

FOREWORD

Events in the Antarctic have recently been moving so rapidly, and are so confused by political issues, that it has seemed best for the time being to restrict accounts in the *Polar Record* to brief factual statements about matters for which reliable information has been made available for publication. This issue contains the texts of certain Diplomatic Notes between the United Kingdom and Chile and Argentina respectively; also the texts of some formal Decrees and Proclamations, which provide a background for the movements of some of the expeditions. It is hoped to include detailed accounts of recent Antarctic expeditions in future issues as more accurate information becomes available.

In the Arctic, also, while the present state of world tension exists, there is little sign that the authorities concerned will be able to permit free interchange of information about new discoveries and research projects. During the past year there has been a considerable increase in scientific work of a non-military nature, but little relaxation in security measures.

In Great Britain there has been a marked revival of interest in summer expeditions to the Arctic. One fact connected with this year's expeditions is notable, namely, the number of different universities from which they have originated. In addition to Oxford and Cambridge, both of which have long-standing associations with Arctic exploration, Birmingham, Durham, Leeds, and University College, Leicester, have sent expeditions this year.

The foundation of the organization known as "Expéditions Polaires Françaises" in Paris will be widely welcomed. It is fitting that, among the first projects sponsored by this Polar centre, there should be a French expedition to Greenland in the summer of 1948, and a French expedition to Terre Adélie in the Antarctic, which is expected to sail in October 1948. The Greenland expedition is under the leadership of M. Paul-Emile Victor, who has been largely instrumental in founding the organization; and the Antarctic expedition will be led by M. André Liotard, who has recently visited the Antarctic as the guest of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey.

The Editors of the *Polar Record* are glad to welcome a new quarterly journal devoted to the Polar regions, namely, *Arctic*, sponsored by the Arctic Institute of North America, of which the first number was published in April 1948. It aims to make known as widely as possible information about the Arctic and sub-Arctic areas of Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Labrador. It contains scientific articles which may be understood by the non-specialist, and is illustrated with photographs and maps. An important place is given to notes on the work of investigators assisted by the Arctic Institute.

Professor Frank Debenham has recently received two awards in recognition of his work as a member of the Scott Antarctic expedition of 1910-13 and his

services to Polar exploration, both as the founder of the Scott Polar Research Institute and as its Director for 20 years. The American Geographical Society has awarded him the David Livingstone Centenary Medal for 1948, and the Royal Geographical Society has awarded him the Victoria Medal for 1948.

Lieutenant (E.) E. W. Kevin Walton, D.S.C., R.N., a member of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, who rescued Major J. E. Tonkin from a crevasse into which he had fallen on 24 August 1946, has been awarded the Albert Medal for the gallantry which he showed on this occasion.

The Editorial Committee wish to express their thanks to Lieutenant-Commander A. F. Inglefield, R.N. (retd.), for the colour reproduction of the painting by his grandfather, Sir Edward Inglefield, which appears as the frontispiece in this number. The original may be seen at the Polar Institute, to which it has been lent by Commander Inglefield.

Owing to unavoidable delays it has once more been necessary to publish the January and July numbers of the *Polar Record* together as a single issue. It is hoped that this will be the last double number, and that the next issue, for January 1949, will see former practice re-established.

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