

Editor's Page

Opening our new Volume 8, No. 1, we have a variety of papers dealing with Pleistocene and Recent geology. The submission by H.B.S. Cooke has broad implications, reaching well beyond the geographic area of our interest. However, all local workers will appreciate this paper particularly those in that immediate discipline. Charles Stehman has given us a good account of planktonic foraminifera, a subject that has not been covered adequately for Baffin Bay and those waters immediately to the south. Because of the presence of these foram tests in the sediments, incorrect interpretations on ancient environment for that area could easily be made. We have not previously covered this aspect of sedimentation off northeastern North America but this paper will give an appreciation of such problems. Unintentionally, the paper by Peter Jezek is a suitable companion piece to Stehman's paper. Jezek has presented an interesting account of the development of the submarine physiography in that area, and has connected much of this development to Pleistocene glaciation and intermittent and subsequent sedimentation. R.J. Rogerson and C.M. Tucker have given a graphically documented account of the glacial history of the Avalon Peninsula, Newfoundland, and have carefully traced deltaic deposition in that area. An exceptional work on tracing old physiographic features - in this case fluvial valleys - is shown in the report by J.R. Schubel and C.F. Zabawa. These authors have developed a methodology and lines of reasuring which are applicable to similar studies along the eastern seaboard of North America. Such endeavours, if extended for several years, could easily yield a comprehensive account of the development of these ancient physiographic features to their present state along most of the eastern Atlantic coast.

Although we have covered the 24th International Geological Congress on page 43 of this number, we should recognize here the outstanding success of this major event for Canada. The organization was superb, and its results will rank as an exceptional achievement in the annals of large, modern scientific gatherings. To the Congress executive and national organizing committee, as well as the numerous sub-committees, MARITIME SEDIMENTS offers its heartiest congratulations.

In the past we have been reporting at length on the trend in mission-oriented projects. We have given an account in our Current Research section, of two major endeavours: 1) an environmental study on land, water, and ice to be undertaken under the direction of a Canadian government task force on northern oil development; and 2) the Gulf of St. Lawrence environmental study. The northern study is most comprehensive in scope and will involve considerable social planning. This will accompany the development of engineering and scientific investigations. In this case the proper utilization and eventual rehabilitation of the indigenous population must be given considerable attention. With reference to the Gulf of St. Lawrence project we have recently learned that a delay presently exists in carrying out the program as scheduled in the description of the project given in this number. However planning continues so that, although the dates may be modified, the project itself should proceed along the scientific basis already outlined.

We have an interesting account of current research being undertaken at Memorial University of Newfoundland. All universities in the area of our readership are invited to submit such accounts. In our next number we shall present similar accounts from other universities or research institutes. If abstracts of these are available, these will be welcomed - indeed, the thesis itself may be suitable material. Meanwhile we continue to accept reports for early publication.

B. R. PELLETIER, Editor.