

CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION

REPORT

OF

Indian Affairs Branch

FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1956

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INDIAN AFFAIRS BRANCH

H.M. Jones, Director

A number of significant developments took place during the fiscal year 1955 - 56. Amongst the more important were the improvement of the economic position and of the living conditions of Indians on the reserves, an increased interest on the part of the Indians themselves in social welfare and group leadership aspects of community development, a broadening of the field of education and more competent band councils.

While the financial return to Indians engaged in agriculture, trapping, fishing and hunting was somewhat lower than last year, the loss was partially offset by increased employment opportunities open to Indians outside their reserves, particularly in the northern areas.

Indians continued to show active interest in raising their standard of living on the reserves. More band funds than in any previous year were used in house construction and repair, road development, electrification of reserves, installation of water systems and other community projects.

On December 12th, 13th and 14th, 1955, twenty-six Indian representatives selected by the councils of Indian bands across Canada met with the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs at Ottawa to discuss the Indian Act in the light of the experience gained since it came into effect in 1951 and to consider amendments suggested by the Department. Prior to the conference, the Deputy Minister, the Director and Branch officials held regional meetings with representatives of band councils from the Provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.

As a result of these meetings and the conference at Ottawa, several amendments to the Act will be placed before Parliament for consideration. Arrangements were made to hold similar regional meetings with representative Indians of the Provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

In the field of Indian education a further increase is to be noted in the number of Indian children attending non-Indian schools. Additional facilities for vocational training were established and a plan was instituted to give short courses in agriculture and home economics. A substantial number of new school units were built and progress made in the construction of as many more. Three prominent educationists were appointed to undertake a survey of educational facilities which is intended to provide an estimate of probable future requirements. Their report will also contain recommendations on all phases of the Indian education program of the Branch.

The growing importance of the development of oil and gas resources on Indian reserves was given recognition by the appointment of a petroleum engineer to give technical advice to the Branch and to act as a liaison officer between the industry, the provincial governments and the Branch.

During the year the University of British Columbia completed a research into the social and economic conditions of Indians in British Columbia. The report covers all phases of the Indian administration and contains much original information.

The film "No Longer Vanishing", produced for the Branch, was given wide distribution through field offices and film libraries. This film, which is intended to dispel misconceptions concerning the Indians of today, has been very favourably received by both Indians and non-Indians.

Economic Development

The program of encouraging and helping Indians to improve housing conditions on reserves was continued. Eight hundred and seventeen new houses were constructed and 2,306 houses repaired. Band funds, personal savings, Veterans' Land Act grants and welfare appropriation all contributed to the program. Welfare funds were used to assist sick and aged Indians and those who through force of circumstances were unable to finance repairs or the construction of new houses in whole or in part.

In areas where lumber is not readily available to meet the requirements of a housing program, the Branch follows the policy of instructing and assisting Indians in the operation of sawmills. During the year two portable sawmills were purchased for use at Fort Simpson and Fort Franklin in the Northwest Territories. Forty-three sawmills were operated as part of the housing improvement program of which thirty-three are portable.

Financial assistance was again provided to Indians residing on reserves or on land set aside for their use to promote and encourage agricultural, lumbering, fishing and light industries.

To assist Indians in the preservation of surplus meat and fish, walk-in freezer units were constructed at Fond du Lac in the Athabaska Agency, Snowdrift in the Yellowknife Agency and Fort Franklin in the Fort Norman Agency. There are ten walk-in freezer units at present in use.

Revolving Fund Loans

Fifty-nine Revolving Fund Loans totalling \$56,789.75 were approved during the year to help Indians finance agricultural, lumbering and commercial fishing enterprises, the purchase of motor vehicles and fencing materials, and for the payment of wages.

Re-Establishment of Indian Veterans

Forty-four Veterans' Land Act grants were approved during the year, as compared with 50 in 1954 - 55, with a corresponding decrease in the total amount expended. The greater part of expenditures continued to be for home improvements.

For some Indian veterans, the ten year probationary period for grants expired during the past fiscal year, the chattels and materials purchased through the Veterans' Land Act grants becoming their personal property.

The following table gives details of the 1,500 grants approved up to March 31, 1956:

Purpose of Expenditure	Total Value
Land and Buildings	294,516.83
Building Material	1,599,828.46
Clearing land	84,707.64
Livestock and equipment	980,465.26
Forestry Equipment	19,655.14
Commercial Fishing Equipment	209,807.36
Fur Farming Equipment	34,162.35
Household Equipment	193,601.33
...	3,416,744.37

Grants to Agricultural Exhibitions and Indian Fairs

Grants totalling \$7,350 were made to agricultural exhibitions and Indian fairs. These grants provide prizes for garden,

standing crop and home improvement competitions, as well as for the payment of expenses of Indian competitors at ploughing matches.

Handicraft

Sales of Indian basketry and souvenir items were good during the year. Although sales in the Western Provinces were somewhat lower than in previous years, trade throughout Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes showed a slight increase. Two hundred and seventy-three orders having a total value of \$17,960.16 were shipped to merchants, and Indian craftsmen at Pierreville, Manitoulin Island and Lorette Agencies received \$11,957.07 for their production.

Approximately \$3,000.00 was paid to members of Indian Homemakers' Clubs for the sewing of hospital garments which were sold to hospitals operated by the Department of National Health and Welfare. In addition, a considerable amount of clothing was made for needy Indians from materials supplied by the Branch.

Employment

Industrial, mining and power developments as well as defence projects in the North provided jobs not only for Indian residents of the areas, but also for Indians willing to leave their reserves to seek employment. The Mid-Canada Radar Line, the West Coast Transmission Company Pipeline in Alberta and British Columbia, and railroad construction in northern Quebec are only a few of the projects on which Indians were employed. There was also an increase in the number of Indians employed in forest industries. In British Columbia, several groups of Indians formerly dependent on trapping and fishing for their livelihood were assisted financially by the Branch in modest lumbering operations and obtained contracts to supply logs and pulpwood.

Through early knowledge of national and provincial development programs, and through close liaison with some of the major industries and cooperations with private companies and the National Employment Service, the Branch was able to arrange employment for Indians, and in some instances provided transportation to locales of employment. Although this placement program was carried out on a modest scale, the results were very satisfactory. Arrangements were made to stimulate the development of employment opportunities for Indians.

Wildlife and Fisheries

The program of fur rehabilitation and management was continued in co-operation with the various provincial and territorial administrations, either by prearrangement under administrative agreements as in the Provinces of Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan; by special projects as in the Province of Quebec; or as the opportunity presented itself in other jurisdictions.

From a crop of 1,154 beaver in Quebec in 1947 the annual harvest has risen through successively larger crops to 20,105 in 1955. Similar results have been achieved in the other areas where the same development and management techniques have been adopted. In jurisdictions where these techniques have not been adopted, increases have been much smaller.

Muskrat production was high, particularly in the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. In Saskatchewan the crop of 1,963,211 pelts valued at \$1,176,688.99 set an all-time record for that Province. In other parts of Canada, muskrat production was well above average.

Other fur-bearing animals were in normal supply. Marten, lynx and fishers, which have been the object of secondary conservation measures, increased slightly.

The barren ground caribou herd has suffered drastic depletion during the past five years. A special committee was established to investigate the situation and suggest remedial measures. The committee is comprised of representatives from the Provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and from the interested agencies of the Federal Government, including the Branch.

Favourable winter conditions and better than average nesting weather resulted in a very good migration of waterfowl in the autumn of 1955. Check reports from James Bay and the Sipanok area indicate that the adult - young ratio in geese has returned to normal.

Assistance to Indians fishing for home consumption was continued through the issue of nets and fishing equipment. Supervision of commercial fishing was increased. Progress was made through the various fur advisory committees towards the integration of fishing and trapping, with a view to providing a more regular income.

As a result of negotiations between the Branch, the Department of Fisheries, and the Government of Alberta, the Alberta Fishery Regulations governing fishing for domestic use by Indians were amended to conform more closely to the Indian treaty guarantees, in response to repeated representations by the Indians.

Social Service

Welfare service and direct relief assistance were supplied by the Branch to underprivileged Indian children, and to adult Indians unable to provide for their subsistence because of unemployment, sickness or age.

The Branch continued to co-operate with federal and provincial authorities in the administration of Family Allowances, Disabled Persons' Allowances, Blind Persons' Allowances, Old Age Assistance and Old Age Security for Indians.

