

Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Mr. Phillips writes about another venture, in his own day, when the Department of Northern Affairs staged "one of the boldest tourist projects ever tried in Canada". The Federal Government restored as a historic site an old theatre in Dawson and managed to interest prominent Broadway show business people in producing a musical comedy ("Foxy"), and getting it and its orchestra into the Yukon. (There must be material for a hilarious book in this episode alone.) The production costs of "Foxy" were set at \$125,000, but it was not clear what the operating loss might be, since that would depend on the audience that managed to get there. One would not expect such a venture to make money (it obviously did not), and a question might be raised as to how far one should experiment in attempting to make the Canadian Arctic less of an economic liability.

Revenues from renewable resources and the tourist industry have been negligible, so far. The main sources of income are from mineral production. During the last 15 years Government investment has changed the Arctic. Roads, airfields, hospitals, schools and administration centres dot the map, and when oil and gas and large mineral deposits are developed, there will be even more radical change. Then the repayment will begin, with interest, and the work of people like Mr. Phillips and his colleagues will be appreciated.

The book is intended to fill the gap which has existed in the literature on the Canadian North regarding "what the North is all about, what it looks like, how it all began, and what is there for today and for tomorrow". The author agrees that to encompass so broad a theme as Canada's North, past and present, within a single volume, one must risk accusations of superficiality. One can, naturally, do this, although I do not think it is particularly relevant. Each item discussed in the book can be, and in many cases has been, treated in greater detail elsewhere. The gold rush, for example, is covered in twelve pages, and one fondly recalls Berton's "Klondike" of ten years ago.

The first chapter, "The Setting", deals with sea ice, the arctic islands, the mainland, the aurora, the plants and animals, permafrost and climate, all in 23 pages. Clearly, only a rough picture can be outlined. (By the way, "wind-chill" is not loss of the body's warmth through radiation, but rather cooling caused by air motion.) However, the book is not intended to be a scholarly work on a specialist subject. It has an interesting résumé of Canada's history of discovery due to the fur

trade. It has a survey of political development and recent history, transportation and communications, the social legacy, an inventory of resources, science, literature and the arts. In short, it has about everything and, it seems, not too many mistakes. However, there are some. It was not the water of the east Greenland coast that was too cold for fisheries until recently—it still is—but rather the west coast water. Also, "the pumping of the Japanese current into the Arctic" is not what some dreamers have recently discussed, in order to produce a milder Arctic. This would clearly not produce any beneficial change and, anyway, the Japanese current is far away from the Bering Strait. Rather, it is pumping arctic water out over a Bering Strait dam, thus allowing greater inflow of Atlantic water. Although this scheme is far from convincing at present, it is the sort of talk that people pick up and accept as a clear-cut "scientific" project. Responsible authors should, at least, present the rudiments straight, or the public is led doubly astray. It may well be that our knowledge is now so great in detail that it is becoming impossible for one man alone to write an omnibus account of a region. If this is so, then Mr. Phillips' book will stand, I think, as a good example of a lost art.

His narrative of the important years since 1953, when the Canadian Government had to choose one of two sharply different courses, stands as significant Canadian literature. The alternatives were, either to set up a single supergovernment of the North and declare it to be a special area, or to treat the North as Canadian and not to convert it into a special compound. The latter course was followed, untidy and confusing though it was, and it has been frustrating to all involved. However, they deserve the gratitude of the Canadian people for the progress made, and Mr. Phillips deserves it in addition for describing the situation so well.

Svenn Orvig

GLACIERS OF THE ANTARCTIC. By JOHN MERCER. *Antarctic Map Folio Series Number 7*. New York: American Geographical Society, 1967. 11 x 17 inches, 10 pages, 6 figures, 2 tables, 4 loose-leaf maps. \$3.50.

This folio is one of a sequence in the Antarctic Map Folio Series which attempts to summarize the present state of knowledge of the Antarctic. A previous folio dealt with the continental ice sheet and this one, as the title implies, logically limits itself to a sum-

mary of the characteristics of the glaciers.

