

Dr. Kelsall from 1949, when the study began, to 1958. During this time, the number of caribou fell still further, to fewer than 300,000 in 1955.

CAUSES OF DECLINE

Excessive hunting and low calf "crops" having been identified as the chief causes of the decline, conservation measures, including hunting restrictions and a programme of education and persuasion developed by the Wildlife Service, were introduced. Cartoons explaining what had to be done to save the resource, produced in English and French and in Eskimo, Chipewyan syllabics, were distributed in thousands of copies to northern residents including school-children.

A third range-wide census in 1967 showed that the decline had stopped and that caribou numbers had, in fact, risen to 357,000.

In primitive times caribou provided the native peoples with almost everything they needed to support life: food, clothing, oil for light and heat, and bone and antlers for tools. Much of the past exploration and settlement of the North was possible only because the caribou provided fresh meat.

Today, the caribou is still of great social and economic importance to the North, even though it has greatly declined in numbers from earlier abun-

dance. Many Eskimos and Indians still live off the land, and caribou hunting helps them maintain an independent way of life.

CANADIAN HOSPITALS 1967

There were 1,277 general and allied special hospitals in Canada in 1967, an increase of four over the 1966 figure. During the same period, bed capacity rose by 3.0 per cent, to 141,000, and adult and child patient-days rose by 2.5 per cent, to 36,790,300, for an average daily patient-load of 100,900 in 1967. Provincial hospital insurance plans paid for 95.4 per cent of these patient-days (94.9 per cent in 1966).

In public hospitals, the average length of stay for adults and children dropped from 11.7 days in 1966 to 11.5 days in 1967, while paid hours of work a day rose from 13.4 to 13.9 and total employment in public hospitals rose by 7.4 per cent to more than 274,000 employees.

In 1967, revenue-fund income in public hospitals reached \$1,415,523,000, or \$38.48 for each patient (\$34.34 in 1966), while expenditures totalled \$1,480,489,000, or \$40.24 a day for each patient (\$36.06 in 1966).