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"Wine is subject to no restriction. You can get as much as you want, but you must be able to produce your book."

### "Very Little Drunkenness"

"And what's the effect of the whole system? What about drunkenness?"

"Well, the only time when you see it is on the first week-end of the month, when the toppers get through the month's ration, and then go thirsty till next time. But there is very little drunkenness. Drunks can be warned, or their allowance can be reduced, and after three offences (I think it is three) their books can be taken away—no spirits, no wine. There's no getting anyone else's book, either — there's very little exchanging done.

"The one exception to the wine and spirit restriction is that you can get it in restaurants without your book. Only it must be with food, and in a glass, not taken away. That means you can have a meal and go on drinking all night if the restaurant is open all night! There are no such things as hours.

"For this system the Swedes claim all sorts of advantages. The State, though it handles the whole wine and spirit trade, has no interest in promoting sales—it does no advertising. That doesn't mean there isn't any, though. A German or French manufacturer can



FISHERMAN from Bohuslan, west coast of Sweden.

advertise in Sweden in the hope of making more Swedes ask for his brand—and a Swedish manufacturer can advertise his brand, too—but he has to sell it to the Monopoly. In this way the Swede gets good stuff at low prices. The Monopoly can send a buyer to France and buy up the best wine of a whole district. The system is used as a form of taxation, too, and the prices go up according to the needs of the Treasury. Swedish schnapps, for instance, used to be about 5/- a litre—now it's 12/-.

"Beer, you said, is not controlled?"

"No. But there are three kinds. No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3. No. 1 is our temperance beer, or hop beer—no alcohol at all. No. 2 is ordinary pilsener—the general drink; it's very light, and you can drink four or five bottles on a hot summer's day without any ill effects.

No. 3 is export beer—much stronger. You can get it only on a doctor's prescription, from a chemist, and it comes with a label 'Take a small glass three times a day after meals.'

### Swingpijatt

From beer the conversation turned to dancing. Had Dr. Mason seen a recent cable message on Swedish "jitterbugs." If so, what was the position?

"I wondered if you'd bring that up! It amazed me that in the middle of all the important news we're getting they found room for a cable about Swedish jitterbugs. American swing music has a big attraction, of course, and the Swedes see American films, but the jitterbugs amount to about the same proportion of the population as they might here. They go by another name—*swingpijatt*. The nearest word I can think of for *pijatt* is pansy. They go about in 'zoot suits' with long hair, long sports coats, and knee trousers, copied from the Americans, and I saw them on the streets only once or twice.

### Radio in Sweden

We asked Dr. Mason to tell us about radio in Sweden.

"Well, for one thing, there's no commercial broadcasting, and no demand for it. The Swedes have heard commercial programmes from other countries, and don't like them. There is a State service, but it provides only one programme, and they don't have nearly such long hours. They start with morning prayers and gymnastics, then give the news. Then they close down till 12.30, when they come on with more news. Then they're on the air from 2 till about 10 p.m., and 11 p.m. on Saturdays with dance music. Of course you've got a big choice of music from other countries, and you get good music from Germany."

"Do you get talks from the Swedish radio?"

"Yes, but the talks are tame, partly because they are never controversial. Nor do they ever have serials, or imported recorded programmes."

"What is the licence fee?"

"One pound a year—I think."

"Does the service maintain musicians or does it use existing groups?"

"It hires the existing orchestras. The Stockholm Orchestral Society, for instance, with about 70 players, gives three concerts a week, and always to packed houses. Of course they have guest artists and guest conductors. Backhaus came once, and Sargent flew from London by a Legation Courier plane. All the seats were sold out in about an hour then. Mengelberg came twice, and Furtwangler three times, to conduct; once with the whole Berlin Philharmonic!

### The Cinema

"What about films? Is there any system there?"

"The cinemas are run as private businesses, just as they are here, but of course with State censorship. No children under 16 are allowed in at all, but there are special Sunday matinees for them.

"The programmes, then, are really suitable for children?"

"That's a matter of opinion. I suppose they are all right—Wild West and Laurel and Hardy, and all the kind of things that Swedish children like. During the week there are two evening shows, 7-9 p.m., and 9-11. There are no afternoon pictures at all. The adult

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