A development of major importance was the conclusion of an agreement with the Government of Ontario whereby the services of Provincial Children's Aid Societies will be extended to Indians living on reserves. This measure will ensure that Indian children receive the same protection services as other children in the Province of Ontario. Preliminary steps were taken to reach similar agreements with other provinces.

A conference of the Branch Social Workers was held at Ottawa to examine the progress achieved in social work on reserves and to plan a wider social work program.

Homemakers' Clubs

The 178 Indian Homemakers' Clubs operating in various parts of Canada continued to make a significant contribution to the social life and welfare of Indians living on reserves.

Social Leaders' Courses

Eight Indian Social Leaders' Training Courses were conducted under the direction of Branch social workers on a provincial basis. One hundred and thirty-eight Indians, some representing various community organizations such as band councils, Homemakers' Clubs, church groups, and youth groups, some with no previous experience in organized community activity, participated in the program.

During the five-day courses, intensive training directed towards developing community leadership was given. The groups studied welfare problems existing on reserves as well as measures that might be undertaken at the community level for the betterment of social conditions.

Indigent Relief

Unusually severe weather in Northern British Columbia, the Prairie, Provinces and in other parts of Canada during the winter of 1955 - 56 seriously curtailed seasonal employment available to Indians and made it necessary to provide substantial relief in the form of food, clothing, fuel and other necessities of life.

The provision of special foods for the rehabilitation of tuberculous Indians and their families was continued throughout the year.

Foster Home and Institutional Placement

The Branch continued to work in close co-operation with the Children's Aid Societies and provincial authorities engaged in child welfare. Increased attention was given to the placement of children in foster homes and institutions for child care.

Family Allowances

Until 1955, Indian children were registered for Family Allowances separately from non-Indian children. In 1955, following an amendment to the Family Allowances Regulations, the registration procedure for some bands was changed. As a result, the number of families and children registered as Indians for the purpose of Family Allowances decreased from 21,728 Indian families with 65,839 children, as at December 31, 1954, to 21,072 families with 65,322 children, as at December 31, 1955.

The following table shows the number of families and children, registered as Indians, in receipt of Family Allowances as at December 31, 1955 and the method of payment.

...	Families in Pay	Children in Pay	Method of Payment			
...	...	...	Cheque Direct 'A'	Cheque Direct c/o Agent 'B'	Agency Trust Account	In kind 'D'
Prince Edward Island	24	75	21	...	3	...
Nova Scotia	153	462	146	...	7	...
New Brunswick	283	884	278	...	5	...
Quebec	1,836	5,020	958	583	28	267
Ontario	4,446	13,554	4,053	66	70	257
Manitoba	2,650	7,676	2,620	14	16	...
Saskatchewan	2,717	7,373	2,295	390	32	...
Alberta	1,945	5,082	1,777	154	14	...
British Columbia	4,077	11,965	3,703	138	226	10
Yukon and N.W.T	747	1,785	683	39	1	24
...	18,878	53,876	16,534	1,384	402	558

An analysis of the table shows that 94.9% received payment by cheque, 1% had their allowances administered, through the Indian agency office and 3% received payment in kind.

The following table shows the value of Family Allowances distributed to Indians in the calendar year ended December 31, 1955, an increase of \$46,522 over the previous year:

Province	Amount
Prince Edward Island	\$5,812
Nova Scotia	56,677
New Brunswick	64,413
Quebec	387,973
Ontario	957,203
Manitoba	585,611
Saskatchewan	553,417
Alberta	410,684
British Columbia	885,229
N.W.T. and Yukon	135,211
...	\$4,042,230

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

The following table indicates the approximate number of recipients of Blind Persons' Allowances, Disabled Persons' Allowances, Old Age Assistance, and Old Age Security, as of December 31, 1955:

...	Blind Person's Allowances	Disabled Person's Allowances	Old Age Assistance	Old Age Security
Prince Edward Island	1	0	2	7
Nova Scotia	3	1	33	82
New Brunswick	5	1	30	64
Quebec	7	7	119	429
Ontario	41	55	422	1,222
Manitoba	27	4	196	593
Saskatchewan	44	8	158	474
Alberta	16	2	129	471
British Columbia	68	4	290	921
Northwest Territories	10	0	62	115
Yukon	4	0	7	77
...	...	226	82	1,448
4,455				

Rehabilitation of the Disabled

Significant advances were made during the year in the rehabilitation of handicapped Indians. In May, 1955, the first regional Indian Rehabilitation Committee was set up in Edmonton. It is composed of local officials of the Branch and of The Indian and Northern Health Services of the Department of National Health and Welfare, with specialists from private organizations and provincial and municipal governments brought in from time to time as advisers. A pilot

project was established in connection with the Charles Camsell Indian Hospital in Edmonton, and it is being operated co-operatively by the Branch and the Indian and Northern Health Services, under the direction of the Principal of the Charles Camsell Indian Hospital School.

Although it is not intended to launch other schemes until the merits of the Edmonton pilot project have been fully assessed, general guidance on rehabilitation has been provided to the other regional offices. The following list shows the number of individuals in each province who are participating in personal rehabilitation programs:

British Columbia	5
Alberta	52
Saskatchewan	6
Manitoba	15 (1 from Northern Ontario)
Northern Ontario	1
Southern Ontario	10 (3 from Northern Ontario)
Quebec	2
Maritimes	1

Education

The number of Indians enrolled in educational institutions during the period under review was 35,137, an increase of 2,612 over last year.

Again the greatest proportionate increase was in the number of students enrolled at schools other than those operated by the Branch. This number rose from 4,077 to 5,566. Approximately six hundred of this increase is accounted for by the transfer of Indian day and residential schools in the Northwest Territories to the jurisdiction of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

In schools operated by the Branch the enrolment totalled 29,571 an increase of 1,123 over the previous year. Part of the increase was due to the opening of new schools, and part is attributed to the establishment of kindergarten classes at a few centres and to the encouragement given everywhere to the Indian child to begin school on reaching the age of six.

The number of day pupils enrolled at schools which formerly served only pupils in residence was 939 in 1955 - 56, an increase of 148 over last year.

Teaching Staff

The Department employed 981 teachers of whom 649 were placed in day, 296 in residential, and 36 in seasonal schools. The geographical distribution of the teaching staff is shown in Table 10.

Of the 649 teachers employed in day schools, 90.2% are certificated, of the 296 teachers in residential schools, 80.1% are certificated. Sixty-four teachers in day schools and twenty teachers in residential schools are University graduates.

Seventy-six teachers of Indian racial extraction were employed by the Department, an increase of thirteen over the previous year.

Teachers employed by the Department are encouraged to improve their professional standing by attendance at summer schools or through correspondence courses and by study at teacher-training colleges and universities. During the year sixteen teachers were on educational leave and thirty-two obtained certification or added to their professional qualifications.

A salary schedule is in effect whereby salaries are determined in accordance with academic and professional qualifications, teaching experience, and the duties performed. The average salary paid to teachers in day schools was \$3,290 and to teachers in residential schools \$2,647. For all teachers employed by the Department, the average salary was \$3,089.

An agreement was concluded with the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources whereby that Department accepted the responsibility of operating the Indian schools in the Northwest Territories from April 1st, 1955.

In Service Training

Because of special difficulties encountered by teachers in Indian schools as a result of differences in the background, language and cultural heritage of Indian children, the Department provided opportunities for in-service training for its teachers. A very successful summer school was held at Prince Albert, and teachers' conventions were organized in Edmonton and Toronto. At these gatherings educational problems of particular interest to teachers in Indian schools were studied.

The Curriculum

As a matter of departmental policy provincial curricula are to be followed in Indian schools. This is particularly applicable where the Indian people have achieved a reasonable degree of integration into the non-Indian community, since Indian girls and boys attain standards equal to those of non-Indian children, and can readily move on to non-Indian schools for higher education or training.

In areas where the non-Indian influence is less pronounced teachers are expected to follow the provincial curriculum but to adapt it to the particular needs of the group. Some examples of adaptations in curriculum which have proved effective were special emphasis on health and nutrition in some areas and on anti-tuberculosis measures in others.

In many of the larger day and residential schools special instructors and facilities were provided to give girls and boys adequate instruction in practical arts.

Textbook and School Supplies

Indian children attending Indian day, residential and hospital schools are provided on a loan basis with approximately 1,500,000 items of school supplies and more than 250,000 textbooks.

