

CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION

REPORT

OF

Indian Affairs Branch

FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1955

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Indian Affairs Branch

H.M. Jones, Director

The economy of the Indians of Canada continued to improve during the fiscal year 1954 - 55, although there were setbacks in some areas owing to circumstances over which the Indians had little or no control. Further progress was made on reserve improvement programs.

Generally, agricultural Indians had a good year, although in the four western provinces difficulties were caused by heavy rains during the growing season. Most of the Indians who depend for much of their livelihood on commercial fishing had a satisfactory year, and improved prices for furs, coupled with good catches in most areas, resulted in better economic conditions for Indians who follow the traplines. Indians who normally are industrially employed found conditions generally good.

On the reserves the Indians continued their efforts to improve conditions. There was a wider use of band funds on projects for the benefit of the whole community, such as, for example, the extension of programs for improved housing.

Interest in education continued, and the year brought a substantial increase in the number of children attending schools. Much of the increase was in children attending non-Indian schools. Additions to education facilities were made in many areas and steps were taken to attract more highly qualified teachers to Indian schools.

Oil continued to take a place of greater importance in the Indian economy, with receipts from oil and gas totalling more than \$1,550,000. Timber, another important source of income, gave the Indians a total of \$546,000.

The departmental quinquennial census of Indians completed during the year under review, showed an Indian population of 151,558. Notwithstanding 2,837 enfranchisements, whereby the Indian population was reduced under the provisions of the Indian Act, there was an increase of 15,151, or 11.1 per cent, since the census year of 1949. In the previous five-year period, 1944 - 1949, the increase was 10,721, or 8.5 per cent. The most significant fact disclosed by these figures is the continuing rapid growth of the Indian population. It is expected that this trend will continue as the Indians benefit from better health care, improved housing, and broadened social welfare measures.

During the year, the Indian Affairs branch completed a film showing how the Indians of today live and work and the contribution they are making to Canada. During the year also, the publication was initiated of a newspaper for Indians devoted exclusively to their achievements. The newspaper has created a community of interest among Indians in all parts of Canada.

Economic Development

During the year, the housing program was continued, with 837 new houses constructed and 2,259 repaired. The Indians, themselves, provided much of the labour and assumed a portion of the costs, either from band funds or personal assets. Financing was also provided from the welfare appropriation and from Veterans Land Act grants. In those cases where welfare funds were used, priority was given to the housing needs of sick and aged Indians and those with large families who were unable to assume the entire cost of necessary repairs or new construction.

As an aid to the housing program, the Branch continued to operate sawmills in areas where lumber for repair and construction is not readily available. A new mill was purchased during the year, bringing to 41 the total in operation. Thirty-one of the sawmills are portable and are moved from area to area to satisfy requirements which arise. Labour, both for logging and for operation of the sawmills, is provided by the Indians under supervision of field representatives of the Branch.

As a part of the general welfare program, instruction and financial assistance were provided for Indians in farming, fishing, and other projects. For example, the recently-initiated garden project at Great Slave Lake was expanded in 1955 to provide for a total of 11 1/2 acres of potatoes, in addition to other garden products. With the construction of a root house it was possible to store sufficient potatoes from the 1954 crop to provide seed in 1955, and provision was also made to irrigate the land. Also designed to assist in providing better diet for northern Indians was an ice cellar constructed at Aklavik at a cost of \$1,682. This will provide temporary storage facilities for meat and fish, pending use by the Indians or removal to freezer units.

Revolving Fund Loans

Sixty-six revolving fund loans totalling \$73,612.09 were approved during the year for the purchase of farm machinery and livestock, fishing, hunting, and trapping equipment, and seed and petroleum products, and to assist in lumbering and farming, the latter including the clearing and breaking of new land.

The year's operations brought to 525 the number of loans granted since the inception of the system. Through these loans a total of \$672,911.57 has been made available to individuals, groups, and bands unable to obtain funds from other sources.

Re-Establishment of Indian Veterans

Fifty new applications for establishment under the Veterans Land Act were approved during the year from veterans of the Second World War who had returned to a reserve and from a few Indian veterans of the special force who served in Korea. This brought the total of approved applications to 1,456.

The following table shows details of the total grants approved to March 31, 1955, and during the year 1954 - 55:

...	Number of Veterans	Total Value	Average Value
...	...	\$ cts.	\$
Land and buildings	346	283,661.45	820
Building materials	1,152	1,544,025.03	1,340
Clearing land	188	83,629.70	445
Livestock and equipment	748	952,352.76	1,273
Forestry equipment	27	19,041.14	705
Commercial fishing equipment	145	207,231.69	1,429
Fur farming equipment	71	34,162.35	481
Household equipment	845	187,973.34	222
...	...	3,312,077.46	...

Grants 1954 - 45	...	Total to date
New grants	50	1,456
Supplementary	4	466
Amount	\$117,713.85	\$33,312,077.46
Expenditure	\$150,269.86	\$83,103,478.71

Approved not expended	...	\$208,598.75
Average grant - \$2,275.	...	...

Handicraft

Sales of Indian basketry and souvenir items compared favourably, with those of the previous fiscal year and 253 orders for handicraft, valued at \$18,706.69, were shipped to merchants. During the same period Indian craftsmen at Pierreville, Manitoulin Island, and Lorette Agencies were paid \$12,898.46 for their production.

Although it was necessary to discontinue sewing for a four-month period during the year, in view of the heavy stocks that had been built up, 5,104 hospital garments, valued at \$11,030.58, were sold to the Department of National Health and Welfare. Of this, \$3,368 was paid to members of Homemakers Clubs for their production. Flannelette cuttings for making layettes and patchwork quilts were in increasing demand.

Social Services

The social service section of the welfare division continued to provide service to sick and aged Indians, underprivileged children, and Indians requiring rehabilitation as a result of physical or mental handicaps. It co-operated also with provincial and federal authorities in the administration of public assistance programs such as Family Allowance, Old Age Assistance, Old Age Security, Blind Persons' Allowances, and Disabled Persons' Allowances. Emphasis was placed, during the year, on measures to improve social conditions through the development of community organizations, support of Homemakers Clubs, and the provision of leadership training. The advice and assistance of the regional social workers were instrumental in the solution of individual social problems and in development of group activities.

Homemakers Clubs

The number of homemakers clubs increased to 159 during the year and the clubs proved their value by their work in initiating and assisting in reserve community programs. To give additional stimulus to the clubs, conventions were held during the year at Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, for western clubs; at Deseronto, for the Ontario clubs, and at Eskasoni, Nova Scotia, for those in Quebec and the Maritimes. Although the Indian Affairs Branch field staff assisted, much of the planning for these conventions, which gave delegates an opportunity to share experiences and learn new ideas, was done by the Indians themselves.

Social Leaders' Courses

As a result of the success of the social leaders courses held in the previous fiscal year, which resulted in worthwhile community projects being initiated by the leaders on their home reserves, additional courses were held at Quebec City and on the Six Nations Reserve at Brantford, Ont. Initial planning was completed for courses to be held the following fiscal year in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, northern Ontario, and the Maritime Provinces.

Indigent Relief

While fur prices improved they were still low, and this factor, coupled with unemployment and adverse crop conditions in Western Canada, brought about a sharp increase in expenditures for food fuel, and clothing.

With 3,500 Indian patients in tuberculosis sanatoria there was also an increase in the cost of special foods, considered one of the most effective agents in tuberculosis prevention. This prevention and control program is apparently providing good results and it is expected that the number of cases requiring active treatment and rehabilitation rations will decrease within the next few years.

Foster Home and Institutional Placement

More intensive welfare services on reserves lessened the number of foster home placements during the year, and officials of the Branch continued to work in close co-operation with Children's Aid Society and provincial authorities interested in child welfare.

Family Allowance

The following table shows the number of Indian families and children receiving Family Allowances as at December 31, 1954, and the method of payment employed -

...	Families in pay	Children in pay	Method of Payment			
			Cheque Direct "A"	Cheque Direct c/o Agency "B"	Agency Trust Account "C"	In Kind "D"
Prince Edward Island	32	88	29	...	3	...
Nova Scotia	366	1,076	354	...	12	...
New Brunswick	357	1,074	351	...	6	...
Quebec	1,843	5,160	928	468	32	415
Ontario	4,411	12,817	3,589	172	80	570
Manitoba	2,847	8,005	2,726	98	23	...
Saskatchewan	2,733	7,422	2,246	430	57	...
Alberta	2,152	5,548	1,858	264	30	...
British Columbia	4,087	11,644	3,696	154	228	9
Yukon and N.W.T	720	1,697	58	3	...	96
...	19,548	54,531	16,364	1,623	471	1,090

The above tabulation refers only to accounts actually in pay as at December 31, 1954. At that time, 21,728 Indian families and 65,839 children were registered for Family Allowances, an increase over the previous year of 422 families and 3,268 children.

