

## Across the Pole

Canadians are not alone in their appreciation of the potentialities of northern development. Canada's next door neighbour across the Pole has been actively exploiting the wealth of the north for at least a generation. The best of many of the Soviet Union's mineral reserves lie in the sub-Arctic and these have for some time been contributing to the national wealth. Like Canada, the U.S.S.R. faces problems of climate and transportation. Soviet successes in developing the Northern Sea Route are well known. Railways have long reached into the European Arctic and supplementary networks have been developed both in western and eastern Russia. Regular air routes cross much of the Soviet north.

It is not surprising that the north in the Soviet Union has reached a later stage of development than in Canada. Canadians, with their limited population and relative national youth, have been deeply pre-occupied in their short history with the opening of regions closer to the old and settled parts of the country. They have had no population pressures, no shortages of raw materials to lead them north, and only recently have they had the economic strength, the freedom from pre-occupations with other frontier building, the peace and prosperity to enable them to turn to the north.

The longer experience of the Soviet Union in northern affairs, the professed desire of its leaders to promote closer relations through the exchange of information and of visits, has led naturally to proposals for the sharing of northern knowledge. The idea was discussed with Mr. Molotov on Mr. Pearson's visit to Moscow last autumn. The success of such exchanges with the Soviet Union could be much more than a test of the good relations of the two coun-

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—NFB

SHAMAN WITH DRUM, TYPICAL OF ESKIMO  
STONE CARVINGS