

## FOREWORD

We have much pleasure in publishing, as a frontispiece to this issue, a photograph of Dosent Adolf Hoel, the Director of the Norges Svalbard-og Ishavs-undersøkelser, Oslo, in token of our admiration for his work, over a period of many years, in the Svalbard sector of the Arctic. Dosent Hoel is, as is well known, the moving spirit of all Norwegian Arctic expeditions, and all who have had dealings with him can testify to his unfailing kindness in assisting foreign explorers visiting Spitsbergen or other places within the Norwegian sphere of influence. We must thank him for his courtesy in allowing this photograph to be added to our series of portraits of the leaders of polar exploration throughout the world.

Since the publication of the last issue of *The Polar Record*, the progress of the Soviet North Polar party has been followed everywhere with the keenest interest. The achievement of establishing the polar camp has been duly acclaimed, and since then it has been evident that the scientific observations, and the deductions to be made from the drift itself, are both of very great importance. The course of the drift, based on information received direct by the Meteorological Office, London, has been plotted daily by officials at the Royal Geographical Society; and it is hoped that a chart, showing the movements of the camp from day to day, may be published in the next issue of *The Polar Record*. Meanwhile it remains for us to wish the four men concerned continued success during the concluding months of their sojourn on the polar pack.

Another outstanding event of the Arctic this year is the meeting of the *Nascopie* and the *Aklavik* in Bellot Strait. The *Nascopie* was making her annual tour in the Canadian Eastern Arctic, and on that occasion extended her patrol down Regent Inlet, The *Aklavik* had come from the west, and therefore between them these two Canadian ships have achieved a North-West Passage. There are indications that the Bellot Strait route is not only the shortest but also the most practicable, and we therefore congratulate Captain Smellie of the *Nascopie*, and all those concerned, in this successful outcome of Canadian Arctic enterprise.