

and since 1949 by means of returned licences, the Northwest Territories Administration has collected statistics of game and fur-bearing animals and birds taken. The returns, although by no means completely accurate, provide an important basis for determining relative numbers of caribou killed in different years.

At present, non-residents are forbidden to hunt caribou in the Northwest Territories, and residents, who may kill caribou if they hold a general hunting licence, are restricted both in the use they may make of the meat and in the period of the year in which they may hunt.

The development of mineral resources in the Northwest Territories, with the resultant influx of workers has, as yet, made no appreciable change in caribou range or movements. Forest fires have wiped out some sections of the winter range and are, at present, perhaps the most important factor influencing caribou habitat.

Wastage by humans is believed to have been the most serious cause of reduction in the numbers of caribou. Management measures are now aimed at controlling the number of animals killed annually and at educating the native population along conservation lines. There is reason to hope that the legislation passed in recent years will prevent avoidable wastage, reduce hunting pressure to a rational level, and eliminate the danger of serious depletion of the present herds of barren-ground caribou.

PART III.—CLIMATE AND TIME ZONES

Section 1.—Climate

A comprehensive discussion of the climatic regions of Canada is available in the 1948-49 Year Book, pp. 41-62, while detailed tabulations of climatic factors covering 36 meteorological stations located mostly at well-known or populous centres are given in the 1950 Year Book, pp. 35-70. Other articles appearing in previous editions are listed under "Climate and Meteorology" in Chapter XXVIII of this volume.

Table 1 gives long-term temperature and precipitation data for 35 representative Canadian stations; Tables 2 and 3 provide monthly temperature and precipitation data during 1952 for these same stations. These are mostly well-known or populous places with climates fairly representative of a considerable area. The figures given under "Temperatures" are, of course, averages obtained over the period of observation in each case. Under "Precipitation", in calculating the annual total, inches of rain is considered the total depth of water accumulated on a hypothetical horizontal impervious surface without evaporation. Similarly, the depth of snow given is that which falls on a horizontal surface, without settling, melting or sublimation. Since the depth of water obtained from melting newly fallen snow is roughly one-tenth of the depth of the snow, the total precipitation is obtained by adding together the total rainfall and one-tenth of the depth of the newly fallen snow. A day with rain is, for the purpose of these tables, one on which 1/100 of an inch or more falls and a day with snow is one with at least 1/10 of an inch of newly fallen snow. Whenever the temperature four feet above the ground falls to 32°F. or lower, the day is counted as a day with frost. The average date of the last spring frost and of the first frost in autumn marks the approximate period continuously free from frost.