Report of

ILLINOIS SWEDISH PIONEER CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Created by

SIXTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

With Story of Visit in Illinois

June 3 to 22, 1948,

By H. R. H. PRINCE BERTIL OF SWEDEN

and Pioneer Centennial Delegation from Sweden.

2009.21.13

Illinois Swedish Pioneer Centennial Commission

(House Bill No. 657, Approved)

AN ACT *to create a commission to participate in the Swedish Pioneer Centennial in 1948, and making an appropriation therefor.*

WHEREAS, about one hundred years ago began the waves of immigration which brought over a million and a quarter people from Sweden to the Middle West; and

WHEREAS, it was in the year 1848 that this movement began to take form, and the year 1948 has been designated as the year to commemorate the 100th anniversary by holding a Pioneer Centennial; and

WHEREAS, the government and people of Sweden will be represented at and will participate in the celebrations held in the states of the Middle West in cooperation with the people and government of those states; and

WHEREAS, the Swedish immigrants and their descendants have made great and enduring contributions to the growth and advancement of this nation; and

WHEREAS, a large number of citizens of the State of Illinois are of Swedish birth and descent; and

WHEREAS, the Pioneer Centennial in 1948 is an historical event, designed to instill lessons of patriotism and national unity and bring about a rededication to the virtues and principles which have made this nation great; therefore

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

SECTION 1. A commission is created consisting of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, ex-officio; five members of the Senate, appointed by the President, upon the advice of the executive committee, five members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker, and ten other citizens of the State to be appointed by the Governor, to be known as the Illinois Swedish Pioneer Centennial Commission. The Commission is authorized to arrange for the suitable participation of the State of Illinois, by themselves or otherwise, in the celebrations held in this State in the year 1948.

SECTION 2. The Commission shall convene upon the call of the Governor and shall organize by election of a chairman. The Commission may employ a secretary and such other assistants as it may require to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 3. The sum of $10,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated to the Commission for its necessary expenses in carrying out the purposes of this Act. The members shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses only.

Officers and Members of

Illinois Swedish Pioneer Centennial Commission

ELROY C. SANDQUIST ..... *Chairman*

HERMAN G. NELSON ..... *Vice Chairman*

CHARLES F. CARPENTIER ..... *Secretary*

RAGNAR G. NELSON ..... *Assistant Secretary*

NILS WILLIAM OLSSON ..... *Executive Secretary*

HAROLD R. BLOMSTRAND ..... *Assistant Executive Secretary*

Ex-Officio — GOV. DWIGHT H. GREEN, LIEUT.-GOV. HUGH W. CROSS AND SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE HUGH GREEN.

Appointed by the Governor of Illinois: E. Einar Andersson, Chicago; Dr. Conrad Bergendoff, Rock Island; Laverne F. Carlson, Andover; William N. Erickson, Evanston; J. Arthur Friedlund, Chicago; Herman G. Nelson, Rockford; Dr. Algoth Ohlson, Chicago; Nils William Olsson, Chicago; Joseph R. Peterson, Princeton; and Carl A. Sorling, Springfield.

Appointed by the President of the Senate: Merritt J. Little, Aurora; Arthur E. Larson, Chicago; Charles F. Carpentier, East Moline; Dennis J. Collins, DeKalb; and Lawrence E. Dowd, Chicago.

Appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives: Elroy C. Sandquist, Chicago; Ragnar G. Nelson, Chicago; David I. Swanson, Chicago; Edward C. Hunter, Rockford; and Stanley R. Kosinski, Chicago.

