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BUILDING PERMITS REPORT FOR DECEMBER, 1929, WITH COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS FOR NOVEMBER, 1929, AND DECEMBER, 1928, AND CUMULATIVE FIGURES FOR THE YEARS, 1920-1929.

The building permits issued by 61 cities in December, 1929, represented construction work valued at \$15,585,992, as compared with \$16,166,385 in November, 1929, and \$16,095,160 in December, 1928. There was, therefore, a decline of \$580,393, or 3.6 p.c. in December as compared with the preceding month, and of \$509,168, or 3.2 p.c. in comparison with the figures for the same month in 1928, which was the highest December on record.

Detailed statements were received from some 40 cities, showing that they had issued nearly 400 permits for dwellings valued at some \$3,400,000 and about 1,100 permits for other buildings at an estimated cost of approximately \$11,800,000. During November, the construction was authorized of some 900 dwellings and 1,500 other buildings, estimated to cost approximately \$5,000,000 and \$10,500,000, respectively.

As compared with the preceding month, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia registered increases in the value of the authorized building, the gain of \$1,465,995, or 466.2 p.c., in Alberta being especially pronounced. Of the declines elsewhere indicated, that of \$892,485, or 26.4 p.c., in Quebec was greatest.

All provinces except Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario recorded increases over December, 1928, in the value of the building authorized. Alberta showed the most marked gain of \$1,715,023, while the greatest decrease was that of \$1,755,435, or 18.1 p.c., in Ontario.

Montreal showed decreases in the value of the building permits issued as compared with November, and also in comparison with December, 1928. In Toronto and Winnipeg, there were losses in the former and gains in the latter comparison, while Vancouver reported increases over both November, 1929, and December, 1928. Three Rivers, Westmount, Chatham, Kingston, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, St. Boniface, Regina, Calgary, Kamloops and New Westminster also recorded advances in both comparisons.

CUMULATIVE RECORD FOR 1929.

The following table shows the value of the building authorized by 61 cities during December and in the years since 1920; the 1929 figures are unrevised, while for the preceding years the statistics are revised. (A revised statement for 1929 will be issued next month). Index numbers, based upon the total value of the building authorized by these cities during 1920 as 100, are given below, as are the average index numbers of wholesale prices of building materials in the years 1920-1929. (Average 1926=100).

Year	Value of permits issued in December	Value of permits issued in twelve months	Indexes of value of permits issued in twelve months, (1920=100).	Average Indexes of wholesale prices of building materials twelve months, (1926=100).
	\$	\$		
1929	15,585,992	235,658,524	201.4	98.0
1928	16,095,160	219,105,715	187.2	98.1
1927	11,755,566	184,613,742	157.8	96.7
1926	11,508,818	156,386,607	133.6	100.0
1925	7,363,777	125,029,367	106.8	103.8
1924	6,463,319	126,583,148	108.2	106.7
1923	6,974,256	133,521,621	114.1	111.7
1922	9,517,402	148,215,407	126.7	108.6
1921	5,537,330	116,794,414	99.8	122.7
1920	4,844,354	117,019,622	100.0	152.4

The December total for the 61 cities, as shown above, was only once exceeded in the record, while the unrevised statistics for 1929 indicate that last year's aggregate was larger than in any other of the nine preceding years, exceeding the previous high level of 1928 by nearly eight p.c. It is worthy of note that the 1929 total was rather greater than the combined aggregates for the years 1920 and 1921. The twelve months' total for the 35 cities, - \$211,377,000 - is also the highest in the record (which for these 35 centres goes back to 1910) exceeding by about 13 p.c. the previous maximum of \$187,269,000 in 1928.

Estimated Cost of Building Work as Indicated by Building Permits Issued by 61 Cities.

Cities	December, 1929	November, 1929	December, 1928
	\$	\$	\$
P. E. I. - Charlottetown	-	Nil	Nil
Nova Scotia	68,930	487,877	89,030
X Halifax	63,930	460,380	72,805
New Glasgow	Nil	5,050	700
X Sydney	5,000	22,447	15,525
New Brunswick	175,268	246,622	11,850
Fredericton	Nil	-	Nil
X Moncton	31,760	34,923	1,310
X Saint John	143,508	211,699	10,540
Quebec	2,488,339	3,380,824	3,645,317
X Montreal - X Maisonneuve	1,556,954	2,966,152	3,183,850
X Quebec	180,575	249,412	235,017
Shawinigan Falls	Nil	21,100	15,000
X Sherbrooke	16,000	30,850	27,300
X Three Rivers	279,300	36,260	63,775
X Westmount	455,510	77,050	120,375
Ontario	7,934,887	8,688,304	9,690,322
Belleville	400	48,075	6,200
X Brantford	13,124	4,342	35,288
Chatham	134,650	55,550	62,700
X Fort William	2,850	10,460	4,400
Galt	740	28,820	5,450
X Guelph	16,765	40,505	38,185
X Hamilton	151,600	486,470	145,400
X Kingston	908,900	41,390	17,845
X Kitchener	23,356	54,553	295,830
X London	38,715	144,550	76,870
Niagara Falls	26,350	78,990	36,465
Oshawa	60,300	34,425	524,732
X Ottawa	21,300	114,665	2,532,240
Owen Sound	150	3,000	2,500
X Peterborough	56,475	14,000	16,765
X Port Arthur	6,400	10,455	23,410
X Stratford	7,825	5,875	22,475
X St. Catharines	18,575	79,825	17,510
X St. Thomas	730	1,435	2,185
Sarnia	14,180	39,620	52,750
Sault Ste. Marie	17,927	13,980	3,788
X Toronto	6,199,952	6,512,638	4,290,021
York and East York Townships	143,173	576,129	348,395
Welland	75	1,605	3,500
X Windsor	45,850	172,530	249,025
East Windsor	675	13,215	42,985
Riverside	300	2,600	43,100
Sandwich	6,550	53,850	6,300
Walkerville	17,000	28,000	657,000
Woodstock	Nil	16,752	127,008
Manitoba	440,071	622,984	145,165
X Brandon	6,268	34,304	920
St. Boniface	45,703	28,480	30,995
X Winnipeg	388,100	560,200	113,250
Saskatchewan	488,024	417,608	454,425
X Moose Jaw	4,775	192,055	2,450
X Regina	426,024	150,878	283,975
X Saskatoon	57,225	74,675	168,000
Alberta	1,866,358	400,363	151,335
X Calgary	1,836,508	215,803	100,520
X Edmonton	19,005	176,420	27,060
Lethbridge	8,720	6,650	18,480
Medicine Hat	2,125	1,490	5,275
British Columbia	2,124,115	1,921,803	1,907,716
Kamloops	16,206	13,650	6,000
Nanaimo	1,125	3,910	7,115
X New Westminster	143,750	107,650	23,310
Prince Rupert	2,500	7,442	5,075
X Vancouver 1/	1,917,790	1,679,041	1,722,907
North Vancouver	2,500	24,705	11,730
X Victoria	40,244	85,405	131,579
Total - 61 Cities	15,585,992	16,166,385	16,095,160
X Total - 35 Cities	15,084,643	15,059,297	13,372,727

1/ Includes Point Grey and South Vancouver, formerly given separately.

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