

Other significant steps in Indian welfare included the liberalization of the basic scale of foods issued to destitute Indians, and the appointment of three additional social workers for duty on Indian reserves. These workers, who provide leadership in community activities among Indians, are at work in almost all reserves. The Indian Affairs Branch also continued its policy of improving existing Indian dwellings and constructing new homes on reserves.

Indian Education.—There was a total enrolment of 24,871 pupils in Indian day schools and residential schools during the 1950-51 school year. In addition, 1,468 children attended elementary grades in provincial and private schools and 564 pupils were enrolled in secondary grades and special courses in these institutions. It is significant to note that over a ten-year period the total enrolment at day and residential schools rose from 17,425 to the 1950-51 figure of 24,871, and that during that same period the percentage of attendance climbed from 82.4 to 89.7. These increases are attributed not only to the continuing construction of schools where necessary but also to the growing recognition by the Indians of the desirability of education and to the improvements in the standards of teachers and of schools and equipment.

Fur Conservation.—The fur rehabilitation work carried on in co-operation with the various provinces is continuing. Indians are adopting in increasing measure the conservation and management techniques necessary to restore this basic industry, on which more than one-half of the total Indian population still depends for subsistence.

Beaver production figures have risen steadily in areas in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario under management by virtue of formal agreements now in effect. For example, the beaver crop in Manitoba rose from 3,379 in 1945 to 14,439 in 1950; in Saskatchewan, from 1,646 in 1947 to 10,495 in 1950; and in Ontario, from 47,276 in 1947 to 73,759 in 1950. Numbers of beavers, as well as the pelts taken, have continued to increase on the areas set aside by the Province of Quebec for the exclusive use of Indians.

Six full-time fur supervisors are now employed across Canada to assist the Indians to derive the fullest possible benefits from trapping operations.

Indian Trust Fund.—The credit balance of the Indian trust fund as at Mar. 31, 1951, was \$20,232,930, made up of \$15,103,948 in capital account and \$5,128,982 in revenue account which, at the end of the year, showed increased balances of \$270,149 and \$818,951, respectively. Interest paid by the Government on the trust fund amounted to \$956,512. Other major items of income to the fund included land leases, \$473,779; timber, \$492,559; oil exploration rights, \$758,559; and land sales, \$97,973. The total expenditure from the trust fund in the year ended Mar. 31, 1951, was \$2,764,222, chiefly for agricultural assistance, relief, distributions of cash in accordance with the provisions of land surrenders, housing construction and improvements, road building, and loans to Indians.

Statistics.—The Indian Affairs Branch takes a census of the Indians at five-year intervals. The figures in the following tables are the latest available. At the time of the preparation of this material, information regarding the Indian population collected at the 1951 Decennial Census was not yet ready for publication.