

and people. There are three appendices: a chronology of Alaskan history; a list of inventions by native people; and a list of those who are active in the field of native Alaskan renaissance.

Joseph Senungetuk has little time for "authoritative sources", but if he had consulted more of the existing literature and perhaps some older Eskimos to the north, he would have avoided some technical errors. He writes, for instance, about Eskimo clans and tribes, tells us that Oobluk means "the moon", and that inlanders are Nunamuit. In his description of a sealhunt by skinboat, he lists a load that includes eleven men, twenty-eight assorted seals and other gear. All told the load must have weighed between 7,000 and 9,000 lbs. Since a forty-by-nine foot Yorkboat rarely carried more than four tons of freight, that skinboat must have been very low on freeboard! His history rightly condemns the infamy of white people, but in describing the natives as "living only for happiness and peace" he overlooks the fact of endemic feuds, occasional battles and omnipresent famine before the white man arrived.

Despite the obvious criticisms which can be made with respect to style and erudition, this book is of considerable interest and importance. Much of it is applicable to the Canadian northern scene, and the tranquility and humour of the writing only partially leaven the bitterness of a people who feel cheated of their birthright. By its appearance at this stage in history, and by its own merit, "Give or Take a Century" is a signpost for new directions in northern politics, and should be read by the arctic-oriented of all persuasions.

Keith J. Crowe

ON THE EDGE OF THE SHIELD. John W. Chalmers, editor. *Edmonton: The Boreal Institute for Northern Studies, University of Alberta, 1971. 6½ x 9½ inches, 60 pages, illustrated. \$2.00.*

The Boreal Institute has done well to publish in booklet form a series of six broadcasts carried about a year ago by Radio Station CKUA. Given by faculty members of the University of Alberta who share a common concern for the future of the north, they present from a variety of angles the colourful past and uncertain future of the vast area south and east of Great Slave Lake, of which Fort Chipewyan has long formed the centre. This oldest settled community in Alberta was

the hub of the fur trade and was used as the point of departure by Mackenzie and succeeding arctic explorers, as well as being a major source of supplies. During the period of its greatest importance, in the early 1800's, up to 200 Northwest traders were based there, engaged in fierce competition with the much smaller Hudson's Bay establishment at nearby Fort Wedderburn.

On the Edge of the Shield does not simply picture the past and explain the difficulties of modern transition common to most northern settlements and northern peoples. It does this, briefly and well, giving the reader a sense of kinship with this historic settlement and its inhabitants which heightens the impact of Dr. W. A. Fuller's final chapter "Death of a Delta". Here we are faced with the consequences to the Athabasca country of the building of the Bennett Dam on the Peace-Athabasca Delta. Water diverted by man has upset natural growth, the marshes and sloughs are drying up and animal life is disappearing. As Professor Laatsch writes in his chapter "Rock, Wood, Water": "Unfortunately Fort Chipewyan is not the only northern community whose existence is threatened by some exogenous force. The plight of Fort Chipewyan is just another example of how desperately we need to manage wisely the resources of rock, wood and water, and how we must conserve the most valuable of resources, man."

Dr. Fuller states that no research was done before permission was given to go ahead with the Bennett Dam. In his view this was unfortunate, to say the least, with evidence readily available of the possibly calamitous consequences facing Egypt as a consequence of the Aswan Dam and, in Russia, of the widespread damage to fishing, forest income, agricultural income and of increased costs in developing oil and gas fields which has followed the construction of dams on major Russian rivers.

He asks what lessons are to be learnt from the building of the Bennett Dam. "If we believe that 'more and bigger is better' there is nothing to learn. Fish, ducks, muskrats and a thousand or so people cannot stand in the way of 'progress'. This is the philosophy of the United States Army Engineers, of Chambers of Commerce all across Canada and the United States, and of our present local and national governments. If we follow the growth ethos, we will next allow Mr. Bennett to capture the Liard and repeat in the Mackenzie Delta the series of events that has occurred at Chipewyan. We will also go ahead with PRIME (Prairie River Management and Evaluation), which will divert water

from the Athabasca and Peace rivers to the south and thus destroy forever the richest biological resources of the entire Mackenzie system and hence the traditional life style of many native peoples. We may even send the waters of the Yukon and Mackenzie to the deserts of the American southwest."

