

Swedish Lutheran Church in Nebraska

In 1867 Rev. S. G. Larson came to Omaha and established the first Swedish Lutheran mission in the state of Nebraska. The next year he organized Emanuel church in Omaha and from that beginning has grown the Nebraska conference of the Lutheran Augustana synod of America, an organization which has a membership of nearly 10,000.

Rev. Larson was essentially a church organizer. After he had started the work among the Swedish population of Omaha he turned his attention to Oakland, where he succeeded in establishing a church in 1868. Two years later he organized churches at Alma, Edinburg, Swedeberg and Lincoln.

Other pioneers in the church's Nebraska mission work were Rev. J. S. Benson, Rev. L. P. Ahlquist, Rev. J. Torell and Rev. N. Nordling. In the early days of the Swedish Lutheran church in the state all congregations belonged to the Kansas conference and Nebraska was known as a mission district.

It was in 1886 that the Nebraska conference came into existence and Nebraska and Wyoming were united in a separate church organization. Rev. J. Torell, who is now pastor of the Swedeberg church, was the first president of the conference. This change in organization proved very beneficial to the church and marked a new era in its growth.

The Swedish population of Nebraska and Wyoming numbers about 120,000 at present and one-twelfth of this number is affiliated with the Swedish Lutheran church. There are forty-five parishes, thirty-nine churches, twenty-seven pastors and twenty-three parsonages in the conference.

Although the church first secured a foothold in Omaha its work in the state has been confined chiefly to farming communities. Most of the Swedish-Americans in Nebraska have been on farms and mission work has been confined chiefly to rural districts. Of recent years, however, the Swedes have entered into other lines of business and are now so numerous in the cities and towns of the state that particular stress will be laid upon city mission work during the present year.

Emanuel church of Omaha, located at the corner of Nineteenth and Cass streets, was the cradle of Swedish Lutheranism in this state. It was fitting that the fifteenth annual meeting of the Nebraska conference should be held in that church. From February 22 until March 5 representatives of the various Lutheran parishes in Nebraska and Wyoming convened in this city.

Rev. F. N. Swanberg of Oakland was re-elected president of the conference for the coming year and the other officers named were: Rev. P. M. Lindberg, Omaha, vice president; Otto Peterson, Minden, treasurer; Rev. C. E. Chinlund, Lincoln, secretary; Rev. L. Hokenson, Stromsburg, statistician.

In 1885 Luther academy was established at Wahoo by the Nebraska conference. Rev. M. Hoyd was its first president and was succeeded by Dr. S. M. Hill, who was in charge of the school for fourteen years. Rev. F. M. Ekman of Center City, Minn., was selected by the conference to preside over the school next year. There are five professors in the institution and 100 students. The three buildings owned by the academy are valued at \$50,000.

The academy has attracted many Swedes to Wahoo and has become a popular gathering place for Swedish-Americans. National festivals are celebrated there and several times within recent years thousands of people have gathered on the academy grounds to revive customs of the fatherland.

Immanuel hospital, Immanuel Deaconess' association and Immanuel orphanage of Omaha are also under the care of the conference. Rev. E. A. Fogelstrom is manager of these institutions. They have buildings valued at \$50,000 and their yearly income is about \$22,000.

During 1900 328 patients were cared for in Immanuel hospital. The orphanage, which was dedicated during the recent meeting of the conference, is now caring for three children and has accommodations for a much larger number.

Churches and parsonages owned by parishes in the Nebraska conference are valued at \$211,500 and the indebtedness on

this property is only \$6,779. In 1900 the conference raised \$8,340.75 for mission work. More money is to be raised this year. Additional missionaries will be stationed in Wyoming and particular attention will be given to the work in Omaha, South Omaha and Lincoln.

About Noted People

George E. Cole, an old Oregon pioneer, who had charge of the supplies received at Corvallis for Fort Hoskins some fifty years ago, relates that Lieutenant Paul H. Sheridan, then quartermaster and commissary, frequently came to his store and sometimes remained over night. He never would accept the offer of a bed, but preferred to sleep on blankets spread on the counter.

The mallet and trowel with which George Washington laid the cornerstone of the capitol in 1793 are to be used at the laying of the cornerstone of the Carnegie library in Washington a few weeks hence. The implements have only been used once. They are the property of the Alexandria lodge of Masons, of which Washington was once worshipful master. The trowel blade is made of silver and the handle of ivory.

"Ed" Alvey, a prominent Kentucky gambler, has been convicted and sentenced to two years in the Frankfort penitentiary. Ex-Congressman Owens, "the coolest man who ever sat in a Kentucky poker game," was retained by the Social Purity league to prosecute Alvey. One lawyer remarked when the verdict was brought in: "When a man serves a sentence for gambling in Kentucky we will quit drinking whisky and burn up the stock farms."

Once when the German emperor was at Potsdam in his study he overheard a great noise and clatter overhead, and he rushed upstairs to ascertain the cause of the tu-

swered proudly: "Eitel won't realize that I am crown prince of Germany and crown prince of Prussia," to which came immediately the stern reply: "Well, I must teach you that I am emperor of Germany and king of Prussia." And thereupon the young man received a good tarashing.

