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BUILDING PERMITS FOR MARCH, 1938, WITH COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY, 1938, AND MARCH, 1937. AND CUMULATIVE FIGURES FOR FIRST QUARTER, 1920-1938.

According to returns tabulated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the value of the building permits issued by 58 cities during March was $3,556,567. This was an increase of $1,194,610 or 50.6 p.c. over the February total of $2,361,957, but a decrease of $3,110,672 or 46.7 p.c. as compared with the aggregate of $6,667,239 reported for March, 1937, when the construction of several large industrial buildings had been authorized.

The building represented by the construction permits taken out in the first three months of the present year was valued at $7,764,625; this was lower than the total of $10,527,992 reported in the first quarter of 1937, but was higher than in 1936, also exceeding the 1934 and the 1933 figure. The cumulative total for this period in each of the years since 1931 has been below the average of $18,133,290 indicated in the months, January-March in the years, 1920-1937.

Some 50 cities furnished detailed statistics for March, 1938, showing that they had granted about 375 permits for dwellings valued at more than $1,100,000 and more than 1,700 permits for other buildings estimated to cost approximately $2,200,000. During February, authority was given for the erection of about 125 dwellings and over 1,000 other buildings, estimated to cost approximately $700,000 and $1,600,000, respectively.

Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchwan, Alberta and British Columbia reported increases in the value of the building authorized during March, 1938, as compared with the preceding month. The greatest gains were those of $114,670 or 165.0 p.c. in Nova Scotia, $173,129 or 26.8 p.c. in British Columbia, and $517,483 or 127.2 p.c. in Quebec. There were small reductions in the remaining provinces.

As compared with March, 1937, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta recorded increases; in this comparison also, the most pronounced gains were in Nova Scotia and Quebec, where the authorizations were higher by $102,045, or 124.2 p.c., and $284,021 or 44.4 p.c., respectively. Prince Edward Island, Ontario and British Columbia showed reductions as compared with March of last year, that of $2,542,326 or 65.1 p.c. in Ontario being greatest.

Of the larger cities, Montreal and Toronto reported increases as compared with the preceding month and with March, 1937; in Winnipeg there was a gain over the same month of last year, but a loss as compared with February, 1938, while the reverse was the case in Vancouver, where the total exceeded that for the preceding month, but was lower than in March, 1937. Of the other centres, Halifax, New Glasgow, Sydney, Quebec, Sherbrooke, Brantford, Chatham, Fort William, Kingston, Niagara Falls, Oshawa, Owen Sound, Peterborough, St. Catharines, Sarnia, Welland, Riverside, Woodstock, Brandon, St. Boniface, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Kamloops, Nanaimo, New Westminster and North Vancouver reported higher totals than in either February, 1938, or March, 1937.

CUMULATIVE RECORD FOR FIRST QUARTER, 1938.

The following table gives the value of the building authorized by 58 cities during March and in the first quarter 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 the first quarter of the same years are also given (1926=100).

Year	Value of permits issued in March	Value of permits issued in first quarter	Indexes of value of permits issued in first quarter, (1926=100)	Average indexes of wholesale prices of building materials in first quarter, (1926=100)
1938	3,556,567	7,764,625	34.5	91.3
1937	6,667,239	10,527,992	46.8	92.5
1936	2,368,537	5,592,471	24.9	84.0
1935	4,022,755	8,507,270	37.8	81.4
1934	1,109,085	2,710,999	12.1	82.2
1933	953,966	3,065,821	13.6	75.2
1932	3,396,729	9,453,012	42.0	79.3
1931	9,948,979	24,746,094	110.0	83.7
1930	13,356,787	29,493,262	131.1	96.7
1929	24,068,018	42,950,228	190.9	99.2
1928	15,128,413	33,163,338	147.4	95.5
1927	11,713,640	25,028,353	111.3	96.4
1926	10,634,491	22,493,574	100.0	102.0
1925	8,631,627	19,981,015	88.2	102.9
1924	9,493,620	18,047,999	80.2	112.2
1923	9,658,950	19,478,119	86.6	110.6
1922	10,615,531	18,680,173	83.0	108.0
1921	7,290,589	13,569,512	60.3	139.1
1920	8,736,675	18,909,986	84.1	139.4

