

NORTHERN NEWS

Hydrographic work carried out by the *Cancolim* expedition

The Canadian Defence Research Board's 80-foot vessel *Cancolim II* had a very successful summer carrying out hydrographic and oceanographic work in the Western Arctic. The party of nine scientists was led by Mr. T. H. Manning (for a preliminary account of the expedition see *Arctic*, Vol. 4 (1951) p. 138); no professional crew was carried.

The *Cancolim* left New Westminster on July 21¹ for Esquimalt, and sailed from there on July 28. She made a remarkably quick trip north, calling at Prince Rupert, Unalaska, and Point Barrow, and arrived at Herschel Island on August 21. Good weather and an exceptionally ice-free season helped the expedition to accomplish more work than had been expected.

Hydrographic and oceanographic investigations were made in the coastal waters of the Beaufort Sea, both off the Canadian mainland and along the entire west coast of Banks Island as far north as Cape Prince Alfred, and also in Amundsen Gulf as far east as the entrance to Dolphin and Union Strait. After leaving Herschel Island the vessel sailed over 4,000 miles carrying out this work. The limits of the continental shelf were defined and the characteristics of the waters investigated.

Besides completing the hydrographic and oceanographic program, a considerable number of biological specimens was collected for the Fisheries Research Board, as well as about 300 birds and mammals for the National Museum. Other scientific work included the establishment of 4 astronomical control points, and special surveys for the Department of Resources and Development.

At the end of the season the *Cancolim* was left at Tuktoyaktuk for the winter. It is anticipated that she will be used for the same kind of work next season. Mr Manning and his party came south by air at the end of September.

¹Not Vancouver on July 26 as reported in the last number.

Elections in Greenland¹

The first Greenland Provincial Council (Grønlands Landsraad) to be elected by direct adult suffrage held its opening session on 25 September 1951 at Godthaab. The electoral reform that brought this about was due to a new Act of the Danish Parliament, which became law on 27 May 1950.

Formerly two Provincial Councils, one each for North and South Greenland,² were elected indirectly by an assembly made up of chairmen of local councils, Danish officials who had resided more than two years in the country, and members of the previous Provincial Council.

All men and women of Danish citizenship (including all Greenlanders) who are 23 years of age or over and who have lived in Greenland for at least six months are eligible to vote and to run for office.

In addition to the thirteen-member Provincial Council, there are now sixteen District Councils (replacing sixty-six smaller ones), the members of which are also elected by direct universal ballot.

The first elections for the new Provincial and District councils were held on 29 June 1951. Regulations governing the elections were set out in a Royal Decree and in many ways followed those used in Danish municipal and parish council elections. They were however unfamiliar to the Greenlandic election committees, so detailed instructions and a number of printed forms and public notices were prepared in advance and distributed to ensure uniformity. Preparation for the elections began in April 1951, when surface travel to north Greenland was still restricted, so the election material was dropped by aircraft. Local supervision was in charge of committees made up of the former local councils in the sixteen main constituencies. Thanks

¹Reprinted from the *Arctic Circular*, Vol. 4 (1951) pp. 83-5.

²This account deals only with the west coast of Greenland south of Melville Bay. It does not refer to East Greenland or to the Thule area in the northwest.

to this careful preparation, the elections took place without serious mistakes. In two constituencies only was it necessary to repeat the elections: in the most northerly (Upernavik) because ice conditions prevented distribution of some of the lists of candidates in time, and in the southernmost (Nanortalik) because an epidemic of measles, the first in Greenland, kept nearly everyone in bed on election day.

The nomination system caused most difficulty, since it was something new in Greenland elections. In order to be nominated, a candidate needed from five to ten sponsors. In many places election meetings were held by some candidates, and in a few cases there was evidence of a real election campaign, as for example in the capital Godthaab, where the former veteran member of the Provincial Council was defeated by a more progressive candidate after an active campaign. There are as yet no real political parties in Greenland, but in several places fishermen, hunters, or groups of workers and government employees campaigned for their favourites. The rules govern-

ing nominations were designed to encourage the formation of political parties, and it is believed that later elections will find them more active.

