

ment of Labour are also given. These indexes show as far as possible the fluctuations in building costs with their effect upon construction work and employment. Attempts have been made to determine the relative proportion of material and wage costs in general building, but representative data could not be obtained. The reduction in the cost of building operations has probably been much more than is indicated by these figures. Index numbers of wages in the building trades are based chiefly on union rates in cities, and the types of construction which have been stimulated have been those where the higher paid trades have not been in great demand. The reduction in common labour costs has been proportionately greater than in the trades.

Owing to the increasing use of the automobile and other means of rapid transportation, a growing percentage of those who work in the cities reside outside the municipal boundaries. Hence arises, in part, the necessity for an extension of the record of building permits to include such suburban areas as the York Townships in the case of Toronto, and North Vancouver in the case of Vancouver. South Vancouver and Point Grey were annexed to Vancouver as from Jan. 1, 1929.

The construction contracts in 1932 as shown in Table 2 decreased by 58 p.c. compared with 1931 and the building permits of 61 cities in Table 3 decreased by more than 62 p.c.

### 3.—Value of Building Permits Taken Out in 61 Cities for the calendar years 1927-32.

NOTE.—Asterisks indicate the 35 original cities, statistics for which are available since 1910.

Province and City.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
P.E.I., Charlottetown.....	1	1	20,000	153,000	1	587,000
<b>Nova Scotia.....</b>	<b>1,846,647</b>	<b>3,078,176</b>	<b>5,748,282</b>	<b>3,564,302</b>	<b>2,174,960</b>	<b>1,109,753</b>
*Halifax.....	1,537,899	2,808,357	5,209,245	3,188,345	2,964,985	933,519
New Glasgow.....	10,850	64,515	305,370	141,250	107,165	35,890
*Sydney.....	291,898	205,304	233,667	234,707	102,830	140,344
<b>New Brunswick.....</b>	<b>1,365,065</b>	<b>1,262,266</b>	<b>2,037,334</b>	<b>3,031,614</b>	<b>1,783,462</b>	<b>648,434</b>
Fredericton.....	14,779	148,015	23,500	482,000	140,295	18,500
*Moncton.....	736,110	270,813	768,698	456,827	385,850	184,395
*Saint John.....	614,176	843,438	1,246,736	2,095,787	1,257,317	445,539
<b>Quebec.....</b>	<b>53,329,532</b>	<b>49,933,504</b>	<b>57,984,175</b>	<b>46,224,208</b>	<b>37,605,584</b>	<b>12,467,878</b>
*Montreal.*Maisonneuve...	45,900,842	36,347,901	46,065,924	37,504,590	31,876,676	10,557,438
*Quebec.....	6,360,185	5,710,144	5,684,183	4,912,257	4,049,875	1,179,465
Shawinigan Falls.....	347,835	1,163,581	770,618	468,540	55,065	107,230
*Sherbrooke.....	689,930	1,128,233	755,240	812,150	676,350	229,300
*Three Rivers.....	2,332,900	1,681,450	1,458,065	851,730	242,040	108,075
*Westmount.....	3,388,260	3,902,195	3,220,145	1,674,941	705,588	286,370
<b>Ontario.....</b>	<b>79,883,344</b>	<b>104,777,546</b>	<b>95,055,627</b>	<b>69,042,946</b>	<b>44,371,578</b>	<b>16,887,761</b>
Belleville.....	670,010	239,323	533,730	312,360	221,900	100,705
*Brantford.....	571,599	802,528	473,387	1,034,967	506,677	170,844
Chatham.....	575,087	780,020	813,560	821,258	201,365	56,215
*Fort William.....	1,209,450	2,062,000	1,759,000	1,227,300	451,000	294,100
Galt.....	181,023	378,581	527,315	264,901	239,022	88,768

\*No information received.