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LATE-YEAR HOUSING SPURT

The Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation has reported a remarkable increase in housing starts in 1957. In the first quarter of the year starts were at a rate, seasonally adjusted, of less than 80,000 units per year. This annual rate increased to 118,000 in the second quarter, to 121,000 in the third quarter and was expected to exceed 130,000 in the fourth quarter of the year.

The increase from the end of the third quarter reflected the increased availability of mortgage funds under the National Housing Act. In August the Government made available \$150 million for mortgage loans under the Act. By the end of November \$135 million of these funds had been committed, the number of dwellings involved was 14,000 units.

HOUSE-BUILDING ACTIVITY

In the ten months to October, 102,197 dwellings were started, 11 per cent fewer than in the corresponding period of 1956. All of this decline took place in the centres of 5,000 population and over; in other areas starts increased slightly.

While starts in centres of 5,000 population and over were below those of the previous year in each of the first nine months of 1957, the short-fall was diminishing as the year progressed. During October, starts were higher than in 1956 and preliminary estimates suggest that in November the increase was over 50 per cent.

The Atlantic region suffered the largest decline in starts in the first ten months of the year, down by nearly 19 per cent from 1956. British Columbia showed the smallest decline, 6 per cent. While all regions have shared in the increase in housing starts since the middle of the year, the Atlantic region has shown the smallest relative improvement.

Dwelling completions, in all areas, totalled 94,868 in the first ten months of the year, 13 per cent below 1956. At the end of October there were 75,300 dwellings under construction compared to 83,400 a year ago.

Expenditures on new housing construction including major improvements and alterations amounted to \$407 million in the third quarter of the year. Allowing for seasonal factors, this represents an increase of 3.7 per cent over the previous quarter. For the year as a whole, expenditures are expected to amount to about \$1,440 million, 12 per cent more than was suggested in the White Paper on the investment outlook published at the beginning of the year.

The number of newly completed but unoccupied dwellings for home-ownership in the larger urban centres continued to decline. At the end of October there were 1,967 such dwellings compared to 3,172 in March, and 1,414 at the end of October 1956.

The volume of mortgage lending by the lending institutions, on all types of property, continued below 1956 levels in the third

quarter of the year. Most of the decline however was in loans for new housing. Conventional mortgage lending for this purpose amounted to \$59.5 million compared to \$80.5 million in the third quarter of 1956, while loans under the National Housing Act were down from \$122.8 million to \$99.5 million.

The lower level of institutional mortgage lending, under the Act, was more than offset by the increase in direct and agency loans made by CMHC. Direct and agency loan approvals amounted to \$41.3 million in the third quarter compared to \$5.6 million a year ago. In October and November the value of loans approved by CMHC amounted to over \$130 million.

The agency arrangement under the National Housing Act went into effect at the beginning of September. Under this arrangement, approved lenders under the Act make mortgage loans on behalf of CMHC. The plan was designed to stimulate the construction of small and medium sized houses for home-ownership and the construction of low and moderate rental housing.

From September to November, loans were approved under this arrangement for \$135 million relating to 14,000 dwelling units. Of these loans, 81 per cent were made to builders, 5 per cent directly to prospective home-owners and the remaining 14 per cent to rental entrepreneurs.

The single-family dwellings for which agency loans were approved were, on the average, about 140 square feet smaller than those financed by loans from approved lenders, 1,032 square feet compared to 1,171 square feet. Average total costs of bungalows financed under the agency arrangement were \$12,829 in September. Average total costs of bungalows financed by approved lenders during the third quarter were \$14,450. The lower costs under the agency arrangement reflect both the smaller size and the slightly lower construction costs per square foot for dwellings financed in this manner. Land costs for agency financed dwellings were only \$150 less than for other NHA financed dwellings.

There was a substantial decline in activity in the secondary market in mortgages insured under the National Housing Act. The value of mortgages sold during the third quarter of 1957 was \$9.5 million compared to \$22.7 million during the previous quarter. This was the result of a sharp drop in sales by the chartered banks. Sales by non-bank lenders showed an increase but not sufficient to offset the decline in bank sales.

POPULATION

Net family formation in 1957 is expected to set an all-time record, over 105,000. Two factors have contributed to this. First the number of marriages is expected to be even higher than in 1946 when, excluding Newfound-

land, they numbered 134,100. Secondly, immigration in 1957 will be considerably higher than in any other year in the post-war period.