More than 1,000 titles were reviewed in compiling the library list for the fiscal year. In some instances it was again possible to arrange with provincial authorities for the inclusion of Indian schools in travelling library circuits.

Audio Visual Aids

From year to year more and more emphasis is being placed upon audio,visual aids. Many residential schools now have their own audio-visual equipment while others, as well as many day schools, use community equipment.

Central filmstrip libraries were enlarged to include additional subjects closely related to the curriculum and to the interest of adult Indians. Special attention was given to the distribution of filmstrips recently produced by the National Film Board of Canada portraying professions and trades likely to prove attractive to Indians.

Practical suggestions for the use of audio-visual aids, as well as for pictorial presentation methods useful to teachers, were provided through the Indian School Bulletin which is in its tenth year of publication.

The use of radios and phonograph recordings was encouraged particularly in schools where the pupils are unfamiliar with English or French. Battery operated apparatus was issued to 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. Various types of sports equipment were provided to all schools, while playground equipment was added to some of the larger day and residential schools. Pupils were encouraged to take part in team sports in order to foster team spirit and sportsmanship. Encouragement was given, as well, for Indian schools to compete with non-Indian schools, and for Indian students to play on non-Indian teams.

In addition to the basic physical education and sports program, some schools where qualified instructors are available were able to offer special training in such activities as swimming, pyramid-building, tumbling, and folk and square dancing. A number of club programs were sponsored in Indian schools, and many achieved praiseworthy success. Among these group activities were Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, C.G.I.T., Junior Red Cross, Cadet Corps, Calf Clubs, 4-H Clubs.

Guidance

The increased number of Indians enrolling in high schools, vocational institutes and universities has emphasized the need for assessing the capabilities and interests of the pupils in, Indian Schools.

A basic guidance program which includes the use of permanent individual records, information sheets, tests and counselling has been developed and should substantially increase the value of the whole education program by helping Indian students to make the best use of their aptitudes and abilities. It is expected to develop into a job-placement and follow-up program to assist young Indians in finding suitable occupations on their reserves or in the community.

Transportation of Indian Pupils

The transportation of Indian children to schools was a major problem, particularly in the northern regions where the use of scheduled air service and private charters is frequently required to transport children to residential schools. The branch operated its own buses at some centres where consolidation has been effected, and at some residential schools where daily transportation was provided for those children who lived nearby.

For Indian pupils attending non-Indian schools, arrangements for transportation were made with school districts or private bus operators. Wherever possible, Indian adults using their own vehicles were hired to transport pupils who live beyond walking distance from their school. In an increasing number of cases it was possible to enter into contracts with Indians who could provide approved types of school buses and meet the qualifications demanded by licensing authorities.

Vocational Training

Many older students who showed occupational aptitude and an interest in business, technical or vocational training, were given tuition grants to help defray the cost of board and room, books, and school fees. A high proportion of students completed their courses successfully and found gainful employment.

Plans for training an increasing number of apprentices in skilled trades resulted in night school classes being conducted at Brantford, London, Sarnia and other centres. These courses included carpentry, bricklaying, plastering, welding, and commercial subjects.

The Branch also organized various special courses in co-operation with the provincial Departments of Education, using the facilities of the Vocational Institutes. Training of Indians on reserves was given impetus through the organization of agricultural classes, especially in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario. Courses for young women stressed training as domestic workers with emphasis on social living, clothes-making and buying, purchasing and preparation of food, and use of home equipment.

An encouraging number of Indians accepted the offer to attend courses in prospecting conducted by the Province of Ontario. During the year plans were completed to give courses in guiding for Indians of northern regions and to provide opportunities for qualified students to become apprenticed in various trades, notably at the Centre d'Apprentissage in Montreal. Courses in logging operations were given in British Columbia with the co-operation of industry.

Education for Physically Handicapped

During the year grants were given to provincial institutions providing specialized training for blind or deaf Indian children. A survey was also undertaken in Saskatchewan to determine the prevalence of speech defects in that area among Indian girls and boys.

Teachers were appointed to conduct educational programs for the patients in eleven hospitals or sanatoria operated by the Indian and Northern 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 educational services provided to Indian patients.

Higher Education

Assistance was given to an increasing number of Indian students to enable them to take professional training or to attend university. In all, there were thirty-three at university, eighteen in teacher-training, and thirty training as nurses. This was a gratifying increase of 18 over last year.

Adult Education

This phase of Branch activity is receiving specific attention and will be intensified. At present it takes the form of a fundamental education program supported by specific adult education courses where interest has shown that they are justified.

Reserves

Land requirements of several bands were reviewed during the year. In the case of the Osnaburgh Band of the Sioux Lookout Agency, a reserve of approximately 600 acres was acquired at Cat Lake to provide a residential site for members of the band who have been living in that area. The Dominion Abitibi Band in the Province of Quebec had not previously held a reserve, and 100 acres in the Township of Dalquier in the District of Abitibi were purchased with band funds to be developed as a residential site.

The treaties entered into with the western and northern bands provided for land credits which in some cases have not been taken up. This subject has been under review by the Regional Supervisors in the areas affected. In northern Ontario arrangements were completed with the provincial authorities to make available a substantial area of land and water to provide a reserve for the Trout Lake Band of the Sioux Lookout Agency. A readjustment of reserve areas is under way in the case of the Slaves of Upper Hay River Band in the Province of Alberta, and other cases involving the establishment of new reserves or the readjustment of existing reserves are under consideration.

The Indian reserve survey program was continued, with surveys being carried out on thirty-one reserves under the direction of the Surveyor General, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. As in recent years, priority was given to the subdivision of reserves.

Approval of transfers of individual holdings on reserves from one Indian to another, the allotment of vacant lands to Indians by band councils, and the replacement of old Location Tickets resulted in the issue of 397 Certificates of Possession and 19 Certificates of Occupation.

Land Sales and Rights of Way

While the majority of the sales negotiated during the year involved subdivision lots and isolated parcels of agricultural and grazing lands, there were several substantial sales. Fifty-five sales were negotiated during the year of which fifty-three were on a cash basis and two on a time basis. Collection on land sale contracts, including the cash sales, totalled \$809,946.34. Letters Patent were issued to sixty-four purchasers who had completed payment on their contracts.

A portion of Seymour Creek Indian Reserve No. 2 in the Province of British Columbia was sold as a site for a power station for \$71,000. A small portion of Kitsilano Indian Reserve No. 6, which lies within the limits of the City of Vancouver, was sold for \$66,000. During the previous year part of Langley Indian Reserve No. 7 in the Province of British Columbia was sold as a site for a new school. During the past year the rest of the Reserve was sold to the local municipality for the sum of \$32,000.

At the Caughnawaga Reserve, in the Province of Quebec, an area of approximately 1,200 acres was taken by the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority in September, 1955 and in February, 1956, a further small area was taken to build a spur railway line. Following appraisals of the area, negotiations were entered into with the Seaway Authority on the question of the compensation to be paid to the Band and to individual Indians whose properties are affected. While the negotiations were not completed during the year, agreements were reached with twenty-seven Indians. Provision has been made for advances for emergency needs to those whose property has been taken but who have not as yet entered into compensation agreements. Negotiations of agreements with the other Indians whose property is affected were begun, and an advisory committee, composed in majority of Indians, was set up to assist in the negotiations.

At the St. Regis Reserve a number of islands in the St. Lawrence River will be flooded. The St. Regis Band received \$120,000 compensation from the Ontario Hydro Electric Power Commission for one large island. At the end of the year negotiations were under way to determine the amount of compensation for the other islands.

While several meetings were held during the year, a decision has not been reached as to whether the steamship channel in the St. Clair River adjoining Walpole Island will be deepened or a new channel cut through part of the reserve.

The branch has been selling islands in the St. Lawrence River, Georgian Bay and Lake Huron areas for many years on behalf of the Indian owners, but approximately 1,200 are still for sale. Arrangements were completed to have them appraised by officials of the Veterans' Land Act administration.

The volume of work involving rights of way over Indian reserves continued to increase, mainly on account of heavy highway construction programs being carried out by many of the Provincial Governments and the construction of oil and gas pipelines from producing fields to market areas. The extension of electrical services to rural areas and the increase in development of electrical power in the Province of British Columbia has similarly entailed a substantial amount of right of way work, as many of the power transmission lines crossed Indian reserves.

Land Leases

The leasing of unused and unrequited reserve lands continued to increase during the past year. There was a large increase in the number of agricultural leases issued in the province of Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan and a substantial increase in the number of cottage subdivision lots leased, as more bands and individual Indians became conscious of the value of their lands for this purpose.