About 8,750 persons in West Greenland were qualified to vote, and about 6,400 of them actually went to the polls. There they filled in two ballots (one for the Provincial Council and one for the District Council) each with the name of a candidate and a "substitute". On an average 73 per cent of the electorate voted, the highest turn-out being 89.5 per cent and the lowest about 55 per cent.

The elections were the first at which women had been permitted to vote. Many women used their votes and several were nominated. None was elected to the Provincial Council and only one to a District Council. A few Danes were elected to District Councils, but none to the Provincial Council although several stood for election. The new Provincial Council, which met from 25 September to 23 October 1951 under the Chairmanship of the Governor of Greenland was made up as follows:

<i>Constituency</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Votes</i>		<i>Occupation</i>
		<i>received</i>	<i>cast</i>	
Nanortalik	Jacob Nielsen	130	591	outpost manager
Julianehaab	Frederik Nielsen	184	423	schoolmaster
Narssaq	Gerhard Egede	207	274	clergyman
Frederikshaab	Abel Kristiansen	176	534	catechist
Godthaab	Augo Lynge	567	718	schoolmaster
Sukkertoppen	Peter Egede	210	562	outpost manager
Holsteinsborg	Knud Olsen	97	386	shop assistant
Kangatsiaq	Nikolai Rosing	239	376	outpost manager
Egedesminde	Frederik Lynge	149	413	former colony manager
Disko Bugt (Christianshaab - Jakobshavn)	Marius Sivertsen	141	527	trade assistant
Disko (Godhavn - Qutdligssat)	Jens Olsen	124	602	clergyman
Umanaq	Peter Fleischer	123	549	outpost manager
Upernavik	Hendrik Olsen	147	410	trade assistant

It is noteworthy that all successful candidates were native born Greenlanders and employees of the Greenland Administration. Earlier Councils had included a few hunters, fishermen, or sheep farmers.

Among the first responsibilities of the new Council was the election of two Greenland representatives on the Green-

land Committee of the Danish Parliament. The men selected were both schoolmasters: Augo Lynge of Godthaab and Frederik Nielsen of Julianehaab. The Greenland representative elected to the Board of Directors of the Greenland Trading Organization was Frederik Lynge from Egedesminde.

N. O. CHRISTENSEN
TREVOR LLOYD

University of Michigan expeditions to the Aleutian Islands

For the past four years the University of Michigan has sponsored a program of anthropological and botanical field work in the Aleutian Islands. These investigations began in 1948. Support has come from the Office of Naval Research and the Michigan Memorial Phoenix Project. H. H. Bartlett of the University of Michigan Botanical Gardens supervised the program, and T. P. Bank acted as field director of the expeditions. Associated have been A. C. Spaulding, J. F. Bank, H. A. Miller, W. R. Hurt, D. S. McClain, L. H. Jordal, and T. C. Parks.

Expedition members made landings on more than twenty islands for specialized investigations, and ethnological studies were carried out in the five Aleutian villages: Atka, Nikolski, Unalaska, Akutan, and Kasheega. Archaeologists completed major excavations on Agattu, Unalaska, and Amaknak. In addition, most of the known burial caves were revisited for excavation of levels below those previously sampled by Dall, Jochelson, and Hrdlicka.

Ethnological studies in the present villages included surveys of the health and economic status of the Aleuts for an analysis of the trends of acculturation. Fully annotated lists of Aleut plant, animal, and place names were prepared to provide a basis for linguistic comparisons among the various Aleut dialects and between Aleut and mainland Eskimo.

The most recent expedition to the Islands returned to Ann Arbor in November 1951. Collections are being sorted and will be studied at the University of Michigan and at other institutions. Ethnobotanical samples from archaeological strata are being dated by the University of Michigan radiocarbon laboratory.

