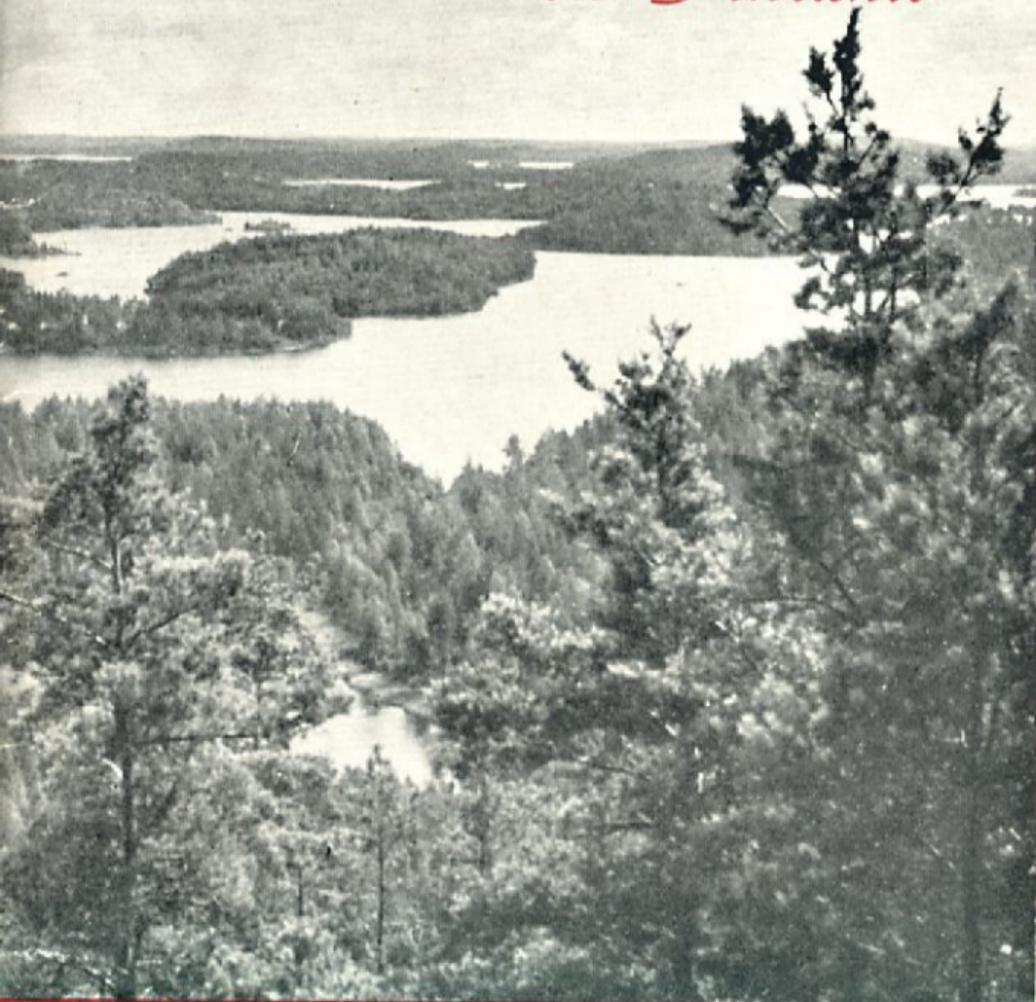


*Talking Points
on Finland*



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THE object of this booklet is to give the foreign visitor some facts concerning the Finnish people and the conditions ruling in their country.

Finland is delighted to welcome to her shores those visitors who come to make the acquaintance of an independent nation, young as republics go, but with a long and varied history behind it. Modern Finnish history, covering a period of only twenty years, tells of the unremitting toil of an emancipated people.

The facts supplied in this work refer to the Finland of today. We wish to perform a small service to the visitor who comes to Finland without a knowledge of either of the languages of the country, by giving him a brief description of the groundwork carried out by her along democratic lines and of the attainments made in the process.

Finland bids her visitors a friendly welcome and hopes that their stay will be a pleasant one. If they return home with memories of a delightful visit, every Finn, too, will be gratified.

Outline of Finland's history

THE arrival of the first Finns in this country took place during the first centuries of the Christian era. They settled in the south-west and from then onwards gradually populated the interior.

Swedish habitation of Aland (Ahvenanmaa) dates from the fifth century and of the mainland of Finland from about the year 1000. During the next three hundred years the Swedes gradually conquered the whole country. In 1362 the Finns took part in the election of the Swedish King for the first time. The Reformation started in 1523 and in the year 1548 the first New Testament in the Finnish language was printed.

During the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the country was frequently the scene of the wars between Sweden and Russia. In these engagements armies raised in Finland often played a decisive part. Between 1560 and 1570 Duke John, later King John III of Sweden, maintained a brilliant court in Turku Castle and there planned to make Finland independent. During the years 1609—1617 Sweden and Russia were at war and the Swedish-Finnish forces held Moscow. At the Treaty of Stolbova in 1617 Finland received her present eastern frontier, with the exception of the extreme north of Lapland. In 1630—1648, Finnish troops took part in the big religious wars which Gustaf II Adolph had begun in Germany. The year 1640 saw the foundation of Turku University, later moved to Helsinki after Turku had been destroyed by fire in 1828. From 1714 to 1721, during the wars of Charles XII, Russia held Finland and began the building of St. Petersburg, and Finnish prisoners-of-war were forced to take part in this labour. During the wars of the eighteenth century Sweden

abandoned Finland by degrees and the last war ended in a treaty, signed between Sweden and Russia in 1809, under which the former lost Finland altogether.

From 1809 to 1917 Finland was an autonomous Grand Duchy connected with the Russian Empire. She was governed in accordance with the Swedish Constitution of 1772. Turku now lost her leading position and Helsinki became the capital. Finland had her own currency (from 1865 onwards), her own national army (1878-1901), her own educational system, Diet and Government (the Senate).

At the beginning of the present century, however, Russia embarked on a policy of russification, developed by the Governors-General appointed by that country into a system of general oppression. Against this persecution the Finns employed methods of passive resistance that had some success. A general strike broke out in 1905, as a result of which the Grand Duke (the Czar) revoked the unconstitutional decrees and patriots expelled from the country were permitted to return to Finland.

A reorganisation of Parliament was carried out in 1906 and in the following year the first single-chamber Diet was elected by universal suffrage and on the system of proportional representation.

In 1908 a further period of oppression started, which continued to the Great War and terminated in the country's declaration of independence on 6th December, 1917. The independence of Finland was recognized by Russia at the beginning of the following year, followed immediately by recognitions from France, Sweden, Germany and others. In 1919 a new Constitution was enacted by the Finnish Parliament, who declared Finland a democratic republic.

Finland's independence and its special political status are based upon steady progress maintained over many

hundreds of years. During the period of union with Sweden, lasting nearly 700 years, the country acquired western culture and a western conception of law and order. The Finn has remained a free man right through the centuries and it is upon the age-old principles of freedom and self-government that the existence of the present independent Finnish State is established.

The country and its climate

THE area of Finland is 383,000 sq. kms., of which about 34,300 sq. kms. are water. The country ranks seventh in size among European countries.

On the coasts of Finland the land is rising steadily from the sea and this process of elevation is gaining in speed, the rate on the north coast of the Gulf of Bothnia being one metre per hundred years. In Helsinki it is about 40 cms. per century.

Most of the country is a plain, but in Central, East and North Finland there are also a number of hills and knolls. Real mountainous country is only to be found in the north, within the Arctic Circle, where the highest peak, Mount Haltijatunturi, rises 1,324 metres above sea-level.

Finland's coastline and lakes, of which there are 60,000, are dotted with many thousands of islands.

The country is situated between the 60th and 70th degrees of latitude, and forms, with Norway and Iceland, the most northerly group of nations in the world. The greatest length from north to south is about 1,150 kms. and from east to west 600 kms. The frontiers aggregate in all nearly 4,700 kms. Land frontiers total approximately 3,000 kms. and coastline some 1,650 kms. The longest frontier, the Russian, is about 1,570 kms. in length; the Swedish is nearly 500 kms. and the Norwegian about 850 kms.