The following analysis relates to the method of payment of accounts actually in pay -

"A" (cheque direct to Indian parent)	16,364	...
"B" (cheque direct to Indian parent in care of Indian agency office)	1,623	...
...	17,987	92.2%
"C" (administered through the Indian agency trust account)	471	2.5%
"D" (allowances in kind)	1,090	5.3%

The following table shows the value of Family Allowances distributed to Indian families in the calendar year ended December 31, 1954, an increase of \$149,058 over the previous year -

Province	Amount
Prince Edward Island	\$6,163

Nova Scotia	77,386
New Brunswick	74,753
Quebec	387,227
Ontario	931,127
Manitoba	589,834
Saskatchewan	530,559
Alberta	415,625
British Columbia	852,890
N.W.T. and Yukon	130,144
...	\$3,995,708

Blind Persons' Allowances, Old Age Assistance, and Old Age Security

The following chart as of December 31, 1954, indicates the approximate number of recipients of Blind Persons' Allowances, Old Age Assistance, and Old Age Security, arranged provincially -

...	Blind Persons' Allowances	Old Age Assistance	Old Age Security
Prince Edward Island	1	2	10
Nova Scotia	3	38	88
New Brunswick	5	29	61
Quebec	12	158	527
Ontario	32	293	1,155
Manitoba	29	185	614
Saskatchewan	40	188	450
Alberta	21	117	471
British Columbia	62	251	970
Northwest Territories	10	64	134
Yukon	5	2	63
...	220	1,327	4,543

Rehabilitation of the Disabled

The necessary steps have been taken to co-ordinate the efforts for rehabilitation of Indians with those of the provinces, the Department of National Health and Welfare, and other organizations interested in the subject. The largest group of rehabilitation cases among Indians is at the Charles Camsell Indian Hospital at Edmonton. A program aimed at dealing with rehabilitation of some ex-patients of that hospital is now in the planning stage.

Grants to Agricultural Exhibitions and Indians Fairs

Grants totalling \$7,350 were again made to agricultural exhibitions and Indian fairs in the majority of the provinces. Included in this amount were \$1,200 for garden prizes and prizes in standing crop competitions, \$800 for home improvement competitions, and \$250 to pay the expenses of Indian competitors at ploughing matches.

Wildlife and Fisheries

As a result of improved prices for raw furs and increased production in developed areas, Indians who engage in trapping had a better year. The fur rehabilitation and management program, carried on in co-operation with the provincial administrations in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, was continued. The success of the program can best be illustrated in terms of beaver production, which is on a sustained yield basis, related to an annual inventory of beaver lodges or colonies.

(1) Year	(2) Quebec	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Ontario
1945	...	3,370	...	...
1946	1,154	6,960	...	...
1947	1,818	7,638	1,646	47,276
1948	2,500	10,672	4,372	57,953
1949	5,858	13,567	8,090	63,374
1950	8,120	14,439	10,495	73,759

1951	12,622	18,426	11,104	80,675
1952	12,166	27,875	17,618	106,000
1953	11,485	23,436	22,977	120,000
1954	16,984	14,059	34,619	105,361

[(1)Season ended June 30.]

[(2)Fur preserve areas only.]

Other fur bearers were in normal supply, although conservation measures have resulted in increased production of marten, lynx, and fishers. Slight declines were evident in the numbers of squirrels and weasels taken in the Prairie region.

Muskrat rehabilitation projects, located mainly in the Saskatchewan River delta, still suffering from the effects of successive floods, have not been brought back to full productivity, nor has it been possible to repair the existing water control structures upon which production depends. The high water levels increased production outside the project areas, especially in the Province of Saskatchewan, where a near record take is expected.

A substantial increase has been noted in moose and deer populations. This is of the utmost importance to Indians in isolated areas where meat requirements can be filled only by wild game. A survey of barren ground caribou population has been undertaken by the Canadian Wildlife Service, in co-operation with the provincial authorities, in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Population trends indicated by the survey will set the course management should take over the next few years. Branch staff have co-operated in predator control programs and studies of animal diseases in an attempt to augment the supply of fresh meat for Indians living in isolated places.

Migratory birds were in good supply during the 1954 autumn migration, but it was noted, at points as widely separated as James Bay, Quebec, and the Sipanok Project in Saskatchewan, that there was a preponderance of adult birds in the migrating flocks. This may indicate a poor hatch in 1954 which, depending on winter survival, might mean a lower nesting population in 1955.

Supervision of Indian commercial fishing was continued. Regional supervisors of wildlife and fisheries inspected areas where Indians participate in the industry. In addition, an attempt was made, through the various fur advisory committees, to integrate fishing and trapping, with a view to spreading Indian incomes over longer periods of the year. Supervision was given to goldeye fisheries at Big Sandy Lake in Ontario and Lake Claire in Wood Buffalo Park, where a total of over 300,000 pounds was produced by Indians, but the high production caused some weakening of the market. Efforts were being made to broaden the market by fostering an increase in consumer demand for the product.

Supervision was also given to a lake trout fishery at Big Trout Lake and an experiment in sturgeon fishing in the Moose River, both in Ontario, also a salmon fishery at Bersimis in Quebec. A start was made on an oyster culture project at Lennox Island Indian Reserve in Prince Edward Island.

Assistance in domestic fishing for home consumption was again provided by the issue of nets and fishing equipment in areas where their use is permitted. Some progress was made in arranging for amendments to the existing regulations, thus permitting the wider use of nets in filling the Indians' domestic requirements.

Education

The number of Indians enrolled in educational institutions during the fiscal year rose to 32,525, an increase of 970 over the previous year. Proportionally greatest was the increase in the number admitted to non-Indian schools, which rose from 3,381 to 4,077. In schools operated by the federal government the increase in enrolment was 274 and in residential schools the number of boarders was reduced by 589 as a result of arrangements enabling the number of residential school pupils living at home to be increased to 791. There was, therefore, an increase of 202 in the number of pupils receiving instruction in the classrooms of the 69 residential schools.

Teaching Staff

Following a successful experiment under which the Indian Affairs Branch had paid the salaries of teachers in a small number of selected residential schools in an effort to improve the professional standing of the teaching staff, the Department during the year took over responsibility for the employment of teaching staff at all government-owned residential schools.

The Department now employs 623 teachers in day schools and 241 in residential schools, and of the day school staff 66 per cent hold at least a first class teacher's certificate, 20 per cent hold a second class certificate, and only 14 per cent have no certificate. In residential schools, 60 per cent hold at least a first class teacher's certificate, 17 per cent hold a second class teacher's certificate, and 23 per cent do not hold a teaching certificate.

Sixty-two teachers in day schools and eighteen teachers in residential schools are university graduates.

There are sixty-three teachers of Indian status employed by the Department.

The Department employs forty welfare teachers in isolated day schools and in hospital schools. In addition to their regular teaching duties, they assist with administrative matters, the dispensing of medicines, and the investigation of welfare problems.

During the year, 37 persons were employed to conduct seasonal schools to meet, in so far as possible, the educational needs of children of Indians who follow a nomadic way of life.

Revised regulations for the classification of teaching staff and a new salary schedule were authorized, effective September 1, 1954, to bring salary payments more in accord with revised salary rates in effect for other federal public servants and for teachers employed in schools operated under provincial jurisdiction. The salary ranges for all classifications and grades were increased, annual increments for certain classifications were raised, and a change was made in the requirements for certain classifications. It is expected the revision will assist the Branch to secure certificated and experienced teachers for all positions.

In-Service Training of Teachers

Owing to differences in language, background, and outlook encountered among Indian children, supplementary training and reorientation of teachers are required. Conventions of teachers for the discussion of topics peculiar to their work were encouraged. Courses conducted by officials of the education service or by other specially qualified persons were also arranged.

Many teachers attended summer courses during the year in association with teachers from provincial schools. Two summer sessions are required to qualify for salary increases.

The Curriculum

Only minor modifications of the provincial curricula are permitted in areas where the Indian population has achieved a significant degree of integration. In less advanced areas, teachers were encouraged and assisted in placing greater emphasis on functional language, practical arithmetic, personal and community hygiene, and the development of good citizenship. Examples of adaptations of the curriculum included the special attention given to anti-tuberculosis measures and to practical courses in conservation and trapping offered to older boys in northern residential schools.

In residential schools, girls were taught cooking, needlework, child care, and other household activities, while the boys took courses in woodwork, metalwork, motor mechanics, and farming activities related to their home environment.

At the larger day schools, special teachers and facilities were provided in order that Indian pupils could receive instruction in practical arts as prescribed in the provincial course of studies. In the small schools, the regular classroom teachers were encouraged to include arts and crafts in the school program.

Text Books and School Supplies

Indian children attending Indian day, residential, and hospital schools were lent necessary school supplies and text books. Approximately 1,200,000 items of school supplies and more than 200,000 text books were distributed during the year.

Approximately 1,000 titles were reviewed in compiling library lists for the fiscal year and in some instances it was possible to arrange with provincial authorities for the inclusion of Indian schools in provincial library circuits.

Audio-Visual Aids

In nearly all residential schools, motion picture projection equipment was in regular use and, in localities where it is possible to make a filmstrip projector available to two or more day school classrooms, such equipment was provided.

Central filmstrip libraries have been set up which include filmstrips closely related to the school curriculum and a selection of titles useful for work with the adult Indians. During the year, the filmstrip on the life and work of the Indian poetess, Pauline Johnson, was completed. Use of the phonograph and, where possible, the radio, is encouraged, particularly where the pupils are unfamiliar with the non-Indian language which is used in the classroom. Battery-operated phonographs and radios were issued to numerous small schools not served by power lines.

Physical Education and Recreation

Indian day and residential schools followed physical education and recreation programs in accordance with the provincial curricula and pupils of all ages were urged to take part in team sports. Encouragement was given to Indian schools competing with non-Indian schools and to Indian students playing on non-Indian teams. Various types of sports equipment were supplied to day and residential schools.

In addition to the school physical education and sports program, various types of club activities were encouraged. These included Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Junior Red Cross, choirs, cadet corps, 4-H Clubs, potato clubs, and other group activities.

