Merchandising: Retail sales during July were 4.6% higher than a year earlier at an estimated $1,106,630,000. Dollar business of chain stores was 2.1% higher. Wholesale establishments sold 1.2% more, with auto parts and equipment wholesalers showing over 1% increase. Department store sales were up over 10% in August and in the week ending September 10 had a gain of nearly 15%. (Pages 2 & 3)

Farm Income: Cash income of Canadian farmers from the sale of farm products and from participation payments on grain crops declined to an estimated $1,030,300,000 in the first six months this year from $1,060,300,000 in the same 1954 period. Main factors in the overall decline were smaller wheat participation payments and lower returns from oats and hogs. (Page 4)

Wheat and Food Stocks: Wheat supplies about August 1 in the four major exporting countries for export and carryover were some 3% less than available a year earlier. Cold storage stocks of meat, and stocks of frozen fruit and vegetables were all larger on September 1 than a year earlier. Cherry pack this year was up sharply. (Pages 5 & 6)

Transportation: Railway carloadings in the first September week were nearly 18% greater than in 1954, cumulative loadings for the year showing an advance of 10.4%. In the first six months this year railway operating revenues rose 5.3% while operating expenses declined a slight 0.5%. (Page 7)

Labour: Income of paid workers during June touched a new high level for the month at an estimated $1,091,000,000, up 8% over June last year. The number of persons with jobs rose about 53,000 during the month ended August 20 to an estimated 5,641,000, the highest figure ever reached for the month. The expansion in employment was greater than the rise in the labour force, estimated at 34,000, and the number without jobs and seeking work thus fell about 19,000. (Pages 9 & 10)

Manufacturing: Increases were recorded in July shipments of cement, veneers and plywood and July paint sales, and in June output of leather footwear, shipments of iron castings and coke supplies, but a decrease in July rubber production. Manufacturers' inventories and shipments were moderately below a year earlier in July. (Pages 11 to 14)
Retail Sales During July
Sales of Canada's retail stores during July are estimated at $1,106,630,000, an increase of 4.6% over the sales of $1,057,772,000 in July last year and slightly above the estimated gain of 4.5% over 1954 in the first six months this year. For the seven months ending July, sales aggregated $7,045,169,000 this year as against $6,742,459,000 in 1954.

Dollar sales were higher in July than a year earlier in all regions except Saskatchewan. Largest percentage increase was 7% in Ontario, closely followed by 6.8% in British Columbia. Other gains were: Atlantic Provinces, 5.3%; Manitoba, 4.1%; Quebec, 3.4%; and Alberta, 2.2%. Saskatchewan's sales were down 5.1%.

Twelve of the specified kinds of business shown in the Bureau's report, and also the miscellaneous group, had sales increases in the month. Motor vehicle dealers had the biggest gain - as in the preceding three months - with a rise of 16.1% to $242,952,000. Sales of the furniture, appliance and radio group were up 6.6% at $38,733,000; jewellery stores, 5.6% at $8,795,000; department stores, 5.5% at $70,686,000; garages and filling stations, 3% at $57,700,000; lumber and building material dealers, 2.6% at $42,203,000. Lesser increases were recorded for grocery and combination stores (second in dollar value at $209,830,000), general, variety, men's clothing, family clothing, and drug stores. Largest decreases were 13.7% for fuel dealers, 3.8% for shoe stores and 3.2% for women's clothing stores.

Seven-month increases by regions were: Atlantic Provinces, 5.5%; Quebec, 3.5%; Ontario, 6.2%; Manitoba, 1.8%; Alberta, 3.2%; and British Columbia, 8.8%. In Saskatchewan there was a decline of 7.0%.

Chain Store Sales Slightly Higher In July & 7 Months
Chain store sales rose by 2.1% to $191,964,000 in July from $188,088,000 in the corresponding month last year and by 4.9% to $1,243,145,000 in the January-July period from $1,184,587,000 a year earlier. July 1 stocks, at cost, were valued 4% higher at $257,121,000 versus $247,137,000. Sales gains were posted for 5 of the 11 trades.

July sales were as follows by trades: grocery and combination, $81,706,000 ($78,866,000 a year ago); variety, $15,939,000 ($16,005,000); men's clothing, $1,551,000 ($1,553,000); family clothing, $2,361,000 ($2,373,000); women's clothing, $4,815,000 ($4,626,000); shoe, $3,671,000 ($3,788,000); hardware, $1,208,000 ($1,170,000); lumber and building materials, $9,248,000 ($9,379,000); furniture, radio and appliance, $6,890,000 ($6,857,000); drug, $2,761,000 ($2,811,000); and jewellery, $2,478,000 ($2,322,000).

