

Finland Paying Debt to Soviets, Emerging Stronger Than Ever

HELSINKI, Finland (AP)—Finland, tiny in population, but mighty in national spirit, completes paying off a heavy reparations debt to the Soviet Union Sept. 19 — and will come out of it better off than World War II.

While some Finns dream of lower taxes and an easier life, many more—the government included—have different plans. The government of Premier Urho Kekkonen hopes to keep up the present high taxes, and is confident of selling that idea to the population. It would permit a program of industrialization of Finland's great forested northland. In 10 years the government hopes, this money can build for Finland an economy which will flourish as it never has before in this land.

Uphill Climb
Eight years of reparations payments have represented a tough, uphill climb for the plucky nation of four million who have built a world-wide reputation for paying their debts.

While Finland paid — and on time—she walked a precarious tightrope between East and West, fiercely guarding her own independence but perpetually worried that forces beyond her control would deal a death blow to her independence.

In the armistice agreement of 1944 Finland was required to pay the Soviet Union reparations in goods valued at 300 millions in gold at international market prices prevailing in 1938. The agreement to pay at 1938 values increased the reparations burden by at least 50 per cent, perhaps by much more.

Debt Reduced
The original agreement was six annual payments of 50 millions in goods a year. Later the USSR extended the payment period to eight years, and after July, 1946, the Russians cancelled 50 per cent of the reparations debt then unpaid, or a total reduction of 73 1/2 millions.

Despite the fact that before the war Finland imported many times more metal products than she exported, the reparations agreement called for payment of three fifths of the reparations in metal and cable products. Only a third of the reparations was made up of forest industry product, the bulk of Finnish prewar exports.

The plucky Finns turned this hardship into an advantage. Stimulated by the Soviet reparations demands, there was a revolution in Finland's foundry and shipyard industries. The metal products output doubled that of 1938. The number of persons employed in shops and plants doubled. Finland began turning out woodworking industry machines, rail engines, rail cars, electric motors and the like at a brisk pace.



Logs like these were formerly Finland's main resource. Now the country has gone far toward industrialization.

New Market Sought

Now, with the end of reparations payments just around the corner, Finland will be looking for new markets. Undoubtedly the Russians will continue to buy some of the goods they have taken up to now as reparations. In 1950 Finland signed a five-year trade agreement with the Soviet Union, and her metal products, wood products, ships, rail cars and the like will continue to flow eastward.

But Finland is a big exporter of wood products to the west. England is her biggest customer and also provides Finland with the largest share of this country's imports. The Soviet Union is the second largest exporter to Finland, the second largest buyer of Finnish goods is West Germany.

Today Finland's foreign trade is on the upswing. The country has no unemployed. In fact, there is a shortage of labor, particularly in the northern timber industries. Living standards are higher than in prewar 1938. Prices are high, but so are wages. Only Communists say the Finnish worker today can not buy more with his wage than he could in 1938.

The big Finnish worry—and it is shared by all the population—is the clash between the eastern and western worlds. Finland devoutly wants to remain neutral, to cling to her independence, to trade with both sides and to keep building herself up, somewhat like a Switzerland of the North.

Treaty Important

Finland's foreign policy is built around her neutrality treaty with the Soviet Union. This treaty stipulates that if Finland is attacked, or if the USSR is attacked through Finnish territory by Germany or any state allied with Germany, the Finns will fight to repel the attack, and the Soviet Union will go to the aid of the Finns. The treaty calls for consultations on the threat of aggression from the outside. It also pledges mutual respect for each party's sovereignty.

Thus, Finns understandably look with some nervousness westward—for example, in the direction of Norway. Norwegian fortifications along the border, plus Norway's adherence to the Atlantic Pact, might one day be interpreted by the Soviet Union as a threat of aggression requiring the consultations called for in the Finnish-Soviet treaty.

Finnish relations with the West remain good. With the Soviet Union her relations in recent months, since the advent of Premier Kekkonen's government, have been correct. The Finns occupy a curious position in postwar Europe. Defeated by the Russians, Finland got off with reparations and a few territorial concessions.

The flukes of the tails of whales are horizontal; those of fishes vertical.

Scolded Runaway Slips Home While Search Goes On

TOLEDO, Ore. (AP)—A 9-year-old girl was found asleep in her own bed early Thursday after some 75 volunteers had searched for her for hours.

