

of beaver left on his trapline. Before setting out to trap he makes known to the game warden of his area the number of animals he wishes to take; if it is not excessive he receives a tag which must be attached to each pelt. Trappers are not allowed to take more than 25 p.c. of the total population of beaver in their areas and this has played an important part in saving the beaver from extinction. These animals are now so numerous in some areas 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 restocking.

Muskrat and squirrel are consistently the most important source of revenue among British Columbia furs. Marten was once in greatest demand, but 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 today 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 1954 was 459,411, of which 76 p.c. were squirrel, 12 p.c. muskrat, 4 p.c. mink, 3 p.c. weasel and 2 p.c. beaver. The remainder included fisher, silver, red and cross fox, lynx, marten, otter and wolverine.

Yukon Territory.—Registered trapline legislation introduced in 1950 has been completed throughout Yukon Territory and 420 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 33 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 1954-55 season included: squirrel 154,516, muskrat 51,075, beaver 3,641, marten 1,113, weasel 449, mink 721, lynx 1,378, cross fox 15, red fox 31, silver fox 7, white marked fox 274, otter 87, fisher 26 and bear 24.

The only fur bearing animal on a quota is beaver: trappers are permitted to shoot or trap one beaver, including bank beaver, from each beaver house. 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 month of March 1955 the lethal control program conducted since 1953 against predators, particularly wolves, was extended in scope by the establishment of lethal stations as far north as the 66th parallel of latitude. 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.

Northwest Territories.—Utilization of fur and game resources in the Northwest Territories is governed by the Northwest Territories Game Ordinance. Trapping privileges are available only to resident Indians and Eskimos and those white persons who were