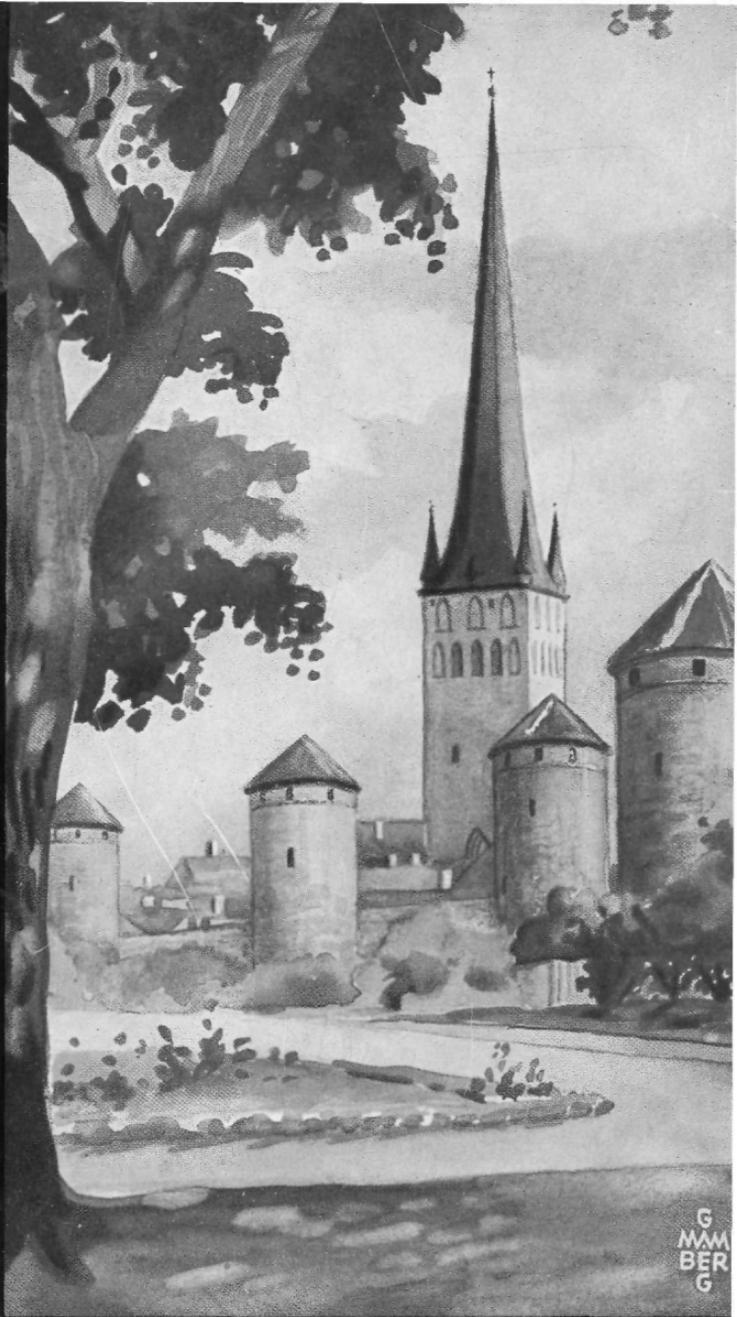


# GUIDE TO TALLINN



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## THE PICTURESQUE CAPITAL OF ESTONIA

# GUIDE TO TALLINN

THE PICTURESQUE  
CAPITAL OF ESTONIA

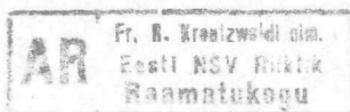


FOTO PARIKAS TALLINN

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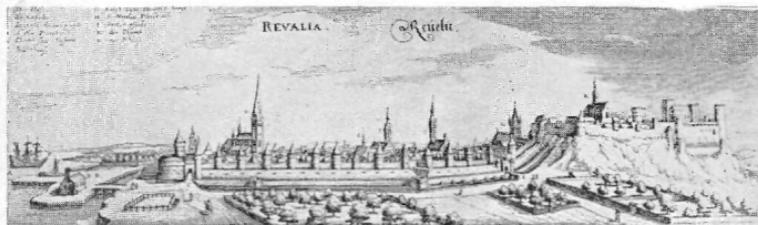
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Guide



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Printed by Tallinna Eesti Kirjastus-Ühisuse trükikoda, Pikk t. 2.  
1935.

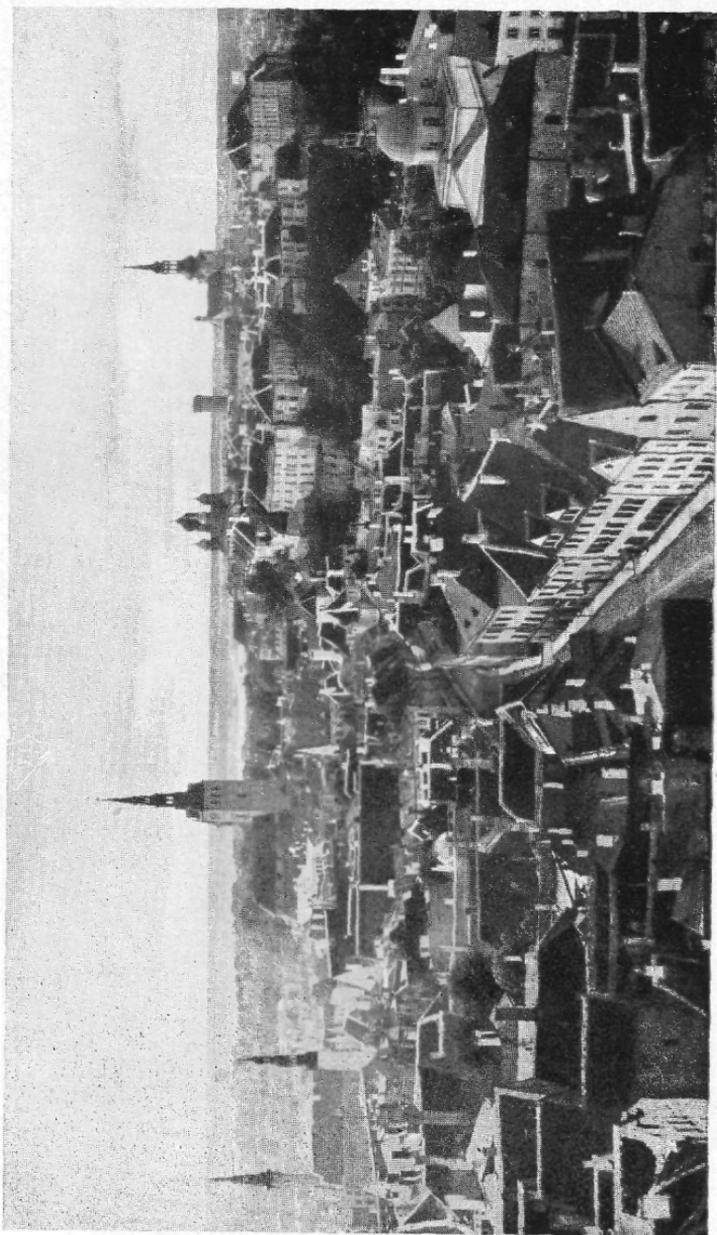


*Tallinn in 1625 according to an old engraving dating from that year.*

## PREFACE

The number of foreign tourists visiting Estonia and her Capital is increasing every year. On the following pages quotations will be found of British authors stating the reasons for the growing popularity of Tallinn as a tourist center. The attractions of the city, albeit modest, are in a certain sense unique. For this very reason, however, they require a proper introduction. The Publishers hope that this booklet, however modest, will serve this useful purpose — to interpret the quaint charms of the romantic history and mediaeval architecture of Tallinn.

Tallinn is not only a „night-cap“ city, as it is caressingly called. No visitor can fail to discover in it the throbbing of new life, although it may appear to be richer in promise than in its present day reality. Economic information, added to the usual features, will give the visitor an idea of the actual commercial and industrial importance on the town. The chapter on History will enable him to appreciate the significance of the momentous changes owing to which Tallinn has become the political centre of an independent country.



*The Old Section of Tallinn as seen from the tower of St. Olaf's.*

## ESTONIA.

### *The Republic of Estonia,*

the independence of which was proclaimed on Feb. 24, 1918, comprises the area inhabited by Estonians as a solid national majority. The size of this area, which includes 818 islands and 1512 lakes, is 47,588.7 sq. km., thus exceeding Denmark, Belgium, Holland or Switzerland.

### *The Population*

according to the last census taken on March 1, 1934, numbered 1,126,413 inhabitants. Estonians, a people belonging to the Finno-Ugric racial group and speaking a language of their own, form 88.2% of the population. The rest is represented principally by Russians (8.2%), Germans (1.5%), Swedes (0.7%), Letts (0.5%), and other races (0.9%). Only 28.3% of the population is urban, 59% being engaged in farming, 15.7% in industry, and 4.2% in commerce and finance.

### *History.*

The country was settled by Estonians during the early Iron age. It was conquered between 1208 and 1227 by the Danes (in the N.) and by the German Knights of the Sword (in the S.). The Danes sold their possessions in 1346 to the German Order, which controlled them until the Russian invasion of 1561. Sweden (in the N.) and Poland (in the S.), now divided the country until it was united under the sceptre of Gustavus Adolphus in 1625. As a result of the Great Northern War Estonia became in 1710 an autonomous Russian province, regaining her independence in 1918. In 1918—20 Estonia successfully defended her rights in her war of independence against Soviet Russia. This hard-won independence was recognized in 1921 by the Supreme Council of the Allied Powers and in the same year country became a member of the League of Nations.

### *Constitution.*

The power of the State is placed in the hands of the people, who exercise it (a) by referendum, (b) initiative in

legislation, (c) by election of the President and (d) by election of the State Assembly (Riigikogu).

The Constitution of June 15, 1920, placing all the power in the hands of Parliament and establishing a very weak Executive was amended in October, 1933, by a referendum accepting the proposal of electing the President directly by the people and placing considerable powers in his hands. The present Government which in accordance with the constitution, is the guardian of the rights of the people, intends, supported by overwhelming public opinion, to convoke in the near future a new Constitution Assembly which would have to work out a new constitution free from the extremities of that of 15th June, 1920, and of the amendment thereto of 1933.

Besides other liberal features the constitution guarantees the rights of national minorities, who enjoy complete educational autonomy.

#### *Education.*

Elementary education is compulsory and universal. About 20% of children completing the course of a six-years' elementary school go to secondary schools and a considerable percentage of the rest take to vocational training. The University of Tartu, founded in 1632 by Gustavus Adolphus, lists about 3,000 students annually; the Technical High School in Tallinn 250 students. There are in Estonia 70 newspapers and 180 magazines, 80% of which are published in the Estonian language. An average of 750 books is being published annually.

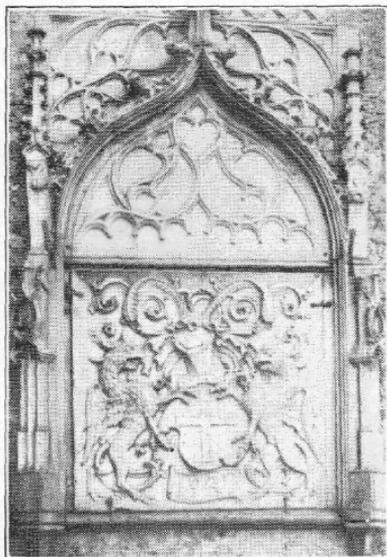
#### *Production.*

The value of the annual agricultural production is about 150,000,000 kroons (net) that of the industrial productions about 60,000,000 kroons (net). The balance of the country's foreign trade has thus far been mostly favourable. In 1928 the imports totalled 131,373,000 kroons and the exports 127,108,000 kroons. In the years of economic depression (1930—1933) there was a sharp decline in the foreign trade figures. Since the summer of 1933 conditions have improved considerably and at present Estonia's foreign

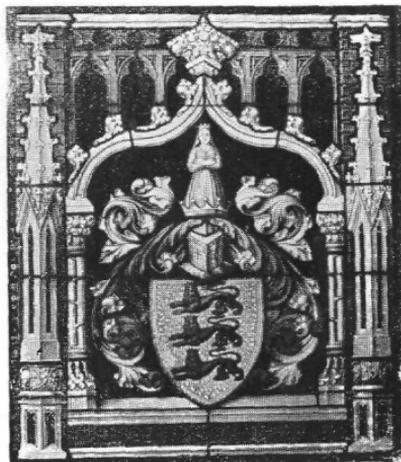
trade is increasing and well balanced. In 1934 Estonia imported goods for 55 million kroons and exported for 69 million kroons. Estonia exports mainly butter, bacon eggs, lumber, flax, cotton and linen goods, cement and matches, plywood, woodplup, etc., and imports manufactured articles, motor vehicles, raw cotton, tobacco, iron, steel, salt, sugar, etc.

### *Finance.*

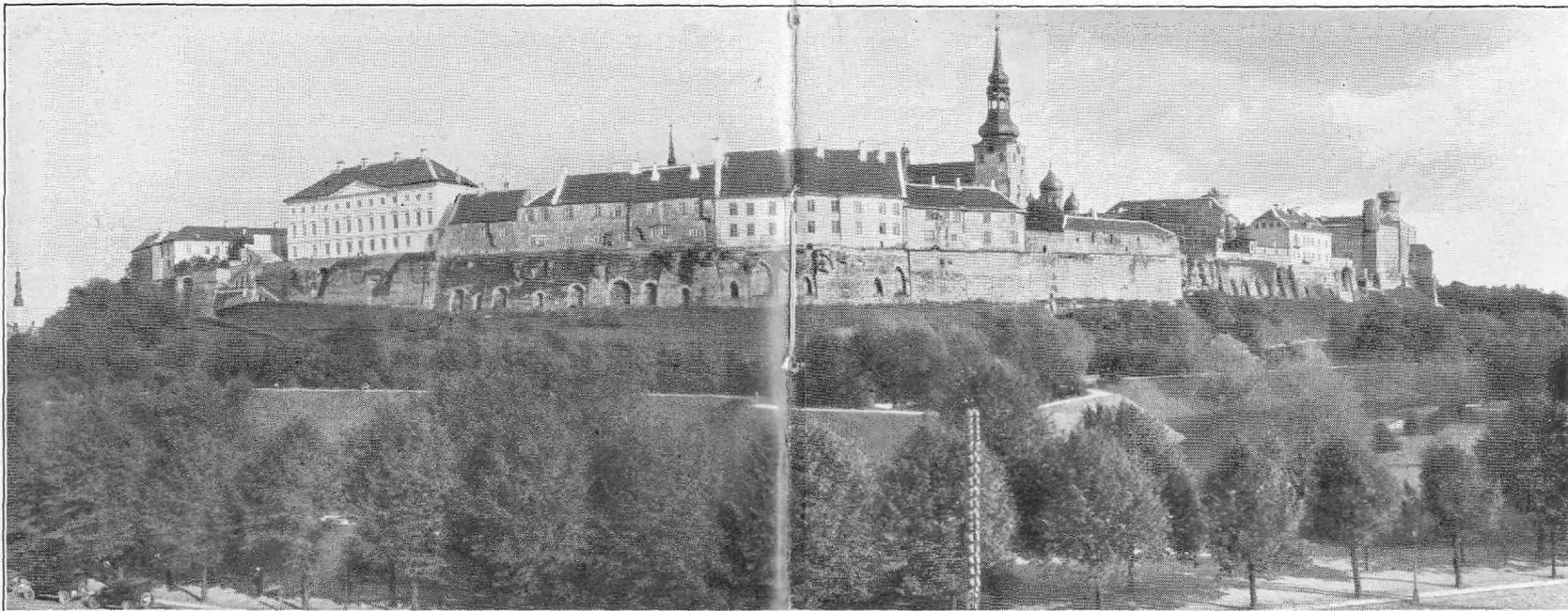
The currency reform, which took effect on Jan. 1, 1928, introduced a new monetary unit, the kroon (crown), equal to the Scandinavian „krona“. It represents the value of 248/100 grammes of pure gold. One kroon equals one hundred senti (cents). On June 28th, 1933, Estonia went off the gold standard. At present the kroon is linked to the pound sterling. The Bank of Estonia (Eesti Pank) is the bank of issue.