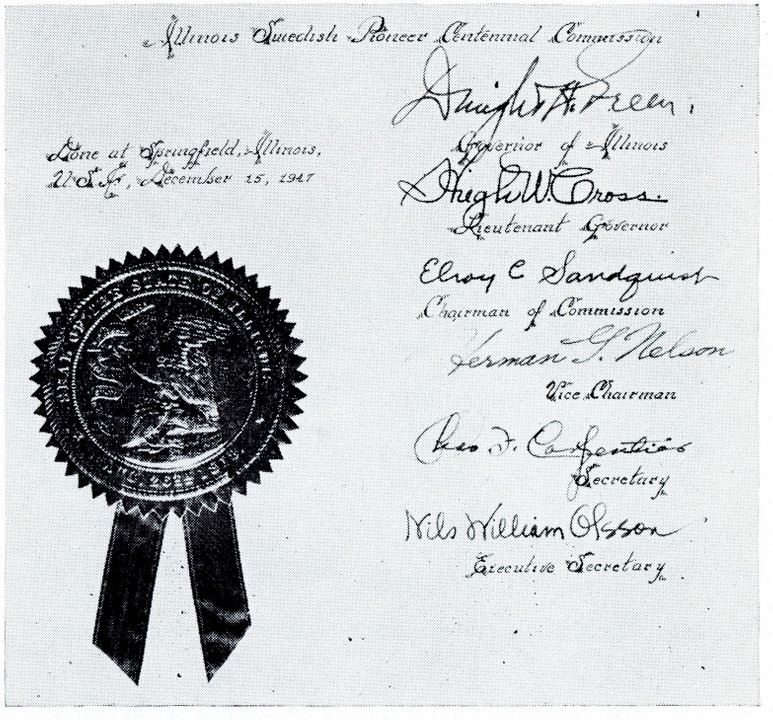
Commission Invites King and Government of Sweden to Send Representatives to Illinois

His Majesty King Gustaf V:

For 100 years and more the sons and daughters of Sweden have been coming to the New World to establish their homes. They have had a great part in building the cities and farm communities of the State of Illinois, and this State is mindful of what it owes to these citizens. We are happy that a Swedish Pioneer Centennial is being planned for 1948 and that the role played by Swedish pioneers and their descendants may thus be properly acknowledged.....

Appreciating the acceptance of Your Majesty of an earlier invitation from the Swedish Pioneer Centennial Association, the Illinois State Commission herewith invites the Royal House of Sweden to send a representative to Illinois during 1948 to join in the historic celebrations which are being planned within our State in observance of the Swedish pioneers, and to strengthen further the link of friendship between the people of Illinois and the Swedish nation.

On behalf of the State of Illinois we salute your country — ever a friend of the United States!


Illinois Swedish Pioneer Centennial Commission

Done at Springfield, Illinois, A. D. 19__, December 15, 1947

Governor of Illinois

Lieutenant Governor

Chairman of Commission

Vice Chairman

Secretary

Executive Secretary

(Like invitation sent His Excellency, Tage Erlander, Prime Minister of Sweden).



Herman G. Nelson, Rockford, received invitations of the Illinois Swedish Pioneer Centennial Commission from Gov. Dwight H. Green at Chicago Jan. 2, 1948, which he delivered in person on Jan. 9 to King Gustaf V at the Royal Palace in Stockholm and to Prime Minister Tage Erlander. Upper photo shows, left to right, Senator Charles F. Carpentier, Herman G. Nelson, Governor Green, Representative Elroy C. Sandquist and Nils William Olsson.



Prime Minister Tage Erlander received the invitation from Herman G. Nelson on Jan 9, 1948, after a like invitation had been presented to King Gustaf V at the Royal Palace by Mr. Nelson. Lower photo shows Prime Minister Erlander, left, accepting invitation from Mr. Nelson, right.

Illinois was favored by the Swedish delegation in many ways. It spent more time in Illinois and made more appearances in the state than anywhere else. The delegation was on Illinois soil June 3 to 11, again June 15 to 17 and June 21 and 22. In Chicago on June 4 at the stadium was held the largest gathering for the visitors and here President Harry Truman honored the delegation and paid tribute to the Swedish settlers of the middle west. Chicago, Rockford, Galesburg, Bishop Hill, Andover, Moline and Rock Island were visited by the entire delegation and individual members spoke at Joliet, St. Charles, Waukegan and Geneva.

The Delegation from Sweden

H. R. H. Prince Bertil, Third son of Crown Prince Gustaf Adolph; born Feb. 28, 1912. He visited Rockford and Chicago in 1938.

Honorable Karin Koch, Minister for Economic Planning.

Dr. Nanna Svartz, Professor of Medicine, Carolinian Institute, and head physician of Carolinian Hospital.

Bertil Kugelberg, Managing director of Swedish Employers' Association.

Nils Goude, Secretary of Swedish Federation of Labor, know as LO.

Einar Sjogren, President of Federation of Swedish Farmers' Associations.

Dr. Gunnar Westin, Professor of religious history at Upsala University; editor, historian, theologian and author.

Gunnar Hirdman, leader of Swedish Workers' study groups.

