



Captain "Bob" Bartlett, master of the schooner *Effie M. Morrissey*.

described by Dr. Waldo L. Schmitt, "To study the Bartlett collections is to review the natural history of the Arctic".

George Palmer Putnam, a close friend of Captain "Bob", and the one who was to a large extent responsible for initiating the wonderful series of *Morrissey* voyages to the Arctic, is author of "*Mariner of The North, the Life of Captain Bob Bartlett*". It is not a true biography; but rather a series of tales and anecdotes that create the atmosphere in which "Bob" Bartlett lived. The profound influence of the various interesting events that affected the life of this singularly strong character makes this method of presentation quite effective.

The book is well written, the tales well told, and it is pleasant reading. George Putnam has included material supplied from a wide range of sources, from Captain "Bob's" many friends and family. Those who know the "skipper" and about his life will enjoy the familiar stories retold.

But the book does not contain the factual requirements for a true biogra-

phical presentation of his life. And throughout the book there are continually minor careless errors in dates and facts that make it confusing for one who wishes to search out biographical data. I point out a few such errors: Putnam states on page 179 that in 1940 the *Morrissey* reached a farthest north at Cape Sheridan, the winter quarters of the *Roosevelt*, whereas actually she only reached Latitude 80° 22' North at the southern entrance to Kennedy Channel where ice prevented further progress northward. On page 212, although not directly concerning Bartlett, it is stated that Wilkins and Eielson were forced down 550 miles from Point Barrow and walked ashore; they made a landing on the ice at about this distance from Barrow, but on the return flight ran out of gas and were forced down only about eighty miles off the coast from which point they walked ashore. On page 219 Putnam records that Captain "Bob's" mother died in 1936; in fact she died in the spring of 1943.

But the book is, I believe, written with the idea that it is the big things that count, with the idea of portraying Captain "Bob's" character and the effect of the times and events in which he lived. Yet since this is the only complete work on Bartlett, a very significant figure in twentieth century polar exploration, it is regretted that biographical accuracy was not maintained, and some of the obscure and confusing phases of his life, which from all present accounts are rather vague, were not searched out.

No book could portray fully the character of Captain "Bob" Bartlett, or do justice to his long and fascinating career. His many friends will long remember the sincere and gentle simplicity of this sailor who sailed the northern seas for some fifty years. His niche in polar history is well earned; he is a true "Mariner of the North".

DAVID C. NUTT.

#### CANADA'S NEW NORTHWEST.

North Pacific Planning Project, Ottawa 1947. Obtainable for \$1.00 from The King's Printer, Ottawa.

One of the most promising consequences of wartime interest in northwest Canada

and Alaska, was the setting up of the North Pacific Planning Project as a joint Canadian-United States undertaking. The origin of the project lay in the Joint Economic Committees of the two countries, the prime purpose being to prepare an inventory of the natural resources of

an area of about 1,360,000 square miles, rather more than half of which lay in Canada. The United States withdrew from the Project in 1944, but the Canadian study group increased its activities, and expanded the areas originally covered, so that ultimately about 1,000,000 square miles was considered.

*Canada's New Northwest* is the report of the Canadian part of the Project. It is largely the work of Mr. R. K. Odell of the Department of Mines and Resources and Mr. W. Maxwell an industrial engineer. The work is divided into

chapters which deal in turn with physiography and geology, agriculture, forests, fisheries, water power resources, transportation, wildlife conservation, population and meteorology. There are ten maps, most of them prepared specially for this work. Although the original plan for a joint undertaking by the two countries was not carried out, the Canadian report was well worth publishing. It sets a pattern which might be followed by other reports on the remainder of northern Canada.

T.L.L.

### BIRDS OF ARCTIC ALASKA

By ALFRED M. BAILEY. Popular Series No. 8, Colorado Museum of Natural History, U.S.A. 317 pp. Map. \$3.00. The basis of this book is the 1921-22 expedition of the Colorado Museum of Natural History to the coast of Alaska between Cape Prince of Wales on Bering Strait and Demarcation Point on the international boundary.

The primary purpose of the expedition was to secure exhibit material for a new wing of the museum. This work was successfully accomplished. The interest of the author and his assistant, Russell W. Hendee, in ornithology led not only to the acquisition of a large collection of birds (2,000 specimens), but to the establishment of a contract with several residents of the region from whom the Colorado Museum and others have continued to receive specimens up to the present time.

The chief portion (pp. 133-302) of this book is a faunal list of birds which brings together under the species headings previously published records as well as new material from the collections made by A. J. Allen and Charles D. Brower and his sons. As the author points out in the introduction, the area covered is not arctic Alaska, but the arctic slope of Alaska, and the basin of the Yukon River is not included. Over 200 specimens, including some unconfirmed by specimens, are listed. Plumage description and life history notes have in general been omitted, and taxonomic discussions kept to a minimum. There is a bibliography of about 150 titles to

which reference is made by dates following the author's name in the text. For some reason these dates have been rather frequently omitted, and the reader is left to infer from which of the author's publications the information is derived.

There are three other main sections:

(1) *Vegetation of the Arctic Slope of Alaska* by Joseph Ewan. In this short space a bare outline of vegetation only has been possible, but additional sources of information are pointed out.

(2) *Historical Sketch* (pp. 33-42) of the previous ornithological work in the region starting with the voyage of HMS *Blossom* in 1825-28. This is a useful and interesting section. It is surprising to find that there apparently has been no ornithological work done upon the arctic slope of Alaska except by local collectors since the end of the Colorado Museum expedition in 1922.

(3) *Narrative*. pp. 44-132. This is largely a day to day account with frequent direct quotations from the author's diary. It forms a valuable record of life and conditions in the area. The diary extracts contain numerous references to birds, most of which are repeated in the faunal list under the species concerned, and might therefore have been omitted from the narrative with advantage, especially to the general reader. A considerable part of the narrative had been previously published in the "*The Birds of Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska*".\*

The single large map on a scale of 120 miles to 1 inch is ineffectual. A good map on a larger scale showing all the