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HUNGARY

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Refugees (1204 c) ✓

HUNGARIAN REFUGEES IN SWEDEN.

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EVALUATION COMMENT: None.

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By this time, a great number of Hungarian refugees admitted to Sweden have already established themselves there. This is the story of how it was with certain groups who arrived in Sweden and were accommodated in the collection camp at YSTAD.

In the little village of BERGEFORSSEN in INDALS-ALVEN high up near the Polar Circle, most inhabitants are in the employ of the large power station of the "Waterfall Administration." The settlement is small but its inhabitants live decently and earn good salaries. Among these people, who themselves live under almost ideal condition, the compassion for the Hungarian people grew from day to day while they listened to reports on the bloody events in Hungary.

One day the authorized representative of the personnel approached his superiors in order to discuss how it would be possible to help at least a smaller group among the refugees. Then matters began to move. Soon enough everybody connected with the large power station was involved in the work of mercy.

The first thing that was needed was money -- much money to make safe their first year here for 33 refugees. The entire personnel of the enterprise, the head office of which is situated in STOCKHOLM, contributed each five Swedish kronas from their salaries for December, and will contribute another five kronas in January.

(more)

At BERGEFORSSEN one group, mainly women, had taken the job to organize the reception of the Hungarians. It concerns altogether five families, one of which consists of 11 persons.

The housing was arranged in this way. A bachelors' barracks, a villa and two flats have been provided by the "Waterfall Administration" and the Bergefors Company. In the bachelors' barracks the ladies were helped by willing gentlemen, both workers and white-collar workers, and put five living rooms in order, as well as a proper playroom for the children, a room for ironing and sewing, a washroom with a washbasin for each of the five families. Each family will namely be housed in a room of its own, this is the minimum.

The rooms in the bachelors' barracks were painted and made fine and the Hungarians housed there were very happy. In a villa close by were housed a grandfather and a grandmother with their five children and two grandchildren -- one daughter and one granddaughter live in the bachelors' barracks. The villa is of the ordinary Swedish standard, consisting of four rooms and a kitchen.

In the two flats, consisting of two rooms, kitchen and a bathroom each, there live entire families. In one of them lives a housewife with three children, and there is reason to hope that her husband will join her soon. It is namely known that he, too, has succeeded in escaping to Austria.

In the other flat there live a man and his wife and their two children. Another child is expected in this family in a near future; and thus the bathroom is especially welcome.

A Large Family Together Again.

Among the 33 Hungarians there is a family of 11 persons, and it is hoped that its number will increase still more in a near future -- some of the family are still missing, they have not succeeded in escaping through the Russian control on the frontier yet. The family consists of a grandfather and a grandmother, six daughters and three grandchildren. I shall now tell you about them.

The grandmother and the grandfather lived in the frontier town of XXX where the grandfather worked as an artisan. After the Russian invasion they and their six daughters and three grandchildren escaped, but became separated during their journey. When the grandfather arrived in Austria he searched for his family for a long time but found nobody. He then returned to Hungary but found their home empty.

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However, he met at XXX a son-in-law of his who followed him when he returned to Austria again. Before they reached the frontier, they became separated, and nobody knows where the son-in-law is just now. But in Austria the grandfather found his family, after all. Via an Austrian collection camp they were brought to Sweden and then to BERGEFORSSEN. Some of the daughters are accompanied by their husbands but several men are still missing.

Finally a couple of words about what happened with the 33 Hungarians who arrived at BERGEFORSSEN. There was a grand feast of welcome in the messroom of the enterprise that evening and there were many people present, both local inhabitants and from STOCKHOLM. The speech of welcome was made by Mr. C.H. von HARTMANSDORFF, Mr. Ake RUSCK, the secretary general of the "Waterfall Administration" had greeted the refugees welcome at a dinner in STOCKHOLM the day before. Then a Hungarian spoke, the only younger man who spoke on behalf of all and thanked them for the help and the kind reception they had experienced.

And then night came, the first night at BERGEFORSSEN for the 33 refugees. For the first time they went to bed in their new homes. That evening a candle of gratitude burnt in front of the crucifix in the clubroom.

End.