Oskar Franzen, past secretary of Swedish I. O. G. T.

Honorable Sven Dahlman, counselor of Swedish foreign office.

Dr. Gunnar Granberg, managing director of Swedish Institute for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

Allan Kastrup, managing director of American-Swedish News Exchange.

Olof Rydbeck, Secretary, Swedish Embassy at Washington, D. C.

Per Sandberg, Secretary of the Delegation from Sweden.

C. B. Winqvist, Aide to H. R. H. Prince Bertil.



Prince Bertil Welcomed to Illinois at Chicago.



Gov. Dwight H. Green and H. R. H. Prince Bertil of Sweden
At Palmer House Banquet, Chicago, June 5, 1948



Breakfast at Palmer House June 5: Upper photo — Rep. Hugh Green, U. S. Senator C. Wayland Brooks, Consul General Gosta Oldenburg, Congressman Robert Twyman and Vilas Johnson; center photo — H. R. H. Prince Bertil, U. S. Senator Brooks and Rep. Elroy C. Sandquist; lower photo — State Senator Charles Carpentier, Dr. Conrad Bergendoff and Herman G. Nelson.



Breakfast at Palmer House June 5: Upper photo — Rev. George C. Ericson, Dr. Algoth Ohlson, Dr. Gunnar Granberg and Mrs. Julius Lincoln; center photo — Carl R. Chindblom, Justin P. Seeburg, Ingeborg Sylvander and Albert I. Appleton; lower photo — Dr. Joshua Oden, Mrs. Oden, Dr. Julius Lincoln and Mrs. Conrad Bergendoff



ILLINOIS SWEDISH PIONEER CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

BREAKFAST IN HONOR OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

PRINCE BERTIL OF SWEDEN

PALMER HOUSE - CHICAGO - JUNE 5, 1948

History Is Made by Illinois Swedish Pioneer Centennial Commission

Of the Illinois Swedish Pioneer Centennial observance, Gov. Dwight H. Green wrote:

> "It was a high honor and a great personal privilege to participate as Governor of Illinois in the Swedish Pioneer Centennial celebration of 1948.
>
> "The members of this Commission and the Swedish American leaders throughout the Middle West are to be congratulated on the successful fruition of their comprehensive program for this event. It was a great pleasure to meet Prince Bertil and the other distinguished visitors from Sweden, and I shall never forget the thrill of the great rally at the Chicago Stadium.
>
> "The Centennial celebration was more than a fitting tribute rendered by the children of the pioneers. It was an inspiration to us all and a lesson in courage, perseverance and unswerving devotion to God and Country which has written a glorious chapter in the material, cultural and spiritual progress of America."
>
> DWIGHT H. GREEN.

Historians need not be told that history was being made, and not only memorialized, in Illinois last June when Swedish Pioneer Centennial observances were held in many communities of the state with visitors from Sweden who included H. R. H. Prince Bertil, also an officially-appointed delegation representing all of Sweden and a Church of Sweden delegation headed by Archbishop Erling Eidem. In the various observances, the Illinois Swedish Pioneer Centennial Commission and its members took leading parts.

On call of Governor Green, members of the Commission met at Springfield Oct. 27, 1947, and there formally organized itself and elected officers. (See P. 1). It was agreed that hand-lettered invitations to King Gustaf V and Prime Minister Tage Erlander be prepared and that Herman G. Nelson, who already had made plans to fly to Stockholm in January, bring them on behalf of the Illinois Commission to Sweden.

The Commission met next at the Swedish Club, Chicago, for dinner Jan. 27, 1948, and Mr. Nelson made his report that the invitations had been delivered into the hands of King Gustaf V and Mr. Erlander, also that he had been received by Prince Bertil, who had expressed himself as being eager and willing to make a return visit to Illinois.

