

Our English Page

Notes about Swedish Industrial Life.

The following article are gathered from one of the latest issues of "The Swedish-American Trade Journal", published by the Swedish Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America.

Swedish Volvo Automobile Popular.

The Volvo Company, makers of the Swedish Volvo passenger automobiles, in its annual report for the year 1930, its fourth year of activity, shows a net profit of 407,849 kronor against only 2,000 kronor in 1929. The board proposes to pay a dividend of 6 per cent for the years 1927, 1928, 1929 and 1930, for the last mentioned year on the increased share capital of 4.2 million kronor.

Since the company began its work four years ago, there has been an uninterrupted growth of its output and sales, and the Swedish motor car, in spite of the keen competition with foreign makes, seems to be rapidly gaining popularity on account of its solid construction, good appearance, and dependability. Also in the neighboring Scandinavian countries the sales are increasing.

The total output has grown from 297 cars in 1927 to 1,998, with a sales value of 9.95 million kronor, in 1930. The board announces that the company recently has been able to make a considerable reduction in the prices for the Volvo cars, whereby the demand has been considerably stimulated.

The Swedish Cooperative Society in 1930.

The Swedish Cooperative Society, largest retail and wholesale organization in the country which now claims every fourth Swede a member, had a banner year in 1930, in spite of the trade depression, writes the American-Swedish News Exchange.

Thus the total sales of the Society amounted to 143,618,000 kronor, or 2,298,000 kronor more than in 1929. Considering the sharp decline in prices in 1930, this must be regarded as an exceptionally good result.

The output of the Society's margarine factory was 14, ring the past year, are now at 018,000 kilograms, or about one million kilograms more than the preceding year. From the company's flour mills were shipped 106,300 tons of grain and flour, a figure which tops the one of 1929. The artificial fertilizer plant delivered 483,000 sacks, or practically all skilled and 43,000 sacks more than in 1929.

An increase also was noted in the sale of sugar, from

36,100,000 kilograms to 41,100,000 kilograms, while the sale of soap increased with 800,000 kilograms from 3,400,000 kilograms to 4,200,000 kilograms. Of matches 9,220 cases were sold against 7,884 cases in 1929. More coffee was sold in 1930 than the year before, or an increase from 77,500,000 bales to 98,500,000 bales, equal to 27 per cent.

Among the manufacturing departments of the Society are its tire and rubber boot plants at Gislaved, in Småland. The sale of automobile and bicycle tires increased materially in 1930 and these factories will be enlarged to take care of the growing demand.

The Society's shoe manufacturing unit also had a prosperous year in 1930 with sales valued at 10,700,000 kronor. The white goods branch sold for 509,000 kronor more in 1930 than the year before, while the increase in sales in the house furnishing department was 850,000 kronor.

Packing in Wood Wool Permitted by Swedish Customs Authorities.

In response to an inquiry from an American correspondent, this Chamber recently requested from the customs authorities in Gothenburg information as to Swedish customs ruling on the entry of goods packed in wood wool. In reply, the Chamber was informed by the Customs Director of Gothenburg that there is no obstacle to entry in Sweden of goods packed in wood wool.

Unemployment in Sweden in 1930.

Unemployment has been and remains one of the most unfortunate features and difficult problems of the depression which now has lasted for more than a year. Like other factors in that general condition, it has differed considerably in different countries. In so far as Sweden is concerned, both the depression, as a composite of economic factors, and its ingredient, unemployment, were remarkably little felt up to the middle or latter part of 1930.

Statistical data regarding unemployment in Sweden during the past year, are now at hand, published by the Royal Social Board, in its official publication, Sociala Meddelanden. The calculations are made on the basis of the total membership of the federated trade unions, on an average 368,000 workers, representing practically all skilled and unskilled labor in the kingdom.

The following data are taken from the statistics in question.

The average rate of unemployment in Sweden for the whole year, 1930, with exception of the forest workers, was 11.9 per cent, as compared with 10.2 per cent for 1929, 10.6 per cent for 1928, and 12 per cent for 1927. Last year's figure, therefore, remained fairly normal. Until the end of April, the monthly average even fell below that for the corresponding period of any of the years 1926 to 1929. For the first four months of 1930, the average unemployment rate was 12.6 per cent as compared with 13.6 per cent for the corresponding period in 1929.

At the end of May, however, the situation had changed somewhat for the worse, the unemployment rate having increased to a fraction of one per cent above that a year earlier, and instead of declining, as is usual, during the summer, it kept more or less constant until the fall when it began to rise rapidly. The average unemployment rate for the four-months period, May to August, thus was 8 per cent in 1930, compared with 6.7 per cent in 1929. The corresponding figures for the month of August were 8.1 in 1930, compared with 6.1 in 1929, and for September, 9.5 in 1930, compared with 6.7 in 1929. For the month of December, 1929, the rate had mounted to 22.8 per cent, as against 16.3 per cent in 1929. In comparison with previous years, the December figure for 1930, just noted, was the highest for that month since 1922 and has been surpassed only by the record figure reached in December, 1921.

The distribution of unemployment over different trades has varied considerably. The report of the Royal Social Board covers thirty-one trade unions representing different trades. Of these thirty-one unions, sixteen present a higher and thirteen a lower average unemployment rate for 1930 than for 1929, while the remaining two show about the same rate for the two years.