The increase in the number of marriages since 1955 is greater than was suggested in earlier estimates of net family formation. Net family formation had been expected to decline from 1953 to the late 1950's. In fact, net family formation increased in 1956 and again in 1957. While part of the explanation for the difference is to be found in the increased number of immigrant families, account also has to be taken of the secondary effects of the higher level of immigration. By adding to the number of persons approaching marriageable age, the increase in immigration has resulted in a level of marriage higher than would otherwise have been the case.

BUILDING COSTS

The index of residential building costs rose from 140.0 in July to 140.4 in October. This increase reflected higher wages as material prices declined during the period. In October 1956, the index was 137.7.

The costs of dwellings financed under the National Housing Act, excluding those financed under the agency arrangement, decreased from the second to the third quarter. The average costs of bungalows financed under the Act declined from \$14,725 in the second quarter of the year to \$14,450 in the third quarter. This decline reflected a reduction in construction costs, from \$10.53 to \$10.48 per square foot. Land and other costs were unchanged as also was the average size of dwellings.

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SYMPHONY AT BRUSSELS FAIR

The CBC Symphony Orchestra will represent Canada at the Brussels Universal and International Exposition this year. Mr. J.A. Quimet, CBC general manager, has announced in Ottawa.

The Brussels visit, in late August, will mark the first overseas appearance by a Canadian symphony orchestra. It will be under the joint auspices of the CBC and the Canada Council, which is assisting in financing the trip.

Concerts by the CBC orchestra in other European cities also are expected, inquiries having been received from London, Florence, Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin and Vienna.

The CBC Symphony Orchestra, described by Sir Malcolm Sargent as "one of the four great orchestras of the Americas," was founded about seven years ago in Toronto. In its concerts abroad it is expected to feature Canadian soloists and music by Canadian composers.

Recordings from the concerts in Europe will be available for later programming over CBC networks and will be used also by the CBC International Service for distribution to broadcasting stations around the world.

STATEMENT ON SEAWAY

Mr. Charles Gavsie, President of The St. Lawrence Seaway Authority, stated last week that "it is fully expected that 27-foot channels being dredged under contracts awarded by The St. Lawrence Seaway Authority will have been completed by the opening of navigation in 1959 to a stage that Seaway shipping will be accommodated safely".

The President of the Authority made it clear that such work as will remain to be done during the 1959 season of navigation would not unduly restrict or be hazardous to shipping. The expectations are that at the opening of navigation in 1959: -

"The Seaway channel will be fully completed from the entrance at Montreal Harbour through the Laprairie Basin, Lake St. Louis, Beauharis Canal and Lake St. Francis.

"The Authority portion of the Cornwall

Channel will be dredged to full depth for a minimum width of 450 feet.

"The Seaway Development Corporation has advised the Authority that its portion of the South Cornwall Channel will be dredged to full depth for a minimum of 400 feet prior to the opening of navigation in 1959.

"The channel approaches above and below the Iroquois Lock will be fully completed.

"The improvement of the Thousand Islands Section by removal of scattered shoals will be completed to a minimum width of 400 feet.

"The deepening of the Welland Ship Canal will be completed.

"The turning basin at the entrance of Montreal Harbour will not be completed during 1958. This may necessitate the turning of large vessels further downstream, within the harbour."

BUFFALO IN ALBERTA'S PARK AREAS

Elk Island National Park, some 30 miles east of Edmonton, boasts one of North America's few remaining buffalo herds. Less than 100 years ago millions of these shaggy beasts roamed the prairies at will. During Settlement of the west the animals were mercilessly slaughtered. The last wild survivors, a group of eleven, were spotted in the Hand Hills area of central Alberta in 1880. Six were hurriedly hunted down, the other five disappeared.

Concerned with the possible extinction of the buffalo the Canadian Government took steps to re-establish the animals in Western Canada. Early in the century a greater part of the only remaining herd on the Continent was purchased from two Montana ranchers who had reared the herd in captivity. A great deal of difficulty was experienced in shipping the buffalo but by 1914 some 700 animals were located at the newly-established Buffalo National Park at Wainwright, and also at Elk Island Park.

Reproducing rapidly in the protected areas the herd soon numbered in the thousands. Between 1925 and 1928 several thousand selected members were transported by rail and river barges to Wood Buffalo Park, located in far northern Alberta. Number of buffalo now in the park, accessible only by air, is estimated at more than 10,000. Established primarily for the protection of the buffalo, the park now forms a vast preserve for many other species of big game and fur bearing animals.

