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BUILDING PERMITS REPORTS FOR FEBRUARY, 1936, WITH COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS FOR JANUARY, 1936, AND FEBRUARY, 1935.

The value of the building represented by the permits issued by 58 cities stood at $1,911,884 in February, 1936; this was an increase of $628,168 or 48.9 p.c. over the total of $1,283,716 for the preceding month, but a decline of $1,689,753 or 46.9 p.c. as compared with the aggregate of $3,601,637 in February of last year, when authority had been granted for the erection of a large public building in one of the co-operating cities. The unusually severe weather of the present winter has retarded operations in building in many parts of the Dominion.

Some 50 cities furnished detailed statistics, showing that they had granted over 100 permits for dwellings valued at nearly $310,000, and not quite 600 permits for other buildings, estimated to cost in excess of $1,580,000. In January, authority was given for the erection of some 95 dwellings and 380 other buildings, estimated at approximately $376,000 and $556,000, respectively.

Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia reported increases in the value of the permits issued as compared with January, 1936; the greatest gain, of $756,311 or 176.8 p.c. took place in British Columbia. The remaining provinces showed declines in this comparison, that of $80,656 or 28.4 p.c. in Quebec being largest.

As compared with February, 1935, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia recorded increases; the gain in the latter was considerable, amounting to $932,638 or 370.9 p.c. Of the decreases in the other provinces, that of $1,957,703 or 81.7 p.c. in Ontario was most pronounced.

Of the four largest cities, only Vancouver reported an increase in the value of the building authorized as compared with either January, 1936, or February, 1935. Toronto showed an improvement in the former, but a loss in the latter comparison, while in Montreal and Winnipeg the total was lower in each case.

Of the other centres, Charlottetown, Saint John, Shawinigan Falls, Westmount, Belleville, Galt, Guelph, Kingston, Oshawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, Stratford, Sault Ste. Marie, Welland, Woodstock, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, Medicine Hat and Victoria reported improvement over the preceding month and also as compared with the same month of last year.

CUMULATIVE RECORD FOR FIRST TWO MONTHS, 1936.

The following table gives the value of the building authorized by 58 cities during February, and in the first two months of each year since 1920, as well as index numbers for the latter, based upon the total for 1926 as 100. The average index numbers of wholesale prices of building materials in January and February of the same years are also given (1926 = 100).

Year	Value of permits issued in February	Value of permits issued in first two months	Indexes of value of permits issued in first two months, (1926 = 100)	Average indexes of wholesale prices of building materials in first two months, (1926 = 100)
	$	$		
1936	1,911,834	3,195,600	26.9	83.6 1/
1935	3,601,637	4,484,515	37.8	81.8
1934	894,102	1,601,914	13.5	82.2
1933	925,894	2,111,856	17.8	75.2
1932	2,845,271	6,056,283	51.1	79.4
1931	6,395,659	14,797,115	124.8	83.8
1930	8,919,078	16,136,475	136.1	96.8
1929	10,465,330	18,882,210	159.2	99.6
1928	10,318,338	18,034,925	152.1	96.4
1927	7,638,176	13,314,713	112.3	97.1
1926	7,139,549	11,859,083	100.0	102.4
1925	5,902,118	11,349,388	95.7	103.2
1924	4,093,800	8,554,379	72.1	112.3
1923	5,679,671	9,819,169	82.8	110.1
1922	4,733,105	8,064,642	68.0	108.3
1921	3,683,359	6,278,923	52.9	140.5
1920	6,156,287	10,173,311	85.8	137.5

The aggregate for the first two months of 1936 was lower than in 1935, but was higher than in 1934 or 1933. The totals for January - February in these four years were lower than in any other year for which statistics for the 58 cities are available. The index numbers of wholesale prices of building materials in the last few years have also been considerably below the average for the years since 1920.

The table on page 3 gives the value of the building permits issued by 58 cities in January and February, 1936, and February, 1935. The 35 cities for which statistics are available since 1910 are marked thus "x".

1/ January figure.

Estimated Value of Construction Work as Indicated by Building Permits Issued by 58 Cities.

Cities	February 1936	January 1936	February 1935
	$	$	$
P.E.I. - Charlottetown	10,675	3,050	10,150
Nova Scotia	33,010	52,640	34,550
x Halifax	33,010	50,640	30,000
New Glasgow	Nil	Nil	3,050
x Sydney	Nil	2,000	1,500
New Brunswick	3,885	11,000	10,460
Fredericton	Nil	Nil	Nil
x Moncton	125	11,000	7,710
x Saint John	3,760	-	2,750
Quebec	203,290	283,946	521,373
x Montreal - x Maisonneuve	159,355	266,021	487,638
x Quebec	8,460	1,525	17,460
Shawinigan Falls	2,000	Nil	300
x Sherbrooke	4,900	9,500	6,600
x Three Rivers	825	1,900	3,725
x Westmount	27,750	5,000	5,650
Ontario	438,856	456,994	2,396,559
Belleville	3,500	500	Nil
x Brantford	1,275	16,594	8,624
Chatham	350	3,285	20,375
x Fort William	Nil	Nil	300
Galt	2,800	1,771	1,300
x Guelph	6,700	485	2,850
x Hamilton	29,000	50,620	55,530
x Kingston	10,350	3,375	Nil
x Kitchener	6,975	7,600	9,600
x London	13,145	17,390	47,245
Niagara Falls	Nil	1,000	21,550
Oshawa	4,950	1,450	Nil
x Ottawa	18,600	22,000	1,151,390
Owen Sound	4,500	Nil	Nil
x Peterborough	4,675	2,500	375
x Port Arthur	1,911	2,040	375
x Stratford	2,125	1,400	Nil
x St. Catharines	Nil	272	1,050
x St. Thomas	Nil	140	100
Sarnia	4,275	4,225	4,420
Sault Ste. Marie	15,650	1,415	2,300
x Toronto	251,890	201,087	1,025,400
York & East York Townships	18,500	53,060	33,105
Welland	850	50	150
x Windsor	29,860	62,925	10,300
Riverside	Nil	Nil	200
Woodstock	6,975	1,810	20
Manitoba	19,700	34,166	305,700
x Brandon	Nil	3,766	3,600
St. Boniface	150	Nil	9,850
x Winnipeg	19,550	30,400	292,250
Saskatchewan	6,275	4,991	8,475
x Moose Jaw	5,075	4,175	175
x Regina	200	216	7,950
x Saskatoon	1,000	600	350
Alberta	12,131	9,178	62,946
x Calgary	8,486	6,848	55,711
x Edmonton	2,425	2,000	5,975
Lethbridge	220	330	1,225
Medicine Hat	1,000	Nil	35
British Columbia	1,184,062	427,751	251,424
Kamloops	600	1,380	3,435
Nanaimo	950	6,830	2,100
x New Westminster	17,850	17,100	25,535
Prince Rupert	300	2,100	2,400
x Vancouver	1,108,160	359,415	167,675
North Vancouver	Nil	575	2,650
x Victoria	56,202	40,351	47,629
Total - 58 Cities	1,911,884	1,283,716	3,601,637
x Total - 35 Cities	1,833,639	1,200,885	3,483,022