Wholesale Sales Slightly Higher
Sales of Canadian wholesale establishments were valued 1.2% higher in July than in the corresponding month last year, according to the Bureau's monthly survey of nine trades. The general index, on the 1949 base, stood at 377.9 versus 371.2.

For the second successive month, auto parts and equipment wholesalers had the largest increase (19.1%). Five other trades had smaller increases -- drugs, 1.7%; dry goods, 4%; groceries, 0.3%; hardware, 1.2%; and tobacco and confectionery, 3.8%. Sales of clothing wholesalers were down 5.4%, footwear 10.8%, and fruits and vegetables 7.1%.
Department Store Sales Increased 14.8% in Week

Department store sales increased 14.8% during the week ending September 10 as compared with the corresponding week last year. All provinces shared in the rise, Alberta leading with a gain of 27.7%, followed by the Atlantic Provinces with 23%, Ontario 18%, Manitoba 12.8%, Saskatchewan 10.1%, Quebec 8%, and British Columbia 6.2%.

Department Store Sales Increased This August

Department store sales rose 10.1% in August over the corresponding month last year, preliminary figures show. There were sales increases in all provinces, the Atlantic Provinces leading with 14.4%, followed by Ontario with 13.9%, Alberta 11.9%, Quebec 9.9%, British Columbia 7.2%, Manitoba 6.2%, and Saskatchewan 0.6%.

Department Store Sales In July

With increases in six out of seven regions, sales of department stores rose 5.5% in July to an estimated $70,686,000 from $67,009,000. Cumulative sales for the six-month fiscal period, February to July, amounted to $493,060,000, up 5.4% from $467,578,000 for the like 1954 period.

Half of the 30 specified departments had sales increases in July and half decreases. Major appliances had the largest percentage gain in the month over a year earlier at 36.5%. Next largest increases were: sporting goods and luggage, 13.5%; furniture, 11.8%; radio and music, 11.0%; hardware and housewares, 9.8%; toiletries, cosmetics and drugs, 9.6%; stationery, books and magazines, 8.7%; and home furnishings, 7.9%. Sales of the ladies' apparel and accessories departments, taken together, were down a slight 0.9%.

Stocks held by department stores at the end of June had a selling value of $243,008,000, up 2.6% from a year earlier. (4)

Mining

Gold Production Up Slightly In 6 Months

Gold production in the first six months of this year increased to 2,215,152 fine ounces from 2,092,096 in the corresponding period last year. Over the period there were production increases from January to April but declines in both May and June, output in the latter falling to 372,731 fine ounces from 377,342.

In the half-year there were increases in Ontario, Quebec, Northwest Territories and the Yukon, but decreases in the other provinces. January-June production totals follow: Ontario, 1,241,186 fine ounces (1,156,298 a year ago); Quebec, 578,003 (522,011); Northwest Territories, 156,955 (148,544); British Columbia, 122,324 (137,062); Prairie Provinces, 106,838 (118,170); Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, 5,176 (5,386); and the Yukon, 4,670 (4,625). (5)

Shipments of Asbestos Higher

Shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines were larger in July and the first seven months of this year than last. July production amounted to 83,475 tons versus 70,383, bringing the cumulative total to 588,674 tons versus 505,206. Exports amounted to 75,007 tons in July versus 66,026 and to 542,510 tons in the seven months versus 478,869 tons. (6)
Farm Cash Income Lower In First Half of 1955

Cash income of Canadian farmers from the sale of farm products and participation payments on previous years' grain crops in the first six months this year is estimated at $1,030,800,000, down from $1,060,800,000 a year earlier, $1,186,000,000 two years earlier and the all-time high January-June total of $1,241,700,000 in 1951. Strict comparison of the 1955 data with earlier estimates are not possible because of the present non-availability of 1955 estimates of income from the sale of maple products which amounted in 1954 to $7,479,000.

Declines in cash income occurred in all provinces except Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Manitoba and ranged from less than 1% in Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia to 8% in Saskatchewan. For Canada as a whole, the most important items contributing to the decline in income were wheat participation payments, oats and hogs. Supplementary payments made under the provisions of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act to farmers in western Canada during the first half of 1955 amounted to $31,500,000 as compared with $1,100,000 and $2,200,000 for the corresponding periods of 1953 and 1954, respectively.

