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THE FOREST AND FOREST INDUSTRIES OF NORRLAND

BY

GUNNAR LÖWEGREN



Supplement to
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Sweden is a land of forests, as every traveller soon discovers who, after arrival at one of the South Swedish coast towns, Trelleborg or Malmö, takes the day-train to Stockholm and observes the country during the journey northwards. First he encounters, it is true, an undulating agricultural region, where the plain extends as far as the eye can reach away towards the Sound. He next passes over a chalk and Silurian stratum of later geologic formation, which has nothing in common with the great primary system of gneiss and granite constituting old Sweden. Within this primary rock area the rock-face sometimes lies exposed, although it is usually covered with a layer of gravel, sand, stones and hard-packed earth from the glacial and post-glacial periods, earth layers suitable only in parts for more advanced agriculture, but where the forests grow dense and dark. This primary system extends over the whole of Sweden north of the extreme south-western part of Scania right up to the landmark, located at $69^{\circ} 04'$, where Sweden, Norway and Finland touch, and the Malmö—Stockholm railway-line runs on to the primary Swedish bedrock already at Höör, approximately 50 km. NNE of Malmö.

An even clearer idea of the Swedish country is obtained if the traveller arrives by air, and after landing in Copenhagen glides over the smiling waters of the Sound and thence in over Sweden at some point between Landskrona and Hälsingborg. Then from the outset the Scanian plain skirting the shimmering blue of the Sound is outlined like a narrow light border against the dark, densely forestclad country, the South Swedish tableland, which soon may be seen spreading itself out northward in a gradual incline. Soon the plateau is displayed beneath us like a beautiful picture where a welter of long-drawn lakes and narrow winding rivers lie embedded, almost hidden between forests and swamps; an the lighter ribbons of the southern broad-leaf woods glide like serpentines in between the coniferous forests, to thin off and disappear further to the north. We have now reached the land of the »seven-league forests».

This impression is heightened if from Stockholm one travels still farther north, up towards Norrland. Then, too, the route at first runs close to water,