*The City's Coat of Arms, dating from 1539.*



*The Coat-of-Arms of Tallinn (from the stained glass window in the Town Council Chamber of the Town Hall).*



*The Dome Hill ("Toompea") and the Moat.*

## TALLINN — IN FIGURES

### *Position.*

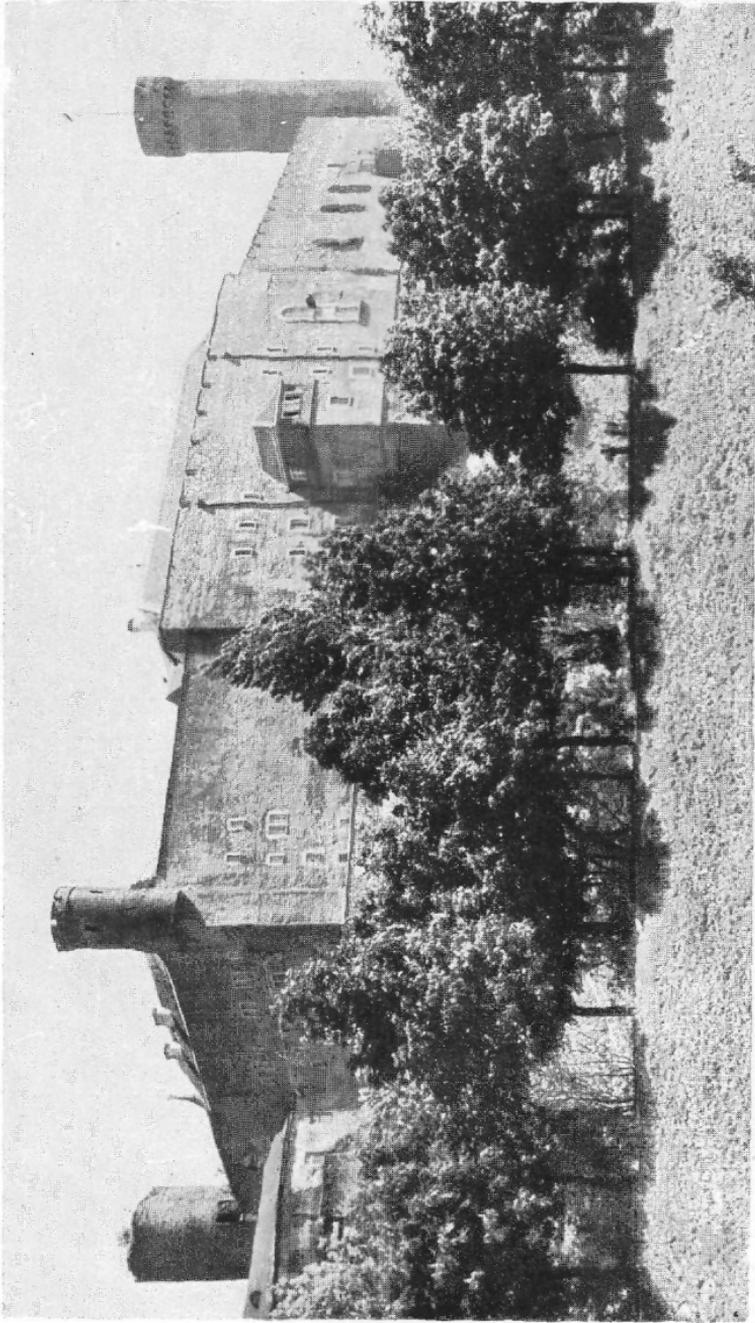
Tallinn, the capital of the Estonian Republic, is situated between  $59^{\circ} 22' 52''$  —  $59^{\circ} 28' 5''$ , north latitude, and between  $24^{\circ} 50' 34''$  —  $24^{\circ} 38' 39''$ , eastern longitude, on the southern shore of the Gulf of Finland and the Bay of Tallinn, occupying an area of 6,686.50 hectares. Of this total 1,391.25 ha. are occupied by buildings and adjoining courtyards and gardens, 91.63 ha. by parks and alleyways and 32.40 ha. by public playgrounds and traffic stations.

With the exception of the two elevated points, — the limestone hill in the centre of the town known as Toompea

(49.1 m.) and the elevation known as Tõnismägi (30.9 m.), — the city has its site on a level ground.

### *Climate.*

Climatically Tallinn belongs to the temperate zone. From the middle of May till the middle of September the average temperature is over  $13^{\circ}$ , by centigrade, the average temperature of July, the hottest month, being  $17.8^{\circ}$ , by centigrade. The autumn is generally warm, the spring generally cold. The annual average is 4.6 degrees, by centigrade. The average temperature of January, the coldest month of the year is —  $6.8$  degrees, by centigrade. The number of cloudy days in a year averages 175. The average number of rainy days in June, July and August is 27. The bathing season lasts from the middle of June till the end of August.



*The Castle of Dome ("Toompea loss"), built in 1250, now housing the Estonian State Assembly ("Riigikogu") and the Government Offices.*

### *Population.*

Tallinn had on October 1, 1934, 135,296 inhabitants (59,411 men and 75,885 women) as against 116,132 on Jan. 1, 1913, (57,087 men and 59,045 women), 102,860 inhabitants on Jan. 1, 1919, of 50,368 men and 52,492 women, 122,419 inhabitants in 1922, at the time of the first national census, and 137,792 (60,874 men and 76,918 women) inhabitants in 1934, at the time of the second national census. On that date 117,918 or 85.6% were Estonians, 6,575 or 4.8% Germans, 7,888 or 5.7% Russians and 2,246 or 1.6% Jews. 82.3% of the inhabitants were Lutherans, 11.9% Greek-Orthodox, 1.5% Hebrew and 0.6% Catholics.

### *Occupations.*

According to the census of 1934 the number of earning inhabitants was 78,556 or 57.0%, the rest being comprised chiefly of members of their families. 56,709 or 41.2% depended on industry, 20,924 or 15.2% on commerce and finance, 12,086 or 8.8% were engaged in transport and communications, 6,707 or 4.9% belonged to the group of domestic servants, 19,277 or 14.0% belonged to the public services, professions or the Army and Navy, 12,794 or 9.3% belonged to the group of the various incomes not mentioned above. 6,307 or 4.6% belonged to the group with unknown occupation.

### *Commerce and Industry.*

The following figures show the commercial importance of the port of Tallinn:

	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
1914	\$ 40,508,184	\$ 9,974,231	\$ 50,482,415
1927	\$ 23,336,300	\$ 23,157,280	\$ 46,493,580
1928	\$ 27,155,700	\$ 25,071,130	\$ 52,226,830
1933	\$ 9,686,957	\$ 10,817,392	\$ 20,504,349

The value of the industrial output of Estonia, (mainly paper and pulp, textile goods, etc) amounts to 85 millions kroons annually. Of this about 50% falls to the share Tallinn.

### *Municipal Finance.*

Estonia is a country of very advanced legislation in matters of public welfare. As a result, municipal finance is burdened with a large number of obligations. These are, of course, willingly born, but place a certain check on various projects of municipal development.

The biggest items on the expense sheet of the Tallinn municipality in 1933/34 were as follows:

Education . . . . .	658,224 kroons
Public services . . . . .	1,100,693 —
Medical service . . . . .	463,431 —
Social welfare . . . . .	847,768 —
Debt service . . . . .	814,173 —

The expenses totalled 9,755,687 kroons as against 9,874,822 kroons of receipts derived from the following sources:

Property taxes . . . . .	1,772,663 kroons
Municipal enterprises . . . . .	925,851 —
Industrial and commercial taxes	504,100 —
etc. etc.	

The total indebtedness of the city in 1933/34 was 7,851,321 kroons.

### *Education.*

In 1933/34 Tallinn had 43 elementary and 33 vocational schools. The percentage of illiterates in Estonia was at the time of the second national census in 1934 nil, the percentage of Tallinn (0,9%) being chiefly due to the presence of local Russians. In Tallinn about 2,3% of the population have university education and about 12,5% secondary education.

The theatres, on the average, are frequented by 220,000 persons annually. About 100,000 attend drama performances, 65,000 musical comedy and 50,000 the opera.

The Central Municipal Library has an annual attendance of 500,000.

### *Cost of Living.*

Estonia may still be considered one of the cheapest countries of Europe. The general index of the cost of living

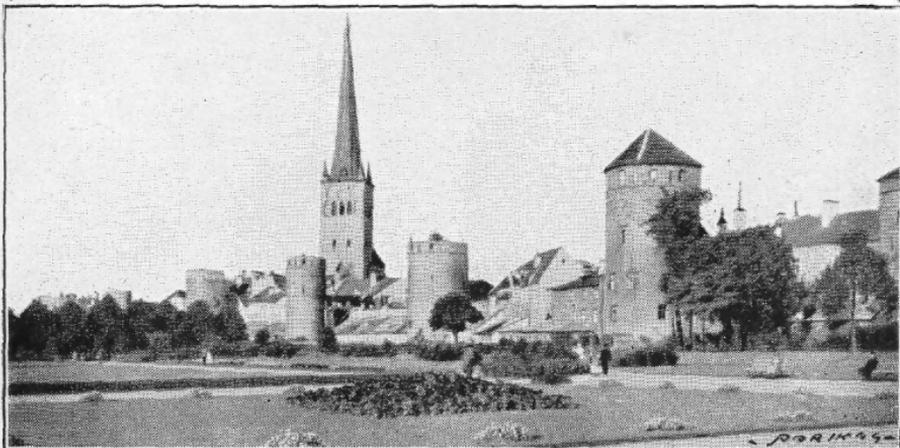
was 85 (1913=100) in September, 1934. The average index of the cost of living in 1933 was 88. Tourists will find hotels much cheaper than elsewhere, not to speak of boarding houses (especially numerous in bathing resorts) during the summer season, which often are very comfortable.

On the other hand it must be stated that there are so far no hotels de luxe. Food, however, is excellent and even in the best restaurants very cheap.

### *Housing.*

Tallinn had on Jan. 1, 1934 a total of 8,648 dwelling houses with 44,616 flats and 76,287 rooms. The housing conditions being considered unsatisfactory, the Municipality, assisted by the Government and longterm banks, has promoted building with credit grants. Thanks to this building activities have rapidly increased and during the last 8 years the number of dwelling houses has increased by about 1,474, the number of flats by 8,600 and the number of rooms by 18,210.

The length of paved streets totalled (1933) 167,06 km., that of unpaved 6.20 km.



*The Towers Green "Tornidevält".*



*The Town Hall seen from the Mundī tānav (street).*

## USEFUL INFORMATION FOR TRAVELLERS

### *International Railway and Boat Communications with Tallinn.*

Tallinn may be reached by rail from: London via Harwick-Hoek van Holland-Berlin-Riga in 51 hrs, Paris via Cologne-Berlin-Riga 45 hrs., Berlin via Riga 31 hrs., Warsaw via Daugavpils (Dvinsk)-Riga 25½ hrs., Riga 9¾ hrs., Moscow via Leningrad 33 hrs., Leningrad 13½ hrs.

By boat: London via Kiel Canal 5—6 days, Stettin 42 hrs., Stockholm 20 hrs., Helsingfors 5 hrs.

### *Air communications.*

Tallinn is most conveniently situated in respect to air travel, being connected (in summer) by the line Berlin-Königsberg-Riga-Tallinn-Leningrad and (summer and winter) by the line Tallinn-Helsingfors Stockholm with the network of international airways. The cities mentioned below may be reached in the following time: London via Riga-Berlin 11½ hrs., Paris via Riga-Berlin 11 hrs., Berlin via Riga-Königsberg 7 hrs., Stockholm via Helsingfors 3¾ hrs., Riga 1¾ hrs., Helsingfors ½ hr.

### *Passports.*

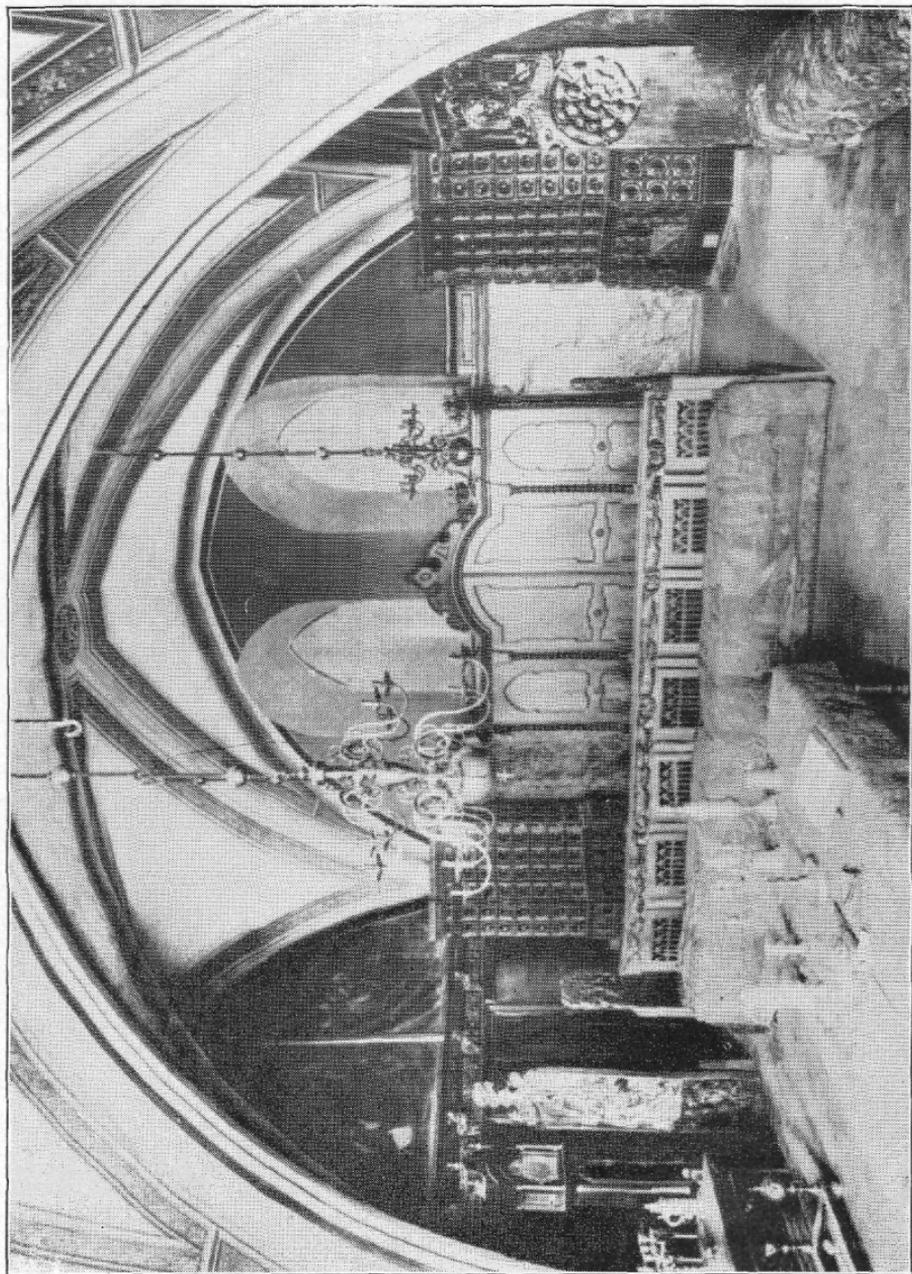
A passport is indispensable for all foreigners except those who are Latvian or Finnish citizens. No visa is needed by nationals of Austria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Germany, Holland, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. A visa may be obtained at the following Estonian legations and consulates:

### *Legations:*

London, S. W. 7, 167 Queen's Gate.

Roma, 36 A, Via Rubicone 9.

Kaunas, Parodos g-ve 16.



*The Hall of Burghers in the Town Hall.*

Riga, Skolas iela 13, 14.  
Moskva, Malõi Kislovski per. 5.  
Warszawa, Aleja Roż 1.  
Paris VIII, 6, rue Magellan.  
Stockholm, Sturegatan 16.  
Berlin W. 35, Hildebrandstrasse 5.  
Helsinki, Itä-Kaivopuisto 20.  
Praha, Na porici 22, Palais Legio-banka.

Consulates General:

Kopenhagen, Raadhusplads 4.  
Leningrad, Ul. Gertsena 59.  
Lisboã, rua Aurea 101.  
New York, N. Y., 18 West 94th Street.  
Rotterdam, Pieter de Hoogwegh 108.

Consulates:

Antwerpen, 1 Place de Meir.  
Budapest VI, Rozsa-utca 111.  
Cape-Town, 18st. George's street, Exchange Building.  
Dairen, 54 Yamagata-dori.  
Danzig, Jopengasse 66.  
Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf-Heerd, Burgunderstr. 29.  
Jaffa, Achad-Aam street 22.  
Hamburg, Schopenstehl 15.  
Harbin, 19, Garden Street.  
Hull, Maritime Buildings, Alfred Gelder Street.  
Marrakech-Quelis, Avenue Landais, Villa „Nora“.  
Montreal (Canada), Room 1103, Castle Building, 1410 Stanley Street.  
Shanghai, Hart Rood Shanghai.  
Sydney, Pacific House, 249 George Street.  
Wien IV, Schleifmühlgasse 1.

Vice-Consulates:

Liepaja, Graudu iela 14.  
Valka, Rigas iela 27 (car.).

Persons who intend to sojourn for a period of over two days have to register themselves at the nearest police

station within five days after crossing the frontier. A „transit“ visa entitles the owner of the passport only to a sojourn of two days.

No exit visa is required.

#### *Railways.*

Official railway guide-books (Ametlik Reisijuht) with time-tables and other information in Estonian, German and English may be obtained at all station book-stalls.

Trains generally have only 2nd and 3rd class carriages, of which only the former are upholstered. Sleeping berths with bed linen may be secured for a small fee in sleeping carriages accompanying all night trains. Tickets for distances under 200 kilometres are available for 3 days after their time of issue. Passengers' hand luggage must be of sizes convenient for passenger compartments.

