

An area of 425,000 acres in the district surrounding The Pas, Man., has been developed into a highly successful muskrat project. It was started about 1936 as a joint Dominion-Provincial scheme, and for the past seven years has been administered by the Province, subject to the recommendations of the Joint Dominion-Manitoba Fur Advisory Board.

Two beaver preserves in Ontario and five in Quebec, exclusively for Indians, are being administered by the Federal Government in co-operation with the provinces concerned. Two older preserves, on the Nottaway River and in the Abitibi district in the Province of Quebec, produced more than 1,000 beaver each in 1948, realizing an amount in excess of \$100,000 for the trappers.

Similar projects are progressing in Saskatchewan and Alberta. In addition to these community hunting preserves, Indian participation in individual registered traplines is proving an increasingly important factor in the rehabilitation of the hunting Indian. This system has been evolved because experience has shown that trapping under the former ordinary permit system led to recurring periods of depletion necessitating complete close seasons every few years.

Revolving Fund Loans.—Under an amendment to the Indian Act, passed in 1938, the Department may grant Revolving Fund Loans to Indian bands, groups, or individual Indians for the purchase of farm implements, machinery, live stock, fishing and hunting equipment, seed grain and materials to be used in native handicrafts. Such loans to individuals are not generally approved, however, and are considered only under exceptional circumstances. Money may be expended and loaned from the Revolving Fund Loan for the carrying out of co-operative projects on behalf of the Indians.

Treaties.—From their first contact with the Indians of North America, the British recognized an Indian title or interest in the soil, and considered such interest as one to be parted with or extinguished only by formal bilateral agreement. This was the beginning of the system of Indian treaties and surrenders which has been the fundamental basis of Indian policy, both in Canada and the United States. Only about one-half of the Canadian Indian population are actually adherents to formal treaties with the Dominion. The welfare of Indians not under treaties, however, receives no less attention from the Government on that account.

Economic Adjustment.—With the spread of settlement, the Indians entered a difficult transition period from their simple, primitive economy to a modern and rapidly changing life. Their economic adjustment problems vary greatly in different parts of the country, according to local conditions and opportunities and associations with the rest of the community. Originally, all Indians were hunters and the depletion of game following colonization, amounting to virtual disappearance of game and fur-bearing animals in many areas, played havoc with their native economy.

In the Prairie Provinces, the Government has followed a policy of agricultural and stock-raising education among the Indians, which has met with worthwhile success, considering the fact that these Indians had no previous agricultural experience.

After the disappearance of the buffalo in 1878, the prairie Indians were left destitute and had to be cared for. To-day, they are successful ranchers and grain-growers—a remarkable transition in a few generations.

On the Pacific Coast, the Indians have always been fishermen and seafarers and they have taken readily to the fishing industry in which to-day they are commercially efficient and prosperous. Many own boats and the shipshape and spick-