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THESE FINNS SEEK FREEDOM.

In Lowestoft harbour lies a shabby coastal vessel. Aboard are 15 Finns - refugees from Communism. They sailed across the North Sea with just enough fuel to reach East Anglia. The skipper - Captain Karl Wirom - is the only man who had been to sea before. His crew are farmers - people whose faces show that they are country-bred. Twice expelled from their homes by the Russians, they fled to England.

Hundreds of holidaymakers watched them arrive. They were barred from landing and barred from sailing on. Lowestoft's Mayor - Mrs. MacBain Taylor (helped by a young shipping agent) discovered their plight. She worried the Home Office to forget their regulations. Reluctant officialdom has now given the Finns permission to land. They can fit out their ship for the trip to South America - and freedom. The Mayor has opened a fund to help them. There is now hope aboard. Gifts are pouring from locals and holidaymakers. There is food for everybody - toys and sweets for the children.

New equipment is going aboard, and soon the Finns hope to sail. Meanwhile, public opinion has secured them a temporary refuge in Britain - over the sanctuary of the oppressed.