

AMERICA IN FINLAND.

THE COUNTRY AS A FIELD FOR OUR COMMERCIAL INVASION.

(Special Correspondence of the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.)

HELSINGFORS, Finland, Aug. 25.—I have stopped here on my way from Russia to Sweden to look up American interests in the land of the Finns. This country is steadily increasing as a customer for American goods. It has some of the thickest people of northern Europe, with wants about twice as great as the average man the world over. The people are comparatively poor, but their foreign trade now amounts to \$100,000,000 a year and their imports are equal to an expenditure of \$33 for every man, woman and child in the country. In Russia the imports do not average more than \$5 per person, so that Finland is worth to the rest of the world six times as much as Russia, in proportion to its population.

FINLAND IN 1903.

But first let me give you the land in a nutshell. This country is a great mass of granite rock, half surrounded by sea, riveted in between Russia, Norway and Sweden. It is a land of forests and lakes and cultivated farms. It belongs to Russia and is ruled by the czar, but its population is not Russian at all. It has altogether about 2,700,000 inhabitants, and of these less than 6,000 are Russians. The remainder are Finns, Swedes, Germans and Laplanders. The Finns number more than 2,000,000, the Swedes 500,000, the Germans 1,500, and the Laplanders 1,200. The Finns came originally from the heart of Russia. They were of two tribes, one dark haired and the other light. They drove the Laplanders to the northward and have so crowded them out that there are only a few hundred left, and most of these work for the Finns. The remainder belong to the Finns and such Lapps as remain are nomadic, and say of them wander far about in the cold lands of the north, living in tents.

A CHANCE FOR AMERICAN ELECTRICITY.

Finland has more lakes to the square

mile than any other country. It is called the land of a thousand lakes, and I am told that the lakes actually number 10,000. They are joined by canals, and you can now go all over the country by water. Many streams flow into these lakes and the sea. The country is rough and the streams have hundreds of waterfalls. A recent measurement of 700 falls shows that they could furnish about 2,000,000 horsepower, and it is now expected that this horsepower will be developed by electricity. Some electrical plants have already been put up and many others are contemplated. The Westinghouse General Electric people should look into the field and send their best drummers here to develop it.

THE CAPITAL OF FINLAND.

I write these notes in Helsinki, the capital of Finland. The city has 100,000 population. It is situated on the Gulf of Finland, on an excellent harbor, part of it being on an island which is connected with the mainland by a bridge. I came in by sea from St. Petersburg, and when I landed it seemed to me as though I were back in America. The people look more like American than Russians, and the buildings not unlike those of our cities.

Some of the business blocks are large and several of them would be a credit to any city of the United States. They are made of Finnish granite, in blocks as big as the biggest stone blocks used in the buildings of Chicago.

The Finns are not like the Russians. They are better dressed and more intelligent. The Russian drosky, with its great bow over the horses' neck, is not seen here, and the cabs and carriages are much like our own. The women of the lower classes wear about the same dress as well-to-do Russian peasant women, but otherwise they look more like the Germans.

AN INTELLIGENT PEOPLE.

The Finns are more intelligent than the Russians. Helsinki has five times as many book stores in proportion to its population as St. Petersburg. The books are printed in the Roman text, which seems friendly after my long experience with the Greek hiero-



Photographed for the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.

A TYPICAL FINN AND HIS FAMILY.

glyphics of Russia. The signs over the stores are in Roman and one can spell out what they mean. The majority of the people here can read and write, which is not the case in Russia. There are public schools all over the country. There is a university for 2,500 students of whom 400 are ladies. There are also business and technical schools, including 27 agricultural schools, 35 dairy schools, 14 schools for cattle managers and 9 schools for gardeners. Finland has about 20 newspapers of which 130 are printed in the Finnish tongue. The most of the people are Lutherans. There are a few Baptists, a few Roman Catholics and a few who belong to the Orthodox Greek church of Russia.

MONEY IN FINLAND BANKS.

