result, a widely diversified group of specialized construction companies has been generated; these companies provide the expert advice and skills essential to the application of efficient construction techniques in their respective fields, which may be oil drilling, pipe-laying, road-building, communications structures, structural steel placement or other type of specialized construction. At the same time, a more general type of organization has developed which has sufficient internal adjustability to permit it to adapt itself to different problems as they arise. The main function of this type of organization is to co-ordinate and administer the whole construction program on large-scale projects and thus achieve maximum efficiency of operations. They, in turn, rely heavily upon the skills of the individual sub-contractor and specialized trade groups.

Along with the accumulation of skills and engineering experience, many highly efficient mechanical aids have been developed. The now common use of such machinery has considerably increased output per man-hour employed but at the same time has necessitated a higher level of capital investment and equipment per dollar of construction output.

Regional Differences.—The shift from a rural to a highly industrialized urban society has, of course, been accompanied by a gravitation of the population toward the major industrial centres of the country and also by the establishment of new urban centres around resource developments. As a result of such concentration, construction activity in conjunction with the suppliers of materials and services has become quite self-sufficient by regions. Throughout the wide expanse of this country, climatic and economic factors vary between regions; thus the nature and character of the construction industry also varies, requiring differing types of services and materials.

It is natural that the general expansion of the construction industry has not been shared equally by all regions of the country. Changing emphases created by a growing economy make for uneven construction demands which are more favourable to some areas than to others. For instance, the development of a large isolated mineral deposit—which has occurred many times in recent years—involves the building of mine facilities, railway transport facilities, water shipping facilities and often the construction of a completely new townsite with its housing requirements and the multitude of service and manufacturing facilities needed to provide the inhabitants with a modern mode of living; all this requires a very large and comprehensive construction program. On the other hand, the stimulation of the fishing industry or the logging industry, while of great importance to a local area, would require less construction and would therefore have a much milder effect on construction activity.

Table 3 suggests the changing emphasis of construction activity in the different regions of Canada. Quebec and Ontario each continue to account for a large proportion of total construction expenditures, although the proportions for the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia have increased significantly over the period shown. In contrast, the Atlantic Provinces have accounted for a decreased percentage of the total.

3.—Average Percentage Distribution of Construction Expenditures, by Region, Certain Periods during 1934-60

Region	1934-35	1941-45	1951-55	1956-60
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
Atlantic Provinces	10.8	9.5	7.0	7.8
Quebec	25.2	29.2	24.8	24.5
Ontario	46.5	37.9	35.3	40.6
Prairie Provinces	11.6	12.3	21.6	16.2
British Columbia	5.9	11.1	11.2	11.0
Canada (excl. the Territories)	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**