Transportation of Indian Pupils

Wherever possible Indian adults, using their own vehicles, were engaged to transport Indian pupils who live beyond walking distance of the schools at which they are enrolled. For Indian pupils attending non-Indian schools, arrangements for transportation were made with school districts or with bus operators. In a growing number of cases it was possible to enter into contracts with Indians with approved types of school buses and the technical and financial qualifications demanded by licensing authorities.

At some centres where consolidation of Indian schools has been effected, buses owned by the Branch were operated. Daily transportation was supplied

also for children whose homes are close enough to residential schools to allow such children to become day pupils in institutions where otherwise they would have to be boarders.

The Education Service approved travel by scheduled air services or chartered planes for residential school pupils whose families live far from railroads, bus lines, or steamship routes.

Education for Physically Handicapped

Teachers were appointed to conduct educational programs in 13 hospitals or sanatoria supported by the Indian Health Services of the Department of National Health and Welfare. In institutions not operated by the Federal Government, the operating authority was reimbursed for the cost of any educational services provided Indian patients.

Special training for the blind and deaf and those with other physical handicaps was provided at special schools usually operated under provincial auspices. The education service made grants to cover the cost of this training where required. During the fiscal year, 69 pupils of both sexes received this type of special instruction.

Post-Elementary Education

Figures for enrolment of Indian pupils in nearly 200 secondary schools throughout Canada during the year showed groups of 50 or more in the larger collegiates and high schools. Many high schools in areas where there are fewer Indians had at least one pupil of Indian status.

At some Indian residential schools, classwork in high school subjects was conducted, or, when accommodation permitted, senior students continued in residence and attended classes in nearby non-Indian secondary schools.

Vocational Training

Assistance was provided to older students whose occupational interest and choice indicated the desirability of a course of training at a business college, vocational school, or technical institute. The cost of fees, books, transportation, and, in many cases, room and board was paid from grants authorized by the Education Service, in varying amounts. Encouragement for this policy was seen in the high proportion who completed their courses successfully, and who were placed in gainful occupations.

During the year, plans for increasing the number of Indian apprentices to the skilled trades resulted in seventy-eight Indian pupils being enrolled at Ontario night schools in London and Brantford, where they followed such courses as sewing, commercial subjects, machine shop practice, and motor mechanics. At other points in Canada similar programs were being followed.

Higher Education

Assistance comparable to that available to secondary and vocational school pupils, but on an increased scale, was given to Indian students at universities and professional schools.

Attendance of Indian Children at Non-Indian Schools

Use was made of provisions in the Indian Act which permit agreements with provincial and municipal authorities for the construction and operation of schools in which Indian children will receive instruction in association with non-Indians, and it is expected the number of Indian children attending non-Indian schools will show a further increase over the 4,077 in this category during the fiscal year.

Reserve Lands

Only two small parcels of land were acquired during the year as additions to existing Indian reserves. However, negotiations were commenced to acquire several other areas either as additions to existing reserves or to provide new reserves for bands.

An extensive survey program on Indian reserves and surrendered lands in all parts of Canada was carried out under the direction of the Surveyer General, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. The program gave priority to the sub-division of reserves or parts of reserves into farming or village lots, and in addition, provided for the retracement of original reserve boundaries and the restoration of boundaries in dispute.

The increased attention given to sub-division surveys of reserves in recent years has facilitated the introduction of the individual land holding system, and approval of transfers of individual holdings on reserves from one Indian to another, the allotment of vacant lands by band councils, and the replacement of old location tickets resulted in the issue of 462 certificates of possession and 34 certificates of occupation.

Land Sales

Land sales negotiated during the fiscal year were not numerous and were for the most part confined to sub-division lots, but two are worthy of note. The first involved a sale of part of the surrendered Kitsilano Indian Reserve No. 6, in the City of Vancouver, to the Department of Public Works, for the purpose of a Fisherman's Wharf, for the sum of \$88,325. The second involved the sale of Seton Lake Indian Reserve, in the Province of British Columbia, to the British Columbia Electric Company Limited for \$13,500.

The St. Lawrence Seaway Development will affect the Caughnawaga and St. Regis Reserves in the Province of Quebec and the Walpole Island Indian Reserve in the Province of Ontario. The land requirement at Caughnawaga will be approximately 2,000 acres and will include part of the present village. During the year, extensive surveys, investigations of title, and settlements of estates were undertaken to prepare the way for the negotiation of compensation agreements and the eventual relocation of those Indians whose homes are on the required land. In the case of the St. Regis and Walpole Island Reserves, the taking of the lands and islands required in the project will result in little disturbance of individual Indians but necessitated title and land appraisal work preparatory to the negotiating of compensation agreements on behalf of the respective bands.

There was a marked increase in the volume of work involving rights-of-way over Indian reserves. The majority of these are required for roads and for power transmission, telephone, and pipe lines. The increase in this phase of the work appears to be the direct result of a general stepping-up of provincial road building programs and the extension of electrical services to rural areas.

In all, 41 sales were negotiated during the fiscal year, of which 34 were on a cash basis and seven were on a time basis. Collections on land sale contracts, including the 34 cash sales and the down payments on the time sales, totalled \$211,032.75. Letters patent were issued to 49 purchasers who had completed their contracts.

Land Leases

The continuing increase in this phase of the work is due to more and more bands realizing that unused and unrequited portions of reserves are a valuable asset which can earn substantial revenue. Particular emphasis was given to

the opening of summer cottage sub-divisions at desirable points on reserves in Ontario, and plans were made to sub-divide for lease purposes areas on seven Ontario reserves.

Rentals collected under leases and permits of reserve and surrendered lands totalled \$791,928.59. During the year, 573 leases expired and 48 were cancelled, 492 new leases were issued, and 445 expiring leases were renewed, bringing the total number of leases and permits in force at the end of the fiscal year to 3,093, which includes 486 crop share leases.

Petroleum and Natural Gas

Oil rights in 14 Indian reserves were advertised, and of the 28 parcels offered, 24 were disposed of for a total of \$334,941.95. There are now 68 producing wells in the Province of Alberta, 44 of which are on Pigeon Lake Indian Reserve, 21 on Stony Indian Reserve, and three on Samson Indian Reserve.

During the year, 329 contracts terminated and 408 new and renewal contracts were written, bringing the number of contracts current at the end of the fiscal year to 477.

Receipts to Indian band funds from the management of oil and gas resources totalled \$1,555,458.20.

Regulations pertaining to the disposal of petroleum and natural gas on reserves were revised.

Timber and Forest Products

Receipts from the management of timber resources on reserves totalled \$546,120.88, of which \$376,132.53 represented dues paid by Indians cutting under permits.

While 30 forest fires covering an estimated 2,100 acres were reported on Indian reserves, only one small fire was on an area of merchantable timber and there was no serious timber loss. The sum of \$3,829.14 was expended from Indian band funds and Parliamentary Appropriation to meet costs of fire suppression.

Regulations pertaining to the disposal of timber on Indian reserves and surrendered lands were revised.

Mining

Twenty-two permits to prospect were issued on a total of five Indian reserves in the Province of Ontario; 99 claims were recorded, 113 claims were cancelled and assessment work was recorded on 18 claims. At the end of the fiscal year, 83 claims remained on record.

Receipts from all mining operations, mainly from the sale of sand, gravel and fill, totalled \$59,668.40.

Trusts and Annuities

The Indian trust fund at March 31, 1955, totalled \$24,016,802.77, made up of \$18,302,827.30 in capital account and \$5,713,975.47 in reserve account. The total of the Indian trust fund has increased by an average of approximately one million dollars each year for the last four years as follows: -

March 31, 1951 - Total	\$20,232,929.56
March 31, 1952 - Total	21,359,035.09
March 31, 1953 - Total	22,541,954.21
March 31, 1954 - Total	23,032,903.73
March 31, 1955 - Total	24,016,802.77

Expenditures during the same period have increased from two and three quarter million in the fiscal year 1951 - 52 to almost five million in 1954 - 55.

Reserve improvement programs, generally with the full participation of the bands concerned, are steadily increasing, both in individual scope and in the number of bands participating, and in the last four years there has been a fourfold increase in the use of Indian band funds for home construction and home improvements, for hydro installation, and for the extension of hydro service on the reserve. These mark a significant advance towards better living.

Construction, repair, and maintenance of reserve roads, a major factor in hundreds of Indians being able to hold steady jobs in centres of employment near reserves, resulted in a \$250,000 band fund expenditure during the year. An additional \$165,513 of trust funds was spent on community halls and other buildings. Assistance to Indian farmers in the purchase of farm implements and repairs, seed grain, feed, and livestock entailed an expenditure from the trust fund of \$787,986.83 while relief to aged, sick, destitute and incapacitated from band funds exceeded half a million dollars during the year.

Income to the fund, during the year, from sales of land, timber, petroleum, and gravel credited to capital account, rentals, and government interest credited to revenue account amounted to \$5,975,472.

Annuities

Annuity monies totalling \$385,634.00 were distributed in accordance with the various treaties. In addition, 6,334 Indians received annuity under the Robinson Treaty, and 6,407 under Treaty Nine (James Bay). This brought the number of Indians in Canada receiving treaty annuity to 73,887, an increase of 2,424 over the total of 71,463 at the end of 1953 - 54.

During the year, the Saulteaux Band of Indians signed an adhesion to Treaty Six, adding sixty-nine Indians to the treaty lists. In addition, eighteen more members of the O'Chiese Band in Alberta came into treaty during the year.

