

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL  
DISTRICT  
OF  
FINLAND



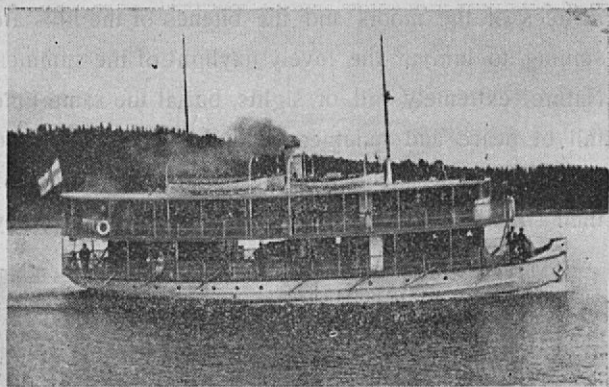
SAVONLINNA 1927  
ETELÄ-SAVON KIRJAPAINO OSAKEYHTIÖ

HELSINGIN  
YLIOPISTON  
KIRJASTO

HELSINKI  
NOTES  
KIVISTO



The bend of Koukunvirta



S/s Heinävesi II

A tourist, if wishing to see some of the most original and beautiful Finnish scenery and desiring to spend a bright night and a golden morning within the magic sphere of this beauty, ought to make a tour to the province of Savolax in the interior of Finland.

Hundreds of blue lakes — sometimes rather expansive — islands, sounds, miniature headlands and bays attract and exalt the mind of the spectator. The

fir-trees of the moors and the birches of the hills are smiling to him in the lovely daylight of the summer. Nature, extremely full of sights, but at the same time full of peace and quietness, bids him welcome. And the people of the landscape regard the tourist as their friend. With a kind and hearty smile they



A typical landscape

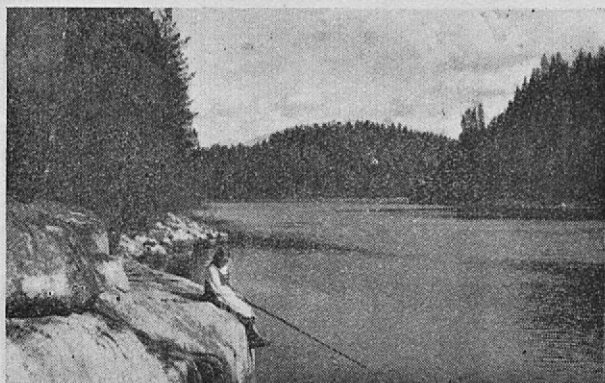
greet him with a „How do you do“ at the first meeting. He is everywhere at ease.

There are many famous places in Savolax. You may go on shore at Punkaharju, a level ridge between the lakes of Saima and Puruvesi, or ascend the Puijo mountain. In the castle of St. Olof (in Nyslott — Savonlinna) the visitor can spend an interesting hour,

sunk in reveries which take him back several centuries.

The tourist who omits the Heinävesi route, the best of all the many beautiful routes, will regret the omission.

But why should he omit it! For on his way



A typical landscape on the route

south from Kuopio, or from Nyslott in the opposite direction, he may at either place start on this wonderful route. It does not require very much time, for it costs only one sleepless night. The remembrance and experience of that trip will never be forgotten.

The Heinävesi route, by which name the waterway

east of the big island of Soisalo has lately been called, connects Kuopio and Nyslott, the two traffic centers of Savolax. The spacious first-class passenger steamers „Heinävesi I“ and „Heinävesi II“ run daily in both directions.

When on a summers day the traveller leaves Ny-



A landscape on the route

slott on one of the Heinävesi steamers he soon enters the sound of Kyrönsalmi and sees the imposing castle of St. Olof (Olavinlinna). Five minutes later he is out on open Haapavesi and is experiencing the same thrills as on the Great Saima. The shore is however more sandy and the beautiful islands less rocky. Gradually Haukivesi lies extended before the

enraptured eyes of the tourist. Again the same soft verdure! He is exalted by the beauty of Nature. Arriving after an hour or two at the Oravi Canal, he remembers scarcely anything else than the blue charming bridge he has left behind him.

But all this is only the beginning of the tour. From the Oravi Canal — a water-way resembling a park-avenue —, through which the steamer slowly glides, one enters the proper Haukivesi route. The water grows narrower and the landscape becomes still greener and more luxuriant. The steamer goes round many tongues of land and passes by many islands. Only here and there a small arable and pasture land breaks the primitiveness of Nature. Few calls are made on the journey, so that the tourist may for an hour or two be quite undisturbed in a reverie.

