

NATIONAL CAPITAL PLAN BEFORE PARLIAMENT

LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT: Details of large scale, long range improvements designed to make Ottawa into an attractive and well planned city and a capital which will reflect Canada's status and achievements as a nation and be a source of pride to all Canadians, were revealed when the Prime Minister, Mr. St. Laurent, tabled in the House of Commons Jacques Greber's preliminary report on the National Capital Plan, result of three years work by the noted French city planner and a staff of Canadian town planners, architects and engineers.

Endorsed by the National Capital Planning Committee, permanent advisory body on the project to the Federal District Commission, as an exhaustive study of present conditions in the Capital and an imaginative approach to the development of the future, the master plan provides for a maximum population of about half a million people, without crowding or congestion, within a five mile radius of the Parliament Buildings. A "green belt", zoned for agricultural use or as open space, surrounds the planned limits of the ultimate built up area. The population of Greater Ottawa and Hull is now 250,000 and trends indicate it will reach close to 400,000 by the end of the century.

PRELIMINARY REPORT

The preliminary report was presented to the National Capital Planning Committee for study earlier in the year and its recommendations upon it were approved at a meeting on April 13 of the Federal District Commission, the nationally representative organization which is responsible for carrying out the plans. It was forwarded to the Government during the Easter recess for presentation to Parliament. A final report, different only in that it will include many photographs and coloured maps and plans, is now being prepared, and will be available to the public.

The plan proposes extensive development of the 900-square-mile National Capital District which, with its hunting, fishing, summer resort and other recreational facilities potentially is one of the most attractive tourist centres on the continent. Additional roads and scenic parkways to make the area more accessible and zoning legislation to protect the natural beauties of the area and prevent undesirable commercial exploitation are recommended. Gatineau Park of the Federal District Commission, now comprising some 24,000 acres, is to be enlarged. Long known as the summer and winter playground of the Capital, its attendance figures are among the highest of any park in Canada, and it is the home of the Ottawa Ski Club, which has the largest membership of any ski club in the world.

Carrying out of the Capital Plan must be done with the full co-operation of Ottawa,

Hull and the region's 28 other towns, villages and rural municipalities and the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, for unlike Washington, Canberra and other capitals set in state controlled capital districts, the federal government has no administrative authority over the Capital and its district. Unlike the Holt Report of 1915, the previous large scale capital plan, which was never implemented, the new plan does not propose to interfere with existing municipal and provincial rights.

The plan provides for a national institute of the arts which would re-house the National Gallery of Canada, now inadequately accommodated in a wing of the National Museum, and include space for a national theater. A national library, a new building to house all the activities of the National Film Board; and national zoological and botanical gardens also are proposed. The Capital lacks suitable accommodation for large gatherings and construction is recommended of a large auditorium, suitable for national and international conventions, and capable of seating 10,000 people. Located in the downtown area, it would be surrounded by hotel, restaurant and parking facilities, etc. A site is suggested for a national sports centre on a scale adequate, should the occasion arise, for the Olympic games.

NATIONAL DEFENCE BUILDINGS

A group of buildings for the Department of National Defence located on thinly populated ground at the south west edge of the Capital is proposed in the plans. Ample space is available around it for housing development for the staffs of the armed forces. The Department is now housed in temporary wartime buildings in downtown Cartier Square.

The Capital's basic planning problems, legacy of nearly a century of uncontrolled industrial, commercial, transportation and residential development without regard for economic expansion and future needs, or for its functions as a capital, are to be solved by a series of comprehensive, long range re-planning projects. Largest of these is the plan to remove the present network of railway lines, with their yards and services, from the downtown areas of the city and relocate them in a loop around the south and east edges of Ottawa and north and west edges of Hull. The present locations restrict the free flow of traffic and have hampered the proper expansion of the city and created blighted areas in the residential sections of the Capital. The relocations, which have always been considered the key to any successful plan for the Capital, have been promised the fullest possible co-operation consistent with their requirements of both the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways.

MINERAL EXPLORATIONS: A further study of radio-active mineral deposits of vital importance to the Canadian mining industry has been provided for in the field program of the Geological Survey of Canada for this year. Investigation and mapping of the Quebec-Labrador iron ore occurrences and the areas favourable to the accumulation of oil, gas, and coal are among projects receiving special attention, it was announced by the Minister of Mines and Resources, Mr. Gibson, on April 28.

