

constitution of the Committee should make available the counsels of men of wide experience who would not normally have been eligible under the former regulations.

The Committee is about to launch an appeal for a Development Fund. The activities as well as the importance of the Institute have for some time outrun its financial resources, and some such appeal is urgently required lest the steady progress of the past should be reduced.

The Committee is most anxious, for instance, to make improvements in *The Polar Record*, to bring the Library up to date, and to make alterations in the museum section. It is also conscious that the amount of voluntary assistance called upon at present, while a very pleasant feature, is not economically sound, since it is not available indefinitely.

As frontispiece for this issue we have a portrait of the senior authority on the polar regions in America. After many years of actual exploration in the Arctic, Mr Vilhjalmur Stefansson became at once the acknowledged exponent and champion of a mode of Arctic travel best described in his own phrase as "living on the land". His writings on the friendly Arctic in all its aspects are now equalled by his researches into its past history.

OBITUARY

The death of Dr W. H. Neale recalls a great Arctic adventure in which he played a prominent part nearly sixty years ago. He accompanied Mr B. Leigh-Smith as surgeon and naturalist on his two voyages to Franz Josef Land in 1880 and 1881–82. When the *Eira* was crushed in the ice, Dr Neale was at first much worried by the loss of all the lime-juice, then believed to be the only safeguard against scurvy. He was given charge of the rationing, and successfully kept the party in perfect health throughout the winter on a diet of fresh bear and walrus meat. He made no further voyages, but throughout a long life of active medical work, he never lost his interest in the Arctic.

We also regret to announce the death of Carl F. Herlofson, the Norwegian whaling pioneer. He began his whaling career off Iceland in 1896. When the northern industry began to fail, he was one of the first to investigate southern waters, and in 1928–29 he was manager of the

floating factory *Antarctic* during this vessel's first cruise to the Antarctic. He belonged to the generation following Svend Foyn, and was possessed of all the qualities which are necessary for a leader in this industry.

Lieutenant John Napoleon Truden, member of the Fiala-Ziegler expedition to Franz Josef Land, 1903-5, died in Pittsfield, Mass., on February 15, 1939.

Jack O'Brien, surveyor on the Byrd Antarctic expedition, 1928-29 died on December 6, 1938.

We regret to record the loss of the sealing ship *Polar*, which went down with all hands in March 1939 off the east coast of Greenland. The *Polar* had been used by the Oxford University Arctic expedition, 1935-36, to transport stores and personnel to their base in North East Land. At the time of her loss she was sealing in the West Ice, commanded by Captain A. Bergesen. The captain had already had the misfortune to lose the *Isfjell* beyond Cape Farewell on the way to the Newfoundland sealing in February this year, but the crew were rescued and taken on board the Swedish liner *Drottningholm*. Captain Bergesen was one of the best known of the younger sealing captains, and had done a certain amount of charting on his own initiative of the north coast of North-East Land. He had been in command of the *Isbjorn* when she was used by Mr J. M. Wordie for his expedition to North-West Greenland and the Canadian Arctic in 1937. He had all the dash and energy necessary in such work, and the success of the balloon flights and of the Baffin Island surveys was largely due to his energy and understanding of expedition wants and problems.