



LANDS AND PEOPLES

Lands and Peoples

T H E W O R L D I N C O L O R



VOLUME II

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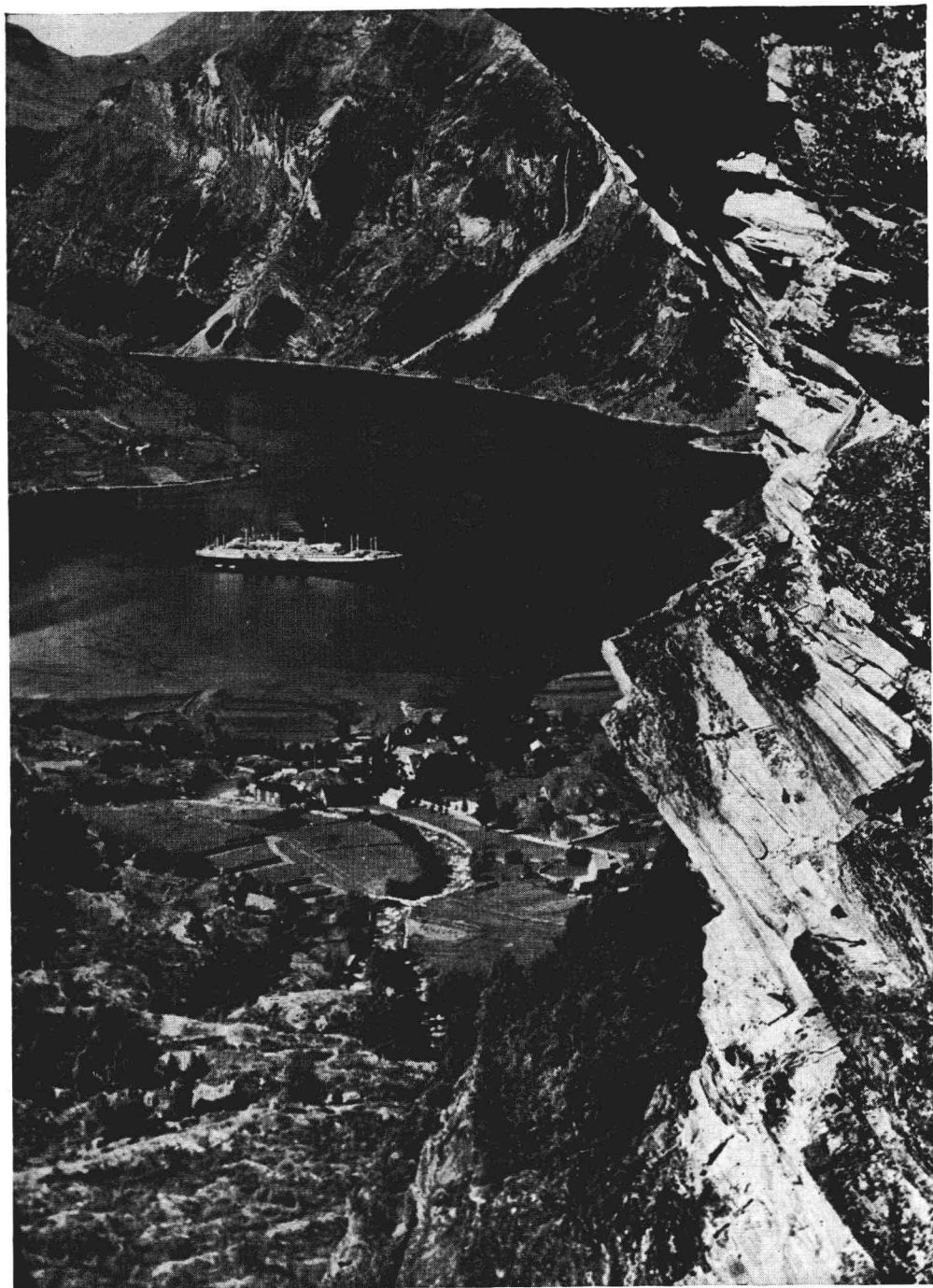
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Norwegian Information Service

THE FLYDALSJUVET, A GORGE IN GEIRANGER FIORD

Geiranger Fiord is an inland arm of the Stor Fiord, in the northern Fiord Country, and cuts deep into the mountains. In this gorge the rocky walls rise almost vertically for thousands of feet, above a farmstead on the shelf of land at the fiord's edge. The large ocean-going vessel seems almost like a toy boat in the midst of the majestic spectacle.

THE LAND OF FIORDS

Norway and Its People

The Scandinavian Peninsula reaches down for more than a thousand miles like a giant's mitten, with a very big thumb, about to grasp Denmark. The "mitten" shuts off the Baltic from the North Sea, and a ridge of mountains running north and south divides Sweden from Norway. Did giants create Norway, here thrusting up a high peak, and there digging a deep fiord? One can believe that Thor once hurled his thunderbolts in these wild mountains. In the spray of the many waterfalls, rainbows glimmer—and long ago the old Norse gods rode daily to and fro across the Bifrost Bridge, which is the rainbow.