Personal Savings

As at March 31, 1955, 2,591 individual savings accounts showed a combined total credit of \$843,456.78. By order-in-Council, the rate of interest on individual Indian savings accounts, other than those belonging to estates or mentally incompetent Indians, was reduced from 5% to 2.70 as of October 1st, 1954, in order to bring the rate of interest more in line with that paid on savings in ordinary banks, and to encourage the Indians to make use of ordinary local banking facilities.

Band Loans

During the year, a total of \$65,055.15 from band funds was lent to 97 individual band members, the average loan being \$670.67.

Purchase of livestock and equipment	\$44,968.65
Purchase of property - land and buildings	350.00
Repairs to buildings-houses, etc	2,190.00
Construction of new buildings	11,302.50
Miscellaneous purchases	6,244.00

Ninety-seven band loans in the amount of \$42,025.00 were fully retired during the fiscal year.

Band Property Insurance - 1954 - 55

Fire insurance totalling \$1,053,517.00 was carried on properties owned by Indian bands across Canada with new coverage and renewals totalling \$307,845.00 being arranged at a cost of \$4,523.99 to the trust funds of Indian bands.

Fire loss indemnity of \$25,000 was paid on the community hall of the River Desert Band, Maniwaki Indian Agency.

Enfranchisements - 1954 - 55

The number of enfranchisements shows a steady increase from year to year. In 1951, the payments to 390 Indians under this heading were \$72,615.45. For 1955, payments amounted to \$229,941.66 to 760 Indians.

The 760 Indians enfranchised during the year were from the following regions; Yukon Territory, 9; Northwest Territories, 53; British Columbia, 176; Alberta, 90; Saskatchewan, 62; Manitoba, 115; Ontario, 222; Quebec, 16; New Brunswick, 6; Nova Scotia, 11.

Forty-one applications for enfranchisement were not recommended for approval during the year. These involved a total of 79 individuals.

Membership and Estates

During the fiscal year, the functions of the Reserves and Trusts Division were changed by the separation, on a temporary basis, of work connected with band membership and Indian estates. The new unit was given the designation 'Membership and Estates'. It was necessary to augment the staff of the Estates Section, and personnel recruited through the Civil Service Commission were made familiar, during a training period, with problems of Indian estates administration.

Protests under Section 9 of The Indian Act against inclusion and exclusion of persons in or from band membership lists continued to be investigated and studied. Commissioners appointed under The Inquiries Act held public hearings in connection with twelve bands in British Columbia, three in Alberta, eighteen in Saskatchewan, two in Manitoba, and two in Ontario. Decisions by the Registrar on the protests have been withheld pending study and consideration of the reports from the Commissioners.

Four hundred and fifty-eight Indian estates were concluded during the fiscal year.

Engineering and Construction

During the year, emphasis was again placed on overcoming the shortage of educational accommodation for school-age Indians, and thirty-three day schools in single and multiple classroom blocks were under construction. Fifty-two classrooms were added to educational facilities, exclusive of new classrooms provided at residential schools. New construction at existing residential schools included the provision of fourteen new classrooms, while at two new residential schools placed in operation during the year there were eight new classrooms. In all, seventy-four new classrooms have been provided.

Considerable attention was given to renovation and rehabilitation program at residential schools where mechanical services had become outdated and obsolete. Electric wiring and generating plants, laundry and kitchen equipment, and plumbing and sewage disposal installations were examined and studied, and a substantial volume of repairs and replacements was carried out.

Transmission lines were built to carry power from large operators to a number of schools which previously had small power plants.

Chlorinating and softening equipment for water supply facilities was installed in a number of residential schools, and in several others equipment was installed for treating sewage effluent.

At the close of the year construction was well advanced on the new residential school at Amos, Quebec, and construction operations had been initiated on another at Hobbema, Alberta.

Tenders had been invited for a new residential school at Moose Factory, Ontario, and design was proceeding on two other residential schools for Clearwater Lake and Dauphin in Manitoba, for erection during the 1955 - 56 fiscal year.

Although the major portion of the Branch construction activities were in connection with the operation of schools, the administration of regional matters embraced the construction of several agency office buildings, residences for agency superintendents and other agency staff, as well as buildings for housing agency vehicles and equipment. Local agency needs also included the provision of water supply systems, power supply, irrigation works, the building and maintenance of roads, with incidental bridges and culverts, as well as a wide variety of other technical items which were provided.

The Provincial Picture

British Columbia

Although the excessive rainfall of the spring and summer was of great benefit to the increasing number of Indians working in the logging industry, because of low fire hazard and the extended season, farming operations were affected adversely by the wet season. In the Williams Lake and Stuart Lake agencies, hay lands were too wet for the cutting of crops and in other interior agencies the crop was light and of poor quality. Many Indian ranchers had to purchase winter feed and, in a number of cases, had to market cattle which normally would have been kept for herd production.

In spite of the wet weather, however, good progress was made in the agricultural program. Through use of the provincial land clearing service, additional acreage was made available on Indian lands in the Okanagan, Kamloops, Kootenay, and Cowichan agencies. Improved methods resulted in increased acreage planted to small fruits and cash crops of tomatoes, beans, corn, and carrots by Indian growers through the Lytton and New Westminster agencies. On the Kootenay agency, where two Indians succeeded in having their potato crops certified by the Federal Department of Agriculture, additional acreages were planted to potatoes on a commercial scale.

The Lytton agency project of lending Indian farmers heifers in calf and permitting them to keep the first year's progeny before passing the cattle along to other Indian farmers was extended to the Kamloops Agency to assist farmers in that agency to establish foundation herds. Twenty heifers in calf were purchased in this agency.

In the Kootenay Agency, the annual crop of Christmas trees, which numbered 160,000 trees of excellent quality, was an important source of revenue to the Indian families who participated.

Indian farmers and their children were again active in local calf, potato, and other farm clubs, and particular success was achieved by the 4-H Calf Club at Williams Lake and the Holstein Calf Club at St. Mary's Residential School at Mission Lake in competitions at local fairs.

Revenue from fishing varied among the 3,403 coastal Indians holding commercial fishing licenses. Those on the southern part of the coast, who benefitted from the exceptionally large Adams River sockeye salmon run, had satisfactory returns but in the Naas and Skeena River areas, where the Indian fishermen use light craft, in contrast to the modern trend towards long range, radar-equipped fishing boats, revenue from fishing was down seriously.

Revenue from the sale of fur catches was below the needs of Indian trappers operating in the northern and central regions of the Province, and in some cases changes in location to areas where seasonal work could be obtained were necessary.

There was a noteworthy increase in the number of Indian children in private and provincial schools and this was accompanied by improved attendance and increased parental interest. The opening of the new joint federal-provincial school at Alert Bay provided accommodation for approximately 100 Indian children of junior and senior high school grades, and new day schools were completed at Nazko, Deadman's Creek, and Sugar Cane Reserves. Schools at Kingcome Inlet and Nootka were enlarged to two classrooms. The St. Catherine's Indian Day School, in the Cowichan Agency, was enlarged and modernized and day school facilities were provided at the northern village of Takla Landing. Three Indian students graduated from provincial normal schools and each has embarked on a teaching career in the British Columbia school system. Other students graduated from professional and vocational courses.

Installation and repair work was completed on 28 domestic water systems in Indian villages throughout the Province, and electric power was installed in a number of reserves. Additional lands, suitable for agriculture, were irrigated on a number of interior reserves, and road improvement was included in work programs on a number of reserves.

A total of 224 new homes were erected and repairs and improvements to 300 homes were made through use of tribal trust funds, in addition to the homes erected and completed by Indian families from their own resources.

Good progress was made in increasing the welfare services among Indians through co-operation with provincial, municipal, and private social welfare agencies.

Alberta

Agriculture continued as the principal source of income for Alberta Indians with 111,753 acres under cultivation on reserves during the year, apart from approximately 66,000 acres under crop share lease to non-Indians. Production by Indians alone approached one million bushels of cereal grains.

Cattle herds continued to increase in southern areas, where sales were controlled, but there was a reduction in herds in central areas of the province, where sales were not as rigidly restricted. There was an overall increase from 17,045 to 17,387 head of Indian-owned cattle.

Returns from hunting and trapping in northern parts of the province showed some encouraging improvement over last year. Although the size of the catch was not any larger, prices were generally better, and this brought about some reduction in relief costs. A commercial goldeye fishing project at Lake Claire was reasonably successful.

Lumbering operations were conducted on the Stony, Peigan, Bighorn, Sunchild-Cree, and O'Chiese Indian Reserves in southern Alberta, as well as on small reserves in the Lesser Slave Lake and Fort St. John areas in Alberta and British Columbia. The Indians who participated in these ventures enjoyed a good living standard during the winter months.

Royalties from the sale of oil at Pigeon Lake and Stony Plain Reserves brought substantial revenues to band funds. A permit to explore some 3,300 acres on the Sturgeon Lake Reserve brought nearly half a million dollars to the Indian band fund on that reserve.

The most encouraging signs of progress during the year were seen in education and in the indication that band councils were directing the use of growing band funds to the improvement of social and economic standards on reserves. New modern school buildings for day school pupils were completed on the Peigan, Blackfoot, Wabamun, Beaver Lake, and Cold Lake reserves and a new

four-classroom school neared completion on the Stony Reserve. A new dormitory building was started at Hobbema to replace antiquated facilities there.

An increasing number of Indian children attended elementary and senior public and separate schools off reserves.

