

approved, however, and are considered only under exceptional circumstances. Under this amendment money may be lent for the carrying out of co-operative projects on behalf of the Indians.

Enfranchisement.—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 rights and responsibilities of Canadian citizenship. Great discretion, therefore, is exercised by the Federal Government in dealing with this problem, as Indians who become enfranchised lose the special protection attached to their Indian status.

Subsection 2.—The Eskimos of Canada*

The Eskimos in Canada are found principally north of the tree-line on the northern fringe of the mainland and around the coasts of the islands in the Arctic Archipelago and in Hudson Bay. Most of the Eskimos are coastal dwellers, obtaining much of their food and clothing from the mammals of the sea. However, there are bands of Eskimos living in the interior of Keewatin District, on the west side of Hudson Bay, who are inland people and who subsist chiefly on caribou and fish.

It will be evident that the economy of these nomadic people depends entirely on hunting, trapping and fishing. Hunting produces local food while trapping produces furs to trade for the white man's goods. With variations in the supply of game for either food or fur and the drastic changes in price characteristic of the fur trade, it will be apparent that this is a precarious economy.

The 1941 Decennial Census of Canada established the Eskimo population at 7,639, of which 1,965 were located in northern Quebec. The Eskimo population of Canada, excluding Labrador, was estimated as of December, 1948, to be 8,378.

The Lands and Development Services Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources is charged with the administration of Eskimo affairs. The aims of the administration are:—

- (1) to ensure a sound Eskimo economy;
- (2) to enable the Eskimos to make a wise adjustment to the advance of civilization and to maintain their independence, initiative and integrity in the face of this advance; and
- (3) to give them full opportunity to develop to the stage where they can assume the full rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

The question of the ability of wildlife resources to support the native population is becoming an acute problem. To conserve the natural resources necessary for the subsistence of the Eskimos, the Administration has introduced game preserves where only natives may hunt and trap. In addition, game regulations provide for the efficient use of wildlife, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police encourage hunting practices which will conserve the supply of game both on land and in the sea. The Federal Government has for a number of years operated a reindeer project near Aklavik, which was undertaken primarily as a possible means of improving the economic condition of the Eskimos. Research is going on to determine the suitability of other areas for reindeer culture and to determine the possibility of developing other resources, such as fisheries, thus broadening the native economy.

* Prepared under the direction of R. A. Gibson, I.S.O., Director, Lands and Development Services Branch, Department of Mines and Resources. After this material was prepared this Branch was transferred (February, 1950), as the Development Services Branch, to the newly created Department of Resources and Development.