

OTHER

Northern Vagabond. The life and career of J. B. Tyrrell

By Alex Inglis. 1978. McClelland and Stewart, Toronto. 256 pp., illus. \$14.95.

The author begins this interesting book by describing Joseph Burr Tyrrell's famous 1893 3000-mile trip through the central Barren Lands of Canada — one of the last great feats of exploration in Canada's history. When Tyrrell's party of eight set out by canoe from Fort Chippewyan they were not certain whether the Dubawnt and Thelon rivers, along which they planned to paddle, would carry them to Hudson Bay or to the Arctic Ocean; if the latter, their chances of returning alive were slim. Nor were they sure they would encounter game, largely Caribou, to feed them. Their inland exploration ended successfully at Chesterfield Inlet on Hudson Bay, but their trip was by no means over. They had yet to make their way through blizzards and ice along the coast for 400 miles to Fort Churchill, and from there walk and travel by dog sled the 900 miles to Winnipeg and the railway.

Tyrrell undertook this voyage while he was a geologist with the Geological Survey of Canada, a position he held from 1881 to 1898 although he had little formal training as a scientist. He spent his summers exploring the wilds of western and northern Canada, his winters in Ottawa writing reports on his geological and other findings. He enjoyed his field work especially (in one week in Alberta he discovered the largest deposit of prehistoric bones and the greatest deposit of workable coal to be found in Canada). He is probably best known scientifically for his postulation, based on rock striations, that during

the Ice Age Canada was not covered by a single massive ice field which advanced and retired once on a long front, but by several glaciers which originated from separate centers and had advanced and retreated on several occasions. During his lifetime, besides his geological reports, he also wrote dozens of books and articles on such topics as Samuel Hearne, David Thompson, Canadian history, and mining in Canada.

In 1899 Tyrrell left the Survey because he had been denied promotion, and moved to the Klondike as a Mining Consultant. He lived there in the midst of the gold rush until 1905, learning so much about gold that the rest of his career was centered on this mineral, in part as a goldmine manager near Kirkland Lake, Ontario. When he retired a wealthy man, he turned to managing an apple orchard on the Rouge River, where many of us who lived in Toronto at the time were privileged to meet him. He died in 1957 at the age of 99.

This book is a timely one, dealing as it does with one of our first native-born natural scientists. It not only follows Tyrrell's life in detail, but it gives us a glimpse of the milieu in which an early government scientist worked (The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club meetings for example offered Tyrrell and his friends a welcome diversion from their work). We are indebted to Inglis for bringing the life of this remarkable Canadian to our attention.

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NEW TITLES

Zoology

Animal facts and feats. 1977. By Gerald L. Wood. Revised edition. Sterling, New York. 256 pp., illus. US \$14.95.

Animals in peril. A guide to the endangered species of Canada and the United States. 1978. By David C. Grainger. Macmillan, Toronto. 192 pp., illus. \$14.95

The beetles of North America. 1977. By Richard Headstrom. Barnes, Cranbury, New Jersey. 448 pp., illus. US \$17.50.

The California quail. 1978. By A. S. Leopold. University of California Press, Berkeley. xx + 281 pp. US \$14.95.

A changing world for wildlife. 1977. By G. S. Fichter. Golden/Western, New York. 141 pp., illus. US \$8.95.

Coyotes: biology, behavior and management. 1978. Edited by M. Bekoff. Academic, New York. 400 pp. US \$34.50.

†**Endangered birds.** Management techniques for preserving threatened species. 1978. Edited by Stanley A. Temple. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison. xxiii + 466 pp., illus. US \$9.50.

†**L'entomologiste amateur.** 1977. Par A. Villiers. Savoir en histoire naturelle xxvii. Lechevalier, Paris. 248 pp. illus. 90F.

Great Canadian animal stories. 1978. Edited by Muriel



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