

Because the fur trade continues to provide the chief source of income for so many of the natives in the north, the Department of Resources and Development is particularly interested in wildlife management in the Territories.

Efforts are being directed toward the elimination of wasteful trapping practices. By registration of traplines, by the enforcement of proper regulations and by sound instructions in conservation, trappers are being taught that wildlife is, in fact, a crop to be harvested wisely.

The Canadian Wildlife Service has scientists working on a variety of matters directly related to the economic life of the North. Some of these scientists are permanently stationed in the Territories.

In March, 1935, you will recall that a herd of nearly 3,000 reindeer from Alaska were delivered, under Federal Government auspices, to a selected range on the east side of the Mackenzie Delta. These animals were the foundation stock of an experimental project.

The plan was to train young natives in reindeer herding and to build an industry which would provide food and clothing suitable to the climate.

The reindeer have increased considerably in number and are now divided into three herds estimated to total nearly 7,000. Large quantities of meat have been used for native welfare, including meat provided during an emergency last winter when illness struck natives of the Delta area.

A good start has been made in the mapping of northern forests by air photography. Forest maps have been prepared in this way covering an area of 1,500 square miles along the Peace River in Wood Buffalo National Park. In these stands there are many acres containing 50,000 board feet of lumber.

Forest management, though still in its infancy in the North, can play a leading part in maintaining the economic stability of the entire region. Cutting restrictions and fire protection measures help safeguard these far northern forests from rapid depletion.

In the North, as elsewhere, it is the human problem that is of first importance. In an effort to help solve the problem in its special aspects in the Territories, a wide variety of social services have been introduced.

Family allowances, old age pensions and special assistance to the blind and helpless have been carried to the native population of the North.

Family allowances are not paid in cash but in kind, according to an authorized list of goods. This list is so compiled as to bring the greatest possible benefit to growing children. Large quantities of powdered milk and other prepared foods are among the items supplied.

Medical services in the form of hospitals, nursing stations and periodic patrols have been established.

The expansion of educational facilities in the Territories has no counterpart in Canadian history. It is an inspiring story. Permanent schools are now functioning in most communities. Welfare teachers with special training and qualifications are giving excellent leadership. The educational system includes a school of opportunity at Yellowknife where promising students from every part of the Northwest Territories may pursue higher studies.

It is doubtful whether, twenty years ago, any citizen of the North thought in terms of tourist trade for the Territories. Nevertheless the existence of a fine new hotel in Yellowknife as well as in Hay River will help attract tourists to this New North.