

problem and if complaints, after investigation, are found to be justified special permits are issued for the removal of the animals. In 1952-53, 290 special muskrat permits and 719 beaver permits were issued.

Timber wolves, cougars and coyotes are considered predators and bounties were paid on all wolves and cougars killed between Apr. 1, 1952, and Mar. 31, 1953. Grizzly, black and brown bear are also classed as predatory and are unprotected throughout the Province.

Late in 1952 a special problem arose when a rabies epidemic broke out in the northern part of the Province. Trappers were employed to reduce the number of animals that might spread the disease and a double trapline was set on the edge of the forested area completely surrounding the settled area of the Province.

The wildlife resources of Alberta are administered by the Department of Lands and Forests under the Game Act and the Game Regulations.

British Columbia.—Effective control of fur-bearing animals in British Columbia commenced in 1926 when the registered trapline system went into effect. Under this system registered trappers are granted exclusive rights over a designated area. They are given a sketch map and legal description of the territory and are required to submit an annual 'return of catch' outlining the amount and kind of fur obtained. Through these returns an accurate check is made of the fur taken from each district. The system of registered traplines has worked remarkably well and is practically trouble-free.

Registered traplines cover all lands except private property, National Parks, Indian reserves, municipalities and certain other reserved areas. Trapping on private property may be pursued by the property owner himself or by someone to whom the owner has given permission, provided the trapper obtains a Special Firearms Licence which costs \$10 and which must be held by all trappers; this licence entitles the legal holder to hunt all types of large and small game. In 1953, 2,933 such licences were granted, several hundred fewer than the usual yearly average. In addition, about 1,500 Indians were also engaged in trapping: because they are not required to be licensed at the present time, their take is not recorded and the fur records for the Province are incomplete to that extent.

Fur-bearers in the Province include bear, badger, beaver, fisher, fox, lynx, marten, mink, muskrat, otter, raccoon, skunk, squirrel, weasel and wolverine. Wolf, coyote, cougar and wildcat are classed as predators, although the pelts of these animals are sometimes marketable. There is no close season on the predators or on raccoon, skunk, wolverine and black and brown bear. Raccoons and foxes have become so numerous in certain parts of the Province that they also may be considered as predators.

Trapping seasons are confined to the winter months, usually commencing Nov. 1, but beaver may be taken in some areas as late as May 24. Beaver are covered by tagging regulations, under which the trapper is required to submit a yearly estimate of the number of beaver left on his trapline. Before setting out to trap, he makes known to the game warden of his area the number of animals he wishes to take. If it is not excessive he receives a tag which must be attached to each pelt. Trappers are not allowed to take more than 25 p.c. of the total population of beaver in their areas and this has played an important part in saving the beaver from extinction. In fact, the animals are now so numerous in some areas