



CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

Vol. 12 No. 20

May 15, 1957

CONSTRUCTION RECORD FORECAST

Canada's 1957 construction programme is estimated at a high record value of \$6,702,000,000, about 5 per cent larger than the preceding year's peak of \$6,389,000,000, according to estimates published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The 1957 anticipated rise of 5 per cent is in contrast with an increase in 1956 of over one billion dollars or 20 per cent over the 1955 realization of \$5,311,000,000. This latter increase was the largest in dollar terms since 1946.

The moderate increase of 5 per cent in the intended construction programme as compared with a 20 per cent gain in the preceding year is due largely to a slow-down in housebuilding, which is estimated at 15 per cent below the 1956 level. Non-residential building and engineering construction, however, show a continued high rate of increase for 1956 especially in the commercial, institutional, electric power and gas and oil facilities categories. The St. Lawrence Seaway development and the Trans-Canada pipeline figure prominently in the advance.

Volume of construction carried out in 1955 increased almost 10 per cent over 1954, showing the largest increase since 1948 in percentage terms. Preliminary estimates indicate that this increase was surpassed in 1956 when the programme was 14 per cent larger than the preceding year. In terms of both current and constant dollars, most of the increases have occurred in new construction, repair work showing relatively little change.

CONSTRUCTION RECORD FORECAST

The value of new construction is estimated at \$5,563,000,000 for 1957, up from \$5,260,000,000 in the preceding year, and the value of repair construction is placed at \$1,139,000,000 as against \$1,129,000,000. New construction undertaken by contract is estimated at \$4,659,000,000 versus \$4,388,000,000, and repair construction at \$482,000,000 versus \$461,000,000. Construction undertaken by the labour forces of utilities, manufacturing, mining and logging firms and government departments, home owner-builders and other persons or firms not primarily engaged in the construction industry totalled \$1,561,000,000 versus \$1,540,000,000, comprising \$904,000,000 for new construction (\$872,000,000 in 1956) and \$657,000,000 for repairs (\$668,000,000).

Projected value of residential construction is expected to fall to \$1,556,000,000 this year from \$1,830,000,000, but other categories show substantial increases: commercial to \$688,000,000 from \$599,000,000, and institutional to \$528,000,000 from \$450,000,000. Total for industrial building is expected to decline to \$568,000,000 from \$594,000,000 and "other" types to \$268,000,000 from \$316,000,000.

In the engineering category the following are the estimated values for 1957: marine construction, \$173,000,000 (\$128,000,000 in 1956); roads, highways and aerodromes, \$667,000,000 (\$617,000,000); waterways and sewage systems \$247,000,000 (\$193,000,000); dams and irrigation, \$57,000,000 (\$59,000,000); elec-

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tric power construction, \$627,000,000 (\$461,000,000); railway, telephone and telegraph construction, \$390,000,000 (\$389,000,000); gas and oil facilities, \$669,000,000 (\$533,000,000); and "other" engineering construction, \$264,000,000 (\$220,000,000).

It is estimated that 633,851 full-time workers will be required to carry out the 1957 construction programme and that the value of this labour will be \$2,248,000,000 or almost 34 per cent of the total value of work. The estimated cost of material required for the programme is \$3,208,000,000, about 47 per cent of the total. This proportion has remained relatively constant over the past five years.

Projected values of construction work for 1957 follow by provinces: Newfoundland, \$94,267,000 (\$80,830,000 in 1956); Prince Edward Island, \$16,698,000 (\$17,172,000); Nova Scotia, \$143,087,000 (\$147,765,000); New Brunswick, \$159,535,000 (\$167,162,000); Quebec, \$1,570,843,000 (\$1,530,279,000); Ontario, \$2,398,677,000 (\$2,194,020,000); Manitoba, \$359,307,000 (\$310,905,000); Saskatchewan, \$353,758,000 (\$363,086,000); Alberta, \$707,837,000 (\$747,716,000); and British Columbia, \$898,063,000 (\$829,897,000).

U.K.-CANADA MEETING: A meeting of the United Kingdom-Canada Continuing Committee on Trade and Economic Affairs was held in Ottawa May 6, 7 and 8.

