

**5.—Values of Building Permits Issued by 35<sup>1</sup> Cities in the calendar years 1910-35 and Index Numbers of the Building Construction Industries.**

Year.	Value of Building Permits. <sup>3</sup>	Average Index Numbers of—		
		Wholesale Prices of Building Materials.	Wages in the Building Trades.	Employment in Building Construction. <sup>2,3</sup>
	\$	(1913=100.)		(1926=100.)
1910.....	100,357,546	-	86.9	-
1911.....	138,170,390	-	90.2	-
1912.....	185,233,449	-	96.0	-
1913.....	153,662,842	100.0	100.0	-
1914.....	96,780,981	93.8	100.8	-
1915.....	33,566,749	90.3	101.5	-
1916.....	39,724,466	103.8	102.4	-
1917.....	33,936,426	130.7	109.9	-
1918.....	36,838,270	150.5	125.9	-
1919.....	77,113,413	175.0	148.2	-
1920.....	106,054,379	214.9	180.9	-
1921.....	100,797,355	183.2	170.5	62.1
1922.....	129,338,017	162.2	162.5	60.0
1923.....	117,243,806	167.0	166.4	66.4
1924.....	113,329,707	159.1	169.1	71.2
1925.....	110,314,698	153.5	170.4	75.8
1926.....	143,052,669	149.2	172.1	98.5
1927.....	164,791,231	143.4	179.3	108.7
1928.....	197,566,322	145.3	185.6	112.0
1929.....	214,277,386	147.7	197.5	135.3
1930.....	152,404,222	135.5	203.2	134.3
1931.....	101,821,221	122.2	195.7	104.3
1932.....	38,443,406	115.2	178.2	54.1
1933.....	19,890,150	116.8	158.0	38.5
1934.....	24,911,430	123.1	154.8	47.8
1935.....	42,839,627	121.1 <sup>4</sup>	159.8	55.4

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1 of Table 4.      <sup>2</sup> As reported by employers.  
have been revised since the publication of the 1934-35 Year Book.

<sup>3</sup> Figures for the years 1920-34  
<sup>4</sup> Preliminary.

The index numbers of wages and wholesale prices of materials in Table 5 show the fluctuations in building costs over the period 1910-35. During 1935 the wages index increased by five points as compared with 1934, while the average index number of wholesale prices was practically the same in 1935 as in the preceding year.

The volume of employment afforded in building, as indicated by employers in that industry, was greater in 1935 than in 1934, 1933 or 1932, though it was less than in any other year for which statistics are available.

Over the period 1911-35 inclusive, or since the beginning of MacLean's record of construction contracts awarded, there has been an average annual per capita expenditure on construction of about \$30. The period covered includes, of course, the war years and the depression since 1930, as well as the booms of 1911-13 and 1926-30. This average, consequently, is not unreasonably high. For the present population, the annual total of construction, on the basis of this average, should amount to over \$300,000,000. Furthermore, there is undoubtedly an accumulated deficiency in construction from the recent years of subnormal activity. Some idea may be gained, therefore, of the part which the normal functioning of the construction industry might play in the reduction of unemployment.