

earmarked for construction, \$42,000,000; and Wartime Housing Limited \$29,000,000. Commitments have been made for the continued expansion of war projects during 1943.

Regarding employment on defence projects, it was estimated that approximately 94,000 workers were employed in on-site construction work at Aug. 1, 1942, as compared with 80,000 in August, 1941. In addition, the number of persons engaged in the production of construction materials and in the manufacture of machinery and equipment for installation in new plants and plant extension exceeds the on-site employment. The off-site employment is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 100,000 workers, exclusive of employment provided in the production of materials and machinery imported from the United States.

In August, 1943, the number of persons engaged in on-site construction work for war purposes is estimated to have been 90,000 persons.

Section 2.—Contracts Awarded and Building Permits Issued

In this section barometric statistics are given of work actually in sight as contracts awarded and building permits. These figures are related to those of work performed during the year only so far as the work thus provided for is completed and duly reported in the Census of Construction. Further, values of contracts awarded, and especially of building permits, are estimates (more often under-estimates) of work to be done. Obviously, these statistics and those of Section 3 cannot be expected to agree, since much work contracted for towards the end of any one year is often not commenced until the next and, especially as regards big contracts or contracts undertaken late in any year, extends into more than one year. The figures here given are, therefore, supplementary to those of Section 3 and are valuable as showing from year to year the work immediately contemplated during the period.

Construction Contracts.—The value of construction contracts awarded during 1943 showed a decrease of 26·8 p.c. from the 1942 total. By the end of 1941, Canada had passed the peak of her war-construction period and, while construction jobs have gone ahead since that time, the volume has continued to taper off.

Industrial construction for 1943 was considerably less than half the 1942 total and about one-quarter of the total for 1940, the peak year for this classification. This is explained by the fact that Canada has built about all the war factories she has the labour to staff or the raw materials to supply. Reflecting the same trend, government and business building was less than half the total volume of a year ago. The dollar volume of residential construction has been maintained better than any other classification throughout the war years. Only the 1941 volume exceeded the totals achieved in 1942 and 1943. This record is all the more noteworthy since the residential construction of the past two years does not include any large apartment buildings, especially of the luxury type, which contributed heavily to the volume in pre-war years.

Engineering construction in 1943 showed a slight increase over the 1942 total. Actually, these figures do not give a true picture of the extensive construction carried on by Canadian engineering companies during the past two years. Some of the largest war jobs are not included in the figures, such as large naval and airport projects in Newfoundland and Labrador and also the Alaska Highway and Canol oil projects in Yukon and the Northwest Territories, contracts for which were let by the United States Government.

In all, the construction industry has been busy considering the depletion in its labour forces and the serious shortages of materials.