

places referred to in the text would have greatly increased the value of the book. At least the limit of trees and perhaps some other indication of the type of country might have been given with the map.

The work entailed in assembling the information presented in this book must

have been very considerable, but there is no doubt that its usefulness to future students of the ornithology of north-western Alaska will fully justify it.

T. H. MANNING.

*Bailey, Alfred M. The Birds of Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska. Proc. Colorado Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. 18, pp. 1-113. 1943.

"THE GREAT MACKENZIE", in Words and Photo.

Text by Raymond Arthur Davies, photographs by George Zuckerman. (Toronto: The Ryerson Press. 139 pages, 100 photographs, \$3.50).

"*The Great Mackenzie*" will have popular appeal for those who would like a rapid evening's trip through the Mackenzie valley of the Northwest Territories. An excellent set of 100 full-page pictures, arranged in ten logical groups, gives an adequate pictorial representation of the resources, transportation and people of the long valley. The pictures have been selected primarily for their "human interest", rather than as a record of life in the area.

It is unfortunate that readers could not enjoy the pictures without submitting to the newspaper-headline style of Mr. Davies, who has written the captions. Mr. Davies' sole purpose is to browbeat "the government" into more rapid development of the North and greater care of her Indian wards. His staccato style pounds away at this theme throughout the book, and the description under every picture is twisted to serve this purpose.

Readers of *Arctic* will not have to be told about the twenty-six factual errors in the text, and will recognize most of the half-truths. It is unfortunate, however, that the general public will accept this irresponsible writing as accurate description. Some of his statements are true, and therein lies the difficulty, for readers who do not know the North will not be able to discriminate.

For example, Davies states on page 70 that "it is believed that 100,000 square miles of the Mackenzie Basin is suitable for farming". He does not say that

probably Mr. Davies is the only man who so "believes", but on page 112 he slips by admitting that "hundreds of thousands of square miles are ruled by mosses and swamps". (Out of a total area of 125,000 square miles!) He condemns the lack of education by saying that there are no public schools in the Northwest Territories, thereby ignoring the public schools at Fort Smith and Yellowknife, the largest settlements. Twice he states that "the Eskimos have been wiped out by venereal disease and whisky", a fact that actually refers only to a small group of Eskimos who lived near Herschel Island in the whaling days half a century ago, whereas Canada is proud of the way the trading companies have kept whisky away from the Eskimo, and venereal disease is virtually unknown among these happy people. Davies uses words loosely and extravagantly, such as "coal *abounds* at Fort Norman" when referring to a small seam of low quality, and "land is *lush* at Fort Simpson," referring to the grey-brown woodland and muskeg soils.

Davies condemns our lack of development by comparing Leningrad, U.S.S.R., on the same latitude, with tiny Fort Smith, when they have nothing in common in the way of climate, resources or accessibility. He suggests several major plans for development, not knowing of, or ignoring, the fact that most of the points are already being actively pursued by the Government.

"*The Great Mackenzie*" is a good book to look at, and will be an entertaining book for those who know the North and remember "the great Barnum". For those who sincerely want to see orderly development of our Northland, this book has not really helped the cause.

J. LEWIS ROBINSON.