THE sea unites us; the land divides us," has long been a saying of the Norwegians. It helps to explain both the character of the people and the rugged beauty of their country. Through countless ages, wind, ice and water have chiseled what might be called a single huge stone into a complex pattern of mountains, plateaus (*vidda*) and deep U-shaped valleys. Sending long probing fingers inland, the sea formed fiords; and off the coast a chain of more than 150,000 rocky islands and islets—skerries—arose. Thus an inner ocean passage was made, sheltered from gales. From early times this sea route has been known as *Norvegr*, or "the Northern Way."

If we sail around the coast, beginning in the southeast, our ship passes, first, through the *Skagerrak* (the strait that separates Norway and Denmark). Then, where the waters of the *Skagerrak* and the North Sea mingle, we pass the most southern tip of Norway, the headland called *The Naze*, or *Lindesnes*. Rounding into the North Sea, at about *Stavanger* we pass into the North Atlantic Ocean. Beyond *Floroe*, our course changes to the northeast. A further voyage of about 450 miles brings us to the Arctic Circle, and from here on, around North Cape, we are in the Arctic Ocean.

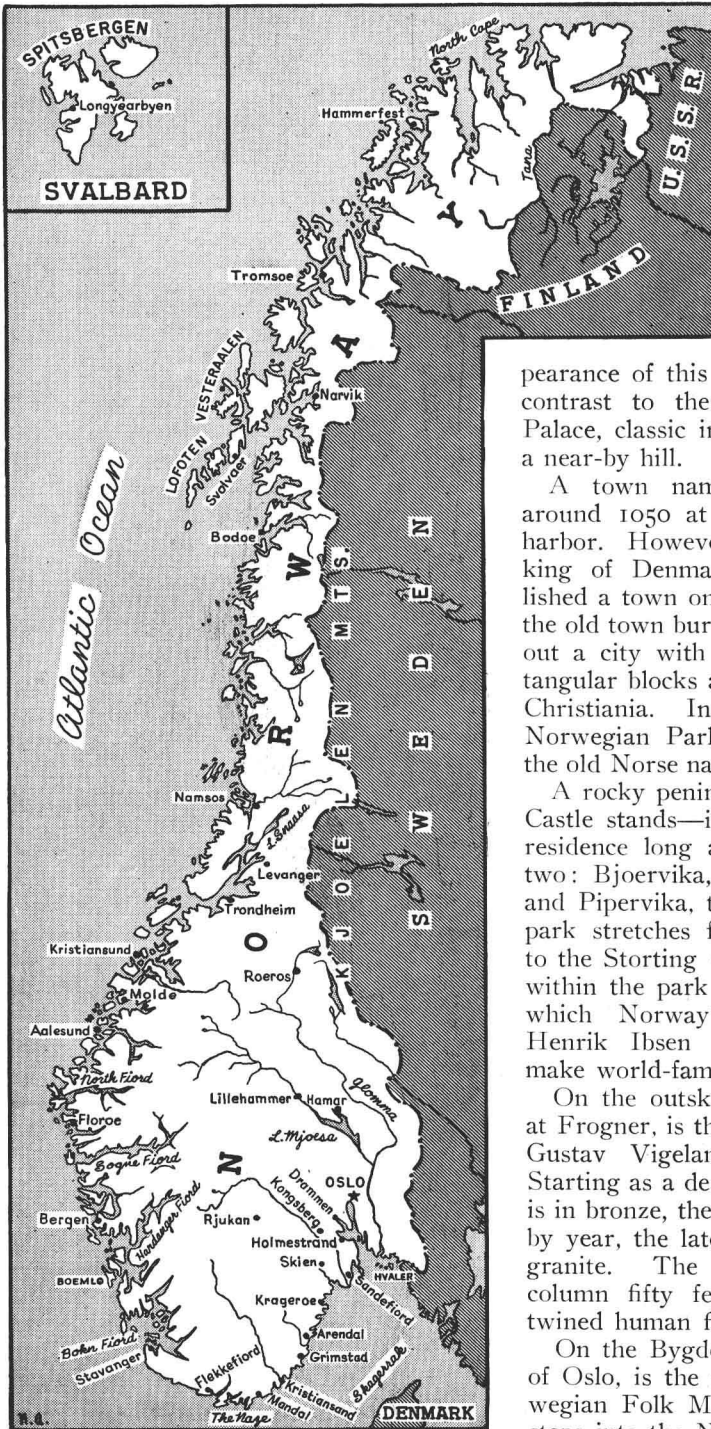
The highest range of mountains in the whole Scandinavian Peninsula rises along the west side and from early times has been called *Kjoelen*, or *The Keel*. The name of *Kjoelen Mountains* is also given to that part of the range which marks the natural boundary between Norway

and Sweden. Though the peaks of the *Kjoelen Mountains* soar higher in northern Sweden, the Scandinavian spine south of *Trondheim Fiord* lies within Norwegian territory. Between the *Kjoelen Mountains* and the *Gudbrandsdal* (*dal* means "valley"), the highland of plateaus and rounded summits is called *Dovre*. South of *Dovre* and running all the way to the southern coast, the mountain mass is called *Langfieldene*, the *Long Mountains*. Included in the *Langfieldene* are the *Hardangervidda* and the magnificent *Jotunheim Mountains*.