The girl, Florence Scott, ran away from home Wednesday after firemen scolded her for turning in two false alarms. When she failed to return by evening a search party of state and city police, sheriff's officers and volunteers began combing the bramble-covered hills near her home.

Finally Sheriff Timothy Whelp decided to take a look in Florence's room. Sure enough, she was there sound asleep. She explained that she had slipped back home while the searchers were beating through the brush.

Games, Swim Program Busy At YM Camp

CAMP SILVER CREEK — "Little Olympic Games" to climax the older boys' two-weeks outing at Salem YMCA's Camp Silver Creek began Thursday, after all boys were back from trips.

The camp will close Saturday. The trip programs have included 10 boys and two leaders at Suttle Lake with canoes, 15 boys and two leaders hiking to several lakes along the Skyline Trail.

This week the swimming pool finally warmed up enough to start swimming lessons for beginners and intermediates, and the pond has been elected.

Leaders elected by the boys during the two weeks were Kurt Englestead and Tom Turner as governors; Steve Hoffman, Mike Ray and Buzz Peterson, lieutenant governors; Stevie Little and Mike Vidios, postmasters.

CITY MANAGER MOVES

THE DALLES (AP)—A new city manager probably will be named by the City Council in two weeks, Mayor Marshall Nelson said Thursday. He will succeed Loyd Brady, who resigned to become Monrovia, Calif., city manager.

Valley Obituary

Alexander T. Glenn

MT. ANGEL — Funeral services were held at the Simmons Cemetery here Thursday morning for Alexander Thomas Glenn, who was found dead Wednesday.

Glenn had apparently been dead about two days. He is survived by three sisters in Los Angeles and has a brother in Iowa. A veteran of the Spanish American War, he had lived at Morton's Corner, northeast of here, for about two years.

Aids Clark



LONDON — Parliament has announced the appointment of Maj. Gen. Stephen N. Shoosmith (above) as deputy chief of staff to Gen. Mark Clark, Allied military commander in the Far East. Gen. Shoosmith's post assures Great Britain of top level representation in Korean war strategy. (AP Wirephoto to The Statesman.)

Six Dead in Gale, Six Hurt at Nome

NOME (AP)—Six members of the crew of a military tanker were lost Thursday when their small ship-to-shore boat capsized in a sudden gale.

Six survivors were hospitalized. One man washed ashore staggered to the police station to give the alarm. Nome has no harbor and sudden Bering Sea storms lash the coast and endanger ships or boats anchored offshore.

Burning Tires Get Attention

There was more smoke than fire at the Salem city dump, east of Four Corners, Thursday evening because tires were being burned.

Residents of the eastern section of the city reported the thick, black smoke rising skyward, but the Four Corners fire department said it was just one of the normal fires at the dump, which provided more than the normal amount of smoke.

Humming birds have been observed to fly as fast as an automobile traveling 60 miles an hour.

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AFROTC Unit Shift Reported

Willamette University Air Force Reserve Officer Training unit today becomes a part of the Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., the world's largest educational institution. The program is being transferred from Continental Air Command and its four numbered air forces to the university system.

A new national headquarters of the AFROTC is being opened in Montgomery, Ala., according to Maj. Norman W. Campion, Willamette AFROTC director. The transfer will involve AFROTC units of 188 colleges and universities. Brig. Gen. Matthew K. Deichelmann, new national director, announced a new curriculum is being developed, more generalized than before.

Death Claims Man in Church

TEXARKANA, Ark. (AP)—Testifying Wednesday night at services in a Baptist Church at nearby Doddridge, Ark., Henry Field urged his listeners to dedicate themselves and prepare for death.

"If it wasn't for the commotion it would cause," he said, "I'd like to go right here in my church."

He slumped backwards dead. Field's death was attributed to a heart attack.

Wheat Pours From Elevator

THE DALLES (AP)—Workmen Thursday salvaged most of the 31,000 bushels of wheat that poured out of a grain elevator when a 50-foot section of a concrete wall collapsed.

Officials of the Moro Grain Growers Association said little loss was expected because of the dry weather. The 120-foot elevator at Hay Canyon in Sherman County was built in 1950.

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