

## REVIEWS

THE SCANDINAVIAN STATES AND FINLAND: a political and economic survey

By ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. *Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1951. 8½ x 5½ inches; 312 pages; sketch-maps and folding map. \$4.50.*

Chatham House, the headquarters of the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London, has a well-deserved reputation for the timeliness and impartiality of its studies about international questions of the day. This volume is the work of a small group of authors under the leadership of G. M. Gathorne-Hardy. After a short introduction it deals with five areas in detail: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. There is also a booklist and there are a few maps.

Those concerned with the Arctic will find the parts of the book which deal with the northern areas of Scandinavia of greatest interest—and the preface encourages readers to expect a good deal with the statement: "Recent developments in the possibilities of long-distance air travel combine with the events of the last world war to reinforce the lesson that, in addition to Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, the remoter Scandinavian regions of Iceland, Greenland, the Faeroes, and Spitsbergen have now acquired a quite new and possibly considerable strategic importance", and the first map shows the relationship of the Scandinavian states to the north pole.

The reviewer looked for a section on Spitsbergen with anticipation, to discover six lines. Iceland receives somewhat fuller treatment in fourteen pages, with a sketch-map. This section deals with the land and its resources, history, social structure, political structure, economics, and commerce.

Each of the larger countries is dealt with at length. They will not be discussed here except in so far as near-arctic areas are concerned. In the Norwegian section one looks in vain for any

discussion of the reconstruction of Finnmark following the destruction by the Nazis, or of the elaborate North Norway Plan which has been under discussion for some time. There is a reference to the rebuilding of the Sør Varanger iron mines near Kirkenes and the fact that production is once more going on.

Little information is supplied on Finnish Lapland, apart from a passing comment on the loss of the Petsamo area to the U.S.S.R. in 1944. No mention is made of the cession of an additional and strategically significant area to the U.S.S.R. in 1947. This latter area includes the dam controlling the water level of Lake Inari and the Jäniskoski power plant which provides energy for the Salmijärvi nickel refinery. The map at the end of the volume shows the U.S.S.R.-Finnish boundary wrongly at this point. This map is unsatisfactory in other ways, especially in the omission of such significant places as Hammerfest and Kirkenes, and its unexpected inclusion of a small Lapp village Utsjoki.

Of far northern areas, Greenland receives the fullest treatment, for it is given a section of its own, totalling seven pages. There is a useful summary of the history, administration, resources, trade, social services, strategic value, and exploration, in that order. The booklist indicates that most of the source material is somewhat out-of-date, the newest account being a popular wartime production for the United States Air Force, 'War below zero'. Events have changed so rapidly in Greenland in the past five years that it is a pity that the authors did not have their manuscript checked by Danish officials. For example, in referring to wartime meteorological facilities, it is suggested that Denmark is finding it difficult to man and finance some of them. No mention is made of the large grant received annually for some years from I.C.A.O., and the remark that "only skeleton staffs are maintained at the few important airfields" is

misleading, because the few important fields are manned by the U.S.A.F., while the unimportant one is not manned at all.

Under "Administration" it is stated that "Greenland is administered by a special department in the Danish Ministry of the Interior"—this is not the case, since it is a branch of the Office of the Prime Minister.

Reference to resources emphasizes the Ivigtut cryolite mine and its great importance to the Greenland budget. The mine is of course not operated by the Pennsylvania Salt Company (p. 69) nor has it ever been so. It is owned jointly by the Danish Government and a private Danish corporation. The authors are apparently unaware of the fundamental change in the Greenland economy due to a shift from production of seal and other oils, to commercial fishing, especially of cod.

Should a further edition of this useful handbook on the Scandinavian States and Finland be called for, Mr. Gathorne-Hardy and his committee could perhaps refer the parts of it dealing with Lapland, Spitsbergen, and Greenland to the appropriate governments for amplification and correction. TREVOR LLOYD

#### CLIMATE OF THE CANADIAN ARCTIC ARCHIPELAGO

By R. W. RAE. *Toronto: Department of Transport, Meteorological Division, 1951. 11 x 8½ inches; 90 pages; maps and diagrams. 35 cents.*

This welcome publication by a meteorologist widely experienced in arctic climates replaces the old 'Meteorology of the Canadian Arctic', which had been out-of-date and out of print for some years. The new study is a great improvement on the old, and is a vital addition to the documentation of the north. The author was in charge of the joint Canadian/United States weather station at Resolute Bay, Cornwallis Island, for a considerable period; he has drawn on this experience and on the files of the Canadian Meteorological Service in completing his report. He pays tribute in his introduction to the unpublished

work of W. C. Wonders on the same region. It is clear, none the less, that the principal source upon which he drew was his own unrivalled fund of memories.

Mr. Rae proceeds along traditional lines. He discusses successively the controls of climate, temperature, precipitation, clouds, visibility, winds, and relative humidity. The formal account is followed by forty invaluable pages of tabulated climatic data, which will be of great value to other research workers. Some of this wealth of material has been represented cartographically in a series of twelve distribution maps (the first to be published for the Canadian Arctic Archipelago based on adequate data).

The cold pole of the Canadian Arctic is now placed in northern Ellesmere Island, where January is believed to have a mean temperature of below  $-40^{\circ}\text{F}$ ; indeed, the new weather stations in the outer fringe of arctic islands have made it clear that we have been partially misled in our thinking about winter cold by the concentration of stations along and near Lancaster Sound, which is anomalously warm in mid-winter presumably because of partially open water. Isachsen, Mould Bay, and Eureka have all experienced minima of below  $-60^{\circ}\text{F}$ , in spite of the briefness of their record, whereas Arctic Bay has never attained this degree of cold in fourteen years of record. Mean temperatures in January and February are below  $-30^{\circ}\text{F}$  over a wide area of the archipelago, whereas they are above  $-20^{\circ}\text{F}$  along Lancaster Sound.

The new stations have reinforced to an astonishing degree our preconceived idea that the outer islands were very dry. Total annual precipitation at Eureka has averaged only 1.74 inches in the three or four years of record. The total rainfall for the period January 1948 to December 1950 was only 1.44 inches (a figure sometimes exceeded in a single day at Ottawa or Washington) and fresh snow amounted to less than 15 inches in each of the three years (cf. Montreal, 112 inches average annual fall). To some extent these figures are vitiated by the extreme difficulty of