

THE CHANGING FACE OF MONTREAL

Among the many changes taking place in Montreal is the extensive reconstruction of Dorchester Street, where a number of large building undertakings will be completed in the early 1960's.

Prominent among these is the \$60 million Place Ville Marie, named to commemorate the original French settlement on the site of Montreal. The fulfilment of an earlier plan, this project will develop 23 acres of Canadian National Railways property which for thirty years resembled an abandoned quarry, known locally as the "Dorchester Street hole".

In the 1920's the C.N.R. had intended to build a large railway terminal and other buildings on this site. Work had begun in 1930 but as the depression deepened, the plan was abandoned. When the Second World War broke out, a new railway terminal in Montreal became essential; construction began again and the station was completed in 1943. But the unsightly "Dorchester Street hole" remained to mar the approach to the new station.

The more ambitious plan, however, had not been forgotten. Owing to the initiative of Mr. Donald Gordon, President of the C.N.R. and to improved economic conditions, the original idea was revived in 1956. The first building to be completed was the Queen Elizabeth Hotel which opened in April 1958.

The master plan of the Place Ville Marie includes office buildings, transportation and parking facilities, shops and restaurants, to be constructed over the tracks of the C.N.R. A cross-shaped metal and glass skyscraper, 570 feet high with 40 floors of office space, will be the dominating feature. Directly below a spacious plaza reserved for pedestrians, will be a concourse of small shops, arcades and indoor restaurants. The second and third levels will provide parking space for some 900 cars. The plaza will be connected with St. Catherine Street, a popular shopping centre, by a tree-lined mall.

The Place Ville Marie will provide a commercial centre of great importance and will carry to completion in a modern form the imaginative plans of the late Sir Henry Thornton, a former President of the C.N.R.

WINDSOR PLAZA

During July and August of this year, the old Windsor Hotel, a familiar landmark to several generations of Canadians, was torn down to make way for a 42-storey bank and office building, to be followed by a 22-storey office building. The more recent wing of the hotel, added 40 years ago, has been left standing. Completely renovated it will provide 300-room accommodation, and banqueting facilities. The three buildings will form the Windsor Plaza, at a cost of \$45 million.

The main building of the group is being constructed jointly by a real estate company

and the Canadian Bank of Commerce. The 565-foot structure will be finished in split green slate and green plate glass, framed in granite. The open space between the buildings will be landscaped with shrubbery and flagstones and ornamented with a fountain and sculpture. Plans have been made for the relocation of the "Royal Balcony" in a prominent position overlooking Dominion Square.

The Shawinigan Building, the home of the Shawinigan Water and Power Company, was one of the first post-war buildings on the widened Dorchester Street. C.I.L. House (Canadian Industries Limited) is another important building at present under construction which will be finished in the early 1960's.

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GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GRANTS

Research workers in 13 Canadian universities are to receive grants in 1959 totalling \$50,000, for studies in the geological sciences. Similar in amount to those for 1958, the grants are awarded by the Geological Survey of Canada, on the recommendation of the National Advisory Committee on Research in the Geological Sciences. They will support 13 new projects and 16 continuing studies.

In making the announcement, the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, Mr. Paul Comtois, said the grants are being awarded after careful study of the 37 applications received from various Canadian universities. This year's awards will bring the total amount of money given for this purpose to \$285,000 since the grants were initiated in 1951.

Results show that the grants are achieving their purpose of stimulating geological research. They are providing vital research equipment in our universities which is enabling the most promising of our students to pursue their studies in Canada rather than in the United States. For this same reason, researchers among the professorial staff are encouraged to remain in the Universities instead of seeking positions in industry or at universities in the United States.

Moreover, the increased facilities for research provided by these Federal grants have drawn support from other sources. In the field of research on geochemical and biogeochemical prospecting, for instance, mining companies are providing additional financial help.

This year, the grants are being used for purposes ranging from the construction of a special piston-core apparatus that will gouge out samples of the sea-bed for studying submarine-geology by Ottawa's Carleton University, to research by the University of Alberta on the outflow of heat from the earth's interior by the measurement of the temperature gradients in abandoned oil-wells (knowledge of heat flow is necessary to discover if the earth is expanding or contracting and whether there are convection currents at moderate