#### *Customs.*

Passengers' luggage is examined at the frontier without the necessity for the passengers in the train to leave their seats. Travellers entering Estonia are allowed to carry objects only for personal use. Passengers are not allowed to import more than a partly consumed bottle of liquor. The amount of tobacco must not exceed 200 gr. (about ½ lb.), the number of cigarettes one hundred, that of cigars fifty. One traveller or one family may not have more than one opera glass or camera and not more than two decks of playing cards.

#### *Postal tariffs.*

Unregistered letters to be delivered in Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania must be provided with a 10 c. stamp for the first 20 grammes and a 5 c. stamp for each additional 20 grammes. Foreign letters must bear a 25 c. stamp for the first 20 grammes, with 15 c. for each additional 20 grammes.

Postcards for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania must have a 5 s. stamp, foreign postcards a 15 c. stamp.

#### *Language.*

Foreigners will make themselves best understood in German. Although the educated classes speak English and

some French, a tourist may not always rely on the presence of persons knowing these languages. Travellers for whom the language question proves a difficulty, may always secure guides.

#### *Arrival in Tallinn.*

Foreign trains stop at the Balti Jaam (Baltic Railway Station). Luggage, if any, may be obtained by the traveller from the luggage van, next to the locomotive. The Station building houses an office of the Travel Bureau, a news stall with English, French, German etc. newspapers, a restaurant, a police station, a post and telegraph office and a hairdresser's shop.

Travellers arriving by boat disembark at the customs and passport office on the Merchants' quay.

#### *Hotels and Restaurants.*

The following hotels can be recommended:

„Kuld Lõvi“ (The Golden Lion). Harju tän. 40.

„Hotel Bristol“. Rataskaevu tän. 7.

„Hotel Rome“. Narva mnt. 20.

Besides the restaurants at these hotels the following restaurants, with cabaret entertainment and dancing in the evening, will be found to have a good cuisine:

„Gloria“, Vabadusplats.

„Estonia“ (in the building of the theatre „Estonia“).

„Du Nord“, Rataskaevu 3 (rich cuisine).

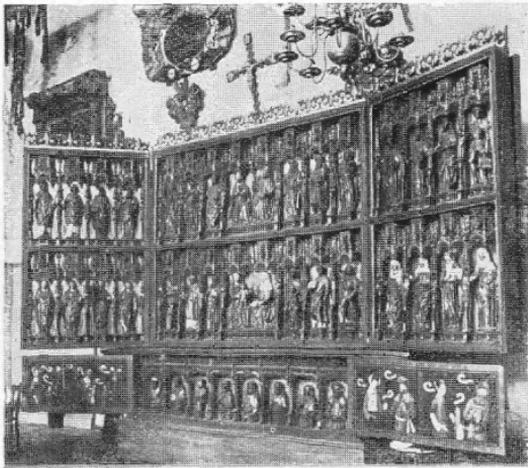
During the summer season the restaurant „Pirita“, at the bathing beach with fine sands and pine forest near Tallinn is also much frequented. The restaurant provides music and afternoon and evening dancing.

Motorbuses to Pirita from Veneturg every half an hour. On Sundays every 10 minutes.

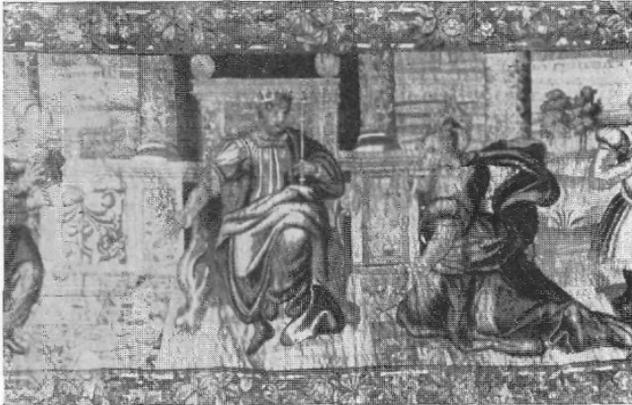
The following Club restaurants (entrance free) can likewise be recommended:

„Seltskondlik Maja“, Aia tän. 12.

„Mustapeade Klubi“ (In the historical building of the Club of the Black Heads) Pikk tän. 26.



*Some Treasures of  
Mediaeval Art in  
Tallinn. The Altar  
in the Chapel of St.  
Anthony (Church of  
St. Nicholas).*



A fragment from the old Bruges tapestry of the Town Hall.

### *Cafés.*

The following are most frequented:

- „Corso“, EKA building, Vabadusplats, (hours of rendezvous 12—2 and 5—11, music).
- „Feischner“, Harju tän. 45.
- „Marcelle“, Town Hall Square (dancing).
- „Marokko“, Harju tän. (music).
- „Heinmann“, Suur Karja tän. 14.
- „H. Laas“, V. Posti tän. 7.

### *Confectioners.*

G. Stude, Pikk tän. 16.

„Heinmann“, S. Karja tän. 14.

„Kave“, V. Roosikrantsi tän. 8-a.

A. Brandmann, V. Tartu mnt. 6.

### *Cabs and Taxicabs.*

Cabs will be found convenient and cheap for short drives in the City, although they are nearly extinct.

Taxicabs are divided into four-seaters and six-seaters. The former are more common and they charge 30 c. (= 4 d.) per kilometre for a return trip, 45 c. for a single trip and 60 c. for a night drive (midnight to 6 a. m.). If the passenger intends to return in the course of his drive to his starting point, he should ask for the „first fare“ (esimene taks).

The rates of the six-seaters are 40, 60 and 80 c. for a return, single, and night trip, respectively.

### *Trams.*

The tramlines start at Liberty Square, whence they diverge to Narva maantee, Tartu maantee and Pärnu maantee. The first of these lines, leading to the Kadrioru Park, is most frequented.

There is a motor-tram service between the city and the Kopli peninsula with its big naval yards.

Motorbuses provide a convenient means of communication within the city and between Tallinn and the provinces.

### *Post, Telegraph and Telephone.*

The General Post Office is at Vene tän. 9; branch offices are at the Balti Jaam (Baltic railway station), Narva maantee 63; Narva maantee 27; S. Tartu maantee 86; S. Pärnu maantee 27; Uus Hollandi tän. 6; and in Kopli. The post offices are open from 9 a. m. to 8 p. m. on weekdays, and 9—11 a. m. on Sundays. The branch office in the Baltic Station is open from 8 a. m. to 11.30 p. m. Foreign letters posted before 8 p. m. reach Berlin within 40 hours.



*The Town Hall Square.*

Telegrams can be received at the General Post Office and at all branch offices.

There are postal agencies (sale of stamps, receipt of registered mail etc) in the following places: Us Kalamaja tän. 11; Õle tän. 16; Sitsi tän. 18; Tallinna väike raudteejaam; Lilleküla.

Public telephones will be found in all post offices. There is a telephone communication with all important centres in Europe, South America and North Africa.

#### *Banks.*

Bank of Estonia (Bank of issue), Vabaduse puistee 3.

Pikalaenu Pank (Long Term Credit Bank), Harju tän. 33.

Eesti Maapank (Land Bank), Vabaduse puistee 1.

Krediit Pank, Suur Karja tän. 20.

Eesti Laenupank, Suur Karja tän. 18.

Tallinna Linnapank (Municipal Bank), S. Karja tän. 7.

Messrs. G. Scheel & Co., Vanaturg.

Tartu Pank, Kinga tän. 1.

Tallinna Aktsia Pank, Merepuistee 15.

### *The Travel Bureau.*

The main office of the „Eesti Reisibüroo“ Ltd. (the Estonian Travel Bureau) is at Kinga tän. 3. Services: sale of railway, steamer and aeroplane tickets, changing of money, obtaining of visas, information. Branch office at the Baltic railway station.

The „Central Office for Tourism in Estonia“ is at Vene tän. 30. Advice in all matters connected with tourism. Tourist literature regarding Tallinn and all parts of Estonia, free of charge.

The International Sleeping Car Co. („Wagons lits Cook“) has its branch office at Mundi tän. 1.

### *Police.*

The chief Inspector of the Tallinn police, to whom foreigners intending to sojourn in Estonia for a period of over two months have to apply, has his offices at Pikk tän. 63.

### *Legations, Consulates.*

Argentina, Vice-consulate, Valli tän. 10, tel. 442-59.

Austria, Consulate, Pikk tän. 9, tel. 429-46.

Belgium, Consulate, Vilmsi tän. 11, tel. 301-09.

British Empire, Legation and Consulate, Lai tän. 17, tel. 438-15.

Bulgaria, Consulate, Väike Karja 1, tel. 426-72.

Chile, Consulate, Narva mnt. 27, tel. 425-40.

Czecho-Slovakia, Legation and Consulate, Kiriku tän. 6, tel. 433-78.

Denmark and Iceland, Legation and Consulate, Uus tän. 14, tel. 435-62.

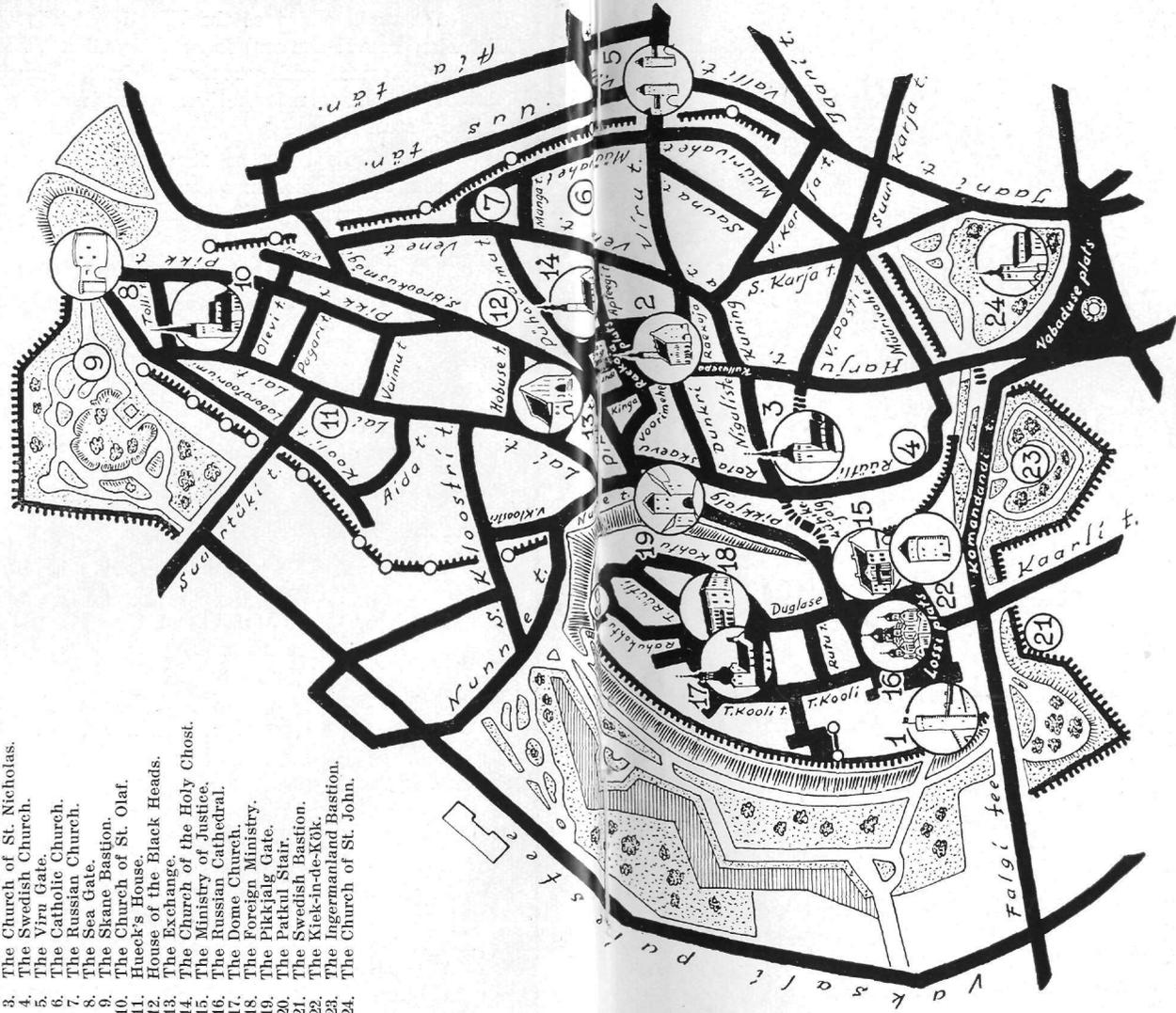
Finland, Legation and Consulate, Kohtu tän. 4, tel. 432-11, 432-92.

France, Legation and Consulate, Alendri tän. 3, tel. 454-08.

Germany, Legation, Toom-Kuninga tän. 11, tel. 454-94.

Greece, Consulate General, Kreutzvaldi tän. 17, tel. 302-66.

1. The Castle.
2. The Town Hall.
3. The Church of St. Nicholas.
4. The Swedish Church.
5. The Viru Gate.
6. The Catholic Church.
7. The Russian Church.
8. The Sea Gate.
9. The Skane Bastion.
10. The Church of St. Olaf.
11. Hueek's House.
12. The Exchange.
13. The Church of the Holy Ghost.
14. The Ministry of Justice.
15. The Russian Cathedral.
16. The Dome Church.
17. The Foreign Ministry.
18. The Pikkig Gate.
19. The Patrol Stair.
20. The Swedish Bastion.
21. The Kiel-de-Kök.
22. The Ingermanland Bastion.
23. The Church of St. John.
- 24.



A Scheme of the Old Town.



*A view of the city of Tallinn.*

- Hungary, Consulate, Valli tän. 4, tel. 450-62.  
Italy, Legation, Poska tän. 8, tel. 304-39.  
Latvia, Legation and Consulate, Tõnismägi 10, tel. 453-18.  
Lithuania, Legation and Consulate, Valli tän. 4, tel. 468-09.  
The Netherlands, Consulate General, Peeter Süda tän. 1, tel. 455-79.  
Norway, Consulate, Jaani tän. 6, tel. 436-18.  
Poland, Legation and Consulate, Kohtu tän. 10, tel. 457-38.  
Portugal, Consulate, Vene tän. 11, tel. 430-46.  
Roumania, Consulate, S. Karja tän. 18, tel. 426-90.  
Spain, Consulate, Jaani tän. 6, tel. 445-51.  
Sweden, Legation and Consulate, Kentmani tän. 20, tel. 449-42.  
Switzerland, Consulate, Weizenbergi tän. 14, tel. 306-20.  
U. R. S. S., Legation and Consulate, Pikk tän. 19, tel. 442-27, 442-25.  
United States, Legation and Consulate, Kentmani t. 20, tel. 449-80.

*Theatres, Cinemas, Museums, Shows.*

Theatre „Estonia“ — performances of drama, opera and musical comedy in the theatre hall, symphony music in the concert hall.

Theatre „Draama Studio“ — performances of drama and comedy.

The following motion picture theatres are much frequented:

„Gloria Palace“, Vabadusplats.

„Grand Marine“, Merepuiestee 10.

„Bi-Ba-Bo“, Viru tän.

„Helios“, Viru tän.

„Modern“, Suur Tartu mnt.

The following museums contain collections that are likely to interest foreign visitors:

The Estonian Art Museum, Narva mnt. 4, open from 10—3 in the winter months and from 10—6 during the summer.

The Estonian War Museum, Vene tän. 5, 12—5 daily, on Sundays 11—2.

The Estonian Provincial Museum, 11—1 on Sundays. Town Archives, the Town Hall, 10—3 daily.

The Commercial and Industrial Fair is held each year.

Art Exhibitions, historical as well as contemporary, are held in the new Art Exhibition Hall (Kunstihoone), Vabadusplats.

Genuine Estonian Handwork, linen, leather articles and objects of national art may be purchased at „Kodukäsitöö“, Harju tän. 48.

Athletic competitions and football matches attract large crowds nearly every Sunday on one of the four stadiums of the city.

Horse races take place each Sunday from early Spring until late Autumn at the Hippodrome.

Municipal hard tennis courts, adjoining Liberty Square, are open to the public.

*Trade Organizations in Tallinn.*

The Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry,  
Pikk tän. 20.

The Exchange Committee of Tallinn, Lai tän. 14.

The Association of Estonian Manufacturers, Vana Viru  
tän. 12.

The Bankers' Association (address: Krediit Pank).

The Merchants' League of Estonia, V. Posti tän. 5.

Estonian Co-operative Wholesale Society, Narva mnt. 27.

The Estonian-Russian Chamber of Commerce, Maakri  
tän. 19.

The Estonian-Polish Chamber of Commerce, Jaani t. 6.

The Estonian-Belgian Chamber of Commerce, S. Karja  
tän. 18, k. 13.

The Estonian Chamber of Agriculture, Pikk tän. 40.

*Visits to Factories and Industrial Plants.*

can be arranged through the Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the most authoritative organ for commercial information.

