

program of development resulted, this Organization submits that the economies that would follow from the implementation of the program would largely compensate for the expense of the study. If the study finds that there is not sufficient grazing or arable land to sustain the population, then additional land could be made available and thus the pressing relief needs of the increasing Indian population would be alleviated. Many Indians have already proven their ability as farmers and stockmen and with more encouragement and assistance, Indian farms could be enlarged to a more economic size and improved by the use of more advanced techniques.

The effectiveness of such a study and a developmental program will of course largely depend on the skill and character of the instructors in charge; this Organization believes that there are available a number of competent Indians who have successfully operated farms and herds of their own, who would be suitable under such a scheme. Indian supervisors would have the advantage of enjoying the confidence of their fellow tribesmen to a greater degree than any white man. A program should be at once undertaken by the Indian Affairs Branch to help the treaty Indians develop their own lands for themselves and by themselves by supplying adequate machinery to develop their lands. Land required for power dams, power lines, gas lines, canals or oil and gas developments—none of which the treaty Indians themselves can develop on their reserves alone—could be leased out under suitable terms by the Indians concerned.

38. *Establishment and maintenance of roads and ferries.*

The approaches to some of the Reserves are not worthy of the name of "trails". Improvement of the roads is a prerequisite to the implementation of much of the health and education program. It should be the responsibility of the Indian Reserves Branch to establish and maintain a proper system of roads and ferries wherever needed. Every reserve should be accessible to ambulance service and necessary motor traffic and it is vitally essential that market roads at least should be maintained. The necessary cost for such service could be met by Band funds wherever available but assistance must be provided by the Dominion Government where the money is not available in the reserves.

39. *Indians should be granted preference in trapping and fishing.*

Trapping and fishing form an important part of the occupation of Indians in this Organization and steps should be taken to see that their rights in this form of livelihood are adequately safeguarded. The encroachment of white hunters and trappers who render it impossible for Indians in many areas to make a reasonable living must be prohibited and Indian trappers and fishermen should be granted preference over white trappers, since it is generally much easier for a white man to make his living at other occupations.

The Indians are, from early environment and training, often very highly skilled trappers and fishermen and are well qualified for positions as salaried game wardens and fish guardians and this Organization submits that they should be given every chance for appointments in these positions throughout the province.

40. *Fur conservation projects should be extended and Indians encouraged to participate in co-operative fur farms.*

Beaver, muskrat and other fur conservation projects are to be greatly recommended and should be extended. Wild animal trapping is on the decline and Indians so employed should be gradually led to participate in co-operatively-owned fur farms, raising scientifically whatever the market demands.