The value of the building authorized in the first three months of 1938 was lower by 26.2 p.c. than in the same period of 1937, and was also lower than in the first quarter of 1935; it was, however, higher than in the same period in 1936, 1934 or 1933. As already stated, the total for the months January-March in the years since 1931 have been much below the average for those months in the last eighteen years. The index numbers of wholesale prices of building materials in the last three months, while slightly lower than in the same quarter of 1937, were higher than in the first three months of other years since 1931. However, wholesale prices in this period have also been considerably lower than preceding years of the record.

The table on page 3 gives the value of the building permits issued by 58 cities in February and March, 1938, and March, 1937. The 35 cities for which statistics are available since 1910 are marked thus "x".

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

Cities	March 1938	February 1938	March 1937
	$	$	$
P.E.I. - Charlottetown	1,000	3,000	4,590
Nova Scotia	184,185	69,515	82,140
x Halifax	142,250	66,110	75,905
New Glasgow	17,100	225	250
x Sydney	24,835	3,180	5,985
New Brunswick	17,870	20,951	16,826
Fredericton	Nil	900	Nil
x Moncton	7,365	Nil	12,000
x Saint John	10,505	20,051	4,826
Quebec	924,203	406,720	640,182
x Montreal - x Maisonneuve	763,853	297,455	491,782
x Quebec	96,397	43,630	71,760
Shawinigan Falls	3,200	5,200	3,850
x Sherbrooke	47,900	25,000	30,500
x Three Rivers	7,735	13,935	8,690
x Westmount	5,118	21,500	33,600
Ontario	1,365,680	1,088,156	3,908,006
Belleville	525	5,900	36,575
x Brantford	64,042	2,200	10,225
Chatham	13,950	8,900	11,200
x Fort William	6,150	3,000	2,475
Galt	12,731	650	40,885
x Guelph	3,400	3,000	6,775
x Hamilton	123,403	505,543	107,231
x Kingston	19,919	10,450	16,770
x Kitchener	28,182	10,380	33,038
x London	40,940	7,865	61,965
Niagara Falls	21,650	4,382	3,572
Oshawa	3,950	Nil	950
x Ottawa	101,000	109,400	768,315
Owen Sound	22,148	9,190	Nil
x Peterborough	11,641	6,600	10,295
x Port Arthur	7,928	3,740	10,170
x Stratford	3,233	100	7,530
x St. Catharines	28,360	4,250	17,252
x St. Thomas	4,200	4,350	2.750
Sarnia	10,210	9,115	6,580
Sault Ste. Marie	2,700	5,250	6,045
x Toronto	714,620	289,940	527,018
York & East York Townships	51,055	45,370	163,400
Welland	8,655	1,250	8,294
x Windsor	39,020	32,731	2,041,881
Riverside	5,500	900	3,350
Woodstock	16,568	3,700	3,465
Manitoba	58,775	62,675	37,045
x Brandon	15,450	Nil	4,100
St. Boniface	5,525	1,175	2,945
x Winnipeg	37,800	61,500	30,000
Saskatchewan	30,990	11,700	23,930
x Moose Jaw	200	4,500	4,235
x Regina	21,365	5,450	11,155
x Saskatoon	9,425	1,750	8,540
Alberta	153,531	52,036	70,922
x Calgary	30,036	14,875	32,972
x Edmonton	97,535	24,660	34,320
Lethbridge	25,960	12,501	3,630
Medicine Hat	Nil	Nil	Nil
British Columbia	820,333	647,204	1,883,598
Kamloops	12,600	4,460	4,700
Nanaimo	13,280	11,073	3,020
x New Westminster	115,675	34,950	60,670
Prince Rupert	4,070	4,075	1,425
x Vancouver	600,835	434,290	1,754,630
North Vancouver	17,335	8,225	2,110
x Victoria	56,538	150,131	57,043
Total - 58 Cities	3,556,567	2,361,957	6,667,239
Total - x 35 Cities	3,286,855	2,216,516	6,356,403