

Edward Island all the land is alienated and there are no provincial public lands. In the other Maritime Provinces and in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia (except the Railway Belt and the Peace River Block), public lands have been administered by the Provincial Governments since the time of Confederation. In 1930 the Federal Government transferred the natural resources of the Prairie Provinces and of sections of British Columbia to the Provincial Governments concerned, so that, since that year, public lands in all provinces have been under provincial administration. Information regarding provincial public lands may be obtained from the respective provinces. (See the Directory of Sources of Official Information, Chapter XXX under "Lands".)

In certain of the provinces extensive areas have been set aside from provincial lands as parks and reserves. These areas are dealt with in Chapter I, pp. 32-36.

Section 2.—The Indians and Eskimos of Canada

THE INDIANS OF CANADA*

History.—The Indians, it is believed, came in successive migrations in pre-historic times from northern Asia, probably by way of Bering Strait. They are not one race, but are divided into a number of basic linguistic stocks or language groups which are, in turn, subdivided into tribal groups with many local dialects. There are ten linguistic groups, of which four are found east of the 'Rockies'—Algonkian, Athapaskan, Iroquoian, and Siouan—and six are found west of the 'Rockies' in British Columbia—Kootenayan, Salishan, Wakashan, Tsimshian, Haida, and Tlinkit. They are subdivided further into many tribes with widely differing physical and psychological characteristics and cultures. The Indians of Algonkian stock are the most numerous, cover an area from the Atlantic Ocean to the Rocky Mountains, and include such well-known tribes as the Micmacs of the Provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the Montagnais of Quebec, and the Ojibwas, Crees, and Blackfeet. Iroquoian stock, including the Hurons, are found mainly in Ontario and Quebec. Athapaskan stock inhabit the Northwest Territories and Yukon while tribes of Sioux are located in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Before the advent of the European, the number of Indians was undoubtedly larger than to-day, but little reliable information is available as to the population during either the French or the early British regimes. The best estimate, however, of the aboriginal Indian population of what is now Canada is slightly in excess of 200,000.

Shortly after the intrusion of European settlers throughout their domains the Indian population began to dwindle. The major contributing factors for this decrease were: (1) the necessity for sudden and often complete change in habits of life; (2) the near extinction of the buffalo and other species of wild game as major food, clothing, and shelter items in the economy of Indian life, and the adoption of non-Indian foods and diet; (3) the introduction of diseases not prevalent among the Indians, such as measles, whooping-cough, scarlet fever, smallpox, tuberculosis, and venereal diseases; (4) the comparative closer confinement and congestion and the adoption of houses at permanent locations as contrasted with the former nomadic life in temporary teepees; (5) slowness to adjust to conditions imposed by European civilization, which was so completely different from their own.

* Prepared under the direction of Laval Fortier, Deputy Minister, Department of Citizenship and Immigration, Ottawa.