

Putnam's Sons, New York, 1914), an account of the expedition in 1911-12. In 1949 he was elected a Fellow of the Arctic Institute and he was also a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Geographical Society, a member of several professional societies and of American and Canadian clubs.

Dr. Olaus J. Murie (1889-1963), biologist, and a Fellow of the Arctic Institute since 1949, died at his home in Moose, Wyoming, U.S.A. in October. He did considerable field work in New Zealand, Labrador, and Alaska. His faunal studies in the Arctic were mainly concerned with the biology and ecology of large mammals, but his interests extended also to ornithology.

He had been Director of the Wilderness Society since 1946 and was active

in wild life conservation in wilderness environments. In recognition of his many achievements he received an honorary degree, as well as many other honours and awards.

Dr. L. E. Borden, an Associate of the Arctic Institute of long standing, died at Vancouver, B.C., Canada last summer at the age of 86. He was the last surviving member of the first Canadian Arctic Expedition in the *Neptune* under Capt. A. P. Low, in which he took part as medical officer. He had in his custody documents relating to Capt. Low's taking possession of "the island of Ellesmereland and all the smaller islands adjoining it". This declaration was read in the Canadian House of Commons in 1956, when the question of Canadian sovereignty over the Arctic Archipelago was being debated.

Reviews

THE FUTURE OF ALASKA. Economic consequences of statehood. By GEORGE W. ROGERS. *Baltimore: The John Hopkins Press. 9¼ x 6 inches. xiii + 311 pages, 10 text figures, 20 plates. \$6.50.*

Two myths persist about the North. According to one the North is a wondrous land, full of natural resources just waiting to be tapped, a vast storehouse of riches that will in time attract settlers and become as densely peopled as the temperate middle latitudes. To this myth adhere the proponents of what might be termed the "Look what the Russians have done in their North" school. The other, or "Seward's Ice Box" school write off the North completely as a rocky, barren, isolated, cold, dark wilderness. Both myths are rooted in reality, for the North, however defined, is so vast that practically anything that can be said about it is true — to a greater or a smaller degree. It can be, and has been, all things to all men.

Objective assessments of the North, its resources and its future, are rare.

Studies and statements by outside authorities tend to carry little weight among the residents of the North; if they attack the myth of the rich North, they are termed pessimistic (which is bad) or obstructionist (which is worse). Assessments by residents seldom achieve any degree of objectivity.

Dr. George Rogers's new book has the singular merit of having been written by a resident of Alaska, who is also an objective and expert student of the state's economic development. Dr. Rogers has lived in Alaska for seventeen years, and served as advisor and consultant to the Territorial and State governments. He is currently a consultant to the State Division of Planning, and Professor of Business Economics and Government at the University of Alaska. The present study, the second in the series, was sponsored by the Arctic Institute of North America and Resources for the Future, Inc.

In addition to becoming entangled

with the two contradictory myths of the North, Alaska, in the twentieth century, also fell heir to all the optimism, idealism, and enthusiasm that had been lavished on the frontier lands of the continental United States in the nineteenth century. To some, Alaska was a storehouse of riches, ready to be developed or despoiled. To others, Alaska represented a last frontier, a place of escape for the doer and the dreamer. Alaska, to some, meant free land. The longing for life on the last frontier and the dreams associated with the idea of a frontier, have played a great part in determining the course of Alaska's development. The first waves of white settlement reached Alaska with the opening of the gold mines in the Juneau area in 1880 and with the Nome Gold Rush of 1898. The Superintendent of the U.S. Census, in his Annual Report for 1890, had declared that the frontier no longer existed in the continental United States. Concepts and ideas that had become associated with the frontier and frontier life were transferred, wholesale, to Alaska. While such concepts and ideas had strong relevance to the development of the continental U.S. in the nineteenth century, they bore little relationship to a marginal northern frontier region. Free land and the importance of agriculture were two aspects of frontier life that loomed too large in the thinking about Alaska.