A number of interesting correlations between anthropological and botanical data have resulted. Phytocological studies of prehistoric village sites indicate a correlation between former Aleut plant uses and present vegetation and a possible correlation between the latter and age since abandonment of the sites. Ethnobotanical studies reveal the past

Aleut plant lore as more extensive and important to Aleut culture than previously supposed.

Archaeological materials have not been fully studied, but preliminary results are interesting. Bank's excavations at Unalaska and Amaknak and Spaulding's excavation at Agattu revealed no separation of culture layers into "Paleo-Aleut" and "Neo-Aleut". Artifacts from Unalaska and nearby Amaknak are different and suggest that one site was older than the other, but it is impossible to prove one mound "Paleo-Aleut" and the other "Neo-Aleut" from present archaeological data. At all three sites there was a gradual change in artifact types from bottom to top, which at Amaknak was much the same general sequence as found by Laughlin at Nikolski (*Arctic*, Vol. 4 (1951) pp. 80-4). Although the two-migrations theory for Aleutian prehistory is by no means untenable there is reason for withholding final acceptance of the hypothesis and the terms "Pre-Aleut", "Paleo-Aleut", and "Neo-Aleut" until more archaeological evidence is at hand.

T. P. BANK, II

1951 Projects at the Arctic Research Laboratory, Point Barrow

During the summer of 1951 eighteen teams of scientists studied northern problems from the Arctic Research Laboratory, of the Office of Naval Research, at Point Barrow, Alaska. The following projects were initiated or completed during the summer season: ARNOLD, C. A., R. A. Scott, and J. S. Lowther: University of Michigan.

Paleobotanical research in Alaska. BREW, JOHN O.*, W. K. Carter, C. I. Shade, H. T. Cain, and R. Tanner: Harvard University.

Archaeological survey of Eskimo, or earlier material in vicinity of Point Barrow.

DEEVEY, E. S.*, D. Livingstone, and K. Bryan: Yale University.

"Post glacial" history of Point Barrow region, and relevant studies of aquatic ecology.

DELAUBENFELS, M.: Oregon State College.

Porifera of the Arctic.

EDMONDSON, W. T.*, G. Comita, and R. Main: University of Washington.

Limnological study of lakes of Alaska.

GUSTAFSON, F. G.: University of Michigan.

Vitamin content in arctic plants.

HALL, E. R.*, J. W. Bee, and J. K. Jones: University of Kansas.

Native land mammals of northern Alaska.

MAYER, W. V.: University of Southern California.

Preliminary investigation of life histories of certain small arctic mammals.

PATRICK, R.*, and L. R. Freese: Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

Study of diatom flora of lakes in vicinity of Point Barrow.

PITELKA, F. A., H. E. Childs, and G. S. Greenwald: University of California at Berkeley.

Population biology of arctic land vertebrates.

PRESCOTT, G. W., G. Lauff, and W. Vinyard: Michigan State College.

Survey of freshwater algae.

SETZER, H. W.: Smithsonian Institution. Distributional, ecological, and taxonomic study of mammals of Arctic Slope of Alaska.

STEERE, W. C., D. O. Steere, and E. Ketchledge*: Stanford University.

Geographical distribution of mosses and liverworts in northern Alaska.

SWARTZ, J. H.*, R. F. Black, M. C. Brewer, and G. MacCarthy: U.S. Geological Survey.

Permafrost.

THOMPSON, D. Q., D. L. McKinley, and B. J. Rose: University of Missouri.

Life history and ecology of lemmings.

VOTH, P. D.: University of Chicago.

Biology of *Marchantia polymorpha* and associated plants in Alaskan Arctic.

WIGGINS, I. L., D. B. Wiggins, and K. Chambers: The Johns Hopkins University.

Taxonomic and ecological investigations of vascular plants in vicinity of Point Barrow.

WILIMOVSKY, N. J. and J. E. Bohlke: Stanford University.

Survey of fishes of Arctic Alaska with reference to those of importance to the military and naval service.

*Investigator not present at Point Barrow.

