

## THE NEW NORTH-WEST.

Edited by C. A. DAWSON. Toronto: University of Toronto Press—Saunders, 1947. 341 pp.; illustrations and maps. \$4.25.

In 1944, the Canadian Social Science Research Council, with the financial support of the Rockefeller Foundation, organized a series of studies of northern Canada to stimulate public interest in the development of the region and to provide a background for more extensive investigation. The results of some of these studies have been published in the *Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science*. In *The New North-West*, this series of articles and others dealing with north-western Canada have been brought together in one volume.

The book contains twelve parts, all except two by different authors. They discuss respectively: administration, Mackenzie and Yukon domesdays (two parts describing in detail the geographical setting and plan of settlements in these areas), mineral industry, fur production, northern agriculture, transportation, health conditions and services, education, the Eskimos and the new north-west. The last section is a bibliography which covers the whole of northern Canada and lists about four hundred selected titles in alphabetical order. It will be of more interest to the general reader than to the advanced student. The remainder of the book deals only with the western northland, chiefly within the limit of trees.

The penultimate section discusses such developments as the Yellowknife gold mines, Norman Wells oil, and the Alaska Highway. In the light of even more recent developments, a more apt title for the book would have been *The Changing North*.

The sections on health and education contain valuable criticism and suggestions. They should be read with great care not only by those responsible for the administration, but by every educated Canadian. The Yukon and Mackenzie domesdays will be of interest to those familiar with the settlements, and of value to future historians. The sections on agriculture and the mineral industry give a balanced judgment of the possibilities of the region which are shown to depend on adequate transport facilities. The fluctuations in the cycles of fur bearers are well illustrated by graphs. It is unfortunate that more exact and detailed information is not given on the western Eskimos.

Neither the paper nor the photographs, of which there are forty, do justice to the text. Four of the photographs have previously been published in *The Beaver* (Dec. 1943) with an article on Norway House, at which post they were presumably taken. Another photograph of a trading post in James Bay is equally irrelevant.

This book is informative, but not too technical for the layman. It is to be hoped that it will receive the wide circulation and thorough study it deserves.

T.H.M.