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COUNTRY: Finland


SUBJECT: Finland to Train Road Equipment Specialists

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1. The formation of drivers and mechanics specialized in the handling of road equipment is becoming an urgent problem owing to the growing use of machinery for the construction and maintenance of roads. The Central Bureau of the Road Department of Finland is going to prepare a detailed program of courses and practical work on principles jointly agreed upon. The broad outline of the program is the joint work of the Central Bureau, the section of professional training of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Finnish Road Association.
 2. The profession of mechanic for road equipment and road technician will create a new profession in Finland. The personnel thus trained will possess thorough technical knowledge in conducting and maintaining the machinery put at their disposal. This new career offers the great advantage of providing an opening to young men living in the country; it will allow them to work near their homes and will also give them the opportunity of becoming acquainted with the handling of agricultural implements. It is above all a career with a future since the ceaseless development of road traffic will more and more require the construction of modern roads and the improvement of those already existing.
 3. The Road Association of Finland (Suomen Tieyhdistys ry) presented 10 silver medals for meritorious service in road maintenance at their annual meeting in Helsinki on 15 Jun 53. These awards to the District Road Maintenance Engineers are part of the regular program of the Suomen Tieyhdistys to reward the work of the engineers charged with maintenance of the road sections of Finland. Ten qualified for the awards of 1952-53. Presentation was made by Gov K G R Ahlback, President of the Suomen Tieyhdistys in the presence of the 400 members who attended the meeting. Plans were presented for a trunk road system for Finland which are receiving favorable action by the Parliament and the road development of the country is progressing rapidly. Guests at the meeting in Helsinki were Mr Jan Skotte, chairman and Mr Chr Christiansen, director of the Norwegian Road Association.

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