

northern areas, trapping is the principal occupation.

### *Precambrian Shield*

The Indians in this vast region were formerly entirely dependent on hunting and fishing for their food, enjoying periods of plenty in good game years and suffering privation and famine when game was scarce. Although hunting remains important, modern means of transportation and communication have wrought a remarkable change in the native economy of the region. The pulpwood industry in the more accessible areas provides employment for many Indians, while mining and other operations are also changing employment patterns.

### *Indian affairs in New France*

The lure of furs and wealth brought French settlers and fur traders to Canada in 1604, more than 60 years after Jacques Cartier had travelled down the St Lawrence befriending the Indian people. To ensure an abundance of these furs, the French soon established good relations with Algonkin tribes in the east and Huron tribes in the west while setting up trading-posts and mission stations. This firm alliance was to last until the fall of French power in Canada.

The Algonkins and the Hurons were the traditional foes of the

Iroquois, their enmity manifesting itself mainly in a keen rivalry over control of the fur trade. The Hurons wanted the sole rights to furs from the interior for trading with the French, while the Iroquois wanted them to trade to their English allies.

When New England colonists and traders clashed with their French counterparts, the Indians were drawn into the struggle as allies of either English or French, and soon became an integral part of both fighting forces. From the Indian point of view, they were not only fighting for trade rights but also settling old scores with enemy tribes.

The capture of Montreal by English forces in 1760 meant that France's Indian allies began reluctantly to accept English rule by agreement and by treaty.

### *Administration under the British*

As early as 1670, during the reign of Charles II, instructions were given to the governors of the British colonies that Indians who desired to place themselves under British protection were to be well received and protected. Later it was found necessary to establish an office devoted solely to the administration of Indian affairs. In 1755, Sir William Johnson was appointed Indian Superintendent, with head-