

## OBITUARY

CHARLES CAMSELL was born on 8 February 1876 at Fort Liard, in the Mackenzie River district of the Northwest Territories, and died in Ottawa on 19 December 1958. His father spent 40 years as a factor in the Hudson's Bay Company and, of his eleven children, ten were born at trading posts 2000 miles from the nearest doctor, where mails came twice a year and supplies only once. At the age of eight, Camsell left home to join his elder brothers at school in Winnipeg, remaining there until he graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1894. He then journeyed north to visit his family at Fort Simpson and began ten years of the most varied and strenuous life; he built and taught for an Anglican Mission, made a disastrous attempt at fortune hunting in the Klondike goldfields, and surveyed for two railway companies in between periods of post-graduate study at Queen's University, Kingston, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Only his admirable autobiography *Son of the North* (Toronto, 1954) can give a picture of the scope of his travels and adventures during those years, and, indeed, for sixteen years afterwards until the responsibilities of a senior government post chained him to a desk. By canoe, scow, and on foot, leading large parties of geologists or with only one or two companions, Camsell covered more of the then unknown north-west of Canada than any man had done before him. In 1900 he joined J. Mackintosh Bell exploring the Great Bear Lake for the Geological Survey, an association that decided him to become a geologist himself. Investigations of a report made by him during that venture led to the pitchblende discoveries on the shores of Great Bear Lake in 1929. In 1904 he joined the Geological Survey of Canada, and was responsible for the exploration and mapping of some of the larger rivers in north-western Canada, notably the areas around the Severn River, Peel River and Taltson River. In 1914 he was appointed the first "Geologist in charge of exploration". He became Deputy Minister of Mines in 1920, and of Mines and Resources in 1935, the year he received a C.M.G. from King George V. He was appointed to the Council of the Northwest Territories in 1921 and was Commissioner from 1935 to 1946. He served with distinction on a large number of national boards and committees, and represented Canada on a number of international conferences. Among the many honours he received was the Founder's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society.

Charles Camsell occupied a unique place in the recent history of northern Canada; in addition to his wide geographical knowledge he had a direct and personal knowledge of every important development in that country during the Twentieth Century.

AUGUSTINE COURTAULD was born in 1904 and died on 3 March 1959. In 1926, when an undergraduate at Trinity College, Cambridge, he accompanied J. M. Wordie's Cambridge East Greenland Expedition as a photographer. The party spent the summer surveying the coastline of the Keyser Franz Josephs Fjord area of east Greenland, between Pendulum Øer and Davy Sund. In 1929 Courtauld returned to the same area with another Cambridge expedition, also led by Wordie. This time he assisted R. C. Wakefield in the survey of Nordenskiöld's Gletscher and Petermann Bjerg, at the head of Keyser Franz Josephs Fjord.

His next visit was with the British Arctic Air Route Expedition, 1930-31, led by H. G. Watkins. The possibilities of an air route between the United Kingdom and Canada were being investigated and the object of the expedition was to obtain information about the least-known part of the route, the east coast and central ice sheet of Greenland. A base was established about 40 miles west of Angmagssalik. One of the main activities of the expedition was the establishment of a meteorological

station on the ice sheet, about 125 miles from base, from which continuous meteorological observations were made for seven months. Courtauld took part in two journeys to the "Ice Cap Station". In October 1930 he was one of a party sent to relieve the station. Weather delayed their arrival until 3 December, by which time there were not sufficient stores and fuel left to support two men until the next relief. Courtauld volunteered to remain there by himself, and spent five months alone until he was relieved on 4 May 1931. During this time he kept up meteorological observations regularly until, early in April, he became snowed in and ran seriously short of fuel. He later took part in an adventurous small boat journey around the southern tip of Greenland to Julianehaab on the west coast.

His last visit to Greenland was in the summer of 1935. He joined forces with L. R. Wager's expedition to Knud Rasmussen Land, in order to explore the Watkins Bjerge in the Kangerdlugssuak district. A party of five landed at Kap Irminger and, in three strenuous weeks, crossed Christian den IV's Gletscher and reached the summit of the highest peak in the range, 3700 m. (12,200 ft.).

