

Editor's Page

Our lead-off paper in this number of MARITIME SEDIMENTS constitutes an excellent account of progress by R.J. Knight on his continuing investigation of sedimentology and its relationship to hydrodynamic vigour in Cobequid Bay, Nova Scotia. With the aid of continuous current measurements, and well controlled surveys of bedform features, as well as a textural analysis of the contained sediments, Knight is proceeding toward the explanation of sediment transport in this region of extremely high hydrodynamic vigour. The contribution by E.H. Owens and J.R. Harper is directed toward studies involving the morphology of beaches, and coastlines in general, and the movement of sand associated with the processes of beach formations. Awareness of the problems associated with coastal erosion in the Atlantic Provinces of Canada has been greatly amplified through the recent field meeting and technical session of the International Geographical Union which met locally in August of 1972. Several of the authors of the guidebook have sent manuscripts to MARITIME SEDIMENTS, and these will appear as a symposium in our next number. Geological processes associated with coastal erosion and sediment transport are also reported by R.J. Finley, who has given us a brief account of his long term research in that area. Our final report for this number is by A.S. Dyke who is cited for his research on Pleistocene sedimentation in Newfoundland, and the fact that it is a fine example of the solid program in this field presently being undertaken by Memorial University of Newfoundland.

We have a lengthy section dealing with current research which includes abstracts of papers given by students at their annual meeting held this year at Memorial University of Newfoundland (Atlantic Universities Geological Conference). As is our custom we published all the accounts regardless of their interest in sediments, mainly because we wish to encourage the active participation of all geological students - it is our debt to our younger colleagues. An unedited version of geoscience research carried out at the Institute of Oceanography, Dalhousie University, gives a fairly good overview of its range of activities. At the Bedford Institute, a new underwater electric rock-core drill has been developed and trials to date have been highly successful. An account of this equipment is also given under the Current Research section.

Considerable discussion and policy-making involving scientific research both in and out of government has been circulated in Canada over the past year or so. The Science Council of Canada feels that science and technology can be used more effectively in the development and management of the natural resources of Canada. These views are contained in a report on resource overview entitled "Natural Resource Policy Issue in Canada" by A.J. Cordell and D. Thompson. It is an attempt to identify gaps in our approach to resource research, development and management, also, it is to suggest ways in which we can compensate for, or correct, deficiencies. Another report in the series: "Strategies of Development for the Canadian Computer Industry" will be ready in May, 1973. It is co-authored by A.J. Cordell, W.D. Little, and E.G. Manning. A report on international science: Canada Science and International Affairs" by R.D. Voyer and B. Schroeder-Gudehus will be ready in mid-spring. Two additional reports to come under discussion by the Canada Science Council are "Health Care Delivery Systems" and "Energy Policy".

Clearly the Canadian government is assessing the role of science and technology and has made a direct move in its setting of policy. The so-called "Make-or-Buy" policy has been widely disseminated and accepted with considerable favour in many quarters. This is a direct attempt to encourage research and development in the private sector. Rather than carry out extensive surveys, the government can contract this work to industry or to consulting agencies. In many cases it is highly advantageous for a government scientific manager to oversee such work by means of supervision or monitoring, and yet be spared the inherent personnel problems of administration, such as hiring, separating, attending to union contracts, attending to pension benefits, promotion, re-classification, personal assessment and re-location. But the objective of the study is reached and the fruits of such labour may be realized more quickly.

Many other interfaces than strict geological or scientific research are involved that will eventually affect the scientist or technologist. Education, jobs, health, sociological and environmental impact are just a few, but they are major issues all of which will take more study and deliberation before the course of action is finally set.