

**British Columbia.**—In 1926, effective control of fur-bearing animals in British Columbia commenced and a registered trapline system went into effect. Under this system registered trappers are granted exclusive rights over designated areas. Each is given a sketch map and legal description of the territory and is required to submit an annual 'return of catch' outlining the amount and kind of fur obtained. These returns provide an accurate check of the fur taken from each district. The system of registered traplines has worked remarkably well and is practically trouble-free.

Registered traplines cover all lands except private property, National Parks, Indian reserves, municipalities and certain other reserved areas. Trapping on private property may be pursued by the property owner himself or by someone to whom the owner has given permission, provided the trapper obtains a Special Firearms Licence which costs \$10 and which must be held by all trappers; this licence entitles the legal holder to hunt all types of large and small game. In 1955, 2,798 such licences were granted. In addition, about 1,500 Indians were engaged in trapping: because they are not required to be licensed at present, their take is not recorded and the fur records for the Province are incomplete to that extent.

Fur-bearers in the Province include bear, badger, beaver, fisher, fox, lynx, marten, mink, muskrat, otter, raccoon, skunk, squirrel, weasel and wolverine. Wolf, coyote, cougar and wildcat are classed as predators although the pelts of these animals are sometimes marketable. There is no close season on the predators or on raccoon, skunk, wolverine and black and brown bear. Raccoons and foxes have become so numerous in certain parts of the Province that they also may be considered as predators.

Trapping seasons are confined to the winter months, usually commencing Nov. 1, but beaver may be taken in some areas as late as May 24. Beaver are covered by tagging regulations under which the trapper is required to submit a yearly estimate of the number 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 in need of restocking.

Muskrat and squirrel are consistently the most important source of revenue among the furs of British Columbia. 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 the trapping of 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 1955 was 359,365, 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.**—Under registered trapline legislation introduced in 1950, 420 individual trapline registrations have been approved for the area extending from the southern border to the 65th parallel of latitude. Beyond this line to the northern boundary the trappers, who are nomadic bands of Indians, have registered on two group-trapping