

PLANNING

Construction men agree that the additional costs of winter construction are negligible when the job is closed in before severe weather arrives. In fact, there are many cases where lower costs result owing to such factors as availability of labour, building materials, and equipment; easy access to the building site; uninterrupted work, and quality control.

A study of such cases shows, however, that very careful and detailed planning came first. The object of this planning is to schedule and time each phase of the job so that the least possible inconvenience is suffered due to the weather. The ideal situation results when the building is closed in before winter comes. When this is not possible then proper planning will ensure that provision has been made to overcome the problems associated with winter construction. It must be pointed out that many of these problems are no more severe than those to be found on construction jobs at other times of the year.

Planning winter building operations requires a knowledge of local weather conditions. Builders who have been building in the same area for a number of years can plan their winter operations on the basis of their own experience. Others lacking this local information can obtain it from the nearest meteorological office.

Before winter operations begin, and particularly before the first period of heavy frost or heavy snowfall, provision should be made for access roads, drainage, services, land clearing, lot layouts, and excavations. Some of these jobs can be difficult or impossible once winter has set in.

In addition, it is well to make pre-winter arrangements for water supply for construction purposes, temporary power, space and shelter for the storage of building materials, shelter for the workmen, and protection and maintenance of tools and equipment.

Roads and ditches should be put in early so that equipment and materials may be easily moved to and from the site. Side