Rentals collected under leases and permits totalled \$862,118.46. During the year 417 leases expired and 57 were cancelled. Five hundred and eighty new leases were issued and 385 expired leases were renewed, bringing the total number of leases and permits in force at the end of the fiscal year to 3,565, including 657 crop share leases.

Petroleum and Natural Gas

Oil rights were advertised on reserves in the Provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario, and of the 131,222 acres offered for tenders, 128,620 were disposed of for \$1,430,555.

There are now 70 producing wells on Indian reserves in the Province of Alberta, 46 being on Pigeon Lake Indian Reserve and 24 on Stony Plain Indian Reserve.

Royalties amounting to \$1,030,348.13 were received during the year. Two hundred and forty-three contracts terminated and 232 new and renewal contracts were issued, bringing the total number of contracts in force at the end of the year to 466. Receipts to Indian band funds from the management of oil and gas resources totalled \$2,957,523.42.

Timber and Forest Products

Receipts from the management of timber resources on Indian reserves totalled \$742,709.36 of which \$485,900.88 represented dues paid to their band funds by Indians cutting reserve timber under permits.

Reforestation of denuded areas was carried out on several reserves in northern Ontario.

Although 37 forest fires were reported on Indian reserves, there was no serious timber loss. A sum of \$11,875.14 was expended from Indian band funds and Parliamentary Appropriation to put out forest fires.

Mining

While there was no ore produced on any Indian reserve, there was considerable activity in staking claims in northern Ontario on the Manitou Rapids and Fort Hope Reserves, and 166 claims were recorded during the year.

Receipts from all mining operations totalled \$47,039.35, the major portion of which was derived from the sale of sand, gravel and fill.

Membership

During the year the Registrar made decisions on 458 protests under section 9 of the Indian Act. Thirty-three other protests are currently under investigation.

The Department received requests to have the Registrar's decisions on 36 protests referred to a judge for review.

Indian Estates

Good progress was made towards the clearance of the backlog of unsettled estates, and 1,048 were concluded. Four hundred and sixty-three estates were opened for administration.

A special and urgent problem of estates administration arose at the Caughnawaga Reserve owing to the expropriation of 1,200 acres of the reserve by the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority. This area comprised 332 lots and involved several hundred estates, the administration of which proved most difficult because of the lack of clear title arising from unreported and unrecorded transfers of ownership over the years. As a substantial portion of the land formed part of the village, there was an urgent need to settle estates and clear titles in order to facilitate the payment of compensation and the relocation of Indian homes.

During the year, Indian Estates Regulations were established by Order in Council to facilitate the administration of estates.

Trusts and Annuities

The Indian Trust Fund, representing moneys held by the Government of Canada on behalf of various Indian bands totalled \$26,192,988.89 at March 31, 1956. Of this amount, \$20,730,252.49 was in Capital Account and \$5,462,736.40 in Revenue Account. The following table shows the annual growth of the fund since 1951:

March 31, 1951	\$20,232,929.56
March 31, 1952	\$21,359,035.09
March 31, 1953	\$22,541,954.21
March 31, 1954	\$23,032,903.73
March 31, 1955	\$24,016,802.77
March 31, 1956	\$26,192,988.89

The increase of \$2,176,186.12 during the past year is the largest in the history of the fund despite the fact that expenditures by Indian bands during the year were in excess of \$6,000,000.

While expenditures from the Trust Fund continued to increase, Indian band councils showed increased care in the preparation of budgets and in the allocation of funds for projects aimed at improving living conditions on reserves, developing reserve assets, and helping band members to earn a livelihood.

Assistance to Indian farmers in the purchase of farm implements and repairs, seed grain, feed and livestock amounted to \$904,539.79. The sum of \$560,547.45 was used to provide relief to aged, sick and destitute Indians. Hospital and medical fees were paid to the amount of \$68,297.92. More than a half million dollars was expended for the construction and maintenance of band property and another \$500,000 for the construction of new homes and repairs to older houses. A considerable portion of the expenditures for agricultural and housing assistance was made to individual Indians on a repayable basis.

A sum of \$387,785.29 was expended for the construction, repair and maintenance of reserve roads, and \$18,033.93 for the protection of timber assets.

It may be said that a large part of the expenditures had the direct result of improving the economic position of the Indians and of raising the standard of living on the reserves.

Income to the Trust Fund during the year from all sources amounted to \$8,373,652.73.

Annuities

Annuity moneys totalling \$412,527 were distributed to 75,812 Indians in accordance with the provisions of the various treaties. The number of Indians receiving annuities represents an increase of 1,925 over the total of 73,887 who received annuity payments in 1954 - 55.

Personal Savings

Indians who maintain savings deposits with the Branch at Ottawa were encouraged to make greater use of local banking facilities for their greater convenience. During the year 550 individual savings accounts were closed out. Total withdrawals from savings accounts amounted to \$339,772.52.

At the end of the year moneys on deposit with the Branch in 2,067 individual savings accounts totalled \$827,772.52.

Soldier Settlement Loans

All outstanding Indian Soldier Settlement Loans were reviewed in an endeavour to ascertain the ability of the Indian settler to repay his loan in full or in part and to establish a procedure to clear out uncollectible debts.

As the result of submissions to the Inter-Departmental Committee on Uncollectible Debts Due the Crown, authority was granted under the Financial Administration Act for the deletion of 36 accounts totalling \$37,143.

Band Loans

During the fiscal year, applications for loans from Band Funds were received from 160 Indians. Of this number 120 received loans which totalled \$73,034.79, the average loan being \$608.62. The sums advanced were for the following purposes:

Purchase of livestock and equipment	\$53,623.68
Purchase of property-land and buildings	500.00
Repairs to buildings-houses, machine shed, etc	900.00
Construction of new buildings	4,500.00
Clearing and breaking new land and misc. purchases	13,511.11

A total of 107 Band Loans aggregating \$47,010 were fully retired during the year.

Band Property Insurance

Fire insurance for a total coverage of \$1,261,122 was carried on properties owned by Indian bands. New coverage and renewals totalling \$494,095 were arranged during the year at a cost of \$5,989.34 to the Trust Funds of Indian bands. The sum of \$4,305.50 was paid in claims, of which \$3,000 represented payment for fire damage to a day school and teachers' residence which had been constructed out of band Funds.

Enfranchisement

The number of enfranchisements this year totalled 756 as compared with 760 last year. Payments amounted to \$143,246.95.

The 756 Indians enfranchised during the year were from the following regions: Prince Edward Island - 1; Nova Scotia - 5; New Brunswick - 21; Quebec - 37; Ontario - 255; Manitoba - 128; Saskatchewan - 50; Alberta - 95; British Columbia - 133; Northwest Territories - 16; Yukon - 15.

Fifty-seven applications were not recommended for approval.

Further consideration was given to applications for enfranchisement made previously by the Metlakatla Band of the Skeena River Agency in British Columbia, and the Michel Band of the Edmonton Agency in Alberta. In each case a committee comprising a Judge, a member of the band, and a departmental representative was appointed to inquire into and report upon the desirability of enfranchising the band.

Engineering and Construction

The necessity of providing educational accommodation for school age Indians again dominated the construction program.

At the beginning of the year a substantial volume of construction was in progress and building operations were completed on the new residential schools

at Amos, Quebec, and Hobbema, Alberta, and on new classroom blocks, ranging in size from two to four classrooms, at six existing residential schools. Work was completed also on seventeen day schools.

Construction operations were initiated on three new residential schools at Moose Factory, Ontario; Dauphin, Manitoba; and Clearwater Lake near The Pas, Manitoba, and on new classroom blocks at six existing residential schools. In addition, work was begun on thirty-four day schools and of these fourteen were completed during the year.

In all, sixty-two classrooms were added to the educational facilities of the Department and work was commenced on projects which will provide an additional 75 classrooms.

Renovation and maintenance of educational buildings and staff residences, with their services, was given continuing attention throughout the year.

Other technical operations and construction carried out included the building of houses for field staff and Indians, and the construction of agency offices and buildings to house agency equipment and vehicles. Construction of roads and bridges, water supply systems, power installations, and irrigation and erosion works was undertaken, and repairs carried out on existing works and structures.

The Provincial Picture

British Columbia

The economic position of the Indians in British Columbia varied to a considerable extent from region to region during the past fiscal year.

