

the new narrow seas.

The revived interest in the Arctic, however, is not exclusively the result of the insanity that has brought the nations to the verge of a new, and perhaps a truly fatal, war. Increasing knowledge of the North has resulted in a new appreciation of the economic possibilities of that region. And the more admirable aspect of humanity's split personality is shown in a rapidly growing recognition of the social responsibility of those who enjoy a more favourable environment for the welfare of those of our common race who have been living in half-forgotten isolation beyond the horizon of the North.

If Canadians are to understand the significance of their own northern problems it is essential that they should know more than they commonly do about their Arctic and sub-Arctic regions. With the exception of Russia, Canada has the largest holding of Arctic territory. If we are to continue to retain this vast domain of land, sea and ice, we must prove that we are conscious of our stewardship.

The first need is knowledge.

## II

Among Canadians who have had little opportunity to visit in the Arctic or to study northern conditions there are two contrasting points of view that are widely held.

Of these the first might be described as the romantic. To those whose knowledge of the North has been derived chiefly from the cinema or from the lighter forms of fiction - whether or not disguised as journalism - Northern Canada is usually visualized as a region in which the midnight sun is the insignia of summer, and where northern lights brighten every wintry day; where red-coated Mounted Policemen travel swiftly behind racing teams of hardy Malemites over spotless stretches of curving snow from one encampment of jolly and hospitable Eskimos to another; where life in igloo villages is a constant round of native dances, seal hunts and feasts of fish and blubber; where Hudson's Bay factors with Indian features and Scottish names keep the Union Jack flying over trading posts meticulously spruce, and where all the resources of the family or post are made available to welcome the unexpected stranger.

But others hold a contrary, a more dismal view of the North. To these the Arctic is a land of constant struggle and unremitting hardship; where in the Biblical phrase "the waters are hidden as with a stone and the face of the deep is frozen"; where darkness persists throughout the larger part of the year and unbearable cold is its invariable companion; where starvation is the common fate and disease indigenous to all; where every human resource is required to win the primary battle of survival and life is spent amid poverty, conflict, ignorance and filth; where, to adapt the words of Thomas Hobbes, the lot of man is "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short".

Truth can be drawn from elements in each of these stereotypes. As a result of experience, research and invention it is now known that human life in the Arctic, while conditioned by difficulties and privations which are not commonly experienced in more settled and more temperate regions, is by no means an impossibility for men and women of normal constitution. Nor is it necessary entirely to abandon those social and intellectual activities which are the proper requirements of the educated man or woman.

What are the facts about Northern Canada?

The Arctic and sub-Arctic regions of this country can be defined roughly as consisting of the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories including the Arctic Islands and their waters, the northern half of Quebec and