

reports are the comments on information required and on recommendations for future investigations. Social scientists can profit greatly by noting the topics and problems for research which are highlighted.

As promotional documents the reports serve a useful purpose. This is to interest potential businessmen, investors, and settlers in Alaskan enterprises. It is clear that the reports are not designed to be scientific documents. Sources of data generally are not indicated, few basic references (other than U.S. Geological Survey Bulletins) are listed, and no maps are included. There is great variation in degree of detail in the descriptions, ranging from inadequate comments on climate to detailed observations on mountain climbing and individual power and mining sites. Somewhat disturbing are the inclusions of unnecessary (for the declared objective of each report) sections on such things as the past restrictions of government on coal and oil leasing (Cordova report, p. 67) and the repeal of section 27 of the Jones Act (Sitka report, p. 58). The intended audience appears to vary between potential businessmen, Cordovan and Sitkan residents, United States citizens, and U.S. congressmen—a confusing, if not too diverse, range. It is surprising, too, that analyses of items like costs of living, labour, and materials are omitted—topics of paramount interest to businessmen and analysts alike.

The optimistic attitude of the reports is basic to promotional publications. Yet, the constant optimism, in spite of any noted difficulty (and those not noted), raises the question of possible danger from overselling. KIRK H. STONE

#### AN INTRODUCTION TO THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE CANADIAN ARCTIC

*Ottawa: Geographical Branch, Dept. Mines and Technical Surveys, 1951. Canadian Geography Information Series No. 2. 9 x 6 inches; xiii + 118 pages; sketch-maps, folding maps, and illustrations. 50 cents.*

It is a useful step forward to have a single short publication on the geography

of the Canadian Arctic, replacing the now considerably out-of-date booklets on specific divisions. These earlier ones however, did have some literary merit. The various chapters of the present publication give a broad picture of conditions in the region, but the treatment of subjects is rather uneven. The topographical section is full and good; the chapter on settlement is peculiar in singling out only seven settlements for detailed treatment, one of which is now abandoned.

Perhaps in the chapter on climate not sufficient attention is paid to the varying pressure pattern which so influences the vital arctic factor of wind, and although the data are still very recent, I feel that some more information from the far northern weather stations could well have been included, e.g. the very low mean winter temperatures and precipitation of Eureka which establish several Canadian "records".

In the section on wildlife, the importance of the two seals which can be hunted through the ice in the winter, as opposed to the remainder of the marine mammals which appear to migrate to open water, should have been brought out. One of the most surprising statements in the book is that "[walrus] hide is often used for bed robes" (p. 42). I can imagine nothing more uncomfortable.

With regard to the history of exploration, it is extremely difficult to give any brief account of the work accomplished since the First World War, but in view of the considerable detail given for the earlier history, I think some of the trends of modern exploration and the outstanding names should have been given.

The booklet is well filled with maps, but since these were specially drawn in 1951, they could perhaps have been a little freer from errors, e.g. the location of ice caps on the geology map opposite page 2, an error in Parry's 1824 expedition, and considerable confusion between Greely, Nares, and Peary in the maps on exploration. Reproduced in all the maps is one major error: Stefansson Island is not a severed portion of the northeast

peninsula of Victoria Island as shown here, but a new island farther to the north.

The absence of any statistical information is surprising. From this point of view alone, the publication compares very unfavourably with recent Danish Government material on Greenland.

'An introduction to the geography of the Canadian Arctic' seems adequate for high school students, but not for more serious readers. One looks forward to seeing it revised with more equal treatment of the different subjects, and with the inclusion of up-to-date statistical material.

P. D. BAIRD

## INSTITUTE NEWS



Looking south from Teshierpi Mountain, from a painting by A. Y. Jackson.

### **Presentation of painting to Dr. and Mrs. A. L. Washburn**

On 13 May 1952 the Arctic Institute presented Dr. and Mrs. A. L. Washburn with a painting by A. Y. Jackson, C.M.G. The following inscription was engraved on a small plaque: "Presented to Linc and Tahoe Washburn by the Arctic Institute of North America in appreciation of their whole-hearted work in the interests of the Institute, 1945-51".

A. Y. Jackson painted this picture, which is entitled "Looking south from Teshierpi Mountain", from a sketch made in August 1950. At this time he was on a painting trip sponsored by the Department of Resources and Development and the Eldorado Mining Company. Teshierpi Mountain is in the Barren Grounds, just south of Dismal Lakes, midway between Hornby Bay of Great Bear Lake and Coronation Gulf.