

Developments under the Master Plan, apart from private construction, fall into four categories:—

- (1) Federal District Commission responsibilities, such as the re-location of the railways, development of the park and parkway system and some bridges;
- (2) Federal building projects, for whose construction the Department of Public Works, Crown companies or certain departments of government are responsible;
- (3) Federal-provincial-municipal projects, mainly roads and bridges and municipal services, in which the Federal District Commission is the federal planning and financial agent; and
- (4) Purely municipal works in planning and development in which the Commission and its planning staff are available for technical assistance.

#### PROGRESS OF THE PLAN

*Railway Re-location.*—This is now about two years ahead of schedule, although it is expected to take another 25 years to complete. One of the first steps taken by the FDC was the acquisition of about 3,000 acres of land at the south and east fringes of Ottawa for future rail and industrial use. A rail line was built along the Walkley Road area to link existing lines at the southern outskirts and in 1953 CNR Montreal-Winnipeg manifest freights began to use the bypass instead of crossing the centre of the Capital. Yard facilities were completed in 1955 and the CNR transferred its freight marshalling and repair and maintenance operations from the downtown Bank Street yards on the CNR crosstown tracks to the new Walkley yards. Plans were made for utilization of the right-of-way thus freed for a crosstown limited-access roadway running 19 miles across the Capital and its rural fringes from east to west, to link with Highway 17 at each end. The "Queensway", as it is known, is a federal-provincial-municipal project, and is expected to be completed by 1960.

It is planned to establish a terminal company to operate all rail facilities within the National Capital District on behalf of the CNR, CPR, and New York Central Railway. This will remove the need for duplicate rail lines and yards within the district and greatly expedite the railway re-location project.

*Parks and Parkways.*—A vigorous policy of land acquisition begun by the FDC in its early years before extensive suburban development increased property values to the point where it would have been almost financially impossible to carry out the program, resulted in practically all the necessary land being obtained for extensive additions to the Commission's park and parkway system. The approximately 40 miles of future parkways planned will do much to restore the beauty of the Ottawa River and Rideau River waterfronts, and at the same time add about 4,000 acres of open space to the Capital's urban area.

A start has been made on two new parkways in Hull—the local Fairy Lake Parkway in the western section of Hull; and Gatineau Parkway, the first two miles of which have been constructed northwest from the Aylmer Road at Val Tetreau on the Ottawa River-front, eventually to be extended into a 45 mile scenic parkway through Gatineau Park.

Some waterfront park improvements have been made in Hull but the Commission's largest single project of this nature has been the development of the 170 acre Hog's Back Park on the Rideau River and Canal in the southern section of Ottawa.

*Gatineau Park.*—An integral part of the National Capital Plan is Gatineau Park, situated in the beautiful hill and lake country of the Laurentians north and west of Hull. The FDC began acquiring land for the Park in 1937, and by 1955 had purchased 50,000 acres of the planned 75,000 acre area. With its bathing beaches, hiking trails, camping and trailer sites, youth camps and large and small scale picnic facilities, fishing and boating and excellent winter skiing, the Park is becoming increasingly popular as the summer and winter playground of the Capital area. In the Kingsmere section of the Park is located the 600 acre Mackenzie King Estate, bequeathed to the nation by the late Prime Minister and noted for its picturesque artificial ruins. The Commission plans extensive development of the Park in a way that will preserve the natural beauties of the area.