Finland has sea routes to the Baltic via the Gulfs of Finland and Bothnia and a coast line on the Arctic Ocean at Petsamo.

The climate is, in general, warmer than elsewhere in the same latitude. The warm period when the temperature is above freezing-point, lasts between 230 and 250 days in the south-west and some 160 days in Lapland. The gulfs adjoining the Baltic are ice-bound in winter, but the Arctic coast is open all the year round.

A feature of the Finnish summer are the long days and light nights. In Lapland the sun never sets at all for two months and even in South Finland the midsummer twilight is such that no artificial light is required all night.

Population

THE size of the population is about 3,835,000.

During Swedish rule the growth of the population was impeded by war and famine, but during the last one hundred years it has increased rapidly. In 1820 the population was approximately 1 million, in 1880 2 million and in 1900 2.6 million. In South Finland there are 18.8 inhabitants per sq. km., in North Finland 2.7 and in the whole country 11. 78.5 % of the population live in the country districts and 21.5 % in the towns and rural centres. The largest towns are Helsinki, 300,000 inhabitants; Tampere 75,000; Viipuri, 74,000; and Turku, 73,000. The birth rate for 1937 was 18.9, death rate 12.3 and the increase in population 6.6 per thousand.

59.6 % of the population earn their living by agriculture, 16.8 % in industry and by handicraft, 4.3 % in trade, 3.8 % in shipping, transport or other means of communication, and 15.5 % in other trades or professions.

Finland has two official languages, Finnish and Swe-

dish. The Finnish-speaking population is about 91 %, the Swedish about 9 %.

0.9 % of the inhabitants above the age of 16 are illiterate.

The religion of 96 % is Lutheran, 1.8 % Greek Orthodox and 2.2 % other faiths.

In spite of linguistic differences the Finnish people are anthropologically uniform. The racial characteristics are fair hair and skin, and blue eyes. There is no great difference between the Finnish-speaking and Swedish-speaking population. Philologically the Finns belong to the Finno-Ugric peoples, as do the Hungarians and Estonians.

The system of government

DEMOCRACY was achieved in 1919, when the republican system of government was instituted in place of the old constitution of 1772.

The President of the Republic is elected for 6 years. The election is performed by 300 Electors, chosen by universal suffrage. In the event of a tie, the President is chosen by lot. All citizens who have attained the age of 24 are entitled to vote at both the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections. Parliament is elected for 3 years and is composed of 200 members. Members of the Government, who are nominated by the President, must have the confidence of the House. The parliamentary system is thus in force in the country. Nevertheless the President has wider personal powers than in a number of other democratic countries in that he is not absolutely compelled to follow the advice of his ministers, but can make decisions that are at variance with their opinions. He can dissolve

Parliament and order new elections. Nevertheless, in order to avoid constant changes of government, the President in general observes the wishes of the Cabinet.

The average age of Finnish Governments in the twenties was barely one year, but during the present decade it has become longer. The present Cabinet, headed by the Prime Minister, Mr. A. K. Cajander, has been in office since March, 1937.

The President now in office, Mr. Kyösti Kallio, was elected in February, 1937, and his term expires in March, 1943.

The province of Ahvenanmaa (Åland), composed of a number of islands at the junction of the Baltic and the Gulf of Bothnia, has since 1920 had wide autonomous powers. Its administrative bodies are the provincial Diet and a provincial board elected by it. A provincial governor, nominated by the President of the Republic, represents the Government.

The Diet of Ahvenanmaa has the right of appeal to the League of Nations should Finland fail to observe the terms of the Statute of self-government.

Agriculture

ABOUT one half of the population of Finland derive their means of livelihood mainly from agriculture and allied products. 62 % of this farming population are landowners, 6 % rent their land and the remainder are agricultural labourers.

Since the formation of the Republic the number of farmers in absolute possession of their land has, as a result of land reform legislation, grown rapidly. Whereas in 1910 the number of farmers of this class, owning at least 0.5 hectares of arable land, was 125,000, the present

figure is now about 300,000. Likewise, in 1920 the area of land under cultivation was 2,000,000 hectares but is today some 2,600,000 hectares. The 1917 and 1937 figures for the rye crop were 226,000 and 431,000 tons respectively. Finland has increased her wheat production to an even greater extent, with figures for the same two years of 6,178 and 208,000 tons respectively. The total value of the grain harvest in 1917 was 1,940 million marks, but by 1937 it had risen to 7,588.6 millions.

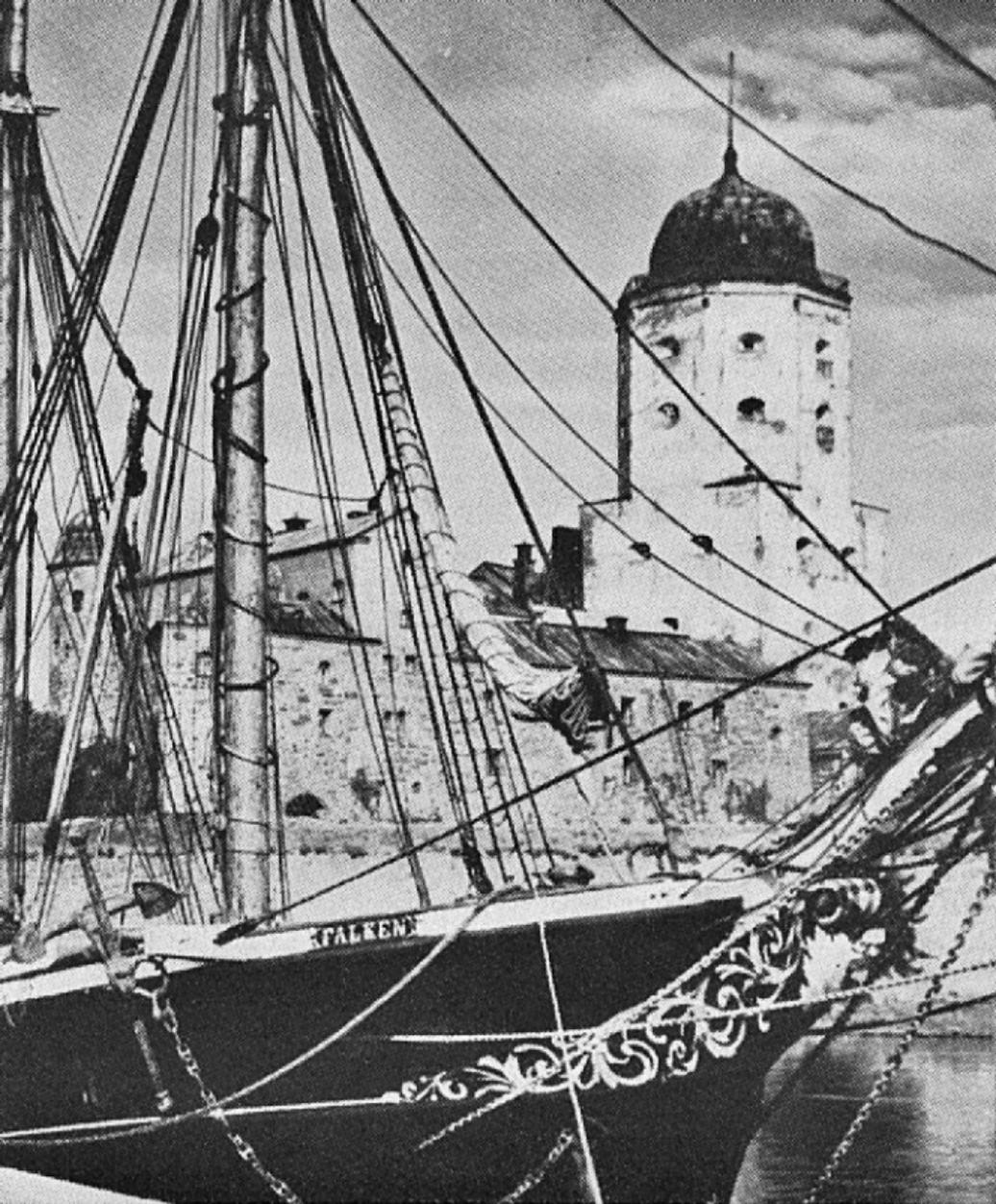
Similar progress has been registered in dairy farming. Since 1920 the output of eggs has increased fivefold, and since 1917 butter and cheese production has grown to nearly 3 and $4\frac{1}{2}$ times their respective outputs in that year. Dairy product values were 4,515.2 million marks in 1932 and 6,604.4 millions in 1937.

