

SWEDISH NAVY.

Sweden is in the news these days, and though she is hoping to be left in peace, yet this virile nation is prepared to face any eventuality. ^{If her they should be} ~~is~~ called upon to defend their country, the Swedes ^{might well} ~~may~~ spring another surprise on an astonished world by standing up to overwhelming odds. Her airforce, composed of 500 planes, is highly efficient, and is being rapidly expanded every day. Her Navy, though small, compared with the great Nations, yet is very much alive and manned by fine sea faring ~~people~~ ^{spring from} stock, ~~descendants of~~ the Vikings of old. See her fleet of fighting ships go out into the grey North Sea for exercises. Out in the open ~~sea~~, these vessels meet heavy weather.

~~Her destroyers sweep the waters to maintain the neutrality guard along her rugged coast line. In the past Sweden possessed a vast Empire in NE Europe, and the Baltic was practically a Finnish lake. But that was hundreds of years ago. The Swedes have exchanged warring and conquest for peaceful development and progress. Sweden has had no war since 1809, when Finland was~~

~~lost from Sweden to Russia.~~] Although she wishes to maintain her neutrality, all her sympathies are with her friend and neighbour Finland, and ~~volunteers from all over Sweden answered Finland's stirring appeal for help.~~ ~~But~~ Sweden will surely give a good account of herself, as may be expected of the descendants of these gallant Nordic States.