

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Thirteenth Annual Report of the  
**Purchasing Commission**

January 1st to December 31st

1955



VICTORIA, B.C.

Printed by DON McDIARMID, Printer to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty  
1956

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Annual Report of the

# Purchasing Commission

January 1, 1957

1957



STATE OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
100 NASSAU ST., NEW YORK 38, N.Y.

VICTORIA, B.C., January 16th, 1955.

*To His Honour* FRANK MACKENZIE ROSS, C.M.G., M.C.,  
*Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

Herewith I beg respectfully to submit the Annual Report of the Purchasing Commission of the Department of Finance for the period January 1st, 1955, to December 31st, 1955.

W. A. C. BENNETT,  
*Minister of Finance.*

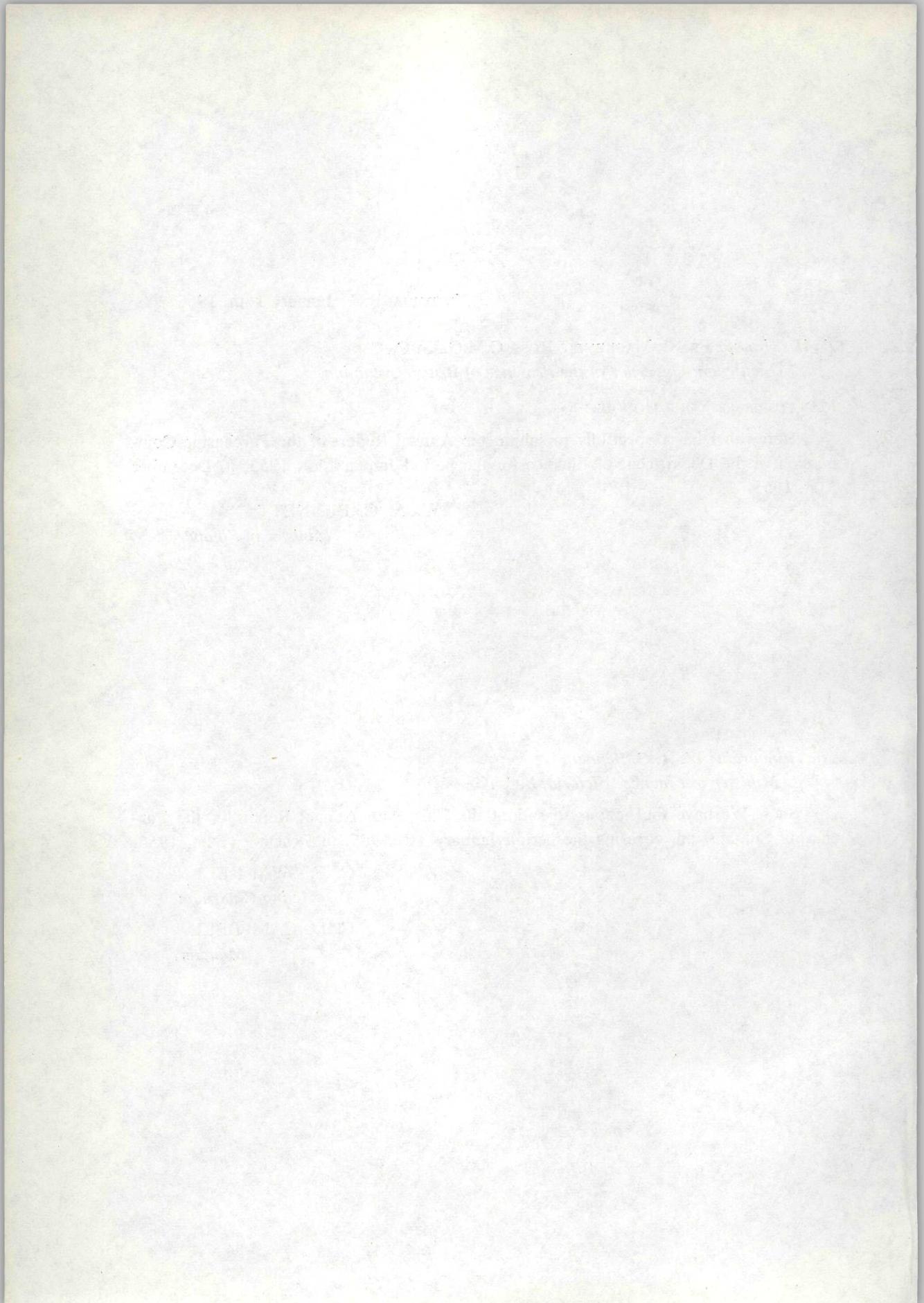
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*The Honourable W. A. C. Bennett,*  
*Minister of Finance, Victoria, B.C.*

SIR,—We have the honour to submit the Thirteenth Annual Report of the Purchasing Commission, covering the period January 1st, 1955, to December 31st, 1955.

