

Their findings will often be useful to Government officials responsible for the welfare of native populations in the Far North.

Some of the visitors have an extremely tough job ahead of them. Airstrip mechanics go in each summer to improve the landing facilities serving the weather stations. The very short construction season requires an almost superhuman effort by men and machines. The delicacy of the earth covering over the permafrost demands the most exacting care. During the weeks when these men work there is little night and little rest. They have the satisfaction of doing an extremely important job, for on their efforts depends the safety of air crews and the staffs of the northern weather-station. These airstrip mechanics maintain the only means of physical communication with the outside world.

A young dentist came north on the airlift. He had long been hoping to get this job and was delighted that he was now able to make the journey. His clinic at Resolute weather-station was in a room which served as laundry, ironing-room and sometimes barber-shop. The chair for his patients was on a platform constructed by the barber. (The barber, of course, was a regular member of the staff of the weather-station who merely volunteered for his extra tonsorial duties.) Although the dentist's clinic may have seemed very different from his modern Toronto office, all his equipment which was provided by the Canadian Army was of the best.

These then are the activities of the Canadian Arctic — from weather reporting to botany, from airstrip construction to dentistry. It is still a frontier and it may be so for decades to come, but it is gradually opening frontier and the people of all Canada stand to gain by the work of its pioneers.

*(The second of the two articles will appear in the September, or early issue of "External Affairs".)*