

Urban Renewal.—Federal assistance for urban renewal increased to \$10,517,000 in 1964 as municipalities took advantage of broadened financial aid authorized by amendments to the NHA passed by Parliament in June. Assistance for this purpose in 1963 was \$3,700,000.

Activity in 1964 included a net contribution of \$4,000,000 to the City of Vancouver to assist in the acquisition and clearance of some 25 acres of the 70-acre Alexandra Park renewal area in the downtown region; the over-all project involves the clearance of a central block of 16 acres and of several isolated blocks throughout the area. The City of Vancouver obtained a net contribution of \$2,000,000 to acquire and clear 28.5 acres of land in three areas in the east end of the city and Hamilton obtained \$4,400,000 to acquire and clear 30 acres and undertake an extensive municipal works and services program in a 270-acre renewal area near its harbour. An amount of \$117,000 was approved for Kingston to acquire and clear some 16 acres of land in the Rideau Heights area of the city.

Grants totalling \$66,785 were authorized to assist the municipalities of Dartmouth and Glace Bay in Nova Scotia, Eastview and Preston in Ontario and Prince Albert in Saskatchewan to undertake studies of local housing conditions. Also, contributions of \$137,000 to Hamilton and \$56,500 to Vancouver were approved for the preparation of urban renewal schemes.

Public Housing.—Approval was given during 1964 for the development under federal-provincial partnership arrangements of public housing projects in Halifax, Hamilton, Oshawa, Swift Current and Vancouver. These projects will provide a total of 790 dwelling units for low-income families and elderly persons. Since the initial project was authorized in 1950, public housing developments comprising 12,674 units have been approved. One loan-assisted public housing project—first authorized by the June 1964 amendments to the NHA—was approved; CMHC was authorized to make a loan and enter into a subsidy agreement with the Ontario Housing Corporation for the development of a 40-unit project for senior citizens in Hamilton.

Land Assembly.—Two land assembly projects were approved under federal-provincial arrangements in 1964. The developments, located at Swift Current, Sask., and Wawa, Ont., will provide a total of 185 serviced building lots. From the inception of the program in 1948 to the end of 1964, a total of 18,296 lots had been authorized for development and 10,985 had been sold.

Subsection 3.—Housing Statistics of the 1961 Census*

The tremendous upsurge in building construction in the 1951-61 decade is reflected in the 1961 Housing Census results† which recorded 1,145,198 more occupied dwellings in 1961 than in 1951, the total for Canada in the later year being 4,554,493. The rate of increase in occupied dwellings of 33.6 p.c. exceeded the population increase of 30.2 p.c. in the same period.

Table 18 gives a summary of housing characteristics for Canada in 1951 and 1961. In this period both owned and rented dwellings increased by about one third and single detached dwellings and apartments and flats increased at about the same proportionate rate. The median value of homes was \$11,021 in 1961 and the median monthly cash rent \$62. Almost two out of five dwellings were constructed in the postwar period, a fact reflected in part in the proportion of dwellings in need of repair, which dropped from 13.4 p.c. in 1951 to 5.6 p.c. in 1961.

* More detailed information may be found in Vol. II (Part 2) of the 1961 Census (Catalogue Nos. 93-523 to 93-535).

† Based on a 20-p.c. sample of occupied dwellings across Canada. A dwelling, for census purposes, is a structurally separate set of living quarters with a private entrance either from outside the building or from a common hall or stairway inside. The entrance must not be through anyone else's living quarters.