets towards its success. Before the process of clarification of these issues had come to a close, the present war broke out and soon engulfed parts of Scandinavia.

Although the Scandinavians usually have the reputation of being hospitable to any nation,

there are certain things which they do not care for at all. Every Swede knows the Stockholm statue of Charles XII, who, holding his sword in his right hand, points with his left toward the east. Ever since his times, and even before, the Russian Bear has been regarded as a threat to the security of northern Europe, and since the birth of Communism this feeling has not diminished. Not that the Russians, as such, occupy a dark or remote place in the hearts of the Scandinavians; yet the latter feel a certain anxiety before their giant neighbor and particularly its present political structure. It was not by chance that Sweden especially—and Norway and Denmark as well, though on a smaller scale—sent many volunteers to Finland during her brave struggle for freedom against the Soviet Union in 1939/40; nor was it mere chance that four Danish Communists known to the author returned to Copenhagen as strict conservatives after a three months' visit to the Soviet Union. In this matter, like in most others, the Scandinavian peoples stand together in moral unity.

On the whole, the Scandinavian nations have kept out of Continental wars throughout the Middle Ages and modern times. This tendency originates in their love of peace. Unfortunately for them, they have stood more than once in the way of the great powers and their quarrels and wars. These latter have sometimes prevented the Scandinavians from building up their lives in accordance with their ideas and systems which centuries-old experience has proved to conform most closely with their nature. In

the words of a former American minister to Denmark: "Scandinavia is above all a land of co-operation and a land whose people are highly civilized. In fact, no people existing are more literate, more interested in things of the mind, more advanced socially than the Scandinavians."

