

that it has become necessary to move them to districts where their activity will not cause damage. Nuisance animals are usually liberated on Indian traplines that need re-stocking.

Muskrat and squirrel are consistently the most important source of revenue among British Columbia furs. At one time marten was most in demand, but now mink appears to be taking precedence.

It is unlawful to ship fur out of or into the Province without permission and also to ship fur within the Province without plainly labelling the parcel with the sender's name, address and the number of his Special Firearms Licence. These regulations enable the game authorities to keep close control over fur shipments. Almost all of the raw fur business is centred in Vancouver and a game warden is posted there to supervise fur sales and fur traders. His regular visits to the traders keep infractions of the regulations at a minimum.

Low prices caused by changes in fashion and other factors such as the relatively high wages in construction and other industries, have made trapping fur for a livelihood unattractive in recent years. Little trapping is carried on to-day as compared with earlier years and, in consequence, fur bearers have become quite prevalent in all parts of the Province. The number of pelts upon which royalty was paid during 1953 was 450,117, of which 77 p.c. were squirrel; 11 p.c. muskrat; 4 p.c. mink; 3 p.c. weasel; and 2 p.c. beaver. The remainder included badger, bear, fisher, silver, red and cross fox, lynx, marten, otter, raccoon, skunk and wolverine.

**Yukon Territory.**—Registered trapline legislation, introduced in 1950, has been completed throughout Yukon Territory and 390 individual trapline registrations have been approved for the area extending from the southern border to the 65th parallel of latitude. North of the 65th parallel the trappers, who are nomadic bands of Indians, have registered on two group-trapping areas: one, for the Loucheaux Band No. 10 of Old Crow, has 32 registrations approved for heads of families, and the other, for the Loucheaux Band No. 7 of Fort McPherson, N.W.T., has 28 registrations. The initial registration fee for a trapline, either group or individual, is \$10 and the annual renewal fee is \$5.

During the past few years, trapline activities have been discouraged by low fur prices and trappers have been forced to find other occupations. As a consequence, the over-all picture of the fur population is good. Beaver, fox, lynx and squirrel are more prevalent and marten, mink and muskrat are more than holding their own in number; on the other hand, fisher, wolverine, otter and weasel are scarce. The predators, wolves and coyotes, appear to be increasing. Pelts taken in the 1952-53 season included: squirrel, 186,345; muskrat, 52,604; beaver, 2,202; marten, 1,923; weasel, 1,827; mink, 747; lynx, 408; red, white, cross and silver fox, 105; otter, 50; fisher, 42; and bear, 22.

The only fur-bearing animal on a quota is beaver: trappers are permitted to shoot or trap one beaver from each beaver house, including bank beaver. Trapping may be prohibited over an area covered by a trapline permit if this is considered necessary for the conservation of breeding stock. During the months of March and April in 1953 and again in 1954, a lethal control program was conducted against predators, particularly wolves. Poisoned bait was distributed by aircraft over a large number of lakes where wolf concentrations were observed.

Game-law enforcement is in the hands of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; in addition, six Federal Park Wardens and 10 Class A Guides act as game guardians.