The Stefansson Library

In December 1951 Dr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson, who is Arctic Consultant at the Dartmouth College Museum, moved to Hanover, N.H., from New York, and placed his library in the Baker Library at Dartmouth College. The Stefansson Library contains some 25,000 volumes, and 20,000 pamphlets and manuscripts, dealing with arctic, antarctic, and permafrost regions. The library is housed in a separate part of the Baker Library stacks and is already available to Dartmouth students and staff and, on application, to other research workers.

Future use of lichen woodlands in Labrador for reindeer

It is not surprising that a Finnish forest-ecologist, while engaged in the study of the forests of subarctic Labrador, besides purely forest ecological problems, should preoccupy himself also with problems relating to the future economic utilization of this vast subarctic wasteland. In some earlier papers, published in Finnish or Canadian journals, Dr. I. Hustich has given the detailed and exhaustive results of his forest-ecological studies; in a recent paper¹ he describes the lichen woodlands of the Labrador Peninsula from the point of view of economic utilization as winter range for domesticated reindeer.

In an attempt to estimate the carrying capacity of the taiga if grazed by reindeer, Hustich first reviews his detailed studies of the rate of regeneration, not only of the lichen cover but of the lichen-forest as a unit. In the evaluation of his conclusions, he has drawn on the literature of the Old and the New World as well as on his personal and very considerable experience with the lichen forests of the reindeer districts of northern Finland.

Hustich estimates that there are at least 105 million hectares (26 million acres) of lichen woodland in Labrador. According to Russian figures such lichen woodland may be estimated to yield 2.5 tons of

¹"The lichen woodlands in Labrador and their importance as winter pastures for domesticated reindeer." *Acta Geographica*, Vol. 12 (1951) pp. 1-48.

air dried lichen per hectare, or about one half of the amount of lichen consumed annually by one adult reindeer. Allowing for a ten-year period for regeneration between grazing, the lichen forest of Labrador should thus be capable of furnishing good winter pasture for half a million reindeer provided, of course, that the depth and consistency of the winter snow-cover were suitable for winter grazing. As yet practically nothing is known of the winter snow cover of the woodlands of the interior of Labrador. The most serious obstacle, however, to a future large-scale utilization of the Labrador lichen woodlands by reindeer might be the lack of people willing and capable to work there as reindeer herders.

A. E. PORSILD

Endeavour Prizes

As a contribution to the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science to be held in Belfast on 3-10 September 1952, Imperial Chemical Industries Limited, publishers of the quarterly scientific review *Endeavour*, have offered the sum of 100 guineas to be awarded as prizes for essays submitted on a scientific subject. The competition is restricted to those whose twenty-fifth birthday falls on or after 2 June 1952. The subjects for the essays are as follows: Scientific research in polar regions; Oceanography; The influence of climate on technology; The origin of life; Sulphur in medicine, science, and technology; and Gas discharge tubes.

The essays, which must be in English and typewritten, should not exceed 4,000 words in length and must be received by 2 June 1952. Only one entry is permitted from each competitor. All entries must be marked "Endeavour Prize Essay" and addressed to The Assistant Secretary, British Association for the Advancement of Science, Burlington House, Picadilly, London W.1., England. The essays should be submitted without signature; the competitor's name and address and date of birth should be given in a sealed covering letter attached to the essay.

In judging the results special attention will be paid to the originality of the approach to the subject, and great importance will be attached to literary style. The competitor's age will also be taken into account.

The successful competitors will be invited to attend the whole of the Belfast meeting, at which the prizes will be presented, and their expenses within the United Kingdom will be paid.

Complete set of the *Meddelelser om Gronland*

The Institute has been informed that one of its Associates wishes to sell a complete set of the *Meddelelser om Grønland*. This series of scientific reports on Greenland originated in 1879 and is now in its 151st volume. All but 15 volumes of the complete set are bound, and they are in very good condition. Offers for this set should be sent to the Director of the Montreal Office of the Institute, 3485 University Street, Montreal, Que.