This little book deserves a wide reading public. At a time when "progress" is taking on a new and deeper meaning, the pressure of many people's convictions just might slow down the further development of our natural resources into unnatural spoilage. The illustrations, chosen with imagination, add to the interest of this small but excellent publication.

Paul Nanton

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BOOKS ON ALASKA PUBLISHED BEFORE 1868. BY VALERIAN LADA-MOCARSKI. *Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1969. 8¼ x 11¼ inches, 567 pages, illustrated. \$35.00.*

In form and content this book is a sumptuous gift to the serious student, to the literary and historical amateur and to bibliophiles of all sorts. The editor furnishes a catalogue of all works relating to Alaska published from its discovery to its cession by Russia to the United States two and a quarter centuries later. Rather than omit anything which relates to his theme he includes books, whose connection with Alaska are very tenuous indeed (Gmelin's *Reise durch Sibirien* contains nothing more pertinent to Alaska than the preparations for Bering's trans-Pacific voyage); in consequence we have a book-list which sheds a broad light not only on early Alaska but on eastern Siberia and the exploration of North Pacific islands and the northwestern coasts of America. In all 161 titles are included of works dealing with voyages, atlases, and the findings of the scientists who from the first were enlisted in all government-sponsored voyages of exploration. Russian and German titles predominate, publications in French and English are also numerous.

Material is presented in the most lucid and painstaking manner. The title is given (and translated if in Russian), followed by pagination, description of illustrations, references with comments sometimes on printing and quality of the text. Different editions are collated and discrepancies noted. We have here no mere compilation. The editor supplies notes which advise the serious student as to

the nature and reliability of content, and with lesser known voyagers and others expands them into biographical and historical *précis* which the general reader will find both instructive and charming. Without intending to write a panegyric Mr. Lada-MocarSKI pays superb tribute to the memory of the army of scientists, German and French, who promoted and shared in the Russian eighteenth century "drive to the east", adding immensely to its fruitfulness in all fields of science. The three DeLisles, Mueller, Pallas, Staehlin and the luckless Steller deserve to be more than names. Here their merits are displayed, inadequately, of course, but in a most accessible form. The scale of the printing is so lavish and the different sections of each *critique* are so clearly marked off that the casual reader will not have the least trouble in picking out what engages his interest.

This bibliography illustrates the keen interest of the eighteenth century man in geography and other sciences and the lack of scruple sometimes exercised for his gratification. A major work in one language would speedily be reproduced in others; we learn here of a German publisher who used black-market sources to bring out an account of Cook's third voyage years before the official and authoritative narrative appeared. When it did come out it was sold out in a matter of days.

The most attractive of the editor's notes relate to what might be called the small change of travel and discovery: the reminiscences of ordinary seamen, their sufferings from shipwreck and among savage tribes, and of junior officers such as Lieutenants Khvostov and Davydov who, after "toils incredible" in many seas, suffered the paradoxical fate of drowning when they tried to vault over a river on their way home from a (presumably cocktail) party. Some of these memoirs, if in a language more generally known than Russian, appear worthy of a re-print. The noble work of Russian missionaries receives here handsome appreciation. The format of the book is superb. Each item is illustrated by a reproduction of the title-page of the first edition.

The text is not wholly free from defects. We are told that H.M.S. *Sulphur* was detached from survey work to take part in the search for Franklin's ships at a date when Sir John Franklin was stationed in the Antipodes as governor of Tasmania. And surely #147 must relate to Kellett's *Herald*, the unidentified "young naval officer" being the mate Bedford Pim. And it is strange that