

have maintained their existence against a harsh unrelenting climate in a region where food, being almost entirely fish or animal, requires great skill to obtain and is most unpredictable in its availability. Advancing civilization has, however, brought many problems to Canada's northernmost citizens, who have been literally translated from the Stone Age to the Atomic Age in a period of 40 to 50 years, and to these problems the Federal Government has been giving increasing attention.

The Northern Administration and Lands Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources is responsible for the administration of Eskimo affairs. The Department of National Health and Welfare is responsible for health and medical services. Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachments throughout the north undertake field duties for both Departments. In fact, the problems involved in looking after a sparse Eskimo population scattered over about 900,000 sq. miles of territory requires the continuous co-operation of all northern inhabitants—teachers, missionaries, traders, doctors, nurses, radio operators and weather-station personnel. Administrative contact is maintained by radio and through the Eastern Arctic Patrol which carries representatives of the Administration and other government departments on an annual inspection tour. Officers of the Administration also make periodic visits to Arctic posts by air.

Family allowances are paid to Eskimos in kind from a list designed to supplement rather than to supplant the normal native diet. Eskimos also enjoy the full benefits of old age security and old age assistance payments and of allowances for blind persons.

Missions, assisted by Government grants, operate hospitals at Aklavik, Chesterfield Inlet and Pangnirtung, and the Department of National Health and Welfare has nursing stations at Coppermine, Fort Chimo, Coral Harbour, Port Harrison, Cape Dorset and Lake Harbour. Tuberculosis and other medical surveys are carried out from year to year and treatment, where necessary, is provided either at the hospitals within the territory or at larger institutions outside.

An Arctic Division has been established by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources to study and deal expressly with Eskimo problems. This Division has the benefit of the advice of a continuing advisory committee composed of representatives of organizations, government and private, concerned with the Eskimos. Efforts are being 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 are being 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.

Since 1945 the Government has built eight schools primarily for Eskimo children. They are located at centres spread from the Mackenzie delta in the west to northern Quebec—Aklavik, Tuktoyaktuk, Coppermine, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Cape Dorset, Port Harrison and Fort Chimo. Missions, assisted by government grants, also operate schools in many Eskimo settlements as well as 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 study and conservation of the wildlife resources upon