Though Norway is narrow—the width varies from about 4 to 275 miles—it has a length of about 1,100 miles. However, the coast is so deeply indented that the actual shoreline is about 12,000 miles long. Norway also has territory far within the Arctic Circle—the *Svalbard* archipelago, which includes *Spitsbergen*. These islands are in the same latitude as northern Greenland. Though one-third of Norway proper is within the Arctic Circle, the climate is surprisingly mild. This is because of the *Gulf Stream*, the ocean current that forms in the tropical Caribbean Sea, and swerves across the Atlantic in a great arc. To western Norway, the *Gulf Stream* brings abundant rainfall, mild winters and cool summers. However, on the eastern side of the mountains in southern Norway, the climate is drier, with hotter summers and colder winters.

The visitor to Norway by ship or plane generally lands at *Oslo*. It is a crisp, spacious city, with many green vistas and no slums. From the inner harbor, where

THE LAND OF FIORDS



HOMELAND OF THE NORWEGIANS

passenger ships and freighters from all over the world ride at anchor, the city rises toward rounded hills clothed in pine and spruce. Conspicuous at the edge of the water front is the City Hall, a square-looking structure with two towering wings.

The very modern appearance of this big building is in sharp contrast to the gleaming white Royal Palace, classic in design, that surmounts a near-by hill.

A town named Oslo was founded around 1050 at the eastern side of the harbor. However, in 1624, Christian IV, king of Denmark and Norway, established a town on the western shore, after the old town burned down. There he laid out a city with broad avenues and rectangular blocks and named it for himself, Christiania. In 1924 the Storting, the Norwegian Parliament, voted to restore the old Norse name of Oslo.

A rocky peninsula, on which Akershus Castle stands—it was a fort and a royal residence long ago—divides the port in two: Bjoervika, the old town, to the east; and Pipervika, to the west. An inviting park stretches from north of the castle to the Storting (Parliament House), and within the park is the National Theater, which Norway's foremost playwright, Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906), helped to make world-famous.

On the outskirts of Oslo, in the park at Frogner, is the lifework of the sculptor Gustav Vigeland, who died in 1943. Starting as a design for a fountain, which is in bronze, the group was added to year by year, the later works being carved in granite. The central piece alone—a column fifty feet high—has 121 intertwined human figures.

On the Bygdø Peninsula, to the west of Oslo, is the fascinating open-air Norwegian Folk Museum, where the visitor steps into the Norway of medieval times. Among the old wooden buildings is a

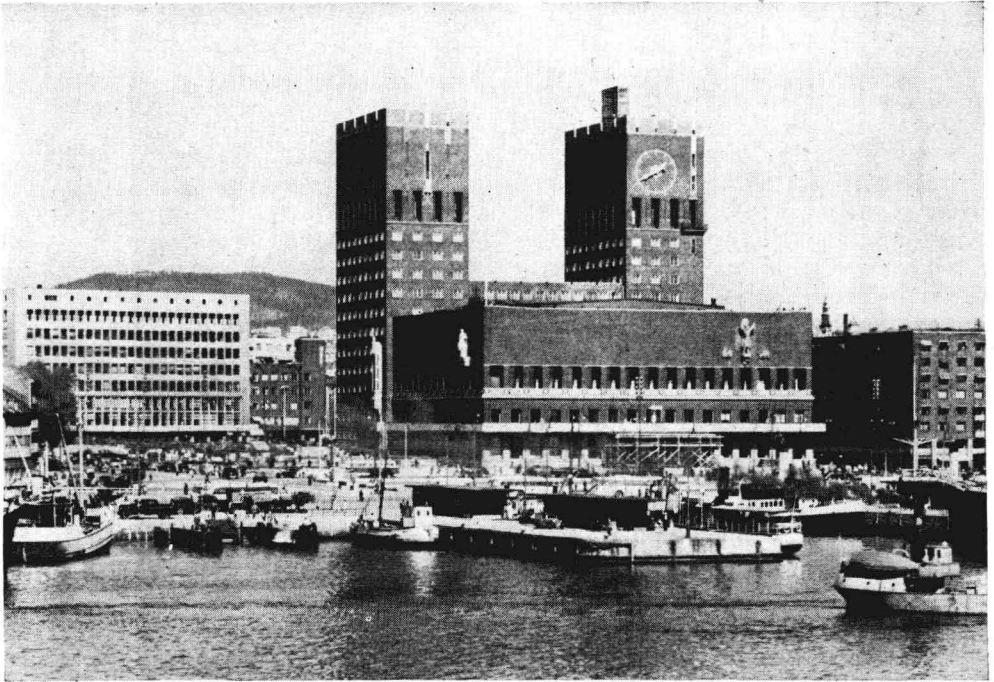
THE LAND OF FIORDS

stave church. Carved in the portals are intertwined dragons, a favorite Viking design, which was often used in ship carving. The steep gables of the stave churches give them an oddly Oriental look. Why such a style developed under Gothic skies and in Norway is a mystery. In a building near the Folk Museum are several ships that tell stories covering centuries of adventure on the high seas: high-prowed Viking ships—the Oseberg, the Gokstad and the Tune; the celebrated Fram, on which Fridtjof Nansen and Roald Amundsen explored the Arctic and the Antarctic; and the fragile Kon-Tiki raft, on which Thor Heyerdahl and five companions made a 4,000-mile voyage across the South Pacific in the interests of twentieth-century science.

