

Alberta.—The current wildlife fur trade of Alberta depends mainly on the fine fur group consisting of muskrat, ermine, beaver, mink and squirrel. This group accounted for 97 p.c. of the total value of the 1953-54 catch. The depressed condition of the market for long haired coarse furred pelts including fox, skunk, lynx and rabbit has kept the trapping of these animals at a low level for some years. During the 1953-54 season the prices of furs generally remained low, except for a few species. Statistics show that more pelts were taken but the financial return to the trappers decreased.

Wildlife fur production in Alberta is controlled through the registered trapline system. Except for very slight fluctuations the number of registered traplines has remained fairly constant in recent years in the neighbourhood of 3,000, of which approximately 800 have been registered by Treaty Indians. The registration fee of \$10 per line is paid by the Federal Government on behalf of the Indians. The stabilized trapline situation is accounted for by the prevalence of both muskrat and beaver. Before the institution of the trapline system, the beaver was almost extinct in the Province, but in the ten years of beaver management the population has increased until it is now necessary to trap and remove beaver from areas where they are not wanted and where they cause considerable damage. Muskrat presents the same problem and if complaints, after investigation, are found to be justified special permits are issued for the removal of the animals. In 1953-54, 2,267 special muskrat permits at \$3 each and 303 beaver permits were issued.

Timber wolves, cougars and coyotes are considered predators but bounties were paid on cougars only; bounties on wolves and coyotes were discontinued and paid hunters used instead. Grizzly, black and brown bears are also classed as predatory and are unprotected throughout the Province.

Late in 1952 a rabies epidemic broke out in the northern part of the Province and trappers were employed to reduce the number of animals that might spread the disease. A double trapline was also set on the edge of the forested area completely surrounding the settled portions 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.—In 1926, effective control of fur bearing animals in British Columbia commenced and a registered trapline system went into effect. Under this system registered trappers are granted exclusive rights over designated areas. Each is given a sketch map and legal description of the territory and is required to submit an annual 'return of catch' outlining the amount and kind of fur obtained. These returns provide an accurate check 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 1954, 2,763 such licences were granted. In addition about 1,500 Indians were engaged in trapping: because they are not required to be licensed at present, 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