Farm cash income from the sale of wheat in the half-year totalled $145,500,000 as against $132,400,000 a year ago. Increased marketings more than offset lower average prices. Wheat participation payments at $25,600,000 for the January-June period were less than half of the amount paid during the corresponding period of last year. Included in these payments were the final payments on the 1953 crop. Partially offsetting the smaller 1955 wheat participation payments were interim payments on oats and barley totalling $11,100,000.

Income from the sale of oats totalled $11,700,000, sharply below last year's $21,400,000. Although prices averaged somewhat higher this year, as a result of high prices in eastern Canada and an advance in initial payments to western producers about mid-way in the six-month period, the level of marketings was only about one-half of that for the first six months of 1954. Returns from the sale of potatoes are estimated at $18,500,000 as compared with $9,600,000. Substantially higher average prices more than offset reduced marketings.

Receipts from the sale of live stock totalled $329,900,000, 8.9% below last year's six-month estimate of $362,100,000. Reduced income from the sale of hogs far more than offset increased returns from the sale of other live stock. In the case of hogs increased marketings were offset by prices well below the near-record levels reached during the first half of 1954. With respect to cattle, slight increases were recorded for both marketings and prices.

Income from dairy products for the half-year is estimated at $204,700,000, only slightly above the $202,800,000 realized during the same period a year ago. Slightly lower average egg prices so far this year more than offset increased marketings to give an income from this source of $57,100,000 as against $58,100,000.

Estimated farm cash income for the half-year period was as follows by provinces: Prince Edward Island, $14,545,000 ($11,137,000 a year earlier); Nova Scotia, $19,300,000 ($19,405,000); New Brunswick, $22,629,000 ($21,809,000); Quebec, $179,275,000 ($187,688,000); Ontario $335,579,000 ($336,976,000); Manitoba, $68,801,000 ($67,259,000); Saskatchewan, $176,624,000 ($192,039,000); Alberta, $171,464,000 ($181,644,000); and British Columbia $42,584,000 ($42,800,000). (7)
August 1 Supplies of Wheat In
4 Major Exporting Countries

Supplies of wheat remaining on or about August 1 in the four major exporting countries for export and carry-over at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 2,022,600,000 bushels, some 3% below the 2,077,800,000 bushels available a year ago, the DSS reports.

Supplies on or about August 1 this year were as follows: last year's figure being in brackets: United States, 1,298,400,000 bushels (1,269,400,000); Canada, 481,400,000 (587,700,000); Australia, 121,500,000 (120,300,000); and Argentina, 121,300,000 (103,400,000). The United States 1955 crop, estimated at 911,000,000 bushels is now included in these calculations. The supply figures for Canada represent the crop-year-end carry-over only.

Total exports of wheat and wheat flour in terms of wheat from the four major exporting countries for the period August 1954 to July 1955 (the Canadian crop year), at 757,000,000 bushels, are some 12% above the previous year's shipments of 664,200,000 bushels. Exports from the United States totalled 276,500,000 bushels (211,400,000 a year earlier); Canada, 251,800,000 (255,100,000); Argentina, 134,500,000 (110,300,000); and Australia, 94,200,000 (63,400,000). (8)

Visible Supplies of Wheat Larger

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit on September 1 totalled 373,054,000 bushels, about 4% larger than last year's 359,003,000 bushels. Overseas export clearances were slightly higher in the week at 4,498,000 bushels versus 4,460,000 a year ago. (9)

Creamery Butter Stocks Larger

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on September 15 totalled 79,102,000 pounds as compared with 69,661,000 a year earlier. Holdings were as follows by cities, last year's stocks being in brackets (in thousands): Quebec, 5,334 pounds (4,065); Montreal, 38,397 (32,486); Toronto, 9,928 (11,496); Winnipeg, 18,708 (14,528); Regina, 1,497 (1,457); Saskatoon, 797 (483); Edmonton 2,341 (2,948); Calgary, 724 (850); and Vancouver, 1,176 (1,345).