In 1940 Buffalo National Park at Wainwright was closed, the land being turned over to the Canadian Army. Buffalo located there were transferred to Elk Island Park. Each year thousands of visitors flock to the area to catch a glimpse of the large herd, reputed to be finest on the North American Continent. A

small exhibition herd may also be seen at Banff National Park.

The North American buffalo is actually a wild-ox or bison and is larger in size than the true African or Asian buffalo. The American species is believed to have migrated from Asia during the ice age when a land bridge connected Alaska and Siberia.

TEST MISSILES IN NORTH

Canadian Army Headquarters and the United States Department of the Army have announced that a series of cold weather trials of United States Army Guided Missiles will be conducted at Fort Churchill, Manitoba.

Missile systems being tested are the United States Army's supersonic surface-to-air NIKE Hercules continental and field army air defence missile which is capable of carrying an atomic warhead and the LACROSSE surface-to-surface field army missile system which is being fitted with a variety of warheads. Test missiles fired in Canada will not be fitted with atomic warheads.

Selected Canadian and United States Army personnel trained at the United States Army Guided Missile Centres at Fort Bliss, Texas and Fort Sill, Oklahoma will man the weapons and will carry out the trials on a joint basis. Trials will begin towards the end of this year, with firings scheduled through the months of January, February and March 1959.

The scheduled tests are designed not only to test-fire the missiles but to demonstrate the field operation of complete missile systems under arctic conditions.

Detailed arrangements for the provision and movement of equipment and missiles, composition and intensive training of the test teams, provision of launching areas and ranges are now being worked out by the respective armies.

AID TO GHANA AND WEST INDIES

Mr. Sidney E. Smith, Secretary of State for External Affairs, gave details in the House of Commons last week on the provision on an interim basis of technical assistance to Ghana and The West Indies. He told the House that \$150,000 had been included in the estimates for that purpose.

Mr. Smith said, in part:

"It will be recalled that on January 23 the Prime Minister stated that the Government hoped to be able to announce what steps it was proposed to take to give immediate evidence of Canada's willingness to help The West Indies. The Prime Minister also stated that consideration had been given to longer term measures of assistance as well. This item in the estimates is intended as a first step in giving help to the new federation in the Caribbean. It also indicates our readiness to give technical assistance to the new Commonwealth country of Ghana.

"I emphasize, Mr. Speaker, that this item by which we will be seeking authority for the expenditure of \$150,000 for technical assistance for these two territories, is intended entirely as an interim measure. In due course, as the Prime Minister indicated, we shall place before the House proposals for more substantial and long-term assistance from Canada.

"Meetings have taken place between our officials and federal officials from The West Indies as to ways in which Canada could be of assistance to this new country. While a number of decisions as to the amount and kind of aid which it would be appropriate and useful for Canada to offer to The West Indies have yet to be taken, one point has emerged very clearly; that is, that in this early stage of federation expert personnel from outside the area are urgently required. We accept their view, and it seems obvious that we should not hold up decisions on such requests for assistance until the larger questions of a longer term aid programme have been considered. It has been decided that it would be appropriate to ask Parliament to vote a limited amount of money which would make it possible to send possibly half a dozen experts to The West Indies in the near future.

"I would now like to inform the House that the first of these experts - a housing adviser who will serve The West Indies for a year - will leave for The West Indies on Saturday (February 1). We are also giving immediate consideration to meeting the requests of The West Indies authorities for a statistician, a forestry expert, a fisheries expert and a technical education expert.

"I also desire to mention briefly the question of technical assistance to the new state of Ghana. As hon. members will recall

Mr. Gill, the first Canadian High Commissioner to Ghana, was appointed a few months ago. He has now had an opportunity to consider the possibility of technical assistance from Canada and to discuss this with the officials in Ghana and give us the benefit of his advice on these matters. He has suggested to us that the most effective way in which Canada could give an indication of its encouragement and support for this new state would be to stand ready to make available the services of Canadian experts, or to accept some Ghanaian personnel for training programmes in Canada.

"We have lumped these two sums together because it is difficult, and indeed I think it would be unwise at this time, to try to budget too closely for these two territories on a separate basis. I trust this measure of assistance, which I reiterate will be no more than a limited and interim provision for the help of these countries, will be taken as an indication that the Government stands ready to consider what appropriate measure of assistance can be given by Canada to our Commonwealth friends."

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GENERAL ELECTION MARCH 31

Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker announced February 1 in the House of Commons that the House was dissolved and that a general election would be held on March 31.