Most of the farmers are small-holders. Nearly 220,000 of them own less than 10 hectares of arable land. Big estates, exceeding 100 hectares in area, number only some 800.

In South Finland 12 % of the land is under cultivation, while in North Finland the figure is only 1.1 %. Forests cover most of the northern parts.

Forest land

THE area of forest land in the country is 25.3 million hectares, or 75.5 % of the total area of the country. A dark green carpet of coniferous trees covers almost the entire country from the south coast up to within a short distance of the Arctic Ocean. The ratio of forest land to the area of the country is greater than in any other European country. It is also the greatest per head of the population, with a figure of 7.4 hectares per inhabitant. The largest owner of land and standing timber



The old castle of Viipuri



The hay has been cut and is drying in the sun

is the State. It holds more than one third of all forest land in Finland. Private individuals, mainly farmers, own about 50 %, while companies have only 7.5 %. The remainder is held by the communes and the parishes. The annual growth is estimated at 44.4 million cubic metres. As most of the State forests are situated in North Finland, where growth is slower than in the south, the increment to the State holdings from this source is only about one-fifth of the total yearly increase. The growth of privately owned forests is nearly two-thirds and of the companies 10 % of the yearly volume.

It will be seen from these figures that the forests are of great importance in the economic life of the farmers. They play a still more significant part in Finnish political economy and have been mainly responsible for the progress made by the country's trade during the last few decades. Constituting as they do a raw material, the preparation and refinement of which provide a large part of the population with their means of livelihood, they have been dubbed Finland's «green gold».

It was only at the beginning of the present century that a complete understanding was shown of the value and importance of the forests. The State today devotes a sum of at least 35 million marks annually to improvement work both in State and privately owned forests. About 40,000 hectares of marsh land are reclaimed by draining every year and the area of forest land is thus increased.

Water power

MOST of the Finnish rivers flow into the two gulfs of the Baltic sea, namely, the Gulf of Finland and the Gulf of Bothnia. These water-courses have a considerable number of falls, from which water power is derived.

It was not until after the Great War that the power of the largest Finnish rapids was harnessed to serve the needs of mankind. The State has been an active participant in the foundation of power stations. Thus, it is, for example, the owner of the Imatra power plant, the generators of which have a combined capacity of 154,000 kVA. The current generated is carried at various voltages. The iron and copper mills in the neighbourhood take it at a tension of 10,000 volts. The main line supply is conducted at voltages of 20,000 and 35,000 to the industrial centres of South, Central and South-east Finland. Helsinki, Tampere and Turku use current supplied by Imatra. It has 6 Francis turbines, 4 of 27,000 horse power capacity and 2 of 32,000, developing in all 174,000 h.p.

The Vuoksi river, on which the Imatra power station stands, also yields power to several other stations. There are likewise a number of large power stations on the Kymi river, and the river Kokemäenjoki has also been pressed into the service of industry.

The present combined total output of the power stations is about 650,000 h.p. With the addition of the plant planned or under construction in different parts of the country the aggregate amounts to nearly 900,000 h.p. Even so, hundreds of thousands of horse power remain unused in the rapids of Finland's rivers.

In a country endowed by Nature with raw material and mechanical power in close proximity, great work is being done by modern industry. The heavy industries of other countries have been developed with coal and iron. The forest and the «white coal» of the rapids and waterfalls have given birth to the great modern Finnish industries.

Industrial life

A POWERFUL growth has been registered by national industry during the last twenty years. It has had its origins in the country's natural wealth of timber, minerals and metals.

Industrial development is illustrated by the following figures, showing the number of operatives at work and gross output values.

The total numbers of workpeople employed were:—

1920	.....	117,229
1925	.....	141,005
1930	.....	144,931
1935	.....	174,310
1937	.....	207,506

The gross value of industrial output for the years 1921—1925 averaged 8,200 million marks yearly. In 1937 it was 21,070 million. Likewise the average value of raw-materials employed during the former period was 4,240 million marks, but had risen by 1937 to 11,950 million. The corresponding net values for industrial output stood at 3,780 million and 9,120 million.

Between 1921 and 1937 the number of operatives at work has increased by 50 %, power consumed by 170 %, gross output value by 160 % and net output value by 140 %.

The biggest manufacturing towns are Helsinki, Tampere, Turku and Kotka. The largest industrial districts are situated in the valleys of the rivers Kymi and Vuoksi.

Most of the big plants are built along the watercourses and on the banks of rivers. The factories blend harmoniously into the landscape to form a compact whole, pulsating with the controlled energy of modern life.

The timber industry

THE first sawmill founded in Finland was built as early as the sixteenth century. The State, however, desiring to retain the timber supply for use in the iron industry, subsequently prohibited the construction of sawmills and it was not until 1861 that the ban on mills of this class driven by steam power was removed.

A most imposing position has been attained by the Finnish sawmill industry on international markets since the Great War. The fact that Finland is now the next largest exporter of sawn goods in the world is a clear proof of this. Shippers of sawn timber were ranked in 1938 in the following order:

	<i>Standards.</i>	<i>Percentage of world export</i>
Canada	906.809	21,0
Finland	852.253	18,5]
Soviet Russia	688.649	15,5
Sweden	685.826	14,5
U.S.A.	357.723	8,5
Poland	244.313	5,5
Rumania	215.005	4,5

Finnish plywood has also grown into a big industry with a leading position on world plywood markets. The same can also be said of the spool industry, whose shippers are responsible for 80 % of the output of the whole world.

Particularly rapid has been the progress made by the pulp and paper industry. New mills have been built and old ones enlarged. The gross and net values for outputs of the paper and allied industries — mechanical pulp, cardboard, cellulose and paper — were (in million marks):

	<i>Gross</i>	<i>Net</i>
1921—1925. Yearly average ...	1,511	774
1931—1935 » » ...	2,633	1,364
1937 » » ...	4,696	2,166

The Finnish production of mechanical and chemical pulp is about 10 % of the world output. After Sweden she is the largest exporter of groundwood and cellulose and takes third place after Sweden and Canada as a paper exporter.

The value of the output of timber and allied products was 1,398 million marks in 1917 and 9,095 million marks in 1937.

Home market industries

THE industries manufacturing for home consumption are larger employers of labour than the timber trades. In 1937 the latter gave employment to 78,000 people, whereas the home market industries had 128,000 operatives on their pay-rolls. The value of the output for the domestic market was 3,585 million marks in 1917 and 11,981 million in 1937.

The Finnish metal industry has developed in many directions. The country's ironworks are capable of satisfying 60—70 % of the nations normal requirements. The workshops manufacture most of the tools and machinery used by agriculture, the major part of the sawmill industry's machinery requirements, practically all that employed by the mechanical and chemical pulp industries and a very large part of the needs of the paper industry.

The textile and cloth industry is a robust one of many branches. There are 6 cotton mills, of which the oldest, the Finlayson unit in Tampere, is the largest in the

Northern countries. Tampere also has the largest linen mill in the north of Europe. There are twenty woollen mills in the country and the knitted goods industry has also expanded rapidly of late years. There is one artificial silk mill.

Grain is milled domestically, sugar is refined in the country's own refineries and the tobacco mills turn out a sufficiency for the needs of the nation. The output of luxury goods is on a high level and Finnish sweets and chocolate, in particular, enjoy a world-wide reputation.