But the navigable channels get still narrower. Towards evening the smaller bays also grow less and the steamer enters narrow winding water-courses. It passes by Vaaluvirta and then a straight long river begins. There, in a small firgrove stands a red bungalow, which the friendly captain of the steamer tells you gladly, that it belongs to General Jalander, the governor of the province of Nyland. Here on a silent summers-evening one could listen to the brilliant



execution of Madame Aino Ackté-Jalander, the most celebrated Finnish singer, but now there is no time for the steamboat hurries forward. The chemist in Kiuruvesi, whose villa is situated at the bend of Koukunvirta, will probably be for the present her only permanent listener. With a sigh the spectator sees



S/s Heinävesi I at Koukunvirta

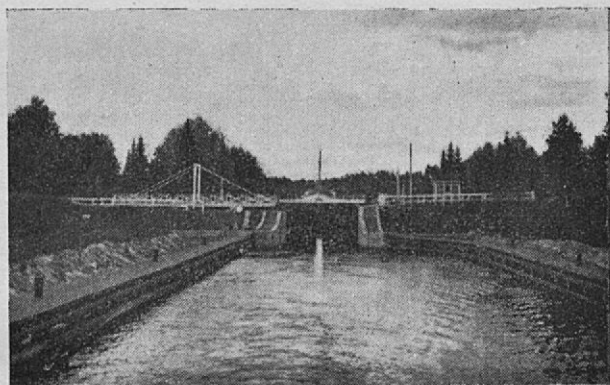
this little pretty community pass out of sight, as well as the place where the late famous Finnish author Juhani Aho composed so many of his fine salmon essays.

While the sun is gradually setting, the course leads through the Pilppa Canal. The steamer has now to pass such narrow streams that an agile passenger



could easily jump on to the shore. Somewhere here the steamer meets her sistership and the customary greetings are exchanged.

In the canals of Vihovuonne and Kerma you are in a position to make the acquaintance of the log-floating men and the country-people collecting at the

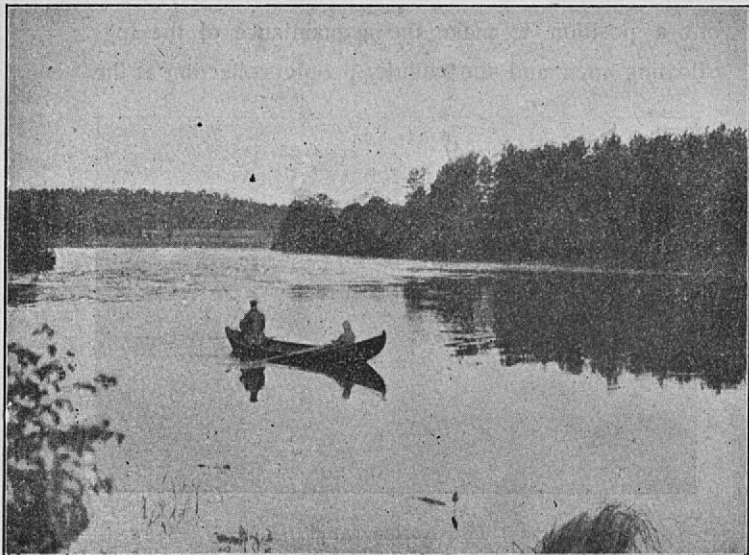


The Kerma canal

landing-stage. At sunset the rush of the neighbouring streams sounds like a deep sigh of nature after a hot and suffocating day.

But the tourist does not sigh, nor does he feel tired, not even at the harbour of the church of Heinävesi, where the steamer has to pass the night. Together with the other passengers he surely goes

on shore and ascends the slope up to the church, the highest spot of the place. For his trouble he will amply be rewarded, for the view over Kerma-



A salmon fishery in the stream of Pilppa järvi lake is unique and wide. With pleasure he is going to spend a mild midnight on the church-steps. His recollection goes back to the most delightful hours of his life and to them he will certainly add this moment too.

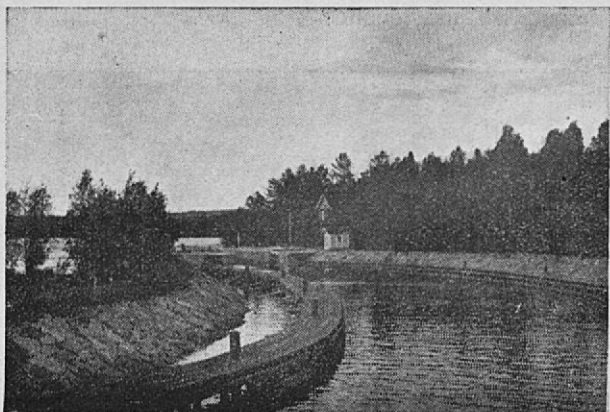
When returning to the landing-place he is welcome to make use of a Finnish steam-bath with new, fragrant burch-tufts. After having taking the bath, which pricks and cuts the skin, he may enjoy a bath in the cool water of the lake. What more can a man wish and require?



