

Their introduction to the use of firearms was probably, of all the innovations, the one that had the greatest effect on their daily lives. Although the rifles and guns they received during the early years were generally of low power and obsolete design, they were infinitely more effective for hunting than the bow and arrow and other primitive weapons. Throughout their association with the whalers, the Eskimos still remained hunters. Apart from the few small luxuries they obtained, they still depended almost entirely on the spoils of the hunt for their essential food and clothing.

The same was true of other Eskimos who had not come in direct contact with the whalers but whose lives had been influenced by the operations of the trading posts to the south.

Throughout the whaling regime, life had revolved around the resources of the sea, the whalers were not interested in furs. With the arrival of the traders events took a different turn. Their primary interest was in furs and since it was realized from the outset that the Eskimos could only trap during the winter if they were well fed and clothed, every encouragement was given them to continue to live off the country, and to trade only the skins and blubber that were surplus to their real needs.

It took the Eskimos some little time to change over the hunting to trapping. Hunters they were by instinct and tradition, with the general idea that trapping was more fit for women and children than for men. The majority of the Eskimo men still remain essentially hunters and it is only when there is a good fur season or when they have some important object in view, such as a new rifle, that they really take trapping seriously.

Administration

The general responsibility for the care of the Eskimos was last transferred from the Department of Citizenship and Immigration to the Department of Resources and Development by Order-in-Council P.C. 3153, June 27, 1950.

Although the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources is responsible for the general supervision of Eskimo affairs, a considerable part of this responsibility has been delegated to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Their detachments act as field officers both for Northern Affairs and National Development and for other Departments having interests in the Arctic. Their duties, besides the normal ones of enforcing law and order, include the supervision and control of issues of family allowances, relief, old age assistance, old age security, and pensions. They also act as registrars of vital statistics and take the decennial census, enforce fur and game regulations, collect fur royalties, and act as postmasters.

The only people of the Administration residing in the Arctic are eight teachers and a sub-district administrator at Aklavik, who has other duties besides those concerning Eskimos. Administrative officers make regular annual patrols by air and, when trouble strikes at some