Of the other industries manufacturing for home consumption, mention should be made of glass and porcelain. The former has been made here for 250 years and first quality products are now exported abroad. Porcelain has also reached a high standard. The Arabia porcelain factory in Helsinki is the largest in Scandinavia and its finest grades are appreciated on markets as far distant as South America.

The rise in the standard of living

FINLAND is not a rich country, but nevertheless offers opportunities of acquiring wealth. There are few really wealthy persons, but the number of people living in abject poverty is small. Since the country became a republic a considerable rise in the standard of living has taken place, showing that the community is starting to benefit more extensively from the labour which it performs.

The rise in the standard of living will be manifested from the following table of figures, showing the consumption of wheat, rye, potatoes, coffee and sugar per head of the population during the years 1915, 1920, 1931 and 1937: —

Year	Wheat kgs.	Rye kgs.	Potatoes kgs.	Coffee kgs.	Sugar kgs.
1915	45.92	174.61	127.33	3.98	14.05
1920	19.86	83.51	132.51	2.02	7.47
1931	45.96	102.04	219.75	4.81	26.74
1937	57.77	89.07	338.69	5.44	25.68

The influence of the war years is clearly discernible. As late as 1920 there was a shortage of bread cereals and the wealth of the community was insufficient for the purchase of luxuries such as coffee and sugar. As will be seen from the table, the consumption of wheat has risen during the present decade, while that of potatoes has increased nearly threefold since pre-war days. Sugar has become an important item in the budgets of Finnish housewives and coffee is the favourite beverage everywhere.

Further proof of the improvement in the standard of living and in the national wealth is provided by the statistics for life insurance. In 1920 the total of life insurances in operation was valued at 1,769 million marks. By 1930 it had risen to 9,513 million and in 1937 it stood at no less than 12,180 million.

Depositors' balances in the Savings Banks were 997 million marks in 1920, 5,069 million in 1930 and 7,603 at the end of 1938.

The co-operative movement

THE foreign tourist cannot fail to direct his attention to Finnish co-operative activities. In some fashion or other he will come into direct contact with them. The

butter and bacon on his breakfast table are generally products of the co-operative institutions. The shop windows and signs of the co-operative stores catch his eye in the cities wherever he goes.

Co-operative credit societies, dairies, slaughter houses and stores are an important economic feature in the lives of both agricultural and industrial workers. Through them the farmer obtains credit on favourable terms, they dispose of his products on the market at a good price and they supply him and his workpeople with utilities at a cheap figure. The Co-operative Credit Societies have 145,000 members, the co-operative dairies 75,000 and the co-operative stores over 600,000. There are in all some 7,500 co-operative societies in the country.

The central organisations in this branch of trade have turned into huge concerns. The firm of Valio, for example, completely controls the export of butter.s

The following details are furnished in regard to the growth in the number of the co-operative stores, their membership and their yearly sales: —

Co-operative stores			
Year	No. of shops	Member-ship	Sales
1920	2,423	324,353	1,472 million mks
1930	4,088	467,099	2,986 » »
1938	5,816	605,482	5,117 » »

The central organisations of the stores have their own productive units in the capital and provinces. There is hardly a country district without a co-operative society. Most of the farmers belong to them. Founded on demo-

cratic principles, the movement can fairly be described as one of the pillars of democracy in this country.

Foreign trade

BEFORE the war Russia was Finland's most important market. She absorbed some 30 % of Finnish exports.

Since the war Finland has opened up new markets for her products; her exports have been increased and extended to cover a wide variety of commodities. Imports have naturally grown also and their composition has altered. Formerly utilities formed 57 % of the value of all imports, but by 1937 this figure had fallen to only 32 %. They are today mainly productive commodities, such as machinery, transport material and raw material.

The development of Finnish foreign trade can be seen from the following table: —

	(in million marks)	
	<i>Imports.</i>	<i>Exports.</i>
1920	3,626	2,926
1930	5,247	5,404
1935	5,344	6,240
1937	9,306	9,379
1938	8,612	8,431

During the present decade Finland has had an export surplus. The total surplus has amounted to 5,700 million marks.

In 1937, the peak year as far as foreign trade was concerned, the total value of this class of commerce per head of population was 4,940 marks. Eight other countries can show a larger figure, namely, Denmark, Norway,

Holland, Switzerland, Sweden, Canada, Great Britain and Belgium. Germany, U.S.A., Italy, Japan, and Soviet Russia are lower on the list in this respect.

These figures will have been sufficient to demonstrate that Finland's well-being is dependent on its trade.

State finances

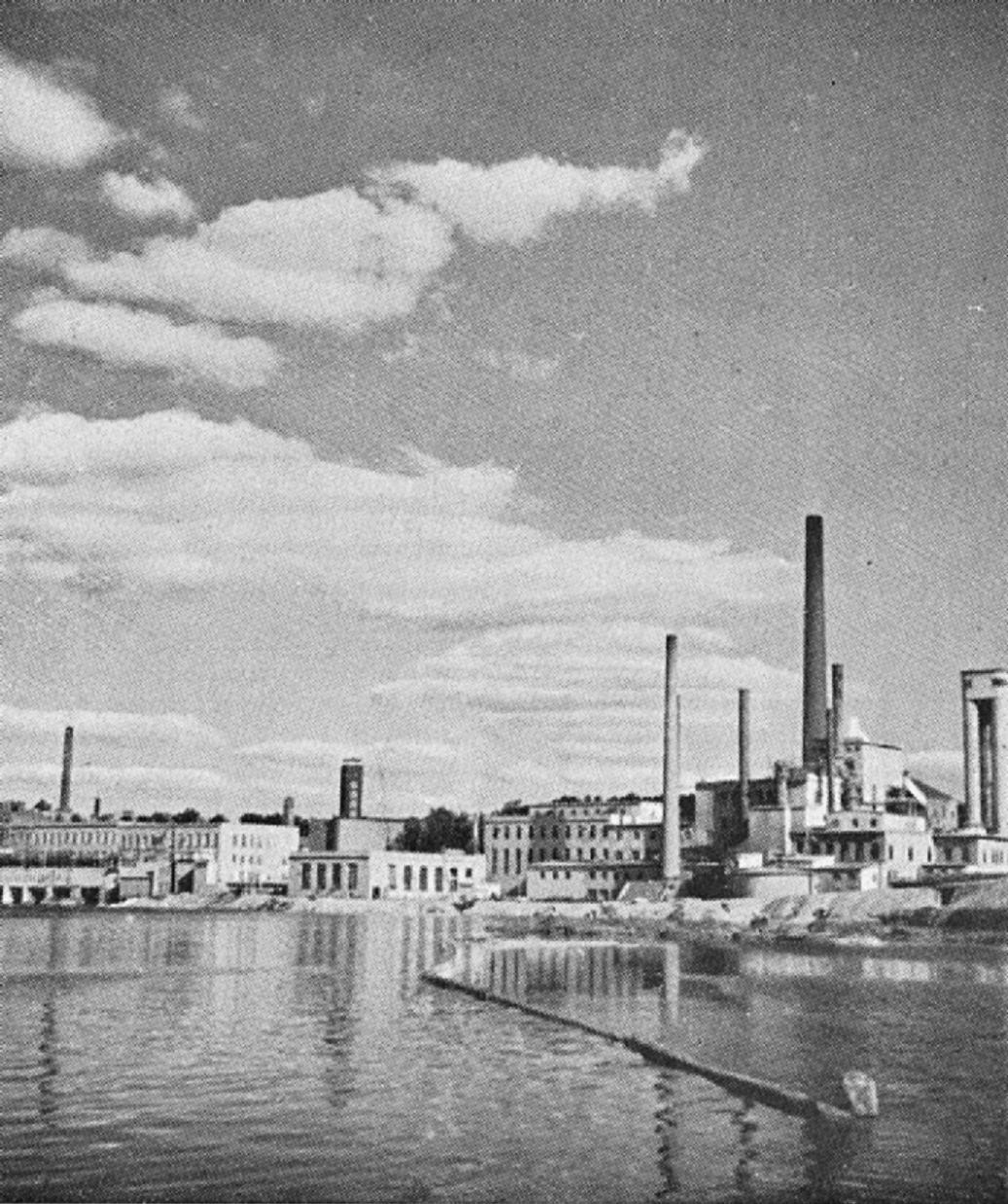
STATE expenditure prior to the Great War was on a very modest scale, National defence did not, in those days, require many sacrifices and it had in many respects become out of date. There was no compulsory education and social welfare activity was in its infancy.

