

Similar, though less spectacular, increases have been noted throughout Canada. In 1958 the Ontario game authorities estimated that there were more than 40,000 moose in that province. During the hunting season at least 6,700 were killed. In calculating the monetary value of this hunt, including such items as licences, guides, transportation, lodging, rifles and ammunition, they estimated that \$3,665,000 was spent during the open season.

The situation in Newfoundland is somewhat similar. Moose were introduced into Newfoundland about 1900 and have done very well. Open seasons for the past few years have indicated that the population is increasing rapidly and can maintain a substantial yearly harvest without harm. Indeed a wise-use policy is essential if the population is not to increase beyond its food supply and bring destruction on itself.

### Deer Population

The white-tailed deer, the most frequently hunted big game mammal in North America, has a history similar to that of the moose. There were only a handful of the deer in Canada in the "good old days". They lived mainly in the hardwood forests of southern Ontario. With the destruction of the coniferous forest a great food supply developed and the deer population increased rapidly to occupy this favourable habitat. There were no deer in Nova Scotia before 1900; at present that province has an annual kill in excess of 30,000. Still the deer continue to increase, and damage by deer to farm crops and orchards in Nova Scotia is common. When food is plentiful a doe may produce twins or even triplets every year. When the range is over-browsed and winter starvation becomes a danger, the reproductive potential may decline by 80 per cent. Again the paradox: to have more deer, shoot more deer.

### The Larger Carnivores

Canada's National Parks play an important part in preserving wildlife populations. We have already seen how Wood Buffalo Park became a haven for the bison and how they increased under protected conditions. Canada's parks in the Rocky Mountain Region also have an abundant and interesting fauna. With the settlement of the Prairies, many plains-dwelling mammals, such as the grizzly and the elk, were forced to seek refuge in the rugged areas. In the National Parks they found wilderness and undisturbed conditions that suited them and they continue to thrive there. For neighbours they have the original mountain dwellers, the bighorn sheep, the mountain goat, the mountain caribou, and the cougar, to mention a few. Grizzly bears and cougars particularly need the protection of large wilderness areas if they are to survive. One or two of these carnivores can cause much destruction among ranchers' cattle and bring serious economic loss. The rancher then feels justified in condemning all predators and demanding their complete destruction. Thinking Canadians feel, however, that those magnificent animals have a right to continued existence without too heavy persecution by man. The National Parks provide the protection they need. The parks also provide for recreation in areas of unspoiled natural beauty and give scientists a chance to view and study, in natural game areas, the game animals and the large predators who depend upon them for food.