

## REVIEWS

### A MEGALONYX TOOTH FROM THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, CANADA.

By CHESTER STOCK AND HORACE G. RICHARDS. *Science*, Vol. 110, No. 2870 (December 1949) pp. 709-10; figure.

### POSTGLACIAL MARINE SUBMERGENCE OF ARCTIC NORTH AMERICA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE MACKENZIE DELTA.

By HORACE G. RICHARDS. *Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc.* Vol. 94, No. 1 (1950) pp. 31-7; illustrations and sketch-map.

Both these papers record fossils found in the Northwest Territories.

"A *Megalonyx* tooth from the Northwest Territories" describes the discovery of the tooth of a ground sloth from the vicinity of Lower Carp Lake, north of Great Slave Lake. The ground sloths were a South American group that entered North America in Pliocene time, and left numerous remains in the Pleistocene of eastern and southwestern United States. They probably survived into post-Pleistocene time. This is the first record of a ground sloth from Canada, and is of special interest because of its subarctic occurrence. The authors note that a toe bone referred to *Megalonyx* had previously been found near Fairbanks, Alaska.

L. S. RUSSELL

In "Postglacial marine submergence of arctic North America" Dr. Richards gives a rambling summary of post-glacial marine submergence around the shores of North America north and west to Nome, and includes remarks on the migration of man and post-Pleistocene climatic changes of the Mackenzie Delta.

Dr. Richards' field work, made in the course of a brief visit to the Mackenzie Delta and Herschel Island, yielded some fossils and some notes on the formation of pingos.

As a whole the article lacks the true perspective which can only be obtained from a broad background knowledge of the region. This is also shown in the list of references which contains the titles of twenty-five papers but many giving a

general background knowledge of the regions are lacking, such as the reports of the Geological Survey of Canada. The value of the paper lies in the lists of fossils collected.

H. S. BOSTOCK

### NEW COMPASS OF THE WORLD: a symposium on political geography.

Edited by HANS W. WEIGERT, VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON, RICHARD EDES HARRISON. *New York: The Macmillan Company, 1949.* 8½ x 5½ inches; xix + 375 pages; maps and diagrams. \$5.50.

This is a new work, although its title may confuse those who know of the earlier 'Compass of the world', published in 1944, by the same group of editors. 'New compass' is a symposium of twenty-three articles written by nineteen authors. The nature of the book can be judged from the titles of its five "chapters" into which the articles have been grouped: "The Arctic and Antarctic spheres"; "The heartland and the expansion of the U.S.S.R."; "New frontiers in central Europe"; "Strategic areas and life lines"; "Asia: one half of mankind."

Among its purposes, the book is intended to bring the reader "up to date on post-war developments in political geography". Some of the articles are reprinted, with revisions, from various journals in which they appeared as far back as 1946, but the majority are published here for the first time. Richard Edes Harrison adds greatly to the usefulness of the symposium by his admirable maps and diagrams.

Readers of *Arctic* may be particularly interested in the four sections of the first chapter: "The Soviet Union moves north" by V. Stefansson, "Canada's northward course" by Richard Finnie, "Canada: power vacuum, or pivot area?" by J. W. Watson, and "The Antarctic sphere of interest" by Lawrence Martin. Other articles having "high-latitude" interest include "Yakutia and the future of the north" by Owen Lattimore, and "The rail, water, and air transport system of the Soviet Union" by E. C. Ropes.

The first two sections—by Stefansson