

BUILDING PERMITS

In September, Canadian municipalities issued building permits covering construction estimated at \$241,702,200, up 20.2 per cent from last year's corresponding total of \$201,075,000. This brought the January-September value to \$2,051,948,000, a rise of 4.4 per cent from the like 1962 total of \$1,966,212,000.

The value of residential construction advanced 30.9 per cent in September to \$127,979,000 from \$97,792,000 a year earlier and 9.9 per cent in the January-September period to \$1,044,174,000 from \$949,733,000 a year ago. Non-residential value was up 10.1 per cent in the month to \$113,723,000 from \$103,283,000 but was down 0.9 per cent in the nine months to \$1,007,774,000 from \$1,016,479,000.

VALUE BY PROVINCES

Value of construction covered by building permits issued in September was up from a year earlier in all provinces except Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Alberta. Month's totals were: Newfoundland, \$1,816,000 (\$2,653,000 in September last year); Prince Edward Island, \$320,000 (\$84,000); Nova Scotia, \$3,079,000 (\$2,888,000); New Brunswick, \$2,767,000 (\$3,573,000); Quebec, \$61,885,000 (\$53,664,000); Ontario, \$107,335,000 (\$82,397,000); Manitoba, \$11,849,000 (\$9,107,000); Saskatchewan, \$12,885,000 (\$5,447,000); Alberta, \$19,872,000 (\$23,550,000); and British Columbia, \$19,894,000 (\$17,712,000).

VISIT OF OECD TRAINING TEAM

A team of European training experts, sponsored by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, is at present in Canada on a two-week visit, surveying technician facilities and programmes as part of a multi-nation study of training at this level.

The group is looking closely at post-high-school education in Canada's institutes of technology and in industry, examining facilities and assessing programmes. They will relate their findings to programmes and facilities in other nations of the world, and will look generally at Canada's place in this field in relation to other industrialized and emerging nations.

AIM OF SURVEY

The purpose of the survey is that, as unbiased observers, the team may be able to make recommendations for improvement in the Canadian approach for the consideration of provincial departments of education and industrial leaders or possibly may be able to use the Canadian system as an example for other countries to follow.

ITINERARY

The team arrived in Canada November 27 and met officials of the Federal Department of Labour November 28 for an informal discussion of technician-training programmes and facilities and to outline the

aims of the survey. On November 29, they visited the Eastern Ontario Institute of Technology in Ottawa. They were in Quebec City December 1 to carry out talks with officials of the Department of Youth and to visit the Quebec Institute of Technology.

On December 3, the team was in Montreal to discuss technician training with Garnet T. Page, Chairman, National Committee on Technological Education, with industrialists in the Montreal area and with local officials of the Department of Youth.

The experts toured the Laval Institute of Technology and the Montreal Institute on December 4 and visited the Lachine works of the Northern Electric Company on December 5. They travelled to Toronto on December 6, where they conferred with officials of the Ontario Department of Education and visited Ryerson Polytechnical Institute.

In Regina, on December 9, they had discussions with Saskatchewan Department of Education officials and toured the South Saskatchewan Technical Institute in Moose Jaw. They visited the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary the following day, and talked with industrial leaders in that community.

The team is slated to tour the British Columbia Institute of Technology, which is still under construction, on December 11 and will confer with B.C. education officials. On December 12, they will visit the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton and meet officials of the Alberta Department of Education. They will return to Ottawa for December 13 discussions with officials of the Federal Department of Labour.

LANDSCAPE ARTIST HONOURED

Homer Watson, Canada's first native-born painter to record the distinctive character of the Ontario landscape, is being honoured by a retrospective exhibition of his works at the National Gallery. The exhibition was opened at the Gallery on December 5 by William J. Withrow, Director of the Art Gallery of Toronto. It will remain at the Gallery for one month.

Not only did Homer Watson, who lived from 1855 until 1936, give a new sense of unity and order to the Canadian scene, he was also important as a forerunner of the Group of Seven, whose members were to add a further dimension and meaning to the Canadian landscape.

Watson worked chiefly near his native village of Doon, near the present city of Kitchener, where his brush captured the dignity and beauty of Waterloo County.

FORESTRY STUDY TOUR

The Minister of Forestry, Mr. John R. Nicholson, recently announced that 30 forestry officials from 15 member countries of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization would spend two weeks in Canada next summer, learning how problems of forest-fire control are handled by Canadian fire-fighters.

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