

In 1948, all rights and properties of Wartime Housing Limited were transferred to the Corporation. As a result, it now receives advances from the Government, enters into contracts with contractors, signs agreements with municipalities and makes payments for work completed. To enable it to continue the program of low-rental house construction, the Corporation has also been empowered to acquire and develop land and to purchase materials and construct houses, using funds appropriated from time to time by Parliament.

Thus, the two largest housing agencies of the Government have been consolidated, a step which has resulted in substantial economies in operating costs.

From the inception of this construction programme in 1941 to April 30, 1948 there were 39,645 housing units built and occupied. Others are under construction.

The 1947 rental programme was terminated on July 1, 1947, in accordance with two months' notice previously given. On October 10, 1947, the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply announced a new 1948 rental program for which he set an objective of 12,000 units. The new programme differed from the 1947 plan in that larger payments in lieu of taxes were made available to the municipalities and the type of houses to be built conformed more closely to urban development in Canada.

#### Emergency Shelter

Transferred from the Wartime Prices and Trade Board to Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation in 1945, the Emergency Shelter Regulations are intended primarily to assist municipalities to find accommodation for families suffering acute hardship and distress from lack of shelter. Generally, such assistance is provided by making surplus Crown-owned buildings available at a nominal rental and by making financial grants towards the initial conversion cost of shelter projects.

At April 30, 1948, some 10,000 emergency shelter units were completed or nearing completion. Commitments made by the Government on emergency shelter account total \$4.4 million, of which approximately \$1 million has gone to help Canadian universities make available living units for married veteran students.

#### Building Materials

One of the factors that made it possible in 1947 to build the largest number of houses ever erected in Canada in one year was the substantial expansion of Canada's building material productive capacity. Output of building materials in 1947 reached record levels. Production for eight items, including cement, wood fibre insulating board, warm air furnaces, electric hot water tank heaters, asphalt shingles, asphalt rolls, rock wool batts and gypsum wall-board, was more than twice that of 1939. Increases were as much as nine times the pre-war volume for rock wool batts, and four times for asphalt shingles. Six other items showed increases of almost double the pre-war output. These included brick, cast iron radiators, hot water storage tanks, cast iron soil pipe, builders' hardware and gypsum plaster. Another three items - sawn lumber, bathtubs and domestic heating boilers - reached peak output. Of the other eleven items for which production figures are available, all showed increases over 1946 except two - steel pipe and electric hot water tank heaters.

#### Building Labour

Employment in the building industry, including highway and engineering construction, made substantial gains during 1947. The