

# CHAPTER XV.—CONSTRUCTION

## CONSPECTUS

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Section 1 of this Chapter deals with the Government controls made necessary by wartime conditions, Government aid to civil construction under the Dominion Housing Acts, and emergency housing under Wartime Housing Limited and the Veterans' Land Act.

Section 2 gives the value of construction contemplated, as shown by contracts awarded and building permits issued, to the end of 1945, and is therefore in the nature of a forecast of work still to be undertaken. Section 3 includes a statement on the recently instituted annual survey of dwelling units constructed in Canada. It also combines statistics of the Annual Census of Construction in summary form; these statistics cover the bulk of building and construction work actually completed to the end of 1944 and are comprehensive inasmuch as they include all types of construction dealt with in Sections 1 and 2 that were actually completed by the end of the year stated; they are not, however, all-inclusive as is pointed out at p. 467.

## Section 1.—The Government and the Construction Industry

### Subsection 1.—Government Control Over Construction\*

From the outbreak of war to 1941, the rapid expansion of industry had taxed the nation's resources to such an extent that Canada was forced to impose restrictions on new construction, repairs and alterations and, for this purpose, the Department of Munitions and Supply established a Construction Control.

The Control immediately placed on a permit basis almost all construction projects other than those of a minor nature. Until the latter part of 1944 a very strict licensing policy was followed and licences were granted only to those projects that were most essential to the war effort.

As prospects of an end of the War in Europe improved, licences were granted more freely to allow the construction of dwellings and of industrial projects likely to provide post-war employment. Further relaxations in the Control were put into effect following V-E Day in May, 1945, and V-J Day in August, 1945. All remaining restrictions were removed on Dec. 5, 1945, and the Control itself was dissolved on that date.

**Public Contracts.**—Previous to the War, Dominion Government contracts for the construction and maintenance of public buildings, harbour facilities, bridges, etc., were let by the Department of Public Works. During the war years, such contracts for civilian purposes continued under the jurisdiction of that Department, though all war construction contracts were let by the Department of Munitions and Supply, the Department of Transport and the Department of National Defence.

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