

Population Migration in Scandanavian Countries Creating Social Revolution

(Editor's note: This is another in a series of articles written for The Mail Tribune by Walter Mattila, Portland newspaperman now visiting in the Scandinavian countries.)

By WALTER MATTILA
Mail Tribune Special Writer

Oslo, Norway—(By Air Mail)—Peasants in Scandinavia are moving to the cities in the greatest population shift since the huge migrations to America.

Since World War II, 120,000 farm workers in Norway, a country of 3,375,000 people, have gone to town.

So great has been the impact of this peasant march to the cities in Scandinavia that the movement is called "a second industrial revolution."

This revolution is affecting both farm and town.

Agriculture Mechanized
Faced with a growing shortage in farm labor, agriculture is being rapidly mechanized. In 10 years the number of farm tractors in Norway has increased from 4,000 to 22,000.

Many of the tractors are jointly owned by cooperatives, which make it possible for one machine to serve a number of small farms. Others are owned by a new type of business enterprise among small land owners—a company owning tractors, combines and other farm equipment. Such a company contracts for farm work.

Both types of organizations receive a 30 per cent federal subsidy and may borrow up to 70 per cent of equipment cost through credit provided by law.

There are 2,600 of these cooperatives and companies in Norway today in contrast to only 55 in 1946.

Sell Horses, Save
Under either of these plans the small farmer is able to sell his horse, which cost him the produce of about 2½ acres every year. Since most of Norway's farms are small the saving is considerable. In a few years Norway's horse population has fallen from 208,000 to 160,000.

At the same time electricity, no more costly in Norway than in the lowest-rate areas of the Northwest, has been brought to the farm.

Farming in Norway as well as Sweden and Finland is be-

House Committee Approves O&C Roads

Washington—(U.P.)—A \$200,000 cut in the budget estimates for construction of access roads in the O & C lands was approved yesterday by the House Appropriations Committee. The committee indicated it does not believe the action will retard the construction program.

"This reduction appears warranted," the committee added. "Since the actual costs of constructing roads . . . in the re-vested lands have been running considerably under the bureau estimates."

President Eisenhower had asked for \$2,250,000 for Bureau of Land Management construction during the fiscal year beginning July 1.

come diversified as a result of the rising price for timber. Most small farms have woodlots with marketable pine, spruce and birch.

Autos Coming
And the car is coming to the prospering farms. Record car sales, year after year since World War II, have been reported for the better farming

\$276,000 Needed for Work at Camp White

Washington—(U.P.)—The House Veterans Affairs Committee yesterday said \$2,000,000 would be needed to renovate and modernize the veterans hospital at Portland.

The committee estimated that it would cost the same amount to begin a modernization program at the Roseburg veterans hospital. It was suggested that a survey be made to determine the cost of a complete program. Some \$276,000 would be needed for minor work at the Camp White facility. Additional funds are also needed at Walla Walla and American Lake facilities in Washington, according to the report.

The committee, which issued a report showing the needs of veterans hospitals across the nation, said the old VA hospitals were being neglected and estimated that repairs and modernization would cost \$150,000,000.

The Navy requisitioned its first airplane on May 8, 1911. It was constructed of wood, canvas and bamboo and capable of flying at least 45 miles an hour.

area of Scandinavia. As yet, however, the percentage of farmers owning cars in Sweden, which leads Europe in this matter, is far under the American average.

These developments have changed the backwoods character of the small and often poor farm. The peasant on the farm as well as in the city is being urbanized in dress and manner. Theater troupes tour the countryside from the capital cities everywhere in Scandinavia. Sport, education and political clubs are sprouting among the farmers.

Change in Cities
The revolution in the cities has been even greater. Industries have extended and the vast power development in Norway, Sweden and, to a less degree, in Finland has led to establishment of large metallurgical and chemical operations. One aluminum plant has just been added in Norway and another one is under construction. Three of Sweden's shipbuilding yards rank among the world's largest.

Moving of the peasants to town has created serious housing shortages. One sixth of Oslo's 400,000 people live in houses built since Quisling vacated his cell. Every Scandinavian country, despite substantial federal credit and what amounts to subsidy, suffers from overcrowding in town.

Politics Still Stable
Fortunately this revolution in farm and town has not created revolutionary politics.

By a happy circumstance the farm worker and the small farmer in all Scandinavia, including Finland, belongs to the social democratic bloc. In town he now is a member of this same party, which in Norway, Sweden and Denmark controls the national assemblies and in Finland is the largest political party, but is not, as in the other countries, a majority party.

In all this great social change has the Communist party, fully alerted for exploiting every opportunity, has lost ground.

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