Oslo Fiord is wider and has more gently sloping ledges than the western fiords. The eastern shore—Oestfold County—is

a fertile and thickly populated region of green meadows and large tracts of forest. Timber has always been one of Norway's most valuable raw products, and since the Middle Ages one of its chief exports. Norway's largest river, the Glomma, flows through Oestfold on its way to the Skagerak. Just south of the mouth of the Glomma is one of the larger skerries off this coast—Hvaler—where fishermen and coast pilots like to gather and spin their salty yarns. In summertime, farther up the east shore, white sails fly before the wind in the regattas held at Hankoe.

On the western side of Oslo Fiord—Vestfold County—cliffs and sandy beaches mark the shoreline. Vestfold is a bustling center of industry and shipping. The largest whaling ships in the world come from the small ports here; and the town of Sandefjord is the main base of the whaling fleet. Holmestrand, called the



Norwegian Information Service

OSLO'S HANDSOME MODERN TOWN HALL

As one comes into Oslo by water, the massive building at the edge of the inner harbor draws the eyes at once. The twin towers give this part of Oslo a twentieth-century skyline; and the Town Hall is a meeting place of modern Norwegian art. Sculptures relieve the severe lines of the exterior; and inside there is a series of large murals of Norwegian life.



Norwegian Information Service

A BIT OF OLD NORWAY IN THE TELEMARK COUNTRYSIDE

On many farms one may still see a *stabbur*, a storehouse raised above the ground to protect a family's provisions from dampness and wild beasts. Usually such storehouses were two-story buildings, with an outer staircase leading up to a gallery around the upper floor. Some of those still standing have been in continuous use for more than six hundred years.

"aluminum town," is a center for one of Norway's most important industries.

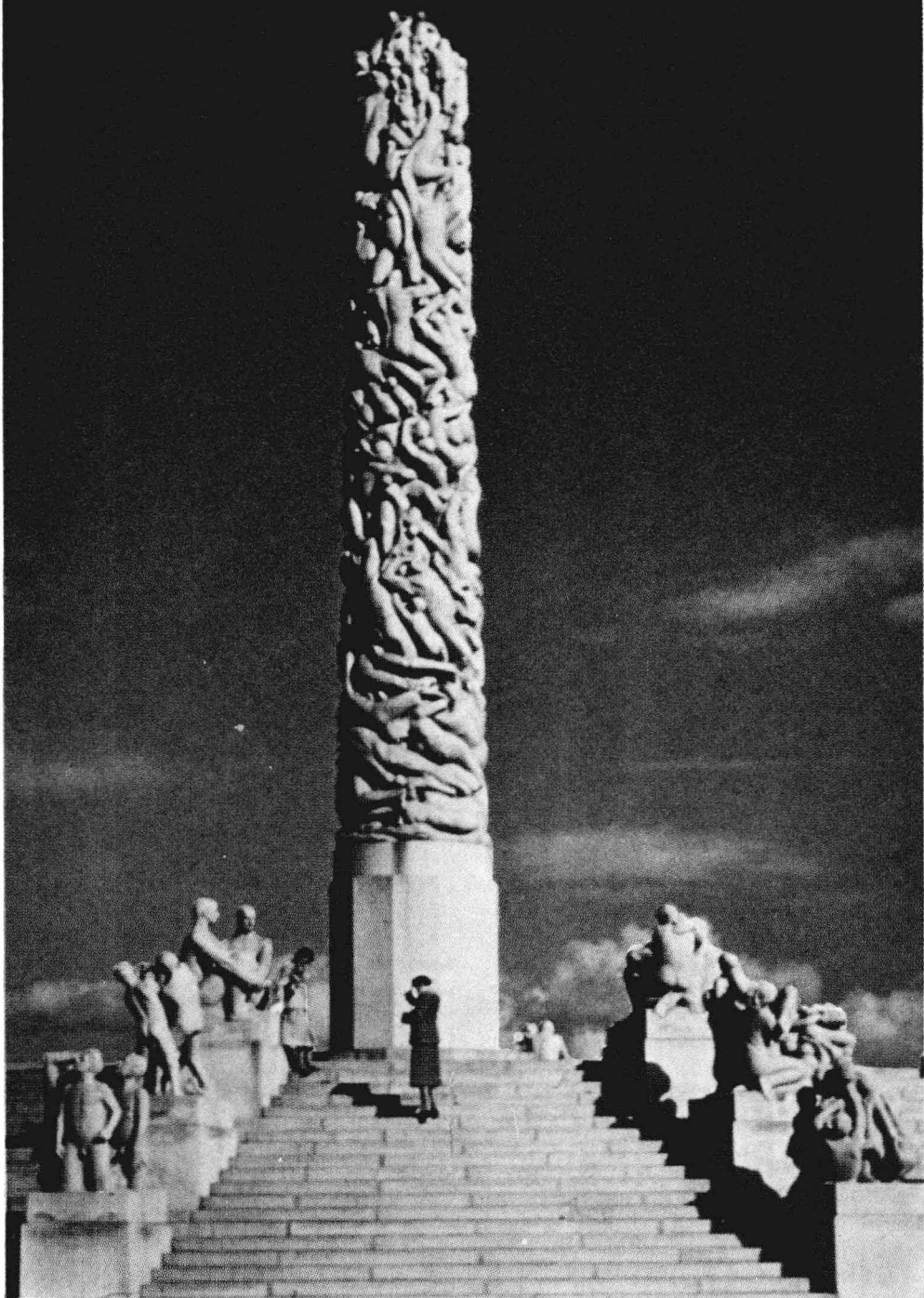
Aluminum is produced from a clay called bauxite, and to extract the aluminum requires tremendous amounts of electric power. In Norway, electric power means hydroelectric (water) power. As the rivers cascade down to the sea from the mountains, the rapids and falls have given Norway a greater amount of hydroelectric power in proportion to population than any other country in the world. Thus far only about a fifth of this power has been developed. Norway does not have bauxite. Nevertheless, the falling-water resources and their nearness to ice-free harbors make it profitable to send the clay from other countries to be processed. In turn Norway exports aluminum metal and articles made from it.