During the last twenty years Finland has made every effort to get abreast of the times. For this reason State expenditure has increased considerably.

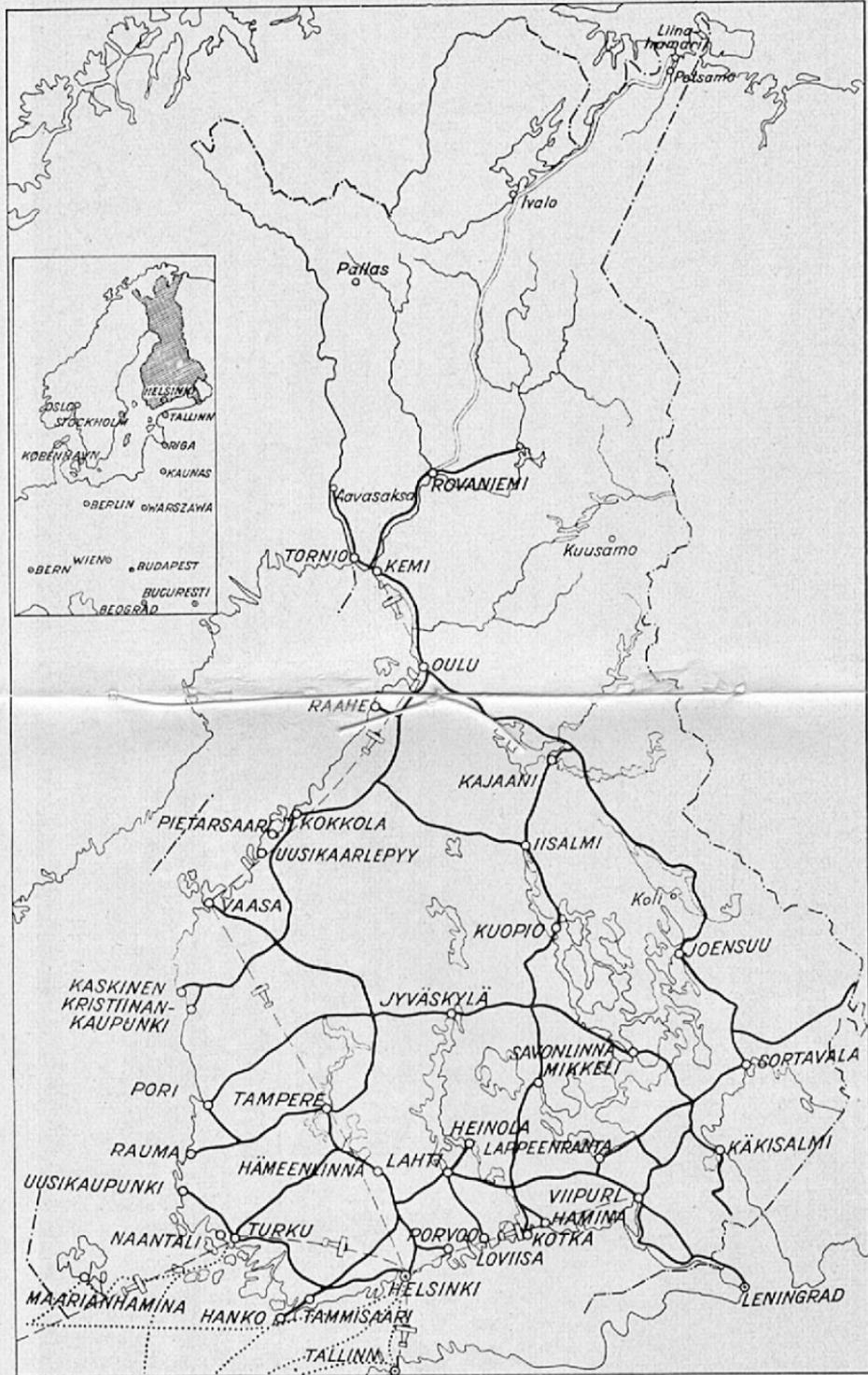
In 1920 total expenditure amounted to 2,089 million marks, in 1930 to 4,508 million and in 1937 to 5,898 million. It has thus nearly trebled in the space of twenty years.

The average yearly expenditure during the 10-year period 1928—1937 was 3,924 million marks. The defence forces absorbed an average of 502 million annually, and education, absorbing 494 million, about the same. 379 million went yearly to redemption of debt and interest.

Revenue has necessarily grown with expenditure and the proceeds from State taxation have, in round figures, corresponded with ordinary expenditure. The national debt, which in 1932 stood at 6,000 million marks, has been



Modern wood working mills at Kuusankoski





Office building in Helsinki

steadily decreased year by year and now amounts to about 3,600 million only. Of this sum a bare 1,000 million is foreign debt.

A special feature of Finnish State finances is that the assets of the State are many times larger than the national debt. At the end of 1936 the former were estimated at 13,000 million marks. The State railways represent one-half of this sum and its forest holdings 2,000 million marks. In addition to the railways, forests and land properties, the state also owns a number of sawmills and pulp mills, a copper mine and concentrating unit, the alcohol company, and sulphuric acid and superphosphate works. The revenue yielded by these sources in 1937 came to an aggregate of nearly 800 million marks.

Not only the National Debt, but the country's foreign debt also, have shrunk. During 1931, at the height of the depression, the figure for the latter was approximately 9,200; whereas it stands today at 2,870 millions.

The position of women

IN the work carried out in Finland during the period of Russian rule, when every effort was being made to awaken the national consciousness and raise the cultural and economic standard of the country, Finnish men and women laboured side by side. How, indeed, could it have been otherwise in a land where the «Kalevala», the national epic poem, sings, alongside of the mighty deeds of heroes, of womanly thrift and energy on behalf of their menfolk and where women of the type of Runeberg's Lotta-Svärd followed their husbands and sons through all the dangers of the long wars of those times. Woman in such a country stands on an equal plane with man.

Thus has a Finnish woman described the position of her sex in her country.

Women have had the vote since 1906 and the number of women members of Parliament has varied between 16 and 25. In 1926 a woman was made a member of the Cabinet for the first time, nor is there any reason in law why a woman should not be elected President of the Republic. With certain rare exceptions all the offices of state are open to her and, in general, women civil servants receive the same salaries as men in similar positions. Women in business are, in the main, not so well paid as men, but enterprises founded by women have been attended with a considerable degree of success. There are many women in the professions and they have held professorial chairs at the Universities. Nearly one-third of the undergraduates at Helsinki University are women.

Finland has a number of organisations run specially for women. The first of its kind in the world is the Lotta-Svärd Association, a voluntary women's national defence corps, which has about 100,000 members. This institution has served as a model to the women of many other countries where similar bodies have subsequently been established.

Education

UNDER the Ecclesiastical Act of 1686 no clerk in holy orders was permitted to marry any persons unable to read. As elementary education was also in the hands of the clergy, literacy has been a generally accomplished fact ever since the eighteenth century.

Owing to the opposition of the Russians, then masters of Finland, to legislation aimed at making education

compulsory, the latter did not come into force until 1921. School must now be attended from the age of 7 onwards and the school period lasts from 6 to 7 years.

