

number of agencies; in British Columbia the supervision of the Indian agencies is under the direction of the Indian Commissioner for British Columbia. Expenditures for the assistance of destitute Indians on reserves are made by the Dominion Government, either from public funds or from tribal funds of the Indians.

The Government has undertaken a number of special projects for the various sections of the Indian population in accordance with their needs, including fur development enterprises in selected areas; the promotion of Indian handicraft; and planned agricultural operations.

The Indian Act provides for the enfranchisement of Indians. When an Indian is enfranchised he ceases to be an Indian under the law and acquires the full status of citizenship. In the older provinces, where the Indians have been longer in contact with civilization, many are becoming enfranchised. Great discretion, however, is exercised by the Government in dealing with this problem, as Indians who become enfranchised lose the special protection provided by the Indian Act, so that it is necessary to guard against premature enfranchisement.

Treaties.—In the older eastern provinces, the history of the Indians has been one of slow development with that of the community. In western Ontario, the Prairie Provinces and the Territories the situation has been different. There, the rapid spread of civilization made it necessary to take prompt and effective measures to protect the moral claims of the Indians, which are recognized by the Government. Accordingly, treaties were entered into with the Indians whereby the latter ceded to the Crown their aboriginal title and interest in the country. In consideration of such cession the Crown agreed to: set aside adequate reserves; make cash grants; provide per capita annuities; give assistance in agriculture, stock-raising, hunting, trapping, etc., as particular circumstances might require; provide education for the Indian children; and otherwise safeguard the Indians' interests. These treaties were made from time to time as occasion arose and as new territories were opened up. No treaty has been made with the Indians of British Columbia, except in the Peace River Block, but their welfare has received no less attention from the Government on that account.

Government Expenditure.—At Mar. 31, 1943, the balance of the Indian Trust Fund, which a year earlier had amounted to \$14,641,214, had increased to \$15,027,772. The amounts expended from the Consolidated Revenue Fund were as follows: voted by Parliament for the purposes of the Department, \$4,980,560, annuities by statute, \$261,741; and special supplementary, \$93,814.

Population.—The Indian Affairs Branch takes a quinquennial census of the Indians under its control. The results of the latest of these censuses, taken in 1939, show a total of 118,378 Indians as compared with 112,510 in 1934 and 108,012 in 1929, an increase of 9.9 p.c. in ten years. Details are given in the Annual Report of the Department of Mines and Resources for 1940. The figures given in Table 2 are those of the eight Dominion decennial censuses since Confederation, and include some thousands of persons of Indian racial origin who are not on the reserves but are living as ordinary citizens of Canada.