## HISTORY OF TALLINN

Soon after the beginning of the Christian era Estonia was occupied by the ancestors of present-day Estonians — a sturdy people of Finno-Ugric stock, akin to the Finns and the Hungarians. Although living in villages, the Estonians in order to protect themselves against invasions from the South and the East erected a large number of native strongholds. Of these Lindanissa occupied an important strategic and commercial position, guarding the sea route along the Finnish Gulf and dominating a great part of its southern shore. When an attempt was made by the German Order of Knights to conquer Estonia, Lindanissa remained impregnable and was not conquered until 1219, when Valdemar the Victorious intervened with a large army. He was on the point of being defeated by the heathen natives when, as the legend says, an ensign with a white cross on a red field was bestowed from Heaven thanks to the fervent prayers of Archbishop Andrew of Lund. The ensign is known as the Daneborg, the national colour of Denmark, and the white cross on a red field is even now the minor coat of arms of the City of Tallinn.

The Victorious Valdemar proceeded in the same year to erect the Castle of Reval (whence the Estonian name of the city: Tallinn-Taani linn-Danish Castle), naming it after the Estonian name of the local tribe Rēvele. After a passing domination by the German Order the North of Estonia with Reval was finally occupied by the Danes in 1238. More than a century passed until the general rising of the Estonians in 1343 reminded the new rulers of the difficulty of their position. The Estonians, who had been promised Swedish and Finnish aid, were, however, defeated by the Master of the German Order before the arrival of succour from Finland. In 1346 the Danish possessions were sold for 19,000 silver dollars to the German Order.

Meanwhile a prosperous settlement had come into being



*A mediaeval nook on the Dome with the Dome Church showing behind.*

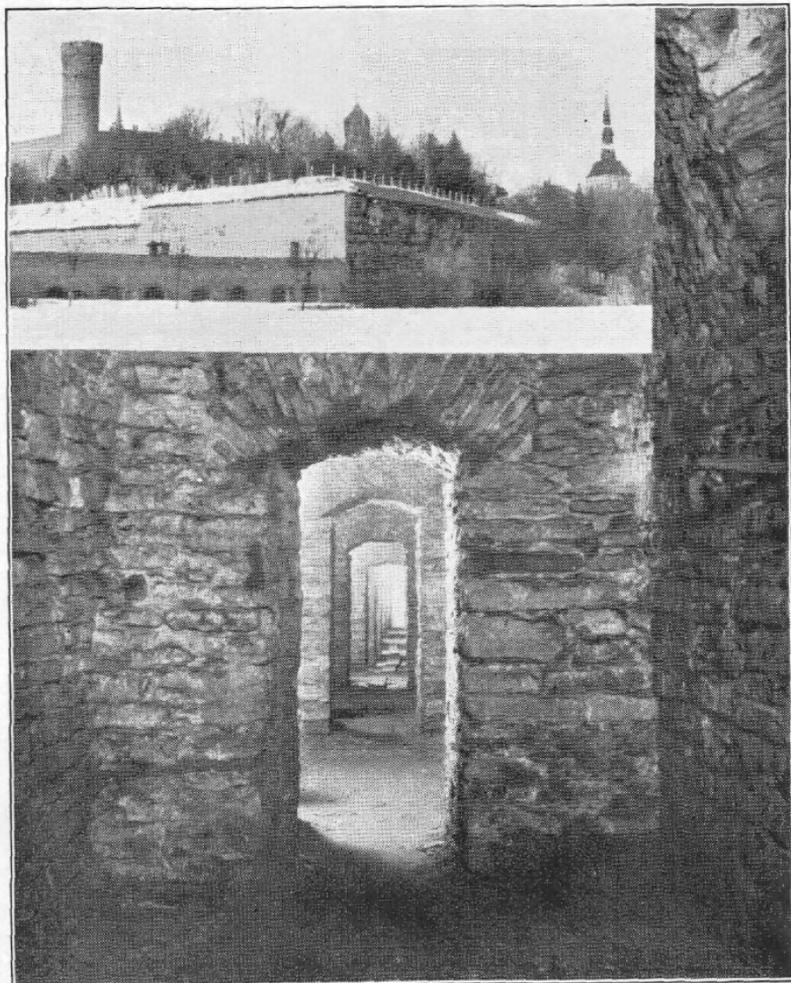
outside the battlements of the castle, attracting tradespeople from the West and native artisans from the adjoining countryside. In 1248 this settlement was given the rights of a city. The Danish king also conferred upon the city the right of using his personal coat of arms — that of three blue leopards on a field of gold. Municipal affairs were conducted by a Council of 24 burghers, the Executive being represented by four counsellors. By the end of the Danish rule municipal Government already had its seat in the present Town Hall. The Castle, situated on a hill, was governed by the Capitaneus, the king's governor. Legal conditions in the country were settled in 1248, when King Erik Plogpenning granted the Luebeck law. This remained in force until the last century and it is a curious fact that in spite of the various conquests of Estonia by other powers all Esto-

nian law-suits could be referred during a period of six hundred years to the Luebeck Court for final adjudication.

In the second half of the 13th century the municipal Government secured a position of virtual autonomy. In 1285 Tallinn was able to join the Hanseatic League, which greatly increased its strength and resulted in the city becoming one of the chief trading centres of Europe. It managed a large part of the eastern trade of the German, Dutch and Scandinavian cities and had the control of the German trading court in Novgorod. The steady increase in prosperity stimulated the building activities of the burghers. The Dome Church was built soon after the Danish conquest, the Church of St. Olaf but a few decades later. The Church of Saint Nicholas followed in 1350, by which time the erection of the present Town Hall was likewise completed. The building of the Great Guild, used as an Exchange even now, was erected 1405 and is a direct evidence of the busy commercial life of the town.

The temporal power of the German Order declined with the advent of the Lutheran Reformation, which reached Tallinn in 1524. Iconoclasts infested the city and a part on the treasures contained in the churches and monasteries was demolished. Antagonism between the city and the nobility increased and the dissensions which finally broke out in the Livonian State precipitated Russian intervention. In 1560—61 the town had to endure a long Russian siege and soon afterwards the citizens took the oath of allegiance to the King of Sweden. Another Russian siege had to be resisted in 1577 and only the military exploits of Pontus de la Gardie, a famous Swedish general, whose magnificent tombstone may still be seen in the Dome Church, finally secured a spell of peace. Russian trade, however, was entirely lost and the city was never able to recover its once dominating position in the eastern Baltic.

Estonia and Tallinn played henceforth an important rôle as one of the pivots of Sweden of a great power. The war with Poland, under whose sceptre Estonia had been jointly with Sweden from 1587—1600 owing to their personal union under Sigismund III, started with the landing of



*The Swedish Bastion (above), with old underground casemates (below).*

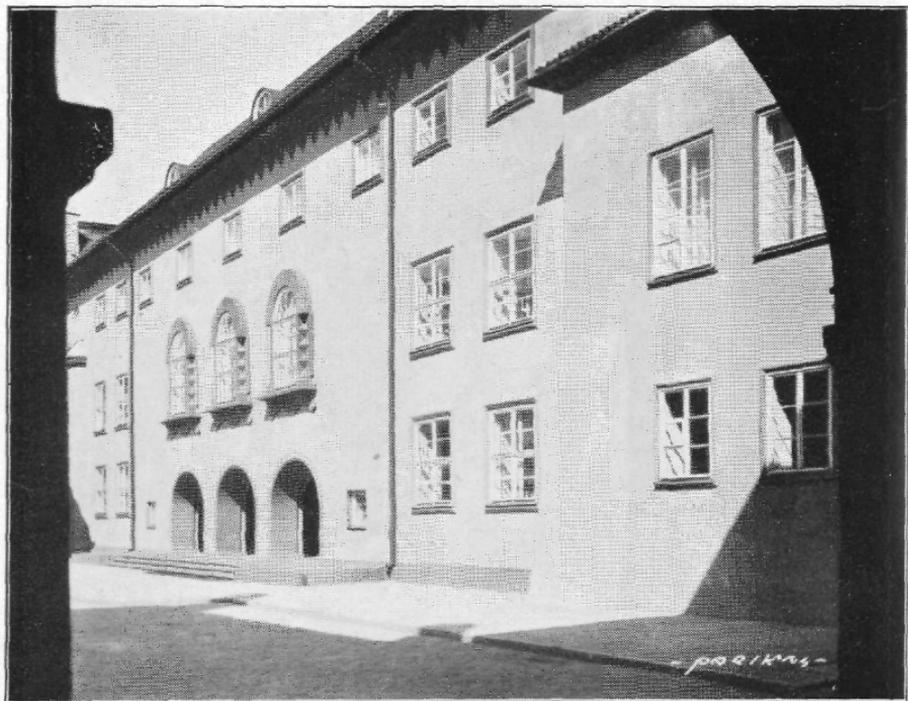
the king's rebellious uncle, Duke Charles of Södermanland, in Tallinn (1600). This war was continued by his son Gustavus Adolphus, whose military exertions finally depleted the town treasury.

Incidentally it may be observed, that Sweden financed her participation in the Thirty Years' War largely by loans from the Tallinn merchant, Bugislaus von Rosen, whose imposing cenotaph may be seen at the Church of St. Nicholas.

Gustavus Adolphus is chiefly remembered as a reformer of the social, judicial and educational conditions of the country. This work of reform was continued by the succeeding Swedish rulers and earned for the Swedish period (1561—1710) the reputation of the „good old Swedish time“.

During the Great Northern War Tallinn, then the last Swedish stronghold south of the Gulf of Finland, capitulated to Peter the Great (1710). The city became the capital of a minor province condemned to an entirely provincial existence rarely broken by mild excitements such as the visit of the city by the „mad duchess“ of Kingston (1782), the abolishment of the old municipal council by Catherine II (1786) and its restitution by Emperor Paul, the visit of the city by Nelson (1801), its blockade by the allied squadrons in 1855—56, the final abolishment of the old municipal council by Alexander II and the russification policy of Alexander III, which bestowed on the gothic city the shallow byzantine splendour of the Russian cathedral.

By this time two factors began to threaten the quiet of the „night-cap“ city: its economic development and the rise of Estonian nationalism. The construction of a railway-line to St. Petersburg fostered maritime trade to such an extent that Tallinn became second only to the imperial capital with regard to the Russian imports. The industries, protected by the tariff wall, showed a marked growth and Tallinn began to assume the aspect of an industrial town. No hindrance was any more made for Estonians to settle in the city. By 1904 the Estonian element, until then ridiculed, had gained such economic, intellectual and numerical importance, that no peculiarities of the electoral law could help the municipal government from being wrested from the Germans. Tallinn shared in the Russian political uprising of 1905, and although attempts at a nationalist and political revolution ended in a gruesome wholesale fusillade on the Market Square, the night-cap spell was definitely broken. In 1917 Tallinn became the seat of the Government and the Diet of the autonomous reunited province of Estonia and on February 24, 1918, the time had arrived to realize the age-long aspirations of the Estonian people by proclaiming



*The Estonian State Assembly. The building is seated on the foundation of a medieval castle.*

the independent Republic of Estonia. Tallinn was chosen as the national centre and the city thus for the first time during its long history had gained the importance of the capital of an independent country.

Its subsequent fate was closely similar to the destinies of young nations. On Feb. 25, 1918, the city was occupied by German troops and remained for eight months under their oppressive military rule. In November, 1918, the occupation ceased, but there arose a new danger, that of an invasion by the Russian Red army. By January 6, 1919, the enemy had reached the line only 20 miles to the East of the capital. The danger was averted owing to the courage of the young national army, brilliantly led by General Laidoner and assisted by a British squadron and for some time by two battalions of Finnish and Scandinavian volunteers. The Constituent Assembly, which met on

April 23, 1919 and sat for some time in the beautiful Concert Hall of the theatre „Estonia“, drew up a vast programme of political, social and economic reconstruction, the realization of which was begun immediately after the signing of the Peace Treaty with Soviet Russia on Fer. 2, 1920. In spite of serious difficulties, such as the total loss of savings and currency, owing to the Russian Revolution, recovery soon took place and no impartial and informed witness may in fairness deny that the capital is now dealing successfully with all its enormously increased responsibilities.



*Former main altar of the Church of the Holy Ghost, dating from 1483, the work of Berent Notken, a wood carver and painter of Lübeck.*

## SIGHT-SEEING AND EXCURSIONS

*One day:* Forenoon: Drive along the Town Wall from Viru tään. to Suurtüki tään., thence Lai tään., Vaksali puiestee, Falgi tee to the Castle; Parliament (Riigikogu) Building, ascent of the Tower of Herman, walk past the „Swedish Gates“, Church of St. Nicholas, the Town Hall.

Afternoon: Kadriorg Palace, Kadrioru Park, drive to Pirita.

*Two days:*

*First day:* Forenoon: Town Hall Square (Rae-kojaplats), Church of St. Nicholas, Town Wall, Sea Gate, Church of St. Olaf, Exchange, Town Hall.

Afternoon: Drive around the old city and to Kadriorg and Pirita.

*Second day:* Forenoon: The Municipal Square, the Castle, Dome Church, Provincial Museum, the Bastions.

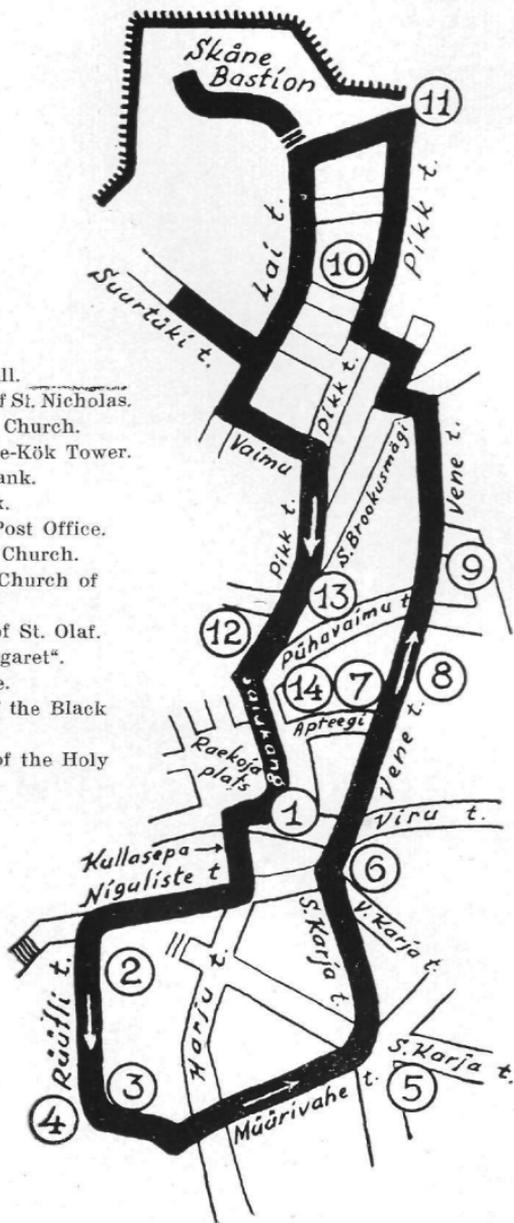
Afternoon: Excursion by taxi-cab or autobus to Keila-Joa (1 hr.) or Tiskre-Rannamõis (30—40 min.) beauty-spots on the sea-shore to the W. of the city.

*Three days:* Two days as above, leaving in the evening of the second day for one of the following places by night train: Narva (interesting mediaeval buildings), fortifications etc.; textile trade centre); Tartu (Dorpat), the well-known University Town (University Library, Estonian National Museum, Central State Archives, world-famous Hospitals etc.) or Pärnu, a fashionable bathing resort. Return on the morning of the fourth day.

The descriptive section contains a detailed description of the two-days programme, which, at the price of omitting the visit of some of the buildings and of one of the afternoon drives may be carried out in a single day.

Trained guides (turistide juhid) may be obtained upon request at the „Central Office for Tourism in Estonia“, Vene tään. 30, tel. 450-94, and during the summer period also at the „Estonian Tourist Association“ in their branch office in the old Tower of Viru street gate, tel. 450-69.

1. The Town Hall.
2. The Church of St. Nicholas.
3. The Swedish Church.
4. The Kiek-in-de-Kök Tower.
5. The Credit Bank.
6. Scheel's Bank.
7. The Central Post Office.
8. The Catholic Church.
9. The Russian Church of St. Nicholas.
10. The Church of St. Olaf.
11. The „Fat Margaret“.
12. The Exchange.
13. The House of the Black Heads.
14. The Church of the Holy Ghost.