This Committee, which was established in 1948, meets from time to time to review the general economic situation and consider matters of common concern to the United Kingdom and Canada in trade and other economic affairs. The Committee meets alternately in London and Ottawa; the previous meeting was held in London on June 13 and 14, 1956, under the chairmanship of the Canadian High Commissioner, Mr. N.A. Robertson.

The chairman of the Ottawa meeting was His Excellency Sir Saville Garner, High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in Canada. Visiting officials from the United Kingdom were: Sir Frank Lee, Permanent Secretary, Board of Trade; Sir Leslie Rowan, Second Secretary, United Kingdom Treasury; Sir Alan Hitchman, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries; Mr. H.J.B. Lintott, Deputy Under-Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations; Sir Robert Hall, Economic Adviser to the United Kingdom Government; Mr. A.W. France, Under-Secretary, United Kingdom Treasury.

Among the Canadian officials participating were: Mr. W.F. Bull, Deputy Minister of Trade and Commerce; Mr. K.W. Taylor, Deputy Minister of Finance; Mr. J.G. Taggart, Deputy Minister of Agriculture; Mr. A.F.W. Plumpton, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Finance; Mr. C.M. Isbister, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Trade and Commerce; Mr. L. Rasminsky, Deputy Governor, Bank of Canada; Mr. L.E. Couillard, Department of External Affairs.

COMMISSION FOR TOGOLAND: The Department of External Affairs has announced the appointment of Mr. Jean-Louis Delisle to the United Nations Commission for Togoland under French administration.

The Commission was set up by the General Assembly at its eleventh session in January, 1957, for the purpose of examining the situation resulting from the application in the trust territory of French Togoland of a new constitutional statute and the conditions under which the statute is being implemented. The statute of Togoland was introduced by the administering authority in August, 1956, within the framework of the "Loi-Cadre", a reform law applicable to a number of French dependent territories, passed by the French Parliament in June, 1956.

The United Nations Commission will proceed to French Togoland at the end of May. The other member states making up the six-member commission are Denmark, Guatemala, Liberia, the Philippines and Yugoslavia. It is estimated that the task of the Commission will require approximately two months. The Commission will report, following its return, to the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations.

Mr. Delisle joined the Department of External Affairs in 1942 and served on the staff of the Prime Minister's office from 1942-46. He was subsequently posted to Rio de Janeiro, Boston and Warsaw. During the eleventh session of the General Assembly, November, 1956 - March, 1957, Mr. Delisle was adviser to the Canadian Delegation on matters of trust territories and non-self-governing territories.

MINESWEEPER LAUNCHED: HMCS Chaleur, one of six Bay class coastal minesweepers being built to replace those turned over to France in 1954 under the NATO Mutual Aid agreement, was launched May 11 at Sorel, P.Q.

One of the six replacements already in service. She is HMCS Fundy, now serving with the First Canadian Minesweeping Squadron of the Royal Canadian Navy's Atlantic Command.

The Chaleur and the four other minesweepers are all scheduled to go into commission before the end of this year.

Like the rest of her class, the Chaleur is constructed of wood and aluminum. Each has a displacement of 400 tons, a length of 152 feet and a beam of 28 feet. Diesel-powered, these ships are equipped with the latest minesweeping equipment and navigational radar.

The Chaleur will be the third of the name to serve in the RCN. The first Chaleur was an ex-RCMP motor boat which served from 1939 to 1945 as tender to the shore establishment of the Naval Officer-In-Charge, Quebec.

The second was a Bay class coastal minesweeper commissioned on June 18, 1954, and turned over to the French Navy on September 30 of the same year, at which time she was rechristened "La Dieppoise".

FARM CASH INCOME UP: Farm cash income from the sale of farm products and from participation payments on previous years' grain crops is now estimated at \$2,662,100,000 for 1956, an upward revision of some \$6,200,000 from the advance preliminary estimate of \$2,655,900,000 released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in January. The current estimate is about 13 per cent above the revised figure of \$2,357,100,000 for 1955. The all-time high cash income estimate amounted to \$2,849,300,000 in 1952.

