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BUILDING PERMITS FOR MARCH, 1939, WITH COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS FOR
FEBRUARY, 1939, AND MARCH, 1938, AND CUMULATIVE FIGURES FOR FIRST QUARTER,
1920-1939.

According to returns tabulated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the value of the building permits issued by 58 cities during March was \$3,351,194. This was an increase of \$1,457,033 or 76.9 p.c. over the February total of \$1,894,161, but a decrease of \$210,323 or 5.9 p.c. as compared with the aggregate of \$3,561,517 reported for March, 1938.

The building represented by the construction permits taken out in the first three months of the present year was valued at \$6,951,985; this was lower than the total of \$7,885,100 reported in the first quarter of 1938, and was also lower than the 1937 aggregate of \$10,527,992. The cumulative total for this period in each of the years since 1931 has been substantially below the average of \$17,593,858 indicated in the months, January-March in the years, 1920-1938.

Some 50 cities furnished detailed statistics for March, 1939, showing that they had granted about 300 permits for dwellings valued at more than \$1,000,000 and more than 1,400 permits for other buildings estimated to cost approximately \$2,100,000. During February, authority was given for the erection of about 200 dwellings and over 800 other buildings, estimated to cost approximately \$700,000 and \$850,000, respectively.

Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia reported increases in the value of the building authorized during March, 1939, as compared with the preceding month. The greatest gain was that of \$788,521 or 113.8 p.c. in Ontario. New Brunswick showed a decline of \$14,310 in this comparison.

As compared with March, 1938, Ontario and the three Prairie Provinces recorded increases, of which the most pronounced gain was that of \$115,045 or 8.4 p.c. in Ontario. The remaining provinces showed a falling-off in the value of the building authorized; the reduction of \$150,107 or 16.2 p.c. in Quebec was greatest.

Of the larger cities, Toronto and Winnipeg reported increases as compared with the preceding month and with March, 1938; in Montreal there was a gain over February, 1939, but a loss as compared with the same month of last year, while the building authorizations in Vancouver showed a decrease in each comparison. Of the other centres, Shawinigan Falls, Westmount, Belleville, Fort William, Kitchener, London, Port Arthur, Sault Ste. Marie, York and East York Townships, St. Boniface, Regina, Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, New Westminster, Prince Rupert and Victoria reported higher totals than in either February, 1939, or March, 1938.

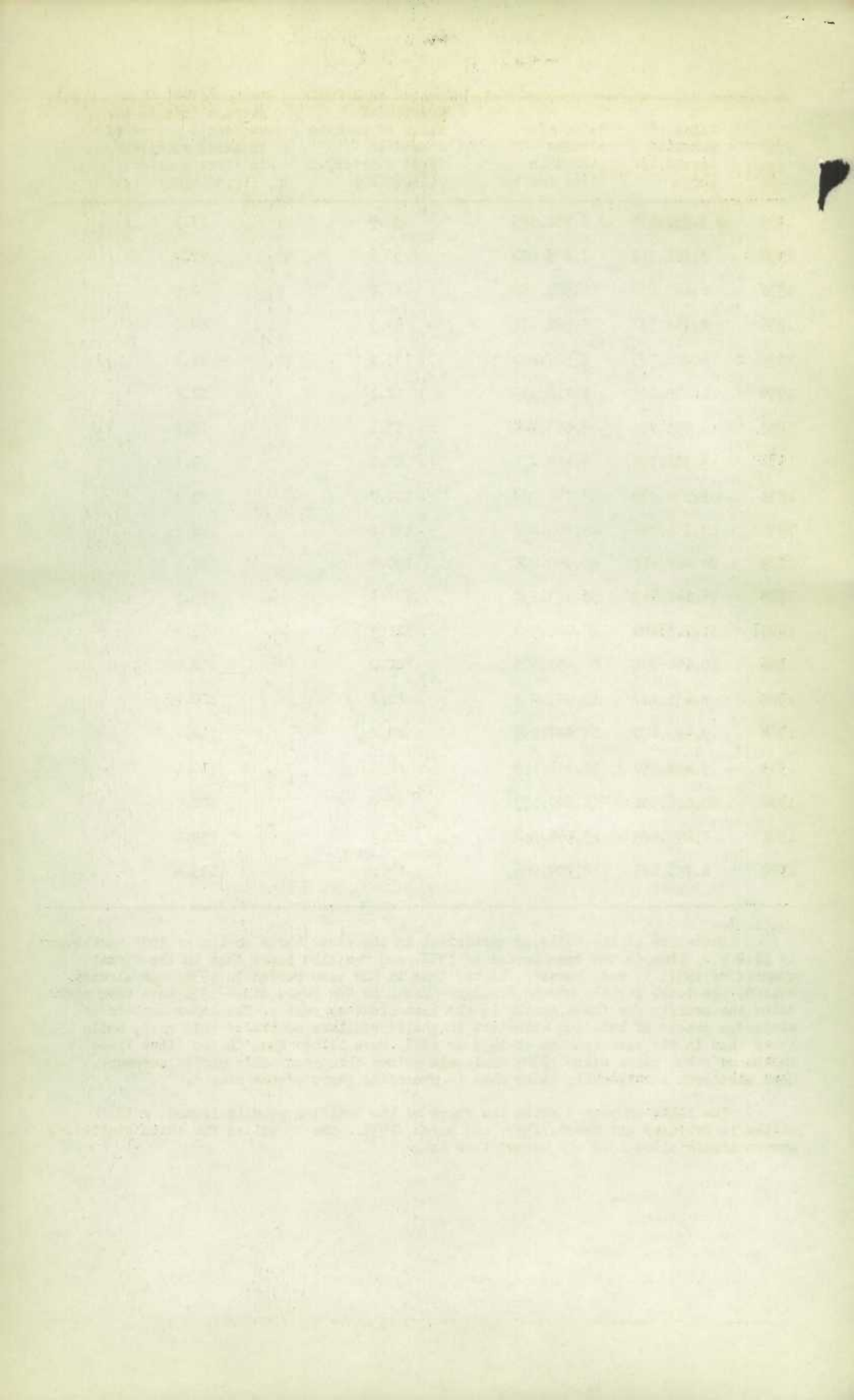
CUMULATIVE RECORD FOR FIRST QUARTER, 1939.

