

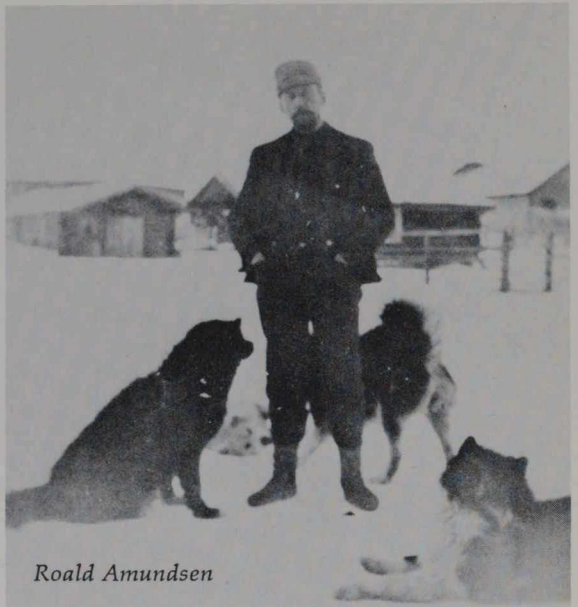
miles up the coast, has fifty prefab houses, surrounded by cliffs and mountains. Its people hunt with snowmobiles and rifles.

[THE BAY]

At the top of the Labrador coast is Hudson Strait, leading into Hudson Bay. The words *strait* and *bay* minimize the truth. A strait suggests a narrow passage. Hudson Strait, between the bay and the Atlantic, is 500 miles long and, at its narrowest point, 100 miles wide—bigger than Lake Superior. The bay is an inland sea, 600 miles across, 1,000 miles from top to bottom.

The sailors of previous centuries found both inhospitable. Abacuk Pricket, an unfrocked priest who sailed with Henry Hudson, kept a diary and described his entrance. "About the last of June we raised land to the north of us and we took the same to be that island which Captain Davis set in the chart at the west side of this strait. . . . Into the current we went and made our way northward of west until we met with ice which hung upon this island, wherefore we cast about to the south and cleared ourselves and then stood to the west into a great sound, amongst a store of floating ice upon which there was a store of seals. We still made our way north-west, meeting sometime with ice and then again clear water. Thus, proceeding betwixt ice and ice, we see a great island of ice tumble over, which was good warning to us not to come near them."

Churchill, on the west side of the bay, was founded as a shipping point for furs. It now ships grain in its ice-free months. Above it, for 800 miles to the top of Foxe Basin, are scattered small Inuit settlements—Eskimo Point, Rankin Inlet, Repulse Bay. Below to the southeast, on the coasts of Manitoba and Ontario, are reminders of the fur traders—York Factory, Fort Severn, Fort Albany. At the bottom, in the area around James Bay, are six thousand Cree and four thousand Inuit hunters, fishermen and trappers.



Roald Amundsen

The province of Quebec, which controls the long eastern shore of the inland sea, is building a huge hydro electric network on the rivers flowing into James Bay. By the 1980s it will be generating 13 million kilowatts. In 1975 the governments of Quebec and Canada and the development and energy corporations agreed to pay the Crees and Inuits \$225 million over the next twenty years and to guarantee their permanent, exclusive hunting, fishing and trapping.

[THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE]

The brave men who first ventured into Hudson Bay were looking for the Northwest Passage; many were called and some were frozen, but none found the route to the Indies.

Between 1845 and 1847, Sir John Franklin and 129 officers and men died trying. The expedition left England in the *Erebus* and the *Terror*, both equipped with steam auxiliary power. They hailed some whalers off Greenland in July and then vanished.

