

of Quebec. By hard and patient effort the co-operation and support of the Indians who trapped over the land selected were enlisted. The plan was one of pure conservation. The area had reached a state of virtual depletion caused largely by the wrecking of aboriginal conservation practices by uncontrolled White infiltration into traditionally Indian trapping grounds, but an adequate seed stock of beaver remained together with sufficient food stocks and ample water. The area was closed to trapping until the stock it carried could be built up to a point where the annual increment would maintain the trapping population and leave something to spare. Existing beaver were to be the capital and the increase was to be regarded as the interest; the principle to be followed was that the capital must never be impaired if the business were to survive.

With the full support and assistance of the Company, the wholehearted loyalty of the Indians, the practical co-operation of the Province of Quebec and the sympathetic interest of the Indian Administration, the experiment proved successful. In 1930, the beaver on the area numbered a few hundred; to-day, by actual count, the beaver population approaches 10,000. In 1943, 2,000 pelts were harvested—a number substantially less than the estimated annual increase.

The progress of this project has been watched and studied for many years. In 1937, the Dominion Government secured its first beaver rehabilitation area on the Nottaway River, Que. The first count indicated 252 beaver; the latest, taken in the winter of 1942-43, indicated 3,100. When the population reaches 4,000 it is planned to take a small catch, increasing it as the capital stock increases.

The plan for beaver rehabilitation falls into three divisions. First, the organization, education and training of the Indian family groups that occupy the area decided upon. Secondly, the closing of the area to trapping of beaver and keeping it closed until the capital stock is built up to the desired level. Thirdly, the planning and control of trapping practice by zoning and by fixed quotas when the area comes into production.

Many other fur projects are in the course of development by the Dominion Government in co-operation with the provinces. In Quebec, besides the Nottaway, now in its sixth year, there are: the Peribonca, in its fourth year; the Old Factory, in its third year; and the Abitibi, in its first year under management. In Ontario there are two—the Kesagami in its third year and the Albany River in its second. It is hoped to add another at Wunnumin Lake or its vicinity. These projects average 7,500,000 acres under management and control, or an aggregate of over 40,000,000 acres of beaver country.

In the western provinces, beaver projects (and muskrat projects other than those mentioned at pp. 267 to 268) include developments at Fisher River, Man. (520,000 acres), and in Saskatchewan, developments at Emmeline Lake (500,000 acres), Beaupre Lake (500,000 acres) and Kazan-Cumins Lake (1,200,000 acres). Preliminary work has been undertaken in other districts and the program is being carefully extended as opportunity presents itself, as money is made available, and as the trapping fraternity can be adequately educated to the advantages of planned management in the development of Canada's rich fur resources.

Section 2.—Fur Farming*

An article on the growth of the fur-farming industry in Canada appears at pp. 254 to 259 of the 1942 Canada Year Book.

* Revised in the Fisheries and Animal Products Branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.