Fanning out north of Oslo and cutting deeply into the mountain plateau are the Eastern Valleys, U-shaped, sprinkled with sparkling lakes, and divided from each other by rolling highland moors. The valley farthest to the northeast, Oesterdal, is sometimes called "Norway's hidden valley." It once seemed far more remote than it does today, and few travelers glimpsed its brooding conifer forests car-

peted with leafy mosses, its deep mirror-like tarns and foaming rivers, including the upper course of the Glomma. Elk still slip through the woods, and occasionally roe deer. Among the many game birds is the capercaillie, which figures so often in Norwegian folk tales.

The largest and most important valley is the broad, fertile Gudbrandsdal, which spreads between the Dovre and the northern end of Lake Mjoesa, the largest lake in Norway. Though narrow, it is almost sixty miles long. The gateway to the Gudbrandsdal is the town of Lillehammer, on the lake. Sigrid Undset, who won a Nobel Prize in literature, lived just outside Lillehammer. Her greatest book, *KRISTIN LAVRANDSDATTER*, is considered the most important Norwegian literary work of the twentieth century. The scene of the trilogy is thirteenth-century Norway, but the characters are seen through modern eyes. Kristin is one of the most alive and memorable women in all fiction.

The Gudbrandsdal, Norway's "valley of valleys," and the region between it and Oslo contain the most fertile and level stretches of land and make up the chief farming district of Norway. Mountains and forests leave only about 4 per cent of



ALL COLOR. NORWEGIAN NATIONAL TRAVEL OFFICE

THE MONOLITH, 50 feet high with 121 intertwined human figures, is the center piece of Vigeland's park of sculptures, just outside Oslo.

the total area of the country suitable for raising crops. Nevertheless about one-third of the Norwegian people earn their living by farming in combination with forestry. (Along the coast a farmer may also be a fisherman.) Agriculture and lumbering have this close relationship because many of the farmers themselves own the forests. Besides, the farms are quite small: more than 90 per cent are less than 25 acres in extent; and only about 40 farms in the whole country are 250 acres or more. Though thrift and skill and the widespread use of fertilizers make the crop yields exceptionally high, not enough food-stuffs can be raised to meet the needs of the population. Only in the production of potatoes is Norway self-sufficient. Taking just two items, the country must buy from other nations about 40 per cent of its cereals (grains) and 15 per cent of its fodder (for livestock).

Saeters and Modern Creameries

The raising of livestock is an important part of the farmer's work. To this must be added the raising of fur-bearing animals, particularly silver foxes. Norway has developed its own breeds of cattle and horses, among them the Doele cattle that are raised in both the Gudbrandsdal and the Oesterdal. In addition to forests, many farmers own mountain pastures in common, where their cattle and sheep are put to graze in summer. In times past, milk was churned into butter and cheese was made in mountain dairies—the lonely saeters that, in Norwegian folklore, are often haunted by trolls. Today, however, the raw milk is sent to creameries in towns and villages. Norway, with other Scandinavian countries, was a pioneer in the co-operative movement. Most simply, this means that those who produce a certain article—milk or cheese, for instance—band together in an association that markets and sells the article without benefit of a middleman, or distributor. In Norway, the marketing of agricultural products is handled almost entirely by co-operatives.

