

other sources noted above. The amount of assistance provided was substantially increased in the 1958-59 fiscal year and the possibility of introducing a loan scheme to assist further in housing on reserve lands is being explored.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A great many Indians still depend on the traditional pursuits of trapping, hunting and fishing for a livelihood. New techniques of development and management have increased the production of fur-bearing animals in recent years, particularly the introduction of long range programmes in co-operation with the various provinces. More recently, programmes have been introduced to foster greater participation by Indians in the commercial fishing industry, and to encourage domestic fisheries on a co-operative basis as a means of providing subsistence food. Earnings from the wildlife and fisheries resources are augmented seasonally, by such pursuits as guiding and the gathering of wild rice and other wild crops.

The traditional arts and crafts are still producing part-time employment for Indians in many areas. Handicraft items include moccasins, gloves, jackets, and mukluks in northern and non-agricultural hunting areas, potato baskets in the Maritimes and totem carvings, carved masks, fire baskets and Cowichan sweaters on the West Coast. These provide an important supplementary income for the Indian families producing them.

Agriculture ranks next to trapping, hunting and fishing in importance, particularly in the Prairie Provinces, southern Ontario and parts of British Columbia. Indians engaged in agriculture are assisted and encouraged by supervision and practical training and by the provision, where necessary, of breeding stock, seed grain and in some instances, farm machinery; but the tremendous change in techniques since the Second World War has left many of them in a relatively unfavourable position and emphasis is now being placed on the introduction of cattle-raising and other mixed farming operations to supplement or replace grain growing in the Prairie Provinces.

Apart from these occupations, the remaining Indians of working age are employed for the most part in forestry, construction, industrial, domestic and professional fields.

Indians residing on reserves do not usually have ready access to sources of credit available to other citizens. To fill the need, Indian Affairs Branch administers a Revolving Loan Fund, in the amount of \$1 million, to provide loans for a wide variety of purposes, including all types of agricultural machinery and activity, fishing and forestry equipment, and similar projects that will improve the economic position of the Indian borrower.

The movement of Indians from reserves and their successful integration into non-Indian communities is a matter of increasing concern, and in view of the limited resources and employment opportunities on reserves, and the rapidly increasing Indian population, this trend will inevitably be accelerated as time goes on. To provide for a more orderly movement to urban centres, and to ensure as far as possible that the Indians concerned are equipped to obtain employment and meet the problems of modern-day living, the Individual Placements Programme was formally established in 1957. Under this programme, the facilities of the National Employment Service are utilized to the greatest possible extent in placing selected Indians in employment. A rural placements programme has also been undertaken which co-operates with other agencies and government departments in assisting or placing Indian individuals or groups