Most families of the coastal area who were engaged in commercial fishing and employed in fish canneries received a less than average income as a result of sharp reductions in the volume of some species of fish caught. However, a near record tonnage of herring and an increase in the yield of crab, shrimp and clams provided helpful part-time employment to Indians in the central area of the coast. Three thousand one hundred and ninety-one commercial fishing licenses were issued to Indian fishermen.

Increased numbers of Indians took advantage of opportunities for employment in various forms of commercial enterprises and power development projects.

A satisfactory year was experienced throughout the interior of the lower mainland and on Vancouver Island by Indians employed in logging camps and lumber mills.

The number of Indian families migrating to the United States to pick berries and work on farms decreased as a result of increased employment opportunities for Indians in British Columbia.

The harvest of Christmas trees from Indian reserves in the Kootenay Agency again provided an important source of revenue at a time of year when seasonal work is scarce. Creditable results were achieved by an enterprising group in the Skeena River Agency, formerly engaged solely in commercial fishing. These Indians undertook logging operations on a modest scale with financial assistance and supervision.

Indian farmers suffered a slight reduction in income because of adverse weather conditions which resulted in a shortage of fodder to carry livestock over the winter months. Vegetable and, other cash crops were also adversely affected by weather, but generally this group of Indians were able to offset their losses by taking advantage of other employment opportunities.

Indian cattle ranchers experienced an average year so far as marketing of beef cattle was concerned, increased care being taken to avoid over-marketing

of foundation stock. There was a noticeable improvement in the quality of stock carried and in the attention given to improving the buildings on the dairy farms operated by Indians in the Fraser Valley.

Below average financial returns from trapping resulted from lower market prices and severe weather conditions. Many Indian families in the northern and coastal areas who had previously derived their livelihood from trapping have now changed their locations to points where advantage can be taken of part-time employment to augment their income from trapping.

Land irrigation systems were installed, renewed or repaired on twenty Indian reserves in the interior. Electric power services were extended to a number of reserves and thirty-eight domestic water supply systems were installed, renewed or repaired.

New houses erected totalled 170, and major improvements were made to 381 homes. Band Funds were used extensively for this purpose, as well as individual savings.

Educational facilities for the Indians of British Columbia were increased by the addition of classrooms to Indian day schools at Kitwanga, Pemberton, Seabird Island and Ahousaht Indian Reserves. Two new one-classroom day schools were constructed at Shell Beach and Kulleet Bay Indian Reserves in the Cowichan Indian Agency. The number of Indian children enrolled in provincial schools at both elementary and secondary school levels continued to increase, and an added number of senior Indian pupils continued their education by enrolment in trade and commercial courses at provincial vocational schools. School attendance generally showed a satisfactory improvement. There was a continued extension of social welfare services to Indian families. While this was, achieved through the co-operation of provincial, municipal and private agencies, an important factor was the part played by Indian volunteer social leaders from the twenty active Homemakers' Clubs on Indian reserves throughout the Province. A successful leadership training course of one week's duration was held on the Squamish Indian Reserve, attended by twenty-three Indian delegates from clubs in the coastal agencies. It is evident there is an ever-increasing interest among the Indians of British Columbia in social welfare matters and in improved living conditions in their communities.

Yukon Territory

Indian families in the Yukon derive their main source of revenue from domestic trapping, fishing and hunting. During the year, a slight increase in fur-market prices was offset by a curtailment of trapping resulting from unusually severe weather conditions. Increased numbers found employment in connection with the construction of concrete and steel bridges on Teslin Lake, the Takhini and Yukon Rivers, and in mining work at Carmacks, Keno and Cassiar Asbestos. Others found employment in woodcutting activities in the vicinity of Whitehorse and as guides for big game hunting parties.

Excellent results were achieved in promoting the growing of vegetables in kitchen gardens, and some progress was made in the housing improvement programme and in road construction.

There was a marked increase in the number of Indian children attending territorial and high schools.

Alberta

The tight wheat market situation during the past year induced Alberta Indians to reduce wheat production and to seed more acreage to coarse grains. More than one and one-quarter million bushels of grain were harvested. The restrictions on sales created a serious storage problem and much of the grain remained unsold at the close of the year.

Cattle owned by Indians totalled 16,719 head, with increases being registered on the reserves in the southern part of the Province where sales of breeding stock were controlled by the Department. As an experiment, control of sales was given to the Indian Band Council on one reserve, and although the cattle population declined as a result of this change of control, it is believed the situation will improve. The Branch continued to supply breeding stock to Indians in the Fort Vermilion, Lesser Slave Lake and Saddle Lake Agencies to encourage livestock production.

Although the long hard winter created some economic hardship, various large projects gave employment to any Indian who wanted to work. Amongst these projects were the West Coast transmission line and other pipeline projects, the mid-Canada radar line, the pulpwood industry in northwestern Alberta, and the lumber industry in northeastern Alberta. The Branch advanced transportation to enable needy Indians to reach the centres of employment. During the spring and summer nearly three hundred Indians worked in the southern Alberta beet fields. Lumbering operations continued on the Stony, Peigan, Bighorn, Sunchild Cree, O'Chiese and Heart Lake Reserves in Alberta and the Moberley Lake Reserve in British Columbia.

There were substantial increases in the revenue derived from petroleum and natural gas permits and leases on Indian reserves. For the most part these increased funds are being expended wisely by Band Councils in constructive programmes aimed at bettering living conditions on reserves.

Because of a very early freeze-up and subsequent poor weather conditions, trappers were dependent to a great extent on their spring sales of muskrat and beaver. Although these were taken in greater numbers than in the preceding year, the overall revenue from trapping declined.

While there was wider interest in commercial fishing, this enterprise did not prove too remunerative to the Indians.

Progress in education was highlighted by the completion of the first agreement with the Province of Alberta for the education of Indian children in a provincial school. This occurred at the Stony Plain Reserve in the Edmonton Agency, where the Department contributed to the cost of the new Jasper Place Separate School, and 70 Indian children now receive instruction at this school. At the Blood Reserve, 100 children were admitted to public schools in the local school division, and Indian children generally are attending public, separate elementary, and junior and senior high schools in increasing numbers. New Indian day schools were completed and opened on the Blood, Frog Lake, Goodfish Lake, Boyer River, Driftpile, Upper Hay River, O'Chiese and Alexander Reserves. Two four-classroom blocks were added to schools at Morley and Fort Vermilion, and a new dormitory block was added to the school at Hobbema. During the winter months special agricultural courses for Indians were conducted on ten reserves in the Province.

Northwest Territories

Hunting and trapping remain the chief source of livelihood for the Indians in the Northwest Territories. Many of the younger Indians, however, no longer have the desire to cope with the hardships experienced during long periods on the traplines, and an ever-increasing number are finding employment in lumbering, fishing and construction.

The fur catch for the spring was very good, with a large number of muskrat sold at prices higher than in the previous year.

Two new cold storage reefers were completed at Fort Franklin and Snowdrift to enable the Indians to store fish and wild meat for domestic use. Arrange-

ments were made to transport to the Indian settlements at Rocher River, Resolution, Rae, Franklin and Fort McPherson, wild meat and fish taken by Indians at points too far from settlement for transportation by dogs.

A commercial fishing venture was undertaken on Great Slave Lake with equipment, including nets and cabooses, advanced by the Branch. The venture was successful, and the Indians participating completed the season with a reasonable profit and with most of their equipment paid for and in good condition for next year's operations.

The market gardening project at Hay River was moderately successful. Four hundred bags of potatoes were shipped to various points in the north) and the Indians participating retained a sufficient supply for their own needs. Land was cleared at other settlements for gardening projects.

Saskatchewan

Agriculture continued to provide the main source of income for the Indians of Saskatchewan. Of the 93,152 acres sown to crops of wheat, oats, barley, flax, rape and hay, 50,000 acres were farmed by Indians, and the estimated value of the crop was approximately \$2,164,000. The rest of the area was cultivated by non-Indians under leases, and the estimated value of their crops was approximately \$2,130,000 of which over one-quarter was payable to the Indians as rent for the land.

Excessive flooding of hay lands during the spring and early summer months reduced the amounts of hay and wild hay harvested. Nevertheless, approximately \$600,000 was derived from pasture leases and the sale of hay.

There were few employment opportunities for Indians during the winter months of the past year. In consequence it was necessary for the Branch to provide relief to many Indians.

