

*Fur Conservation.*—During the year 1956 the fur conservation program undertaken in co-operation with the various provinces was continued. Approximately 179,930 beaver pelts valued at \$2,049,382 were taken in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario. In addition about 3,674,561 muskrats valued at approximately \$3,474,886 were trapped in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Benefits accruing to Indians in the three provinces from the trapping of these fur bearers amounted to about \$3,314,560. In Quebec, nine fur preserves with a total area of approximately 150,000 sq. miles are set aside exclusively for Indian trapping under joint management by the Indian Affairs Branch and the Quebec Department of Fish and Game. The six areas in production during the 1956 season produced 21,500 beaver which brought nearly \$300,000 to the Indian trappers.

Eight full-time supervisors are employed across Canada to help the Indians 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 1956 Census, approximately 11,000 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 their ability to maintain existence against a harsh unrelenting climate in a region where food, being almost entirely fish or animal, requires great skill to obtain and is most unpredictable in its availability. Greater penetration into the Arctic from the south, an unstable, precarious fur market, a decreasing game supply and an increasing population have combined to alter the long established patterns of Arctic life very rapidly. The translation of Canada's northernmost citizens from the Stone Age to the Hydrogen Age is accompanied by many problems.

The Northern Administration and Lands Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources is responsible for the administration of Eskimo affairs. The Department of National Health and Welfare administers Eskimo health and medical services. Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachments throughout the north undertake field duties for both departments. In fact, the problems involved in looking after a sparse Eskimo population scattered over about 900,000 sq. miles of territory require the continuous co-operation of all northern inhabitants—teachers, missionaries, traders, doctors, nurses, administrators, radio operators and weather personnel. Administrative contact is maintained by radio and through the Central and Western Arctic and Eastern Arctic Patrols which carry representatives of the Administration and other government departments on an annual inspection tour. Officers of the Administration also make periodic visits by air.

Family allowances are paid to most Eskimos in kind from a list designed to supplement rather than supplant the normal native diet. Eskimos also enjoy the full benefits of old age security and assistance payments and of allowances for blind persons. Missions assisted by Federal Government grants operate hospitals at Aklavik, Chesterfield Inlet and Pangnirtung, and the Department of National Health and Welfare has nursing stations at Coppermine, Frobisher Bay, Lake Harbour, Cape Dorset, Hall Lake, Fort Chimo, Port Harrison and Great Whale River. Tuberculosis and other medical surveys are carried out from year to year and treatment where necessary is provided either at the hospitals within the territory or at larger institutions outside.

The Arctic Division of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources studies and deals with Eskimo problems. Many Eskimos have taken advantage of unprecedented opportunities for wage employment with mining companies, on the Mid-Canada and DEW radar lines, in transportation and communications, in government construction and with traders and missionaries. In many communities, the shift from the traditional trapping-hunting economy has been very sharp. While raising living standards, wage employment has added to the immediate problems of adjustment.

\* Prepared in the Editorial and Information Division of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Ottawa.