The greatest increase in unemployment has occurred among the stone workers, for whom the yearly average has risen from 4.7 per cent in 1929 to 11.1 per cent in 1930 and among the foundry workers whose average has risen from 2.5 per cent to 7.4 per cent. Increased unemployment is found also among the workers in the metal, paper, and sawmill industries. The members of the unskilled workers' union, on the other hand, have fared better, with an increase in unemployment of only one-half of one per cent, due, most probably, to continued good employment in the building industry. Among skilled labor in that industry, the carpenters and bricklayers suffered somewhat less unemployment in 1930 than in 1929, while the case of the painters was the reverse.

Among the trades showing the greatest improvement over 1929 were the shoe workers, with an average unemployment rate of 4.7 per cent compared with 8.9 per cent in 1929. Also the tobacco workers, with 0.5 per cent in 1929, the harness makers and paperhangers, with 10.1 per cent compared with 14.2 per

cent, and the forest workers and timber with 47.5 per cent in 1929. From the point of view of absolute unemployment during 1930, the forest workers and timber floaters led the list with an average for the year of 41.1 per cent, next came the saw-mill workers, the painters, and the carpenters in the building industry, with averages ranging from 31.1 per cent to 23.0 per cent, and thereafter unskilled workers and semiskilled factory workers, road and waterway construction workers, and bricklayers, with averages above 20 per cent. The smallest absolute unemployment is recorded for the tobacco workers, with an average rate for 1930 of 0.5 per cent, the lithographers, with 2.5 per cent, and the textile workers, with 3.6 per cent. The typographers and the brewery, communal, and shoe and leather workers, moreover, had averages below 5 per cent.

Statistics published in the monthly reports of the government Unemployment apparent from the data of the labor unions, caused a corresponding increase in the public employment relief. The gross expenditures of the Unemployment Committee, that is, expenditures for relief without deduction of amounts due from certain employers, thus increased from 4,800,000 kronor in 1929 to 5,200,000 kronor in 1930, and, similarly, the number of unemployed who received relief, increased from a monthly average of 4,798 in 1929 to one of 5,765 in 1930.

The Swedish unemployment relief is extended partly by the state, partly by the communes. Part of the relief is given in the form of emergency employment, part also is cash awards. In 1930, 11.8 per cent of those seeking relief received cash awards and 30.2 per cent, emergency employment, these figures being averages for the year. The rate of cash awards to emergency employment was somewhat greater in 1930 than in 1929.

In this connection, it may be of interest also to note, that the total number of unemployed seeking relief was, in monthly average, 13,723 in 1930, as compared with 10,212 in 1929, 16,652 in 1928, and 19,200 in 1927. While the need of relief, therefore, was greater last year than in 1929, it nevertheless was far less extensive than in the two immediately preceding years.

During the first two months of the present year, the situation, on the whole, has undergone little change, at least if considered on the basis of usual seasonal variations. Although the average unemployment rate of January declined to 19.9 per cent, from 23.8 per cent for December, which was somewhat more than usually occurs at that season, the number of applicants per 100 open positions rose sharply in February to 232, from 222 in January. This rise is the more remarkable in view of the fact that the month of February generally

brings a reduced rate of this nature. On the other hand, the January rate was unusually low, due to certain circumstances, and most employment agencies have characterized the February position of the labor market as practically unchanged since the preceding years February, this year, shows a less favorable rate of applicants to positions than existed in 1930 and 1929, but a more favorable rate than in the years 1925 to 1928.

Laws

The intuition of the moral sentiment is an insight of the perfection of the laws of the soul. These laws execute themselves. Thus, in the soul of man there is a justice whose retributions are instant and entire. He who does a good deed is instantly ennobled. He who does a mean deed is by the action itself contracted. He who puts off impurity thereby puts on purity. We judge ourselves, dispensing good to our virtue, and evil to our sin. — Emerson.

Patience

There is no such thing as preaching patience into people, unless the sermon is so long that they have to practise it while they hear. No man can learn patience except by going out into the hurly-burly world, and taking life just as it blows. Patience is but lying to, and riding out the gale. — H. W. Beecher.

Living and Dying

Dying is an important incident in one's life. Yet living is more important than dying. Many a man who would have been mourned, and whose memory would have been held in honor if he had died five years ago, or ten, then seemed ready to die — but he was not ready to live. He is not honored now; he will not be mourned when he dies. We ought to be ready to die, but what is more, we ought to be ready to live. If we are ready to live, we are ready to die. Dying is a small matter in comparison with living.

Self Control

In addition to the advice of Socrates: "Know thyself", we do well to take to heart the advice of Marcus Aurelius: "Control thyself." The president of Boston University early in the year sent out a letter to several hundred of the leading men and women of the business world, asking each to state what ideals of character he would seek to impress upon the students if he were the head of a large university. Self-control was one of the elements named. Said the president of the university:

"Self-control passes beyond mere control of the body into a control of speech, thoughts, disposition, affections. Self-control will lead one to 'set his mind on things above and not on things of the earth'. His whole character will follow his mind."

ZAM-BUK

Under 30 år det bästa för
HUDÅKOMMOR
Salva 50c
Medicinsk tvål 25c.