

# CHAPTER XVIII.—CONSTRUCTION

## CONSPECTUS

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NOTE.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

The purpose of this Chapter is to co-ordinate available official statistics on the construction industry and to give, as far as possible, a complete picture of construction from year to year. Official statistics, although constantly undergoing improvement, have many gaps and it is necessary to try to bridge these by presenting data from outside sources. For instance, Section 3 carries official figures of building permits issued in leading cities. These figures are useful but have definite limitations and are supplemented by data from outside sources. This Section also contains data from a private source on construction contracts awarded during specified years. These are in the nature of a forecast of the amount of construction work contemplated in a given year. Usually some time elapses after contracts are awarded before work actually is begun and, in the case of contracts of large-scale undertakings, the work is seldom finished within one year.

On the other hand, the official statistics of the annual Census of Construction given in Section 4 cover work of all kinds actually completed in a given year but even the Census of Construction is not all-inclusive. Work done by farmers, which in the aggregate must be considerable, is not included nor is much of the construction work done by railways and other public institutions. So far as the latter groups are concerned an attempt is made in Section 4 to calculate a net figure which, when added to the annual Census of Construction figure, will more nearly approximate total construction (except that done by farmers and other individuals for themselves).

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

### Subsection 1.—Public Contracts

Government contracts are let by the various Government Departments, Crown Corporations and other agencies in accordance with the Public Works Act. This Act sets out the regulations pertaining to tender calls, acceptance of bids and approval by the Governor in Council or by the Minister or head of the department or organization concerned.

### The Trans-Canada Highway

The first Federal-Provincial Conference on the Trans-Canada Highway was held during December, 1948, under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Mines and Resources. At this Conference all the Provinces expressed a desire to co-operate in every way and investigations proceeded on both ministerial and technical levels.