

FOREWORD

The frontispiece of this issue is a photograph of G. W. Rowley, who is Secretary and Co-ordinator of the Advisory Committee on Northern Development of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources of Canada. His knowledge and understanding of Arctic problems makes the appointment a particularly fitting one. He first went to the Arctic in 1936, as archaeologist to the British-Canadian Arctic Expedition led by T. H. Manning, and has since worked and travelled extensively throughout the North American Arctic. In 1946 he became head of the Arctic Research Section of the Defence Research Board of Canada, and in 1953 was appointed to his present post. He was elected Vice-chairman of the Board of Governors of the Arctic Institute of North America in 1955. Mrs Rowley was for many years the very successful editor of *Arctic*, and still edits the *Arctic Circular*.

The Institute has for some time been concerned with sea-ice studies. Dr Roberts has long worked on problems of classification and terminology, and Dr Armstrong has produced for the Admiralty what may be termed an ice probability study. This is in the form of an atlas (now in the press) showing the frequency with which open water, or various types of ice, have been encountered in the past at particular places and times of year along the Eurasian shore of the Arctic Ocean. He has more recently made recommendations to the Canadian Defence Research Board on methods of sea-ice recording and reporting. It is now planned to extend the scope of these sea-ice investigations by carrying out further ice probability studies for the waters of the Canadian arctic archipelago, and of the Falkland Islands Dependencies. In August 1955 work was started at the Institute on these two research projects; the first by Dr C. W. M. Swithinbank on behalf of the Canadian Defence Board, and the second by Mr J. A. Heap for the Falkland Islands Dependencies Scientific Bureau. The whole of these studies have been undertaken from the point of view of shipping; the importance of such work to the assessment of insurance rates is obvious.

We welcome the appointment of Mr T. H. Manning as Executive Director of the Arctic Institute of North America. Mr Manning first visited the Canadian Arctic in 1933, and since then has led a series of successful expeditions there; the best known of these being the British-Canadian Arctic Expedition of 1936-40, the Canadian Department of Mines and Resources Exploring Expedition to Foxe Basin in 1949, and the survey of the coast of Banks Island for the Defence Research Board of Canada in 1952. He has a detailed knowledge of the Arctic and an independent approach. As a biologist, a surveyor and a traveller he has himself added immensely to knowledge of the Canadian Arctic.

On 4 May 1955 the United Kingdom Government submitted to the International Court at The Hague documents relating to encroachments by Argentina and Chile, respectively, on British sovereignty in the Falkland

Islands Dependencies. These documents summarize the history of the area and make it clear that British sovereignty is based on discoveries dating from the eighteenth century, and on a long record of effective occupation and administration. British claims were formally confirmed and defined in Letters Patent issued in 1908 and 1917. Argentina, it is shown, made no claims in the Antarctic until 1925, and Chile until 1940, nor did either State protest against British claims before these dates. The International Court was asked to declare that the claims of the United Kingdom to sovereignty of the Falkland Islands Dependencies are legal and valid, and those of Argentina and Chile are illegal and invalid. Argentina and Chile, neither of which signed the optional clause, have both refused to accept the jurisdiction of the court, so no decision can be reached; the United Kingdom, however, by submitting these documents, has placed on record before the International Court, and before world opinion, the grounds on which her claims are based.

The Colonial Office has announced that an air survey of the Falkland Islands Dependencies is to be started during the coming Antarctic summer. The survey is to be carried out by Hunting Aerosurveys Ltd., initially from a base at Deception Island, using Canso amphibian aircraft and a Westland Sikorsky 51 helicopter.

Plans for the Trans-Antarctic Expedition, under the leadership of Dr V. E. Fuchs, are progressing well. The United Kingdom Government has made a grant of £100,000, the New Zealand Government a grant of £50,000, and the Australian Government a grant of £A25,000. The advance party is expected to set out for the Weddell Sea late in 1955. A New Zealand party, under Sir Edmund Hillary, will establish a station in McMurdo Sound in the Ross Dependency in order to meet the trans-continental team in Victoria Land.

The plans of the nations which are to take part in the International Geophysical Year 1957-58 are now developing fast. Twelve nations are expected to man more than twenty stations on the Antarctic continent and its off-lying islands. There will also be important activities in the Arctic. It is hoped to publish fuller details in the next issue of the *Polar Record*.

Scott's *Discovery*, built for his expedition of 1902-04, returned to her berth at the Victoria Embankment on 3 May after an extensive refit at Blackwall Basin. The Boy Scouts Association, to whom she was given in 1936 as a training centre for Sea Scouts, is no longer able to afford the cost of her upkeep, and she was re-commissioned as an R.N.V.R. drill-ship in July.

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