

## Arctic Invasion

*I WENT TO THE SOVIET ARCTIC*, by Ruth Gruber. Viking. 276 pages. \$3.50

AFTER this war millions of Asiatic and Arctic peoples whose standards of living are rising, will be riding in American automobiles. What's more, they'll use American tractors to plow their soil, they'll keep the meat and vegetables in an American refrigerator, and they'll keep themselves sweet and clean with American toilet soap.

Such are the conclusions of Ruth Gruber, author of "I Went to the Soviet Arctic." Not only does she see American merchandise invading the Far East, she believes that hundreds of thousands of Americans, in their brand new postwar cars, will go rolling up through Alaska and onto the ferry boats that will carry them across the 50 miles of straits of Siberia. Or they'll hop aboard the clippers that will be flying regularly from Chicago to Yakutsk via Alaska.

This author sees the Arctic as the "frontier of the future." Americans, she notes, are moving toward the North and Northwest; Russians toward the North and Northeast. Does that mean trouble? Probably not, if by trouble you mean more war. What the author predicts is a great drama of pioneering and adventure that is about to unfold . . . something as exciting, as full of hardships, struggle, failure and success as when our ancestors crossed the plains in covered wagons.

"Never in the history of man," she says, "has the Arctic been so alive. . . . The white spot on top of the map is being filled with known rivers, railways, airlines, and strategic cities and ports. Nothing is being done in the Arctic which will not have tremendous repercussions in the rest of the world—appointing women as mayors to establishing weather bureau stations, laying sea and air routes, and fortifying naval and military bases."

Miss Gruber took a trip to the Soviet Arctic and returned with a conviction: that the fun of living is not over on this planet, that there are new fields for human enterprise, many of them beckoning strongly to American ingenuity.



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