A breakfast was given Saturday morning, June 5, 1948, at the Palmer House, Chicago, by the Illinois Commission for H. R. H. Prince Bertil and the Swedish delegation and invited guests. Elroy



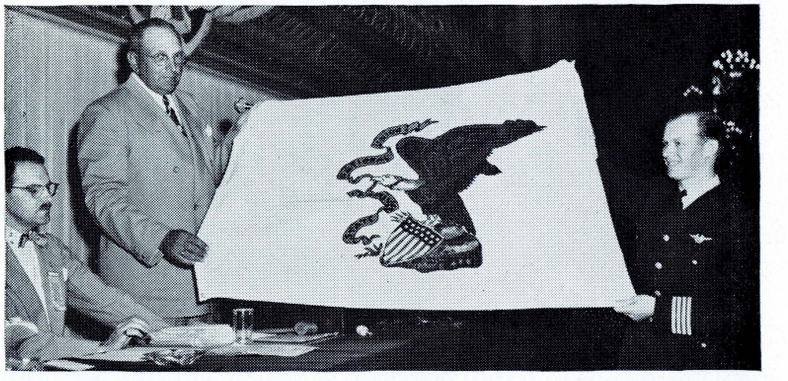
C. Sandquist presided and talks were given by U. S. Senator C. Wayland Brooks, Speaker of the House Hugh Green and Prince Bertil.

President Harry S. Truman had participated the preceding evening, June 4, when the Swedish Pioneer Centennial festivities were formally inaugurated at the Chicago Stadium, filled by 20,000 persons. Governor Green paid tribute to the Swedish element in Illinois for their great contributions. While in Chicago, President Truman pinned on Prince Bertil the Legion of Merit, rank of commander, for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service to the government of the United States." Earlier, Prince Bertil had pinned on Mr. Truman the Gustavus Adolphus gold medal, struck from the original molds dating back to 1734, the first time the honor had been bestowed on an American.

The Chicago Daily News wrote June 5: "President Truman highlighted two openings in Chicago—the Swedish Centennial festival and his campaign for four more years in the White House."

Members of the Illinois Commission attended the Stadium festival and also the formal banquet held the evening of June 5 at the Palmer House. Dr. Conrad Bergendoff, member of the Commission, spoke. A religious observance was held June 6 at the Moody church.

At Rockford, H. R. H. Prince Bertil and the entire Swedish delegation took part in festivities June 8, 9 and 10. Highlights were a historical pageant and festival in the city's outdoor stadium, preceded by a parade, the evening of June 8, the turning of the first shovel of dirt by Prince Bertil for a $1,000,000 addition to the Swedish-American hospital, with an appropriate program and ceremonies the afternoon of June 9 and a civic banquet arranged by the



Flags of Illinois, of Chicago and of the United States were turned over to the crew of a Scandinavian Airlines plane at Sherman Hotel, Chicago, the afternoon of June 4 to be carried to Sweden for Flag Day there June 6. Paul C. Rosenquist, above, of Rockford, representing Governor Green, presented the Illinois flag. On this occasion, the 5-cent special issue Swedish Pioneer Centennial stamp was put on sale.

Rockford Chamber of Commerce at Hotel Faust the same evening.

At a dinner in Chicago at Ambassador East Hotel on the 90th birthday of King Gustaf V June 16, Prince Bertil and the Swedish delegation entertained the national sponsors of the Swedish Pioneer Centennial and presented the first of the Swedish Pioneer Centennial medals to be awarded. On Monday, June 14, Dr. Nanna Svartz was awarded an honorary degree at the annual Rockford College convocation.

After a visit in Omaha, the Swedish delegation returned to Illinois the early morning of June 21 for a breakfast at Galesburg, a visit to the birthplace of Carl Sandburg, a motor trip and brief stopover at Bishop Hill, which in 1946 celebrated its 100th anniversary and which is the first Swedish settlement in Illinois, and participation in formal ceremonies arranged by the Illinois Commission at Andover.

Here, the Illinois Commission had placed a bronze plaque on the outside wall of the Jenny Lind chapel, under the right front window. It was unveiled by Prince Bertil. Einar Sjogren spoke. LaVerne Carlson presented Mr. Sandquist, who presided. The Jenny Lind chapel was started in 1851 and dedicated Dec. 3, 1854, as the first house of worship by the Swedish settlers. It is now a shrine of the Augustana Lutheran Church.

From Andover, the Swedish delegation went to the campus of Augustana College for lunch. A civic banquet was held at LeClaire Hotel, Moline, the same evening, followed by a public program at the Wharton Field House. Besides Prince Bertil, the speakers included Dr. Karin Koch and Mr. Sjogren.



The Julius Anderson family of Perryville, near Rockford, was designated as the most typical Swedish-American farm family in Illinois. At Rockford, Prince Bertil congratulated the family, made up of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Anderson, William, 18, Deane, 15, and Charlene, 9, with Attorney Lisle W. Menzimer, president of Rockford Chamber of Commerce, at right.