Many dreams died in Alaska, as they had died on the continental frontier, in the Dust Bowl, and in other marginal parts of the United States. But the main dream — of a rich, well-endowed, virgin land — persisted. Despite the findings of the 1937 National Resources Committee, to which Rogers gives full credit, the notion of statehood and of a measure of independence gathered momentum. Alaskans became tired of their colonial status, of outside direction and interference, of exploitation by absentees. The history of the salmon fishery, so graphically described in Rogers's first book, "Alaska in Transition", seemed to confirm to Alaskans that Alaska was a cow to be milked by all and sundry, a pocket to be picked by

everyone. One of the first actions of the new state was to abolish the hated fish traps, symbols of exploitation by outsiders.

Statehood became a reality in 1959. By this time, the Alaskans had, literally and metaphorically, built a "Fifth Avenue out of the tundra". Rogers points out the incongruity of the new state's position. In 1961, a fund raising expedition left Fairbanks to get "depressed area" aid in Washington, and also to sign almost one and a half million dollars worth of municipal general obligation bonds. In addition to assistance under the Area Redevelopment Administration's programme, the new state receives special economic assistance from Washington to tide it over the transitional period from territorial status to statehood. Alaska now sits on a plateau, as it were, to which it was borne up during the high living days of wartime. It cannot go back to the simple economic and social conditions of its pioneer days, and it may not be able to go forward to the rosy future that so many people predicted for it once it got statehood. The dream of the future of the state may yet turn into a nightmare.

Can Alaska afford statehood? And where does the future promise of this largest of states lie? Dr. Rogers answers the last question. Only time will answer the first. As the new state takes its first few staggering steps, Rogers has come up with a book that has immediate relevance not only to Alaska, and to any part of the North, but to all underdeveloped areas caught up in the revolution of rising expectations.

The book begins on a subjective note, as Rogers gives his own initial impressions of Alaska and its major settlements — Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Nome. The book's contents are then discussed, as are the various myths and realities regarding Alaska. Rogers's own assessment of the situation — "Alaska is an economically underdeveloped region, in the sense of narrowness and instability of the economic base and the existence of a natural resource potential for its improvement" — is borne out by

his examination of the state's physical background, actual and potential resource base, and history of economic development. He separates the history of Alaska into three periods—Native Alaska, Colonial Alaska, and Military Alaska. In the decade of 1931-40, before massive military expenditure entered the picture, the average annual value of outshipments from Alaska came to \$58,758,000; of this sum, salmon (55.1 per cent) and gold (26.6 per cent) made up most of the value.

Alaska boomed during the Second World War. On October 1st, 1939, there were 524 military personnel in the whole of Alaska; on July 1, 1943, this number had risen to 152,000. All these people had to be fed, clothed, housed, served, and generally looked after at a very high standard. Alaska's strategic position ensured that it would be the centre of much military activity during the Cold War. With the transition from jet bombers to missiles the very geographical location that gave Alaska such an advantage is now a liability. Instead of being a valuable advance outpost, Alaska has become a useless, vulnerable salient. Military personnel are slowly being withdrawn from Alaska; their numbers dwindled from 48,563 in 1952 to 32,606 in 1960.

In the second part of the book, Rogers discusses Alaska's economy in the fifties and the transition to statehood. By a careful examination of population, employment and income trends and patterns, the regional differences within the state, and the social situation, he reveals how shaky the basic economy of Alaska really is. The strongly seasonal pattern of employment, the narrow resource base, the heavy dependence on military expenditure and construction, the high standard of living that is taken for granted are contrasted with the desires and dreams that surround Alaska. The gap between what Alaskans want in the future, and what they can afford soon becomes apparent. Rogers cites some hard headed "outside" observers. Fraser Darling noted that "Agriculture is politically hot and to my mind a bit of a racket. There is some daft notion

in men's minds that if you can live by agriculture in a country it is better than living in any other way." Patrick O'Donovan pointed out that it takes three generations of peasant labour or \$25,000 to develop a 160 acre homestead in Alaska. Rogers stresses the findings of the 1937 National Resource Committee, that "the modern pioneer thinks in terms of government and what it will do for him."

Chapter V, headed "Political Determinism" tells how Alaska became a state. Marx claimed that "Political structures are the fundamental determinant of economic forms and conditions". Rogers proceeds to disprove Marx by "standing him on his head", and shows how the United States acquired its forty-ninth state by a process of political determinism.