A Finnish bath-house

No sooner has he gone to bed than the signal for starting is given. Now it is 2 o'clock. After half an hour or so the steamer enters the Karvio Canal. No one thinks of sleeping: everybody hurries out! There again roars a rapid! Above it the voyage begins against the river. The rising sun gilds the

environs of Varisvesi and Palokki, which are passed by in haste. There is not even time enough to look closer at the magnificent canal buildings of Juojärvi, nor to pay a visit to Otto Kotilainen, the composer,



The Pilppa canal

whose bungalow stands there in the birch-grove on the bank.

But these views vanish by and by in the distance and others more splendid, but attractive in a different way lie extended before the fascinated eyes of the spectator. He who has once seen the beautiful neighbourhoods of Leppäsaari in the golden dawn of day

has beheld something ever-memorable, a charming and sweet, piece of virgin Nature.

In the light of the rising sun the views are again widening, glorious scenery is offered the tourist by the extensive bight of Suvasvesi, the southern shore of which can hardly be made out. The prow now



S/s Heinävesi II in the Pilppa canal

points to Kuopio, and the hill of Kukkarinsaari, which is quite unique in this neighbourhood for it rises in the form of a cone. Certainly it is a good sea-mark, but too narrow to serve as shelter against wind and waves. When there is a strong wind, the waves run so high at Kukkari that one can get a taste of the sea. But there is no gale of wind to break in

upon the silence and calm of the course, for now it is the height of summer. Ere long the Kukkari is behind us.

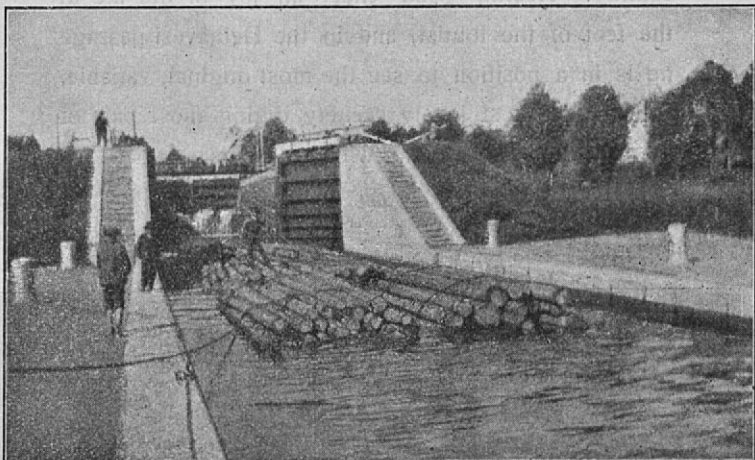
In the early morning the luxuriant shores of Wehmersalmi, its church and parsonage are passed, while the farmers are going to their day's work. Some of them come on board. Even in the bustle of the middle of the summer some important business compels them to visit the provincial capital on the shores of Kallavesi.

„Oh, Kallavesi, Kallavesi, with thy innumerable islets and sounds“.

It is not a little pleasure to sit on the deck of the steamer which is cutting through the limpid waves of Kallavesi. There at some distance the Puijo mountain towers aloft! At the foot of it the blue smoke from the town of Kuopio is already discernible, first like a faint vapour, but more clearly as each moment passes away. It is already possible to see some white houses, chimneys of the works, and the church-tower of the town.

The steamer arrives at Kuopio. A glorious route is ended, but the impressions conveyed to the tourist during the journey, captivate his mind a long time afterwards.

In case the traveller also desires to make a trip to Joensuu and the Koli mountain, he has only to continue his course with the steamer „Tapio“ starting from the port of Kuopio, which steamer also belongs to the same steamship company as „Heinävesi I and



A log floating in the Juojärvi canal

II“. The boat is quite new, roomy and tidy like the first-mentioned. Along the same passage Kalla- and Suvasvesi the s/s Tapio takes him to the fine Juojärvi canal and then forwards to Pöytälahti, from which place the journey can be continued either by motor-car or steamer to Joensuu. The steamer reaches



its destination the following morning. For the present there does not exist any faster means of communication on this route. To travel in the opposite direction is equally as convenient.

Finally: everywhere Nature is beautiful in this country. Health, good cheer and joy of life are at the feet of the tourist, and in the Heinävesi passage he is in a position to see the most original, variable, softest and most lovely scenery during most part of the route. A trip here will be a great experience to him.



The rapids of Palokki