

81,000 DWELLING UNITS: The total number of dwelling units completed in Canada during 1948 is estimated by the Bureau of Statistics at 81,243, including 5,146 conversions. This compares with 79,359 units completed in 1947, and makes an aggregate of 276,516 units completed in the last four years.

Activity in the residential construction field in 1948 was considerably greater than in 1947. Although completions in 1948 were only 1,884 units more than in 1947, the number of dwelling units under construction increased from 42,215 units at the end of 1947 to 56,456 at the end of 1948.

Of the dwelling units completed in 1948 -- excluding conversions -- 61,787 were one-family detached, 4,560 were two-family detached, 1,607 were in rows or terraces, 7,836 were in apartments and flats, and 307 other types.

Completions in 1948 were as follows by provinces: Prince Edward Island 230, Nova Scotia 2,588, New Brunswick 1,991, Quebec 20,171, Ontario 26,391, Manitoba 4,561, Saskatchewan 3,211, Alberta 6,223, British Columbia 10,731.

Dwelling units added by conversion during 1948 totalled 5,146, of which 22 were in Prince Edward Island, 316 in Nova Scotia, 274 in New Brunswick, 1,088 in Quebec, 2,273 in Ontario, 344 in Manitoba, 220 in Saskatchewan, 250 in Alberta, and 359 in British Columbia.

Dwelling units uncompleted at the end of 1948 totalled 56,456 compared with 42,215 at the end of 1947. Figures follow by provinces, those for 1947 being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 203 (209); Nova Scotia, 2,748 (2,161); New Brunswick, 1,069 (736); Quebec, 13,848 (9,076); Ontario, 21,112 (17,243); Manitoba, 2,632 (2,315); Saskatchewan, 1,853 (1,469); Alberta, 5,262 (2,310); British Columbia, 7,729 (6,696).

The average length of time required to build the dwelling units completed in Canada in 1948 was 6.5 months. Quebec, with an average of 5.5 months -- the lowest among the provinces -- reflects the higher proportion of multiple units being built upon which there is a saving of time per unit.

RECORD VALUE FIELD CROPS: The gross dollar value of principal field crops produced on Canadian farms in 1948 is now placed by the Bureau of Statistics at \$1,601 million, the highest gross dollar value of production ever recorded. This was \$156 million higher than in the preceding year. Crops making the largest individual contribution to the total value were wheat, oats, hay and clover, and barley.

Values of field crops were higher than in 1947 in six provinces, the same in two, and lower in one. Greatest increase was in Ontario, where the value of field crops was \$87 million above the preceding year, resulting in that province displacing Alberta in second place. Manitoba, with a gain of \$51 million similarly displaced Quebec in fourth place.

Following are the values of field crops in 1948, with the revised figures for 1947 in brackets (millions of dollars): wheat, \$551 (\$462); oats, \$254 (\$215); hay and clover, \$248 (\$251); barley, \$146 (\$147); potatoes, \$82 (\$99); flaxseed, \$66 (\$64); mixed grains, \$60 (\$33); alfalfa, \$50 (\$39); and rye, \$35 (\$44).

By provinces the total values in 1948 are, in order of magnitude, as follows, with revised values for 1947 in brackets (millions of dollars): Saskatchewan, \$397 (\$397); Ontario, \$369 (\$282); Alberta, \$313 (\$310); Manitoba, \$215 (\$164); Quebec, \$190 (\$170); New Brunswick, \$37 (\$44); British Columbia, \$33 (\$32); Nova Scotia, \$23 (\$22); Prince Edward Island, \$23 (\$23).

SEA FISH CATCH DOWN: Landings of Canada's sea fish in January were sharply lower than in the corresponding month last year, due in the main to greatly reduced landings of sea herring on the Pacific coast. This reduction was brought about, for the most part, by the cold weather which prevailed throughout the month. On the Atlantic coast, landings of cod and haddock were higher and smelts and sardines lower.

According to the Bureau of Statistics total landings on both coasts fell to 37,073,000 pounds from 110,257,000 a year earlier, and the value to \$1,481,000 from \$2,445,000. On the Pacific coast, landings totalled 19,529,000 pounds valued at \$292,000 compared with 94,500,000 pounds valued at \$1,101,000. Landings on the Atlantic coast were 17,544,000 pounds valued at \$1,189,000 compared with 15,757,000 pounds valued at \$1,344,000.

Landings of Pacific herring fell to 17,878,000 pounds from 93,257,000 a year ago. On the Atlantic coast, cod landings rose to 6,107,000 pounds from 4,740,000, haddock to 3,462,000 pounds from 2,111,000, while landings of sardines fell to 1,903,000 pounds from 3,128,000, and smelts to 2,553,000 pounds from 3,046,000.

Due to the increasing demands in the United States market, exports of fresh and frozen fish rose from \$38 million in 1947 to \$45.3 million in 1948. Export sales of cured fish increased from \$12.3 million to \$14.9 million, based mainly on the strength of Latin American markets. Exports of canned fish, at \$21 million, were down considerably from the 1947 total of \$31.5 million, despite increases in sales to the United States, South Africa, some European countries and Latin America. The decrease was mainly the result of a large decline in sales to the sterling area, and a virtual cessation of relief shipments.

