

July 1952



*Welcome to Finland!*

*Dear Editor:*

*Because the Olympic Games are in Helsinki at this time, so I thought you will write a little of Finland. My knowledge of English is minimal, but I have tried however. To me it is just the same what you will do with this. Also you can write yourself and draw some pictures from these samples. And if you will do nothing, go on the old way, it is very good way — also to me.*

*We have translated many articles from the Grapevine and this is in return to you, but so poor, I know it very well. Attempt is good and it is the best — to me.*

*Cordially yours*

*V.K.*

*Secretary Helsinki, Finland*

LITTLE Finland rise strongly again in this year to the consciousness of world as it is the host of the Olympic Games. Most of Americans have heard of Finland, or have seen its name on the newspaper. Very few, however, know how is the alcohol-question in Finland. Perhaps the land of thousand lakes and its blue-eyed peoples have saved of the curse of alcohol? Oh, no!

The Finn are week-end drinkers. We drink seldom, but all the more. And when we become alcoholic, we drink every day as when it is always Saturday-evening. Doctor Jellinek, who was here in the January, and was also at the meeting of AA, said that he was observed in Canada different nationality and their manner of drinking. Somebody weep tears to the glass, Finnish grasp to the knife. Our problem is largely in that violence what alcohol affect. We drink so that we can let loose Barrabas. Our national-drink is wood-spirit, and on the waist of the bottle there is the lion.

What possibilities the life of AA has here? Is here any AAs.

Action of AA has been in Finland four years. Here are Groups of AA on ten localities and their membership are about 200. About twenty of them have been sober over one year. The result swims not the heat, but it give courage and make sure the growth.

Far away from AA's birth-land and helpless ahead of the English

printed matters here is difficulties to the passage of AA's exceptional thinking. We need a long time before the most inevitable thinks have translated and further printed. Now we have but one pamphlet and three Finnish "*Grapevines*" and a pile of duplicates.

When Finland have paid its war-debts to USA, of it has made the propaganda-trump: "Again Finland Pay," "The Land What Pay" etc. Now we have got some that kind from USA what we can pay never, but on this time we have got it gift. We have got AA, what is to us alcoholics same as a new life. The alcoholics from America have holded out their helpful hands and we have stick to it.

On the sport-field our lands match for honour. — I think USA win — At match of AA there is matter of question for life or death. The winner is surviving, the missing death. But in this match we aren't against, we are at the same side, and we can defeat both, and we defeat as long as God give his support to our aspiration.

Welcome to Finland, here is also AA.

— V.K., Helsinki, Finland