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)
1939	\$ 3,351,194	\$ 6,951,985	30.9	87.3
1938	3,561,517	7,885,100	34.6	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 1939 was lower by 11.8 p.c. than in the same period of 1938, and was also lower than in the first quarter of 1937; it was, however, higher than in the same period in 1936. 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 nineteen years. The index numbers of wholesale prices of building materials in the first three months of this year, while lower than in the same quarter of 1938 or 1937, were higher than in the first three months of other years since 1930; wholesale prices throughout this period, however, have also been considerably lower than in 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, 1939, and March, 1938. The 35 cities for which statistics are available since 1910 are marked thus "x".



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

Cities	March, 1939	February, 1939	March, 1938
	\$	\$	\$
P.E.I.- Charlottetown	Nil	-	1,000
Nova Scotia	83,958	51,785	184,185
x Halifax	80,670	43,935	142,250
New Glasgow	88	1,350	17,100
x Sydney	3,200	6,500	24,835
New Brunswick	9,785	24,095	17,895
Fredericton	Nil	-	-
x Moncton	4,285	6,450	7,390
x Saint John	5,500	17,645	10,505
Quebec	774,106	415,015	924,213
x Montreal - x Maisonneuve	623,905	279,180	763,853
x Quebec	70,510	60,300	96,397
Shawinigan Falls	20,875	8,025	3,200
x Sherbrooke	33,800	43,000	47,910
x Three Rivers	14,005	17,975	7,735
x Westmount	11,011	6,535	5,118
Ontario	1,481,325	692,804	1,366,280
Belleville	5,750	675	525
x Brantford	29,180	6,325	64,042
Chatham	7,700	17,800	13,950
x Fort William	32,059	22,275	6,150
Galt	12,150	3,240	12,731
x Guelph	2,155	2,895	3,400
x Hamilton	115,102	40,050	123,403
x Kingston	13,801	2,300	19,919
x Kitchener	38,687	8,025	28,182
x London	44,960	29,505	40,940
Niagara Falls	10,525	14,350	21,600
Oshawa	325	1,450	4,150
x Ottawa	55,900	40,620	101,000
Owen Sound	2,000	19,650	22,148
x Peterborough	3,225	4,875	11,641
x Port Arthur	30,563	410	7,928
x Stratford	200	4,120	3,233
x St. Catherines	9,360	7,550	28,360
x St. Thomas	1,786	12,621	4,200
Sarnia	7,592	2,450	10,210
Sault Ste. Marie	47,150	3,300	2,700
x Toronto	876,475	350,639	714,620
York & East York Townships	98,050	44,800	51,505
Welland	330	8,907	8,655
x Windsor	30,527	18,072	39,020
Riverside	3,200	24,800	5,500
Woodstock	2,573	1,100	16,568
Manitoba	92,125	42,225	55,550
x Brandon	6,300	-	15,450
St. Boniface	9,375	3,275	2,300
x Winnipeg	76,450	38,950	37,800
Saskatchewan	34,376	29,925	30,990
x Moose Jaw	270	22,000	200
x Regina	25,381	6,925	21,365
x Saskatoon	8,725	1,000	9,425
Alberta	165,219	37,197	153,491
x Calgary	37,424	16,087	29,996
x Edmonton	95,785	13,250	97,535
Lethbridge	31,860	7,860	25,960
Medicine Hat	150	Nil	-
British Columbia	710,300	601,115	827,913
Kamloops	2,745	2,500	12,600
Nanaimo	8,250	750	13,280
x New Westminster	182,450	65,750	115,675
Prince Rupert	39,640	1,575	4,070
x Vancouver	400,005	455,610	600,835
North Vancouver	6,610	9,460	17,335
x Victoria	70,600	65,470	64,118
Total - 58 Cities	3,351,194	1,894,161	3,561,517
Total -x 35 Cities	3,035,256	1,716,844	3,294,430



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