

## OUTLINES OF GEOGRAPHY, LIFE AND CUSTOMS OF NEWFOUNDLAND LABRADOR.

By V. TANNER with 342 photographs, cartograms and diagrams. Societas Geographica Fenniae, Acta Geographica 8. OY. Tilgmann A.B., Helsinki, 1944. Also Macmillan Co. (Can.) Cambridge University Press; two vols. 1947. \$12.50.

This book by Professor Tanner is based on observations made on the Finland-Labrador Expedition of 1937 and the Tanner-Labrador Expedition of 1939 and available literature and maps.

The book is divided into six parts dealing with the land, the sea, the climate, plant life, animal life and the races of men who have, or are inhabiting the coast.

Under Part I, Professor Tanner gives a very clear description of the physiography and geological structure of Labrador. This is followed by a detailed description of the Precambrian, and Palaeozoic rocks which form the mainland. He was assisted in this part of his report by Dr. E. H. Kranck, the author of a bulletin published by the Geological Survey of Newfoundland.

It is probably in connexion with the development of the peneplain, the rivers draining the plateau, the glaciation and the post glacial uplift, that Professor Tanner has made the greatest contribution in this section of his book. His treatment of these subjects can be said to be masterly.

Part II, dealing with the Labrador sea and current is an excellent summary of observations that have been made on the direction of flow, the temperature, the salinity, the tides, and the amount of ice. The inference to be drawn from this section is really, how little is actually known of the oceanography of this part of the Atlantic Ocean.

Climate is treated in section III. On p. 323 Professor Tanner states, "The air of the Labrador is so limpid that the summits of the mountains and the inequalities in their surfaces stand out against the clear sky with wonderful distinctness. In winter the atmosphere is extremely diaphanous all over the country, but also in summer the radiance and light along the coast are so brilliant at times that no artist could do them justice." Perhaps in this quotation Professor Tanner expressed what appeals to so many as one phase of the lure of the Labrador.

Under plant life Professor Tanner points out that the Labrador Peninsula is one of "the most southerly of the countries including a connected Arctic vegetation." He speaks of the tundra, the forested areas and the bogs. Part V, the animal life is given very briefly in 19 pages. The rest of the book from pp. 437-831 is taken up with the races of men, their ethnology and human geography.

In the opinion of the reviewer one or two statements are in error. On page 98, in the photograph taken from *Northernmost Labrador, Mapped from the Air*. American Geographical Society, Publication 22, N.Y. 1938, a synclinal fold is shown on the north shore of Saglek Bay and it is stated to be of "the folded Ramah beds upon unbended gneisses". The reviewer has examined the rocks of this syncline and found that they do not belong to the Ramah Series.

In conclusion, we are all deeply indebted to Professor Tanner for this great work which included not only two field studies but the gathering of 1,127 published references and an extensive cartography.