I dropped into the Union bank here to get some money on my letter of credit, and got it. At the same time I gathered some information about the banking business. It is profitable. The Union bank is now 40 years old and it has been paying dividends of from 10 to 24 per cent since its beginning. Its capital was originally \$500,000, but it has been raised to \$800,000 and the bank now has more than twice that amount as a surplus. It has about \$15,000,000 of deposits and its stock is quoted at 500, paying about 4 per cent on that valuation.

Another big bank is the Joint Stock bank of the North for Commerce and Manufactures. This has a capital of \$2,000,000 and it pays dividends of 5 per cent. In addition to this there are many other prosperous banks and many savings banks.

AMERICAN GOODS IN FINLAND.

But come with me to the Finnish stores and see if they have any American goods. We need not go far to find them. There are California pears and peaches, Oregon salmon and canned meats from Chicago. There are sewing machines and typewriters, cameras and cinematographs and all sorts of American novelties. The most of the textile goods are German or English, but the merchants tell me that a great deal of Finnish cloth is made from raw cotton imported from the United States. The Finns like our pork. They smoke our tobacco and they light their homes with American petroleum. They are importing our farm machinery, especially reapers and mowers, and now and then a threshing machine. Some of the farmers here have steam plows and there is one who has an electric threshing machine.

FARMING IN FINLAND.

Farming and lumbering are among the chief business of Finland and farming leads. Only about one-third of the country is cultivated, and the land does not compare with ours in fertility. Nevertheless it is well handled and the farmers make money. The average farm is small. There



GUARDING THE FRONTIER.

are altogether about 115,000 farms in addition to 72,000 small holdings. Much of the land is farmed by tenants and of late years some by syndicates of peasant farmers who combine together. The Jokiois Joint Stock company, for instance, owns 75,000 acres, and it has half of this under cultivation. It uses the best of modern machinery, and has 12 miles of railroad on its estate. Such companies would make fine customers for American farm tools.

HOW THE FINNS MAKE BUTTER.

Much of the land here is devoted to stock raising and dairying. There are something like a million sheep, 300,000 horses and 100,000 reindeer in Finland. There are a million and a half cattle, and among them some of the finest milkers on earth. Some of the Finnish cows give over 5,000 pounds of milk each per year, and from 17 to 20 pounds of this milk will make a pound of butter. The butter is excellent. It is in great demand throughout northern Europe. Much of it is put up in cans and shipped all over the world.

A great deal is made at creameries, and there is one man who has established a creamery and buys his cream half frozen. His works are at the port of Hangö, and the peasants for miles around freeze their cream into a soft mass and thus ship it in bulk. This reduces the freight rate, and they say it does not hurt the cream. Finland's exports of butter now amount to \$5,000,000 a year.

HOW THE FARMERS LIVE.

The best of the Finnish farms are in the southern part of the country. Here you find good houses of two stories painted red with white window frames. Nearly every well-to-do man keeps a separate house for his guests, and the better farmers have four or five horses and 20 or 30 cows. Some

It Has a Foreign Trade of \$100,000,000 a Year, and it Buys Flour, Fruit, Meat and Machinery From Us—Finland in 1903—A Look at Helsinki and Its Big Banks Which Pay Twenty Per Cent Dividends—Among the Farmers and Dairy Men—Frozen Cream For Fresh Butter—How the People Live—The Finnish Bath—The Factories and Their Low Wages—How the Russians Oppress the Finns.

are also made, about 60,000,000 pounds of paper being annually exported.

WORK AND WAGES IN FINLAND.

I am surprised to find a great deal of manufacturing done here. Finland has a large number of woolen, linen and cotton mills. It has iron and engineering works, porcelain factories, glass factories and many wood working establishments. The wages are exceedingly low, factory employees receiving less than \$10 a month, including house rent and fire wood. Women in the linen mills get 40 cents a day, boys, 30 cents and little girls, 25 cents. In the saw mills the hands receive about \$170 a year and in the engineering works the wages sometimes reach as high as \$200. It is estimated that the average income of a family in the country does not exceed \$100. Such wages are for long hours, although the hours for children are limited. Boys and girls between 12 and 15 years of age may not be employed more than seven hours a day and they must be allowed one hour for luncheon. Children between 15 and 18 may be worked for 11 hours a day provided they have two hours rest for meals, but no children can be employed at night.