In the northern areas of the Province a very favourable fur catch and a good commercial fishing season enabled the Indians participating to make an unusually good living. The total earnings from fishing were \$129,284 and from trapping, \$402,582. In addition, northern Indians took advantage of increased opportunities for employment with mining companies.

There was an increase in the cattle population and more interest was shown by Indians in raising livestock.

During the year 142 new homes were constructed on reserves throughout the Province and 393 homes were repaired.

Four new Indian Day Schools were completed and occupied, three with two classrooms and one with one classroom. One new four-classroom block was added to an existing school, and construction was started on two other school additions, one being a three-classroom and the other a four-classroom block.

Social and welfare work continued to expand, with the Homemakers' Clubs playing an important role. A Social Leaders' Course was held on the Muscowpetung Reserve in October and proved most successful.

Manitoba

The total area of land under cultivation on Indian reserves in the Province during the past year was approximately 34,369 acres. In spite of excessive rainfall, Indians seeded 11,360 acres to grain and produced 182,880 bushels valued at \$182,900. In addition they summer fallowed 10,127 acres and broke 265 acres of new land.

Non-Indian farmers, operating under leases, seeded 4,622 acres, producing 88,583 bushels valued at \$88,600, summer fallowed 4,182 acres, and broke 1,413 acres of new land.

While the volume of the crop produced was considerably below that of last year, the quality was better and a higher income obtained.

High water in rice producing lakes caused another wild rice crop failure, and the high water damaged hay crops as well on all reserves adjacent to Lakes Winnipeg and Manitoba. Wild rice cropping on the Whiteshell concession was so small that it did not warrant the calling of tenders, but pickers harvested a limited supply in this area and along the east side of Lake Winnipeg. Although green rice was worth twenty-five cents a pound, the overall revenue from this source was low.

The commercial fish catch and the revenue derived from this industry by Indians varied considerably throughout the Province. Southern areas of Lake Winnipeg experienced good catches, but in the vicinity of Grand Rapids fishing was poor even with extended zoning and seasons. Northern areas reported more favourable conditions, with the limit on God's Lake being taken early in the season. In other areas, however, the limit was not reached.

Most registered trapline areas experienced a normal run of fine fur, and a slight improvement in prices resulted in increased revenue for the Indian trappers. The value of the mink catch was \$182,000, and beaver trapping netted \$177,000 for the 13,395 pelts taken. Indians shared equally with non-Indians in the 259,000 muskrats produced by the Summerberry Muskrat Ranch. Indian trappers assisted Provincial Game Officers in carrying out a predator control programme which accounted for 528 wolves.

Improvement of road conditions was continued, twenty-three miles of new roads being constructed by Indians operating Branch equipment on seven Indian reserves. Ten miles of road were repaired on various other reserves.

One hundred and thirty new homes were erected and repairs and improvements made to 299 homes out of band funds and the Welfare Appropriation. Seven sawmills operated by Indians on northern reserves produced 392,835 board feet of lumber used in the construction of houses for Indians. Electrical power was extended to the Rolling River, Dog Creek, Fairford, Ebb and Flow, and Oak Lake Reserves.

Employment opportunities for Indians remained at about the same level as last year. Small pulp-cutting operations on Valley River, Shoal River, Waterhen, Hollow Water, Fort Alexander, Berens River, and Little Black River Reserves gave seasonal employment to some Indians of each Band. The sugar beet industry in the southern part of the Province employed approximately 250 Indians. In the north the building of a radar system, the loading of grain at Churchill, the maintenance of the Hudson's Bay Railroad right-of-way and the guiding of tourists employed approximately 300 Indians during the summer months.

Continued efforts were made to meet the educational needs of Indian children. The completion of one-room day schools at Shamattawa, Hollow Water, and Long Plain Reserves, and of a two-room day school at Nelson House, provided accommodation for 175 pupils. A similar number will be accommodated in the new schools being built at Norway House and Oak River.

Construction of the new McKay Indian Residential School at Dauphin is progressing, and the site for the new Guy Indian Residential School at The Pas was made ready for construction.

Three Indian students graduated from Normal School and commenced teaching careers in the Province.

Northern Ontario

The economic position of the Indians in this region improved. during the year as a direct result of increased employment opportunities. While hunting, trapping, fishing, and lumbering continued to provide the main sources of revenue for the Indians, the development of the area, particularly mining, opened up new avenues of employment for the Indians.

In the mining industry Indians were employed on drilling crews, cutting lines, and on surveys. Many have become so proficient that they travel from place to place with their employers. As an experiment, employment for a group of Indians from the Sioux Lookout Agency was arranged with mining companies at Kirkland Lake.

Several commercial fishing operations were carried out as band ventures, the Branch providing supervision on the larger projects. Results were generally good. A sturgeon fishing project was inaugurated on the Nottaway River with Indians of the Rupert's House area. The results were so favourable that a larger operation is planned for next season.

The wild rice crop of 100,000 pounds, although better than last year, was only fair. On the other hand, the blueberry crop, which provides a large portion of the summer income for many Indians, was excellent.

As in previous years, the tourist industry provided employment for a large number of Indians who act as guides and domestics. Timber operations continued to provide a major source of income both for individual Indians and for band funds. The forest management program was extended to include three more reserves under the cutting permit system. Increased timber operations will result from the road construction work carried out during the year. The reforestation of reserve areas was continued.

During the year emphasis was placed on fire protection, and pumps and accessory equipment were acquired for four reserves. The Indians are becoming more conscious of the necessity of preserving their timber assets. Arrangements were made to conduct a three-day fire protection school for Indians on Manitoulin Island. Three Indians took scaling courses and qualified as Ontario Timber Scalers.

In the social welfare field the Homemakers' Clubs maintained their activity. A leadership training course was held on the Garden River Reserve. Of the eighteen Indians attending, seven have since organized groups on their reserves.

While the housing improvement program was not quite as extensive as last year, ninety-six houses were built at a total cost of \$165,734.57. Indians contributed directly or through band funds \$64,884.06 of the amount. Two hundred and ninety-two houses were repaired at a cost of \$60,914, of which Indians contributed slightly less than half the cost.

Educational facilities were expanded. The opening of several new schools and new classrooms brought the total number of classrooms in operation to 119. The number of Indian children pursuing their education through high school and technical school courses increased.

Southern Ontario

The Indians in Southern Ontario enjoyed another prosperous year. There was no lack of well paid employment, particularly for skilled labour. Some Indians earned a substantial income. In the tobacco and fruit farms and in lumber camps unskilled Indians were employed as casual labour. Others found employment as guides, cooks, and domestics.

While there was a slight decrease in the number of Indian farmers, those engaged in agriculture had a successful season. Several increased the acreage

under cultivation by the use of modern power equipment. Yields were high And prices fairly good. Indian owners of livestock showed increased interest in improving and adding to their herds.

The housing improvement program continued, with forty-three new houses being constructed and repairs made to 119 older houses. A large percentage of the financing of this program was undertaken by the Indians. Electrification of Indian reserves was continued.

Attendance at Indian Day Schools improved throughout the year. An increased number of Indian children are now attending non-elementary Indian schools. New training classes in agriculture and home economics were introduced on several reserves and arrangements were made for Indians from two reserves to attend prospecting courses. A new three-room elementary school was opened on the Tyendinaga Reserve. One additional classroom was constructed at the Caradoc Agency.

Quebec

Economic conditions remained about the same as in the previous year, with increased opportunity for employment in the northern part of the Province. Indians from Abitibi, Pointe Bleue, Bersimis and Seven Islands found employment in mining and forestry operations. A large group of Indians has been working regularly at Clova and Knob Lake, and their number is likely to increase.

Trapping provides the main source of revenue for the Indians in the more remote parts of the Province, and their income was reduced somewhat last year owing to a slight decrease in the price of beaver pelts and a substantial decrease in the prices of mink and marten. The Indian catch of beaver was valued at \$325,000. During the year 150 beaver from the Gaspé Peninsula were moved into the territory north of Mingan and plans were made to continue the restocking of northern areas with live beaver during the coming year.

Sixty-two new houses were built during the year and eighty-seven were repaired. Most of the labour was provided by Indians.

The thirteen Homemakers' Clubs operating in the Province continued to play a major part in the advancement of Indian communities. The course for Social Leaders held at Bersimis will provide leaders for community projects.

School attendance was satisfactory throughout the Province with an increased number of children attending non-Indian schools. A new one-classroom school with teacherage was built at Romaine, and a manual training shop was added to the school at Seven Islands. In addition, the new Amos Residential School was completed.

