

To supplement the work of the missions, which operate schools in a number of settlements assisted by Government grants, the Government has, since the end of the Second World War, built eight schools primarily for Eskimo children. These schools are spread across the top of the continent from the Mackenzie Delta to northern Quebec—at Aklavik, Tuktoyaktuk, Coppermine, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Cape Dorset, Port Harrison and Fort Chimo. Missions are also assisted in the operation of two industrial homes, one at Chesterfield Inlet and the other at Pangnirtung, where aged and physically handicapped Eskimos are cared for. Considerable attention has been given in recent years to the conservation of the wildlife resources upon which the Eskimo depends for his livelihood. Game preserves have been established where only natives may hunt and trap and encouragement is given to the observance of hunting practices designed to conserve the supply of game and fish.

To help clarify and co-ordinate thinking on Eskimo problems, a round-table conference was held in May 1952 of all organizations, government and private, concerned with the Eskimos. Represented were the Departments of Resources and Development, Mines and Technical Surveys, National Health and Welfare, Transport, National Defence, and Public Works, as well as the R.C.M.P., the Church of England and Roman Catholic missions, the Hudson's Bay Company, and individuals with special knowledge of or interest in Eskimos. As a result of this conference a continuing committee was established to study the problems of the Eskimos, with a sub-committee to give special attention to educational problems. The first meeting of the committee was held in October 1952. In matters of health it was decided to establish two convalescent or rehabilitation centres for Eskimos who have recovered from tuberculosis and are returning again to the rigours of northern life. These centres will be located at Driftpile, Alta., and Frobisher Bay, southern Baffin Island.

In the education field, it is proposed to extend the present school system (*see also pp. 319-320*) to provide hostels at schools for Eskimo children who live away from the settlements. Many of these children could attend school during the spring and summer months without interfering too much with their normal, nomadic way of life. Plans are also under way to provide higher education and technical training for those who show particular aptitude. Eskimos with the necessary qualifications will be assisted to prepare themselves for work as teachers, nurses or artisans, either among their own people or in settlements in or out of the Arctic. An eight-room school to include high-school classes will be erected at Aklavik, N.W.T., and the existing school there will be converted into a vocational training centre.

An Eskimo Research Unit was established by the Northern Administration and Lands Branch of the Department of Resources and Development to study Eskimo problems and to work in conjunction with the continuing committee. Efforts will be made to encourage self-sufficiency of the Eskimo by better utilization of the existing resources of the country and the development of small local industries such as whaling, fishing, boat-building, manufacture of clothing, eiderdown collecting and art handicrafts. Eskimos in over-populated or depleted areas will be encouraged and assisted to move to areas where game is more plentiful or where employment may be found. A fund has been established from which loans may be made to assist Eskimos to carry out approved projects for the betterment of their economy.