

## HISTORIC FORTS ARE MERELY DISMANTLED

Text of the Norwegian-Sweden Agreement Is made Known to Associated Press.

## REACH COMPLETE ACCORD

All but the Most Vital Differences Are to Be Arbitrated Hereafter by The Hague Tribunal—Big Neutral Zone.

Stockholm, Sept. 27.—The Associated Press has succeeded in securing the text of the protocol signed at Karlstad Saturday by the Norwegian-Swedish delegates. The historic document, which will become a treaty when ratified by two parliaments, consists of five main articles and thirty-five sub-clauses.

The articles deal with arbitration, a neutral zone, demolition of fortification, reindeer pastures, inter-traffic and common waterways.

The agreement provides for compulsory arbitration before The Hague court of all disputes except matters of vital interest for a period of decades.

The treaty provides for a zone on either side of the frontier which shall forever be neutral and for demolition of fortresses within that zone with exception of old portions of fortification of Fredriksten, Gyldeleove and Overberget which may remain but are not to be used as fortifications.

### Article 1.

Article 1, relating to arbitration, is subdivided into eight clauses, as follows:

#### The Order of Business.

The delegates agreed on the following order of business:

1. To each country's parliament the above treaty shall be submitted for ratification subject to the ratification of the other country to be mutually binding when as stated hereinafter Sweden recognises Norway's independence and vice versa.

2. When the riksdag and storting have passed identical ratification bills a position will be laid before the riksdag asking

On Sweden's part, to cancel the riksdag's decision of 1851, establishing new fundamental laws on the terms that the union of Norway and Sweden be irreducible and irrevocable.

To consent that the king may recognise Norway as a separate country from Sweden.

When such recognition is given, treaties will in accordance with the riksdag and storting's decision consenting to the above agreement in accordance with the usual international procedure.

When Sweden recognises Norway's independence and the above treaties are signed negotiations shall immediately be opened concerning the settlement of such matters which must cease or be changed on account of the dissolution of the union between the two countries.

### Article 2.

Article 2, dealing with the neutral zone, is subdivided into nine clauses:

A. In order to secure peace between the two countries a zone is to be provided on each side of the frontier which shall forever be neutral and must not be used for military purposes, nor can there be stationed or gathered within the zone armed military forces except as provided in clause "F," and such as are necessary to maintain order to cope with accidents. This zone shall be fifteen kilometers wide on both sides of the southern portion of the frontier of the two countries and islands and straits shall be included in that zone, but portions of the sea itself, with the bays within the neutral line, shall not be considered as within the zone. If either country constructs railroads through the zone, they may be transited and people living within the zone may be collected there for military duty, but must immediately be transported away. Fortifications, war ports or depots for the army and navy may not be maintained, nor may new ones established within the zone. This agreement is suspended in case the two countries assist each other in a war against a common enemy, and also if either goes to war with a third power.

B. Therefore the fortifications now existing within the above neutral zone shall be demolished as such. The old fortifications at Fredriksten, Gyldeleove and Overberget may remain, but not as fortifications. Concerning the modern arrangement of the last three and concerning the action taken to be in regard to the other fortifications, more explicit agreements are to be had in a separate treaty of equal force with this.

C. The measures mentioned in clause C must be completed within eight months of this treaty becoming effective.

D. Provided that the above measures shall be completed, the Norwegian signs of a commission composed of three officers of foreign nationality, neither Swedish nor Norwegian, each country choosing one, the third to be selected by those two, or in case of disagreement, by the government of Switzerland, nor excepting the commissioners who are to be contained in the aforementioned separate treaty.

E. Fredriksten may remain the headquarters of the staff of the district and a place of garrison and site of the non-commissioned officers' academy on the same extent as before the assumption of the new fortifications. The Konungsens group of fortifications may not be extended either as regards the erection of armaments of the garrison, which latter hitherto has not exceeded 300 men, not counting conscripts holding their yearly exercises. In consequence of the above agreements new fortifications may not be erected within ten kilometers of the old fortress of Kongsberg.

The succeeding clauses provide that in case of disagreements as to the meaning of this clause which diplomacy may be unable to solve they shall be submitted to an arbitration tribunal of three members chosen in accordance with The Hague convention.

The last clause reads:

This agreement becomes effective immediately. It cannot be broken by only one party to the agreement.

### Article 3.

Article 3 refers to reindeer pastures, etc., as follows:

A. For humanitarian reasons both countries agree to grant each country's nomadic Laplanders privileges contained in the amendment of 1883 to the treaty of 1751, which amendment neither country shall demand, cancelled without the consent of the other.

B. Enumerates the condition under which Laplanders may pasture reindeers in Norway until the end of the year 1917.

C. In ample time before the end of the year 1917, negotiations are to be opened concerning the above matter.

D. Stipulates arbitration in case of differences.

### Article 4.

Article 4 deals with intertraffic, as follows:

A. Each country agrees neither through

prohibitory import nor export laws to in any way interfere with or make difficult the transport or transit of goods. In case of war complications with or between powers or in other extraordinary cases, arms and ammunition and other war material shall be deemed contraband. Explanations shall be made as demanded by international law in the security of their own neutrality. Exceptions may also be made for sanitary reasons.

B. Transit goods must not be taxed with export duty or similar charges, nor must any distinction be made in charges of transit.

C. Article E contains rules concerning the charges on transit. The principal effect is that no higher charges shall be made other than in the case of the country's own subjects.

F. This agreement is for thirty years from Sept. 1, 1896, and may be prolonged for a similar period if notice of cancellation is not given at least five years prior to the end of that period.

G. H contain stipulations concerning the Ofoten railroad and arbitration.

#### Article 5.

Article 5, referring to common waterways, is as follows:

A. If a proposition is made for damming waters or similar work within one country, that country's laws shall decide the matter, although the action may interfere with the water of the other country, the owners of which have the same rights.

B. In accordance with international precedence it is stipulated that such works may not be carried out without the permission of the other country if a change of course should substantially interfere with the use of such water for commercial purposes or cause great changes within an extended area.

C. D concern matter of detail.

E. This agreement is valid for forty years from Jan. 1, 1896, and is prolonged for an equal period if notice of cancellation is not given five years previously.

F. Provides for an arbitration agreement.

The protocol was signed for Sweden by Christian Lundeberg, the premier; Count A. F. Wachtmeister, minister of foreign affairs; Hjalmar Hammarskjold, minister of education, and Karl Staff; and for Norway, by Christian Michelsen, the premier; Carl D. Berner, president of the storting; J. Loveland, minister of foreign affairs, and Benjamin Vogt, former minister of the interior.

The Order of Business.

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When such recognition is given, treaties will in accordance with the riksdag and storting's decision consenting to the above agreement in accordance with the usual international procedure.

When Sweden recognises Norway's independence and the above treaties are signed negotiations shall immediately be opened concerning the settlement of such matters which must cease or be changed on account of the dissolution of the union between the two countries.

Each country shall then request the foreign powers with whom diplomatic relations exist to so amend their treaties that the national conditions to assent to dissolution.

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