

EDITOR'S NOTE

That the Canadian Arctic is rich in largely untapped mineral resources is well known. Just how rich is still speculative, but there is certainly enough to justify, some feel, large-scale industrial operation in the north. Yet these lands are also rich in the human sense, populated by peoples whose cultures, although eroded, are still intact. Can the earth's riches be extracted without the further disruption and possible destruction of the native peoples' hunting, trapping and more traditional ways of life? Hugh Brody assesses the present and probable future impact of industry on the Canadian north in an article in which the conflicting interests of the large-scale industrial operation and the small isolated community are compared. Quite different time-scales are involved—industry, on the one hand, demanding snappy decisions and the native community, on the other, coming to its decisions slowly, frequently more slowly than the representatives of industry will allow. Over-hasty juxtaposition of the two sets of interests can have disastrous consequences for the native peoples involved.

Joseph-Fidèle Bernard, a free trader who operated along the Arctic coasts of North America and Siberia during the early years of this century, has recently died. Several of his diaries and manuscripts came into the hands of Mrs Diana Rowley, in Ottawa, and it is through her that Glynn Barratt discovered Bernard's account of the rather uncomfortable winter he spent in 1921–22 stranded on the tip of the peninsula of Chukotka. Bernard took a great interest in the people he met on his travels and, unlike many of the small-time traders of those days, made the time to write down his observations. His account throws light not only on the way of life of the native inhabitants of the peninsula at that time, but also on their trading relationships and the political situation in which they were unavoidably involved.

The second subject of our Profile series is Professor Edgeworth David, a member, at 50 years of age, of Shackleton's *Nimrod* expedition. While it cannot be said that little is known about the man it can, I think, be safely assumed that few will have heard Sir Raymond Priestley's characteristically pertinent observations about his geological senior on that expedition. It is a humorous and affectionate profile of a man of great physical and mental courage.

The journal's new format has been in operation for a year now and would seem to meet with most readers' approval. Any comments or criticisms on the journal's subject matter are also always welcome; indeed, it is only a shortage of such letters that prevents the correspondence section proposed in an earlier Editor's Note from getting under way. Perhaps the review by David Drewry of Lord Shackleton and his team's economic and social survey of the Falkland Islands—naturally a personal interpretation of the situation as reported—will provoke others to write in with their own viewpoints on the question of the islanders' future. Such correspondence is strongly invited.

The Editorial Committee has decided to open the pages of the journal to advertisers of certain products such as climbing and camping equipment and books on Arctic and Antarctic subjects. Advertising revenue will help delay further increases in the subscription rates and it was felt that many readers would find it useful to see what services, new products and discounts are available. The advertisements will be found in the back pages of the journal.