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Book Review

Arctic Trader. By PHILIP H. GODSELL. G. P. Putnam's Sons. Price \$2.50.

The lot of an autobiographer whose habitat has been the remote parts of Canada and whose associates have for the greater part been Eskimos and Indians is a particularly happy one. Given a facile pen, and possessed of the ability to portray conditions in the "Silent Places" it is possible to write a book of intense interest not only to those who have sojourned in those parts but also to others who have not had the opportunity of viewing life in the distant parts of Canada at first hand.

Mr. Philip H. Godsell, a former Field Officer of the Hudson's Bay Co., has made the most of these factors in presenting a book of very great interest. He is not only possessed of wide experience in the subject on which he writes, but has the happy faculty of bringing before his readers conditions in the North in a very attractive form.

The book will especially appeal to the employees of the Hudson's Bay Co. The activities of the Company are constantly before the reader.

Frequent references to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police will appeal to members of the Force. An error is noted on page 87, the Stipendiary Magistrate who presided over the trial of Mista-innine being shown as "Colonel Saunders", whereas former Commissioner A. Bowen Perry, C.M.G., fulfilled that office. Some criticism of the work of Missionaries in the North appears, remarks in that connection being attributed to the late Corporal Doak. In view of the splendid work of such men as Archbishop Stringer, Bishops Breynat and Fallaize, the references to this subject might happily have been tempered to some extent.

Mr. Godsell is quite frank in parts in dealing with the business acumen of the fur-trader. Thus we find on page 222 a reference to the fact that a box of ammunition costing two dollars laid down, being retailed to the native for one fox pelt, or around thirty dollars for the box.

A reference is also made to the elaborate plans he formulated, with the assistance of the Indians, to circumvent the Game Guardians in disposing of beaver skins taken in contravention of the existing Regulations in Ontario. Later in the book the author deplores the fact that the Company employees and the Police did not always see eye to eye!

Mr. Godsell is particularly happy in his description of travel by dog-team. So graphic is his account that one can readily picture his gaily caparisoned dogs and his very completely equipped cariole.

Altogether it is an entertaining volume and one will look forward to a further account of Mr. Godsell's travels, which will describe for instance his experiences on the Churchill, which were not included in the present volume.