Cash income for 1956 was up in all provinces, with the increases varying all the way from less than 1 per cent in Ontario to about 40 per cent in Saskatchewan. Higher returns from the sale of grains, cattle, hogs, poultry and eggs, together with larger grain participation payments contributed largely to the increase in cash income in 1956 over 1955. Supplementary payments made under the provisions of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act to farmers in Western Canada amounted to about \$5,000,000 in 1956 against \$33,300,000 in 1955.

HIGHER WHEAT INCOME

As a result of greatly increased marketings and higher average prices, cash income from the sale of wheat during 1956 amounted to approximately \$460,000,000, about 40 per cent above the preceding year's \$329,500,000. This increase of about \$130,000,000 in cash returns represents the largest contribution of any single commodity to the gain in total cash income. Wheat participation payments totalling nearly \$62,000,000 in 1956 were well above \$26,000,000 distributed a year earlier.

As in the case of wheat, marketings of oats and barley in 1956 were up substantially from the level of the preceding year, resulting in a total cash income of about \$150,000,000 as against nearly \$98,000,000 in 1955; on the other hand, participation payments on these two grains in 1956 were only slightly above the 1955 level.

BAND IN SPOTLIGHT: Another of the Canadian Army's outstanding military bands will soon be in the international spotlight again. This time it's Prairie Command's band of the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery, stationed at Winnipeg.

On May 17 and 18, the 50-man group of musicians will be the feature attraction at the 27th annual Festival of Bands at Williston, North Dakota.

About 40 bands from all over the United States will appear in the monster parade and non-competitive festival. Getting top billing and presenting the major concert of the weekend will be the Canadian group.

Director of Music for the RCHA band is Lt. Armand J.P. Ferland, LGSM, LRAM. Lt. Ferland, a native of St. Boniface, Man., is a

graduate of the University of Manitoba. He studied music at the Conservatory of Music, Montreal; Kneller Hall, England; and the London Guildhall School of Music.

International acclaim is nothing new for Canadian Army bands. Last year and again this year, the pipes and drums of The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada were featured in Bermuda and New York; the band of the 48th Highlanders of Canada appeared in Philadelphia, and the band of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals played to enthusiastic audiences in Europe.

The RCHA band has been famous since 1905 with noted appearances at the Quebec Tercentenary in 1908, the Toronto Exhibition, unveiling of the Vimy Memorial in 1936, and a long list of successes in other parts of Canada and abroad.

Estimated income from the sale of flaxseed set an all-time high record in 1956 when it reached close to \$62,000,000; a substantial increase in marketings together with higher prices contributed to the increase of 52.6 per cent over the 1955 estimate of \$40,500,000. Income from corn was down because of smaller marketings. Higher returns from the sale of potatoes were the result of a combination of larger marketings and somewhat higher average prices.

Total cash income from the sale of livestock in 1956 is estimated at \$736,600,000 as against \$702,900,000 in 1955. Contributing almost entirely to this gain were higher returns from the sale of cattle and hogs. In the case of cattle, higher marketings more than offset slightly lower prices. An increase of both marketings and prices of hogs provided a total income from this commodity of approximately \$302,000,000, 4.3 per cent above 1955's \$289,600,000. The 1956 returns from calves were only slightly above the 1955 level as a result of small increases in both prices and marketings.

An individual product record was also set in the case of dairy products when cash income from this source rose from \$438,400,000 in 1955 to an all-time high of \$445,900,000 in 1956. Somewhat larger quantities were marketed at slightly higher prices. Farm cash returns from the sale of eggs at \$143,800,000 were 8.5 per cent above the \$132,600,000 in 1955. Income from the sale of poultry meat reached a new high of \$161,200,000, approximately 7 per cent above 1955's returns of \$150,500,000.

Cash income totals for the provinces were as follows (in thousands): Prince Edward Island, \$26,400 (\$25,900 in 1955); Nova Scotia, \$44,400 (\$42,800); New Brunswick, \$51,400 (\$47,800); Quebec, \$441,000 (\$424,200); Ontario, \$749,300 (\$749,100); Manitoba, \$209,200 (\$173,500); Saskatchewan, \$597,600 (\$424,700); Alberta, \$432,900 (\$365,100); and British Columbia, \$109,900 (\$104,000).