The following are the figures for the composition of the Primary State Schools: —

	<i>Teachers</i>	<i>Pupils</i>
1921	7,732	269,189
1937	13,527	480,413

Of the pupils attending these schools, 92 % are Finnish-speaking and 8 % Swedish speaking. Tuition in the latter is in Swedish throughout, nor is Finnish even included in the curriculum.

Up to the middle of the last century secondary school education was entirely in the Swedish language. The first Finnish school of this nature was founded in 1858.

There are today 218 secondary schools in the country, of which 175 are Finnish-speaking and 43 Swedish-speaking; the details of their composition are: —

	<i>Teachers</i>	<i>Pupils</i>
1921	2,380	32,511
1937	3,296	50,580

83 % of the pupils are Finnish-speaking and 17 % Swedish-speaking.

High school education is provided by 57 colleges and 44 trade schools. Commercial and technical education of various kinds is in the hands of a number of commercial, industrial, agricultural and forestry colleges.

The first university was founded in 1640. There are now three, namely, the Helsinki State University and two private universities in Turku, one of them being Swedish-speaking. There are also a Technical College,

and two Commercial Colleges in Helsinki; a Swedish-speaking Commercial College in Turku; and an Pedagogic Institute in Jyväskylä. In 1938 a total of 6,500 students were pursuing advanced studies at these establishments.

The press

THE earliest newspapers were published in Turku between 1770 and 1780. They were short-lived and ceased publication after a few years. It was not until after 1820 that periodicals of any importance appeared. The place of honour in the history of the Finnish press must be given to the periodical «Saima», published in Swedish by J. V. Snellman in Kuopio between the years 1844 and 1846.

«Saima» demanded the elevation of the Finnish language to the position Snellman considered it was entitled to as that of the majority of the population. Illustrative of the conditions ruling in those days was the fact that Snellman's publication, «Maamiehen Ystävä», which appeared in 1844—45, was for some time the only newspaper printed in Finnish in the whole country.

By 1876 there were in Finland 23 Finnish newspapers and the same number published in Swedish.

Today Finnish newspapers number some 190, the figure for Swedish being somewhat over 20.

The largest of them, and those with the widest circulations, are «Helsingin Sanomat», «Uusi Suomi», «Hufvudstadsbladet» and «Suomen Sosiaalidemokraatti» in Helsinki, «Karjala» in Viipuri, «Aamulehti» in Tampere and «Turun Sanomat» in Turku.

The newspapers are mostly party organs and are supporters of the political creeds and activities of some

parliamentary party; they are not, however, owned by those parties. Another Finnish journalistic peculiarity is that street sales are quite small, circulation on yearly subscription terms being the general rule. The postal authorities deal with about 240,000,000 newspapers in this way. The press has complete freedom, there being no censorship.

Leading articles are in general unsigned, as in Scandinavia and England. All the larger dailies are profusely illustrated.

English, Swedish, German, French newspapers, etc. are sold in the larger bookshops and at station bookstalls.

Literature in the Finnish language

WESTERN culture has become domiciled in Finland both in the Finnish and Swedish languages and has in the course of time acquired a distinct national character that is traceable in the whole intellectual life of the country, above all in its literature.

The first book in the Finnish language was printed in 1542 or 1543. Since then about 100,000 works have been published. The most rapid and varied growth of literature in the Finnish language occurred at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries.

The most original and important work in the Finnish language is the *Kalevala*, the Finnish national epic compiled from verbally preserved ancient runes of the people. It was edited by *Elias Lönnrot*, the «Finnish Homer», and published in 1835. It has been translated into most civilised languages.

The most powerful and imaginative Finnish author was *Aleksis Kivi* who wrote in the 1860's. His great novel »*Seitsemän Veljestä*» (The Seven Brothers) and his comedy »*Nummisuutarit*» (»The Heath Shoemakers») are among the most lasting products of Finnish literature and have been translated into many languages.

The principal representatives of later literature are *Juhani Aho*, *Arvid Järnefelt*, *Johannes Linnankoski*, *Eino Leino* and *Joel Lehtonen*. Of these Aho was the leading prose writer and greatest stylist of his day; Eino Leino was a gifted lyricist whose best work consisted of ballads and legends imbued with primitive force. Järnefelt and Linnankoski were profound idealists, while Lehtonen was a realist and vigorous humourist. *Ilmari Kianto*, who depicts the life of the people, is spiritually related to Lehtonen.

Among women writers *Minna Canth* was a dramatist inclined towards tendentiousness at the end of last century. The best-known contemporary authoresses are the novelists *Maila Talvio*, *Aino Kallas* and *Maria Jotuni*, the latter also being an outstanding playwright.

The most representative authors of the present day are the novelists *F. E. Sillanpää*, *Artturi Leinonen*, *Toivo Pekkanen* and *Mika Valtari*, and the poets *Otto Manninen*, *V. A. Koskenniemi*, *Uuno Kailas* and *Larin Kyösti*. Sillanpää's vivid lyrical and epic prose has become known by translation and is much admired in many countries. Pekkanen's description of the life of the working classes and Leinonen's and Valtari's full-blooded and racy prose enjoy great popularity in their own country. The depth and intellectuality of Manninen's poetry, Koskenniemi's

cult of harmonious forms, Kaila's sombre tragic colouring and Larin Kyösti's delicate nationalism illustrate the varied treasures of Finnish poetry.

Literature in the Swedish language

IN the past, when Swedish was the language of instruction and culture and the only official language, books were mostly published in that language. In the first half of last century the principal Finnish authors still wrote in Swedish, as, for instance, the national poet *J. L. Runeberg*, the author of the national anthem «Our Land»; the delicate and imaginative romanticist *Zacharias Topelius* and the great revivalist of Finnish nationalism, the philosopher *J. V. Snellman*, all of whom, as well as *Elias Lönnrot*, are honoured by the Finnish nation as great men of the period of national revival.

The strong naturalistic artist and lyricist *K. A. Tavaststjerna* made his appearance at the end of the century.

Literature in the Swedish language still retains its vigour. Its greatest achievements are in the realm of poetry and to some extent, too, in narrative literature.

The following are the most representative names: *Mikael Lybeck*, who was a delicate lyricist and stylist; *Hjalmar Procopé*, who was celebrated for his profound and warmhearted idealism; *Arvid Mörne*, the depicter of clear-cut coastline and island scenery; *Bertel Gripenberg*, who sings of love and heroism with echoing rhythm and brightness; and *Emil Ziliacus* the fine connoisseur and student of Ancient Greece.

Edith Södergran, who died young, should be mentioned as a full-blooded modernist and *Elmer*

Diktonius as a many-faceted expressionist. *Jarl Hemmer*, *Hagar Olsson* and *Sally Salminen*, among others, have made a name for themselves as novelists.

Music

OF all the arts music is the most universal, delicate and subtle. To be convinced of this one has only to listen to the symphonies, songs, piano compositions as well as violin concertos of *Jean Sibelius*. His works portray the beauty of nature with austerity and lyricism combining a richness of colour and cosmic understanding with their rhythm.

Selim Palmgren is a composer of great delicacy who has expressed his talents in the writing of part songs and compositions for the piano.

Toivo Kuula who died as a young man wrote music which deeply reflects the Finnish national spirit and in which a thoroughly human heartbeat may be felt. — *Leevi Madetoja* has composed two very excellent operas, ingenious in their virile strength and masterly orchestration.

Among the group of younger living composers may be mentioned the name of *Yrjö Kilpinen* whose fame as a writer of songs is steadily growing greater and that of *Uno Klami* whose compositions are inspired by sparkling buoyancy.

Architecture

THE art of building reached a high plane in the Middle-Ages. The numerous grey churches of granite that are found today in the south-west, date from that period.

The most impressive of them is *Turku Cathedral* whose 700-year history may be likewise considered that of Finland.

The mediaeval castles of *Turku*, *Viipuri* and *Olavinlinna* are also specific examples of the builder's art.

Helsinki has a number of public buildings designed during the course of the last century by C. L. Engel. The majority of these are to be found in the vicinity of Suurtori Square and impress the passer-by with their neo-classical style.

