

and clam fishing in tidal waters. The province administers these fisheries although the regulations covering them are made under federal Order in Council on the advice and recommendation of the province.

The provincial Fisheries Act provides for the taxation of the fisheries and, under civil and property rights, for the regulation and control of the various fish processing plants under a system of licensing. The commercial harvesting of oysters and marine aquatic plants is regulated by provincial permits and licences. Provision is also made for arbitration of disputes regarding fish prices that may arise between the fishermen and operators of the various licensed plants. The administration of the Act involves the collection of revenue and the supervision of plant operations.

Regulation and administration of net fishing in the non-tidal waters of the province, including commercial fishing and authority for regulation of the game fisheries in non-tidal waters, is vested in the Fish and Game Branch which operates a number of trout hatcheries and egg-taking stations for re-stocking purposes.

The Branch co-operates closely with the Fisheries Research Board of Canada. The biological research into those species of shellfish over which the province has control, principally oysters and clams as well as marine plants, is conducted by the Fisheries Research Board of Canada at the Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, B.C., under agreement with the federal and provincial authorities. The object of this research is to encourage the industry to produce better products more economically and to enable the Commercial Fisheries Branch to regulate the various species so that maximum exploitation may be obtained on a sustained-yield basis.

PART II.—FURS

Section 1.—The Fur Industry*

The value of raw furs produced in Canada in the 1965-66 season amounted to \$45,574,485, ranched furs accounting for 63 p.c. and wild furs for the remainder. This was an increase of almost 25 p.c. over the preceding season, due to the higher prices received for almost all furs and to increased production of many important species, although the total catch was down slightly.

Fur Trapping.—The value of the wild fur catch in 1965-66 was \$16,880,304. Beaver remained the most important wild fur bearer, accounting for 34 p.c. (\$5,739,147) of the total value of wild furs produced. Other important varieties were: muskrat (\$3,207,389), hair seal (\$2,128,900), wild mink (\$1,226,046), fur seal (\$1,009,933) and squirrel (\$561,755). Trapping is carried on in all the provinces and in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, the principal producers, in order of importance, being Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta. A good proportion of the trapped furs still comes from the central and southern portions of the provinces where each year substantial catches of beaver, muskrat, mink, raccoon, wolf and squirrel are made in areas of mixed farm and bushland. In these sectors most of the trappers operate on a part-time basis, combining fur trapping with wage employment. This does not necessarily indicate that the rugged life of the outdoorsman has lost its attraction—rather it is a question of economics. Because of the failure of fur prices to keep pace with rising commodity costs, it is no longer possible to make a satisfactory living solely from the proceeds of the trapping enterprise. Also, up to the 1940s, most of the alternatives to fur trapping were low paid, physically demanding occupations, such as farm work, lumbering and pulpwood cutting and, compared with these, trapping had its attractions. Now, however, all these jobs have been up-graded while returns from trapping have not improved.

In the northern areas, where few opportunities for wage employment exist, trapping remains an important source of revenue. In the Northwest Territories, no trapping licences have been issued to non-natives since 1938, other than to individuals holding

* Prepared by the Livestock Division, Production and Marketing Branch, Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.