

Barrow and Cape Wrangell areas. Sixteen world aeronautical charts and fifteen flight charts covering the greater part of Alaska and all the important air routes were produced during the year. Supplements were published to Parts I and II of the *Alaska Coast Pilot* and to the *Special Coast Pilot of the Aleutian Islands*; the latter remains in a "restricted" category.

In addition to the annual tide and current tables for Alaska, tide and current tables have been published for the Aleutian Islands, incorporating data previously published in special tables for military use.

The Magnetic and Seismological Observatory at Sitka continued in operation for the purpose of obtaining basic magnetic data for the control of magnetic surveys. Additional magnetic data were obtained by the staffs of the survey ships working along the Alaska Peninsula and among the Aleutian Islands.

### COLLEGE GEOPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY, ALASKA

[Based on information supplied on 18 January 1947 by Ernest Wolff, Observer-in-Charge, College Geophysical Observatory.]

A plan for the establishment of a Geophysical Observatory and Institute at College was conceived by President Bunnel of the University of Alaska, over ten years ago. The project passed through many vicissitudes. In 1941 new life and support were received when the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism of the Carnegie Institution of Washington established an observatory at College. Work has continued there, and it now seems probable that the original plan for a Geophysical Observatory as a part of the University will in fact mature. Federal funds have been authorised, but not yet appropriated.

The College is in the zone of maximum auroral activity. It is 5 miles west of Fairbanks at lat.  $64^{\circ} 51' N.$  and long.  $147^{\circ} 49' W.$ , and is situated at a height of 1250 ft. (387 m.).

### VISITS TO THE NORTH POLE

[Based on a note by D. Karelin in *Izvestiya Vsesoyuznogo Geograficheskogo Obshchestva (Annals of the All-Union Geographical Society)*, Vol. 78, No. 1, 1946, pp. 123-24.]

Until the spring of 1946 the North Pole, or the air above it, has been reached by man on seventeen occasions. A list of these is given below:

- (1) R. Peary, 6 April 1901, by foot over the ice from Grant Land.
- (2) R. Byrd, 9 May 1926, by aircraft from Spitsbergen.
- (3) R. Amundsen, 13 May 1926, by dirigible from Spitsbergen.
- (4) Italian expedition, 24 May 1928, by dirigible from Spitsbergen. The dirigible crashed on the return journey.
- (5) P. Golovin, 5 May 1937, by aircraft from Franz Josef Land.
- (6) M. Vodop'yanov, 21 May 1937, by aircraft from Franz Josef Land, landing on the ice with I. Papanin and others of the Drift Station wintering party.

(7) I. Mazuruk, 26 May 1937, by aircraft from Franz Josef Land, landing twice on the ice.

(8) V. Molokov, 26 May 1937, by aircraft from Franz Josef Land, landing on the ice.

(9) A. Alekseyev, 28 May 1937, by aircraft from Franz Josef Land, landing twice on the ice.

(10) V. Chkalov, 19 June 1937, by aircraft during his transarctic flight from Moscow to the U.S.A.

(11) M. Gromov, 18 July 1937, by aircraft during his transarctic flight from Moscow to the U.S.A.

(12) S. Levanevski, 13 August 1937, by aircraft during his transarctic flight from Moscow to the U.S.A. The flight was not finished; the plane disappeared without a trace between the Pole and the U.S.A.

(13) M. Vodop'yanov, 7 October 1937, by aircraft from Franz Josef Land during the search for Levaneski.

(14) Ya. Moshkovski, 4 April 1938, by aircraft from Franz Josef Land during the search for Levanevski.

(15) D. C. McKinley, 17 May 1945, by aircraft from Iceland.

(16) M. Titlov, 2 October 1945, by aircraft from Taymyr Peninsula.

(17) United States Army Air Force B-29 aircraft, spring 1946, from Fairbanks, Alaska.

#### ISTITUTO GEOGRAFICO POLARE, ITALY

A new Polar Institute, the Istituto Geografico Polare, has been formed in Italy under the directorship of Dr Silvio Zavatti. It was founded towards the end of 1944 in Forli, but has since been moved to Macerata.

In the statutes of the Institute (Forli, 1945) it is stated that its aims are:

(1) To promote and encourage exploration that will widen the knowledge of the Polar areas.

(2) To encourage interest in Polar affairs in Italy and to publish Italian contributions to Polar knowledge.

(3) To form a Polar library which will include relevant Italian and foreign periodicals.

(4) To produce a monthly periodical, *Il Polo*.

(5) To publish works of scientific value on Polar matters and a series of "Polar Classics".

During 1945 a monthly, *Bolletino Mensile d'informazione*, was published, since it proved impossible to print a larger periodical owing to lack of paper. The first number of *Il Polo* came out in February 1946.

The present address of the institute is Porto Potenza Picena, Macerata. There are two sub-sections, one at Forli under Capt. Lanzoni Widmer, the other at Turin under Signor Seto Irengo. The secretary and editor of *Il Polo* is Signor Adriano Offidani.