

Reserves.—Reserves, or lands set aside by the Federal Government for the use of Indian bands, number more than 2,000. They vary in size from a few acres to 500 square miles. Except by special expropriation for public purposes, these reserves cannot be alienated without the mutual consent of the Government and the Indian owners. All reserve land is community property and the individual holding, in so far as the land is concerned, is only the right of occupation, although the individual holder owns his improvements. Most Indians live on these reserves, which were designed primarily to provide them with a refuge where they could live, move, and have their being without fear of exploitation or molestation. In the far north, however, where the lands are unsettled, there is no need for reserves, though the Indians living there are organized into bands and dealt with as band groups for purposes of administration.

Trust Funds.—Many of the Indian bands have community trust funds which are administered for their benefit by the Indian Affairs Branch. These funds, derived mainly from the sale of natural resources, have increased from some \$200,000 in 1870, to more than \$18,400,000 in 1948. They represent the total of approximately 480 separate accounts.

Education.—Until about a century ago, Indian education was largely a missionary effort carried on by the churches and by the Indians themselves. Gradually the Government entered into the field and Indian education was developed under the joint auspices of the Government and leading religious denominations. At present, practically the entire cost of Indian education is being borne by the Government. Statistics of enrolment and attendance in Indian schools are given in the Education Chapter at pp. 323-324.

Paralleling the education of Indian children through day-school services, are the many and varied adult-education services which are specially designed to encourage economic adjustment of the Indians to modern life. This important work is receiving the close attention of the Department in all settled parts of the Dominion. The policy of the Department and the efforts of the staff are directed towards making the Indians self-supporting.

Welfare.—For humanitarian reasons and in the interests of national economy, the Indian Affairs Branch promotes farming, fishing, lumbering, trapping and other sound ventures on Indian reserves and throughout northern Canada at public expense. Pure-bred herd sires are purchased for use on Indian reserves in western Canada. In addition, during the years 1947-48, three pure-bred experimental herds have been established. Farm machinery for use by the Indians, under direction of local Indian agents and farm instructors, is purchased by the Department and remains the property of the Government. Lumbering is promoted on Indian reserves on which timber is mature, and assistance is rendered Indians in the preparation of lumber for building purposes. The Indian Affairs Branch operates 12 sawmills across the Dominion, owned outright or on a partnership basis with certain groups of Indians. This is in addition to numerous portable mills owned by the Indians themselves. The 1948-49 Indian Affairs Welfare Appropriation included an amount of \$802,315 for assistance to Indians in a modern home and related buildings program.

During 1948-49 special assistance was granted to needy Indians who reached the age of 70 years, \$241,590 being provided for this purpose. Payment started in September, 1948.