Meat Stocks Larger

Cold storage stocks of meat were larger on September 1, amounting to 57,729,000 pounds versus 55,319,000 a year ago. Holdings comprised 27,438,000 pounds of frozen meat (25,159,000 a year ago); fresh meat, 13,401,000 pounds (17,641,000); and cured meat, 11,390,000 pounds (12,619,000). Stocks of lard were 3,952,000 pounds versus 3,963,000. (10)

Fish Stocks Slightly Larger

Stocks of frozen fish were slightly larger on September 1 this year than last, amounting to 54,656,000 pounds versus 53,369,000. Cod stocks were 13,438,000 pounds (10,081,000 a year ago); haddock, 5,230,000 (4,529,000); halibut, 12,513,000 (14,772,000); salmon, 6,277,000 (6,091,000); sea herring, 1,718,000 (5,048,000); other sea fish, 9,034,000 (9,208,000); and inland fish, 5,440,000 (4,140,000). (11)

Stocks of Frozen Fruit and Vegetables Larger

Stocks of frozen fruit and vegetables were larger on September 1 this year than last, the former amounting to 23,200,000 pounds versus 22,379,000, and the latter to 39,412,000 pounds versus 37,074,000. (12)
Canned Meat Stocks Smaller

Stocks of canned meats held at manufacturers' and wholesalers' levels at the end of July amounted to 16,494,020 pounds, a decrease of 17% from last year's corresponding total of 19,810,586 pounds, according to a special statement released by the DBS.

Holdings were as follows by kinds: beef products -- ready dinners, stews, etc., 4,175,614 pounds (5,894,009 a year ago); roast beef, 389,876 (346,579); corned beef, 1,776,046 (1,647,644); other beef products, 1,401,293 (1,641,563). Pork products -- spiced pork and ham, 4,070,728 (4,050,240); roast pork and ham, 1,337,111 (1,651,160); other pork products, 1,238,176 (1,497,643). Miscellaneous -- canned fowl, 590,957 (645,148); meat paste, 888,141 (826,765); and other meats, 626,078 (619,833).

Pack Of Cherries

The commercial pack of cherries was larger this year than last, amounting to 751,109 dozen containers versus 641,632 dozen a year earlier. The net weight of contents was 10,697,098 pounds versus 8,846,776. Pack of cherries processed other than by canning was smaller at 6,911,435 pounds versus 8,881,143. Cherries used in processing weighed 16,755,947 raw pounds versus 17,534,700.

Fur Ranches To Pelt Fewer Foxes, More Mink This Year

Canadian fur farmers expect to pelt 9% fewer foxes but 13% more mink this season than in 1954-55, the DBS reports. Pelts production from ranch-raised foxes is estimated at 6,200 (6,800 in 1954-55), and from ranch-raised mink at 784,900 (696,300).

The higher mink yield for 1955-56 will result from an expected increase of 5% in standard pelts, 1% in silverblu, 20% in pastel pelts and 39% in other mutation mink. The lower fox yield anticipated this season will result from fewer of both standard silver and new-type pelts.

Expected production of standard mink pelts is placed at 269,500 (257,600 in 1954-55); silverblu 140,400 (139,300); pastel, 243,400 (204,600); and other mutations, 131,600 (94,800). Estimated production of standard silver fox pelts is placed at 3,900 (4,400 in 1954-55), and of new-type pelts at 2,300 (2,400).

ELECTRIC POWER

Production Of Electric Energy

Production of electric energy by central electric stations rose again in July, totalling 5,903,332,000 kilowatt hours versus 5,478,282,000 in the corresponding month last year. This raised January-July production to 44,151,464,000 kilowatt hours from 39,285,996,000 a year earlier.

Consumption of power climbed to 5,555,418,000 kilowatt hours in July from 5,221,695,000 and to 41,401,075,000 kilowatt hours in the seven-month period from 38,119,966,000.

Exports to the United States moved up to 360,587,000 kilowatt hours in July from 257,964,000 and to 2,783,708,000 kilowatt hours from 1,266,461,000.
Railway Car Loadings Up 17.9% In First Week Of September

Car loadings on Canadian railways in the first week of September increased 17.9% to 76,384 cars from 64,770 in the corresponding week last year, and cumulative loadings for the year to date advanced 10.4% to 2,713,424 cars from 2,458,432.

Cars of freight received from connections rose 18.9% in the week to 29,607 cars from 24,905 and 13.3% in the cumulative period to 1,109,492 cars from 979,414.

Commodities carried in greater volume in the first week of September included: iron ore, 6,308 cars (versus 1,130 in 1954); gasoline, 3,298 (2,454); sand, gravel and crushed stone, 5,961 (3,598); lumber, timber and plywood, 5,151 (3,847); and miscellaneous carload commodities, 5,352 (4,039). Shipped in fewer cars were: grain, 4,417 (5,967); and pulpwood, 3,059 (3,849). (15)

