

credit unions. In addition, 20 or more Indian projects, mostly fisheries, were operated on a co-operative basis under Indian Affairs Branch programs, although not formally incorporated.

Placement officers of the Indian Affairs Branch, located at a number of centres across Canada and working in co-operation with the National Employment Service, promote Indian employment in a wide range of occupations. The program includes vocational and trade training. Also, the Indian Affairs Branch has arranged for community organizations to counsel Indians who are becoming established in urban centres outside reserves, and to foster the relocation of Indian families in frontier communities associated with the mining industries, providing counsel and other assistance.

Approximately \$1,210,000 was spent in 1964-65 under the Community Employment Program, which provides employment on reserves through financing projects to develop and improve public assets on the reserves. Indian bands are encouraged to become directly involved in the planning and operation of these projects and thus assume greater responsibility in developing their communities and natural resources.

In the field of renewable natural resources development, some provinces co-operate in programs for Indians under formal agreement; others co-operate informally with the Indian Affairs Branch, with similar results. Although fur prices declined somewhat in 1964, a trend toward a return to trapping in isolated areas continued. Participation by Indians in inland fisheries has expanded steadily in recent years and it is estimated that the total Indian commercial production from all inland waters was about 20,000,000 lb. during the 1964-65 season, with an equal amount for domestic consumption. Forestry operations on the reserves and in areas adjacent to the reserves provide considerable employment for Indians, who produce about 90 p.c. of the annual reserve cut. The sale of forest products from reserves during 1964-65 totalled approximately \$10,000,000 and band funds were enriched by about \$1,000,000 from timber dues. Indians are given assistance in the operation of lumber mills, fence-post peeler and treatment plants, and charcoal kilns; reforestation projects and forest fire-fighting provide further income. The annual revenue to band funds from the exploitation of mineral resources on reserve lands averages about \$2,000,000 a year, most of it from oil and gas resources in Alberta.

In 1964-65, Indians made about \$1,000,000 worth of handicraft items for sale and their own use. Interest in their traditional crafts has been revived and expanding markets have helped to bring about an annual growth of some 17 p.c. in the industry. To encourage this important source of revenue, the Indian Affairs Branch maintains a marketing service and provides basic materials and other types of assistance on a repayable basis.

Indian farmers are eligible for assistance under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, and other federal statutes of general application. In addition, the Branch provides financial assistance to encourage young Indians to engage in farming and to help those already so engaged. The Branch is prepared to help Indians to finance co-operatives and small businesses when competent management is provided and the Indians concerned are familiar with the business principles and practices involved and have a financial stake in the enterprise.

Education.—This major key to continued Indian progress receives ever-increasing support from Indian parents, from their school committees, from provincial governments, and from professional groups specifically concerned with classroom instruction of Indian pupils. The Indian Affairs Branch maintains and operates a number of schools for Indians, but 22,764 of the 55,475 Indian school population attend provincial schools. Attendance of Indians at provincial schools has been arranged, for the most part, through