*Scheme of a Walk through the Lower Town.*



*The Church of St. Nicholas.*

## DESCRIPTIVE SECTION

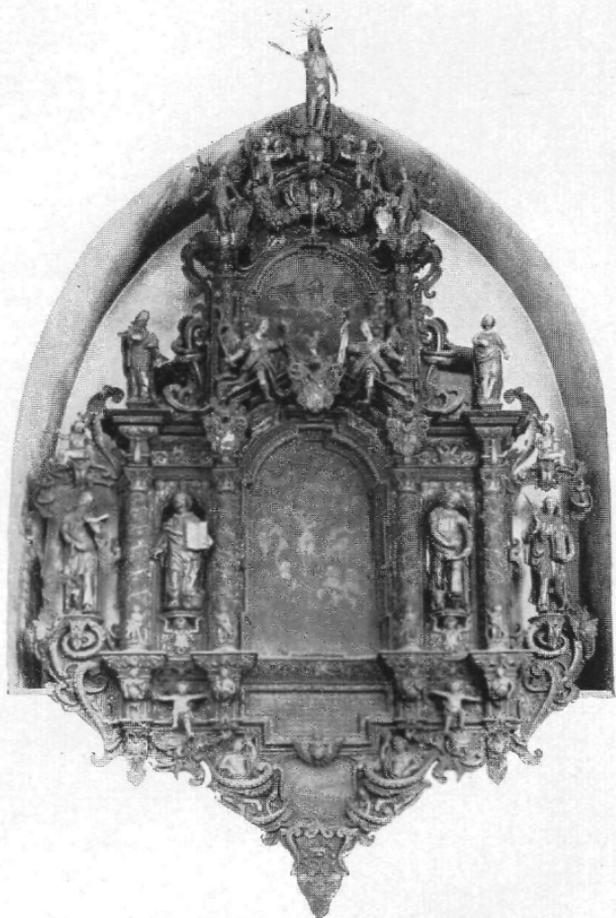
The *Town Hall Square* may be chosen as a very convenient starting point. This old civic centre acquired its present shape after the great fire of 1288, which destroyed the wooden houses of the burghers and led to a prohibition to use this material. The mediaeval character of the place is partly preserved. Its southern front is formed by the dominating building of the Town Hall, erected during the first half of the 14th century and thus the oldest in the Baltic States. The old Town House of Weights and Measures, erected before the building of the Town Hall was begun, divides the place into two unequal parts. The eastern front of the square contains some houses of the 15th and 16th century and the curious house on the extreme left of the front is known as the narrowest in the Town. The house

opposite, on the right extremity of the north front is still housing a pharmacy founded in 1422 and occupying its present site since 1461. The narrow passage on the left side of the pharmacy, leading to the Church of the Holy Ghost and the Exchange, dates back to the 14th century.

We start on our walk through the Lower Town by taking the street to the right of the Town Hall Front (Kulla-



*An interior view of the Church of St. Nicholas.*



A Relic of Old Tallinn: The cenotaph of Bugislaus v. Rosen (1651) in The Church of St. Nicholas.

sepa tän.). We pass some houses of the 16th and 17th century and turn to the right, ascending the slight incline of Niguliste tän. until we come into full view of the old limetrees in front of the impressive *Church of St. Nicholas*.

The ornaments on the northern front of the Church seem to point to the last decades of the 13th century. The first written mention of the Church occurs in 1316. The tower in its upper part is, however, of a later origin, replac-

ing a conical tower which collapsed in the 17th century. Its present baroque form was completed in 1695.

The interior of the church shows three aisles with a vaulted ceiling arranged in the manner of a basilica. Unlike all other churches of the Lower City, the Church of St. Nicholas was spared by the iconoclasts, a warden having secured the locks by pouring molten lead into them. As a consequence, the church is in possession of a number of objects of artistic value, mostly placed in the Chapel of St. Anthony. On entering this Chapel, which is to the left of the choir, we face a *danse macabre*, dating back to the beginning of the 16th century. It is a fragmentary copy of a lost original from the Church of St. Mary in Luebeck. The Glergyman, the Death and the Pope, the Emperor, the Empress, the Cardinal and the King, are shown in this fragment. Although well-painted, the copyist of the picture is unknown. To the right of the chapel entrance we observe a fine altar, about 21 feet long when opened, and 12 feet high. When the wings of the tryptichon are pushed aside, it shows 28 carved figures on a background of gold, arranged in two rows. In the upper row saints are grouped around the Virgin and Father-God, in the lower around St. Anne and the Virgin with the Child. When the innermost covers are closed, there appear 16 scenes depicting the life of St. Nicholas and St. Victor. The last scene of the latter's life shows in the background the earliest existing picture of Luebeck, whence this altar, a work of Herman Rode, has been ordered by the donators, the „Black Heads“ of Tallinn. The altar opposite was ordered in Bruges, in the second half of the 15th century and shows some scenes of the Passion. Its painter is unknown, but the manner seems, according to some authorities, to indicate an affinity with the school of Geraerd David.

The interior of the Church itself is chiefly remarkable for the numerous wood carvings it contains. Immediately under the choir we see the chairs of the fraternity of the Black Heads, the oldest of which, dating back to 1556, already show rich renaissance forms. The most stupendous piece of wood carving is, however, the cenotaph of Bugislaus von Rosen, a wealthy merchant of Tallinn, ennobled by



*The Viru street showing the old gateway „Viruärav“.*

Gustavus Adolphus and appointed governor of Ingermanland. It was made by a Tallinn carver in 1651. The pulpit, made a few decades earlier, does not show the same wealth of riotous imagination. It is a donation by the same merchant and the door shows among other features his Coat of arms as well as that of his two wives. The immense chandelier placed in front of the altar (which is an insignificant work of modern origin) is North-German and dates back to 1519.

Leaving again by the main entrance, we observe on the right the Rosen chapel with its richly carved screen and on the left the Clodt Chapel, which had been until Jan. 15, 1897 the object of an impious curiosity. This Chapel is the final resting-place of Charles-Eugène, Duke of Croy, who commanded the Russian army defeated at Narva by Charles XII. He died a prisoner in 1702 and having contracted a certain amount of debts, was refused a burial, as nobody was prepared to defray the expenses. His exposed body under the action of the air in the church soon became mummy and no visitors ever failed to inspect this curiosity. He was finally buried a few years before his bicentenary in the mummified state.

Beneath the big greyish tower of St. Nicholas we regain a street which is without doubt the oldest in the Lower Town. We pass the unimpressive Swedish Church of St. Michael, which in the 16th and 17th centuries was part of the Town hospital and weaving mill, and enjoy the sight of the „Kiek in de K ok“ (= „Peep into the kitchen“) towering high above. The bend of the street reveals a picturesque corner of the *old Town wall*.

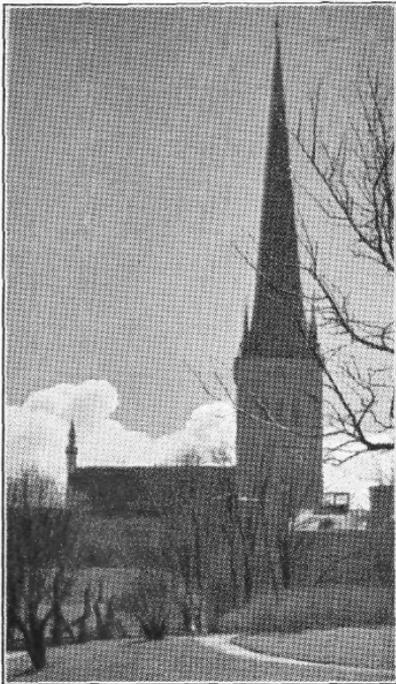
Tallinn is one of the few cities which may boast of a more or less well-preserved system of mediaeval fortifications. The total length of the preserved parts of the Town Wall is about 1.2 km. Along this distance are distributed 17 mural towers, 4 gate towers, 2 bastion towers etc. This system was erected between 1290 and 1533, the southern portion of the fortifications being the oldest. In order to inspect, it, we have but to follow the Wall. We cross the busy Harju t n. and enter M urivahe t n. (= Wall street), a narrow lane beneath the battered fortifications. The monotony of their barren lime-stone surface is relieved only by the variety of towers. Pursuing our course, we cross successively Karja t n., V. Karja t n. and Viru t n. (with two small towers of an advanced gate fortification on our right) and enter the street opposite, the gloom and chilliness of which is peculiar to its age. The first and only street to the left leads us to Vene t n. (General Post, Telegraph, and Telephone Offices are opposite to the left), bordered by several old houses, of which the most remarkable is the 15th century house on the right-hand opposite corner. It has a characteristic hall (which may be freely entered). If there is time to spare, an inspection of the remnants of the old Dominican monastery besides the modern Catholic Church (house No 16) and the interesting back yard of the adjoining house may be recommended.

We continue our walk in the direction of the Russian-Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas, a classical building erected in 1825 by order of Alexander I on the site of the old Orthodox Church, first mentioned in 1422. It has interesting relics, presented to it in 1599 by Boris Godunov. Immediately behind the church we see a section of the old Town Wall with the imposing 14th century Bremer Tower.

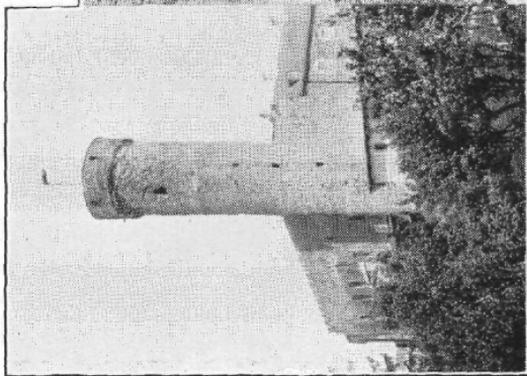
On ascending V. Brookusmägi we finally reach Pikk tän. just a few steps from the *Church of St. Olaf*. This splendid building, erected by the order of King Erik Plogpenning (1241—1250) as seen from Pikk tän., is at its best. The Gothic chapel on the S., known as the Bremen Chapel, was built about 1500 as a donation from a rich merchant by the name of Poulsen, whose cenotaph, erected in 1513, decorates its wall towards the street.

We now approach the Rannavärv or *Sea Gate*, catching a glimpse of the Bay which gradually broadens out into a panoramic view of the distant cliff, the sea and the promontory beyond. Walking round the tower, we come to the rose garden, another delightful corner of the mediaeval city. Above the gate we notice the arms of the town in a beautiful Gothic frame, carved in stone and bearing the date 1529. The tower itself was built in 1513, used lately as a Russian

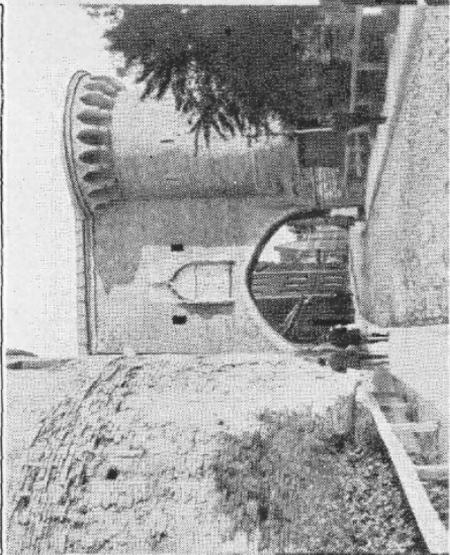
prison and destroyed in February 1917. We now ascend the top of the Skåne bastion on the W. of the gate to take another view of the panorama through the foliage of old and weather-beaten lime-trees, planted here in 1697. In order to reach the west side of the Church of St. Olaf, we descend the steps to Lai tän.. A short street on the left (Tolli tän.) reveals a perspective of quaint old houses with a 14th century horse-mill opposite. The buildings to the right, opposite the Church, are occupied by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Church, with its 460 ft. tower dominates the approach. Unfortunately, the



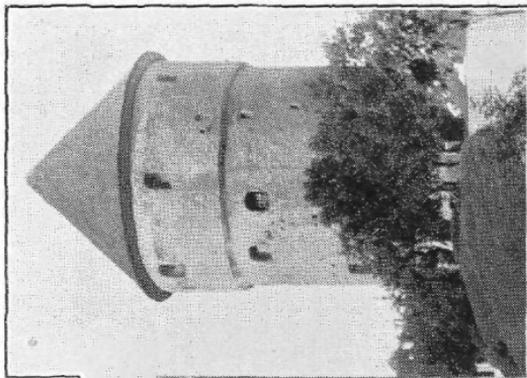
*The Church of St. Olaf.*



The Tower „Pikk Herman“  
(„Long Herman“).



The old seawater city gate „Rannavärv“ showing  
the coat of arms of the city dating back to  
1539.



The „Kiek-in-de-Kök“ („Peep-info-  
the-Kitchen“) watch tower, built  
in 1533.

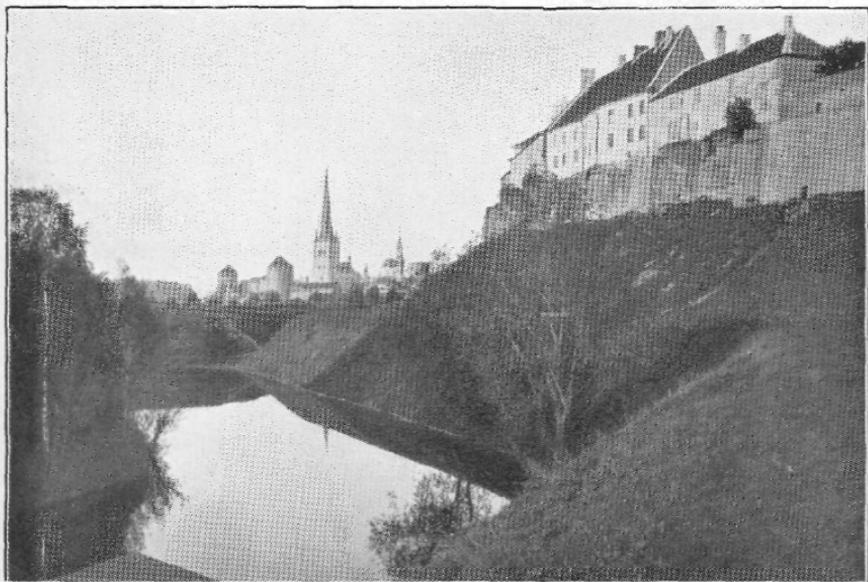
tower had to be reconstructed after the fire of 1819; although resembling the original built about 1300 which was still higher, it is not old.

After visiting the Church, which is interesting only on account of its architecture, we continue our course on Lai tän. save for a short side excursion into Suurtüki tän., the next street to the right, where we may again admire a well-preserved portion of the Town Wall. After paying some attention to the old houses on both sides of Lai tän. we enter Vaimu tän. and emerge again on Pikk tän. not far from the curious sculptured front of the *House of the Black Heads*.

This corporation of bachelor merchants, founded in the 14th century, is the oldest of kindred organisations in the Baltic States. Its quaint name is derived from St. Mauritius, their patron saint, believed to be a Moor, whose head is part of the arms of the association (seen on both sides of and above the entrance). The arms between the ground and second floors are those of the Hanseatic offices in Bruges, Novgorod, London and Bergen. The interior contains many an interesting and valuable reminiscence of the long history of the corporation.

Some distance further along the right side of Pikk tän. stands the House of the Great Guild, now belonging to the Tallinn *Exchange*. The House was built in 1410, the curious street door with fine old knockers was added in 1430. The simple and dignified interior is preserved much as it was five centuries ago.

Opposite the main entrance of the Exchange we notice the same old passage to which we referred describing the Town Hall Square. The *Church of the Holy Ghost*, remaining on the left, was built about 1300 as a chapel for the poor. Henceforth it was used as a municipal chapel and thus came into possession of a fine altar by Berent Notken. This chief attraction it lost, however, to the Art Museum and its simple interior is now hardly worth visiting. We cross the Square and reach the Raekoda or *Town Hall*, one of the most interesting and up to now one of the existing mediaeval buildings in Tallinn, that has been most badly and continuously in use.



*The Moat below the Toompea (Dome Hill).*

This building is mentioned as early as 1320. Its narrow hexagonal tower, with a Renaissance helmet and the figure of a lansquenet (known as „Thomas“) on the top, is of a later origin, having been added in 1629. The gallery along the ground floor, once one of the main features of the building, has temporarily disappeared, being now occupied by shops. We pass the entrance, noticing the sculptured arms of the Town, the bas-relief, representing a winged Themis with the sword and scales of justice and a black table with a Latin exhortation to the municipal judges recommending impartiality in the fulfillment of their duties. A flight of steps leads up into the „Hall of Burghers“, at present much damaged by partitions and an entresol built centuries ago, with portraits of Charles XI and Queen Christina of Sweden.

We enter into the adjoining Council Chamber, which, unlike the Burghers Hall, is beautifully preserved. It is a spacious room with two gothic vaults and three symmetrical windows adorned with the arms of the town in old stained glass. The walls are decorated with a rich wooden relief dating back to 1697 and depicting picturesque hunting scenes.

The lunettes above the relief are filled by allegorical paintings of Hans Aken, an undistinguished local painter with Dutch leanings. These paintings, executed about 1670, show

Herodias with the Head of John the Baptist, Simson and Dalilah, Susan facing the Judge, Christ, and the woman who had committed adultery, the Queen of Sheba and Salomon, and Christ with the Pharisee. On special occasions the walls of the Council Chamber are decorated with Flanders' tapestries. The town is in possession of four gobelins, manufactured in Bruges in 1547 and marked with the arms of Tallinn. The longest of these (30×3.5 feet) is depicting the entry of Salomon into Gihon and Salomon receiving the blessing from Zadok and Nathan. The shorter tapestry shows Salomon receiving his bride and the Judgement of Salomon. The two smaller tapestries are decorated with floral designs.