He made the announcement after returning from Quebec City carrying the proclamation of dissolution signed by Governor-General Vincent Massey.

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INDIAN NAMED TO SENATE

One of three appointments to the Senate announced last week by Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker was that of Jim Gladstone, of Alberta's Blood Indian Reserve. The first Indian to be named to the Senate, Mr. Gladstone is a treaty Indian who was president of the Indian association from 1948 to 1954.

Also named to the Senate were Gunnar S. Thorvaldson, of Winnipeg, the first Canadian of Icelandic origin to be so honoured, and John J. MacDonald, of Glenfinnan, P.E.I.

There are now six vacancies in the 102-seat upper chamber.

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282,000 IMMIGRANTS

Mr. E. Davie Fulton, Acting Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, announced in the House of Commons January 25 that immigrants to Canada during 1957 totalled 282,164.

Canada received 109,946 immigrants in 1955, and 164,857 in 1956.

IMMIGRANTS IN PROFESSIONAL OCCUPATIONS

Interesting facts are brought to light by a survey entitled "Immigrants in Scientific and Technical Professions in Canada" prepared in the Economics and Research Branch of the Department of Labour. The survey is based on questionnaires completed by 3,318 immigrants during the period 1951-56 and thus the data refers to this period generally and not to any specific date.

The report shows that immigrants occupying professional positions account for slightly less than 9 per cent of the total registrations in the Scientific and Technical Personnel Register maintained by the Department of Labour. The proportion of immigrants in most of the professions covered by the Register is within 2 per cent on either side of this average. At one extreme, in the relatively new and rapidly expanding profession of aeronautical engineering, where graduates from Canadian universities have not yet been produced in considerable numbers, the proportion of immigrant registrations to the total Register is as high as 16 per cent. At the other extreme, in agriculture, which is a long established and characteristic Canadian profession with a large body of personnel educated in Canada, immigrants account numerically for rather less than two per cent of the profession. The registrations of immigrants in most of the other professions covered by the Register are close to the respective averages for these professions in the Register as a whole, with the two exceptions of biology, in which the proportion of immigrants to the total Register is low, and of geography, in which the proportion is high.

Scientists and engineers from almost all countries of the world have become part of the Canadian professional labour force. Of the total immigrant labour force at present available in the fields of science and engineering, the largest proportion (44 per cent) was born on the Continent of Europe, a considerable proportion (32 per cent) in the United Kingdom and a smaller proportion (16 per cent) in the United States. This pattern holds roughly true for most of the individual professions, excepting geology and mining engineering in which immigrants born in the United States are relatively much more numerous than those born in any other country. The unusually high numerical incidence of United States born geologists and mining engineers in Canada is probably a result of the steady influx of United States specialists in recent years into the western oil fields and of the large-scale transfer of workers from American parent companies to their Canadian subsidiaries. In aeronautical engineering, on the other hand, the number of professional workers who were born in the United States is very low compared with the percentage whose place of birth was

the United Kingdom or some country of Continental Europe.

On the whole, immigrants in the scientific and technical professions are older than their Canadian counterparts in the Register. The median age of immigrants as a group is 44 while for the total Register (including immigrants and native born Canadians) it is 39. This divergence in age may be accounted for, in part, by the fact that the median age for the total Register is becoming lower as new graduating classes from the universities are introduced to the Register each year. Professional workers who have been educated in Canada are mainly concentrated within the 31-35 age group, while immigrants are almost evenly distributed over five age groups, from 31 to 55, with a sharp decrease before and after the commencement and termination of these age groups. In the mining profession, which includes milling and metallurgy, the median age of immigrants is 52, which is remarkably higher than for immigrants as a whole. In agriculture the median age is also higher than for the other professions. In contrast, the median age of immigrants in both geography and veterinary medicine, at 39, is lower than for immigrants as a whole and the median age in physics, at 38, is lower still.

The highest concentration of immigrants with a bachelor's or doctor's degree is at the 31-35 age level. Above 35, master's degrees are more evenly distributed over the groups ending at 50. After the latter age, there is a sharp decrease in the number of immigrant professionals holding degrees. In short, the proportion of scientists and technical persons without degrees is lower in the younger age groups, and relatively high in the middle age groups, with a concentration above the age of 50.

More immigrants were educated in the United States and the United Kingdom than were born there, indicating that some of the immigrants born in other countries received their training either in the United States or in the United Kingdom before coming to Canada.

