

or at least when the production in the wild land was reduced to about the lowest in history, we took off the biggest crops. Even this year an Indian from Chemahawin, or, as it is better known, Cedar lake, told me he had travelled in February through the marshes from end to end, by dog team, over 75 miles, and he said there is not a rat anywhere except on the development. In a territory surrounded by marsh-land of similar character we took a crop of 205,000 rats, and I venture to say that there were not 2,000 rats taken in an area twice the size of that off the development. We can produce the rats irrespective of weather conditions if we can get a water supply. In that instance the water comes from the Saskatchewan river. The water rises in the river to a point where we can take it and flood the marshes and it is a never-failing source of supply or has been so during a period of eight years. Sometimes we get far too much water, but we have always been able to get enough to replenish the basin that we are developing to maintain muskrat life.

Mr. MACNICOL: When the marsh is full of water, you put up an earth dam across the inlet?

Mr. ALLAN: Yes. We use a stop-log control dam to keep the water on. Otherwise it would only run out again when the river fell below the level of the marshes.

Mr. MACNICOL: Now, the first item you ask for is \$100,000. Will that finish the Sipanok area?

Mr. ALLAN: I do not think it would, but as we visualize it to-day it would. Just as soon as we get that development up to a certain point we are going to find that there are areas around it that are also capable of being developed on our 520,000 acre lease.

Mr. MACNICOL: 520,000 acres?

Mr. ALLEN: Yes, 520,000 acres under lease from the Saskatchewan government.

Mr. MACNICOL: Now, coming to the next item, No. 2, where you ask for \$150,000 for the Athabasca Delta, Alberta?

Mr. ALLAN: Yes, south of Lake Athabasca.

Mr. MACNICOL: Yes, I have been all through there. I was going to advocate that the river channel goes right straight through into Athabasca lake, instead of flowing in many miles to the east. Would that interfere with your proposed development?

Mr. ALLAN: I doubt it.

Mr. MACNICOL: You know where I mean?

Mr. ALLAN: You want to go right up to the end of Lake Athabasca?

Mr. MACNICOL: It might not be feasible.

Mr. ALLAN: It may be. I do not think it would affect us, anyway, because we want only flood water, and we would get the water anyway at peak, no matter where your steamboat channel was.

Mr. MACNICOL: The Athabasca territory is full of rats. You should get hundreds of thousands there.

Mr. ALLAN: It is reputed to be one of the very finest potential areas that we have in Canada.

Mr. MACNICOL: And you ask for \$150,000 there?

Mr. ALLAN: Yes, that would finance a modest program. We have never had an area which cost us more than \$1 an acre to develop, and I think that appropriation would develop 150,000 acres in the territory. We have only about 50,000 acres on the Indian reserve, and the balance of the territory would be taken over in co-operation with the province of Alberta. Our reserve, that we are ready to direct, is between Fletcher channel and Goose channel.