

The number of community projects being undertaken on reserves under the leadership of band councils in co-operation with other organized groups reflects a growing awareness among Indians of community needs and community responsibilities. Trends in this direction are encouraged and supported by the Indian Affairs Branch. Leadership-training courses are conducted under Branch auspices, and Indians are helped to take part in similar types of programmes sponsored by other organizations. A number of organized groups are taking an active interest in the advancement of health, education, and welfare amongst Indians.

Indian Homemakers' Clubs, patterned on the Women's Institute, are established on many reserves. In addition to meeting socially and learning improved methods of homemaking, these groups of women take an active part in community life.

In the field of housing, financial assistance is provided for the construction of new houses and for repairs. This supplements rather than replaces the contributions of the Indians themselves, in the form of labour, materials and money, and the assistance available to them from their Indian Band Funds, Veterans' Land Act Grants and other sources. In recent years, for every dollar contributed by the Indian Affairs Administration there has been on average an equal contribution from the Indian householders and the other sources noted above. Since the 1958-59 fiscal year, the amount of assistance provided has been substantially increased.

#### 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 cases, 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, the 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 which will improve the economic position of the Indian borrower.