

to the whole expedition as "Uncle Bill" and gained the everlasting gratitude and love of all of them.

To fully understand the part that Dr. Wilson played in the expedition, one should really have read Captain Scott's last journal, Cherry-Garrard's wonderful book "The Worst Journey in the World", or the biographical studies of Wilson by George Seaver. There is a sense of disappointment at the lack of personal references to his companions in the diary. There is no indication of Wilson's influence in assisting and consulting with Captain Scott—that must be learned from other sources and the difficulties are all played down. For example, in the great storm that overtook the heavily overladen Terra Nova on the voyage out, he described the struggles and discomforts but concluded "I must say I enjoyed it all from beginning to end—and as one break after another became untenable, I thought things were becoming interesting"! Again, when he and his companions arrived at the South Pole to find that the Norwegians had already been there, there is no hint of the bitter disappointment they all felt. Surely there was never a man who could more completely "meet with Triumph or Disaster, and treat those two imposters just the same". The explanation lay in what his religion meant to him.

Dr. Wilson's account of the last sad journey to the Pole is written with the same restraint, characteristic of the whole diary. It is interesting to compare his narrative with that of Captain Scott. Scott's diary was continued to the end, while that of Wilson stopped about a month before. In the introduction the reason for this is given as: "Wilson's adherence to his own maxim to become entirely careless of your own soul and body in looking after the welfare of others. All his dwindling energies were needed to keep the others going". He was, of course, the only doctor of the five who reached the pole. Captain Scott wrote to Mrs. Wilson while they were waiting blizzard-bound in the tent "his eyes have a comfortable blue look of hope and his mind is peaceful with the satisfaction of his faith in regarding himself as part of the great scheme of the Almighty. I can do no more to comfort you than to tell you that he died as he lived, a brave true man, the best of comrades and staunchest of friends"—a great tribute from one fine man to another.

The illustrations are a representative selection of Dr. Wilson's delightful pencil and water-colour sketches. This book is a must on the shelves of all Polar enthusiasts.

Half of the royalties received by the Scott Polar Research Institute from the sale of this book will be used to provide Wilson Memorial grants to help young men and women to

undertake field-work in Polar regions. The remainder will be used to assist the work of the Institute.

Carol Maass

JAMES BAY: THE PLOT TO DROWN THE NORTH WOODS. BY BOYCE RICHARDSON. *A Sierra Club Battlebook*. Toronto: Clarke, Irwin and Company Limited, 1972. 5 1/8 x 7 7/8 inches, 190 pages, illustrated. \$2.75.

The Sierra Club in sponsoring this book has done us all a great service. The author by his skilful and imaginative writing has produced a narrative which has tremendous impact. After reading only a few pages, it is difficult to put the book down until the theme has been fully expounded and the book finished. This is a book that should be read by all *Québécois*, indeed by all Canadians and informed Americans, as its implications extend far beyond provincial boundaries. It should be of particular interest to those concerned with northern development. If widely read it could influence the course of events in James Bay, with political repercussions provincially and perhaps federally.

It is a book with a motive. The protection of the natural environment in all its diversity, including: scenery, plants, animals and the right of indigenous people to live a traditional way of life, in harmony with nature. In espousing this cause it is biased, but considerably less biased than: "Development of the James Bay Territory, Initial Phase—James Bay Development Corporation, information (undated)." This appears to be the only official document available to the interested public to supplement press releases, often designed to maximize political benefits, and magazine articles, which unashamedly support either the development ethic, or side with the native peoples, who are helplessly manipulated in the process. At least the author's bias is not misleading in a potentially dangerous way, which may not be true about everything else that has been written about the James Bay scheme. Essentially this is an engineering proposal to harness the hydro electric potential of a group of rivers discharging into James Bay, and latest proposals apparently include diversion of the headwaters of a major river which flows north into Ungava Bay. In the aggrandizement of the scheme its promoters mention side benefits such as better roads and communications, forestry development, mineral extraction and a tourist influx for hunting and fishing. These help justify the incredible spiralling costs which, in the space of several months, have risen from 2 to 6 and now may exceed 10