There are several valleys, west of the Gudbrandsdal, in the enchanting lake dis-

trict of Valdres. One of them extends to the slopes of the Jotunheim range—the name means “Home of the Giants”—where the mountains of Norway soar highest. Here Galdhoepiggen lifts its rocky summit 8,098 feet above sea level. It is the highest mountain in Europe north of the Carpathians. However, a near-by peak, Glittertind, appears even higher because of its thick cloak of eternal snow.

South of the Valdres district is the Hallingdal, through which the railway between Bergen and Oslo passes. The route provides a thrilling mountain ride, and from the train one sees a cross section of the magnificent Norwegian landscape. To the east of the Hallingdal lies a roadless forest called Vassfaret, where an occasional bear still lurks.

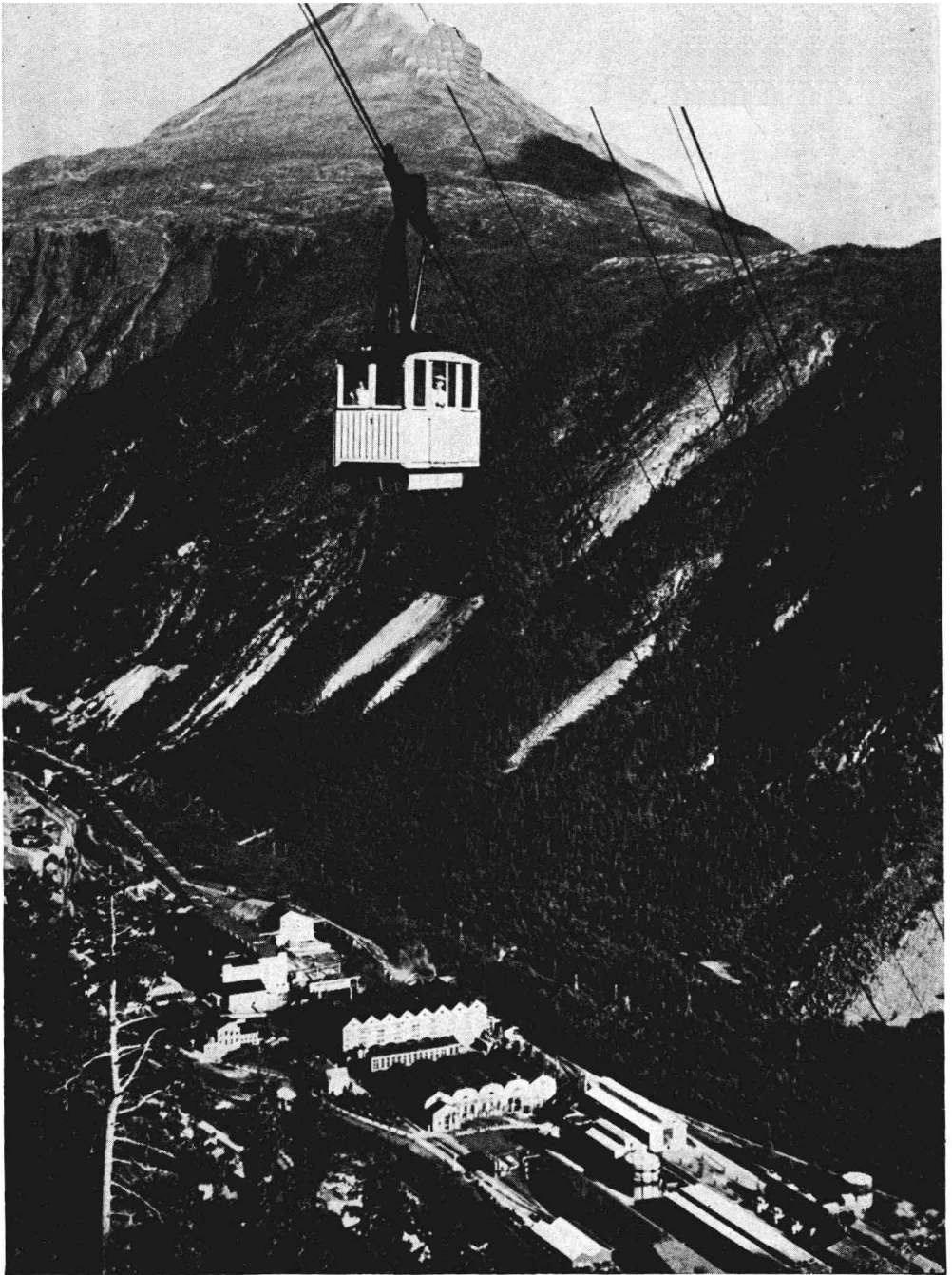
The farthest south of the Eastern Valleys is the Numedal. Its chief town is Kongsberg, which was an important silver-mining center as early as 1800. Metal for Norwegian coins still comes from these mines. Of more interest in the Numedal today are the number of stave churches still standing in their original settings. The one at Uvdal has a gorgeous “rose painting,” and is an outstanding piece of Norwegian folk art.

The Norwegian Riviera

From Stavanger to Krageroe the coast of southern Norway is called Soerlandet, or the “Norwegian Riviera.” Indented by many bays and tiny fiords and protected from the open ocean by thousands of skerries, the Soerlandet lures all those who love salt water and sun. From centuries-old ports along this coast—Arendal, Grimstad, Kristiansand, Tvedestrand—generations of mariners have braved the perils of the sea.

