

Meat for food is the principal product of the reindeer industry. The hides of fawns are used for parkas, and hides of mature animals, when tanned, are suitable for articles of clothing and other purposes. Experiments in tanning are being made and the methods used by Indians are also being studied, so that surplus hides may be utilized to the best advantage for local use and to supply any markets for these products. With the development of the industry in Canada it is hoped that uses can be found for other reindeer products such as hair, hooves, sinews, horns, etc.

Canada's experiment in reindeer husbandry is under the direction of the Northwest Territories Administration of the Department of Mines and Resources at Ottawa. Inspections of the herds are made from time to time by officers of the Department and others qualified to observe progress and recommend measures that will ensure the health of the animals. Dr. Seymour Hadwen, internationally-known authority on reindeer and other animal life, made an inspection of the main herd in 1939 and reported the deer to be in excellent condition and practically free of parasites. He also commented on the amazing fertility of the deer as apparent from the fact that one-year-old does were bearing fawns. This he attributed to the excellent grazing conditions. A gradual increase in the dressed weight of slaughtered steers also indicated the health and vigour of the reindeer.

The Administration is undertaking further investigations in order to define suitable locations for the establishment of additional herds. These will involve preliminary reconnaissance and botanical examination of the ground in regions where reindeer husbandry would be desirable, so that the forage available may be determined. It is becoming increasingly apparent that the scientific study of reindeer husbandry is essential to ensure the development of reindeer herding in the best interests of the natives.

As the industry is visualized at present, reindeer should provide a convenient and dependable source of food and clothing and form a valuable reserve against periods of shortage in other necessities. As the natives learn to depend more on the herds of reindeer for subsistence they may become independent of fluctuations in the supply of game and the price of furs, and thus achieve a more stable economic life than is possible under ordinary conditions which govern their nomadic life along the Arctic coast of Canada.

PART VII.—CLIMATE, METEOROLOGY, ETC.

Section 1.—The Climate of Canada

See list at the front of this edition for special material, under this heading, published in previous editions of the Year Book.

Section 2.—The Factors that Control Canadian Weather

See list at the front of this edition for special material, under this heading, published in previous editions of the Year Book.

Section 3.—The Distribution of Precipitation in Canada

See list at the front of this edition for special material, under this heading, published in previous editions of the Year Book.

Section 4.—The Temperature and Precipitation of Northern Canada

See list at the front of this edition for special material, under this heading, published in previous editions of the Year Book.