Two location maps of the area, on a scale of about 1:13,000,000, are provided. One shows the positions of the Antarctic Oceanic Islands and the other pinpoints the glaciers on the continent. The two remaining maps are of the Oceanic Islands on scales large enough to observe the extent of glaciation.

The accompanying text by Mercer is extremely well done and is thoroughly documented. Two tables in the article present, in condensed form, some of the features of the glaciers under such column headings as morphology, glacier type and observed movement. Glaciologists will appreciate the useful source material provided in the exhaustive list of more than 150 references to studies in this area.

The American Geographical Society has produced a very attractive Folio. It is of a convenient size so that the maps which unfold to roughly twice its dimensions are still manageable. The print in the text is large and extremely easy to read.

M. P. Langleben

DICTIONARY OF ALASKA PLACE NAMES. BY DONALD J. ORTH. *U.S. Geological Survey, Professional Paper 567. Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1967. 9½ x 11¾ inches, 1084 pages, 12 multicolor sectional maps. \$8.50.*

Most present-day students of Alaskan subjects have repeatedly used the *Geographic Dictionary of Alaska* (U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 187, by Marcus Baker, 1902) or the second edition (U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 299, by James McCormick, 1906) and have found them valuable tools, but seriously dulled by being so long out of date. Welcome indeed is this worthy successor to those earlier volumes.

The main part of the publication—the section called “Alaska Place Names”—starts with “A, Peak” on p. 45 and extends through 1026 three-column pages to “8900, Peak” on p. 1071—a mammoth and painstaking work. That section is preceded by a Foreword, a Glossary of Terms used, a list of Abbreviations used, a Transliteration System for Russian recommended by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, and a list of Russian Generic Terms.

The Glossary of Terms is useful, but some of the definitions leave one in some doubt. For example, a “Village” is defined as “A Place having 1 to 1,000 inhabitants.” It would seem that one inhabitant scarcely

makes a village in the usual sense. A “Winter crossing” is “A place where a person may cross a major stream during the freezeup.” Most travellers would prefer to cross after the freezeup and before the breakup. Furthermore, some rare typographical errors might have been caught before printing but then the reader would be spared noting that in the Abbreviations an “Adm.—Admiral” is the only military title that rates a capital, a “Gen.” being merely a “general.”

“Alaska” and “Alaskan” appear to be used indiscriminately as adjectives, e.g. “Alaska landscapes” but “Alaskan files,” both on page 1. This is not important and probably would not be noticed except in a work otherwise distinguished for its meticulous attention to detail.

The Introduction needs to be read with care for the reader to understand the carefully worked out and faithfully followed pattern of the name descriptions and the reasons therefor. The author properly points out that: “Native names presented the largest problem in compiling this dictionary. The native languages do not have established written forms, and the transcription of names from Eskimo, Aleut, or Indian into our Roman alphabet (some by way of the Russian Cyrillic alphabet), by nonlinguists, is extremely difficult.”

The part of the Introduction on the Origin of Names is most informative and describes the six major sources of names—Russian names, Spanish names, British names, French names, American names, and native names. The author places native names in especially appropriate perspective: “Eskimo, Aleut, and Indian names, like those of the Europeans, are generally commonplace and descriptive. Native naming habits, however, have two characteristic differences. The natives tend to name many small, even minute, landmark features and ignore those that are large. Few mountains were named unless they stood alone and had some peculiar characteristic. For foot, boat, or sled travel, there was no need to name large and vague features. In addition, the natives commonly applied several names to one feature, based on the characteristics of its particular parts. Many streams, even short ones, had various names along their lengths. Many of the native names now appearing on published maps are long and unpronounceable by the average English-speaking person.

“Geographic names evolve historically, their origins and forms being closely associated with the languages of the peoples who successively occupy the area. Thus, many native names are changed or altered