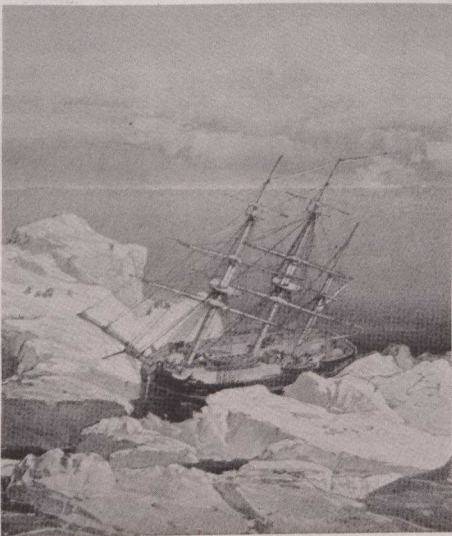


Canada. And as Cartier had done for France, Bernier also planted crosses on several of the newly-discovered islands as confirmation of Canada's sovereignty.

Bernier, like others who came to know these lands and waters, owed much to his Inuit guides and hunters. William Wakeham, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Vilhjalmur Stefansson and their successors were shown the way by Inuit



*Seeking the Northwest Passage, Robert M'Clure in the H.M.S. Investigator had entered Arctic waters from the Pacific in 1850. After three winters gripped by ice, M'Clure and his men were rescued by a sledge team. Although he walked part way, he is credited as the first to cross the Northwest Passage.*

dead-reckoning, native navigational skills which are still legendary in the Arctic.

#### Government interest

In this century the Government of Canada has stepped up its activities in the Archipelago, establishing RCMP posts, weather stations, post offices, defence installations and medical and communications facilities. Resource exploration has, in recent years, helped maintain the Canadian presence first established by the Government. Panarctic and Petro-Canada are but two corporate entities which help give expression to the national interest in the North.

Nowadays the Government is in the forefront of protection for the rich and delicate natural environment in the North. Economic development, drawn by the resource potential offshore and on the land, has put pressure on the wildlife, the people and the environment they depend on. The Government is there to ensure that the rush to satisfy new goals and fulfil new dreams does not impair the environment. The Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act of 1972, and such projects as the Lancaster Sound Regional Study now under way, have been put in place to help understand and to safeguard the precious Arctic ecology.

#### Inuit contribution

While the centennial has a somewhat different significance for the Inuit, in the context of their centuries-old culture and

traditions, they too are making their unique contribution. As full participants in the national fabric, they are helping to keep this region a vital part of Canada.

The significance of this centennial is not only historical. It is contemporary and it is visionary. Canada's North today is a dynamic link — no longer a backwater — to some vital national considerations. Despite their remoteness, despite the stark contrast of climates and the gentler distinctions of culture, little happens among these islands in isolation from the rest of the country.

...If there is a distinctive Canadian trait it is an awareness of the land and of its expanse. An understanding of northern conditions, of climate and geography, is

#### Symposium promotes interest

Governor-General Edward Schreyer, was the keynote speaker at a three-day symposium at Yellowknife, Northwest Territories sponsored by the Royal Society of Canada to mark transfer of the Arctic islands to Canada by Britain 100 years ago.

The symposium, "A Century of Canada's Arctic Islands — 1880-1980" was held August 11-13 to review and evaluate achievements of the past century, direct attention to the Arctic Islands, and promote national interest by helping affirm Canada's commitment to sovereignty in the Canadian North.

Papers on the historical, administrative, scientific, social and economic aspects of past development and future prospects of the region, with particular emphasis on the Arctic islands were presented at the symposium. These papers will be published and available through the Royal Society of Canada.

common to us all. We may deal with it in unique ways, but we all must adapt to a land which is greater than any of us. Given our sense of spaciousness it is natural for us also to ponder our horizons — to be forward-thinking, not paralyzed by our past.

Apart from its historical aspects, then, this centennial gives us a chance to reflect on who we are ... and where we are going. From a global perspective we are all northerners. In our appreciation of a distinctly northern art and culture we are

*(Continued on P. 8)*