

## Section 2.—Contracts Awarded and Building Permits Issued

In this Section barometric statistics are given of work actually in sight either as contracts awarded or as 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 underestimates) 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 1944 showed an increase of 41·7 p.c. over the 1943 total. The major share of the increased building activity was in residential construction, although the industrial classification also showed a sharp gain. Despite unprecedented difficulties in securing materials and an acute shortage of skilled and common labour, the industry as a whole experienced a busy year.

The building spotlight was on residential construction, which increased 65·9 p.c. over 1943. The easing of construction control restrictions during the year permitted a sharp upsurge in apartment building, and the pent-up demand for residential building continued to manifest itself as in previous years. This classification has been the strongest and the steadiest in the building industry throughout the war years.

Industrial construction showed an increase of 78·7 p.c. over 1943, reversing the trend in 1943 when industrial construction dropped sharply from its wartime peak achieved in 1941 and 1942. Many permits were granted during the year to companies for the building of factories in preparation for post-war civilian production, both for the consumer market in Canada and for export.

Total business or commercial construction for 1944 was up 12·5 p.c. from the total for 1943. With one exception, every subdivision within this classification showed an increase of from 3 p.c. in hotel and club construction to 121 p.c. in store construction. The value of engineering construction was practically unchanged from the previous year, showing an increase of only 0·8 p.c.

### 3.—Values of Construction Contracts Awarded in Canada, 1912-44

(From MacLean Building Reports, Ltd.)

Year	Value of Construction Contracts	Year	Value of Construction Contracts	Year	Value of Construction Contracts
	\$		\$		\$
1912.....	463,083,000	1923.....	314,254,300	1934.....	125,811,500
1913.....	384,157,000	1924.....	276,261,100	1935.....	160,305,000
1914.....	241,952,000	1925.....	297,973,000	1936.....	162,588,000
1915.....	83,916,000	1926.....	372,947,900	1937.....	224,056,700
1916.....	99,311,000	1927.....	418,951,600	1938.....	187,277,900
1917.....	84,841,000	1928.....	472,032,600	1939.....	187,178,500
1918.....	99,842,000	1929.....	576,651,800	1940.....	346,009,800
1919.....	190,028,000	1930.....	456,999,600	1941.....	393,991,300
1920.....	255,605,000	1931.....	315,482,000	1942.....	281,594,100
1921.....	240,133,300	1932.....	132,872,400	1943.....	206,103,900
1922.....	331,843,800	1933.....	97,289,800	1944.....	291,961,800