

In the present war the need for men is just as pressing, but the need for machines of war is so much greater that no comparison with the War of 1914-18 is justified. To turn out such machines, through all the varied processes from obtaining the raw material to packaging the final product, many hundreds of new plants have been constructed and enormous quantities of new equipment manufactured. For the first time in more than a century, Canada's own shores were seriously threatened, creating a new and unfamiliar need for defence works to be built on Canadian soil.

Since the beginning of the War, more than 701 hangars and hangar-type buildings have been erected. In all, 195 airfields have been built. Paved runways on these fields equal a highway extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific and back as far east as the Rocky Mountains. The construction work for the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, alone, involved the erection of more than 5,506 buildings. Aircraft plants, employing over 100,000 men and women, have been built up almost from nothing. Shipbuilding and munitions plants, dry docks, and other ship-repair facilities, and coastal defence batteries have sprung up. Millions of dollars have been spent on power development and transmission lines. A \$51,000,000-plant, capable of turning out sufficient synthetic rubber to meet all Canada's war-time requirements, has been erected. More than 17,300 dwellings for war workers have been built in areas where congestion was acute, as well as 1,075 homes for families of men in the Armed Services. The tremendous construction work involved in the expansion of the chemical, mineral and metal-working industries is covered in Chapter XIV of this volume.

The Defence Projects Construction Branch, established by the Defence Purchasing Board a few months before the outbreak of war, was taken over by the Department of Munitions and Supply which came into being in April, 1940. The primary function of the Branch was to handle the business arrangements for defence construction contracts. In addition, it handled some of the industrial construction work done by or for the Department of Munitions and Supply. As the demand for munitions developed, the Branch arranged for the construction or enlarging of some manufacturing plants and factories, but most of the plant expansion has been arranged by other Branches.

Until the spring of 1940, the value of contracts awarded was comparatively small, but after the Fall of France the volume greatly increased. The construction of schools for the Air Training Plan went forward as fast as the drawings and specifications could be turned out; military training centres were ordered for completion within six weeks; aircraft factories were started; and work on munitions plants commenced.

After the initial rush, the volume of new contracts declined in the winter of 1940-41, and increased only slightly during the following spring. However, when the Japanese struck in the Pacific, construction projects climbed rapidly to an all-time high. Defence works were rushed to completion on the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts and new training schools were erected for the Navy and the Air Force.

In the winter of 1942-43 the volume of new work dropped off sharply but continued at a substantial level until the end of 1943. During 1944 comparatively few new projects were handled for the Department of Munitions and Supply; up to the end of October commitments totalled only \$41,000,000.

By February, 1941, the Department of Munitions and Supply had decided upon definite measures to relieve housing pressure in congested areas. Wartime Housing Limited, a Crown Company, was created by Order in Council and charged