C. F. SWANNELL,  
*Acting-Chairman.*

C. D. CAMPBELL,  
*Member.*



# Thirteenth Annual Report of the Purchasing Commission

*Year Ending December 31st, 1955*

The past year has been one of continual price increases in most commodities. At the same time, competition has steadily increased, and this, together with further extension in the use of specifications and of bulk buying, has enabled the Commission to obtain the best possible prices.

Expansion in Government activities, combined with the rising prices noted, has resulted in an increase of almost 10 per cent in the dollar volume of purchases during the nine-month period ended December 31st, 1955, as compared with the similar period in the previous year.

The conjunction of all these factors has resulted in a notable increase in the volume of work, and high praise must be extended to the employees of the Commission for the manner in which they have carried out their duties under this constant pressure.

The policy of bulk buying, with resultant savings for the Government, has been successfully maintained with respect to road equipment, trucks and cars, and has been extended, wherever possible, to other lines. This policy is linked with that of increased use of specifications, extended in the past year to car and truck chains, cutlery, soap and soap powders, brushes and paint-brushes, among others, and to standardization of equipment where feasible.

The control of stores and office furniture and equipment has been maintained through the medium of periodic visits to the major institutions. Spot inventory checks and examinations of the methods of store-keeping are being followed up, and excellent co-operation with the departments has been secured. This service has been extended to the Department of Highways garages.

The Purchasing and Stores Co-ordinator has disposed of all surplus equipment, including vehicles, tractors, worn-out road machinery, and furniture, with minor exceptions. The surplus furniture from the Hospital Insurance Service has now been completely disposed of. In addition, the Purchasing and Stores Co-ordinator, working in close conjunction with the British Columbia Toll Highways and Bridges Authority, has been responsible for the sale or other disposition of houses and buildings on the approaches to various bridges under construction.

Langford warehouse, operating on the same basis as in past years, shows an operating profit of \$6,750 in 1954-55 on total sales of \$177,000.

The Business Machine Service Division has continued to serve and maintain all typewriters, adding-machines, and other office machines at a high standard of efficiency. It has a very heavy schedule.

Our Vancouver office, in addition to the routine purchase of food, hospital and maintenance supplies for the various institutions concentrated around Vancouver, has been responsible for equipping new institutions, including the Child Guidance Clinic and day-hospital, South Burnaby.

Mr. R. H. Speck, Chairman of the Commission, died on October 11th, 1955. His death was a distinct loss to the organization in which he had served so long, and he will be missed by all who knew him, in both the business and the personal sense. Pending appointment of a new Chairman, Mr. C. F. Swannell, Deputy Comptroller-General and member of the Commission, has been made Acting-Chairman.

## STATISTICAL RECORDS

Statistical records have been maintained in the present year, as follows:—

- A. *Competitive*.—Purchases from manufacturers and wholesalers which are placed on a basis of competitive quotes on prices, including those purchases made on the basis of information obtained from unit price cards.
- B. *Restricted*.—Purchases from manufacturers or wholesalers for which unit prices are fixed, or where for some special conditions of source of supply the buyer is limited to one supplier.
- C. *Retail*.—All purchases from retail establishments, including retail emergency purchases.
- D. *Wholesale Emergency*.—Orders placed with a wholesaler or manufacturer by means of emergency purchase order.

Comparative figures for the fiscal years 1953–54, 1954–55, and the first nine months of the fiscal years 1953, 1954, and 1955 are set forth hereunder:—

## PURCHASES BY FISCAL YEARS

	1953–54		1954–55	
	Value	Per Cent	Value	Per Cent
A. Competitive.....	\$13,691,979	83.6	\$13,719,144	82.64
B. Restricted.....	1,467,181	8.8	1,547,028	9.31
C. Retail.....	529,813	3.2	516,784	3.11
D. Wholesale Emergency.....	753,451	4.4	820,773	4.94
Totals.....	\$16,442,424	100.0	\$16,603,729	100.00

Number of orders issued: 1953–54, 43,213; 1954–55, 42,374.

## PURCHASES FOR THE FIRST NINE MONTHS

	1953–54		1954–55		1955–56	
	Value	Per Cent	Value	Per Cent	Value	Per Cent
A. Competitive.....	\$9,053,705	83.9	\$9,366,353	82.6	\$10,370,994	83.12
B. Restricted.....	878,177	8.1	1,066,469	9.4	1,184,097	9.49
C. Retail.....	398,311	3.7	377,911	3.2	339,989	2.72
D. Wholesale Emergency.....	469,258	4.3	546,274	4.8	582,484	4.67
Totals.....	\$10,799,451	100.0	\$11,357,007	100.0	\$12,477,564	100.00

Number of orders issued: 1953–54, 32,261; 1954–55, 31,409; 1955–56, 32,010.

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