During the Second World War, Courtauld served in the Royal Navy and, in later years, became successively Deputy-Lieutenant and High Sheriff of Essex. He published an autobiography, *Man the Ropes* (London, 1957), and edited an anthology of polar writings, *From the Ends of the Earth* (London, 1950).

Sir James Wordie writes:

"August Courtauld was probably the best known of English arctic explorers in recent times. His name became almost a household word and few people did not know of his lonely wintering on the Greenland plateau. When it became known that there were not provisions for more than one person during the winter months Courtauld immediately offered to stay alone and be that single person alone on the Greenland plateau. This ensured that the weather observations were carried on without any break and that Watkins, who at that time was pioneering an Arctic air route, could rely on a record of weather conditions during the whole period. This was only possible if the number of men on the plateau could be kept below two and Courtauld therefore undertook to remain. His spirit luckily responded to such a stimulus, and by his nature he was just the man who would not suffer unduly. He was on Petermann Bjerg both in 1926 and in 1929, on the first occasion on the Cambridge Peaks near the mouth of Kjerulfs Fjord, and on the second on the actual climbing of Petermann Bjerg, where his backing with Vivian Fuchs of Forbes and Wakefield was typical of Courtauld's qualities, and one of the things which made him such a lovable and popular member of any party."

JAMES TRAVIS JENKINS died on 12 January 1959 at Capel Dewi, Llandyssul, Cardigan-shire. Born in 1876, he was educated at the Merchant Venturers' School, Bristol, and at the University of Wales, where he began to specialize in marine zoology. In 1904 he was appointed Superintendent of the Lancashire and Western Sea Fisheries Joint Committee. He held this post until his retirement in 1946, with the exception of only one short period, 1908-10, when he was seconded to the Bengal Government to investigate and organize the fisheries of the Bay of Bengal. His work was primarily the study of the inshore fisheries of the Committee's district, but he will be chiefly remembered for a series of books relating to fisheries and fishes. Of special polar interest were: *A History of the Whale Fisheries* (London, 1921), *Whales and Modern Whaling* (London, 1932), and *Bibliography of Whaling* (London, 1948).

PER KAMPMANN, the Danish engineer and entrepreneur, was born in København on 31 May 1892 and died on 7 April 1959. He played an important part in the building up of Scandinavian Airlines System and provided much of the initiative in the

formation of Nordisk Mineselskab, the company which is exploiting the lead and zinc deposits at Mesters Vig, east Greenland. He had been chairman of the company since 1952.

AUGUSTINUS TELEF NIS LYNGE, representative for south Greenland in the Danish Folketing, was among those lost with the Danish vessel *Hans Hedtoft* at the end of January 1959. Lynge, a Greenlander, was born at Fiskeraasset on 18 October 1899. He qualified as a teacher, and then went to Denmark for three years' further training. On his return he was appointed to a post at the Godthåb teachers training college. He published a novel, *ukiut 300-ngornerat*, and, from 1934 to 1948, produced a periodical *Iarqigssut*. He also wrote text-books on zoology, geography and Greenlandic. In 1941, he founded the youth association "nunavta qitornai". Lynge took a prominent part in the public life of Greenland as a member of the Godthåb kommunerad [Communal Council], a delegate to Rigsdagens Grønlandsudvalg [permanent parliamentary committee for Greenland], a member of the landsrad [Provincial Council] from 1951-55, and finally as one of the first two representatives from Greenland in the Danish Folketing.

POUL LUDVIG RASMUSSEN was captain of the *Hans Hedtoft* when it was lost with all on board at the end of January 1959. He was born on 5 February 1901. He obtained his master's certificate in 1928, and was first employed by Den Kgl. Grønlandske Handel in 1929. He took part in Lauge Koch's expedition to east Greenland in 1931-34 as second mate and radio operator on the *Godthaab*, and was master of the *Godthaab* during Eigel Knuth's Pearyland expedition, 1947-50. He was later master of the Greenland X-ray ship *Misigssut*.