The greatest figure among modern Finnish architects is *Elieel Saarinen*. Of the excellency of his works the Helsinki railway station bears witness.

The Helsinki Diet Building is also certain to attract the attention of visitors to Finland. It is the work of *J. S. Sirén*.

Many of the younger living architects are representatives of modern international functionalism.

Painting

THE most important works in this category of the arts are the mural paintings in certain mediaeval churches, where the joys of heaven and the pains of hell are depicted in primitive naturalistic style. The puritanic intolerance of the Reformation, however, was extended to a large part of them and only by dint of difficult and extensive restoration has it been possible to remove the layers of paint with which they had been covered.

The best-known of the later Finnish artists are *Verner Holmberg* (1830—60), *Fanny Churberg* (1845—92), *Albert Edelfelt*, (1854—1905) *Akseli Gallen-Kallela* (1865—1931) and *Magnus Enckell* (1870—1925).

The prominent names among modern painters are *Helena Schjerfbeck*, *Juho Rissanen* and *T. K. Sallinen*. Schjerfbeck is a mystic, the depth of colour and the sensitiveness of whose works have something of the clairvoyance in them. The every-day life compositions of Rissanen are masterpieces of the humoristic style of treatment and Sallinen is an artist in colour whose paintings suggest the unleashing of almost uncontrollable forces.

The work of all these, and of many other Finnish painters, is to be seen in the art galleries of Helsinki, Turku, Viipuri, Tampere and Vaasa.

Sculpture

HERE are at the present time two sculptors whose works cannot fail to be seen by the visitor to Finland. One of them is *Väinö Aaltonen*, whose sculptures adorn many of the public buildings in Helsinki and other towns such as Turku, Tampere and Savonlinna. He is one of the few artists of our time capable of carving delicate sculpture out of granite material. The bronze statue of Paavo Nurmi is one of his most famous works.

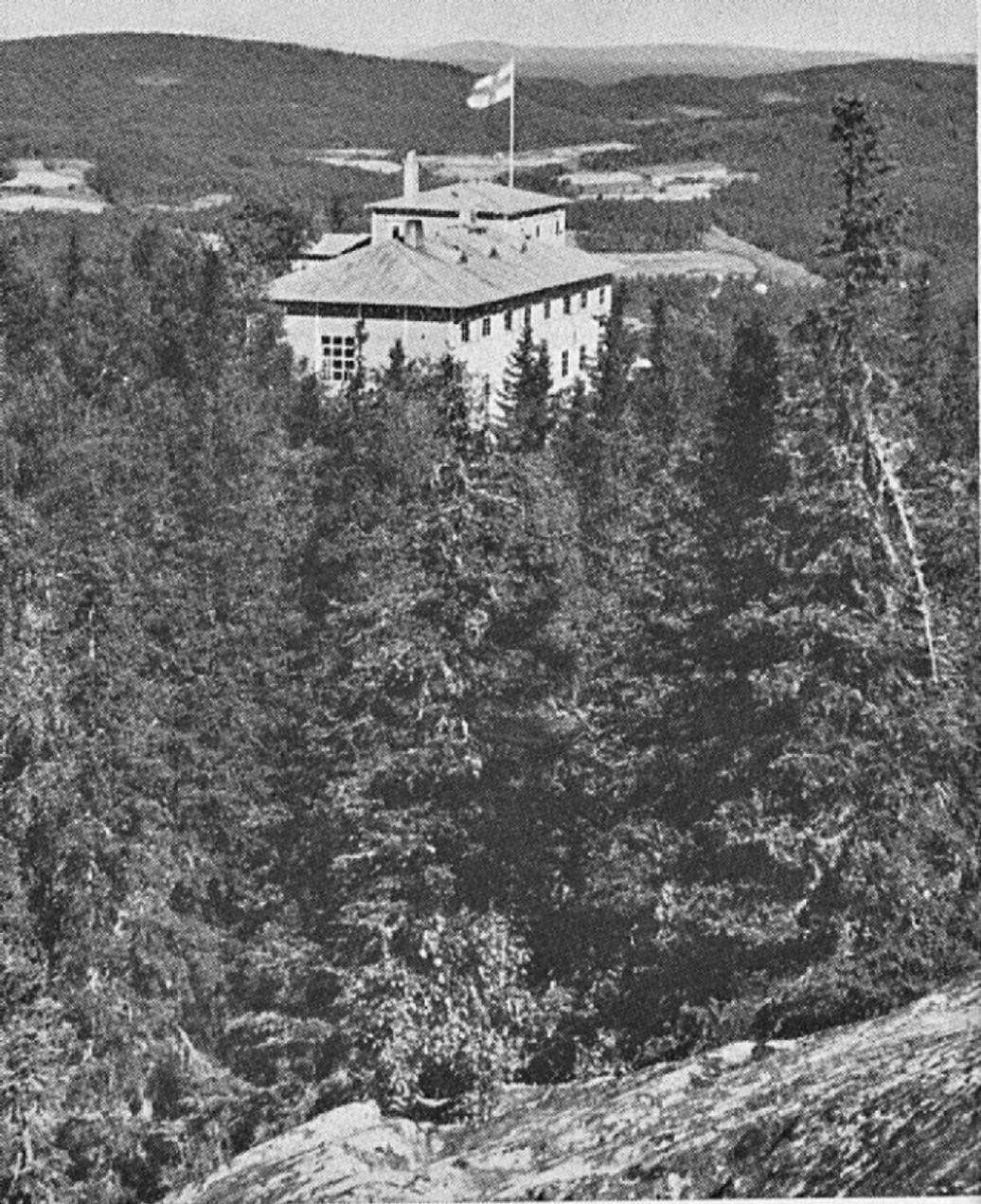
Jussi Mäntynen is an animal sculptor who is represented in many of the public parks of the country. His animal compositions show a great depth of feeling and a rare ability to interpret natural subjects in plastic form.

Travel

FINLAND has gradually begun to attract to her shores an increasing number of tourists. The number of foreign visitors has been as follows:—



Lake scenery in central Finland



Tourist hotel at Koli

1924	21,253
1927	30,163
1932	37,631
1937	87,807
1938	93,988

Most of the foreign tourists are Swedish. Second place is taken by the Estonians, followed by the Germans, the British and the Americans; lower on the list come the Norwegians, Danes, Latvians, Poles and French.

Foreigners consider it remarkable that a country situated as far north as Finland has been able to achieve results in the economic and cultural fields comparable with those of the sunnier of the civilised nations. The traveller is nevertheless afforded the spectacle of the varying manifestations of a combination of human endeavour and unspoilt nature. In South-West Finland, for example, signs of the tillage and husbandry carried on a thousand years ago are still visible. Old churches and manor houses bear witness to the fact that Finland belonged to the cultural lands of Western Europe. In close proximity to the more highly developed regions is the Finnish Archipelago, one of the most remarkable features to be found anywhere on the globe. This archipelago is famous for its beauty.

Then there are the rivers and watercourses of Central and East Finland, whose beauty during the long, bright summer nights has something of the ethereal. Mills and factories that are the last word in modernity have been built along their banks, but there are also to be found romantic castles and old ruins.

Across North Finland runs the only Arctic highway in the world. To it streams a constant procession of travellers tired of the bustle of big cities.

As the number of tourists has increased, so it has proved possible to build modern hotels and inns along the more popular of the routes. Cheapness allied with comfort combine to render pleasant the stay of the visitor to these hotels.

Tourist centres

MOST visitors to Finland arrive either at Helsinki or Turku.

These two towns, the present and former capitals respectively, are travel centres in which the acquaintance can conveniently be made of Finnish cultural life in its many forms. From these cities it is at the same time easy to plan long or short trips by sea or land to the archipelago or the interior. From Helsinki, for example, a visit can without difficulty be made to the idyllic town of Porvoo or the seaside resort of Hanko. If the visitor is in Turku, on the other hand, he should not fail to see Naantali, Finland's smallest town, or the Turku Archipelago.

