

ation, Band funds, Veterans' Land Act grants and personal contributions was \$2,386,630. The value of repairs during the year from the same sources amounted to \$439,747. Of these amounts the Indians, through Band funds, Veterans' Land Act grants and personal contributions, provided over 55 p.c. of the cost of new housing and over 59 p.c. of the expenditure on repairs.

Loans are available from a Revolving Loan Fund to assist Indians to become established in agriculture, forestry, fishing, handicrafts, guiding and trapping and to help with the purchase of tools and equipment.

During 1957 a program of urban job placement was initiated with the appointment of Placement Officers in four regions. One of their responsibilities is the permanent placement, through the facilities of the National Employment Service, of selected Indians who have acquired academic and vocational training. A program of rural employment in such fields as forestry, mining, road clearing, construction and agriculture is under development.

Fur Conservation.—During 1957 the fur conservation program undertaken in co-operation with the various provinces was continued. Approximately 152,802 beaver pelts valued at \$1,720,870 were taken in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan and in these three provinces, about 2,260,045 muskrats valued at approximately \$1,966,986 were trapped. Benefits accruing to Indians from the trapping of these fur bearers amounted to about \$2,212,713. In Quebec, ten fur preserves with a total area of approximately 294,000 sq. miles are set aside exclusively for Indian trapping under the joint management of the Indian Affairs Branch and the Quebec Department of Game and Fisheries. The seven areas in production during the 1957 season produced 20,099 beaver which brought nearly \$327,537 to the Indian trappers.

Eight full-time supervisors are employed across Canada to help the Indians derive the fullest possible benefits from hunting and trapping.

The Eskimos.*—The Eskimos, who according to the 1956 Census number approximately 11,000, form only a small part of the total population of Canada. Nevertheless as citizens of this country and an important part of the human resources of the North they are entitled to the benefits of citizenship and to assistance in meeting the problems arising from the great changes taking place in their environment. They, like the northern Indians, have a standard of living far below the national average. For many of them life has become precarious because of the drastic decline in the supply of caribou, fluctuating fur prices, the increasing penetration into the Arctic from the south, and the growth in population. The long-established patterns of life in Arctic Canada are being altered rapidly but not without serious disturbances in the native economy.

The Government of Canada, through the Northern Administration and Lands Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, and the Indian and Northern Health Services of the Department of National Health and Welfare, is doing everything in its power to ease the plight of those Eskimos and Indians who are faced with hardship and to raise generally the standards of health, education and economic position. Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachments throughout the North perform field duties for both Departments. In fact, the problems involved in looking after a sparse Eskimo population scattered over about 900,000 sq. miles of territory require the continuous co-operation of all northern inhabitants—teachers, missionaries, traders, doctors, nurses, administrators, radio operators and weather personnel. Administrative contact is maintained by radio and through the Central and Western Arctic and Eastern Arctic Patrols which carry representatives of the Administration and other government departments on an annual inspection tour. Officers of the Administration also make periodic visits by air.

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