

more conclusive since it was accomplished during the five driest years Manitoba has ever experienced. This first rehabilitation project was and still is in private hands.

In 1934 the Government of Manitoba laid plans for the development, along similar lines, of an area of 135,000 acres now known as the Summerberry Game Preserve. During 1935 and 1936, with assistance from the Dominion Government amounting to \$90,000, the construction and engineering program was completed. This project was the first public development wholly sponsored by the two Governments and developed in the sole interest of the trappers. During its history, not one cent of profit has been charged to it, the whole surplus production going in the most direct manner possible to the trappers. Administration and maintenance costs have been fully met from production and the capital cost has been offset by the fact that 1,800 families previously on relief have been restored to a self-sustaining basis and assisted to a higher standard of living. At the termination of the fourth year, that is in April, 1940, a first crop of approximately 126,000 rats was taken and sold at a gross aggregate price of over \$160,000. In 1941, 191,562 rats were taken and sold for \$361,179. The total cost to the end of the second crop year was approximately \$135,000 whereas the total value of the crop harvested to the same date exceeded \$520,000. In 1941, 753 trappers participated in the rat harvest, earning more than \$300 apiece for less than a month's labour, which amount was paid under a contractual arrangement at a rate averaging \$25 a month over the twelve months. This project continues to prosper.

In 1938, the Two Island Project was launched in the same general area. This 160,000-acre tract of marshland was obtained under lease from Manitoba by the Dominion Government and was developed during the years 1938 to 1941 along similar lines to the Summerberry Project. The muskrat population increased from an estimated 650 at the commencement to 85,000 by the autumn of 1941. In March, 1942, under an arrangement adequately safeguarding the interests of the Indian trappers on whose behalf the development was undertaken, the project was turned over to the Province of Manitoba and consolidated with the adjacent Summerberry Project and intervening lands. A first crop to the value of approximately \$50,000 was taken from the Two Island area in 1942 and included in the returns from the consolidated projects.

Another Dominion Government scheme, known as the Sipanok Fur Development Project, was commenced in 1939 in the Province of Saskatchewan. While a little trapping has been permitted in this area from the beginning, the 1943 crop was the first substantial indication of the effect of planned management. In that year a crop was trapped and sold for over \$38,000 from an area that had never before produced a crop much in excess of 1,000 rats. This project already fully maintains an Indian population of 271, and is as yet only in its initial stages of development. It holds promise of producing about 200,000 rats per year on a sustained yield basis when the necessary construction program has been completed. This factual recital is sufficient to prove conclusively that it is possible to greatly increase the value of rat production by planned management.

**Beaver.**—The methods necessary to effect an increase in the production of beaver pelts have been the subject of painstaking study over the past twelve years by an official of the Hudson's Bay Company at the Ruperts House Post, and a plan of management has been evolved. The Company gave their official free rein and such financial assistance as was needed to develop an area of five or six million acres south of Ruperts River which had been secured for the purpose from the Province