*A relic of Old Tallinn. A 15th century carving in the Town Hall, showing Simson and Dalilah and (below) Phyllis ridiculing Aristotle.*

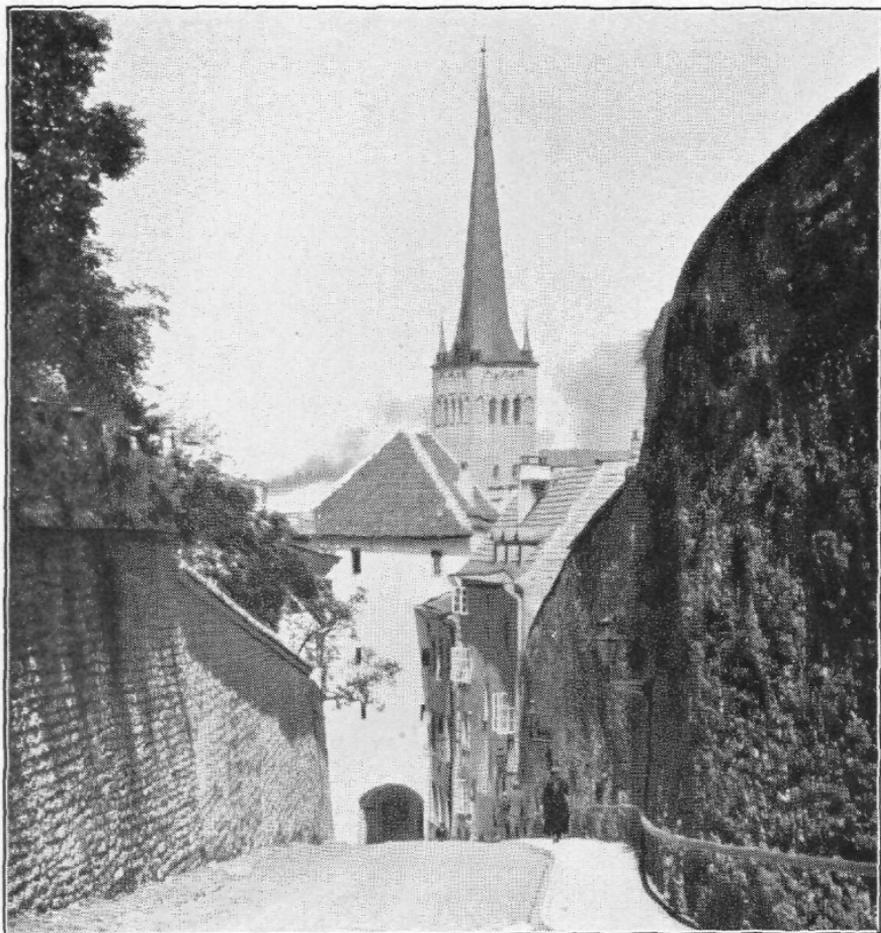
The carved seats separating the larger part of the Chamber from the Passage leading to the former chambers of the Town Exchequer are the oldest and the most interesting in Tallinn. The oldest date back to the 15th century. They show Tristan and Iseut confessing their love at a well beneath a tree, the bows of which are hiding King Marke; the carving at the right of the bench shows Simson killing the Lion. The innermost sides of the benches belonging to a later period are dominated by two remarkable figures of the

Silent and the Listener, the latter, bending over the figure of Christ in an endeavour to show that curiosity does not stop even on the threshold of holiness. On the outside there are figures of David and Goliath, with a miniature lion and bear beneath, and Simson and Dalilah. The latter relief castigates the weaknesses of the stronger sex by an additional carving placed beneath the principal one; it illustrates the mediaeval anecdote of Aristotle having been used as a mount by the hetaera Phyllis.

The private office of the mayor contains a small, but interesting collection of old silver and tin.

A visit to the Town Hall would be incomplete without a visit to the Town Archives, which are richer than those of any other Baltic metropolis. The collection contains manuscripts, the oldest of which date back to the 10th century and which are invaluable to any Baltic historian. Autograph letters by Luther, Melanchton, Swedish and Danish kings, German and Russian Emperors, privileges signed by the various sovereigns of Estonia in the past, papal indulgences, 13th century codes and commercial treaties, some simple, some gorgeously illustrated, give a vivid idea of mediaeval correspondence and diplomacy. The entrance to the Archives is from the Town Hall Square, a few steps to the right from the main entrance to the Town Hall.

Leaving the Town Hall Square, we this time choose Dunkri tän., one of the streets to the right of the Town Hall entrance. Passing several old houses, we soon reach Rataskaevu tän., a natural continuation of Rüütli tän., and like the former one of the oldest streets of the Lower Town. Coming within view of the Church of St. Nicholas, we find on our right a narrow passage („Lühikejalg“ or Short Leg) with a flight of steps, leading us to the hill or „Dome“ through the picturesque „Swedish Gate“ of the 14th century. Thus we reach another passage, known as „Pikkjalg“ or Long Leg, leading up from Pikk tän. through an old gate tower. We turn to the left, pass the unpretentious House of the Ministry of Justice and the rather pretentious Russian Orthodox Cathedral. This latter was completed in 1900 and is an imitation of Moscow



*„Pikkjalg“ (Long Leg) — an ascent to the Dome showing Church of St. Olaf.*

churches of the 17th century. It may be inspected either during a divine service, or, if closed, in the company of a warden, who will be found in the courtyard of the house adjoining that of the President of the Parliament, vis-à-vis the Cathedral. Leaving this last visible mark of the russification policy of the former rulers of Estonia, we direct our steps towards the gateway of the Castle, the seat of the Estonian Government and the State Assembly (Parliament or the „Riigikogu“).

Nothing but the western and northern walls crowned

with three towers remain now of the proud Danish Castle erected soon after 1219. Even these remains are imposing. They include the Tower of Hermann, flanking the south-west, rising 154 ft. above ground, with an underground part of about 100 ft. It may be ascended any day in the company of a local guide or a soldier of the guard at the State Assembly (apply to the officer of the guard, State Assembly building). The tower commands the loftiest and one of the finest views in the town and in fair weather even the outline of the distant coast of Finland may be traced beyond the great expanse of the waters of the Gulf.

The gateway under the Government Palace (the latter containing the Government Meeting Hall, the office of the Acting President, the State Chancery, the State Library, the Government Archives and the Ministries of the Interior and of Justice) leads into the quadrangular yard, formerly occupied by the Palace of the Danish governor, which has entirely disappeared. The mediaeval Castle stood to the right on the site which has since 1921 been occupied by the building of the State Assembly. The ancient Castle, turned into a prison by the Russians, was burnt down during the revolution of 1917. We enter by one of the massive doors of the State Assembly and immediately are under the spell of modern architecture. The Estonian architects who erected this building desired to bring about an effect of unobtrusive solidity and used only local material for construction. A broad oaken staircase, which during the session of the Assembly is reserved for the use of deputies, leads into the parliament lobbies on the second floor. These surround the Session Hall, one of the most impressive in the Baltic. The green and blue effect of the floor and the walls is blended with a beautiful yellow of furniture executed in polished birch and of the vaulted ceiling. An unusual effect is gained when artificial light is used. The lamps are hidden in the consoles separating the walls from the ceiling and throw their light only on the latter. It is reflected by the ceiling, which appears to glow in a solemn gold and is evenly distributed throughout the Hall with a virtual absence of shadows. The refreshment room



*The seat of the Government.*

of the Assembly, situated on the same floor, is also worth inspection. It includes a kind of a balcony, originally erected for purpose of flanking the walls. It commands a fine view of the ramparts, of the moat, and the town below.

The Government Meeting Hall, which is situated in the Castle but is connected through a short passage with the Assembly building, may be inspected if not in actual use.

We leave the Castle using the same gateway and take Toomkooli tän., a short street to the left, in order to reach the Dome Church. This edifice, surrounded by old lime-trees, is the oldest in the town. It is mentioned as early as 1230 and has always served as the Church of the Spiritual Head of the country. Its plan is even simpler than that of the other Tallinn churches. It has three aisles, the central nave being elevated like in a basilica and its vaults supported by austere square columns bare of ornament. The grim monotony of the architecture is relieved only by the numerous epitaphs in the shape of carved and painted



*A glimpse of the old Town Wall.*

arms, stone monuments and some beautiful tombstones. On the right side of the altar we see the beautiful tombstone of Pontus de la Gardie, the famous Swedish field-marshal, who was drowned in 1585 in the river Narva after having cleared the country of the Russians. He is represented resting in full armour by the side of his wife Sophia Gyllenhjelm, a natural daughter of Johan III of Sweden. The relief on the left side of the tombstone shows a view of Narva with a naval scene on the first plane. The well-sculptured epitaph above the sarcophagus is also worth noticing.

A number of sarcophagi and other monuments were removed from the Church after the great fire of 1684, among others that of Princess Margaret of Sweden, a sister of Gustav Vasa, and Count Matthias of Thurn, famous as one of the leaders in the Thirty-Years' War. Of the remaining older monuments that of Olaf Rynning, a marshal of the Swedish Court († 1593) is the most conspicuous.

The more recent monuments include a beautiful classic

monument of the Russian admiral Samuel Greig, a Scotch by birth, († 1788), erected by order of Catherine the Great. A gothic pillar is devoted to the memory of admiral Adam v. Krusenstiern, the first Russian circumnavigator of the globe († 1846). The beautiful obelisk of multicoloured marble placed beneath the altar and bearing the pathetic inscription „from father to son“ commemorates Count Ferdinand von Tiesenhausen, Aid-de-Champ to Alexander I, who fell at Austerlitz.

Leaving the Dome Church for a walk along the narrow lanes of the Hill, we are forced to take notice of the surrounding houses. Their architecture is not at all remarkable. Only a few of them may be considered as outstanding specimens of their period. As a group, however, they produce a very picturesque effect and a peculiar atmosphere of an old-world dignity, which seems to dominate this quiet part of the town. The backyards and odd corners of the Dome are a favourite hunting ground for a photographer, especially in the places where the effect is heightened by a casual view on the Church or its rococo tower.

Although of moderate height, the Hill affords several charming views of the Lower Town. There is no better place for viewing the entire Old Tallinn than the platform situated in the courtyard of Kohtu tän. № 12, the street issuing on the right of the graceful building of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. An impressive vista of mediaeval towers and gables, streets and parks presents itself from this lofty point. The Kiek-in-de-Kök and the tower of St. Nicholas on the right, with the huge creamy mass of the theatre „Estonia“ beyond, the minaret-like steeples of the Town Hall and of the Church of the Holy Ghost in the centre, the majestic spire of St. Olaf's to the left, surrounded by a maze of tiled roofs, old chimneys and pointed gables, framed into the gay verdure of distant parks and promontories and enlivened by the glittering waters of the Bay, is a sight which is not easily surpassed. Another view, opening up on the Bay, the Kopli peninsula and the graceful outline of the Western coast, may be taken from the platform of the Courts of Law, Rahukohtu t. № 3. The pleasant wooded



*The Dome Church.*

ground on this side of the railway station and a part of the moat are seen immediately below. The pleasure of sight-seeing from an elevated point may be prolonged by walking along the path beneath the old battlements of the Hill, high above the moat. Another very pleasant walk may be made

by passing along the opposite bank of the moat. The view of the Toompea or Dome Castle, as it expands itself, is most picturesque and imposing. From either path it is easy to reach the passage at the foot of the Long Herman, the watchtower of the Castle, leading to Falgi tee and the bastion along the other side of this street.

The Swedish Bastion, the parapet of which is situated opposite the Long Herman, was erected between 1697 and 1710. It is one of the few sections of the ambitious Swedish scheme of fortifications, conceived in the manner of the followers of Vauban, which were completed before the town fell into the hands of the Russians. The Bastion is an artificial elevation of considerable size, facing south and west. The wall is constructed of limestone and roughly hewn granite boulders. The best place for taking a view of the entire bastion is the corner of Vismari tän. and Vaksali puiestee. The parapet is lined by beautiful old lime-trees, surrounding the mournful Linda, a statue by A. Veizenberg. Taking the path leading along the counterscarp and walking to the left, we reach again „Falgi tee“ on a place slightly above the Long Herman. We follow this road and its continuation, Komendandi tän., in order to reach the Ingermanland bastion through the ascent opposite the tower Kiek-in-de-Kök.

This bastion has likewise been converted into a park and commands a beautiful view south-east, east and north-east. The triangular Liberty Square (Vabadusplats) is immediately below. In order to reach our starting point, the Town Hall Square, we descend the steps leading down to Harju tän., and regain the Town Hall by walking down this street.

*The Palace „Kadrioru Loss“ and the Kadrioru Park.*

Kadrioru Park may be best reached by taking the tramline № 1 from Liberty square or a car. Driving through Vabaduspuiestee and Estoonia puiestee we notice on the corner of Jaani tän. and Vabaduspuiestee the modern building of the Commercial School for Girls, erected in 1914—1916 and characteristic of the modern school archi-



ture of the country. The building on the corner of Vabaduspuiestee and Estoonia puiestee is the Municipal Loan Library, which has a small Anglo-American section. A gun and an anchor, taken from the Swedish frigate „Prins Carl Johan“ sunk in the Tallinn Bay during a naval engagement in 1788, may be seen in the small garden attached to this building. We pass the buildings of the Eesti Pank and the Land Bank (on our right) and that of a municipal secondary school for boys (on our left). Beneath this latter (opposite the theatre „Estonia“) is placed a beautiful little monument commemorating the numerous pupils and teachers of the secondary schools of Tallinn who fought and fell in the War of Independence (1918—1920).

The theatre „Estonia“ was built in 1910—1913 with funds raised by public subscription. Its monumental and representative character was to underline the intellectual and artistic progress achieved at that time by the Estonian people. This patriotic motive was guessed and, as such, opposed by the local Russian authorities. When the foundation stone of the building was being laid in 1910, it was forbidden to hold speeches in Estonian and the floral decorations of the place around the foundation stone were destroyed by the Russian police. In 1917—18 the building played a conspicuous rôle as the gathering place of Estonian political leaders and it was in its beautiful concert hall (in the northern wing of the building) that the Estonian Constituent Assembly met on April 23, 1919.

The building consists of a theatre and concert hall with a total seating capacity of about 2,000. The central part linking up both wings contains a restaurant and the premises of a large number of Estonian societies pursuing cultural aims.

Next we have to pass Narva maantee (the Narva road), a suburban street of some length and without any particular attractiveness. The extensive suburbs of Tallinn have mainly been built during the industrialization period, which followed the construction of the Tallinn — St. Petersburg railway. This was done for some time without any particular supervision and only during the last ten years an



*The theatre „Estonia“, built in 1913.*

attempt was made to find aesthetic forms of cheap suburban architecture. The results of this attempt may be seen in some recently built streets, such as Kolde tänav and Õpetajate tänav and in Nõmme, a borough 5 miles distant, where building activities have centered after the War on account of cheap land rates.

The park „Kadriorg“, the site of which was used by holiday makers already in the 16th and 17th centuries, was planted by Peter the Great and his successors to frame the Kadriorg Palace, an elegant structure erected in 1718 by Nicolo Michetti, the Court architect. In 1929 it was reconditioned as residence for the Head of the State of Estonia. The front of the building reaches the lower grounds of the park, the rear having one storey less on account of the terrace, on which the building is erected. This terrace accomodates the Palace garden. Permission to visit the Palace may be obtained from its Keeper. The interior of the building is very impressive on account of its quiet and unassuming dignity. The Main Hall with a balcony over the main entrance and a porch towards the garden has two large sculptured mantle-



*The old gateway „Viruvärav“.*

pieces and a painted ceiling, the theme treated being Diana and Acteon. On a sunny day, when the old chestnut and lime-trees flanking the Palace and the picturesque ornamental square in front of it fill the windows with varying shades of green and gold, the noble treatment of the walls of the Main Hall is particularly underlined.

A drive along the circular route on the upper terrace of the Park is sufficient to appreciate its charming situation and the loveliness of its old trees. Hidden under the dense

foliage of old chestnuts we see the Dutch house of Peter the Great, where this emperor had actually lived in 1714—1716. It is a building of very modest dimensions, containing a hall (with a part of a dismantled monument of Peter the Great), a drawing room with an old cabinet, a bedroom and a dining room, all with rather primitive furniture. A bath-house, said to be built by the Czar himself, is situated immediately behind this residence. The houses opposite belong to a number of Estonian artists, who have their studios there.

The National Stadium and the grounds of the National Singing Festival are situated on the north-eastern and south-western edge of the Park respectively.

The sea-shore near the Park is converted into a promenade much frequented during the summer season of the year. The local landmark is the conspicuous monument to a wrecked Russian cruiser, the „Roussalka“, by an Estonian sculptor, prof. A. Adamson.

The road leading past the promenade (Pirita tee) may be used to visit Pirita, a lively bathing resort, now in its initial stages of development. Situated at the mouth of a small river of that name, it has a good bathing beach stretching for about a mile. The shore pavilion contains a good restaurant, a large number of cabins, a hairdresser's shop, a first aid ambulance and a bathing establishment. There is also a small postal station and a stationery shop.