One hundred and twenty-five new Indian homes were constructed and 315 homes repaired. Rural electrification was extended at Sarcee, and modern community halls were completed on the Sarcee and Samson Reserves.

Saskatchewan

Farming operations in Saskatchewan were seriously affected by heavy rains throughout the planting and growing seasons and by stem and leaf rust.

The acreages sown and yields on Indian reserves were as follows: Wheat, 72,746 acres, 640,821 bushels; oats, 14,880 acres, 249,228 bushels; barley, 18,094 acres, 372,312 bushels; rape, 1,405 acres, 418,910 pounds; hay, 16,393 acres, 25,058 tons; wild hay, 12,899 tons.

Wild hay and pasture leases were valued at approximately \$151,000 and the estimated return to Indians from the 1954 grain crop is \$599,000.

Oil continued to be of major importance in the southern part of the province particularly, and many bands' funds have been bolstered by receipts from oil leases.

The northern Indians had a good year, owing to the extension of commercial fishing and fairly steady prices. Fine fur was more plentiful and prices were better than in previous years. There was an abundance of beaver and muskrat particularly. Indians in Saskatchewan earned \$103,404 from fishing and over \$269,000 from trapping.

The timber wolf control program of provincial authorities, resulting in an increase of moose, elk, and deer, added greatly to the economy of the northern Indians.

Although the new home building programs did not get under way as early as expected, 88 new homes were built, and many were enlarged and repaired.

Requirements for new school classrooms were still pressing even though three new schools were built and a number of classrooms added during the year.

The general health of the Indian was improved as a result of the enlargement of Indian Health Services and their activity with preventative measures-particularly the T.B. Survey.

Manitoba

Owing to excessive rainfall throughout the year, activities were appreciably curtailed in farming, in wild rice collection, and in road construction.

The flooding of 2,000 acres after seeding, combined with rust, decreased yield and quality and resulted in agriculture returns being down from the previous year although the total acreage under production in Manitoba was 30,016 - an increase over the previous year of 1,707 acres. Of this Indians cultivated 22,466 acres. The remainder, 7,550 acres, was under lease to non-Indian farmers, the rentals being on a crop-share basis. Indians produced 177,557 bushels of grain valued at \$160,000, compared to 360,104 bushels valued at \$450,000 produced in the year ending March 31, 1954. More than 50,000

bushels were grown on leased lands with a value of \$12,000 to various Indian bands, while in the previous year there were 100,000 bushels valued at \$45,000.

Flooding also accounted for the damaging of hay crops, making necessary the purchase of winter feed for stock on a few reserves adjacent to Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba.

The wild rice crop on the Whiteshell concession was so small it did not warrant tenders, but pickers on the east side of Lake Winnipeg had a slightly better crop and received twenty-five cents a pound for green rice. Over-all revenue was low.

Mild weather and a late freeze delayed fishing on Lake Winnipeg and in southern regions and catches were so poor and prices so low that extensions were granted in some districts. Northern areas reported more favourable conditions. Prices fluctuated from five cents a pound for whitefish and pickerel to eight cents for trout. The opening of several new lakes for Indians by the provincial fisheries branch helped conditions.

All registered trapline areas, except on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, experienced a good run of fine fur and prices were better, with mink ranging from \$16 to \$35 and beaver from \$12 to \$25. Organization of a new extension area in the interlake country was completed. Summerberry Muskrat Ranch produced 219,000 muskrats, cropped equally by Indians and non-Indians. Beaver crop valuation in the northern registered trapline district was \$152,399, with 13,872 pelts taken.

Conservation and game management were responsible for an increase in moose in areas adjacent to Indian trapping grounds, and assistance in the Predator Control Plan accounted for approximately 500 wolves.

Thirty-five miles of road was built or repaired and of this ten miles was constructed by Departmental equipment. Indians were employed to operate tractors and other machines, and to build bridges.

The nine sawmills in the northern part of the Province, which are Department-owned and operated by Indians, produced lumber for the building and repair of homes. Throughout the whole inspectorate, 90 new homes were built and 240 repaired with money from band funds and welfare appropriations.

Manitoba's growing sugar beet industry provided work during the season for 250 Indians in planting, thinning, and harvesting. In addition there was work on power development projects, railroad building and maintenance, in pulp camps, bush camps, on tractor swings, in fishing camps, and on farms.

Accommodation for the ever-growing number of pupils was taken care of in part by the completion of thirteen new classrooms during the year which accommodate 390 pupils. This new space is in a fully modern four-room school at Island Lake which, it is hoped, will be equipped with manual training and home economics facilities, a similar four-room school at The Pas already equipped with these facilities, a two-room school at Pukatawagon, and one-room schools at Pipestone, Ebb and Flow, and Fort Alexander. A one-room school and teacherage is under construction at Shamattawa to serve the needs of pupils in this isolated area.

Graduates of high schools were in a variety of professions. Others were training for careers in nursing, electronics, barbering, watch repairing, and other occupations.

Improvement in living conditions on reserves was highlighted by the extension of electrical power to 40 families on the Fisher River and Oak River Reserves.

Oil rights on 14,852 acres were leased on three reserves, but no drilling was done in the 1954 - 55 year.

Ontario

Southern Ontario -

The Indians in southern Ontario again enjoyed a prosperous year. The employment of tradesmen and persons with professional training continued high and the Indian people enjoyed their fair share of employment. Casual labour provided work for Indians on the tobacco and fruit farms and at lumber camps. During the tourist season, many were engaged as guides, cooks, and domestics. In the Parry Sound area, employment was difficult to obtain during the winter of 1954 and the Indians in that area augmented their income by cutting pulpwood and logs.

The acreage under cultivation in the southern part of the Province was increased by approximately 1,000 acres. Increasing acreage was devoted to white beans, soya beans, corn, and autumn wheat. Although the harvesting season was wet, the Indian farmer had a better-than-average year.

Indian farmers continued to improve their livestock by the purchase of purebred breeding animals. The herd of beef cattle at the Caradoc Agency was again increased and the Indians of that area became more interested in the raising of beef stock. The pure-bred Holstein herd at the St. Regis Agency supplied pure-bred bulls to Indian farmers to improve milk herds and increase milk production.

Hydro power was made available to the Lower French and Christian Island Reserves. Electricity made it possible for Indians on these reserves to modernize their homes and to purchase washing machines, electric stoves, and other electrical appliances. With the exception of Georgina Island, electricity is now on or in the vicinity of all reserves in southern Ontario.

The program of construction and repairs to houses continued. During the year, 49 new houses were constructed and 153 repaired, with much of the financing being done by the individual Indian.

With Indian fathers and mothers more conscious of the importance of education, the school attendance of Indian children in both elementary and high schools continued to improve. During the year, two new schools were opened a four-room school with manual training and domestic science facilities at St. Regis Village and a one-room school at the Lower French River Reserve. In September, arrangements were made and completed for all children of the Sarnia Reserve to receive their education at the city schools of Sarnia. The Sarnia Band of Indians were very much in favour of this move, and the attendance and progress of the children were most encouraging. Similarly, arrangements were made for the senior grades at the Walpole Island Reserve to attend the Wallaceburg provincial schools. There, too, the result has been most encouraging.

A great deal of work was done to improve the roads on all reserves in this area, and to make them passable the year round. This permitted the Indians to commute to their places of employment and made local markets available to Indian farmers.

North and Northwestern Ontario -

The economy of almost all Indians in this region is related to trapping, lumbering, and fishing.

Indians hold 65 per cent of the registered traplines in northern Ontario. Increased fur prices and unemployment kept more Indian trappers on their traplines for longer periods than in recent years. This resulted in lowered relief costs in the final six months of the year.

Lectures were given at trappers' meetings on the preparation of raw furs, with resulting improvement noted in the quality of furs offered.

Many of the bands are engaged in commercial fisheries that are wholly Indian, with the Branch providing supervision on some of the larger projects in northern regions where the recent fur crop has been light as a result of reduced animal populations.

Owing to adverse weather conditions throughout the summer and early autumn, the whole region produced only about 20,000 pounds of wild rice compared to 170,000 pounds the previous year. The blueberry harvest, which provides a large portion of the summer's income, particularly in the agencies of Kenora, Port Arthur, and Sioux Lookout, also was poor.

Employment as guides and as domestics in the tourist industry provided incomes for many Indians, with timber operations again an important part of the Indian economy. Increased demands for timber products led to the organizing of new operations in hitherto inaccessible areas. Plans were made by the forest engineer for three more reserves to be operated under forest management next season.

Reforestation continued, with approximately 100,000 seedlings planted. Two more reserves were brought into this scheme.

Discussions were held with the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests on the possibility of acquiring cutting rights on provincial crown land, particularly in the Port Arthur and Lake Nipigon areas.

Mountbatten Township timber was officially released by the Province to the Indians of the Brunswick House Band. Future operations on this reserve will be conducted under the permit system.

Several Indians attended the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests scaling courses, and increasing amounts of timber produced on reserves was scaled by Indians possessing an Ontario scaler's license.

The number of homemakers' clubs decreased from 24 to 18, a result of the difficulty in providing close liaison with and guidance to clubs in the more remote areas.

The housing improvement program was continued with good results and some 125 new houses, of varying types, were built at a cost of \$209,601.15. Of this amount, Indians contributed \$73,470.12 directly, or through band funds. An additional 219 houses were repaired at a cost of \$35,764.51, of which the Indians contributed \$18,020.73.

