

as well to the photographic survey work done by the R.C.A.F. and to the administration of the air route from Edmonton to Alaska by this service, as further instances of military activities which are of great civilian importance.

One consequence of the terribly anxious state of the world today is that so many things become greatly distorted through concentration on the prospects of war. Thus a meteorological station in the Far North, manned by less than a dozen men in all, may be, and sometimes is, called an "air base", because it is equipped with an air strip to enable supplies to be flown in. A couple of years ago the Canadian Army sent a small expedition from Churchill on Hudson Bay to the shores of the Arctic Ocean in the depth of winter, in order to test the serviceability of winter equipment and the practicability of keeping the party supplied en route by air. This was given the resounding title of "Expedition Musk Ox", and its course of over 3,000 miles was followed rather intently by the press. Soon after the expedition was concluded a Soviet diplomat brought it up in conversation with me. He was clearly under the impression that it was an elaborate military manoeuvre, involving the movement of thousands of men across the frozen tundra. I doubt if I succeeded in convincing him that the total number in the force was in fact forty. It was not altogether his fault that he was misled by the reports which he had seen. As another illustration I should like to quote an extract from the "greetings" sent by Mr. Tim Buck, National Leader of the Labour Progressive Party in Canada, to the Comrades in the United States, which were printed last week on May Day in the New York Daily Worker :

"With the treacherous connivance of the Mackenzie King Government the U.S. General Staff is planning to make Churchill on Hudson Bay, a gigantic base for aggressive air-borne war against the Soviet Union". (That is the small winter experimental establishment mentioned by Mr. King.) "Under the Truman-King Military Pact Canada's Arctic is becoming a military zone Clearly, the Truman-Marshall plans look towards taking over Canada and using her as a Finland or Belgium of World War III".

A clergyman of my acquaintance used gently to refer to a certain notorious liar as a man possessing a constructive imagination. I shall not insult your intelligence by pausing to refute the use to which in this passage Mr. Buck put his destructive imagination.

I do not want, however, to leave the impression that it is only those who look to Moscow for guidance who indulge in such distortions and exaggerations. Scarcely a week passes without one or more examples of the same sort of defective judgment occurring in organs of every shade of opinion.

When I repeat the often-used phrase that the Arctic and Sub-Arctic have become the North American frontier, it will be evident to you that I am using the word "frontier" in the North American and not in the European sense. To any European a frontier means a boundary between two states dotted with customs offices and frontier guards, and responsible often nowadays for protracted arguments and unhappy delays for those who wish to cross it. If you were to ask a citizen of any European country what he understood by our expression "a frontiersman", his answer would deal with customs officers, gendarmes, and the like.

In this spacious continent the frontier has a grander meaning. It is the territory of the pioneer, who, for varied motives, is ready to leave behind him cities and towns and paved streets and movie theatres - the man who has been responsible for making both the United States and Canada extend from sea to sea. Frontiersmen are like Flecker's Pilgrims making the journey to Samarkand :