The ruins of the nunnery on the right bank of the river, impressive even in their present state, give evidence of the former popularity in Estonia of the Scandinavian tradition of St. Bridget. The nunnery of that name was built in 1407 by three pious members of the Town Council of Tallinn. It was destroyed in 1577, during the siege of the town by the hosts of Ivan the Terrible. The local Society for the Preservation of Natural Beauty has the care of the ruins and sells tickets giving admission to the tower in the south-eastern corner of the structure, whence a view may be obtained of the surrounding country.

#### *Kallaste and Rannamõis.*

The sheer limestone cliff, somewhat receding toward Tallinn, reaches the coastline some miles to the W. of the city,



*1. A view of Tallinn taken from Kadrioru across the Tallinn Bay. 2. The Palace „Kadrioru Loss“, originally built for Russian Czar Peter the Great by Italian architect Michetti in 1718; now the summer residence of the Acting President of Estonia. 3. Kadrioru Park.*



*Scenes from the  
bathing beach at  
Pirita.*



at Kallaste. The stretch of the coast from Kallaste to Rannamõis and the immediate surroundings of the latter are very picturesque. There is a joint motor bus service to both places. The tourist may enjoy distant views of the city and take a walk along the cliff, the rugged appearance of which strangely contrasts with the glittering expanse of the waters of the Finnish Gulf. A sea bath may be taken at Rannamõis.

#### *Nõmme.*

This suburban borough, situated on very healthy grounds covered with pine forests, about 5 miles to the S. of the city, has rapidly developed during the last years on account of its cheap land rates. The air is very pure, as no factories are allowed to be built. The houses show the

tendency of the Estonians to erect isolated buildings for single families in preference to large houses with a number of flats. Delightful walks may be taken in the pine forests surrounding the borough, especially along the ridge to the N. W., with occasional distant views of the town.

#### *Keila-Joa.*

A motor bus service connects the town with the charming estate of Keila-Joa, situated 20 miles W. of Tallinn at the mouth of a small river. This estate belonged in the first half of the last century to Count Benckendorf, the well-known chief of the Russian gendarmerie under Nicholas I. The manor is in full view from the waterfall formed by river Keila when falling over a limestone cliff. For a length of nearly one mile both banks of the river are converted into a delightful park with many rare trees and some relics of by-gone times.

#### *One-day excursion from Tallinn.*

If the time at the disposal of the tourist does not allow him to get more thoroughly acquainted with the country, a one-day visit to the characteristic towns of Narva, Tartu or Pärnu may be recommended.



*Canoeing at Pirtta.*

## ABOUT THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

As the postwar years brought forth a world wide prosperity the industrious people of Estonia succeeded from the beginning of their independence to establish a strong foothold in their economic life. More difficult was the situation in the political field. Unfortunately, Estonia as well as the rest of the Baltic States was handicapped by a constitution which had come to life under the direct influence of the Russian Revolution. Inspired by the spirit of the times most of the attention in working out the Constitution of 1920 was in the first place directed to the one condition — to obtain the widest possible liberty for every member of the community, and no one seemed to think of the fact that the government in order to carry out its work needed power. The complete power was concentrated in the hands of the Parliament and the executive power of the government was limited to carrying out the orders of the Parliament. The latter could overthrow the government at any moment without the possibility of appeal, as no office of a President of State had been provided for and the Parliament could not be dissolved.

This hyperdemocratic disposition soon made itself felt. The government changed hands every few months. The leaders of the State often had to go even before they had an opportunity to get really acquainted with their work. These conditions had a boomerang effect on the management of State affairs. The people soon perceived it and began to insist on the curtailment of the power of the Parliament and on strengthening that of the executive power. They demanded the adoption of the office of president who would be in the position to keep Parliament in bounds should it trespass its limits, as had often been the case.

It was not an easy task to solve the constitutional crisis. Several projects to reform the constitution were defeated by plebiscites. Parallel to this the world wide depression did not leave Estonia, an agricultural state, untouched, thus causing more tension. A fascist movement

sprang up taking advantage of any difficulty to suit its ends. The leaders of the said movement presented an amendment to the constitution which was in direct contrast to the old constitution. While the former had placed complete power in the hands of the Parliament, this new project concentrated that power exclusively in the hands of one person — the president of state. This project was adopted by the plebiscite of October 1933, as the people were tired of these repeated plebiscites and longed for a firm government, quietness and peace.

The constitutional reform was interpreted by the fascists as if Estonia had become tired of Democracy and was ready to follow the fascists with flying banners. They increased their activities and began to build up their organizations. The spring of 1934 had been fixed for the presidential election and the re-election of Parliament. The fascists threatened quite openly that they would not shrink back from any violences should their presidential candidate not secure the necessary majority.

It did not come to this, however, as the head of the government, State Elder Konstantin Päts and the Commander-in-Chief of the Army General J. Laidoner brought these plans of the fascists to nought. On March the 12th, 1934, all the fascist leaders were arrested and the whole movement, which, by the way, had been in a close contact with similar movements abroad, was prohibited in Estonia. At the same time all elections were postponed to allow the sentiments to cool down for an orderly new election in the future.

From this day on an entirely new political situation prevails in Estonia and it may be stressed that the overwhelming majority of the Estonian people admit that thanks to K. Päts and J. Laidoner they were saved from a threatening fascist dictatorship.

These two men who enjoy a general respect in Estonia have played an outstanding part in the history of the country.

They conduct also at present the affairs of state. K. Päts is the Acting President of Estonia, and General J. Laidoner is in charge of the defence forces. Their aim is

to reestablish the inner peace of the country. In order to achieve this the activities of the political parties had to be suspended, and the Parliament, whose term expired in the spring of the past year, is in adjournment until the time when new elections can safely take place.

Estonia is ruled at present on the basis of the stipulations of the new constitution adopted by the plebiscite in 1933. This constitution vests the president with far reaching authority, even with the right to proclaim laws by decrees. This authority is now being exercised by President K. Päts, and in the course of the past year a number of important reforms were carried out the country having benefited thereby to a great extent. Several issues unsolved for years in Parliament have now been settled satisfactorily within a few months. And this in a way causing no complaints.

Particularly valuable have been the services of Päts' administration in the field of the economic life. The stabilization of butter prices, the buying up of rye and wheat at advantageous prices and numerous other steps in the interests of agriculture, the conversion of all agricultural debts into long term debts with minimum rates of the Land Bank have had such a beneficial influence on the economic life that the depression is now hardly felt in the country. Life has become normal again. And, in fact, Estonia has reason to feel happy, for, according to the last report of the League of Nations Estonia is the only country where no unemployment exists, though this evil was felt here rather acutely not so long ago.

All these successes have had a beneficial influence on the sentiment of the people.

Although Estonia has at present apparently an autocratic order, she has not turned her back upon Democracy. The leading public men have repeatedly declared that Estonia is a democratic country and that it will remain so. The present order is only a transitory period, created by the political activities of the past year. The efforts of the administration are now directed towards stabilization of the situation and to reform the life so that the necessary elections may take place in a democratic spirit.

## ECONOMIC LIFE OF ESTONIA.

As a result of the world wide depression economic difficulties began to be felt in Estonia by 1930. The contraction of business which started in that year, affecting all branches of economic activity, lasted until the second half of 1933 when there was a distinct turn for the better. The progressive improvement which had been observable throughout the past year was due in part to a reversal of the downward trend of world trade, but it was also greatly assisted by a number of internal economic measures adopted last year.

In agriculture — the principal industry of the country being mostly afflicted by the depression — it was impossible to attempt an improvement of general conditions without first removing the trouble affecting the farmers. Of the measures adopted in the interest of agriculture there should be mentioned the lightening of the burden of farm indebtedness, the regulation of the prices of farm products and attempts at increasing their sales on both the home and foreign markets.

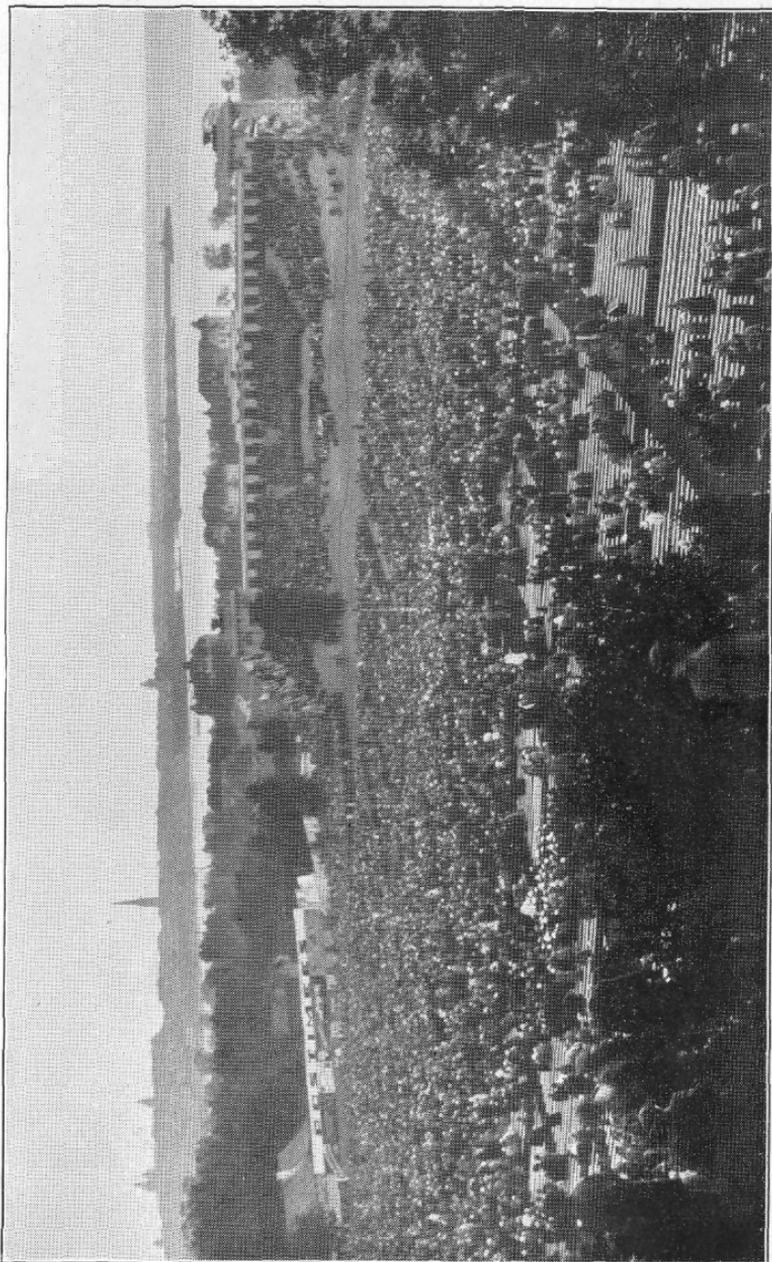
Unquestionably, the most important step designed to support the rural classes was the conversion of short-term debts, at high rates of interest, into long-term ones at low rates of interest. This scheme proved fully realisable thanks to the total indebtedness being not very great in relation to the total value of the marketable farm production. As a result, the debt burden is no longer an obstacle to the productive capacity of the farms. The fixing of farm produce prices, though on a comparatively low level, promotes greater stability in farm output, since the frequent ups and downs in prices hitherto prevented the farmer from making his calculations with any reasonable degree of accuracy. Having in view the regulation of domestic grain prices, the Government deemed it possible to purchase from the farmers, under the grain monopoly law, the whole of that part of

rye and wheat which they do not consume themselves directly. A part of the previously accumulated stocks of monopoly grain was exported, and a certain amount is still available for export. In view of the strengthening of the rye prices on the world market the Government will not suffer losses on this operation. Besides the measures described above, several regulations have been passed to ensure a ready market for farm produce at home.

The measures adopted for the assistance of agriculture have helped to raise the spending capacity of the rural population and, indirectly, to improve also that of other sections of the community. As a matter of fact, the increase thus created in the purchasing power of the farmers has been of advantage to all other branches of economic life, since the major part of the money put into circulation reenters the channels of national trade. It can safely be said that the financial support given to agriculture last year was much more efficient than in past years when it was insufficient to cover the deficit in the farmers' income caused by the reduced sales.

The beneficial effect of the regulations referred to above, was materially assisted by last year's good harvest. The total yield of cereal crops gathered exceeded that of the previous year by 17%, thus approaching the exceptionally bountiful harvest of 1930. It should be noted that the area under grain for human consumption has been extended during the last few years of depression. Rye and wheat crops were particularly good, the surplus of domestic consumption being available for export. The yield of feed grain and root crops was equally satisfactory.

Generally speaking it is possible to state that the position of agriculture has been stabilized, as compared with the situation prevailing in the previous two years. After a period of stagnation, increased activity was again noticeable, and intensive work, involving fresh capital expenditure, such as drainage and cultivation of grass-land, was carried out on a larger scale. The betterment of the farming situation has been essential to the improvement of conditions in other branches of production.



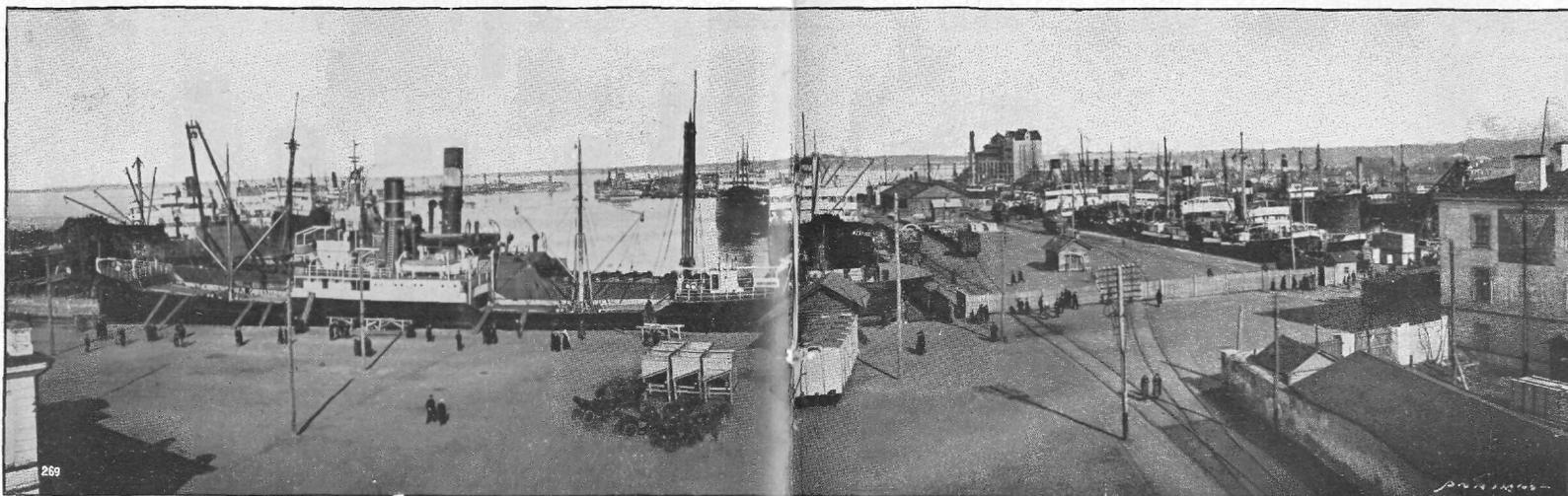
*A general view of X Estonian Song Festival of 1938.*

In industry, similarly, a noteworthy recovery was recorded last year. Industrial activity reached top levels in 1928 and 1929, the last two pre-depression years, more especially on account of industries manufacturing for home consumption, while export industry worked at a comparatively stable rate. A sudden turn for the worse affecting both these branches occurred in the second half of 1930. Between 1929 and 1932 industrial output fell by approximately one-third, industries supplying home needs losing 20% and those producing for export 40%.

Last year there was a revival of industrial activity, the number of hands employed increased up to the 1930 level and that of hours worked rose by 25% on the 1933 figure. A particularly big advance occurred in the timber and woodworking industry, but other branches such as textile, mining and engineering, also showed increased activity.

The industrial situation was sensibly relieved by the lowering of the discount and loan rates intended to reduce cost prices and raise productiveness. It would admittedly be rash to assert that the improvement in prices applies equally to all branches of industry, but the recovery is proceeding at a rate permitting to expect a further expansion of productive activities.

In close connection with the improvement of industrial and agricultural conditions the problem of unemployment has lost its former acuteness. During the worst years of depression — 1932 and 1933 — the number of unemployed increased not only on account of factory hands but also by the reduced use of other types of paid labour. In the second part of last year, however, the number of registered workless was even less than during the pre-depression years, and farmers even complained of a scarcity of labour hands. In order to relieve further the unemployment which still exists, public works are being organized, such as repairs of roads, land improvements, clearing of woods &c, the funds available being sufficient to support the small number of workless occupied in these works. Although the financial turnover of different branches of production is still substantially less than what it was during the pre-crisis years,



*A view of the old section of the port of Tallinn.*

economic development is thereby not impaired, as the prevailing low level of prices permits the turnover of material values to proceed virtually within the former scope.