Viipuri is the old trade centre of East Finland and the route of many travellers to Koli and Savonlinna leads through it. The tourist can spend many days travelling in the lake steamers up and down the river and lake districts lying between Joensuu and Kuopio. The latter has become a very important tourist traffic centre.

In Central Finland there is a chain of lakes that starts from Lahti and continues up to Jyväskylä. Lake Päijänne, the largest of them, has been described as the most beautiful in the country.

In the north the traffic routes lie through completely barren regions, although the traveller never loses touch with civilisation for long. Sotkamo and Kuusamo are

the gates to an endless succession of forest land and waterways, where the tourist can find peace and solitude. Such is the spell exercised by Petsamo, the most northern of the Finnish provinces, that many visitors return there again and again.

In the south, again, Tampere is a focus of traffic that never fails to astonish visitors by reason of its beautiful situation and its variety as an industrial town.

The regular literature on the subject of touring and travel gives full particulars of all that the visitor may require in this connection. The Finnish Tourist Association will assist him in planning a route. In a number of the provincial towns, e.g. Turku, Tampere and Kuopio, there are also local travel agencies that will be only too pleased to give him advice.

National defense

IN Finland compulsory military service is in force. The period of service is one year.

The size of the regular army is about 30,000 men, that of the voluntary forces some 100,000 men; in addition to which the voluntary Lotta-Svärd Association has a membership of nearly 100,000 women.

The determination of the nation to defend itself is manifested in the existence of both the Civic Guard and the Lotta-Svärd organisations. Should war break out, women will immediately take over a number of the tasks normally carried out by their menfolk.

The Civic Guard and Lotta-Svärd have served as models for many other nations that have since established similar voluntary defence organisations.

Sport

THE Finns are instinctively drawn to sport. The character of the people and external conditions have combined to make just those forms of sport which demand stamina and strength a Finnish speciality.

Skiing has its immemorial national traditions and may be considered as the national sport of Finland. Skis were originally a Finnish invention. Regular ski races have been organized for already about 50 years. In another winter sport — skating — the Finns have also reached the front rank.

Finland's most popular form of summer sport is field and track athletics. Dating from the 1912 Olympic Games in Stockholm, Finland has maintained her place among the leading nations in this form of sport, proof of which is provided by her 37 Olympic Gold Medals. Finland's long-distance runners, the greatest of whom is Paavo Nurmi, have attracted particular attention. In many other events too the Finns have won renown at international meetings.

Wrestling is based on an ancient national sport and was given its most regular forms at the beginning of the present century. In Greek-Roman wrestling Finland has established her own methods which are even now taught in other countries by Finnish trainers. The many Gold Medals won at Olympiads by Finnish wrestlers attest to the standard of the sport in this country.

In gymnastics, both for men and women, Finland has from time to time played the part of a pioneer. The Finnish trend in gymnastics has received considerable recognition, and in athletics Finland has many representatives who have competed with great success at international meetings.

Football, too, is popular, although Finland has also her own ball game — »pesäpallo» — a local form of American baseball.

Rifle and revolver shooting have numerous devotees, particularly among the Civic Guard, and Finland is now one of the leading countries in this form of sport.

In 1940, Finland has the honour of organizing the Olympic Games. When the decision to award the Games to Helsinki was made, only two years remained for preparations. In spite of this short notice, Finland nevertheless believes herself capable of carrying out this honourable task with success. This is made possible by the fact that the entire Finnish nation is giving its support.

Finland and Scandinavia

THE inheritance of the centuries has played a decisive part in the formation of Finnish foreign policy. The country's spiritual culture has always been subject to strong influence from Scandinavia, which has likewise had a marked effect upon the development of Finnish economic life. Many statutes of the old Swedish law are still in force and the Swedish constitution was maintained in Finland for more than one hundred years after it had been revised in Sweden.

It is thus readily comprehensible that Finland has adhered to the Northern bloc of states. Its members, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland, desire to remain outside any of the opposing groups of nations and pursue a neutral policy.

Since 1934 Finland has been represented at the conferences of Scandinavian Foreign Ministers, at which

measures for at a co-ordinating of Scandinavian policy are deliberated.

1938 saw the publication of »Le Nord», a quarterly review in which political and other questions affecting the northern countries are discussed in English, French and German.

Outstanding personalities

HONOUR is paid by the Finns to their leaders. Statues have been erected to poets, scientists and artists, and during the Russian rule a memorial was put up in Suurtori Square to the Czar when, in accordance with the Finnish Constitution, he convoked the Diet and agreed to the institution of many important reforms. The statue of Alexander II of Russia is the only memorial to a Sovereign in the whole of Finland.

There are three past Presidents, namely *K. J. Ståhlberg*, *L. Kr. Relander* and *P. E. Svinhufvud*. The present Head of the State, President *Kyösti Kallio*, holds office for the period 1937—1943.

K. J. Ståhlberg is by profession a lawyer and played an important part in organising the present form of government. As an upholder of the law he was a vigorous defender of Finnish rights during the period of Russian oppression.

P. E. Svinhufvud has waged the fight for justice and spent a part of his life in exile in Siberia. He was Head of the Government during the war of independence in 1917—18.

Kyösti Kallio, who now holds the presidential chair, is a farmer who, as Prime Minister on many occasions,

has shown that a man of the people can also possess the stuff of which statesmen and leaders are made.

Field-Marshal *Mannerheim* created a Finnish army out of nothing and in 1918 brought to its termination a war of independence that was also a civil war. During the last twenty years he has won the respect of every section of the community by his work on behalf of national unity in important questions affecting the Republic.

Men of international reputations are Jean Sibelius, in the field of music, Väinö Aaltonen as a sculptor; F. E. Sillanpää as a novelist; Eliel Saarinen as an architect; Edward Westermarck, as a sociologist; A. K. Cajander, the present Prime Minister, for forestry research work; Risto Ryti, in his capacity of Governor of the Bank of Finland; Väinö Tanner, as an expert on the co-operative movement; and Paavo Nurmi on the running track.

Tourist bureaus

Tourists may obtain information from the branches of the Finnish Tourist Association in the following towns: *Helsinki*: 7 a, Aleksanterinkatu, *Kotka*: 9, Kirkkokatu, *Kuopio*: 23, Vuorikatu, *Mikkeli*: Bruno Nurmen Paperikauppa, *Oulu*: 4, Torikatu, *Rovaniemi*: Hotelli Pohjanhovi, *Savonlinna*: Nälkälinna, *Sortavala*: Sortavalan kirjakauppa, *Viipuri*: Railway station.

Local information bureaus are also available to tourists in the following: *Jyväskylä*: Railway station, *Kemi*: Lapin Seuramatkatoimisto, *Kuusamo*: Kansanopisto, *Mariehamn*: 3, Norra Esplanaden, *Tampere*: Railway station, *Terijoki*: Linja-autoasema (Bus station), *Turku*: 14, Linnankatu, *Vaasa*: 11, Hovioikeudenpuistikko.

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Railway fares in Finland

(1st cl. = 2nd cl. + 3rd cl.)

	2. cl.	3. cl.		2. cl.	3. cl.		2. cl.	3. cl.		2. cl.	3. cl.
Kms	Fmk	Fmk	Kms	Fmk	Fmk	Kms	Fmk	Fmk	Kms	Fmk	Fmk
10	4: 50	3: —	80	33: —	22: —	350	125: —	83: —	900	227: —	151: —
20	9: —	6: —	90	36: —	24: —	400	140: —	93: —	1000	242: —	161: —
30	13: —	8: 50	100	41: —	27: —	450	152: —	101: —	1100	257: —	171: —
40	17: 50	11: 50	150	59: —	39: —	500	164: —	109: —	1200	272: —	181: —
50	21: —	14: —	200	77: —	51: —	600	182: —	121: —	1300	287: —	191: —
60	25: —	16: 50	250	93: —	62: —	700	197: —	131: —	1400	302: —	201: —
70	29: —	19: —	300	110: —	73: —	800	212: —	141: —	1500	317: —	211: —

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