Railway Freight Traffic Up A total of 14,080,978 tons of freight moved on Canadian railways in May, an increase of 25.7% from last year's corresponding tonnage of 11,202,094. Freight loaded in Canada rose to 11,124,983 tons from 8,552,076, receipts from foreign connections destined to Canadian points to 1,513,246 tons from 1,410,989, and intransit freight to 1,442,749 tons from 1,239,029. Carried in large volume in May were: wheat, barley, iron ore and concentrates, sand and gravel, stone and rock, and lumber, timber, lath and shingles. Freight increased in all provinces except Prince Edward Island. (16)

Railway Operating Revenues And Expenses Increased In Half-Year Operating revenues of Canada's 17 larger railway systems in the first half of this year amounted to $556,123,069, up 5.3% from $527,995,357 for 16 railways in the corresponding period last year. Operating expenses fell 0.5% to $501,674,488 from $504,314,789, leaving a net of $54,448,581 versus $23,580,568. Comparison of 16 railways shows that revenues rose 4.4% in the half-year period and expenses dropped 1.5%. (17)

Revenues And Expenses Of Air Carriers Increased In March Operating revenues of Canadian air carriers in March amounted to $9,425,648, exceeding last year's corresponding total of $7,704,460 by 22.3%. At the same time operating expenses totalled $9,580,253, up 20.5% from $7,949,214. Consequently the operating loss of $154,605 was a slight improvement over the deficit of $244,754 one year ago.

A further indication of the continuing growth of the industry is reflected in the revenue accounts which all show substantial increases. Passenger fares rose to $5,399,947 from $4,848,589, mail revenues to $958,301 from $924,583 and earnings from the carriage of goods to $581,297 from $467,679. An additional $67,837 was received in excess baggage charges as compared with $54,257. Bulk transportation revenue produced an impressive $1,789,345 as compared with $996,121, an advance of 79.6%.

Operating expense items were also higher in keeping with the increased traffic and mileage. Aircraft operation and maintenance required $5,366,640, up from $4,466,172, while ground operation and maintenance charges increased to $2,437,383 from $2,071,282. Traffic expenses rose to $1,096,649 from $900,735 and general administration costs were up to $629,639 from $469,375. (18)
Freight Unloaded At Canadian Customs Ports Down In 1954

Cargoes unloaded at Canadian customs ports in the coasting trade weighed 29,913,637 tons in 1954, a decrease of 2,553,843 or 7.9% from the 1953 total of 32,467,480 tons. The total tonnage unloaded at Atlantic and Lower St. Lawrence River ports was above the previous year but unloadings at Great Lakes and Pacific ports were lower.

Increases were reported for many individual commodities such as corn, flaxseed, coal, "other" metallic ores and concentrates, gypsum, pulpwood, gasoline and petroleum. These gains were more than offset by major decreases for such commodities as wheat, barley, iron ore, oats, rye, "other" mill products, limestone, logs, lumber, woodpulp and cement.

The number of vessel arrivals in the coasting trade during 1954 totalled 84,890 with an aggregate registered net tonnage of 64,291,085 tons as compared with 88,675 vessels of 67,471,391 tons in the preceding year. Departures numbered 85,581 with a net tonnage of 60,247,848 as against 86,000 of 62,022,657 net tons in 1953. (19)

PRICES

Security Price Indexes

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Wholesale Price Indexes

| General Index          | 215.8        | 218.4       | 219.6     |
| Vegetable Products     | 197.1        | 195.8       | 193.9     |
| Animal Products        | 229.7        | 227.9       | 228.6     |
| Textile Products       | 230.8        | 226.9       | 226.0     |
| Wood Products          | 287.6        | 295.2       | 296.0     |
| Iron Products          | 211.7        | 217.5       | 226.0     |
| Non-ferrous Metals     | 167.3        | 183.0       | 188.8     |
| Non-metallic Minerals  | 175.8        | 173.7       | 173.7     |
| Chemical Products      | 176.7        | 176.4       | 176.5     |
| Combined Index, Iron and Non-ferrous Metals (excluding gold) | 216.9 | 233.0 | 240.8 |
Labour Income In June

Labour income received by paid workers in Canada during June reached a new high level for a month, amounting to an estimated $1,091,000,000. This total is $42,000,000 above the previous record figure for May this year and $82,000,000 or 8% above last year's June total.

The gain in labour income in June over May was widespread among the major industrial divisions. Construction accounted for $14,000,000 of the rise with an advance from $72,000,000 to $86,000,000. The primary industries were up $8,000,000 at an estimated $77,000,000, finance and services $7,000,000 at $265,000,000, manufacturing $6,000,000 at $346,000,000, and utilities, transportation, communication and storage also $6,000,000 at $279,000,000. Supplementary labour income rose $1,000,000 to $38,000,000.

