

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. Steps are being taken also to assist in the re-establishment of marten, the population of which has been steadily decreasing.

Ontario.—The fur and big game wealth of Ontario 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 1953-54 wild fur taken in Ontario was valued at almost \$4,000,000 and included pelts of 105,361 beaver, valued at \$1,385,497. Other important species in order of decreasing total value were muskrat, mink, otter, raccoon, fisher, weasel, marten, skunk, red fox and lynx.

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 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. 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.

Big Game.—An early and a late moose season in Ontario are designed to provide sport for hunters and meat for trappers. In some parts of the Province moose of any age or sex are legal game for the resident. In 1954 there were 7,502 resident moose licences and 735 non-resident licences sold. There was a known kill of 1,781 moose, made up of 1,340 bulls, 296 cows, 113 calves, and 32 unspecified.

Over 100,000 deer licences were sold in 1954 and about 30 p.c. of the hunters were successful in getting a deer. There is no open season on woodland caribou at present.

Manitoba.—Fur production and value declined in 1953-54. Wildlife fur taken during the year totalled \$1,574,467 as compared with \$2,116,157 in the previous year. This represented a 15 p.c. decline from the 1952-53 figure.

Registered trapline extension work continued, and major surveys were made in the middle west portion of the province, in preparation for the inclusion of this area in the registered trapline system in 1954-55. Estimated value of the 1953-54 crop from all registered trapline districts was \$152,400 as compared with \$265,666 in 1952-53.

Total wildlife fur production in 1953-54 included 23,324 beaver, 18,391 mink and 739,201 muskrats. Other fur taken is as follows: squirrel 110,010, weasel 62,862, jack rabbit 5,506, silver, blue, cross, white and red fox 2,086, otter 1,866.

The fur ranching industry maintained a high fur market value, and exceeded wildlife fur value for the first time in fur history. Total fur value for ranch bred fur was \$1,994,563.

Saskatchewan.—The wildlife fur industry in Saskatchewan has undergone a period of rapid reorganization in the past ten years. A policy of one trapper for each area has been inaugurated throughout the province, a system providing security for trappers on their traplines.

Unethical practices and lack of management brought beaver to virtual extinction in Saskatchewan by 1944 and the trapping industry in general had reached a low ebb. The Government in 1945 appointed a committee to consider this unfortunate condition and to recommend steps necessary to encourage and assist trappers dependent on fish and game for their livelihood particularly in isolated northern areas.