Seventy field parties have been assigned to carry out geological mapping, investigations and exploration in the Northwest Territories, Yukon, and the ten provinces. Fourteen parties have been assigned to the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, where gold, base metals, radio-active ores and a wide variety of other mineral occurrences indicate further promising developments.

The program provides for the investigation and mapping of mineral areas in British Columbia, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and elsewhere and includes an extensive program of geological mapping of potential mining areas throughout Canada.

Provision has been made for continuing the air-borne magnetometer survey initiated two seasons ago. The importance of ground water supply surveys is being emphasized, and parties will operate in Ontario and the prairie provinces.

The allocation of the parties is as follows: Northwest Territories 9; Yukon 5; British Columbia 14; Alberta 9; Saskatchewan 2; Manitoba 5; Ontario 6; Quebec 4; New Brunswick 1; Nova Scotia 5; Prince Edward Island 1; Newfoundland 7; Special Projects 2.

RAILWAY REVENUES: Railway revenues and expenses registered all-time record totals in 1948 and were also at new high levels for the month in January this year. Operating expenses in both periods exceeded relative advances in revenues, resulting in decreases in net operating revenues.

According to the Bureau of Statistics, operating revenues in 1948 aggregated \$866,548,950, showing a rise of 11.6 per cent over 1947. Operating expenses jumped to \$798,474,125 from \$683,045,372, or by 16.9 per cent, and net operating revenues declined to \$68,074,825 from \$93,475,012.

Operating revenues in January amounted to \$66,983,683, an increase of \$6,532,981 or 10.8 per cent over the similar period of 1948. Operating expenses rose to \$67,312,776, up \$8,371,760 or 14.2 per cent, and the deficit in operating income was \$2,996,706 compared with \$1,212,804, an increase of nearly \$1,784,000.

For the year freight revenues were \$692,244,920, up 15 per cent or \$90,222,537 from 1947, while tonnage of revenue freight increased only 468,844 tons or 0.3 per cent, and

ton mileage receded 1.8 per cent. Passenger revenues were off 4.9 per cent at \$82,886,394 compared with \$87,128,485 and revenue passengers carried numbered 35,655,239, down 6.5 per cent. A decline of 6.8 per cent was shown in passenger mileage although the average journey was little changed at 96.7 miles against 97.0. Mail revenue was up 5.8 per cent and express improved 7.8 per cent.

Total pay roll was by far the highest on record in 1948 at \$486,732,907, up \$77,488,389 or 18.9 per cent over 1947. Employees increased from 173,078 to 178,349 or by three per cent, and their average earnings were \$2,729 against \$2,364, up 15.4 per cent. A total of \$444,704,773 in pay roll was charged to railway operations against \$383,535,091 in 1947.

In the month increased freight revenues accounted for most of the gain in operating revenues, advancing 13.2 per cent to \$54,266,216, but volume of revenue freight declined 4.9 per cent to 12,489,752 tons. Passenger revenues eased 4.2 per cent to \$6,026,833, while the number of passengers decline 10 per cent to 2,901,118.

EMPLOYMENT DOWN: Industrial employment and weekly salaries and wages at March 1 were at record levels for the time of year, although employment showed a somewhat greater seasonal decline than usual from a month earlier. As compared with February 1 the trend in employment was unfavourable at the first of March in all provinces except New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, while there were increases over March 1 last year in Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta, but declines in the remaining provinces.

The advance index number of employment, as compiled by the Bureau of Statistics, on the base 1926=100, stood at 189.2 at March 1 as compared with 190.5 at February 1 and 188.9 a year ago. Average weekly wage figure was \$43.17 as compared with \$42.92 at February 1 and \$39.50 last year.

SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS: Sales and purchases of Securities between Canada and other countries in February dropped to the lowest level since mid-1947, the volume of transactions amounting to \$24,000,000, according to the Bureau of Statistics. This year's February figure compares with \$36,400,000 in January and \$28,500,000 in the same month last year, and a monthly average of \$34,800,000 in 1948. During the first two months of this year, sales and purchases totalled \$60,300,000 as against \$64,000,000 in the similar period a year earlier.

Trade with the United States totalled \$22,500,000, a decrease of 36 per cent from the January figure of \$35,100,000. Transactions in bonds and debentures resulted in a small sales balance of \$300,000, while transactions in