

have been unequalled. The logical answer to that is—the Battle of Britain.

However, these are minor points which can be discounted in the grand measure of goodness found in the book, in the history it unfolds and the cross-section it gives of life in Canada's fur-trading era. G.G.

ALASKA TODAY, by B. W. Denison.

The Caxton Printers, Ltd., Caldwell, Idaho, and the Copp Clark Co. Ltd., Toronto, Canada. Illustrated. Maps. Indexed. Pp. XIV and 374. \$6.

Just as the last war made Canada suddenly more conscious of the North with its untapped riches and vulnerability to attack, so did the same era awaken in Americans a new interest in that vast and sometimes almost forgotten part of the American Empire—Alaska. Perhaps it is natural that most of us think of the northland as a wilderness of ice and snow, that life there should be a bleak and cheerless existence. Our knowledge of that area is based mostly on history, which records tales of privation, want and death in the bitter cold, brought back by explorers and early prospectors.

In this book, Mr. Denison has set out to dispel most of the inaccurate impressions which exist concerning life in Alaska. He reveals it as a land to fire the imagination of those with pioneer blood in their veins. We are told that it is a country rich in agricultural potentialities, where strawberries grow as large as bantam eggs; that it is a land of scenic beauty—a wonderland of tourist attractions; that it abounds with wild life and is an excellent location for fur farming; that its forests are filled with the world's finest pulpwoods; that the possibilities of its fishing and mining industries are boundless.

The surprises in this narrative are endless. But perhaps the biggest of all is the information about the weather. How many of us know that one district of Alaska is referred to as the "Banana Belt" by the more rugged inhabitants of Fairbanks, and other northern centres? In one district the mean temperature for January is 21°, for July, 58°! On Feb. 1, 1945, at 10.30 a.m. Chicago, Ill., had a temperature of 2° above zero, while in Ketchikan, Alaska, the same day,

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