The lifting of export controls on some of the other fishery products, such as oil, meal, etc., resulted in a rapid expansion of sales of these types from \$2.2 million to \$8.7 million in 1948.

WHEAT FLOUR PRODUCTION: Canadian production of wheat flour in January showed a sharp decline of 29 per cent from the same month last year, according to the Bureau of Statistics. The month's output amounted to 1,468,000 barrels compared with 1,901,000 in January, 1948. Output for the first half of the current crop year amounted to 10,886,000 barrels as compared with 13,116,000 in the same period of 1947-48.

Exports of wheat flour were higher in January, totalling 1,004,000 barrels as against 903,000 a year ago, an increase of 11 per cent. This brought the total for the six months of the crop year to 6,345,000 barrels compared with 7,467,000 in the same period of 1947-48.

LEADING MINERALS: Activity in the Canadian mining industry was at a high level in 1948, when production of each of Canada's 16 leading minerals was increased over the preceding year. Zinc production showed the only decline in December as compared with the corresponding month a year earlier.

According to the Bureau of Statistics, output for the year by items, was as follows, figures for 1947 being in brackets: asbestos, 714,333 (661,821) tons; cement, 14,132,214 (11,936,245) barrels; clay products, \$17,228,017 (\$14,486,189); coal, 18,435,799 (15,868,866) tons; copper, 483,884,087 (451,723,093) pounds; feldspar, 49,161 (36,104) tons; gold, 3,527,574 (3,070,221) fine ounces; gypsum, 3,148,010 (2,496,984) tons; lead, 328,568,776 (323,336,687) pounds; lime, 1,050,427 (977,413) tons; natural gas, 58,990,299 (52,656,567) M cubic feet; nickel 262,149,404 (237,251,496) pounds; petroleum, 12,368,042 (7,729,285) barrels; salt, 750,278 (728,545) tons; silver, 14,569,280 (12,504,018) fine ounces; zinc, 464,466,104 (415,725,826) pounds.

COMBAT EPIDEMIC: Medical experts and specialized equipment were to be flown to Chesterfield Inlet, 1,000 miles north of Winnipeg, to combat an epidemic in that area that has taken four lives, the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Martin, announced on February 25. About 25 cases have been reported by Dr. J.P. Moody, medical superintendent of Indian and Eskimo Health Services, Department of National Health and Welfare, at Chesterfield Inlet and the outbreak is said to be similar to that which struck Eskimo Point, several hundred miles south, last fall, Mr. Martin stated.

"The exact nature of the epidemic has not been determined but it is suspected of being of virus origin. Specimens for laboratory examination are being secured and sent to Connaught Laboratories in Toronto. The area north of Eskimo Point east of Baker Lake including Chesterfield Inlet, has been quarantined," the Minister said on February 25. "Dr. Moody has requested certain equipment for furthering the investigation as well as for

treatment, and arrangements are being made to gather this equipment for shipment. The co-operation of the Department of National Defence has been secured and a special air flight is being arranged."

Experts sent by the Department of National Health and Welfare to make on-the-spot investigation include Dr. J.D. Adamson, Professor of Medicine at the University of Manitoba and Dr. A.F.W. Peart, Chief of the Department's Division of Epidemiology which deals with the control of epidemic diseases. Dr. W.J. Wood, regional superintendent of the Department's Indian Health Services, Winnipeg, is co-ordinating the arrangements.

The cause of the epidemic remains obscure but the reported symptoms, which include a rapid and severe paralysis, have shown a similarity to the disease which took several lives last fall in the Eskimo Point area, Mr. Martin added. Both Eskimos and Whites are believed to be involved in the epidemic at Chesterfield Inlet which has a mission, R.C.M.P. post and Hudson's Bay Company trading post.

ARMY CAMP TRAINING: Regulations governing the payment of federal Government employees who, as members of the Reserve Force of the Army attend annual summer camps with their regiments, were outlined this week by Ottawa authorities.

Civil servants who use all or part of their annual leave for the purpose of summer training will draw both civil and army pay for time spent at camp.

Those who do not wish to use any part of their annual leave may apply for special leave for the period their regiment will be training. For them it will be optional whether they take such leave with or without pay. Should they take it "with pay" they will not be paid at military rates. If they take it "without pay" they will receive army pay only. The choice of either civil or military pay -- whichever is higher -- will be their own.

Federal Government employees employed at "prevailing rates", who elect to receive civil rather than military pay while at camp will be paid for the number of working hours in each week of absence at the authorized hourly rate.

GEN. CRERAR HONOURED: General H.D.G. Crerar, C1, CB, DSO, has accepted the appointment of Honorary Colonel Commandant of The Canadian Intelligence Corps, the Minister of National Defence, Mr. Claxton, announced on February 28.

The wartime commander of the First Canadian Army in Northwest Europe, now retired and living in Ottawa, was nominated for the honorary appointment at the recent annual meeting of the Canadian Military Intelligence Association. His acceptance was made known this week.

Through the Second World War, as Chief of the General Staff, as a divisional and a corps commander, and finally as Commander-in-Chief