

for the Study of Permanently Frozen Soil and the Murmansk Biological Station. The State Russian Geographical Society, the State Oceanographical Institute and the State Hydrological Institute should also be mentioned.

There is no doubt that the Arctic Institute has developed during the first twenty-five years of its existence into an organisation of great experience in many aspects of scientific work in arctic regions, and of some experience in all aspects, and that nowhere else in the world is there such an organisation run on a comparable scale.

T. E. ARMSTRONG

HANDBOOK FOR SOVIET POLAR WORKERS

[Review of *Spravochnaya Knizhka Polyarnika* (The Polar Workers' Reference Book), by S. D. Lappo. Izdatel'stvo Glavsevmorputi (Publishing House of the Chief Administration of the Northern Sea Route), 1945, 428 pp., maps and ills. 25 Roubles.]

The author of this handbook, himself a polar worker and scientist of many years standing, has arranged the book in the main as a non-alphabetical glossary of scientific and local terms pertaining to the Arctic. He describes it as dealing with oceanography in its widest sense, including not only the hydrology of the sea, but the climatology, biology and geology of the sea and its shores. The book is written for the benefit of all polar workers, whether they be sailors, air-line ground staff or the personnel of polar stations.

The first half of the book is simply a revised edition of the author's *Okeanograficheski Spravochnik Arkticheskikh Morey SSSR* [Oceanographical Handbook of the Arctic Seas of the U.S.S.R.] published in Leningrad and Moscow in 1940. It contains chapters on coastal structures and relief, surface hydrology, sea-bottom relief and sea-ice. Fresh material for this book includes a section on climate, a long chapter on fauna, from protozoa to polar bears, with many illustrations, and two chapters, which are all too short, on the population of the North and administrative divisions. A useful feature is the inclusion in the earlier chapters (not always, unfortunately, included in the index) of a number of local and maritime words for winds, ice formations, geographical terms and so forth. In addition the author gives as appendices such data as a table of hours of twilight at various latitudes, the Beaufort scale, details of boundaries between Arctic seas according to the International Hydrographic Bureau, and a useful though provisional list of conventional signs for maps of ice formations. There is also a fairly full bibliography.

It is interesting to compare this handbook with Stefansson's *Arctic Manual* (New York, 1944) written for the United States Army Air Force. The chief difference seems to be that Stefansson is writing primarily for people who have never been in the Arctic before while Lappo presupposes in his readers a certain acquaintance with it. Lappo's readers are already working in the Arctic, and he is giving them facts from which they can, if they like, find out something of what their fellow workers are doing, or find out more about the part of the world they are living in. No practical suggestions on what to wear, what to eat or how to build a snow house appear in the Russian book, while there are no illustrations of brachiopods or diagrams of fohn effect in the American.

The Polar Workers' Reference Book is an elementary scientific text-book written, not to grip the interest of people who probably do not want to go North anyway, but for the already interested, not very scientific Polar worker; it is designed for a public, in fact, which exists in any size only in Russia.

T. E. ARMSTRONG

CHANGES IN GREENLAND ADMINISTRATION

[Summarised from *De Forenede Grønlandske Landsraads Forhandlinger*, 1943, 1945, Copenhagen, 1946; and *Betænkning afgivet den 12. Juni af Rigsdagens Grønlandsudvalg i Forening med en af de Grønlandske Landsraad valgt Delegation og Repræsentanter for Grønlands Styrelse*. Copenhagen, 1946.]

Late in 1939 four members of the two Greenland Land Councils (*Landsraad*) visited Copenhagen to discuss revisions in legislation with the Parliamentary Committee on Greenland and the Greenland Administration (*Grønlands Styrelse*). Owing to the war the various new plans had to be left in abeyance, but the last ship to arrive in Greenland from Denmark in 1940 brought an account of the discussions and an outline of the intended new legislation to the two Governors (*Landsfogeder*). This outline proved to be of the greatest use during the war years.

During the war Greenland came under one united administration under Governor Eske Brun in Godthaab, and the two Land Councils, which normally worked independently of each other, met together and discussed their problems as a whole. In 1943 Eske Brun, as chairman of one of these meetings, pointed out that the time was soon to come when Greenland would be able to take up relations with Denmark again and that the most important question that concerned the Land Councils would be the position of Greenland in the post-war world. They would soon have to make their wishes and hopes known.

In 1945, after Denmark had been liberated, the Land Councils met again and discussed proposals for legislative revision in some detail. The soundness of Danish policy during the last fifty years was not called in question, but several of the problems of 1939 had been accentuated by the war. As a Danish journalist wrote: "From 1940 to 1945 the Greenlanders had governed themselves to all intents and purposes." The Greenlander of 1945 was more confident than ever before of his ability to help in managing Greenland, but also more aware of his shortcomings and what would have to be done before he would be fully capable of looking after his own affairs. Thus many of the proposals made were based on experience gained during this time. Significantly, one of the first and most important points made in the discussion was that the administration of Greenland during the war years had been most successful.

Some sixty or seventy proposals were discussed thoroughly, and in the autumn of 1945 a Delegation of six members from the two Land Councils left for Denmark. Here they met the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Greenland, consisting of eight members, and representatives of *Grønlands Styrelse*. Discussions took place between January and June 1946 and the final results of the negotiations were published on 12 June 1946. In making their