

subsidiary of the British Fairey Aviation Company, has undertaken the work and plans to operate 14 aircraft from its base at Dum Dum. It is hoped that the necessary aerial photography will be completed in two seasons, totalling 14 months, and finished maps in two and a half years.

Himalayan Weather. Thanks to the same informant in Poona, we have had word of two interesting surveys reported by the *Statesman*.

In November 1948 an RIAF meteorological expedition under the leadership of Flying Officer K. Chandra, with a medical research team directed by Major S. L. Kalra, left Srinagar for Ladakh, to study weather conditions at altitudes of 18,000 to 20,000 ft. and medical problems connected with high-altitude flying. It is pointed out that, if a satisfactory all-weather route can be found, these remote Himalayan regions will be brought into closer contact with India.

To determine whether American methods of snow surveying are applicable under Himalayan conditions, the Central Board of Irrigation, Government of India, has decided to station whole-time observers who will study rain, snow, temperature, etc., in Himalayan catchment areas. Since a reconnaissance expedition found in June 1948 that mobility would be very difficult to achieve, local men will generally be selected for the work. Already begun in the Kosi catchment, observations were expected to extend to the Ganges in 1949.

ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC

Greenland. Paul-Émile Victor, leader of the Expédition Polaire Française, has been for many months recently in western Greenland, E. of Disko Island. With 34 companions, he has been continuing the program of research initiated in 1948 in meteorology, geodesy and geophysics. The expedition, equipped with surplus "weasels" for transport over snow, planned to make deep borings in the Ice Cap. During the war, as a captain in the U. S. Army Air Forces, M. Victor was well known to many A. A. C. members for his work in the field of Arctic rescue and survival.

Antarctic Rescue. In the Antarctic winter night of July 1947,