

addition, about 1,469,000 muskrats valued at \$1,312,000, were trapped in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Indian participation in the three provinces from the trapping of these fur-bearers was valued at about \$1,430,000. In Quebec nine fur preserves with a total area of approximately 150,000 sq. miles are set aside exclusively for Indian trappers under joint management by the Indian Affairs Branch and the Quebec Department of Fish and Game. The six areas in production during 1954 produced over 17,000 beaver which brought more than \$215,000 to the Indian trappers.

Eight full time supervisors are employed across Canada to assist the Indians to derive the fullest possible benefits from hunting and trapping.

**The Eskimos.\***—The Eskimos are only a fragment of the total population of Canada numbering, according to the 1951 Census, only 9,733 persons. However they are part of the human resources of the country and as such are entitled to the benefits of Canadian citizenship and to assistance in adapting themselves to changing conditions. They, together with the Indians, represent the original inhabitants of Canada and their ingenuity and resourcefulness are illustrated by the fact that they 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 require 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 most 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. The 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 overpopulated 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.

\* Prepared in the Editorial and Information Division, Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Ottawa. See also the special article "The Northland—Canada's Challenge", pp. 22-32 of the 1955 Year Book.