INCREASE IN HOUSEHOLDS: Number of households in Canada's 10 provinces climbed by 523,647, or 15.3 per cent in the five years from 1951 to 1956, according to preliminary figures based on a count of enumerators' visitation records of the 1956 national census. This brought the total at June 1 last year to 3,944,469 as compared to the final 1951 Census total of 3,420,822. Adding the Yukon and Northwest Territories, Canada had a total of 3,951,752 households in 1956. These totals include hotel, institutional, and camp households. The rate of increase in households of 15.3 per cent exceeded slightly the total growth of 14.8 per cent in Canada's population in the same period.

All provinces shared in the increase in numbers of households during the five-year period. Ontario had the largest gain, proportionately and numerically, with an increase of 18.3 per cent and 216,503 households, accounting for over two-fifths of the national gain. Quebec was third in rate of increase at 16.9 per cent but second in number of households at 146,090, while British Columbia was fourth in rate at 16.8 per cent and third in number at 57,181. Alberta was a close second to Ontario in rate of increase at 18.1 per cent with an increase of 45,654 in number of households.

The remaining six provinces were below the national average in percentage increases. Their rates of increase in descending order were: Newfoundland, 11.7 per cent; Nova Scotia, 8.7 per cent; Manitoba, 8.1 per cent; Saskatchewan, 6.2 per cent; New Brunswick, 5.6 per cent; and Prince Edward Island, 1 per cent.

A household is defined as all the persons who live in one dwelling unit and everyone in the population is a member of some household. Hence, a count of households is identical with a count of occupied dwellings.

HIGHWAY PROGRAMME: The Federal Department of Public Works is embarked on a \$52 million highway programme for the coming year, Public Works Minister Robert Winters announced May 7. This is approximately \$8,000,000 more than the Department spent on its roads programme last year, and more than double the expenditures of two years ago. The total Federal Government programme for construction and maintenance of highways and bridges, including Public Works' part, is estimated at approximately \$75,000,000 for 1957-58.

Included in the Department of Public Works' estimate of \$52 million is the amount of \$30 million earmarked for the Federal Government's share of the estimated cost of Trans-Canada Highway construction to be carried out by the provinces. The proportion of federal contributions will be higher this year due to application of the 90-10 formula which was initiated in 1956 by the Federal Government to speed up "gap-closing" construction on various problem sections of the Trans-Canada Highway.

The Department expects to spend another \$12 million on Trans-Canada Highway construction through Banff, Yoho, Glacier, Mt. Revelstoke and Terra Nova National Parks, which sections are the sole responsibility of the Federal Government. Of this amount some \$2 million is to be spent for location and construction work on the route of the Trans-Canada Highway through the newly established Terra Nova National Park in Newfoundland.

It is estimated that more than \$8 million will be spent on construction of roads other than the Trans-Canada Highway in National Parks, and an estimated total of more than \$3 million is to be spent on highway surveys and highway and bridge construction in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. The funds for this work are being provided through the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

STATUS OF WOMEN: The Department of External Affairs has announced the election of Canada to the Commission on the Status of Women, one of the functional commissions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The Commission on the Status of Women prepares recommendations and reports to the Economic and Social Council on matters concerned with the promotion of women's rights in political, economic, social, civil and educational fields. It is composed of representatives of 18 member states. The other members of the Commission during 1958 will be Argentina, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, China, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, France, Japan, Israel, Mexico, Pakistan, Poland, Sweden, the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom, The United States and Venezuela.

Canada's term of office is for three years commencing January 1, 1958.

SIXTH DESTROYER ESCORT: Her Majesty's Canadian Ship Fraser, the sixth of Canada's ultra-modern destroyer escorts to be completed and the second on the Pacific coast, will commission at Yarrows Ltd., Esquimalt, B.C. on June 28.

Four of the destroyer escorts—the St. Laurent, Assiniboine, Ottawa and Saguenay—are in service on the east coast, while the most recent addition to the fleet, HMCS Skeena, is now serving under the Flag Officer Pacific Coast.

The Fraser is similar to her predecessors. All-Canadian in design, she has a streamlined hull, and extensive use has been made of aluminium in her superstructure.

