

## ASSOCIATION OF THE ESTONIAN HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

Annual Report 1970/71

The last year - 1970 - was a great loss to our organisation. H. Jänes, the president from the very beginning of our organisation, died in July 1970. He had been the headmaster of the Estonian fulltime high-school in Stockholm and the director of the Institute for Estonian language and literature. He had been representing the Estonian teachers in FIPESO for about 35 years. In 1969 in Helsinki he was elected as a member of FIPESO's Executive. Unfortunately his illness did not let him fulfil this very honourable task.

During the last year many new ideas have emerged and solutions to the problems of Estonian education have been found. At the elementary level courses are arranged all over the world wherever a sufficient number of Estonians are living. These courses take usually place once or twice a week depending on the local possibilities. At present the Estonian school in Toronto is the most successful one. More than 600 pupils are attending this complementary school.

But one of our main tasks is not only to give our Estonian boys and girls an elementary knowledge of the Estonian language, but also to enable them to read and understand Estonian literature and take part in Estonian cultural life. Therefore it is planned to introduce a secondary stage in the obligatory Estonian schools in Sweden for students between the age of 14 and 16. Because of the new Swedish school reform it is technically possible to arrange complementary high-school courses in Estonian such as Estonian language, literature, history, geography and music.

A secondary school exists already in Toronto. The results reached there are after three years of experimental work very promising and give reason to hope that the planned secondary education in Estonian in Sweden and elsewhere will be of full success.

The teachers of the Estonian schools in Sweden are trained in summer-courses arranged every year by the Swedish Educational Board in co-operation with the Estonian School and Youth Committee. The course does not only give Estonian teachers further training but also enables them to discuss the educational problems arising in Estonian schools. The training-courses are financed by the Swedish Educational Board which thus contributes to the high standard of our teachers.

William Muld