Officers: Illinois Swedish Pioneer Centennial Commission



ELROY C. SANDQUIST
Chicago
Chairman of Commission; served 7 terms in Illinois House of Representatives.



HERMAN G. NELSON
Rockford
Vice Chairman of Commission; on editorial staff of Rockford Morning Star; member of Winnebago County Board of Supervisors 1935-1949 (chairman 1945-1946).



CHARLES F. CARPENTIER
East Moline
Secretary of Commission; State Senator since 1938; mayor of East Moline from 1929-1937; vice president of Quad-City Theater Managers' Association.



RAGNAR G. NELSON
Chicago
Assistant Secretary of Commission; served 3 terms in Illinois House of Representatives; Republican state central committeeman; insurance broker.



NILS WILLIAM OLSSON, Ph. D.
Chicago
Executive Secretary of Commission; executive director of Swedish Pioneer Centennial Association; assistant professor in Scandinavian department at University of Chicago.

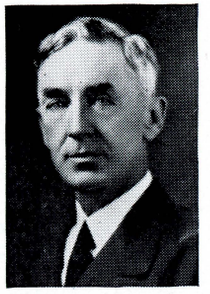


HAROLD R. BLOMSTRAND
Chicago
Assistant Executive Secretary of Commission; member of Illinois House of Representatives since 1946; realtor and insurance broker.

Ex Officio Members

DWIGHT H. GREEN
Chicago
Governor of Illinois 1940 to 1949.

HUGH W. CROSS
Jerseyville
Lieutenant Governor of Illinois 1940 to 1949.



HUGH GREEN
Jacksonville
Member of Illinois House of Representatives since 1932; speaker of House 1945-1947; Attorney-at-Law.

Members by Appointment



MERRITT J. LITTLE
Aurora
State Senator from 14th District; Graduate University of Chicago law school; practicing attorney since 1926.



ARTHUR S. LARSON
Chicago
State Senator since 1946; Real Estate Broker.



DENNIS J. COLLINS
DeKalb
Member of Illinois House of Representatives 12 years from 1930 to 1942; state senator since 1942; practicing attorney-at-law and farmer.

LAWRENCE E. DOWD
Chicago
Elected to Illinois Senate 1942, re-elected 1946; practicing attorney-at-law since 1913.



DAVID I. SWANSON
Chicago
Serving 12th term as member of Illinois House of Representatives; practicing attorney-at-law since 1913; first elected state representative in 1922.

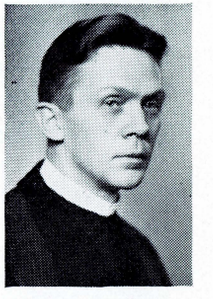


EDWARD C. ("Ted") HUNTER
Rockford
Member of Illinois House of Representatives in 60th, 62nd, 63rd, 65th and 66th sessions. Chairman of Winnebago County Democratic Central committee.

STANLEY R. KOSINSKI
Chicago
Member of Illinois House of Representatives since 1940; delegate to Democratic National convention 1940; realtor and insurance broker.

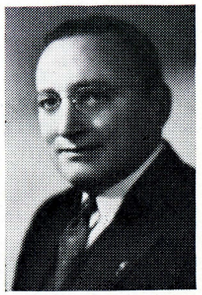


E. EINAR ANDERSSON
Chicago
Publisher and editor-in-chief of Svenska Amerikanaren - Tribunen; visited Sweden 1946 as guest of Swedish Foreign Office, representing Swedish press in United States.



DR CONRAD BERGENDOFF
Rock Island
President of Augustana College; A. B. and B. D. degrees from Augustana College, M. A. from University of Pennsylvania; Ph. D. from University of Chicago and honorary Th. D. from University of Upsala, Sweden; served as president of Swedish Pioneer Centennial Association.

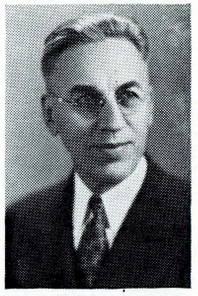
LaVERNE F. CARLSON
Andover



WILLIAM N. ERICKSON
Evanston
President of Board of Commissioners of Cook County, his fourth term as member of this Board; B. S. degree in mechanical engineering from Illinois Institute of Technology.

