

COMMANDER E. S. BJÖRSET.

Commander BJÖRSET retired from the post of *Chefen for Norges Sjøkartverket* (Head of the Norwegian Hydrographic Service) on 15th December, 1932, on attaining the age limit.

Commander Eyvind Solberg BJÖRSET was born at Bergen on 25th. December, 1866. He went to sea in 1883, and in 1886 passed his examination for Mate. He then joined the Naval College, leaving it in 1889 with the rank of Sub-Lieutenant and served for some time as Chief Officer in the Merchant Service. In 1892 Commander BJÖRSET joined the hydrographic Section of the *Geografiske Opmaaling*, to which he was appointed permanent as an hydrographer in 1894, and in 1897 was promoted to Lieutenant. In 1908 he was promoted to Commander on the active list, and was placed on the retired list in 1909. He had held the post of Head of the Norwegian Hydrographic Service since August 1915.

The Norwegian paper "*Kystfareren*" (N^o 1-2, Bergen, January 1933) says:

"There are certainly few public institutions among us which, under the impulsion of one man, have seen such great changes as the Norwegian Hydrographic Service under Captain BJÖRSET. This applies both to the administrative and to the purely technical side of the Service; the latter particularly had to be extended to provide for the growing needs of coastal traffic by the taking of accurate soundings and the publication of modern charts of the various portions of the coast.

"The whole of Finnmark was provided with modern charts ("drafter"), and at present the Hydrographic Service is making a survey of Vestland from Bömlahuk northward towards Bergen, while the new chart, Bergen to Holmengrå, will be issued this year. We may rejoice that this leader, in spite of the slender material at his disposal, has succeeded before his retirement in providing the seaman with serviceable charts of the Norwegian coasts.

"It was clear that, here and there among the old soundings, which were sometimes fairly sparse, there must be some isolated shoals and deep banks which had escaped detection at the time of sounding. To make certain and to fill up the gaps, Captain BJÖRSET had recourse to Echo-sounding Machines and the wire Sweep, which nowadays give the most satisfactory and reliable results."

It adds that it was during Commander BJÖRSET's administration that the *Norges Sjøkartverk* was separated from the *Geografiske Opmaaling* and became an independent institution under the Norwegian Navy Department.