The revival of productive activity is also reflected in the foreign trade results. In spite of the existing difficulties in finding markets, it has been possible to increase substantially commercial intercourse with foreign countries, in other words, both exports and imports developed in an upward direction.

#### Turnover of Foreign Trade in 1934.

	Millions of Ekr.			1934 %	
	1934	1933	1932	1933=100	1932=100
Imports . . .	55.3	39.0	36.9	141.8	149.9
Exports . . .	69.1	45.6	42.6	151.5	162.2
Turnover . . .	124.4	84.6	79.5	147.0	156.5
Excess of exports	13.8	6.6	5.7		

Foreign trade in 1934 resulted thus in an active balance of 13.8 million kroons. Compared with the previous year,

there was an advance, in point of value, by 51.5% in exports and 41.8% in imports, while the export surplus was more than doubled.

The volume of exports in 1934 reached the 1930—31 level, and there was an increase of 30% compared with the previous year. Foodstuffs and stimulants advanced, in point of quantity, by 19%, raw and semi-finished goods by 35.7%, and finished goods by 29.8%.

Export price levels were still far behind those of the pre-depression years. The lowest point was touched in 1932 at 51.4% of the average prices for 1927—31. Thereafter there was a slight improvement up to 65.1% in 1934. Export prices were thus on the average about 35% lower than before the depression.

The aggregate exports last year yielded Ekr. 23.5 millions more than a year ago, while, the total import value rose by Ekr. 16.3 millions. These figures are indicative of the vital importance of foreign trade in the expansion of economic activity.

Domestic prices showed last year a slight downward tendency. Wholesale commodity values in the second half of 1934 were 8.2%, and the cost of living, 5.3% lower than at the corresponding time of 1933. This development tends to show that the falling tendency of domestic prices witnessed since 1929 continued last year in spite of the depreciation of the currency effected in June, 1933, which only caused a temporary slight rise in prices.

**Yearly Average Levels of Wholesale Commodity  
Prices and Cost of Living.**

(1927—31 = 100)

	Wholesale Commodities Price Index	Cost-of-Living Index
1929	107.9	108.8
1930	94.5	96.5
1931	84.0	93.0
1932	76.7	87.7
1933	78.4	82.3
1934	78.1	81.2

Speaking generally, the fall in prices was more pronounced in the foodstuff section than in that of manufacturing production. This is apparent from the figures of both wholesale and retail prices, which later correspondingly influenced the cost-of-living index.

Taken as a whole, however, the downward movement of prices last year was comparatively limited, and as there were no sharp fluctuations during the year, the markets, generally, had a fairly stable appearance.

The banking situation showed a material improvement. In the course of the year comparatively large funds accumulated at the banks owing to the flow of deposits exceeding Ekr. 10 million, which enabled the banks to reduce their indebtedness and to increase their cash reserves. Demands for accomodation were on a moderate scale, but on the whole credits somewhat increased.

Credit facilities at the Central Bank (Eesti Pank) were used to a minor extent, and the outstanding total declined. The gold and foreign exchange holdings of the Bank advanced during the year by as much as Ekr. 9.6 million.

## Movement of Principal Accounts of Eesti Pank.

(In Thousands of Ekr.)

	1. I 35.	1. I 34	Difference
Reserve . . . . .	32,062	22,437	+9,625
Credits . . . . .	16,587	21,423	—4,836
Notes in circulation . . . . .	36,676	32,240	+4,436
Reserve ratio to current liabilities	56.46	47.87	+8.59

The amount of notes in circulation, after showing comparatively little variation until the month of October, showed an expansion in the closing months of the year in connection, chiefly, with the purchase of rye by the Government under the grain monopoly law, there being an increase of Ekr. 4.4 million during the year. Notwithstanding the rise which, it is expected, will be of benefit to the national current liabilities went up by 8.59 points.

The position of the State finances showed a considerable improvement. As a result of the revival of economic activity, revenue was satisfactory, and it is to be hoped that the actual revenue will exceed the estimate by some Ekr. 6—7 million. This situation has enabled the Treasury to spend considerable sums for productive purposes which, it is expected, will turn out to the benefit of the national economic system as a whole.

The results and experiences of the past year in the economic field show that Estonia has a good chance to tide over the difficulties inherited from the years of depression, while the clear-headed policy pursued in the reorganisation of public and private finance augurs well for further advancements in the future.

## COMMENTS BY BRITISH AUTHORS ON TALLINN.

Extract from an Article by Miss Beatrice Harraden, Author of „Ships that Pass in the Night“, etc., etc., which appeared in the British Weekly, November 11, 1926.

### *The port of Tallinn.*

And so we came to the beautiful port of Tallinn — Tallinn, the city of grey towers and churches and lovely delicate spires. Here we stayed three or four days. There is a great deal to see in Tallinn that is both interesting and picturesque — and especially the old Town Hall and the view from the heights of the Domberg and the houses of the old Baltic merchants and the numberless churches, chiefly Lutheran. I never saw a cleaner or sweeter market-place than in Tallinn; and the peasant women presiding over the stalls, with brightly coloured kerchiefs on their heads, looked as fresh and attractive as the flowers and fruit and vegetables.

Tallinn would be pleasant to stay in, for, in addition to its old-world charm, it is a town without smells. Instead, a delicate fragrance is wafted around — a sort of mixture of burning logs and lime-trees in flower, which still lingers lovingly in my nostrils.

Extract from „The New Baltic States“ by Owen Rutter, F. R. G. S., F. R. A. I.

Although the countryside of the three Baltic States has a certain sameness that amounts at times almost to monotony, it would be hard to find three European towns more different than Kaunas, Riga and Tallinn (Reval). Kaunas is partly Russian, Riga mainly German. There are scores of towns like Kaunas all over Russia, while Riga,

apart from the old quarter, is a European city. But Tallinn is a puzzle. It resembles Pekin in that it is unlike any other in the world. It is curious, original. It has an individuality of its own and withal it is a strange medley, for Danes, Swedes, Germans and Russians have all had a hand in its making.

Tallinn has an air of old romance. It is a city of grey towers topped with red tiles; of stone stairs beneath arching gateways; of narrow cobbled streets that wind steeply to the Dom, the rocky eminence on which is perched an ancient castle; it is full of quaint old houses whose peaked roofs look as though they slant; above them made with a pack of cards, so abruptly do they slant; above them rise lofty slender steeples, pewter-hued; and in the midst of all this are electric trams and modern buildings in the German style.

An ancient Tallinn, like modern Riga, is clean; her beauties are not assailed by smells as the glories of so many old cities are. Such smells as Tallinn knows are transient, not pervading, smells: you pass them by and are done with them; and usually they are pleasant smells such as those of baking bread or roasting coffee.

*An Englishman on the 9th Song Festival of 1928 in Tallinn.* Extract from an article by Prof. J. Y. Simpson, M. A., D. Sc., F. R. S. E., in the „Glasgow Herald“, August 4, 1928.

„A people“, said Goethe, „without an epos“ — that is to say without a history that is fit subject for an epic — „can never have anything in them to express, or that was worth asserting, or if they had, have shown themselves incapable of maintaining it in face of adverse circumstances.“

The Estonian epic has not yet been written, but it has been lived. And when the time comes to tell the story, it will be found to be strangely moving — of how a few men, like-minded and determined, in times of terrific strain, with scant previous experience of State-craft, and under every kind of handicap, yet created the State, building, as the Jews rebuilt their holy city in the time of Nehemiah, with a sword in the one hand and a trowel in the other.

*The days of servitude.*

Song has played a peculiar part in the life of the Estonian people from the beginning. It formed an integral part of their earliest religious ceremonies, and during the phases of German, Swedish and Polish overlordship song was a great means of social expression, at once unifying and consolatory. Especially did this prove to be the case under the Russian regime. Forbidden to speak in assembled meetings, they sang out their very souls, and the singing festivals of the second half of last century provided opportunities for the formulation and interchange of ideas about a still dimly conceived national future.

The work of preparation for the recent Festival (1928) was carried out by the Estonian Singers' Association and was begun in 1925. By the autumn of the following year the programme was arranged and notes were printed dealing with the selected compositions and distributed to all the choirs connected with the association. A similar procedure was followed in the case of bands and orchestras. In addition to local rehearsals there were 225 large-scale rehearsals in 50 districts.

In the end, after careful weeding out by the general directors of the association, over 14,000 voices were chosen, and so free to proceed at Government expense to the capital to take part in the Festival from June 30 to July 2. In addition there were nearly 2000 instrumentalists, while large selected choirs from Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Latvia arrived, not merely to listen but also to take part by themselves on one of the days.

*An impressive gathering.*

So during the night of June 28 and the following day thousands of people were pouring into Tallinn by steamboat, rail, and road, both from the country and from other lands near at hand. Friday afternoon was taken up with final rehearsals, which were repeated on the Saturday morning at 6.30. In the afternoon there was a march of all the singers through the town past the head of the State, members of

the Government and Diplomatic Corps standing to receive their greeting on the balcony in front of the residence of the President, and to the arena in Kadriorg (Catherine's valley) on the outskirts of the capital. The procession, which extended to over four kilometres, took an hour and a half to march past the President at a smart pace by the bands.

The procession was representative of every type of Estonian life. Choruses from the University and technical schools, from various inland district villages, from the islands, from secondary schools, from factories, from the army, and so on, male choirs, female choirs, mixed choirs, each with distinctive banners, which were finally grouped by grades at either end of the immense banked concert and stage platform. As noticeable as the school choruses were the older men and women, wearing the insignia of former festivals, and still retained not merely for the quality of their voices but for their general steadying effect. Nor was there any lack of colour, for the bright native dresses of the peasant would vary with the district from which they came.

#### *Music conductors and composers.*

The song Festival proper was opened with a short speech by the President of Estonia, in which he emphasised the past and present power of these gatherings in lighting „a fire of enthusiasm which spread all over the country, inflaming the people for intensive work, creating a new life, and enriching their moral force.“ To the grandeur and beauty of the Festival probably none but a musical critic could do real justice. The second day, when there must have been something like 150,000 people in and about the natural open-air amphitheatre, went even better than the first... In the more complicated pieces the grip of the conductors (for they were changed) upon that elegant mass of human machinery was remarkable, and the sharpness and definition in the singing, together with the contrasted effects, will not easily be forgotten by those who listened.

In some respects more distinctive even than the singing was the open-air performances of „Antigone“ one night and of an Estonian historical play the second night, both begin-

ing at 11 p. m. and lasting till 2 a. m. With casts of over 400 performers, including players chorus, the effects in their peculiar setting were very striking. There is no reason why this Song Festival, with some modifications, should not command in future years as general an interest as, say, Bayreuth. At many points it was distinctive, even to the preservation of order amongst the 150,000 people within the precincts merely by Girl Guides and Boy Scouts, several of whom wore white armlets with the legend „I speak English“ or „Ich spreche Deutsch“. The little nations have a place to fill. There is much they can teach the world by way of experiment along new lines, as also in simple sanity of action and idea.

Extract from an article by E. Horward Harris, M. A., which appeared in the „Manchester Quaterterly“, July-September 1933.

In the extreme corner of the Baltic Sea — the Baltic Levant, as it were — lies the Republic of Estonia, or Eesti, as the natives call it. It is bounded by Russia and Latvia, and the waters of the Gulf of Riga and Finland wash it on its western and northern coasts respectively. It is a fairly flat land, a part of the great northern plain of Europe, but there are undulations in the south, and a beautifully forested escarpment in the north called the Glint. Islands and lakes abound, and there is much marshland and bog. Nevertheless there are pleasant farmlands, too, with corn and flax, and delightful prospects, as, for instance, at the Holy Lake (Pühajärv), enchanting as a Finnish scene.

Snow and icebound in winter Estonia blossoms into beauty with surprising rapidity in spring, and after a warm summer enjoys a golden autumn before the long winter days set in. The people live out of doors on the islands and in the numerous watering-places in these delightful days, and praise of Estonia in summer furnished even Tschaikovsky with the inspiration for a sonata.

The towns are neither numerous nor large, for the bulk of the people obtain their living from the land; but two

cities concentrate the communal life of the Estonians. One is the university town of Tartu, a pleasant leafy place, and the centre of the cultural life. The other is Tallinn — the capital — better known, perhaps, as Reval. It is one of the quaintest capitals in Europe. A city of seven centuries, it bears the marks of its varied history. A fascinating mixture of old and new is Tallinn, a town of pewter-coloured steeples, red roofs, quaint alleyways and numerous towers like gigantic pepper boxes — a treasure house of mediæval architecture — an old commercial city where the shades of Hansa merchants seem to linger. Its castle is Danish, its oldest school bears the name of Gustavus Adolphus, and in the Kathrinthal (Kadriorg) you may see the shoes of Peter the Great under his bed in the Russian cottage.

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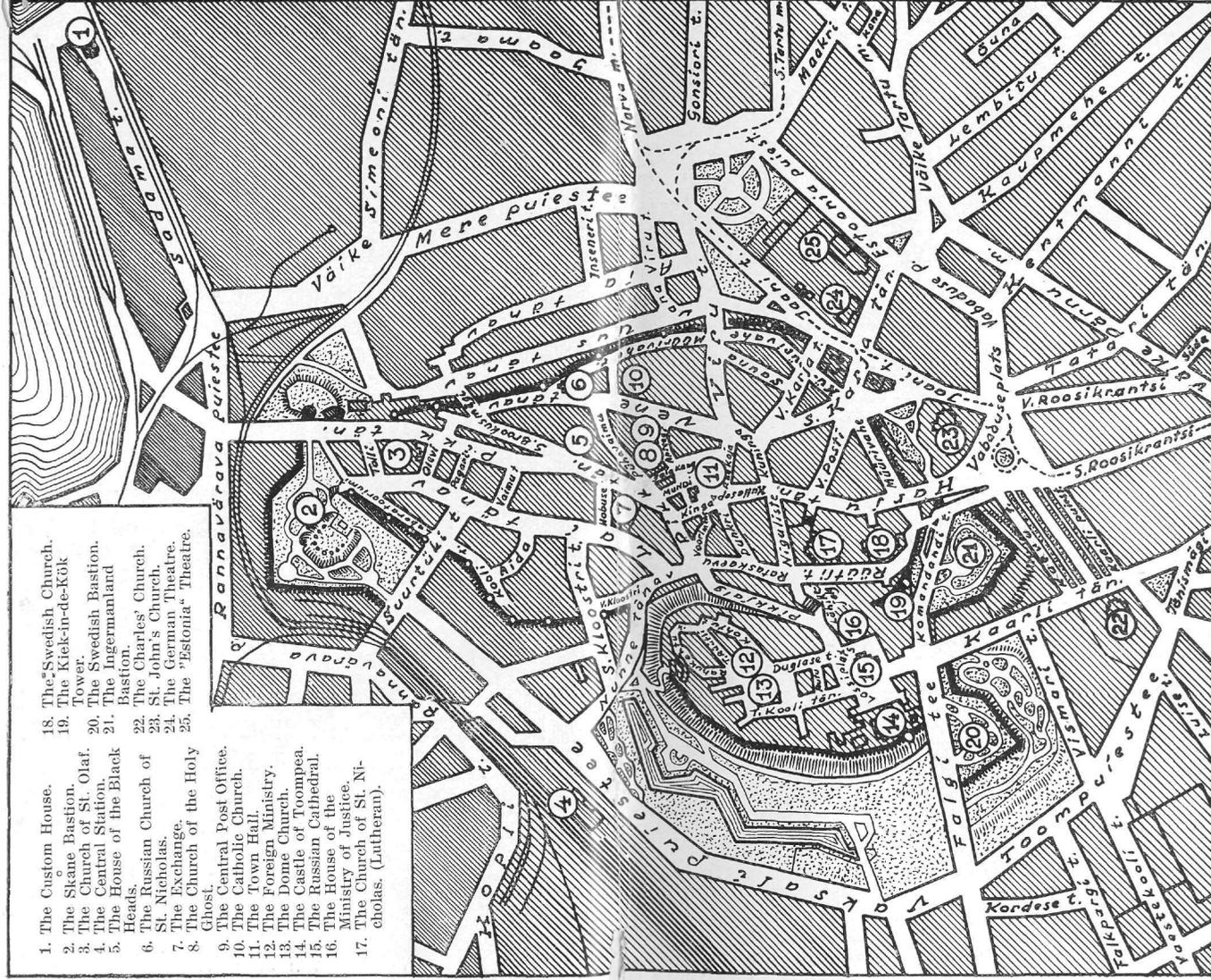
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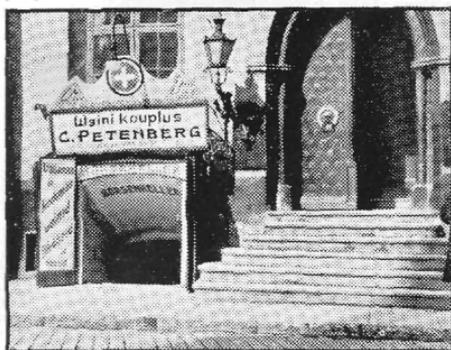
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