

areas; one, for the Loucheaux Band No. 10 of Old Crow, has 32 registrations approved for heads of families, and the other, for the Loucheaux Band No. 7 of Fort McPherson, N.W.T., has five 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, low fur prices have discouraged trapline activities and trappers have been forced to find other occupations. As a consequence, 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. Pelts taken in the 1955-56 season included: 51,323 squirrel, 49,947 muskrat, 3,162 beaver, 949 marten, 837 weasel, 651 mink (plus ranch raised 125), 2,029 lynx, 24 cross fox, 59 red fox, 6 silver fox, 85 white fox, 48 otter, 42 fisher, 3 bear, white or polar, 29 bear not specified, 232 wolverine, 19 wolf and 4 coyote.

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 months of February, March and April 1957, 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 three federal park wardens, 20 grade A and B guides and 15 appointed citizens act as game guardians.

**Northwest Territories.**—Utilization of the 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 licensed to hunt and trap in the Territories prior to 1938 and who have continued to reside therein. Provision is also made for the issue of general hunting licences to the descendants of these white persons provided they have continued to reside in the Northwest Territories and are dependent upon hunting for a livelihood.

Because of the nomadic nature of the Eskimo and the large areas over which he must hunt and trap, there is no provision for trapline registration in the Franklin and Keewatin Districts though a number of game preserves have been established in the Territories. Largest of these is the Arctic Islands Game Preserve which comprises all the Arctic Islands north of the mainland and a large area on the mainland.

Provision under the Game Ordinance for the establishment of registered traplines became effective in the Mackenzie District on July 1, 1949. Under this legislation, exclusive trapping rights in limited areas are granted to the trappers to encourage them to manage carefully the fur-bearers found there and to effect improvements leading to increased fur production. The Mackenzie District is divided into eight Game Management Districts, covering 369,315 sq. miles—over 50 p.c. under registration. There are 271 individual registered areas and 102 group areas.

The downward trend of the fur market in recent years has caused trappers to lose interest in trapline activities; many have obtained employment elsewhere and others are reluctant to trap very far away from the settlements. After showing a considerable increase in 1954-55, the trapping industry declined again in 1955-56. In the latter year 366,000 pelts were taken valued at \$806,000 as compared with 478,000 in 1954-55 with a value of \$1,167,000. Thus the fur trade continues in a depressed condition and there is no indication of substantial revival. White fox production dropped to 27,720 in 1955-56 as compared with 60,483 in 1954-55 which was the peak year of the four-year cycle. Muskrat and beaver production also declined considerably mainly because of low prices for pelts.

Beaver are taken on a quota basis. Trappers are permitted to shoot or trap one beaver for each occupied beaver lodge. In areas where beaver are scarce and where conditions are suitable, transplant operations have been carried out. Close or short seasons