

RECORD IN HOUSING: More houses were built in Canada in 1953 than in any previous year. For the first time in the history of the country, the figure of 100,000 units was surpassed both in new starts and in dwellings completed, according to the annual report of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation just presented. Other highlights on the housing situation in Canada:

The total of 102,409 new starts represented an increase of 23 per cent over the corresponding figure for 1952, and 11% over the previous record in 1950.

The number of dwellings completed during 1953 was 32% above the total for 1952. The high carryover of almost 60,000 units under construction at the end of 1953 will contribute to completions in 1954.

As in 1952, all regions in the country shared in the rise in housing starts. The Ontario region showed a greater increase in starts than other regions, in 1953, after having had the smallest rate of increase in 1952.

PER CAPITA BASIS

The rate of starts on a per capita basis varied greatly and . . . was as high as 22 per thousand population in Edmonton and as low as 2.4 in Sydney. The rate of starts in urban areas generally exceeds that of the country as a whole.

The unprecedented volume of residential construction in 1953 was the result of a number of favourable influences. Population factors sustained demand in a purely physical sense, while the general buoyancy of the national economy made possible a rise in real incomes and savings.

Canadians saved \$1,480 million out of personal income in 1953 as against \$1,181 million in 1952. Personal disposable income per capita in 1953 was 3% above the corresponding figure for 1952. The rise in savings made it possible for Canadian families to provide the down payments for new dwellings, while higher income increased their capacity to meet carrying charges on owner-occupied homes and to pay rentals. There were more people in Canada wanting houses and able to pay for them at existing prices, than at any time since 1947.

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CANADIANS IN U.S. "ASSAULT": Twenty-five cadets of the Royal Canadian Navy and RCN (Reserve) will take part in an annual amphibious assault exercise with midshipment of the United States Naval Academy on June 19 at a U.S. naval amphibious training base in Virginia.

The landing, near Camp Pendleton, will be made by 2,000 United States Marines and 586 Midshipmen while 14,000 men in 35 ships offshore provide the landing craft and furnish support.

3,477,000 FAMILIES: Canada's ten provinces had 3,675,000 households and 3,477,000 families at the start of June last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics estimates. This was 265,705 or 8% more households and 194,555 or 6% more families than at the June 1 Census of 1951.

The 1953 June 1 estimate of households is 34,000 greater than the estimate for September last year which the Bureau published in its January report on the household equipment survey, the explanation being that the September figure does not include Indian reservations and a few inaccessible areas in the north of the provinces. Institutional households are excluded from both estimates, as are the territories.

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PIPED OIL RISE: Boosted by a new record monthly movement in December, the volume of oil delivered through Canadian pipe lines in the year 1953 soared to 147,304,000 barrels, an increase of 37% over 1952 deliveries of 107,796,000 barrels, and a gain of 67% over 1951. The year's deliveries of refined products amounted to 24,868,000 barrels as against only 3,094,000 in 1952. December's deliveries of oil totalled 14,400,000 barrels, up 11% from November and 33% above December, 1952.

Provincial deliveries for the year were as follows, with 1952 figures in brackets: British Columbia, 1,540,000 barrels (nil); Alberta, 16,985,000 (16,054,000); Saskatchewan, 14,190,000 (11,165,000); Manitoba, 36,683,000 (27,630,000); Ontario, 24,868,000 (3,094,000); and Quebec, 53,038,000 (49,853,000).

643-MILE EXTENSION

Manitoba's deliveries included 30,524,000 barrels (21,521,000 in 1952) transferred to the Lakehead Pipe Line Company at Gretna destined principally to Ontario refineries at Sarnia. In the past the bulk of this oil has moved from Superior to Sarnia by way of Lake tanker until the close of navigation. With the completion in December of Lakehead's 643-mile extension from Superior to Sarnia, the Interprovincial Pipe Line Company now operates the longest crude oil pipe line in the world. This extension commenced operating in December and provides transportation facilities for year-round movement of oil from Western Canada to refineries at Sarnia.

By the end of 1953, deliveries of the Interprovincial Pipe Line Company had risen to 53,569,000 barrels, as against 41,281,000 in 1952, an increase of 30%. Imperial's deliveries for the year amounted to 47,468,000 barrels, up 8%, while the Montreal Pipe Line Company increased their total deliveries for the year by 6.3% to 53,038,000 barrels from 49,853,000.