For the first six months this year the cumulative total of labour income amounted to $6,137,000,000, an increase of $335,000,000 or nearly 6% over last year's corresponding total of $5,802,000,000. All industrial groups contributed also to this gain. Total wages and salaries in finance and services and in construction showed the largest increases, rising over 10% and 9%, respectively. The primary industries rose approximately 5%, the distributive group 4.5% and manufacturing about 3%. The half-year rise resulted from gains of about 3% in average weekly earnings and somewhat under 3% in employment.

Quarter-to-quarter gains in the estimates of labour income, adjusted to remove the pattern of average seasonal fluctuations, have continued in unbroken sequence since the second quarter last year. They amounted to approximately 1% per quarter until the second quarter this year, when the relative rise strengthened to over 3%. (20)

Employment Continued

During August employment continued to expand at a more rapid pace than the labour force and unemployment consequently again declined, according to the joint monthly statement by the Department of Labour and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

During the month ending August 20 the number of persons with jobs rose 53,000 to an estimated 5,641,000, a new high for the month and some 165,000 above the previous record set in 1953. The increase this August is in contrast with the trend in 1953 and 1954, when employment showed little change during the month. The number of persons without jobs and seeking work dropped in the survey week to an estimated 131,000 from 150,000 in July and 175,000 a year ago. At the same time the civilian labour force rose to 5,772,000 from 5,738,000 a month earlier and 5,591,000 a year ago.

Rising levels of activity in the primary industries and in the construction, automotive and related industries have been mainly responsible for the substantial employment increases during the past months. Between mid-March and mid-August, the number of persons employed in both seasonal and other industries increased by an estimated 642,000. During the same period in 1954, persons with jobs increased by some 446,000 and in 1953 by 400,000.
While shortages of labour were reported in a few cases this year, labour requirements and supplies were generally well balanced in almost 90% of the areas. The classification of the 109 local labour market areas at September 1 this year (last year's figures in brackets) was as follows; in shortage, 5 (1); in balance, 93 (68); in moderate surplus, 10 (38); in substantial surplus, 1 (2).

The number of persons at work 35 hours or more in the survey week climbed to 4,980,000 from 4,791,000 a month earlier and 4,767,000 a year ago, and the number at work less than 35 hours rose to 303,000 from 269,000 in July but was under last year's 319,000.

Of the 303,000 who worked less than 35 hours in the August survey week, 186,000 or 3.2% of the labour force were regular part-time workers, while the remaining 117,000 or 2% of the labour force included 31,000 on short-time, 21,000 who were on vacation, 19,000 who were ill, and 46,000 with other reasons. Of the 358,000 or 6.2% who had jobs but did not work during the survey week, 345,000 usually worked full-time and these included 53,000 who were ill and 270,000 on vacation.

On August 18 the number of applications for employment on file at National Employment Service offices was 197,800, a decline of 13,500 from July 21 and a drop of 57,000 from a year earlier. The decline from July resulted from reduced numbers of applications on file in the Atlantic, Quebec, Prairie and Pacific regions, which were partially offset by an increase in Ontario. There were decreases in all regions as compared with a year earlier, the largest occurring in Ontario and Quebec.

Manufacturing

Pig Iron And Steel Output Revised figures on July production of pig iron and steel show the month's output of pig iron at 266,795 tons, down from the preliminary figure of 267,089 tons issued on August 9, and steel ingot production at 355,190 tons, down from 355,688 tons.

Revised January-July totals put production of pig iron at 1,788,375 tons compared to 1,312,475 tons last year, and of steel ingots at 2,464,118 against 1,810,425 tons. Output of steel castings in July (not reported earlier) increased to 5,575 tons from 5,126 last year but for the seven months was below last year at 48,211 compared to 53,270 tons. (21)

Shipments Of Primary Shapes Shipment of primary shapes by Canadian steel mills, exclusive of producers' interchange, totalled 287,600 tons in April, one-third above last year's corresponding total of 215,836 tons. Producers interchanged 131,756 tons, an increase of 42% over the preceding year's 92,606 tons.

