

information. The Corporation is actively engaged in remedying the deficiency which has existed in this field. The Division of Building Research, National Research Council, has undertaken most of the actual technical and laboratory work required to establish the suitability of building methods and materials. Moreover new plans and designs for moderate and low-cost house construction are continually being drawn up and when completed are made available at a nominal cost.

In the past, few municipalities in Canada have taken advantage of community planning. Accordingly, the National Housing Act makes provision for the preparation and distribution of information to promote a better understanding of the principles underlying community planning. It also provides for studies of the problem of land utilization and for general research projects that will increase knowledge of this subject.

As a result, various studies have been assisted financially in Canadian universities and government departments. Financial assistance has been made available to the Community Planning Association of Canada, a private organization designed to foster public understanding of, and participation in, community planning in Canada.

Generally, under the provisions of the National Housing Act, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation can co-operate with any planning authority to assist in the preparation of co-ordinated regional and community plans anywhere in Canada.

Direct Construction

Employing private contractors and under agreement with municipal authorities, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation has been building houses on a rental basis for war veterans and their families. This is a continuation of the construction activities of Wartime Housing Limited (now consolidated with C.M.H.C.), which was formed on February 28, 1941, to build and manage low-rental living accommodation for war workers in congested areas. This interim program has now been replaced by a long-term Federal-Provincial policy applying to housing projects which require provincial assistance authorized by a 1949 amendment to the National Housing Act.

From the inception of the direct rental housing construction program in 1941 to November 30, 1949, there were about 48,000 housing units built and occupied.

Building Materials and Labour

Increase in the output of building materials and growth of the construction labour force necessarily accompanies the post-war expansion of house-building in Canada. An index of physical production of the more important building materials indicates that output in the first six months of 1949 was running about 64 per cent above 1939 levels and 33 per cent over the level of 1945. The construction labour force grew from slightly under 200,000 in November, 1945, to 366,000 in June, 1949.