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BRITAIN STILL NORWAY'S LARGEST EXPORT MARKET

Norway's export to E.F.T.A. countries has considerably increased recently. While the increase in value of the total export during January-October last year amounted to 7.7% over the previous year, the export to the E.F.T.A. area went up by 22%.

During the first ten months of 1959 E.F.T.A. countries received 39.1% of Norway's export, whereas in 1960 this figure rose to 44.2%. Export to "The Six" went up by 5.8%, which is less than the average increase, and there was a drop in export to America by as much as 29%.

Statistics show that Britain was further consolidated as Norway's most important export market, and export went up by over £10,500,000 to £58,330,000, which is a 22% increase. There was also a remarkable increase in export to Sweden by as much as 33% to a total value of £28,855,000.

Export to "The Six" went up by 5.8%, which is less than the average increase, to a total value of £64,035,000, and there was a drop in export to America by as much as 29%. For the French market, which is the second largest importer of Norwegian commodities after Britain, the export value of £34,850,000 meant status quo from the previous year.

LARGE INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS IN NORTH NORWAY

At least close on £50 million will be invested in industrial developments in North Norway during the next four-year period in projects which are so far known to the Government, said Minister of Industries Kjell Holler in an industrial debate in the Storting (Parliament) last week. The plans include mining, iron and steel production, electro-metallurgical industry and cement and paper production, and four-fifths is made up by State owned industries. In addition will come considerable sums to be invested in hydro-electric development and various other projects not yet decided on.

GOOD YEAR FOR FINDUS IN HAMMERFEST

The Findus freezing plant in Hammerfest in North Norway last year had an output of 7,500 tons of fish products at a value of £1,400,000. In addition come commodities produced by other factories for Findus, and certain by-products, so that the total value of production was £1,700,000.

NORWAY'S UNIQUE "PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTIES" SYSTEM

Oslo will be the next venue of a Royal Swedish Commission which is at the moment considering amendments to the Swedish Constitution. The Commission wants to discuss certain points with Norwegian experts, among them the system of parliamentary substitutes.

This system is peculiar to Norway. No other country in the world elects parliamentary representatives and substitutes at the same time. At General Elections in Norway the names of all the candidates nominated by a party appear on the ballot paper. Candidates who under the Lague method of proportional representation fail to win a mandate become "varamenn" or substitutes. In case of death or illness or prolonged foreign travel, the seat of a representative is taken over by a substitute from his or her Party.

It has been said by students of this system that it has many advantages. Firstly, each electoral district and each party is thus at all times assured full representation in the National Assembly, and costly and exhausting by-elections are not necessary. The Norwegian system also tends to stimulate political interest, and provides an opportunity for gaining valuable parliamentary experience. For many it has been a springboard to subsequent election as M.P's.

Another Norwegian Parliamentary institution which the Swedish Commission wants to study is the one-hour limitation on speeches, with a further right for the President (Speaker) to cut the time to as little as two minutes in the case of long drawnout debates.

TWO NEW BISHOPS CONSECRATED A rare occasion took place in Oslo Cathedral last Sunday when two new Bishops were consecrated at the same time. They were Bishop Fritjof Söiland Birkeli of Stavanger and Bishop Tord Godal of Nidaros. The ceremony was performed by the Bishop of Oslo, Johannes Smemo.

AMMUNITION SALE TO GERMANY The German Government have promised to buy £3.5 million worth of Norwegian ammunition following negotiations by a Norwegian delegation in Bonn recently. German defence authorities have also expressed interest in the Norwegian anti-submarine weapon Tern.

£12,500 FROM PARKING METERS IN OSLO Seen from the official point of view legal car parking in Oslo in 1960 was more profitable than illegal parking, meaning that meters brought in £12,500 whereas fines for illegal parking amounted to £12,000. The last amount was the result of 18,023 prosecutions for illegal parking in a city of less than half a million people. The number of parking meters is at the moment 425, but will be increased by another 410 during 1961.

NEW CABLE AIRWAY IN BERGEN The wellknown cable railway running up to Mount Flöyen in Bergen will have competition as from February 15 when the new cable airway to Mount Ulrikken will be completed. The two cabins that are operating alternatively can each take 25 passengers plus driver. The journey from the centre of Bergen to the top of Mount Ulrikken will take about 20 minutes.

PROPOSAL FOR INTEGRATION OF NORDIC RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The Nordic Council, which will meet in Copenhagen in February, will discuss a proposal to recommend member governments to take practical steps to secure a rapid development of a unified system of higher education and research in the Scandinavian countries. The proposal, tabled by private members, emphasises the need for active and diversified research in all member countries. The best way to achieve this is to create an educational entity in Scandinavia,- that is to establish a division of work between the various educational and research centres so that the joint resources of money, brains and institutions can give the highest possible return.

The authors of the proposal say that conditions for carrying out such co-operation should be particularly favourable among the Nordic people because of the similarity of language and cultural and scientific milieu, the more than one hundred year old tradition of personal contact between scientists and students, and, finally, because of the multifarious practical relations which have been created across borders between centres of higher education during the last few decades.

NEW POSTAGE STAMP The Norwegian Post Office will in connection with the 10th anniversary of the Scandinavian Airlines System issue a stamp in the value of 90 öre. The stamp, which will be blue in colour and bear an aircraft motif, will be on sale from February 24. First day covers can be obtained by sending addressed first day covers to Postverkets frimerkesalg for samlere, Oslo, in a special prepaid envelope bearing the annotation FÖRSTEDAGSBREV.

OSLO TRANSPORT DEFICIT The municipal transport system in Oslo lost over £1,150,000 on its operations last year, which was nearly £140,000 more than budgeted for. Most of the deficit is due to decreasing traffic and increasing social benefits to employees.

WINTER SPORTS CONDITIONS

	Feet above sealevel	Degrees Fahrenheit	Weather	Depth of snow
Finse (Bergen Rly)	4,010	16	Sunny	39 ins.
Geilo (Bergen Rly)	2,625	24	Overcast	34 ins.
Lillehammer (town)	650	15	Sunny	20 ins.
Lillehammer (above ski lift)	2,750	13	Overcast	39 ins.
Mjölfjell (Bergen Rly)	2,060	18	Sunny	14 ins.
Norefjell	2,730	27	Sunny	59 ins.
Oppdal (Dovre Rly)	1,790	18	Sunny	4 ins.
Oslo	1,300	24	Sunny	38 ins.
Rauland	3,280	26	Snowing	39 ins.
Vinstra	2,050	18	Sunny	39 ins.
Voss	885	20	Sunny	10 ins.