There is an old tradition in the Highlands of Scotland to the effect that the owner of Balmoral dies when the snow lies on a particular spot of Lochnagar, which is rarely covered, even in the severest winters. In fact, according to the local report, the snow has lain there this winter for the first time during the reign of her late majesty. It is not generally known, either, that the custom of stopping the clocks at the moment when a "laird" dies and keeping them so until after the funeral was practiced at Balmoral castle, where the clock in the tower was stopped at the hour of Queen Victoria's death, just as the flag was at once lowered to half-mast.

"The best we can say of ex-King Milan of Servia," says the London Saturday Review, "is that the rascal possessed a persuasive tongue. One day when a mob was howling for his blood outside of Konak at Belgrade he came out upon the balcony amid a pandemonium of groans, but before the lapse of many minutes all were listening to his language with rapt attention, and soon his peroration was the signal for wild applause. He was a bad king, a bad man, a bad father and an abominable husband, and we can only plead for him that an evil nature and shameful education were accentuated by the blackest misfortune. His death leaves Servia, almost alone among civilized states, without an heir to the throne. King Alexander is the last of the Obrenovitches and cannot point even to a distant cousin with the remotest claim to succeed."

Former Governor William A. Newell, who had the rare distinction of being governor of two states—New Jersey and Washington—writes in the March "Success" of his romantic experience as a congressman in 1849, when he originated the life-saving service by offering a resolution in the house of representatives to appropriate money to



Rev. C. E. Chinlund, Secretary, Lincoln; Otto Peterson, Treasurer, Minden; Rev. F. N. Swanberg, President, Oakland; Rev. P. M. Lindberg, Vice President, Omaha. GENERAL OFFICERS OF THE NEBRASKA SWEDISH LUTHERAN CONFERENCE.

Mr. Newell says: "Various objections were made to my motion, the strongest of which was that the scheme was impracticable. I laid the matter before a great many

the reading of the resolution by the clerk, leaned forward and said to me, 'I would like to see that resolution.' I sent for it and handed it to him. He read it over carefully and, handing it to me, said, with a smile: 'It is good. I hope it will prevail.' Abraham Lincoln also read it and said: 'Newell, that is a good measure. I will help you. I am something of a life-saver myself, for I invented a saw that righted itself on the Mississippi sandbars!'"

Representative Littlefield of Maine is a teetotaler and a prohibitionist, but a habitual card player, and progressive euchre is his favorite game. The other night he attended a progressive euchre party in Washington and won a beer stein for a prize. Three nights later he went to another party and won a corkscrew, which his friends consider ominous.

Direct and Forceful

New York Tribune: "I heard of a broad hint that was amusingly given at Paris last summer," said M. H. Spooner of Philadelphia at the Hoffman house. "A party of four—two ladies and two gentlemen—were just sitting down to a supper at one of the cafes, when to them came a third man. It was an attractive party, and the third man wanted to join it, but the others were not so keen; hence the joy of the meeting was principally confined to the interloper. Nothing abashed, however, he sat down and began to talk. He discussed the exposition and the latest scandal involving mutual friends. Then he paused for breath, but not one of that parti carree said a word, so he blithely started off again. This time he gave the Chinese question, transatlantic travel and the coming elections in America the benefit of his views, until lack of breath brought him to another full stop. No comment from the four silent ones came to relieve the situation, and so, a trifle disheartened but still courageous, he set his mouth to work again. The Boer war and the Philippine situation he wore to a frazzle, and finally, in absolute desperation, he turned in and gave the weather a twist. Then, with bellows to mend, he lay back in his chair. The four remained as unresponsive as before, but he, alas! could do no more, and simply sat there and panted for breath. One of the fair ones finally came to the rescue and relieved the situation. Leaning toward the exhausted conversationalist she sweetly said: 'I hope we don't tire you listening.'"

Not at All Necessary

Chicago Post: "No," she said, as she repulsed him, although perhaps half-heartedly; "mamma says a modest girl will not kiss a man." "Of course," he replied; "that's quite proper. It isn't at all necessary that she should. If she is just reasonably unresisting everything can be satisfactorily arranged without violating instructions in the least." "What a resourceful and clever fellow you are," she answered, with a happy smile.

Doesn't Count For Much

Chicago Post: "Lovely wedding, wasn't it?" asked the maid of honor. "Quite so," admitted the bride's dearest enemy. "Every detail perfect," suggested the maid of honor. "Oh, I don't know. We might make an exception of the groom, don't you think?" "Oh, possibly, possibly," admitted the maid of honor, "but that's a minor detail, anyway."



Rev. F. N. Swanberg, A. Olson, Rev. L. Hokenson, Nels Bengtson, Rev. J. Torell, Rev. C. E. Elving, Rev. A. Randolph, Oakland, Lincoln, Stromsburg, Swedeberg, Swedeberg, Omaha, Shickley. BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NEBRASKA SWEDISH LUTHERAN CONFERENCE.

mult. He found the crown prince pommeling Prince Eitel Fritz, and when he asked for an explanation the crown prince answered that he had saved lives imperilled by the sea. Fellow senators and members, speaking to them in person. Ex-President John Quincy Adams occupied a seat just behind mine and, after



FLASHLIGHT OF NEBRASKA SWEDISH LUTHERAN CONFERENCE IN SESSION AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, OMAHA.