

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOVEREIGNTY IN THE POLAR REGIONS: COLLOQUIUM, NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, WASHINGTON, 1973. EDITED BY GERALD S. SCHATZ. *Lexington, Massachusetts; Toronto; London: D. C. Heath, 1974. 6½ x 9¼ inches, 215 pages. No price indicated.*

In December 1973, the Antarctic Society sponsored a colloquium at the U.S. National Academy of Sciences on problems that could arise in the polar regions owing to the lack of, or uncertainties in, legal jurisdiction. The papers which were presented appear in revised form in the present work. Only some seventy pages of it are taken up with text, however. The rest of the volume consists of notes and appendices. The latter include transcripts of the judgement of the U.S. Court of Appeals on the Escamilla case, the resolution on the law of the sea and uses of the seabed passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Antarctic Treaty, and the recommendations arising from the first seven consultative meetings concerning that treaty.

The differences between the Arctic Ocean where, in some circumstances at least, maritime law would apply, and the Antarctic, where the Antarctic Treaty provides a measure of guidance for signatory powers, are well brought out, and the complex legal situation is examined in considerable detail. Many important issues have never been resolved. It is interesting to speculate on who would have jurisdiction if a Canadian were to assault a U.S. citizen at an AIDJEX station in the Arctic Ocean, or a national of a non-contracting country were to commit some serious crime in the Antarctic.

As the volume is concerned solely with questions of law and sovereignty, a more appropriate title might have been chosen. Science and technology are involved only because the population of the polar regions considered at the colloquium consists mainly of scientists, and because technology has now made these regions accessible. The extent to which scientific activities might give rise to claims to sovereignty is not discussed, nor whether failure to provide basic scientific information required by other nations, such as meteorological observations, would jeopardize sovereignty.

The colloquium, which was exclusively a U.S. gathering, raised important issues that need to be given consideration at an international forum. This careful account of its proceedings is of more than national interest.

G. W. Rowley

BLAZING ALASKA'S TRAILS. BY ALFRED HULSE BROOKS. *Fairbanks, Alaska: University of Alaska Press, 1974. Second edition. 6¼ x 9¼ inches, 567 pages, illustrated. \$7.95 plus 50¢ handling.*

The first edition of *Blazing Alaska's Trails*, which was published in 1953 under the sponsorship of the University of Alaska and the Arctic Institute of North America, has been out of print for about ten years. The recent upsurge of interest in Alaska and northern affairs in general has, therefore, prompted the Mineral Industry Research Laboratory at the University of Alaska to publish a second edition which, apart from minor corrections and clarifications, is substantially a reissue of the original work. As such, it contains an excellent balance of material comprising an account of the physical geography of Alaska (five chapters); a brief description of the autochthonous peoples and early exploration up to the time of purchase by the United States (eleven chapters); detailed accounts of the commencement of interest in mineral development, and the subsequent two major gold rushes in the Klondike and at Nome (eight chapters); and, finally, a number of miscellaneous chapters on transportation, fisheries, education and government.

Considered the foremost expert on Alaska at the time of his death in 1924, Dr. Brooks, explorer, scientist and scholar, was in every sense of the word an Alaskan trail blazer. His personalized story of the early history of the last frontier territory of the United States to achieve statehood is as interesting and as relevant today as when originally written — perhaps even more so in giving the reader a better perspective on current affairs in Alaska. It is indicative of Brooks' astuteness and optimism that he successfully predicted the discovery of large quantities of hydrocarbons on the North Slope.

The latest edition includes a short preface by Dr. Terris Moore, the second president of the University of Alaska, and a somewhat dated, though substantial, account by Dr. Philip S. Smith of the author's life, together with a bibliography of over a hundred of his publications. There is also a short addendum containing Brooks' account of the various attempts to climb Mount McKinley, including the first successful one in 1913. Although Brooks does not accept the claim of Dr. Frederick A. Cook to have reached the summit in 1906, he does record with admiration the remarkable journey to the coast through the Alaska range made by Cook after his unsuccessful attempt.

K. de la Barre