

from hunting and fishing varies from 45 to 60 per cent in the different bands. To buy equivalent amounts of meat would cost each hunting family about \$5,110 a year. The total income produced from the bush annually is therefore estimated to be about \$3.86 million. However, the available hunting resources cannot support many more people than they do now. Large increases in the number of young adults are anticipated over the next ten years, which will necessitate either a mass exodus or the creation of new jobs in the North. The hydro-electric project could help to solve this crisis, but only if it is adapted to Indian needs and if the Indians themselves participate in the planning.

Whether the James Bay development takes place or not, the most optimistic estimate researchers can give for the number of men who could continue to hunt profitably is about 700. The territories which could be used by more hunters are distant from the main settlements and are therefore under-exploited, whereas those near to settlements are being over-hunted, are producing less and will not be able to support full-time hunters in the future. Unless positive steps are taken to encourage trapping in other areas by reopening the more distant posts and providing services like nursing stations away from the larger settlements so that people will build there, the number of hunters will decrease despite the rapidly increasing young male population.

Without the James Bay project it seems unlikely that new jobs will be created. With the present depression in the paper industry it is improbable that new plants will be built for the forestry industry. The same depression exists in the base metal mining industry. Tourism and service industries (teaching and government posts) are the most likely to provide jobs, but these create problems in themselves. The loss of food when tourists shoot moose or geese or catch fish may be worth more than the money Indians can earn as guides. Without some form of industry in the North, the future of the young Cree now leaving school and getting married looks bleak.

Effects of development

The predictable effects of the James Bay development are numerous. The

most evident one is on hunting. Any territory where more than 5 per cent of the land is flooded would be destroyed for beaver hunting, as the streambeds would be flooded. There will also be some diminution of the fish supply. It is thought that approximately one third of all the food consumed by the Fort George and Old Factory Indians comes from migratory fish. Dam construction can be carried out in such a way that fish runs are minimally reduced, but plans have to be implemented *before* construction begins and not after.



Typical James Bay Indian family.

The most favourable effect of the proposed development program would be the creation of new jobs: 2,000 would become immediately available, rising to 11,950 in 1977 at the peak of the project. Until 1982, the project could clearly employ every local person who wished to work on it but after this date only 400 permanent jobs would remain. Many of these would require high levels of skill, and the Indians would have to begin training programs now if they were to obtain the necessary skills by that time.

Importance of education

Education is a crucial factor. Expansion of schools will be necessary along with technical education and on-the-job training to enable Indians to take professional and "white-collar" positions. If the project continues, crash programs must be available to improve the skills of adults. The Development Corporation would

have to provide technical courses for people working within it.

Growth of towns is already a problem in the James Bay area. If the James Bay project were not to take place there would be further increases in the large administrative centres of Fort George and Mistassini and decreases in smaller settlements like Eastmain and Rupert's House. The hydro-electric construction will have a huge impact on numbers of towns and density of population within them, although the lasting effects will be small. The McGill study emphasizes that the many temporary settlements that will have to be established must be constructed with minimum disruption to the permanent Indian settlements and that the project's administrative headquarters should be built well away from the Fort George Reserve.

The McGill report indicates that the development project could cause serious ecological and sociological damage to the Indian population of the James Bay region, but suggests ways in which this could be minimized, so that if the recommendations were implemented, the project could be to the Indians' advantage. This positive alternative however, rests on two very important and as yet uncertain factors: (1) will the Corporation accept the recommendations? And (2) have the Indians reacted favourably to the report? The Development Corporation is already implementing about 70 per cent of the recommendations stemming directly from the report. They are entirely in favour of improving educational facilities, running training programs, establishing local economic development corporations for each band so that advisory services can be provided at the local level, and so on.

Communication gap

As far as the Indians are concerned, there is a serious problem of communication. Copies of the report have been distributed to the natives of the James Bay region through the Indians of Quebec Association. They have expressed great interest in it generally — particularly the sections on the effects on the hunting economy. As a group of people who have received little education and have never lived in large cities it is difficult to impress upon