

the additional responsibility of maintaining the grounds of all Federal Government Buildings at Ottawa and vicinity. By amendment to the Federal District Commission Act, 1946, the membership of the Commission was increased to nineteen, and made more national in its composition by the inclusion of a representative from each province of Canada.

Departments of the Federal Government from time to time ask the Commission to carry out improvements to the grounds of newly constructed Government buildings on the basis of full reimbursement for the actual costs entailed. The Commission has the trained personnel and the special equipment required for such work. Funds for the purposes of the Commission are provided by statutory grants and votes of Parliament.

In the cities of Ottawa and Hull and immediate environs, an area comprising 1,878 acres is administered by the Commission and eighteen parks have been developed. Twenty-two miles of landscaped driveways have been built and are being maintained. In addition, the large and beautiful area known as Gatineau Park, described below, has been established in the Laurentian Hills.

Gatineau Park.—Gatineau Park, situated in the Province of Quebec about eight air miles from the Federal Capital, is the only National Park administered and controlled by the Federal District Commission. It comprises at present about 24,000 acres of wooded hills, valleys, lakes and streams located in the southerly fringe of the Laurentians, the oldest mountains in Canada, and is being preserved in its natural state for the enjoyment of the public.

The Park is a game sanctuary. Deer, bear, fox, beaver, mink, raccoon and other fur-bearing animals are quite numerous. Well-located trails, picnic spots and camping sites have been provided for the pleasure and healthful recreation of the public. Gatineau Park furnishes excellent opportunities for the enjoyment of skiing and is the principal centre in the Ottawa district for this popular winter sport.

Further development of this area is planned which will include an addition of 26,000 acres, overnight cabins, administration buildings, shelters, refectories, bath-houses and other structures.

The Park is administered by a Superintendent and a force of five rangers who act also as game wardens, police constables and fire guards.

The National Capital Plan.—The Master Plan to guide the long-range development of Ottawa and the 900 square mile National Capital District, which will create a Capital in keeping with Canada's achievements and status as a nation, was completed at the end of 1948. The preliminary report of the National Capital Planning Committee and the Federal District Commission was tabled in the House of Commons on Apr. 30, 1949, and an outline of the Plan is given at pp. 18-20 of the 1950 Year Book.

The first contract under the Plan was let on Apr. 26, 1950, for the construction of a bridge connecting Elgin and Waller Streets and spanning the Driveway, the Rideau Canal, the railway tracks and Nicholas Street. The total length of this bridge will be approximately 2,000 ft. It will serve to relieve traffic congestion in Confederation Square and remove commercial traffic from Wellington Street.

Tenders were also called in the spring of 1950 for the construction of a railway cut-off line south of the built-up area of the city. The completion of this cut-off will permit the removal of the cross-town railway tracks.