Three chapters, "A Matter of Money", "A Matter of Expectation", and "A Matter of Direction" make up Part 3 — "The New State Faces Life". Table 20, showing "Financial Prospects 1962-68", as seen in 1962, forecasts a deficit of 3.9 million dollars in 1964, rising to 25.1 million by 1968. The various sources both of revenue and central government aid are dealt with in detail. Rogers shows, by two examples, the sort of problems that dog, and will continue to dog, the new state. The dominance of the road programme and its heavy cost, and the slow draining away of the Employment Security Fund highlight the financial problems of the new state.

The expectations of the new state fall into three categories — those associated with the military, those associated with the natural resources, and those associated with Alaska's international position. The expectations are tied to three hopes — that the military withdrawal will reverse or at least stop, that the pace of resource development will increase, and that the international markets will expand. None of these possibilities seem to be developing fast enough to maintain Alaskans at the standard of living to which they have become accustomed, despite the vast amount of hydro power potential, the increase in tourism, the prospecting for

oil, and the investment of Japanese capital in lumber and pulp mills in southeastern Alaska.

The hopes and fears of Alaskans, and how they view their future, is summed up in the chapter on "A Matter of Direction".

The Conclusion outlines "The Future of Alaska". Rogers points out the need for fresh and clear thinking about Alaska's prospects; irrational beliefs and attitudes can have no place in building an economically sound Alaska. Boom time thinking must be discarded, and such schemes as legalized gambling offer no real alternative to the proper economic development of the state, based on its natural resources. The new state can grow only if proper planning is used and proper goals set. Otherwise bankruptcy may result.

Rogers write as an Alaskan, with Olympian objectivity. Everything in his economic, social, and political analysis seems to point to bankruptcy as the logical end of this experiment in statehood. To date, the history of Alaska has demonstrated the dominance of mind over matter. But the great claims made for Alaska's future are no substitute for a realistic assessment of the state's resources and prospects. Word magic can only take a state so far. An excess of emotion has often taken the place of logic and common sense. The casual visitor to Alaska is impressed by the friendliness of the people and their optimism. Such a visitor is also impressed by the high standard, and the high cost of living, even in Juneau. As Rogers so ably shows, Alaskans have continually put faith in ideals, dreams, and words, rather than in realities. Some dreams, such as the Taiya Project, ended abruptly. Many ideals have already been wrecked on the harsh rocks of reality; these very rocks may yet tear the whole bottom out of the ship of state. Now that statehood is an accomplished fact, there appears to be little indication that inflated ideas and high standards of living will be dropped.

Whatever happens, all Alaskans have reason to be grateful to Dr. Rogers. In a logical, orderly, and lucid manner,

spiced with humour, he has provided a blueprint for Alaska's future development. His study brings to mind Santayana's famous phrase about a people who forget their history. This extremely well written book has a number of clear and relevant illustrations; the statistical tables are well set out, and the index has been carefully compiled.

In the "Whitehorse Star" of January 24th, 1963, a lighthearted letter on the future of Alaska, and its neighbour the Yukon Territory, appeared. It began: "Why don't the Yukon and Alaska get together, declare their independence and form a brand new nation in the far Northwest? If we believe what we hear and read, the Yukon, with a population around 15,000 seems to be headed for provincial status and some people seem to think that it could not happen soon enough. They want to get away from the paternal attitude of the wise men in the East and look after themselves. For Alaskans, the equivalent of Yukon's dreams of provincial status became a reality in Alaska when it became a state. But, to hear some of them now, one would think that they would do most anything to become a territory again." The letter then goes on to extoll the wonders of Alaska and the Yukon — the rich mineral deposits, the vast hydro-electric potential, and the scenery and wonders that linger long in the memory of all who visit the area. Significantly enough, the writer signs himself "A Dreamer".

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VOPROSY FIZIKI I MEKHANIKI L'DA (ON THE PHYSICS AND MECHANICS OF ICE). By V. V. LAVROV. Papers of the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute, Vol. 247. Leningrad: Izdatel'stvo "Morskoy Transport". 1962. 118 pages, illustrated, paper. N.P.

This monograph on the problems of physics and mechanics of ice may be favourably compared with many spe-