New Brunswick

The economic position of the Indians in New Brunswick in the past year varied according to regions. Almost one-half of the Indian population is located in the St. John River Valley and is therefore close to employment centres and to employment opportunities in the State of Maine. The rest of the Indian population, located in the eastern part of the Province, is dependent upon seasonal employment, basket making and Christmas tree cutting for a livelihood. While employment opportunities for Indians were fairly good, the very severe winter and unusually heavy snowfall greatly curtailed woods operations and reduced their income. The construction of Camp Gagetown offered employment to a number of Indians living in the locality.

During the year eighteen new houses were built, two being financed through Veterans' Land Act grants, and the sum of \$9,000 was spent on repairs to forty houses. Expenditures on repairs to reserve roads amounted to \$5,000.

Educational facilities were expanded by the construction of a new three classroom school on Big Cove Reserve. School attendance has improved and the number of Indian children attending non-Indian schools has increased.

The Social Leaders' Course for Indian leaders from all reserves in New Brunswick was held on the Big Cove Reserve.

Nova Scotia

The economic position of the Indians in Nova Scotia did not change materially from the previous year. As the Indians do not live on the coast and as their reserves are small, fishing and agriculture are not important sources of livelihood. They are largely dependent on seasonal employment.

Formerly woods operations gave employment to Indians but the dwindling of wood resources in the past year and a lessening demand for pulp, coupled with a most severe winter, resulted in a serious setback to the Indians. Basket making again proved an important source of revenue to some Indians and the demand for this ware by tourists remained firm. Seasonal employment for Indians-blueberry and potato picking in Maine and cutting Christmas trees was about the same as last year. It was noted that Indians engaged in this work are being given a greater measure of responsibility. There is evidence that Indians recently graduated from school are finding employment in industry.

During the year twenty-nine new houses were built, nine of which were financed by grants under the Veterans' Land Act. Repairs were made to an additional 100 houses.

The routing of the Trans Canada Highway through three reserves brought them electricity as well as good roads for the first time, and provided employment for Indians living on the reserves. Other reserve roads were also improved.

Educational facilities were expanded by the construction of a two-room school and teacherage on the Middle River Reserve. School attendance improved and about 165 Indian children attended non-Indian schools. This number represented over 25% of the school age Indian population. Forty-five Indian children are attending high school and twelve others are in universities or otherwise receiving advanced educational training.

A short Social Leaders' Course for community minded Indians was held at the Shubenacadie Reserve.

Prince Edward Island

Most of the Indians of this Province reside on the Lennox Island Reserve and are dependent on basketry and seasonal employment for their livelihood.

The potato basket industry, established on a year round basis with financial assistance from the Branch, had a successful year and showed a profit on its operations in addition to giving employment to a number of Indians. The retail grocery outlet established and operated by the Band also had a good year and showed a substantial profit. The oyster bed project commenced a year ago for the use of the Indians was continued, with Indians picking young oysters and seeding part of the bed. A similar program will continue for the next three or four years, before the project is in full operation. Assistance in this scheme was received, from officials of the Department of Fisheries Biological Station at Ellerslie.

To supplement the limited income they can earn on the Island Reserve many Indians went to the State of Maine to take seasonal employment in berry and potato picking while others found seasonal employment in fishing. A trend is developing, particularly among the younger Indians, to leave the Reserve to find employment in the industrial centres of Canada and the United States.

During the year, four houses were built on reserves on the mainland and electricity was brought to the Lennox Island Reserve. Unfortunately, very bad storms resulted in wide-spread damage to electrical service lines on Prince Edward Island which will take many months to repair. As a result, the Indian residents of Lennox Island up to the end of the year were unable to make use of the new service.

The first Girl Guide Troop on Lennox Island Reserve was formed during the year, and the girls earned funds for uniforms and camping expenses by picking and selling young oysters. On their first year in the Provincial Girl Guide Camp the Indian girls' troop ranked third in attainments. Two adult Indians attended the Social Leaders' course held on the Shubenacadie Indian Reserve.

School attendance continues to be good. Eight students are attending non Indian high schools, and one student is attending university.

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; Kwawkewlth, 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; The 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; Rice and Mud Lakes, at Peterborough; Sarnia, at Sarnia; Saugeen, at Chippawa Hill; Sault Ste. Marie, at Sault Ste. Marie; Sioux Lookout, at Sioux Lookout; Six Nations, at Brantford; Tyendinaga, at Deseronto; and Walpole Island, at Walpole Island; Nakina, at Nakina; Simcoe, at Sutton West.

Quebec

Abitibi, at Amos; Bersimis, at Betsiamites; Caughnawaga, at Caughnawaga; Jeune Lorette, at Village des Hurons; Maniwaki, at Maniwaki; Pierreville, at St. Francois du Lac; Pointe Bleue, at Pointe Bleue; Restigouche, at Restigouche; St. Augustin, at St. Augustin; St. Regis, at St. Regis; Seven Islands, at Sept-Iles; 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

Prince Edward Island, on Lennox Island.

Yukon Territory

Yukon, at Whitehorse.

Northwest Territories

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

Census of Indians: Arranged under Provinces and Territories, 1954

Table 2[illegible]

British Columbia	820,830	258,625	38,976	6,436	156	91	...	...	3,981	...	173	2,751	4,513	2,747
Northwest Territories and Yukon	5,460	77	34	424	1	4	1	1	47	1	...	...	...	...
Total	5,874,269	1,903,454	455,367	26,392	476	207	55	190	15,767	730	662	5,984	18,608	11,594

Table 3**Statement of Ordinary Expenditure 1955 - 56**

...	Branch Administration	Indian Agencies	Reserves and trusts	Welfare and Grants to Exhibitions	Fur Conservation	Education	Total
...	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Newfoundland and Labrador General
Nova Scotia	...	101,357	98	295,941	...	200,824	598,220
Prince Edward Island	...	26,702	...	41,321	...	13,672	81,695
New Brunswick	...	47,162	19	148,769	...	148,318	344,268
Quebec	...	264,887	21,475	589,913	35,894	919,980	1,832,149
Ontario	...	588,063	15,530	779,567	86,635	2,590,766	4,060,561
Manitoba	...	312,495	56	438,755	63,303	1,658,359	2,472,968
Saskatchewan	...	358,060	100	362,935	60,293	1,833,545	2,615,533
Alberta	...	457,233	5,832	284,817	23,038	2,378,155	3,149,075
British Columbia	...	456,359	59	602,256	6,372	2,134,124	3,199,170
Northwest Territories	...	78,218	...	144,864	...	82,791	305,873
Yukon	...	32,624	...	67,947	...	162,309	262,880
Headquarters and Miscellaneous	401,771	123,880	165,191	93,635	17,042	1,297,459	2,098,978
Grant to provide additional services to Indians of British Columbia	...	43,734	...	50,146	...	...	93,880
...	401,771	2,891,374	208,360	3,900,866	292,577	13,420,302	21,115,250
Death Gratuities	2,110
Statutory-Indian Annuities	367,759
Statutory Pensions	420
Grand total ordinary expenditure	21,485,539

Table 4**Open Account - Advances for Assistance to Indians, Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 1956**

EXPENDITURE		
Yukon	Nil	...
British Columbia	\$2,865.44	...
Alberta	810.00	...
Saskatchewan	6,784.79	...
Manitoba	1,241.25	...
Ontario	15,319.57	...
Quebec	Nil	...
New Brunswick	268.74	...
Nova Scotia	821.00	...
Prince Edward Island	Nil	...
...	...	28,110.79
REPAYMENTS		
Yukon	267.77	...
British Columbia	11,455.28	...
Alberta	1,604.41	...
Saskatchewan	11,744.40	...
Manitoba	6,177.95	...
Ontario	25,978.96	...
Quebec	4,527.26	...
New Brunswick	1,406.00	...
Nova Scotia	2,764.71	...
Prince Edward Island	1,948.53	...
...	...	\$67,875.27
Repayments over Expenditure	...	\$39,764.48

Table 5**Indian Trust Funds - Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for Year Ended March 31, 1956**

CAPITAL ACCOUNT		
Balance, April 1, 1955	...	\$18,302,827.30
Receipts	...	...
Land Sales, principal	\$457,519.14	...
Timber dues	783,009.12	...
Gravel dues	63,629.31	...
Oil royalties	1,425,030.45	...
Oil bonus	946,931.78	...
Loan repayments	43,007.05	...
Housing repayments	19,690.51	...
Miscellaneous	117,466.05	...
...	...	3,856,283.41
...	...	22,159,110.71
Disbursements	...	...
Cash distributions of timber dues, etc	\$543,860.00	...
Enfranchisements	101,061.48	...
Loans	64,751.09	...
Purchase of Land	10,456.47	...
Construction and maintenance of band property	259,253.99	...
Construction of Indian houses	101,830.07	...
Agriculture	37,823.95	...
Roads	163,573.34	...
Fire protection re timber	18,033.93	...
Miscellaneous	128,213.90	...
...	...	1,428,858.22
Balance, March 31, 1956	...	\$20,730,252.49
REVENUE ACCOUNT		
Balance, April 1, 1955	...	\$5,713,975.47
Receipts	...	...
Interest from Government	\$1,186,917.75	...
Rentals	1,312,049.10	...
Interest on land sales	9,304.62	...
Savings deposits and proceeds of estates	282,083.78	...
Loan repayments	7,921.08	...
Fur projects	444,820.68	...
Road subsidies	46,047.84	...
Collections re seed grain, etc	519,349.79	...

