

their association with the whalers, the Eskimos still remained hunters. Apart from the few small luxuries they obtained, they still depended almost entirely on the spoils of the hunt for their essential food and clothing.

The same was true of other Eskimos who had not come in direct contact with the whalers but whose lives had been influenced by the operations of the trading-posts to the south.

Throughout the whaling period, life had revolved round the resources of the sea; the whalers were not interested in furs. With the arrival of the traders, events took a different turn. Their primary interest was in furs and, since it was realized from the outset that the Eskimos could only trap during the winter if they were well fed and clothed, every encouragement was given them to continue to live off the country and to trade only the skins and blubber that were surplus to their real needs.

It took the Eskimos some time to change over from hunting to trapping. They were hunters by instinct and tradition, with the general idea that trapping was more fit for women and children than for men. The majority of the Eskimo men still remain essentially hunters and it is only when there is a good fur season or when they have some important object in view, such as a new rifle, that they take trapping really seriously.

#### Administration

The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has general responsibility for the administration of Eskimo affairs. The Indian and Northern Health Services of the Department of National Health and Welfare has initiated vigorous programmes to bring medical care to every northern resident. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police provide police service and act as agents for other government departments in the more remote areas. The Arctic has always tested to the limit the resourcefulness and courage of those who live and work there, and it makes no exceptions of race. To keep contact - over some 900,000 square miles - with an Eskimo population that still often chooses to live the life of hunting camps, calls for the co-operation of all who share the high latitudes with them - northern administrators, police, teachers, doctors, nurses, missionaries, traders, radio operators, and weather men.

The Eskimo population in the Northwest Territories and Quebec numbers approximately 13,000 persons. They receive the same social benefits as other Canadian citizens, such as old-age assistance, blind persons allowances, disabled persons allowances, and the family allowance. The decline of the great caribou herds, the dwindling of other game resources and the instability of the fur market revealed the inadequacies of an economy based on the resources of land and water. To help the Eskimos adapt to modern civilization, develop other sources of livelihood and improve their standard of living, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has been carrying out a broad-based programme embracing the areas of education, health, welfare, and resource development.