

## BUILDING PERMITS IN 1958

Value of building permits issued by Canadian municipalities in 1958 advanced 29 per cent to \$2,356,759,000 from \$1,827,291,000 in 1957, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics annual summary contained in this year's February issue of "Building Permits". Permits issued in February this year were valued at \$109,474,000, up 12.4 per cent from last year's like total of \$97,411,000.

All provinces except New Brunswick reported larger values in the year 1958 than in 1957. Totals: Newfoundland, \$18,565,000 (\$9,120,000 in 1957); Prince Edward Island, \$3,914,000 (\$855,000); Nova Scotia, \$25,721,000 (\$17,724,000); New Brunswick, \$18,725,000 (\$22,557,000); Quebec, \$491,180,000 (\$390,674,000); Ontario, \$1,097,716,000 (\$828,616,000); Manitoba, \$94,553,000 (\$74,425,000); Saskatchewan, \$83,762,000 (\$65,768,000); Alberta, \$258,409,000 (\$172,851,000); and British Columbia, \$264,214,000 (\$244,701,000).

In February smaller values in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec were more than offset by larger values in the other provinces. Month's provincial totals: Newfoundland, \$78,000 (\$169,000 a year earlier); Prince Edward Island, \$77,000 (\$341,000); Nova Scotia, \$828,000 (\$286,000); New Brunswick, \$1,965,000 (\$562,000); Quebec, \$20,778,000 (\$21,439,000); Ontario, \$45,448,000 (\$44,688,000); Manitoba, \$4,007,000 (\$3,500,000); Saskatchewan, \$3,343,000 (\$1,433,000); Alberta, \$14,703,000 (\$7,709,000); and British Columbia, \$18,247,000 (\$17,284,000).

\* \* \* \*

## GIFT TO THE WEST INDIES

At the inauguration ceremonies of the Federation of The West Indies in 1958, the Ministers who represented Canada informed the new Legislature that Canada wished to make a present of two clerks' tables to commemorate the occasion.

The first of these tables was presented to the House of Representatives on May 11 by Mr. R.G.C. Smith, the Commissioner for Canada, and the second will be given to the Senate in June. The tables were made in Canada of wood brought from The West Indies for the purpose and according to a design submitted by the Federal Government of The West Indies. Each table bears a silver plate indicating that it is a gift from the Parliament of Canada.

As the Prime Minister said in the House when he announced the presentation, The Canadian House of Commons bear evidence on every hand of similar presentations. He recalled that the Speaker's Chair was given to the Parliament of Canada in 1921 by the Empire Parliamentary Association, and that incorporated in it were pieces of the old oak roof of Westminster Hall, built in 1397.

Mr. Diefenbaker went on to say:

"The gifts which are being presented to The West Indies Legislature, like the gifts which repose in this House, serve as tangible reminders of the continuity and the growth in strength of parliamentary government and of the close and cordial relations which exist between the various parts of the Commonwealth."

\* \* \* \*

## AN HISTORICAL EXCHANGE

Gifts of important research material were exchanged last month between the national libraries of Canada and the United States in a ceremony in Ottawa, as part of the celebrations of a national library week, observed in both countries.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Diefenbaker, on behalf of the National Library of Canada, presented a microfilm of the Baring Papers to Dr. R.P. Basler, director of the reference department of the Library of Congress. These papers, from the collection of the Public Archives of Canada, relate to the period from 1818 to 1872 and consist of 88,000 pages. They concern operations in Canada, the United States and Latin America of Baring Brothers and Co. Ltd., the old-established mercantile banking house of London, and are of great importance to the study of the economic history of the United States.

The Library of Congress presented to Canada a variety of source material relating to Lincoln. This included a microfilm of the Robert Todd Lincoln Collection of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, a collection of more than 18,000 documents which for the most part have never been published; *The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, in eight volumes, edited under the direction of Dr. Basler; a facsimile of Lincoln's scrap-book containing clippings of the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates; a reproduction of a letter from Queen Victoria to Mrs. Lincoln, dated 1865, and a catalogue of the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary Exhibition in the Library of Congress.

\* \* \* \*

## SHIPS TO BELGIUM

Two Algerine class coastal escorts, HMC Ships Wallaceburg and Winnipeg, now in reserve, will be transferred to Belgium under the Canadian programme of Mutual Aid to member nations of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The Wallaceburg and Winnipeg, completing refit at Sydney, N.S., and Esquimalt, B.C., respectively, are being equipped and stored for transfer to the Belgian Navy. The Wallaceburg is scheduled to be turned over at Sydney on July 31 and the Winnipeg at Esquimalt on August 7.