Sales of handicraft	22,068.60	...
Compensation - Primrose Lake air weapons range	235,799.00	...
Sale of fish - Sandy Lake and James Bay fishery account	15,999.90	...
Miscellaneous	435,007.18	...
...	...	4,517,369.32
...	...	10,231,344.79
Disbursements	...	...
Cash distribution	\$769,009.33	...
Relief	567,609.13	...
Hospital and medical fees	68,297.92	...
Repairs and maintenance of band property	254,293.46	...
Road repairs	224,211.95	...
Agriculture	866,705.84	...
Handicraft expenses	25,029.83	...
Enfranchisements	15,453.47	...
Repairs to Indian houses	397,259.48	...
Fur projects	553,164.47	...
Savings withdrawals and estate settlements	339,772.52	...
Sandy Lake and James Bay fishery account	9,259.14	...
Compensation - Primrose Lake air weapons range	175,948.60	...
Miscellaneous	502,593.25	...
...	...	4,768,608.39
Balance March 31, 1956	...	\$5,462,736.40
Grand total, March 31, 1956	...	\$26,192,988.89

Table 6**Indian Education - Ordinary Expenditure 1955 - 56**

Province	Day Schools	Residential Schools	General	Total
...	\$	\$	\$	\$
Nova Scotia	134,385.95	66,438.14	...	200,824.09
Prince Edward Island	13,672.30	...	...	13,672.30
New Brunswick	148,317.91	...	...	148,317.91
Quebec	388,705.93	531,274.36	...	919,980.29
Ontario	1,103,078.23	1,487,687.83	...	2,590,766.06
Manitoba	735,953.75	922,405.36	...	1,668,359.11
Saskatchewan	629,502.12	1,204,042.69	...	1,833,544.81
Alberta	620,196.58	1,757,958.53	...	2,378,155.11
British Columbia	722,421.69	1,411,702.30	...	2,134,123.99
Northwest Territories	36,473.46	46,317.95	...	82,791.41
Yukon	39,549.51	122,758.94	...	162,308.45
Tuition and Maintenance of Indian Children in non-Indian and Joint Schools	...	...	831,748.11	831,748.11
Salaries and Travel	...	...	116,260.97	116,260.97
School Books and Stationery	195,688.39	91,687.03	...	287,375.42
Miscellaneous	29,527.22	4,438.95	28,108.26	62,074.43
Grand Total	4,797,473.04	7,646,712.08	976,117.34	13,420,302.46

Summary of Indian Schools of All Types

(continued)

...	...	65	...	...	1,439	1,507	2,946	2,658.71	90.24	870	444	434	276	301	257	173	90	1	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	3	93	71	164	156.35	95.33	54	25	20	28	18	10	5	1	1	2	...	...
Yukon Territory	1	...	...	...	63	62	125	119.86	95.88	34	18	14	17	15	14	9	4	...	...	...	...
...	...	5	...	...	91	107	198	186.40	94.14	62	40	23	34	20	12	3	4	...	...	...	...
Total	66	372	28	11	14,506	15,065	29,571	26,977.70	91.23	8,859	4,654	4,205	3,550	2,905	2,233	1,532	1,010	286	154	106	77
Analysis of Enrolment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Residential School Pupils	...	...	...	...	4,953	5,422	10,375	10,065.69	97.02	2,594	1,540	1,533	1,269	1,089	824	591	394	237	126	102	76
Day Pupils at Residential schools	...	...	...	...	494	445	939	831.47	88.55	275	143	140	118	97	87	40	33	4	1	1	...
Day School Pupils	...	...	...	...	8,176	8,269	16,445	14,556.85	88.52	5,063	2,630	2,333	2,010	1,646	1,267	865	569	38	24	...	...
Seasonal School Pupils	...	...	...	...	532	541	1,073	856.98	79.87	620	237	120	69	17	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hospital School Pupils	...	...	...	...	351	388	739	616.11	90.22	307	104	79	84	56	45	36	14	7	3	3	1
Total	...	...	...	...	14,506	15,065	29,571	26,977 70	91 23	8,859	4,654	4,205	3,550	2,905	2,233	1,532	1,010	286	154	106	77

Table 8

Residential Schools - 1955 - 56

Denominational Auspices	Number of Schools According to Province or Territory								Total	Enrolment		
...	Nova Scotia	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Yukon	...	Boys	Girls	Total
Church of England	...	1	4	...	2	4	2	1	14	995	1,065	2,060
Roman Catholic	1	3	6	5	7	12	10	...	44	3,361	3,721	7,082
Presbyterian	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	149	173	322
United Church	...	...	...	3	...	2	1	...	6	448	463	911
Totals	1	4	11	9	91	18	13	1	66	4,953	5,422	10,375

Note. - 4 residential schools in the Northwest Territories are now administered by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

Table 9

Indians Attending Provincial, Private and Territorial Schools

...	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Northwest territories	Yukon	Outside Canada	Total
Grade -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	1	10	1	1,6	200	64	63	46	248	256	27	...	932
2	...	5	2	29	110	47	39	27	237	112	9	...	617
3	1	4	3	30	104	32	19	52	169	127	20	...	561
4	...	11	2	28	113	30	12	44	176	68	24	...	508
5	...	10	6	32	76	26	14	38	165	48	12	...	427
6	...	12	19	43	78	21	8	29	164	28	5	...	407
7	...	14	5	24	77	20	5	47	201	20	12	...	425
8	1	9	6	24	80	6	4	35	148	16	3	1	333
9	5	23	10	30	152	10	40	46	135	10	5	...	466
10	...	19	6	17	108	11	20	33	89	1	2	...	306
11	1	6	4	8	55	7	6	26	50	...	4	...	167
12	1	3	1	5	50	2	1	12	22	...	2	...	89
13	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	14
University -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	1	...	4	4	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	12
2	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
3	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Teacher	...	1	...	5	9	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	18

Training													
Nursing	...	3	1	1	11	3	1	6	4	...	...	...	30
Nurse's Aid	...	...	1	1	1	3	1	7	6	...	1	...	21
Commercial	...	2	1	27	9	2	1	2	9	...	...	...	53
Trades	...	3	1	34	10	5	3	4	21	...	...	...	81
Others	...	...	...	13	38	14	...	...	25	2	...	...	92
Total	11	136	70	374	1,286	305	238	454	1,876	688	126	2	5,566

Table 10

Distribution by Provinces of Teaching Staff Employed in Indian Schools in 1955 - 1956

...	Day and Hospital School Teachers	Residential School Teachers	Seasonal School Teachers	Total
Prince Edward Island	2	...	...	2
Nova Scotia	25	4	...	29
New Brunswick	14	...	...	14
Quebec	74	15	18	107
Ontario	167	40	12	219
Manitoba	104	42	3	149
Saskatchewan	78	66	1	145
Alberta	59	67	2	128
British Columbia	119	58	...	177
Yukon	7	4	...	11
Total	649	296	36	981

Table 11

Number of Specialists in Practical Arts Employed in Indian Schools

...	Industrial Arts		Home Economics	
...	Residential Schools	Day Schools	Residential Schools	Day Schools
Nova Scotia	1	1	1	1
New Brunswick	...	1	...	2
Quebec	3	5	3	8
Ontario	9	3	5	3
Manitoba	5	2	3	3
Saskatchewan	9	2	9	2
Alberta	10	1	3	1
British Columbia	6	0	2	0
Total	43	15	26	20