This year's April shipments included 33,968 tons of semi-finished shapes, 14,647 tons of structural steel, 23,050 tons of plates, 14,091 tons of rails, 11,297 tons of tie plates and track material, 34,749 tons of hot rolled bars, 18,665 tons of pipes and tubes, 31,787 tons of wire rods, 40,223 tons of black sheets, 10,466 tons of galvanized sheets, 7,361 tons of castings and 47,296 tons of other rolled products. (22)
Iron Castings  Canadian iron foundries shipped increased quantities of iron castings of all kinds in June and the first half of this year than last. Production rose to 80,273 tons in June from 63,329 and to 443,684 tons in the January-June period from 387,983. Consumption of pig iron and scrap iron and steel in the half-year increased to 537,500 tons from 470,200. (23)

Coke Supplies  Supplies of coke made available for consumption rose in the first six months of this year to 2,045,251 tons from 1,801,496 a year earlier and to 354,196 tons in June from 285,841. In the six-month period, 1,935,898 tons were produced (1,712,272 a year ago), 165,307 tons were imported (141,533), and 55,954 tons were exported (52,309). (24)

Production And Shipments of Portland Cement  Increased Both production and shipments of Portland cement were larger in July and the first seven months of this year than last. Output amounted to 2,429,538 barrels in July versus 1,978,572 and to 13,787,320 barrels in the seven months versus 13,034,795. Shipments to customers totalled 2,832,324 barrels in July versus 2,548,091 and to 13,922,268 in the cumulative period versus 13,096,143. Stocks at plants and warehouses at the end of July were 953,255 barrels versus 839,402. (25)

Paint Sales Up In Value  Sales of paints, varnishes and lacquers by major Canadian producers were valued at $10,215,903 in July versus $9,248,355 in the corresponding month last year and at $70,745,085 in the January-July period versus $65,314,832. (26)

Leather Footwear Production  Slightly Higher In 6 Months  Production of leather footwear in the first six months this year increased to 19,722,336 pairs from 19,563,922 in the corresponding period of 1954. June's production was up to 3,353,908 pairs from 3,167,597 a year earlier. There were production increases in the half-year in footwear made in sizes for men, children, and babies and infants but decreases in the other size-groups.

Half-year production totals by size groups were as follows: men's 4,237,5,557 pairs (4,069,513 a year ago); boys' 633,441 (647,039); youths', 157,577 (165,185); women's and growing girls', 9,702,500 (9,737,752); misses', 1,942,-387 (2,001,543); children's and little gents', 1,583,915 (1,563,360); and babies' and infants', 1,466,959 (1,379,50). (27)

Shipments Of Prepared Stock And Poultry Feeds In July  More primary or concentrated feeds but less secondary or complete feeds and other animal feeds were produced in July and the first seven months this year as compared with a year earlier. Shipments of primary feeds in July increased to 20,474 tons from 20,176, but secondary feeds declined to 147,981 tons from 152,761, and other feeds to 44,642 tons from 54,273. Seven-month totals were: primary, 159,494 tons (149,526); secondary, 1,050,821 tons (1,061,278); and other feeds, 297,826 tons (366,062). (28)
Production Of Carbonated Beverages Up In August

Production of carbonated beverages rose sharply in August, totalling 15,340,789 gallons, 35.5% above last year's corresponding total of 11,321,573 gallons.

This brought the January-August output to 83,584,609 gallons, 14.6% above last year's 72,930,909 gallons. (29)

Dealers' Stocks Of Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal

Dealers' stocks of non-ferrous scrap metal at the end of June were as follows, totals for the beginning of the period being in brackets: aluminum, 3,099,637 pounds (2,751,229); copper, 12,177,163 (8,245,736); magnesium, 16,237 (12,894); nickel, 400,533 (436,132); lead, 10,547,822 (10,605,369); and zinc, 4,541,017 (4,625,693). (30)

July Production And Shipments Of Veneers And Plywoods Up

Production and shipments of veneers and plywood both were larger in July and the first seven months of this year than last. Month-end factory stocks were smaller for veneers but larger for plywood.

Production of veneers rose to 72,478,000 square feet in July from 41,412,000 a year ago and to 586,619,000 square feet in the January-July period from 441,152,000. End-of-July stocks were 27,089,000 square feet versus 49,297,000.

Plywood production advanced to 73,296,000 square feet in July from 67,784,000 and to 633,949,000 square feet in the seven months from 493,517,000. Factory stocks at the end of the month were 39,212,000 square feet versus 35,362,000. (31)

Production And Shipments Of Canadian Washing Machines Up In July

Canadian factories shipped larger numbers of domestic washing machines in July and the first seven months of this year than a year ago. Month-end factory stocks were reduced. Production amounted to 16,095 units in July versus 11,570 last year and to 143,498 units in the January-July period versus 121,110. Shipments totalled 19,047 units in July versus 13,272, bringing the cumulative total to 145,068 units versus 121,559. End-of-August factory stocks were 25,147 units versus 28,886. (32)

Clay Products Sales Moves Up In May

Manufacturers' sales of products made from Canadian clays rose substantially in value in May to $3,274,743 compared to $2,658,478 in May last year, and for the five months ending May amounted to $11,108,026 against $10,463,021 for the same 1954 period.