RUSSIAN FINLAND.

The czar is doing what he can to Russify Finland. The people here are more like the Swedes than the Russians. They are independent and liberty-loving, and the majority of them hate their masters. They have a constitution which provides that they shall have their own parliament, and that it shall take the assent of this body to levy new taxes or change the constitution.

Within the past few years the czar has claimed the right to do as he pleases almost anything. He can now dismiss any official and the Russian officials. According to a recent order any matters relating to Finland that affect Russia may be settled by the czar without the consent of the Finnish parliament, and by other orders the old military system, which was like that of the Swedes, has been wiped out and the Russian military system instituted. All young Finns have now to serve in the Russian army. This has caused great distress, and many of the young men are emigrating to the United States to escape the three years' service required.

THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE.

There are 2,700,000 people in Finland,

and of these only 8,000 speak Russian. Nevertheless Russian has been declared the official language of the country, and this must be used in all public documents. The Finns have been not only for their free thought, and for their public spirited newspapers. Within the past few years the Russians have been suppressing all journals that seek to create a sentiment adverse to them. A number of papers have been wiped out, and others are now subject to censorship. Indeed, the freedom of Finland is fast passing away.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

AN ANCIENT MOUSER.

G. Leslie Nye, commonly called Pretty or Purr, is the oldest cat in the United States, having just celebrated his eighteenth birthday anniversary. As a frolicsome kitten he was conspicuous among the wedding gifts of Mrs. Nye of Galien, Mich., and after a long life his mistress insists that he is the most eventful cat in the world—because he is always chort. But this is really a lie, as he has been perfectly devoted to Mrs. Nye's only son and is fondly attached to the whole family.

But he hates felines, and wars with every cat that ventures on the place. Mrs. Nye raises 1,000 chickens every summer, and for years he has assumed the responsibility of protecting them from cats, dogs and rats. Even the wily weasel is no match for G. Leslie Nye, who catches and kills every one that visits the chicken ranch. His only affliction is with the family cow, which allows him to ride bareback fashion when she is grazing in the pasture.

He is an epicure—loves a good brand of coffee, dates on raspberry pie. Also squash, corn, cabbage and tomatoes, but his chief delicacies are fish, oysters and game. He is perfectly indifferent to yellow-legged chickens, but wants his milk served in a saucer and insists on having it warm and foamy from his friend the boiler.

G. Leslie Nye is a beautiful orange cat with white markings, and Mrs. Nye has a life-sized pastel made of her famous pet. Notwithstanding his advanced age, he is in perfect health, and the fact that he has lost most of his teeth does not cripple him as a matter, as he holds the rodent with both paws and worries it to death by twisting its head until its neck is broken.—Chicago Tribune.

LEBAUDY'S FIGHT FOR TITLE.



JACQUES LEBAUDY.

Jacques Lebaudy, eccentric millionaire, self-styled emperor of the Sahara, who is striving to assert his title by means of legal aid and filibustering in his yacht, the Fraguata, under the Liberian flag, with a crew containing five shanghaied sailors.

FALL MILLINERY OPENING!

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER, 14th, 15th, 16th.

SUPERB SHOWING OF PARIS AND AMERICAN HATS

Gathering. The Master Creations of the famous Fashion Wizards of Paris together with splendid copies and designs of our own expert trimmers. They are Stylish, Nobby and Swell, embracing the Chic and Smart Ideas in all the up-to-date styles.

A HANDSOME SOUVENIR

Will be Given Away at Our Opening.

SURPASSING ALL PREVIOUS EFFORTS
RICH IN STYLE AND QUALITY.

A HANDSOME SOUVENIR

Will be Given Away at Our Opening.

NEW FALL STYLES IN
LADIES' DRESS OR WALKING SUITS.
SWAGGER NEW STYLES.

We wish to call your attention to the style, workmanship and finish of our suits. Why? When you see this display you will readily perceive that we are doubling last year's Suit and Coat Business.



NEW FALL WALKING SKIRTS

Dress Skirts, Silk Skirts, Coats, Waists, Furs, Children's Coats, Dresses, etc., arriving daily. Our assortment this Season will far Surpass that of any other one.

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