

Editor's Page

Our final number of MARITIME SEDIMENTS Volume 10, includes a number of articles with direct oceanographic aspects. The first by C.F. ZABAWA and J.R. SCHUBEL describes the spectacular short-term effect on sedimentation produced by an unusual or aperiodic storm. For those investigators examining the sedimentary record and attempting the determination of rates of sedimentation, this paper is instructive in that it focuses attention on an additional group of facts and processes that must be considered. An interesting methodology on the use of air-photographs as an interpretive tool in the examination of wave-diffraction patterns is introduced by E.A. BRYANT, particularly as he has utilized photographs and data of two physically similar but geographically distinct areas. Such studies are fundamental to the understanding of processes acting in the coastal zone, particularly with reference to sediment transport on and off the beach, as well as to the erosion and construction of beach forms themselves. Again on the estuary another contribution has been made dealing with geochemical problems and process. This paper is by V. SUBRAMANIAN and adds considerably to our knowledge of these phenomena in general, as well as to the Gulf of St. Lawrence estuary and river system in particular. Our fourth paper is a succinct study on clay mineralogy in an inshore area along the Atlantic seaboard, which provides further insight into the mechanism and dispersal processes of clay-mineral sedimentation.

In the section on Meetings, our colleague GUSTAV VILKS has given an excellent resumé of a scientific conference held in Europe. Because of its widespread scientific implications to the international community, as well as to the local Atlantic area, we decided to publish the entire report for the benefit of our readers. It is a rapporteur's account and contains valuable insights into methodology, facts, phenomenon and correlation in the world of micropaleontology. Interesting applications derived from modern planktonic and benthonic studies are discussed from a standpoint of classical paleontology and paleo-oceanography. The conference revealed the depth of such studies and serves notice of the contributions expected for the next international benthonic conference on foraminifera to be held in August of 1975 at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. This meeting was given notice in the previous number of MARITIME SEDIMENTS.

Over the past few years, nationalization of industry has been a pattern of economic and social development in countries all over the world. Recently in Canada, the minister of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Honourable DONALD MACDONALD, has announced a government proposal on the organization of a Canadian National Petroleum Company. This company, referred to as Petro Canada, is expected to operate as a Crown Corporation subject to taxation rules in the same manner that effects the private sector. Exclusive of the national economy our main concern here is the disposition of the geological expertise across the country.

Many questions remain unanswered: will the work force be dissipated or augmented? will technology advance because of the competitive framework of a compound private/government industry? will new opportunities arise for the geologist? will more security of employment be offered and, at the same time, will the high standards of industry be maintained throughout both economic sectors? Certainly we feel that the answer is in the affirmative with regard to scientific acumen. Both industry and government are attaining high standards working separately, therefore the prospects for even greater achievements while in competition appear bright indeed. There is every possibility that employment will increase because an additional employer will be added to the scene. This will demand a growing work force of recruits that will eventually, if not shortly, affect our training institutes at home and abroad. A chain reaction would be initiated and extended to unforeseen lengths.

But our crystal ball may not have revealed everything, namely the public cost. This is an unknown quantity when balanced against another unknown, the public revenue. Regardless of these arguments, we hope that an optimistic view prevails because, as geologists, all of us desire the realization of a flourishing profession and one that is working for the good of all.

As is customary we close our volumes with thanks to our contributors and helpers, and to the National Research Council of Canada whose financial grant has greatly assisted in the publication of MARITIME SEDIMENTS these past few years.

B. R. PELLETIER, Editor.