

nounced her allegiance to King Oscar of Sweden. This act is the result of King Oscar's veto (p. 136) of the bill of the Norwegian parliament, called the Storting, providing for a foreign consular service separate from that of Sweden.

Concurrently with dethroning the King of Sweden and Norway as King of Norway, the Norwegian parliament on the 7th empowered the State Council to exercise for the present the regal power, and adopted the following address to the King:

Your Majesty: Whereas, all the members of the Council of State have laid down their offices, and whereas, his majesty, the King, has declared himself unable to establish a new government for the country, and whereas, the constitutional regal power thus becomes inoperative, the Storting authorizes the members of the Council of State who retired to-day to exercise until further notice as the Norwegian government the power appertaining to the king in accordance with Norway's constitution and existing laws with those changes which are necessitated by the fact that the union with Sweden under one king is dissolved in consequence of the King having ceased to act as a Norwegian king. The course of developments which have proved more powerful than the desire and will of individuals has led to this result. The union entered upon in 1814 has from the first hour been differently interpreted by the two nations both with regard to its spirit and letter. Efforts have been made on the Swedish side to extend the union and on the Norwegian side to confine it to the limit laid down by the act of union and otherwise to assert the independent power of both States in all matters not defined in that act as coming under the union. The difference of principle in the interpretation of the character of the union has provoked much misunderstanding between the two peoples and has caused much friction in the interpretation which during the recent negotiations between the two countries has been laid down by Sweden as against Norway. The Norwegian people were bound to perceive the injury to their constitutional right, their independence and their national honor. The union was justified so long as it could contribute to the welfare and happiness of both peoples while maintaining their independence as sovereign states. But above the union there stands for us Norwegians our Norwegian fatherland and for the Swedes their Swedish fatherland, while more valuable than the political union are the feelings of solidarity and voluntary cohesion of both peoples. The

union has become a danger to this feeling of solidarity of the Norwegian and Swedish peoples which should secure the happiness of both nations and constitute their strength abroad. If the union is now severed the Norwegian people have no loftier wish than to live in good harmony with all, and not least with the people of Sweden and the dynasty under the direction of which our country, despite many bitter disputes affecting the union, has attained such important intellectual and material development. As evidence of the fact that the work and struggle of the Norwegian people for the full independence of the fatherland has not been founded on any ill-feeling toward the royal house or the Swedish people and has not left behind any bitterness toward either of these, the Storting respectfully solicits your Majesty's co-operation to the end that a prince of your Majesty's house may be permitted while relinquishing his right to succession to the throne of Sweden to accept election as king of Norway. The day on which the Norwegian people elect their own king to ascend the ancient throne of Norway will open up an era of more tranquil conditions in Norway, of good and cordial relations with the Swedish people, and of peace, concord and loyal co-operation in the north for the protection and culture of the people and their freedom and independence. Convinced of this, the Storting ventures to express the confident hope that as what has now been done will turn out to be for the good of all as well as of your Majesty, for whose person the Norwegian people will retain their high respect and devotion.

King Oscar immediately telegraphed to the Norwegian Council of State the following reply:

Have received the communication of the Council of State. Record the most decided protest against the method and action of the government.

The Russian Japanese War.

Later accounts of the Russian-Japanese sea battle of the 27th and 28th (p. 135), call for no important alterations of last week's report. Nor is there anything to add except that on the 2d the Japanese authorities at Tokio reported the Japanese loss to have been 113 killed and 424 wounded. From the same source had come on the 1st estimates of the Russian loss, placing it at from 7,000 to 9,000 killed and wounded and 4,000 prisoners.

Three Russian cruisers which were disabled in this battle, came into the harbor at Manila on the

3d. Upon being notified of this, President Roosevelt summoned his cabinet to discuss the matter, and on the 5th it was publicly announced that the President had ordered the vessels to leave American waters by noon of the 6th or dismantle. He is reported to have thereby made a precedent, the Washington dispatches explaining it as follows: "Heretofore the principles of international law regarding neutrality have been interpreted to mean that warships of a belligerent nation calling at neutral ports could stop only twenty-four hours, unless they were in need of supplies, in which case they were to be allowed coal and provisions to take them to their nearest home port, without regard to the time it took to load the stores, except that there must be no unnecessary delay. But the President directs that the twenty-four hour limit must be strictly enforced, and necessary supplies and coal must be taken on within that time, because the Russian ships were suffering from damages due to battle, the American policy being to restrict all operations of belligerents at neutral ports by allowing no time for repair of damages suffered in battle." The vessels have since been ordered by the Russian government to remain at Manila under the terms exacted by the American government.

The Domestic Situation in Russia.

The popular excitement in Russia (p. 136) caused by the naval defeat has not subsided. It appears to be extensive throughout the Empire, and to penetrate even into the Czar's council, the burden of the demand being that the war shall not be kept up without the consent of the people represented in a parliament. At Moscow this sentiment is most outspoken. Twenty-two members of the Moscow municipal council were reported on the 6th as having signed the following declaration:

Our hearts are aching. Neither reason, equity nor sense of responsibility to the national conscience can admit that this most disastrous and bloody war of history, the causes of which are incomprehensible to this tortured country, should continue without the consent of the Russian people. Moscow should courageously raise her voice in this year of pain and say that any fur-