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## CONSTRUCTION RECORD FORECAST

Canada's 1957 construction programme is estimated at a high record value of \$6,702,000,000, about 5 per cent larger than the preceding year's peak of \$6,389,000,000, according to estimates published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The 1957 anticipated rise of 5 per cent is in contrast with an increase in 1956 of over one billion dollars or 20 per cent over the 1955 realization of \$5,311,000,000. This latter increase was the largest in dollar terms since 1946.

The moderate increase of 5 per cent in the intended construction programme as compared with a 20 per cent gain in the preceding year is due largely to a slow-down in housebuilding, which is estimated at 15 per cent below the 1956 level. Non-residential building and engineering construction, however, show a continued high rate of increase for 1956 especially in the commercial, institutional, electric power and gas and oil facilities categories. The St. Lawrence Seaway development and the Trans-Canada pipeline figure prominently in the advance.

Volume of construction carried out in 1955 increased almost 10 per cent over 1954, showing the largest increase since 1948 in percentage terms. Preliminary estimates indicate that this increase was surpassed in 1956 when the programme was 14 per cent larger than the preceding year. In terms of both current and constant dollars, most of the increases have occurred in new construction, repair work showing relatively little change.

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The value of new construction is estimated at \$5,563,000,000 for 1957, up from \$5,260,000,000 in the preceding year, and the value of repair construction is placed at \$1,139,000,000 as against \$1,129,000,000. New construction undertaken by contract is estimated at \$4,659,000,000 versus \$4,388,000,000, and repair construction at \$482,000,000 versus \$461,000,000. Construction undertaken by the labour forces of utilities, manufacturing, mining and logging firms and government departments, home owner-builders and other persons or firms not primarily engaged in the construction industry totalled \$1,561,000,000 versus \$1,540,000,000, comprising \$904,000,000 for new construction (\$872,000,000 in 1956) and \$657,000,000 for repairs (\$668,000,000).

Projected value of residential construction is expected to fall to \$1,556,000,000 this year from \$1,830,000,000, but other categories show substantial increases: commercial to \$688,000,000 from \$599,000,000, and institutional to \$528,000,000 from \$450,000,000. Total for industrial building is expected to decline to \$568,000,000 from \$594,000,000 and "other" types to \$268,000,000 from \$316,000,000.

In the engineering category the following are the estimated values for 1957: marine construction, \$173,000,000 (\$128,000,000 in 1956); roads, highways and aerodromes, \$667,000,000 (\$617,000,000); waterways and sewage systems \$247,000,000 (\$193,000,000); dams and irrigation, \$57,000,000 (\$59,000,000); elec-

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