Telemark, Home of Skiing

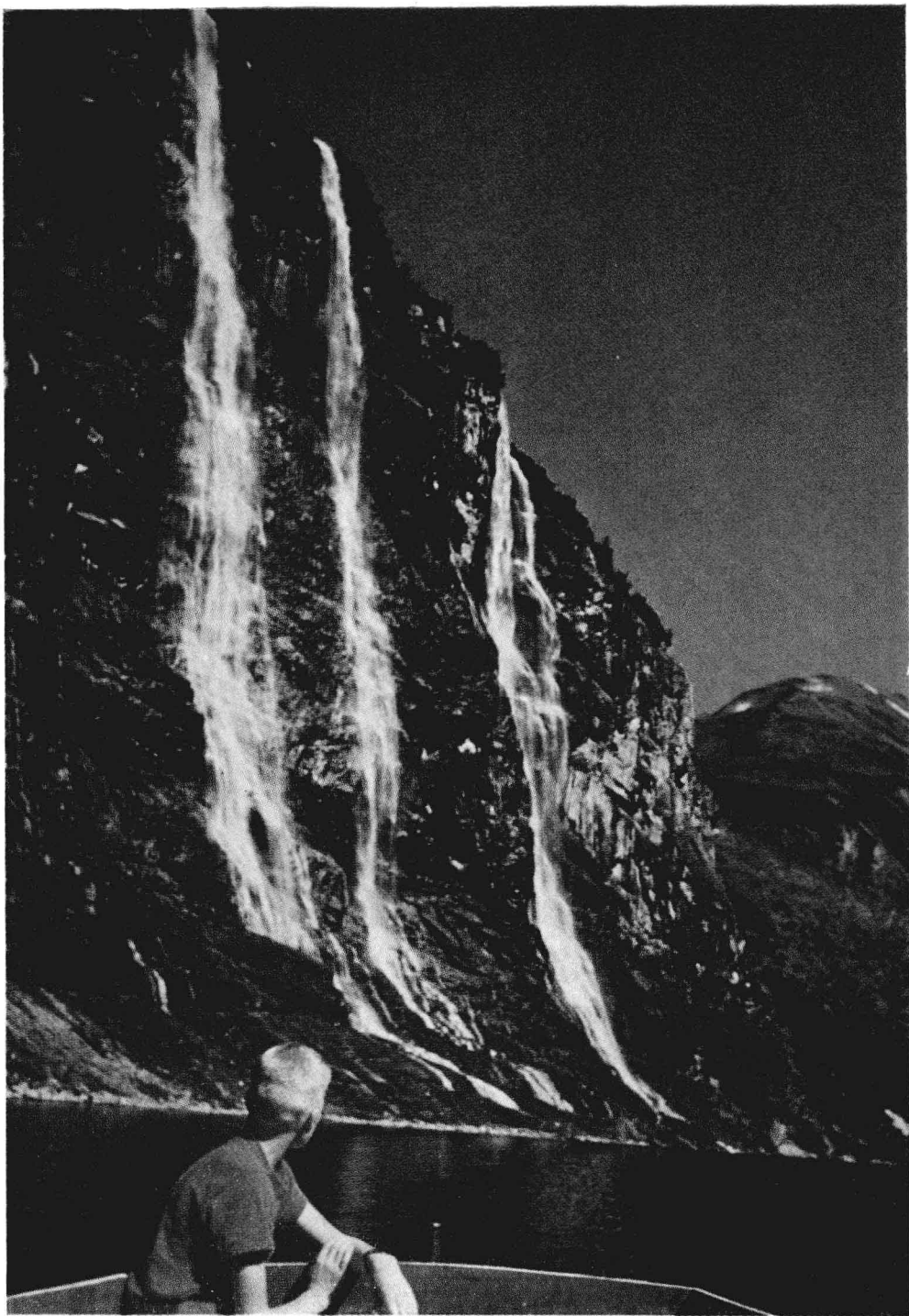
Telemark, in the central part of South Norway, is a district of winding valleys. On many of the farms one may still see examples of the folk architecture that developed during the Middle Ages. Among these wooden buildings, adorned with carving, is the *stabbur*, a storehouse that rests on pillars.



Norwegian Information Service

RJUKAN—FOREST-CLAD RAVINE AND CHEMICAL PLANT

The little cable car carries workers from the plant to the high surrounding plateau. Extracting nitrogen from the air, this factory produces fertilizers, of great importance to agriculture. The process of nitrogen extraction was developed by Norwegian scientists. It uses enormous amounts of electric power, made possible by the country's vast water-power resources.



SEVEN SISTERS WATERFALL, in Geiranger Fjord, is a dazzling sight in spring. Then melting snows add to the headlong rush of foam.



A **MODERN HIGHWAY** winds through the Romsdal valley, following an ancient route between west and central Norway. In the background looms Romsdalshorn.

STAVANGER is a bustling port, where the old and new blend happily. Though the city has a number of industries, it is best known as a fish-canning center.