Continued progress was evident in education with more Indians realizing its importance. More classrooms were in operation with a higher percentage

of qualified teachers, and several joint agreements were arranged with the provincial school boards. As a result, more Indian children were attending the local school with non-Indians.

Roads were improved or new roads built on about 30 reserves, providing employment for many Indians.

Administration of the regional office was improved by the addition of an assistant regional supervisor.

Quebec

Economic conditions in Quebec remained as in the previous year with some improvement noted in areas opened by mineral exploration and mining projects.

In remote areas, trapping is still the main occupation, and while prices for beaver pelts were better, marten pelts suffered a poor market. A plan under which live animals are moved to new areas to increase the beaver population is now in operation with the co-operation of the Department of Game and Fisheries, with the district north of Seven Island to be restocked in 1955 - 56.

The number of Indians employed in the various phases of Quebec's economic and industrial life is increasing. Important developments in the northern part of the Province, it is hoped, will give opportunities for employment and better living conditions to Indians of this area whose incomes from hunting, fishing, and trapping were inadequate, resulting in relief payments being necessary on a higher scale than in other parts of the province.

Included in these new projects are a new 300-mile C.N.R. line from Abitibi to Lake St. John and Hydro power dams north of Bersimis and in Abitibi.

In Abitibi, Maniwaki, and Bersimis, many Indians were employed in forestry operations, and a number from Caughnawaga and Pierreville found regular employment in the United States in steel erection. Most of the labour on construction of buildings and on road work on reserves was provided by Indians.

Fifty new houses were built by the Branch and 82 houses were repaired. With the addition of free labour and individual savings by Indians, these houses are up to the standards of those of non-Indians.

Handicrafts flourished in Caughnawaga. The road stands are well located on a highway close to Montreal and the International Boundary, and tourists are reached through effective advertising.

Thirteen homemakers' clubs were operating in the Province and the summaries of their activities indicate effective community service.

During the winter, the Maniwaki Band lost its fine community centre by fire but some \$25,000 in insurance payments and the salvage of the chimney and foundations will permit its reconstruction.

The Caughnawaga, Maniwaki, and Bersimis Bands continued to draw a steady and substantial income from the sale of wood, stone, and gravel.

Although agriculture on a full-time basis made little progress, many agencies reported more land clearing and an increase in kitchen-gardens.

The new Amos residential school, although not opened during the year, recruited nearly its full quota of pupils. The summer school at Rapid Lake was in operation for four months during the year. In Oka and Maniwaki, most Indian pupils attended non-Indian schools, and reports on students taking higher education show they are competing successfully with non-Indians.

The overall health of the Indian population continued to improve and tuberculosis and epidemic diseases were decreasing.

New Brunswick

The prevailing demand for pulpwood, much of it available on the large New Brunswick reserves, work available in the State of Maine, reasonably close to many New Brunswick Indians, and the beginning of construction at Camp Gagetown opened up many employment possibilities for Indian workers of this province, many of them skilled tradesmen.

However, unusually persistent and heavy snowfall over most of this province prevented for months any and all types of woodwork. Because of this, more than average welfare assistance was rendered this year in Kingsclear and Tobique Agencies.

Seasonal employment as fishing and hunting guides, in the potato fields of Maine, and in cutting and shipping of Christmas trees helped many Indians, although work in this latter field was minimal because of spruce bud worm infestation.

Twenty-five houses were built on eight reserves this year, four of them under the Veterans Land Act, and major repairs were made to twelve others. Roads on Tobique, Kingsclear, and Burnt Church were repaired. At Tobique, an agreement was entered into with the Provincial Department of Highways to maintain the reserve highway at an annual fixed cost.

Recognition of the need for education is increasingly evident. Schools are regularly attended and Indian students attending non-Indian schools in increasing numbers are doing creditably. One youth graduated from St. Francis Xavier University and is now attending Nova Scotia Technical College. Many others are doing high school work and four are taking trades courses. On the Eel Ground Reserve in the Miramichi Agency, children in grades V to VIII were, for the first time, attending school in the town of Newcastle. A contract was let for the construction of a three classroom school at Big Cove. Minor repairs were effected to schools and teacherages.

Included in improvements to reserves were a council hall, built with band funds at the Red Bank Reserve, and a new winter road to their wood-lot, built by the Eel Ground group. The Burnt Church Band made major repairs to their council hall.

Sustenance gardening is increasing annually and basketry and handle making continue to be a definite part of Indian economy.

Nova Scotia

Welfare expenditures in Nova Scotia were heavy during the year, for the majority of Nova Scotia's 3,100 Indians are dependent on seasonal employment in potato fields, sustenance gardening, and basket making. With most of the occupied reserves of small size and almost devoid of timber and with a reduced demand for pulp and pit props, there was little revenue for Indians from woods operations.

However, there was progress in other fields during the year. Gardening increased both in quantity and quality. The general health was better than average. The two community stores at Shubenacadie and Eskasoni, originally financed with revolving fund loans to the bands, continued to render service, give employment to Indian staff, and realize adequate profits.

On the largest reserve at Eskasoni, a new two room school and teacherage was built. This year on this reserve industrial arts and household science departments were opened with qualified teachers. A recognition of the need of education is apparently province wide. In 1947 there was one student in the province

in Grade IX and none beyond. There are this year, in non-Indian educational institutions, forty Indian pupils doing well in Grades IX to XII inclusive. Additionally, there are both trainees and graduates in the nursing and stenographic professions and three other graduates are novitiates in religious life.

A total of twenty-two houses were built on seven reserves, five of these financed chiefly through Veterans Land Act grants. Repairs in varying degrees were effected to over 100 Indian homes on ten reserves. Considerable road repairs were made on Bear River, Shubenacadie, and Eskasoni Reserves.

In an effort to improve the opportunities of earning a living, the Provincial Department of Lands and Forests placed beaver on the Eskasoni Reserve, surveyed it for blueberry propagation, and made an air and ground survey of the timber resources. Representatives of the Federal Department of Fisheries gave talks and showed films on the possibility of oyster culture in the Bras D'Or lakes. Seventeen Indians now hold oyster leases.

During the year, the old Truro Rifle Range of 590 acres was transferred by the Department of National Defence to the Indian Reserve at Truro, N.S. By this transfer, the Truro group is now assured of an adequate supply of wood for fuel and basket making purposes.

Activity in the homemakers clubs continued although on a reduced scale.

Prince Edward Island

The Indian population of Prince Edward Island is slightly under 300, and approximately 85 per cent live on a 1,300 acre island on the Gulf Coast about 25 miles north west of Summerside. Their livelihood is chiefly derived from basketry, supplemented by outside seasonal employment or departmental projects on the reserve. In the fiscal year, however, conditions were not good and considerable welfare assistance was necessary. The few of this band not living, at Lennox Island are self sufficing to a greater extent.

Black ash required for potato picking baskets must be brought in from New Brunswick but the demand is such that this is economically sound. A revolving fund loan to the Band of \$3,000 made it possible to produce baskets on a year round basis and store them until sold at potato picking time. The loan was retired in full in 1954 and a substantial profit realized for re-investment.

During the year, two welfare houses were built on the reserve, roads were repaired considerably, and dredging was done around the Lennox Island wharf. Unlike on most Maritime reserves, woodwork is not available to Prince Edward Island Indians, but some income is derived from lobster fishing, clam and oyster picking, and berry and potato picking.

In co-operation with the Department of Fisheries, twenty acres of good potential oyster beds were reserved near Lennox Island for the Indians of this band. A fully equipped boat and necessary oyster culture equipment were purchased by the Branch and a start was made on cleaning the bed. Each year that oyster seed will be picked during the oyster fishing season, sorted, and planted on the bed in a rotation program.

During the year under review, the general health of the group appeared better than average. Nursing services are available on the reserve, with well baby and immunization clinics held regularly.

Several students, although the number was reduced from previous years, did very well at non-Indian educational institutions and the teaching of domestic science was begun in a small way in the Indian day school. Hockey and base-

ball activities as usual continued briskly. Two dramatizations were put on over local radio stations by the Indian children of school age, and two variety concerts with all Indian talent were staged on the reserve.

Yukon Territory

There was a marked increase in prospecting and development work by mining interests in the Yukon during the year under review, resulting in increased employment for Indians in the southern portion of the Territory, as guides, packers, and general labourers with prospecting and survey parties. The building of access roads and clearing rights of way gave employment to a few Indians in outlying districts. In the Mayo district, the Territorial Government hired Indian crews for fire fighting, and several Indians, with prospecting knowledge, staked claims in mining areas.

A slight rise in the fur market did not noticeably affect the living standards of the Indians as the low fur prices of the past few years have caused a drift of trappers to centres of population.

The training of three Indians in live beaver trapping was commenced in the summer months and a small number of live beaver were planted on denuded Indian traplines.

Although there is very little agriculture carried on in the Yukon, Indians, such as those in the Dawson area, where soil permits, have excellent gardens in production.

Relief costs were relatively high, owing to the high cost of transportation to isolated groups.

Some progress in the housing program was made during the year. Building lots were cleared and six new houses were constructed on the Indian reserve adjacent to the city of Whitehorse, and wells were provided at Whitehorse and Teslin, with a double-walled, cement based pump house being constructed on the Whitehorse Reserve.

The educational facilities continued to improve with the completion of the Carcross Indian Residential School in October. Five day schools were in operation during the year. A general increase in the number of Indian children attending the Territorial public schools was noted.

