

Regulations provide mainly that the land under lease must not exceed 50 sq. miles. The lessee, who pays an annual rental of \$10, is responsible for his own land which he must occupy 15 days before the opening of the trapping season and evacuate 15 days after its close. Each year he must make an inventory of his land and report on the location of the beaver huts thereon. He must hold a special permit to hunt beaver and must prove that there are at least five huts on his land. The quota allowed at the outset is one beaver per hut; as the population increases, the quota is raised to 1½ beavers per hut. Beaver pelts must be specially labelled before marketing.

The present registered game territory extends over 30,000 sq. miles. More than 400 trappers hold permits and the quota allowed for the capture of beaver, negligible at the outset, was 5,227 in 1953-54. Three additional areas will be under production by 1956 and two areas are now (1954) under initial organization. Steps are being taken also to assist in the re-establishment of marten, the population of which has been steadily decreasing.

Ontario.—Ontario's fur and big game wealth is administered by the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, under the authority of the Ontario Game and Fisheries Act, the Wolf and Bear Bounty Act, and regulations thereunder.

In the production of wild-caught fur, Ontario leads all other Canadian provinces. In the season of 1952-53 wild fur taken in Ontario was valued at almost \$4,000,000. Included in this were the pelts of 122,600 beaver, valued at \$1,612,000. Other important species, in order of decreasing total value, were muskrat, mink, otter, raccoon, fisher, weasel, marten, skunk, red fox and lynx.

Much credit for the high production of wild fur in Ontario is attributed to the efficient system of fur management now in effect. Throughout most of the chief fur-producing areas all trappers—the great majority of whom are Indians—are holders of Registered Trapline Licences. Under this system each trapper is registered with the Province as the sole permittee on a defined trapping area. Thus, competitive trapping has been almost entirely eliminated in all but the primarily agricultural areas of the Province, and the Department is in a position to set quotas to restrict the annual take of the less abundant species during times of scarcity. Such species as beaver, marten, fisher and lynx, comparatively rare in the Province a few years ago, have now attained populations which permit larger annual harvests to be taken than have been possible for many years.

Manitoba.—The fur resources of Manitoba represent one of the major phases of development by the government. Wild fur taken in 1952-53 totalled \$2,116,157 and royalties to the Province amounted to \$149,689. Value of the take was 16 p.c. below the 1951-52 figure.

Two major conservation projects have been responsible for the rehabilitation of wild fur. The Province has reclaimed old marshlands as Fur Rehabilitation Blocks where muskrat trapping is carried out under special permits. Since 1940 a total of 2,378,684 muskrats with a gross value of \$5,002,166 has been taken from five such Fur Rehabilitation Blocks having a total area of 2,013,440 acres.

The second great stride in fur conservation has been the institution of Registered Traplines throughout the northern part of the Province. Beaver production in this area has risen from a forced close season until 1944 to a record crop of 22,850 beaver