May sales of building brick rose in quantity to 46,087,000 from 39,345,000 a year earlier and in value to $2,114,969 from $1,793,203; structural tile to 17,291 from 15,370 tons and to $333,442 from $283,301; drain tile to 4,849,000 from 3,230,000 and to $297,383 from $195,567; sewer pipe to $382,451 from $242,036; fireclay blocks and shapes to $29,461 from $28,434; and pottery to $40,679 from $34,816. Sales of other clay products, declined to $76,358 from $81,121. Five-month total values were higher for all of these items except structural tile, which was down to $1,394,589 from $1,404,261. (33)
Production, Consumption
And Stocks Of Rubber Down

Domestic production, consumption and stocks of rubber declined in July as compared with a month earlier. Domestic production of synthetic and reclaim amounted to 8,307 tons versus 8,958. Consumption of natural, synthetic and reclaim totalled 6,489 tons versus 9,107, and month-end stocks were 12,092 tons versus 12,449. (34)

Manufacturing Industries Set Another New Production Record In Year 1953

Canada's manufacturing industries in 1953 again established new records in both the value of products made and the value of products shipped. Shipments at $17,785,417,000 were 4.7% higher, while products made valued at approximately $17,894,600,000 increased 5.4% over 1952. The greater increase in production was due to an accumulation of finished products inventory by manufacturers which rose from $987,516,000 at the end of 1952 to $1,096,699,000 in 1953.

Accompanying the rise in production and shipments was an increase of 3% in the number of persons employed and an increase of 8.8% in the salaries and wages paid. The total number of employees climbed to 1,327,451 from 1,288,382 and salaries and wages to $3,957,018,000 from $3,637,620,000.

There was an increase of 6.8% in the physical volume of production, the durable goods industries reporting an increase of 9.8% and non-durables 4.1%. The electrical apparatus and supplies group had the largest increase in physical volume of production (23.8%), due mostly to the large-scale production of television sets.

The increase in physical volume of production in the non-metallic mineral products group was 15.3%; transportation equipment, 16.9%; tobacco and tobacco products, 11.3%; products of petroleum and coal and wood products, each with 9.9%; clothing (textile and fur) 8.4%; rubber products, 7.2%; leather products, 6.8%; printing, publishing and allied industries, 6.4%; non-ferrous metal products, 4.8%; chemicals and allied products, 4.4%; beverages, 4%; paper products 3.9%; and textiles (except clothing) 1.9%. The feed group declined 0.8% and iron and steel products by 0.6%.

There were 38,107 plants in operation during the year, 178 more than in the preceding year. Ontario had the greatest number, 13,114 versus 13,172, followed by Quebec with 12,132 versus 12,024, and British Columbia 4,317 versus 4,225. Alberta was next with 2,072 (2,150 in 1952), Nova Scotia, 1,540 (1,531), New Brunswick 1,094 (1,077), Saskatchewan 1,062 (1,022), Newfoundland 939 (948), Prince Edward Island, 216 (224), and the Yukon and Northwest Territories, 30 (23). (35)

Talc And Soapstone Industry

Producers of talc, soapstone and pyrophyllite shipped 28,143 short tons valued at $335,353 in 1954 compared with 27,408 valued at $285,755 in the preceding year, according to the Bureau's annual industry report. Finely-ground pyrophyllite was shipped from Newfoundland. The output from Quebec included crayons, blocks and ground soapstone. Most of the production in Ontario was high-grade milled talc. Imports of talc and soapstone in 1954 amounted to 12,392 tons valued at $397,985 and the exports were 3,609 tons worth $48,753. (36)
Manufacturers' Inventories And
Shipments Down In Value in July

Total value of manufacturers' investment in inventories decreased $6,400,000 during July to reach $3,530,000,000, according to advance figures. At the same time inventory held but not owned by reporting manufacturers (progress payments inventory) rose $1,200,000 in July to $553,000,000. Shipments values decreased 8.2% during July but rose 10.3% in the January-July period. Value of unfilled orders increased 0.6% during July but were 2% below July last year. New orders during July fell 6.7% from the preceding month but rose 18.6% from July last year.

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Indexes of Shipments (Dec. 1952=100)

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U.O. - Unfilled Orders   N.O. - New Orders