

## Resource and Industrial Development

Increasing interest in the development of commercial enterprises on Indian reserves has been evident in recent years. In a number of areas, Indian bands have developed portions of their lands to serve as industrial parks. Indians have also shown a growing interest in co-operatives. In March 1965, there were more than 30 co-operatives in which membership was wholly or substantially Indian. Included were producers' co-operatives, mostly engaged in pulpwood cutting and fishing with a few in the handicraft field, as well as consumers' co-operatives and credit unions. In addition, 20 or more Indian projects, mostly fisheries, were operated on a co-operative basis under Indian Affairs Branch programmes, 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 programme 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 Programme, 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 programmes 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 million lbs. 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 per cent of the annual reserve cut. The sale of forest products from reserves during 1964-65 totalled approximately \$10 million and band funds were enriched by about \$1 million 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 million a year, most of it from oil and gas resources in Alberta.

In 1964-65, Indians made about \$1-million 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