

Welfare.—During 1953, 21,306 Indian families received \$3,846,650 in family allowances on behalf of 62,571 children. These payments contributed substantially to a better balanced diet and better clothing for Indian children. Approximately \$3,000,000 is paid annually to Indians in the form of blind persons' allowances, old age assistance and old age security payments. When necessary, the Government provides direct relief assistance to Indians in the form of food, fuel, clothing and household equipment. The Indian Affairs Branch also makes arrangements for private foster-home and institutional placement of children, juvenile delinquents, cripples, and unemployable and aged adults; assistance is also provided for unmarried mothers and for the rehabilitation of disabled Indians.

Increasing emphasis is being placed on the importance of the suitable placement of children requiring protection and upon the importance of preventive work in the field of juvenile delinquency.

Policy and procedure regarding provision of special foods as a preventive measure against tuberculosis has been revised providing for substantial increases in the scale of rations allowed. Apart from the humanitarian aspect, the revised policy has as its aim a reduction in the number of new cases. A well-nourished body is not an easy victim of disease.

Improvement in housing conditions has been achieved in recent years through the efforts of the Indians themselves, as a result of expenditures from appropriation of Indian Band funds, and through Veterans' Land Act benefits. Costs of house repairs during the year ended Mar. 31, 1953, amounted to approximately \$221,890 and the value of new houses built on the various reserves was estimated at \$880,168. Revolving Fund loans are available for the purchase of farm machinery, implements, gas and oil, fencing materials, seed grain, live stock and similar essentials, and also for payment of wages and repairs to buildings and vehicles.

Fur Conservation.—During 1953 the fur-development program, undertaken in co-operation with the various provinces, was continued. Beaver production in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario increased, approximately 173,000 pelts, with an estimated value of \$1,631,000, being taken. In addition, about 1,097,000 muskrats having a value of \$1,013,000 were trapped in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Indian participation in the three provinces from the trapping of these fur-bearers was valued at about \$1,832,000. In the Province of Quebec, nine fur preserves with a total area of approximately 150,000 sq. miles are set aside exclusively for Indian trappers under joint management by the Indian Affairs Branch and the Quebec Department of Fish and Game. Five reserves are in production and one in partial production. During 1953, these areas produced over 13,000 beaver, which brought more than \$247,000 to the Indian trappers.

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

*The Eskimos.**—The Eskimos are only a fragment of the total population of Canada, numbering, according to the 1951 Census, only 9,607 persons. However, they are part of the human resources of the country and as such are entitled to the benefits of Canadian citizenship and to assistance in adapting themselves to changing conditions. They, together with the Indians, represent the original inhabitants of Canada and their ingenuity and resourcefulness are illustrated by the fact that they

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