FEWER MOTORCYCLES: Number of motorcycles registered in Canada in 1955 was 36,300, smallest total since 1948's 33,900. Peak year was 1950 when 43,700 were registered, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INDIANS

"The Indian News", published by the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, announces that thirty-four Indian students across Canada will share more than \$25,000 in scholarships designed to encourage them to further their education by attending vocational schools or institutions of higher learning. The scholarships, established by the Indian Affairs Branch, will be awarded on the basis of scholastic standing at the close of the current school year.

Students in non-Indian schools as well as those in Indian schools will be eligible for the awards.

There are five different groups or classes of scholarships, covering university courses, nursing, teacher training, commercial or technical training at a vocational school, and courses in agriculture. In four of these classes, there will be eight separate scholarships available--one for each of the Indian administrative regions. (The eight regions are the Maritimes, Quebec, Southern Ontario, Northern Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Northwest Territories, and British Columbia and the Yukon). In the fifth group there are two agricultural scholarships available for national competition.

One group consists of eight scholarships for study at university level, to be awarded annually to the Indian students attaining the highest senior matriculation standing in each of the eight regions. However, even the highest standing will not qualify a student for one of these scholarships if his or her senior matriculation grades do not average at least 60 per cent. And, of course, the student can claim the scholarship only if he or she goes on to study at an accredited university.

The students who win these university scholarships may choose any course of study they wish except nursing or teacher training, for which separate scholarships are provided. Courses leading to degrees in Arts or in the professions may be selected. The value of each of these scholarships is either \$750 or \$1,000, depending upon the nature of the course chosen.

NURSING OR TEACHING

One teacher training scholarship valued at \$750 and one for nursing training valued at \$500 will be available in each of the eight regions. Both junior and senior matriculants will be eligible for these scholarships, and the award in each region will be made to the most outstanding student, provided that he or she is accepted by an accredited institution for the training of teachers or an accredited hospital for training leading to the status of Registered Nurse.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Grade 10 is the minimum educational stand-

ing required in the case of students applying for any of the eight scholarships provided for training in commercial, technical or other vocational subjects. The successful applicant in each region will be the best high school student, Grade 10 or higher, who is accepted by an accredited school for vocational training.

Scholarships in this group vary in value from \$400 to \$750, depending upon the course chosen by the student.

AGRICULTURAL STUDIES

It is quite possible that any one of the eight university scholarships may be awarded to students intending to take university courses in agriculture. As a further incentive in this important field, however, two separate agricultural scholarships have been established for nation wide competition: one, valued at \$750, to be awarded to the top senior matriculation student in Canada who is accepted by an accredited university for an agricultural course; and the other, in the sum of \$500, to the best high school student in Canada, Grade 10 or above, who is accepted by an agricultural school for a one or two year course in agricultural training.

AWARDED ANNUALLY

It is intended that all thirty-four of these scholarships will be available for competition every year.

Tuition grants will continue to be paid as at present, on the basis of merit and need, and a student who applies for a scholarship may also, just to be on the safe side, apply for a tuition grant. However, if he should win a scholarship, the tuition grant would be cancelled or reduced by an appropriate amount.

Nevertheless, prospective applicants for scholarships are assured that there will be nothing to prevent a student from applying for financial assistance to continue a course begun on a scholarship, if that should prove necessary.

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CHEQUE VALUES: Total value of cheques cashed in Canadian clearing centres reached a record high in 1956, payments in the 35 older centres rising 19 per cent to \$192,289,896,000 from 1955's previous peak of \$161,350,878,000. Debits in all five economic regions were higher in 1956 than in 1955, rising nearly 23 per cent in the Prairie Provinces, 20 per cent in Quebec, 19 per cent in British Columbia, 17.5 per cent in Ontario, and 14 per cent in the older centres in the Atlantic Provinces.

Value totals were as follows (in thousands): Atlantic Provinces, \$4,136,064 (\$3,623,886 in 1955); Quebec, \$57,635,781 (\$47,931,767); Ontario, \$84,580,096 (\$71,973,447); Prairie Provinces, \$30,706,483 (\$25,008,924); and British Columbia, \$15,231,473 (\$12,812,854).

