

on the beach by an ice-breaker. On Easter Sunday, 1950, a survey party and the three men who were to start the station were landed by a ski-equipped aircraft. Their first task was to make an airstrip so that planes might land on wheels with the food and supplies to preserve life and allow the business of weather-reporting to proceed. To make an airstrip it was necessary to get the tractor working after it had been buried for nearly two years in the Arctic ice. There was an anxious half hour, until, to the relief and perhaps astonishment of all, the motor turned over. The station survived and is now one of the most valuable links in the Arctic chain. Today, one of the three men who went on that first expedition is back at Resolute, still inseparable from the Arctic.

### **U.S.-Canada Joint Effort**

The stations were established as a joint effort of Canada and the United States, and so they remain in operation. Canada provides half the staff; the officer in charge of each station is a Canadian; the buildings are provided by Canada, and the main responsibility for the airlifts is Canadian. The United States provides the remainder of the staff and most of the scientific equipment, as well as the ships for the sea-supply mission which each summer works its way north with heavy supplies. It is an important exercise in mutual co-operation.

The staff of the meteorological stations and of the RCAF station at Resolute are the main permanent residents of the Arctic archipelago. Up there it is, for the most part, too far north even for the Eskimos who lived here once but moved away. The Eskimos, however, are without the benefit of rockwool insulation, triple layers of sealed glass, modern oil-heating and running hot water. It is not an easy life for the permanent residents, but those who live it seem to find it rewarding.

Elsewhere in the Arctic there is a chain of RCMP posts whose members have established well-known traditions for the preservation of law and order and of service over hundreds of thousands of square miles of Canadian territory. Although the RCMP has had a longer association with the Arctic than any other Canadians (except the Eskimos), they are to be found mostly in the area of greater native population on the northern fringes of the mainland and in the lower eastern archipelago. Their work is not primarily scientific, but their knowledge of Arctic conditions has been of tremendous help to those whose duties are farther north. Few Canadians realize the service which members of the RCMP have rendered in the Far North, not only to the natives in the area but to the country as a whole.

Apart from the meteorological staff, the airmen and the police, there are other important workers in the Arctic. At Resolute there is a station operated by the Department of Transport to study the ionosphere — to see, in effect, what happens to radio waves as they bounce about above the atmosphere. A seismologist at the same place is collecting valuable data on earth tremors. There are frequent visits from members of the Dominion Observatory staff seeking valuable information on the shape of the earth (which is slightly flat near the poles) by taking measurements of the force of gravity.

These are the men who come to Canada's farthest Arctic to live and work as permanent residents. Permanent residence means usually at least one year. But some of these people are old-timers, who have come back of their own choice for term after term: these have succumbed to the lure of the North. Other important work is done by the visitors, the so-called "tourists". Some have merely to take a few scientific readings, and their work is completed in a few days. Others stay for the two or three week duration of the airlift, but many more remain for the entire summer season. These people are temporary residents, not because of any reluctance to endure the conditions of the Arctic for a longer time, but because they have an important job back home, whether in Ottawa or in some other part of the continent.