THE LAND OF FIORDS

The glittering white cap of Mount Gausta dominates Telemark. Near this peak is the town of Rjukan, which is a center of Norway's important electro-chemical industry. This is another industry that has grown along with the development of water power. Vast quantities of cheap electricity have opened the way for the production of chemicals, of "heavy water" (used in atomic-energy plants), and for the extraction of nitrogen from the air, a process worked out by Norwegian scientists. The factories at Rjukan are among the largest in Norway and—a unique combination of beauty and utility—they nestle at the bottom of a deep, forest-clad ravine.

Telemark is also the home of skiing, the national sport, and has given its name

to a kind of skiing technique. Skis have been in use all over Norway for at least a thousand years, though skiing was not considered a sport until the middle of the nineteenth century. During the four "white" months, Norwegian boys and girls learn to glide over the crust almost as soon as they can walk. Easter is a special skiing holiday, when the worker in office or factory takes his family to the mountains for the sport. It is not surprising that Norwegian skiers usually take the lead in the Winter Olympics.

To the west of the mountains lies the breathtakingly beautiful Fiord Country. At the same time that the glaciers of the ice age were scouring out the deep Eastern Valleys, similar valleys were formed on the west coast separated by rounded mountain ranges extending toward the ocean like huge fingers. After the ice age the coastline began to sink, and the sea flooded the valleys to form the fiords. After the period of sinking, a slight rising occurred so that a shelf of lowland pushed above the water in the south as well as in the west. Today the greater part of Norway's population lives on this shelf. When it was formed, the chain of skerries also appeared that forms a natural breakwater along the coast.

The fiords are extremely deep. In places in Sogne Fiord, the water has a depth of more than 4,000 feet. At their mouths, the fiords are broad and smiling, with farmlands on either side; but gradually they narrow and the walls rise sheer and ever higher above the water. In many places the sides are so nearly vertical that large ocean-going vessels may ply within a few yards of the fiord's edge. On the steeper slopes there is little soil, but elsewhere there are groves



Scandinavian Airlines

COLORFUL GARB FOR FUN ON ICE AND SNOW

Many of the intricate designs are traditional, developed by generations of Norwegian women, busily clicking their needles through the long winter dusk. The star pattern (at left on the rack) comes from the Selbu area near Trondheim.

of pine and birch, where graceful red deer may be seen now and then. The islands that stand sentinel in the open sea look barren from a distance, but in sheltered coves and in crannies in the rocks there are thickets of oak and birch, aspen and rowan-tree.

Some of Norway's most important cities are at the mouths of the western fiords. Stavanger is a quaint old seaport, bustling with shipping and trade. It is the center of the fish-canning industry. During the summer a constant stream of smacks bring silvery cargoes of brisling to the quays. Brisling are small fish, and those canned are sold as "sardines." From Stavanger one may sail inland, weaving in and out among the teeming isles of Ryfylke and beyond into narrow fiords. One of the most enthralling of these is Lyse Fiord, where farms perch, at the edge of steep walls, hundreds of feet above the water. On such farms, the sturdy, sure-footed "fiord horse" does yeoman service.

One of the loveliest fiords of all is Hardanger, between Stavanger and Bergen. In the springtime the orchards along the shore are a drift of white blossoms. Farther inland, upland pastures show green and lush. Rising above the head of Hardanger Fiord is a lake-studded plateau rimmed with snow-covered peaks—Hardangervidda. On the edge of it, the power of both Laatefoss and Voeringfoss (*foss* means "falls") has been harnessed in superb engineering feats.

Although the colorful costumes of old time are rarely worn any more and the folk costumes are disappearing from everyday life, the visitor to the Hardanger



Burton Holmes from Ewing Galloway, N. Y.

THE HANSEATIC WHARF ON BERGEN'S WATER FRONT

In these gabled buildings the German merchants of the Hanseatic League once bargained for fish in exchange for grain. Bergen has been an important port ever since that medieval period. Today modern docks line the busy harbor, a haven for ships of all flags.

region may be lucky enough to witness an old-fashioned wedding. The women in the bridal party wear white blouses, and over them stiffly beaded or embroidered bodices; and knee-length skirts of black or dark-blue homespun. The men may be decked out in bibbed trousers with elaborately embroidered vests, and broad-brimmed hats, or sometimes tight-fitting knee breeches, scarlet vests with silver buttons and silver-buckled shoes. If the people live inland, the bridal procession winds down a country road led by a fiddler playing the curious eight-stringed "Hardanger fiddle." (Four of the strings are set below the others, and they give out rich overtones when the fiddle is played.) Bride and groom follow, riding in state, the bride wearing a crown, a tradition that has come down from medieval times. The crown, wrought of silver, is probably a family heirloom. If the fiord is near by, the procession will be made up of a number of small boats.

Bergen was already an important city in the Middle Ages, when merchants settled there from the free towns of the



LODGE along the Trollsteg mountain road between Valldal and Aandalsnes, western Norway.

FLOWER MARKET in Oslo. From June to September there is a profusion of blossoms.