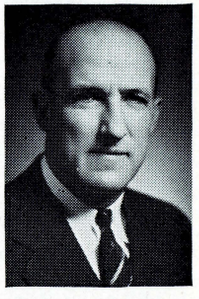


J. ARTHUR FRIEDLUND
Chicago
Member of law firm of Friedlund, Levin and Friedlund; secretary of John Ericsson Republican League of Illinois for 20 years; director and general counsel, New York Yankees, Inc. and other businesses.



DR. ALGOTH OHLSON
Chicago
President of North Park College 1924-1949; A. B. from Yale, 1915, M. A. from Harvard 1916; honorary LL. D. from Augustana College 1942 and D. D. from Upsala College 1942.

JOSEPH R. PETERSON
Princeton
State's Attorney of Bureau County since 1936; admitted to practice law in Illinois 1928; president Bureau County Bar association.



CARL A. SORLING
Springfield
Attorney-at-law since 1922, member firm of Sorling, Catron and Hardin; director, Sangamon Electric Company, John E. Hobbs Corp. and Springfield Stockyards company.

Carl A. Sorling, Springfield, spoke as representative of Gov. Dwight H. Green at Swedish Pioneer Centennial observance in Field House, Moline, on June 21, 1948. Parts of his address follow:

"It is high honor to greet Your Royal Highness and the members of your delegation, in behalf of the Governor of the State of Illinois: We have looked forward to your coming; especially those of us whose blood and ties of kinship go to the land of Sweden. Your presence here is an occasion of great joy. There is something of deep and lasting significance about those who came here from Sweden 100 years ago, and those who came to America 300 years ago. It is the spirit which moved and lived within them, and gave them courage against the odds that might well defeat all but the hardiest.

"Here on this very ground upon which we stand, they worked and toiled in the wilderness; and wrought from the soil a place for themselves, and for their descendants; built their homes and their churches and schools; and suffered and sacrificed that we who are here now might enjoy and have more from life than they. And with it they brought, and this I think is the spirit which prevades the whole celebration, a great love of liberty, deep religious faith and courage, and idealism, which is everlasting, and that must continue to be our purpose, and our ideal.

"We can, and should, here and now, resolve that the freedoms so dearly bought by those pioneers should never sicken and fail for lack of care.

"We must carry on the priceless heritage of hope, of faith, of tolerance, and of respect for the dignity of the human being.

"In rededicating ourselves to the spirit of the pioneers, we also further the idealism that pervades the land from whence the pioneers came, which is so nobly represented and exemplified by his Majesty King Gustaf, now in his ninetieth year, and who throughout his long and honorable reign has dedicated himself and his subjects to peace and decency.

"I tender you welcome and greetings from our Governor, and from the people of our State. We receive you with open arms and warm hearts. We look for your return; and until then you will be ever in our thoughts. We promise to hold high, and keep bright, the torch kindled here by the pioneers of 100 years ago, that burns and shines for decency and freedom for all mankind."

President Truman Applauded the Swedish Element in America in Chicago Speech June 4, 1948

President Truman spoke thus:

"We are meeting here in Chicago tonight to do honor to a group of American pioneers — the men, women and children who came from Sweden 100 years ago and joined the great procession of pioneers that was moving out to the prairies of the middle west.

"The first of the Swedish people to seek a new future in this land of freedom and equality were religious leaders and scholars from the universities. But the main stream of Swedish migration to our shores consisted of men and women with a deep love of the soil. In the great American west they saw a chance for a future that was denied them in the Sweden of their day.

"The America to which these Swedish settlers came was a land that needed the hardy qualities they brought. The newcomers quickly learned their way about and soon felt at home. To the land hungry immigrants, the tough prairie sod seemed a golden opportunity and they conquered it by hard work.

"Before the Swedish migration slowed down, a million persons had come from Sweden to the prairies of the United States. Today, more than one quarter of all people of Swedish descent in the world live in the United States. There is scarcely a family in Sweden which does not have relatives in this country. That is the kind of tie which strengthens friendly international relations. I am sure we can look forward to a continuation of the long period of friendship between our two countries.

"This friendship is heightened by the fact that Sweden today is one of the most prosperous and progressive democracies in the world. America is proud of its citizens of Swedish descent and the part they have played in building up the middle west."