Indian Health Services staged an intensified nine week X-ray survey, accompanied by a parasitologist who searched into the incidence of hydatid disease. This survey, coupled with the immunization program carried out by the Indian Health Services, kept infectious and contagious diseases within reasonable bounds.

Northwest Territories

A moderate increase in the price of fur brought some improvement in the economic position of the Indians in the Northwest Territories and many of the Indians took advantage of opportunities to improve their diet through domestic fishing in the numerous lakes in the Mackenzie area.

A supervised caribou hunt was conducted for the first time in the Yellowknife and Rae areas, in an effort to encourage the Indians to provide food for the summer months and, at the same time, conserve big game by storing in cold storage lockers provided by the Branch. The experiment was moderately successful.

No serious epidemics occurred during the year and thorough chest X-ray coverage was conducted in conjunction with the paying of annuities during the summer months.

An increasing number of Indians turned from hunting and trapping to other industries, taking seasonal employment in commercial fishing and lumbering industries and in the transportation service. However, hunting and trapping continued to be the main means of livelihood.

Names and Locations of Indian Agencies

British Columbia

Babine, at Hazelton; Bella Coola, at Bella Coola; Cowichan, at Duncan; Fort St. John, at Fort St. John; Kamloops, at Kamloops; Kootenay, at Cranbrook; Kwawkwalth, at Alert Bay; Lytton, at Lytton; New Westminster, at New Westminster; Nicola, at Merritt; Okanagan, at Vernon; Queen Charlotte, at Masset; Skeena River, at Prince Rupert; Stuart Lake, at Vanderhoof; Vancouver, at Vancouver; West Coast, at Port Alberni; and Williams Lake, at Williams Lake.

Alberta

Athabaska, at Fort Chipewyan; Blackfoot, at Gleichen; Blood, at Cardston; Peigan, at Brocket; Edmonton, at Edmonton; Fort Vermilion, at Fort Vermilion; Hobbema, at Hobbema; Lesser Slave Lake, at High Prairie; Saddle Lake, at St. Paul; and Stony-Sarcee, at Calgary.

Manitoba

Clandeboye, at Selkirk; Dauphin, at Dauphin; Fisher River, at Hodgson; Nelson River, at Ilford; Norway House, at Norway House; Pas, at The Pas; and Portage la Prairie, at Portage la Prairie.

Saskatchewan

Battleford, at Battleford; Carlton, at Prince Albert; Crooked Lake, at Broadview; Duck Lake, at Duck Lake; Meadow Lake, at Meadow Lake; Pelly, at Kamsack; File Hills-Qu-Appelle, at Fort Qu'Appelle; and Touchwood, at Punnichy.

Ontario

Cape Croker, at Wiarton; Caradoc, at Muncey; Chapleau, at Chapleau; Christian Island, at Christian Island; Golden Lake, at Golden Lake; Fort Frances, at Fort Frances; James Bay, at Moose Factory; Kenora, at Kenora; Manitoulin Island, at Manitowaning; Moravian, at Highgate; Nipissing, at Sturgeon Falls; Parry Sound, at Parry Sound; Port Arthur, at Port Arthur; Rama and Georgina Island, at Longford Mills; Rice and Mud Lakes, at Peterborough; Sarnia, at Sarnia; Saugeen, at Chippewa Hill; Sault Ste. Marie, at Sault Ste. Marie; Sioux Lookout, at Sioux Lookout; Six Nations, at Brantford; Tyendinaga, at Desoronto; and Walpole Island, at Walpole Island.

Quebec

Abitibi, at Amos; Bersimis, at Betsiamites; Caughnawaga, at Caughnawaga; Jeune Lorette, at Village des Hurons; Maniwaki, at Maniwaki; Pierreville, at Pierreville; Pointe Bleue, at Pointe Bleue; Restigouche, at Restigouche; St. Augustin, at St. Augustin; St. Regis, at St. Regis; Seven Islands, at Seven Islands; and Timiskaming, at Notre Dame du Nord.

New Brunswick

Miramichi, at Rogersville; Tobique, at Perth; and Kingsclear, at Fredericton.

Nova Scotia

Shubenacadie, at Micmac; and Eskasoni, at Eskasoni.

Prince Edward Island

Lennox Island, on Lennox Island.

Yukon Territory

Whitehorse, at Whitehorse.

Northwest Territories

Fort Norman, at Fort Norman; Fort Resolution, at Yellowknife.

Table 1

Census of Indians: Arranged under Provinces and Territories, 1954

Province	Total Number	Religions							Under 7 years		7 and under 16		16 and under 21		21 and under 65		65 and under 70		70 and over	
		Anglican	Baptist	Presbyterian	Roman Catholic	United Church	Other Christian Beliefs	Aboriginal Beliefs	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Alberta	15,715	2,037	143	...	11,225	1,917	127	266	1,912	1,996	1,809	1,864	794	788	3,090	2,805	131	76	215	235
British Columbia	31,086	6,025	...	...	17,959	6,310	792	...	3,614	3,587	3,534	3,642	1,488	1,494	6,581	5,652	275	188	505	526
Manitoba	19,684	5,855	2	846	7,250	5,090	564	77	2,377	2,397	2,282	2,303	972	930	4,061	3,440	154	156	311	301
New Brunswick	2,629	...	...	...	2,629	...	...	...	305	294	284	285	141	136	591	486	19	19	36	33
Northwest Territories	4,023	711	...	...	3,310	...	...	2	442	400	420	404	179	175	932	835	50	29	69	88
Nova Scotia	3,002	...	...	...	3,002	...	...	...	310	308	326	311	181	185	642	608	22	17	52	40
Ontario	37,255	11,313	1,960	622	12,917	7,038	1,232	2,173	3,487	3,499	3,833	4,040	2,193	2,055	8,27	17,560	554	412	696	655
Prince Edward Island	272	...	...	...	272	...	...	...	21	19	30	31	13	16	67	58	4	2	6	5
Quebec	17,574	3,383	...	...	13,482	425	141	143	1,784	1,743	1,833	1,853	931	967	4,014	3,478	203	192	296	280
Saskatchewan	18,750	5,532	37	251	10,150	1,604	81	1,095	2,180	2,142	2,204	2,221	912	962	3,799	3,536	154	124	258	258
Yukon	1,568	1,165	84	...	314	1	...	4	144	170	176	190	81	78	327	310	21	17	28	26
Total Indian population	151,558	36,021	2,226	1,719	82,510	22,385	2,937	3,760	16,576	16,555	16,731	17,144	7,885	7,786	32,375	28,768	1,587	1,232	2,472	2,447

Table 2

Land, Property, and Live Stock, Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 1955

Province	Number of Reserves	LAND				PROPERTY				LIVE STOCK						
		Total Area of Reserve (Acres)	Acres Under Wood	Acres Cleared But Not Cultivated	Acres Under Actual Cultivated	Private Horses	Churches	Council Houses	Saw Mills	HORSES			CATTLE			
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Stallions	Geldings and Mares	Foals	Bulls	Steers	Milch Cows	Young Stock
Prince Edward Island	4	2,741	1,721	820	200	55	1	1	...	...	7	...	...	1	3	4
Nova Scotia	40	19,492	18,242	1,439	762	522	10	...	4	...	54	...	2	1	64	35
New Brunswick	23	37,725	33,089	1,132	287	442	5	3	...	...	15	...	...	...	7	3
Quebec	22	179,647	138,001	11,799	5,844	2,185	22	5	2	4	317	33	22	60	818	339
Ontario	164	1,559,151	1,173,855	107,020	40,719	5,868	115	53	25	27	1,502	54	84	280	2,715	1,396

Manitoba	107	524,134	306,369	153,767	30,375	3,787	71	17	14	3	1,463	15	20	185	678	342
Saskatchewan	120	1,204,562	448,501	594,641	177,937	3,388	61	17	6	6	3,058	56	53	473	1,559	997
Alberta	90	1,516,698	632,105	757,694	164,037	3,264	38	19	3	160	6,741	597	269	2,247	9,014	5,857
British Columbia	1,628	821,410	405,163	259,008	39,024	6,349	167	88	35	92	4,317	497	171	2,944	4,560	2,812
Northwest Territories and Yukon	25	5,460	5,795	57	9	403	...	4	...	2	59	4	...	...	...	...
Totals	2,223	5,871,019	3,162,841	1,897,377	459,194	26,263	490	207	89	294	17,533	1,251	621	6,191	19,454	11,785

Table, see page 70

Table 4**Open Account - Advances for Assistance to Indians, Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 1955**

EXPENDITURE		
Yukon	Nil	...
British Columbia	\$31,220.22	...
Alberta	2,920.00	...
Saskatchewan	15,737.60	...
Manitoba	6,885.69	...
Ontario	29,655.86	...
Quebec	783.82	...
New Brunswick	1.01	...
Nova Scotia	117.55	...
Prince Edward Island	Nil	...
...	...	87,321.75
REPAYMENTS		
Yukon	215.11	...
British Columbia	9,202.33	...
Alberta	925.30	...
Saskatchewan	17,932.48	...
Manitoba	2,627.56	...
Ontario	17,952.63	...
Quebec	9,287.92	...
New Brunswick	1,289.06	...
Nova Scotia	2,267.63	...
Prince Edward Island	3,008.36	...
...	...	64,708.38
Expenditure over repayments	...	\$22,613.37

Table 5**Indian Trust Funds - Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for Year Ended March 31, 1955**

CAPITAL ACCOUNT		
Balance, April 1, 1954	...	\$17,476,183.36
Receipts	...	...
Land sales, principal	\$87,430.52	...
Timber dues	553,082.25	...
Gravel dues	72,093.04	...
Oil royalties	858,755.24	...
Oil bonus	204,792.07	...
Loan repayments	53,747.49	...
Housing repayments	17,806.28	...
Rentals	8,402.56	...
Insurance - Algonquin centre	25,000.00	...
Miscellaneous	82,069.04	...
...	...	1,963,178.49
...	...	\$19,439,361.85
Disbursements	...	...
Cash distributions	\$372,516.03	...
Enfranchisements	169,571.23	...
Loans	59,283.31	...
Purchase of land	34,347.36	...
Construction and maintenance of band property	165,513.75	...
Construction of Indian houses	159,977.58	...
Agriculture	12,308.76	...
Roads	45,618.76	...
Timber fire protection	11,145.68	...
Miscellaneous	106,252.09	...
...	...	1,136,534.55
Balance, March 31, 1955	...	\$18,302,827.30
REVENUE ACCOUNT		
Balance, April 1, 1954	...	\$5,556,720.37
Receipts	...	...
Interest from Government	\$1,140,418.32	...
Rentals	1,097,699.02	...
Interest on land sales	10,181.93	...
Savings deposits and proceeds of estates	268,023.44	...
Loan repayments	12,562.26	...
Oil bonus	118,159.08	...