billion dollars. Indigenous people are either ignored or, it is claimed, will benefit greatly. They will be given the opportunity for cash employment on the project itself, in other industrial activities which will follow in its wake, or in tourism. If they do not wish to become involved, they will be better able to maintain their traditional way of life, in the managed and improved environment that will result from the development. In so far as the indigenous people are concerned, Boyce Richardson effectively demolishes these myths. Unfortunately, his sympathy for the Cree Indian viewpoint leads to a rather unrealistic and romantic portrayal of their life, which becomes almost incredible. It is, however, effective for his purpose and that is to describe how, over thousands of years, the James Bay Cree have developed a culture which enables them to live harmoniously within the matrix of their environment. They understand an ecological ethic that appears entirely lacking in the growth-oriented, economically-dominated, western culture that is moving in and modifying their environment with complete disregard for their interests and wishes. A weakness in his argument lies in the fact that the Cree life style has already been greatly changed in the interests of the fur trade, western culture and by the welfare state. One could callously go so far as to state, it has been almost completely disrupted and further dislocation does not matter. But however indifferent one becomes to native interests, it must be admitted that the aboriginal peoples have a valid claim to the territory. As the author so ably points out, the Quebec Government was incredibly remiss and perhaps foolishly arrogant in assuming clear title to the land. They were impetuous in the way they announced the project and, for this day and age, amazingly out of key with the temper of society, by proceeding without any idea of the ecological ramifications of the scheme. The document that has been claimed an ecological impact statement ("A preliminary study of the environmental impacts of the James Bay development project, Quebec. — Report of the joint Federal-Provincial task force 20 December 1971") was prepared in haste by Federal and Provincial civil servants, from almost non-existent information about the area, on file, and without field studies. While those charged with preparing this report are to be congratulated and it must be hoped that their recommendations are followed, the time constraints and conditions under which they were forced to work were nothing short of a national disgrace. It is small wonder that some of them wished to be disassociated from the views expressed in the final document. It is more a list of information lacking and work that must

be done than a prediction of consequences. If we are to accept the authors' commentary, even this flimsy cover up for serious errors of omission has been largely circumvented in the interests of the Quebec Government and the James Bay Development Corporation.

Concluding chapters of the book almost amount to an indictment of the political-economic system that allows manipulation of information and resources for self-fulfilment of political prophecies. We are asked to consider some of the wisdom of the Cree philosophy and develop an ecological conscience more compatible with their views of nature. It ends with the suggestion that perhaps it is too late, decisions have been preempted, preparatory work for drowning of the north woods is already underway and the momentum of progress is building up.

Overstatements in the book, of the kind that plague ecological crisis writing can be excused as necessary counterbalances to the equally exaggerated claims of promoters of the scheme. Boyce Richardson should be applauded for his courage in presenting his material to the public in such a forceful and forthright way.

G. Power

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY BETWEEN CAPE PARRY AND CAMBRIDGE BAY, N.W.T., CANADA IN 1963. BY WILLIAM E. TAYLOR, JR. *Ottawa: Mercury Series, Archaeological Survey of Canada Paper No. 1, National Museum of Man, 1972. 8½ x 11 inches, 106 pages, 24 figures, 15 plates, \$2.00.*

The information explosion in archaeology has now attained rather astonishing proportions, and the editors of learned journals and their printers are generally swamped with manuscripts. Unfortunately, not all of these are fit to see the light of day, but editorial advisory committees do their best to screen out what is egregiously bad, and professional audiences can be counted on to annihilate other unsatisfactory efforts. In the end, however, it is of utmost importance that we have an open market place for the rapid exposure of fresh data and new ideas.

In these circumstances, prompt publication is vital, and the Archaeological Survey of Canada, National Museum of Man, is to be highly commended for instituting its new *Mercury Series*. This is specifically intended to circumvent the time-lag between editorial acceptance and the mechanics of publication and distribution, and so far it appears to be operating most effectively. Six separate volumes have been produced in the first six