

The fur trade continued to be an important factor in the economy of the Territories, as it provides most of the native population with a means of livelihood. In the year ended June 30, 1944, the total fur catch in the Territories was 297,633 pelts having a value of \$2,199,132. During 1945, steps were taken to establish a modern forest and wild life protection service in Mackenzie District, with headquarters at Fort Smith. Added forest protection should have a beneficial effect on the supply of game and fur animals.

Yukon Territory.—An account of the administration of Yukon Territory is given at p. 948 of the 1941 Year Book. The following paragraphs bring that review up to date.

The initiation of joint defence projects in northwestern Canada in 1942 was followed by a period of great activity in Yukon Territory, which continued well into 1945 when United States Forces and construction personnel were largely withdrawn after the cessation of hostilities. Of the war projects undertaken in Yukon Territory, the construction of the Alaska Highway and the Canol pipeline were the most notable. The highway, constructed in 1942-43 from Dawson Creek, B.C., to Fairbanks, Alaska, a distance of 1,523 miles, crosses the southern part of Yukon Territory, and is supplemented by access roads serving airports situated along the Northwest Staging Route. A cut-off road linking Haines, Alaska, with a point on the Alaska Highway about 80 miles west of Whitehorse, was also built. Maintenance of the Alaska Highway was continued by United States authorities until Apr. 1, 1946, when its administration passed to the Canadian Department of National Defence (Army). Travel on the highway is restricted, and is controlled by a Traffic Control Board with headquarters at Edmonton, Alta.

Developments associated with the Canol Project entailed the construction of a pipeline and access road from Norman Wells, N.W.T., across Mackenzie Mountains to Whitehorse, Y.T., and erection of an oil refinery at Whitehorse. The pipeline was put into operation in April, 1944, and the pumping of oil and operation of the refinery was more or less continuous until about Apr. 1, 1945, although drilling and production of oil on Canol account had been ordered terminated by the United States Government on Mar. 8, 1945.

Mining continued to be the principal industry of the Territory, and an increase in gold production, as well as in mining activity, occurred during 1945. Total production for 1945 was 31,721 fine ounces, as compared with a total of 23,818 fine ounces in 1944. The total value of mineral production in Yukon to the end of 1945 has been estimated at \$241,019,000 of which amount gold accounted for \$209,750,000, and silver \$20,995,000.

The greater part of the 1945 production came from the Dawson District, where dredges were operated in the Klondike area and from Clear Creek. Operations were also carried out at several other locations including Shorty, Iron, Bates, and Burwash Creeks in Whitehorse District. An interesting development in 1945 was the acquisition by eastern Canadian interests of properties formerly owned by Treadwell-Yukon Corporation, Limited, in the vicinity of Keno Hill and Galena Hill in the Mayo District.

The fur trade continued to be a source of revenue for inhabitants of Yukon Territory, and in the year ended June 30, 1944, a total catch of 78,005 pelts, valued at \$467,188, was taken.

Subsection 2.—Provincial Public Lands

In the Maritime Provinces and in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia (except the Railway Belt and the Peace River Block) the public lands have been