Fur projects	299,555.10	...
Road subsidies	42,249.04	...
Collections re: seed grain etc	490,711.56	...
Sales of handicraft	24,316.99	...
Liquor prevention	61,038.13	...
Compensation - Primrose Lake air weapons range	275,779.00	...
Sale of fish - Sandy Lake fishery a/c	11,715.99	...
Miscellaneous	159,885.10	...
...	...	4,012,294.96
...	...	\$9,569,015.33
Disbursements	...	...
Cash distributions	\$829,026.22	...
Relief	467,970.55	...
Hospital and medical fees	79,524.86	...
Repairs and maintenance of Band property	200,708.11	...
Road repairs	211,689.13	...
Agriculture	787,986.83	...
Handicraft expenses	14,417.64	...
Enfranchisements	60,370.53	...
Repairs to Indian houses	316,611.45	...
Fur projects	271,445.00	...
Liquor prevention	29,388.95	...
Savings withdrawals and estate settlements	219,056.66	...
Sandy Lake fishery a/c	11,632.21	...
Compensation - Primrose Lake air weapons range	39,980.00	...
Miscellaneous	315,177.72	...
...	...	3,855,039.86
Balance, March 31, 1955	...	\$5,713,775.47
Grand total, March 31, 1955	...	\$24,016,802.77

Table 6**Indian Education - Ordinary Expenditure 1954 - 55**

Province	Day Schools	Residential Schools	General	Total
Nova Scotia	\$124,978.51	\$47,562.38	...	172,540.89
Prince Edward Island	12,995.87	...	...	12,995.87
New Brunswick	61,879.07	...	...	61,879.07
Quebec	550,976.26	\$641,921.87	...	1,192,898.13
Ontario	1,033,652.47	816,252.69	...	1,849,905.16
Manitoba	636,855.61	582,456.12	...	1,219,311.73
Saskatchewan	426,801.20	798,043.91	...	1,224,845.11
Alberta	414,663.98	1,093,385.21	...	1,508,049.19
British Columbia	624,234.57	1,047,661.26	...	1,671,895.83
British Columbia-Technical education	...	...	9,963.88	9,963.88
Northwest Territories	127,462.70	118,320.63	...	245,783.33
Yukon	35,101.22	137,180.18	...	172,281.40
Tuition and maintenance of Indian children in non-Indian and joint schools	...	...	723,188.39	723,188.39
Salaries and travel	...	...	106,885.70	106,885.70
School books and stationery	171,858.76	74,084.25	...	245,943.01
Miscellaneous	30,549.09	898.93	14,718.27	46,166.29
Grand total	\$4,252,009.31	\$5,357,767.43	\$854,756.24	\$10,464,532.98

Table 7

Summary of Indian Schools of all Types

Province	Number of Schools				Enrolment and Attendance					Distribution by Grades											
	Residential	Day	Seasonal	Hospital	Boys	Girls	Total	Average Attendance	Percentage Attendance	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII
Prince Edward Island	...	1	...	...	22	20	42	39.12	93.14	14	5	6	2	3	3	2	7	...	...	...	...
Nova Scotia	1	...	...	...	77	75	152	150.00	98.68	29	23	21	26	20	15	8	8	2	...	...	...
...	...	9	...	...	243	238	481	428.35	89.05	186	51	55	60	43	32	33	21	...	...	...	...
New Brunswick	...	9	...	...	215	218	433	318.41	73.54	121	58	71	50	41	50	26	16	...	...	...	...
Quebec	3	...	...	...	141	158	299	295.31	98.77	143	55	48	16	16	13	5	3	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	*30	36	66	61.19	92.71	19	10	16	5	5	7	4	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	21	...	...	759	801	1,560	1,461.19	93.67	448	268	215	197	163	114	104	36	10	5	...	...
...	...	...	8	...	176	185	361	296.68	82.18	269	38	39	10	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	1	27	35	62	62.00	100.00	37	8	16	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ontario	11	...	...	...	770	903	1,673	1,445.17	86.38	466	226	253	203	140	104	87	55	52	36	38	13
...	...	...	...	...	*17	14	31	22.08	71.23	14	3	11	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
...	...	97	...	...	2,043	2,132	4,175	3,834.26	91.84	1,054	680	539	481	434	401	289	239	32	26	...	...
...	...	...	11	...	144	132	276	223.90	81.12	150	59	36	19	11	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	2	60	83	143	136.94	95.76	85	21	17	11	2	4	3	...	...	...	...	...
Manitoba	9	...	...	...	594	697	1,291	1,148.23	89.53	290	242	176	160	142	114	66	30	38	19	14	...
...	...	...	...	...	*44	64	108	93.21	86.81	47	20	15	11	7	4	3	1	...	...	...	...
...	...	64	...	...	1,267	1,234	2,501	2,179.47	87.14	968	469	397	277	192	109	63	22	4	...	...	...
...	...	...	2	...	54	52	106	70.47	66.48	73	14	16	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	3	73	76	149	134.10	90.00	60	17	30	18	11	6	2	2	...	1	2	...
Saskatchewan	9	...	...	...	875	968	1,843	1,807.25	98.06	549	257	292	217	176	130	95	51	34	18	12	12
...	...	...	...	...	*49	46	95	93.87	98.81	28	18	12	9	12	8	3	5	...	...	...	...
...	...	57	...	...	925	964	1,889	1,687.52	89.33	627	284	294	221	185	147	78	52	1	...	...	...
...	...	...	1	...	23	14	37	20.30	54.86	34	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	1	12	15	27	27.00	100.00	11	2	7	2	2	2	...	1	...	...	...	...
Alberta	18	...	...	...	1,070	1,230	2,300	2,238.75	97.34	559	403	321	330	222	223	107	81	40	12	2	...
...	...	...	...	...	*131	111	242	221.59	91.57	64	41	35	27	28	26	11	7	2	...	1	...
...	...	30	...	...	551	619	1,070	957.48	89.48	338	178	168	137	112	69	40	26	2	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	1	163	142	305	289.75	95.00	110	40	49	21	16	15	34	9	7	3	1	...
British Columbia	13	...	...	...	1,273	1,332	2,605	2,462.12	94.52	498	391	396	326	305	235	168	110	74	47	40	15
...	...	...	...	...	*121	107	228	209.26	91.78	51	33	29	21	35	27	19	13	...	...	...	...
...	...	65	...	...	1,363	1,446	2,809	2,723.68	96.60	838	409	439	349	315	237	156	65	1	...	...	...

...	...	...	1	...	10	7	17	12.55	73.82	6	4	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	3	99	78	177	172.35	97.37	67	24	34	26	18	4	3	...	...	1	...	...
Yukon	1	...	...	...	35	34	69	68.69	99.55	18	4	11	11	10	8	5	2	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	*1	...	1	1.00	100.00	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	5	...	...	98	110	209	196.61	94.52	63	38	32	39	22	8	6	...	...	...	...	...
Northwest Territories	4	...	...	...	135	134	269	262.39	97.54	81	42	56	24	30	22	7	6	...	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	*9	11	20	17.02	85.10	11	4	1	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	10	...	...	109	104	213	176.08	82.67	117	28	26	13	14	7	3	2	3	...	...	...
...	...	...	1	...	26	15	41	17.57	42.85	40	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	2	29	45	74	69.16	93.46	36	8	7	3	6	9	1	2	2	...	...	...
Totals	69	368	24	13	13,863	14,585	28,448	26,132.07	91.86	8,620	4,478	4,194	3,327	2,745	2,155	1,432	872	305	170	110	40

[*Indicates children who are enrolled as day pupils at residential schools.]

Table, see page 76

school	...	...	...	2	6	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	11
Nurse training	...	1	1	3	10	4	1	...	8	...	...	...	28
Nurse aide	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	...	1	1	...	6
Commercial	...	2	...	16	27	3	2	3	6	1	3	...	*63
Trades	...	1	4	33	66	5	...	2	4	...	...	...	*115
Blind, deaf, dumb, rehabilitation, auxiliary	...	4	1	4	26	3	2	4	24	...	1	...	69
Totals	4	98	67	275	982	242	188	312	1,739	38	110	22	4,077

[*This figure includes 15 students who attended special typing classes.]

[**This figure includes 63 students who attended night classes.]