

a recovery during World War II, but, as soon as hostilities ceased, prices tumbled again. In 1950, an all-time low of less than \$3.50 per white fox pelt was reached. Since then the trend has again been slowly upwards.

The fur market, being international in character, is acutely sensitive to changes in general economic conditions, fashion trends, and the volume of supplies coming on world markets. Wide fluctuations in price may take place even from month to month. An important contributory cause for price decline would seem to have been the development of silver fox farming, first in Canada and later in the United States and other countries. The effect of placing large annual offerings of silver foxes on the markets was to depress prices of all varieties of foxes.

Although a few muskrats are taken by Eskimos in various southern areas, it is only in the Mackenzie Delta region that they are found in great numbers. There the Eskimos have registered trap-lines and they share the opportunities with Indians and whites. This is a development that has brought about a definite change in the Eskimo ways of life in that region. From being nomadic coastal hunters and white fox trappers, many have settled down, live like white men, depending largely on fish for food and muskrat for revenue.

The whole Eskimo economy is being studied by the Northern Administration in the light of the known resources of the Arctic, to determine how the economy can be diversified so that the Eskimos will never again have to depend upon a single source of income such as the white fox fur trade.

Handicrafts

From the earliest times, the Eskimos made stone dolls and ivory toys for their children, and in the days of the first traders they began to sell them to the white man. The interest in their carvings grew, and the Hudson's Bay Company handled a considerable quantity, most of which was sold in the country. In 1950, the Canadian Handicrafts Guild, received the first of a series of grants from the Administration to assist the Eskimo in greater production. The Guild sent a qualified artist into the Eastern Arctic to encourage the Eskimos to create, in their own way, the particular forms which are most attractive to the white man. At the same time, teachers in the Government schools intensified their efforts in this subject.

The Eskimos now are learning that handicrafts can be another valuable source of income. As they see the advantages of branching out in this manner it is hoped that they will take up more of the work, which they could do, to attract money into their country from the outside world.

Transportation

Arctic, in terms of its civilization to-day, refers to the Arctic and sub-Arctic regions inhabited by Eskimos. The division of the Northeast Territories into Eastern and Western Arctic is a concept based on water transportation routes. The east is serviced through Montreal, Moosonee, and Churchill, the West by the Mackenzie River route.