In most of the professions, the number of immigrants educated in the United Kingdom is roughly double that of those educated in the United States. In forestry, geology, mining and agriculture, however, more immigrants were educated in the United States than in the United Kingdom. One explanation of this might be that the practice of these professions is largely similar in Canada and the United States, and the professions themselves highly developed, while it is governed by many different factors in other countries. In addition, forestry and mineral resources have played a much greater role in the economic development of the United States and Canada than in that of the United Kingdom and most

other countries during the last 50 years. Many specialized schools were established in the United States to help meet these professional manpower needs. Canada has benefited greatly from the establishment of these institutions in the number of both native-born Canadians and of immigrants who have obtained their professional training there. The high percentage of immigrants from "other" countries is largely attributable to a wave of post-war immigration from European countries, such as Hungary, Poland and Germany, where conditions have long been politically and economically unsettled.

There is a notable difference between the levels of academic education attained by immigrants and by registrants as a whole. In the case of the total Register, made up principally of native-born Canadians, 74 per cent attained bachelor level, only 58 per cent of immigrants have reached the same level. On the other hand, the proportion with post-graduate training is considerably higher for immigrants than for the Register as a whole.

The proportion of immigrants who have a no degree is also higher than in the case of Canadian registrants, but this is largely due to the fact that many immigrants possess other qualifications, such as the Higher National Certificate which is granted in the United Kingdom. Such qualifications, while not recognized as degrees, do confer professional status on their possessors, subject to certain conditions.

In the individual professions, the academic level of attainment reached by immigrants is largely similar to that achieved by Canadian-educated registrants. A high percentage of immigrant architects possess no degree. Engineers are concentrated at the bachelor level, and a high proportion of biologists and physicists hold a doctorate.

A higher proportion of immigrants than of registrants generally are employed in research, development and consulting work. In design work the ratio of immigrants to Canadian registrants so employed is almost 2 to 1. More than two-fifths of all immigrants in the Register are engaged in design, research or development work.

The proportion of immigrants employed in operation, maintenance and sales and service, on the other hand, is only one-half as great as for registrants as a whole.

In the remaining functions the ratios of both immigrants and the total Register are about the same.

In general, therefore, it appears that a larger proportion of immigrants than of native Canadians go into research and planning work, and a smaller proportion go into operational work.

About two of every five immigrants are employed in manufacturing industries, and almost one-sixth of all immigrants are engaged in work for the government. More than one-half

of all immigrants included in the Register are employed by these two major categories of employer.

The proportion of immigrants engaged in manufacturing (40 per cent) is considerably higher than for the Register as a whole (35 per cent), but the proportion in government work (15 per cent) is much lower.

Other employment fields in which relatively large numbers of immigrants are engaged include consulting, education, construction, mining and public utilities.

Most immigrants are employed in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia, in order of decreasing numerical importance; Ontario employs almost four times the number employed in British Columbia.

The ratio of immigrants to the total Register is lowest in Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, and New Brunswick in ascending order of importance.

In the remaining areas the ratios are about equal. A relatively higher percentage of native Canadians (4.9 per cent) than of immigrants (1.7 per cent) are, however, employed outside Canada.

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POPULATION UP 806,000

Increasing at a record rate, Canada's population reached an estimated 16,887,000 on January 1 this year, an increase of 543,000 or 3.3 per cent from the year-earlier total of 16,344,000, according to special estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics to meet a widespread demand for figures at the first of the year. The population was estimated at 16,860,000 on December 1, 1957, 16,745,000 on September 1, 16,589,000 on June 1, and 16,420,000 on March 1.

The 12-month increase compares with gains of 425,000 (2.7 per cent) in 1956-57, 384,000 (2.5 per cent) in 1955-56, 430,000 (2.8 per cent) in 1954-55, 423,000 (2.9 per cent) in 1953-54, and 405,000 (2.8 per cent) in 1952-53. The population growth was 806,000 from the 1956 Census total of 16,081,000 and 2,878,000 from the 1951 Census count of 14,009,000.

The estimate for January 1 does not include provincial figures, which are estimated only for the June 1 anniversary date.

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NEW LIEUTENANT-GOVERNORS

Appointment of new Lieutenant-Governors for the provinces of Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island and Quebec has been announced by Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker.

The new Lieutenant-Governors are Frank L. Bastedo, a Regina, Saskatchewan, lawyer; F. Walter Hyndman, a Charlottetown, P.E.I., insurance executive, and the Hon. Onesime Gagnon, who resigned a Cabinet post in Quebec to accept the new appointment.