

*The Choice of the Reindeer Reserve and the Establishment of the Herd.*—In anticipation of the delivery of the reindeer, preparations had been made in 1930-31 for their reception on the new range. A corral was constructed at Kittigazuit on the Arctic Coast east of the Mackenzie Delta, and a headquarters for the reindeer staff was established about sixty miles inland on the east branch of the Mackenzie River. At this point buildings for the accommodation of the employees, and warehouses, were constructed. Facilities for radio communication were later installed. The reindeer station lies at the foot of the Caribou Hills which follow the course of the Mackenzie River and attain an elevation of 500 feet.

Three Lapp herders and their families were brought from Norway in 1931 to assist in handling the deer on arrival and in training native Eskimos as herders. In the later stages of the reindeer drive from Alaska, these Lapps furnished valuable assistance. In December, 1933, the Canadian Government established a Reindeer Reserve immediately east of the Mackenzie Delta. The Reserve contains an area of approximately 6,600 square miles, including summer and winter ranges. The summer range comprises the coastal area, including Richards Island, and is well supplied with shrubs, principally willows, and grasses. The winter range lies inland along the east channel of the Mackenzie River, extending northeasterly along Sitidgi Lake and the Eskimo Lakes, and supports a good growth of reindeer lichens, which constitute the main winter diet of the reindeer.

During the first summer on the Reserve, the reindeer grazed in the coastal area in the vicinity of the corral at Kittigazuit. A round-up and count of the deer made in the summer of 1935 showed that the herd had been increased by about 800 fawns. By early winter the herd had been moved inland to the winter range in the vicinity of the reindeer station, and the following spring it was taken to Richards Island. This island, which lies a short distance off the coast, has proved very suitable for summer grazing, and has been used for that purpose each succeeding year. The corral for the round-up of the main herd is now located on Richards Island.

Since the introduction of the reindeer to the reserve in Canada, excellent results have been obtained. Annual crops of healthy fawns have steadily increased the main herd, permitting the establishment of two additional herds under native management near Anderson and Horton Rivers, about 150 miles east of the Reserve. The total increase of the reindeer since the original herd was delivered has exceeded 12,000 head, and according to the latest reports the three existing herds now number more than 9,000 animals. The difference is accounted for by donations of meat to mission schools and hospitals in the Mackenzie Delta region; animals used for food and clothing by the reindeer staff, including herders and apprentices; sales of surplus meat to natives and residents of the vicinity; strays; and losses by natural causes.

**The Training of Native Herders and the Establishment of Native Herds.**—Since the primary purpose of the reindeer industry in Canada is to help the natives support themselves, the policy is to train young Eskimos and Indians in reindeer husbandry and build up a number of herds under native management at suitable locations. The main herd is maintained on the Reindeer Reserve as a nucleus for the establishment of additional herds to be managed by the natives. Steps have been taken from the outset of the experiment to interest young natives to train as apprentice herders, and while in training they assist experienced herders in handling the reindeer. A number of apprentices or helpers are maintained with the main herd and the native herds where they receive training which may qualify them eventually for the management of reindeer herds on their own account.