

water surface temperatures between latitudes 39° and 49°N. and between longitudes 43° and 56°W. This information will facilitate the drawing of temperature curves which will be useful in locating the branches of the Labrador Current.

This year for the first time the United States Coast Guard cutters which undertake the patrol will use radar to locate icebergs at night and in fog. B-24 aircraft will also be employed to make air surveys of sea ice, growlers and icebergs. Both aircraft and cutters will be based on Argentia, Newfoundland, headquarters of the International Ice Patrol. Rear-Admiral Earl Griffith Rose, United States Coast Guard, has been appointed Commander of the North Atlantic Ice Patrol.

UNITED STATES ARCTIC METEOROLOGICAL STATIONS

[We print below the text of United States Public Law 296-79th Congress, Chapter 4—2nd Session. S. 765.]

AN ACT

Concerning the establishment of meteorological observation stations in the Arctic region of the Western Hemisphere, for the purpose of improving the weather forecasting service within the United States and on the civil international air transport routes from the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. That in order to improve the weather forecasting service of the United States and to promote safety and efficiency in civil air navigation to the highest possible degree, the Chief of the Weather Bureau, under the direction of the Secretary of Commerce, shall, in addition to his other functions and duties, take such action as may be necessary in the development of an international basic meteorological reporting network in the Arctic region of the Western Hemisphere, including the establishment, operation, and maintenance of such reporting stations in co-operation with the State Department and other United States governmental departments and agencies, with the meteorological services of foreign countries and with persons engaged in air commerce.

Sec. 2. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Approved February 12, 1946.

SOVIET METEOROLOGICAL STATION ON VIZE ISLAND

[Based on a note in *Soviet News*, No. 1292, 1 November 1945.]

In September 1945 Professors Tikhomirov and Goltsman of the Arctic Institute, with six others, established a meteorological station on Vize Island, which is situated midway between Franz Joseph Land and Severnaya Zemlya. The existence of this island was first suspected in 1924 by Professor Vladimir Vize

from his observations on marine currents, and was discovered by him in 1930. The recent party found that it was half as large again as was shown on existing maps.

SPECIAL WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE FAR NORTH OF THE U.S.S.R.

[Summarised from the text of instructions issued by the People's Commissariat of Finance and the All-Union Central Committee of Trade Unions on the application of the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., dated 1 August 1945: "On Privileges for Persons Working in Regions of the Far North; *Vedomosti Verhovnogo Soveta* (Moscow) 20 August 1945, and *Sobraniye Postanovlenii i Rasporyazhenii Pravitelstva S.S.S.R.* (Moscow), No. 9, 31 October 1945; No. 10, 30 October 1945.]

There have recently been awarded special privileges for certain categories of people working in the Far North of the U.S.S.R. The term "Far North" includes all islands in the Arctic Ocean and adjacent seas, besides specified areas of the mainland. The privileges are in the form of increased pay (a 10% bonus on basic rates), increased leave and free return travel for the worker, and certain facilities for his family. In the calculation of pension rights one year's service in the Far North is to count as two years elsewhere. Leave may be accumulated for three years but may not exceed six months total, including one month's travelling time. Accumulated leave beyond six months and any other leave not actually taken, will be compensated by additional pay.

The purpose of the awards is presumed to be some compensation for the enforced isolation and for the severity of conditions. It is not clear, however, whether the awards are intended to attract labour to these new pioneer areas, or are designed primarily to mitigate conditions for members of the various classes of directed labour which are listed. The privileges are not available for those directed to work in the Far North for periods of less than a year, nor for those recruited locally, nor for those under sentence.

Since the inception of the scheme further areas have been defined in which privileges are applicable but with lower percentage benefits and lesser periods of leave.

THE KURIL ISLANDS (CHISHIMA)

In a broadcast speech of 2 September 1945, Marshal Stalin stated that the Kuril Islands and Southern Sakhalin would pass to the Soviet Union to serve "not as a means of isolating the Soviet Union from the ocean and as a base for a Japanese attack on our Far East, but as a means of direct communication for the Soviet Union with the ocean and as a base for the defence of our country against Japanese aggression". This constituted the first announcement of the terms of the secret agreement reached at the Yalta Conference on 11 February 1945, which were subsequently published as a White Paper on 11 February 1946.¹

¹ *Agreement concerning the Entry of the Soviet Union into the war against Japan*. Miscellaneous No. 4 (1946). Cmd. 6735. H.M. Stationery Office, London.