

Handicraft and Home Industries.—In 1938, a small section of the Indian welfare and training service was established for the purpose of encouraging handicrafts and home industries. Loans from a revolving fund were made available to groups of Indians desiring to produce and market articles made on Indian reserves and assistance was given in securing necessary materials.

In order to build up a stock of various lines and to assist in the setting of standards of quality, all goods produced on organized reserves are sent to a central warehouse at Ottawa. The articles produced are inspected by senior Indian workers on the reserves and carefully inspected again by the departmental craft supervisor when received at the warehouse. In addition to the production of basketry, bark and wooden articles of various types, handicrafts such as metal work and loom weaving are promoted in schools and on reserves.

Indian Medical Services.—Information under this heading will be found in the Health and Welfare Chapter at pp. 239-40 of this volume.

Fur Conservation.—Almost one-half, or about 60,000, of the Indian population of Canada are still located in the northern and outlying regions and are very largely dependent on hunting and fishing for their livelihood. Their fortunes, therefore, fluctuate with fur catches and prices.

In recent years, the Federal Government has made successful efforts to assist Indian hunters and trappers by fur-conservation and development projects. By arrangements with the provinces, large areas have been set aside as Indian hunting preserves. Fur preserves, used as illustration stations and training grounds, are helping the Indian to practise fur conservation which, in turn, is resulting in annually increasing benefits for participating Indians. Remarkable results have been achieved in these protected areas, particularly with muskrat and beaver.

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 federal-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 individually registered trap lines 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 of Mines and Resources 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