

the realization that fur-bearing animals are a renewable resource and that proper management can provide much greater returns. Legislation has therefore been passed by provincial governments and by the Federal Government sharply limiting the trapping pressure in the areas under their respective control. The establishment of National Parks and Game Sanctuaries has provided areas where animals may increase unmolested and repopulate formerly depleted areas. Intensive forest fire control and forest management have assured a continuous habitat suited to mammal needs.

One of the major management techniques developed has been the introduction of registered trapping areas. Under this plan, each trapper has some opportunity of managing his own area to provide the greatest possible return while sustaining the yield. With the guidance of conservation education the trapper is taking his place as an intelligent partner in the maintenance and expansion of the fur industry.

Unfortunately, the possible benefit from the increase in potential fur production brought about by fur farming and intelligent harvesting methods has been largely nullified by declining prices. The decline in popularity of fur as an article of clothing has been particularly noticeable since the end of the War and low prices have brought considerable hardship to those people, particularly northern residents, who depend on the fur crop as a major source of income. In the light of this situation, the Federal Government has arranged a series of international exhibitions designed to stimulate the market for Canadian fur. Research to determine actual numbers and status of fur-bearers is being carried on by the provincial governments in the provinces and by the Canadian Wildlife Service in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, with the objective of improving management practices and maintaining closer control of fur harvests.

The relative value of the fur industry in Canada's economy has, of course, lowered continuously throughout the years, but the dollar value of the annual fur production has remained fairly constant.

Section 2.—Provincial and Territorial Fur Resources and Management

Most of the fur resources of the provinces of Canada are under the administration of the respective provincial governments. Exceptions include those resources within the boundaries of the National Parks and the Indian reserves, and the fur resources of the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories all of which are under the administration of the Federal Government. The Canadian Wildlife Service of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources (*see pp. 22-23*) is responsible for all Federal Government interests in wildlife resources except for those activities closely related to Indian affairs. The service co-operates with provincial governments and other agencies concerned and handles federal interests in relevant national and international problems.

Detailed descriptions of provincial and territorial fur resources and management activities are given in the 1957-58 Year Book, pp. 616-622.

Section 3.—Fur Farming

Fur-bearing animals were first raised in Canada on farms in Prince Edward Island about 1887 and in Quebec in 1898; today fur farming is carried on in all the provinces. Foxes were the first fur-bearers to be raised in captivity on a commercial scale and for a time were of prime importance in the fur farming industry but in 1951 mink accounted for 92 p.c. of the total fur-bearing animals on farms and chinchilla for 7 p.c. Small numbers of raccoon, marten, fisher, fitch, nutria and others are also reared.

There was a slow and steady increase in the number of fur farms until 1920 when 587 were reported, followed by a period of more rapid growth from 1920 to 1938 when the number reached 10,454 with a production value of \$6,500,000. In 1939, when the London and other European markets were lost to the fur industry, prices declined and many fur farms went out of production. Though prices rose considerably after the Second World War, operating costs increased and the number of fur farms, particularly those conducted