

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.—A long season for moose in Ontario provides sport for hunters and meat for trappers. In most parts of the Province moose of any age or sex are legal game for the resident. In 1955 there were 8,959 resident moose licences sold and 1,141 non-resident licences; there was a known kill of 2,381 moose, made up of 1,354 bulls, 771 cows, 245 calves, and 11 unspecified.

Over 100,000 deer licences were sold in 1955 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.—In Manitoba, fur production and value showed a sharp decrease in 1955-56 as compared with the previous year. Furs taken from the wild were valued at \$2,239,892 as compared with the 1954-55 total of \$2,969,804, a decline of almost 25 p.c.

Registered traplines were extended into the southern portions of the Province and into a large area of the western portion around Swan River including the Duck Mountain Forest Reserve. Beaver is the major fur animal taken and beaver pelts from the registered trapline districts were valued at \$219,343 in 1954-55 as compared with \$152,400 in the previous year.

Wild fur production by species during 1955-56 included: 27,213 beaver, 15,708 mink, 1,301,972 muskrat, 123,237 squirrel, 95,119 weasel and 2,069 fox (silver, blue, cross, white and red).

The fur-ranching industry had a record production in 1955-56 of \$3,847,827, considerably exceeding the value of wild fur taken.

Saskatchewan.—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 recommend what steps might be taken to encourage and assist persons dependent on fish and game for their livelihood, particularly in isolated northern areas. As a result the wildlife fur industry in Saskatchewan has been completely reorganized during the past ten years. The system of allowing only one trapper for a given area, inaugurated throughout the Province, is providing security for trappers on their traplines.

A Fur Marketing Service was established in Regina to give fur-producers a local auction where furs could be graded, displayed and sold. A Fur Conservation Agreement was concluded in 1946 whereby the Federal Government and the Government of Saskatchewan agreed to make certain annual expenditures for the purpose of managing fur and game and improving wildlife habitat in the northern isolated areas for the benefit of the residents of those areas. The particular interest of the Federal Government in this region is the welfare of Treaty Indians who are its wards. Regulations under the Agreement gave Indians, métis, and whites equal rights and security on their community, family or individual traplines. Local councils were elected by the trappers to act as spokesmen on their behalf when dealing with the provincial Department of Natural Resources. During the subsequent five years, 3,600 live beaver were moved from settled areas to new homes in the northern frontier where they were required for propagation purposes and for the improvement and maintenance of water levels. The result of this action has been a steady increase in the population of beaver, while the take has increased from approximately 400 pelts in 1943-44 to 41,666 in 1955-56.

A muskrat trapping program was inaugurated in southern Saskatchewan in 1946 under which each trapper in settled areas obtains a permit describing the area in which he is authorized to trap muskrats. General close seasons are a thing of the past and muskrats existing in any section may be trapped on the basis of the program. Average yearly production since 1946 has been almost tripled in relation to the average production for a similar earlier period. The 1955 crop of about 1,951,800 muskrats was the highest ever recorded in the Province; 1956 production was 1,731,978 pelts.