HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Labour: Labour income in May was up over April and May last year to an estimated $1,166,000,000 and in the five months ending May was nearly 10% above last year at an estimated $5,551,000,000 ... Claims for unemployment insurance benefits were down 39% from June last year. (Page 2)

Prices: Wholesale prices as a whole rose 0.5% between May and June, continuing an advance that has been uninterrupted since last November. Major increase was 3.7% in animal products; this was supported by increases between 0.1% and 0.6% for vegetable products, textiles and textile products, non-metallic minerals and chemicals. Prices of iron and its products and non-ferrous metals eased down 0.5%, wood and paper 0.4% ... Farm product prices at wholesale were 4.6% higher in June than May, animal products climbing 5.8% and field products 2.9%. (Page 3)

Merchandising: Retail cash sales, and instalment and charge account sales were each larger in the first quarter this year than last, but in proportion to the total cash sales rose, charge sales declined and instalment sales were unchanged. (Page 5)

Food and Agriculture: Estimated milk production was smaller in June and the first six months this year than last, but estimated sales of fluid milk and cream to the end of May were about 6% larger than last year.... The number of cattle and calves on farms at June 1 this year was at a record total of 10,465,000, over 2% larger than a year earlier; bigger part of the increase was in the West. (Pages 9 & 10)

Mining: Asbestos shipments were smaller by 1.6% in the first half of this year than in 1955. Coal production was 6% larger, landed imports up nearly 12%... Copper output continued to rise in May, but nickel production was down slightly in contrast to a cumulative gain. Zinc was down similarly, and the decline in lead continued, while silver output rose... (Pages 10 & 11)

Travel: New records were set last year in expenditures of visitors to Canada and of Canadians in travel to the United States and overseas. According to Bureau estimates, Canadians spent a total of $44,9,000,000 on visits to other countries, some $60,000,000 more than in 1954, while the spending of visitors to Canada increased only $23,000,000 to $328,000,000, leaving Canada in the red on this account to the amount of $121,000,000. (Pages 15 & 16)
Fewer Claims For Unemployment Insurance Benefits In June

Number of initial and renewal claims for unemployment insurance benefits received in local UIC offices in June were down 34% to 55,212 from 84,099 a month earlier and 39% below last year's June total of 90,380 claims.

Claimants registered in the "live file" at June 29 amounted to 136,032 (82,287 males and 53,745 females) compared to 188,927 (132,145 males and 56,782 females) at May 31 and 186,321 (125,793 males and 60,528 females) at June 30, 1955. New beneficiaries in June totalled 43,403 compared to 78,232 in the previous month and 64,865 last year.

Benefit payments in the month amounted to $9,930,856 in respect of 538,014 weeks compared to $19,154,627 for 1,005,401 weeks in May and $12,645,439 for 4,113,157 days a year ago.

Initial and renewal claims filed in local offices in each province in June were: Newfoundland, 1,065 (1,334 a year ago); Prince Edward Island, 216 (266); Nova Scotia, 2,433 (9,112); New Brunswick, 1,935 (2,803); Quebec 19,838 (26,950); Ontario, 19,898 (33,524); Manitoba, 1,752 (3,071); Saskatchewan, 696 (1,396); Alberta, 1,794 (3,019); and British Columbia, 5,585 (8,905). (1)

Labour Income Reached New Monthly High In May

Labour income received by Canadian paid workers rose to a new high total of $1,165,000,000 in May from $1,125,000,000 in the preceding month and $1,049,000,000 in the corresponding month last year. This brought the cumulative total for the January-May period to $5,551,000,000, 9.6% larger than last year's $5,029,000,000.

The expansion in total wages and salaries in May was distributed among all the major industrial divisions. Total for manufacturing was $377,000,000 versus $338,000,000 a year earlier; utilities, transportation, communication, storage and trade, $301,000,000 ($275,000,000 last year); finance and services, including government, $281,000,000 ($253,000,000); construction, $89,000,000 ($74,000,000); agriculture, forestry, fishing, trapping and mining, $78,000,000 ($72,000,000); and supplementary labour income, $40,000,000 ($37,000,000). (2)

Industrial Employment, Weekly Wages And Salaries At New Peaks At May 1

Canada's index of industrial employment for May 1 hit a new high for the time of year and salaries reached all-time peaks. The employment index (1949 = 100) rose to 115.2 from 113.5 a month earlier and 107.4 a year ago. The previous May 1 high was 110.9 in 1953. The payrolls index, on the same base, climbed to 172.1 up 2.2% from 168.1 a month earlier, and slightly above the previous peak of 171.4 at November 1, 1955, while average weekly wages and salaries advanced to $63.90 from $63.37 at April 1 and $60.96 a year ago.

Higher levels of employment at May 1 than at April 1 were reported in construction, transportation, storage and communication, trade, manufacturing, services, public utility operation and finance, insurance and real estate. Logging and mining were the only major divisions reporting decreased staffs. The trend in employment was upward in all provinces except Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Activity in all industries and most areas was higher than at May 1, 1955. (3)
Wholesale Prices  

Canada's general wholesale price index, on the base 1935-39, rose 0.5% from 225.3 to 226.5 between May and June, continuing an upward movement that has been uninterrupted since November last year. In June last year the index stood at 218.7 and in June 1954 at 217.6.

The largest increase between May and June occurred in animal products, the index for which moved up 3.7% to 229.5 from 221.4 for May. Large increases in steers, hogs, fresh meats, cured meats and eggs, together with lesser increases in cheese, fishery products, boots and shoes, and hides heavily outweighed decreases in raw furs, fowl, lard and tallow.

Increases were recorded for four other component indexes. Vegetable products moved up 0.6% to 199.5 from 198.4, increases in bread in several centres, potatoes, cocoa and coffee beans, canned fruits, raw rubber, canned vegetables, dried and fresh fruits being only partly offset by decreases in vegetable oils, grains, unmanufactured tobacco, livestock and poultry feeds, miscellaneous vegetable products, milled cereal foods and raw sugar. Increases in raw cotton, wool cloth, and domestic and imported raw wool overbalanced decreases in cotton yarns and miscellaneous fibre products to move the textiles and textile products index up 0.3% to 229.6. The non-metallic minerals index advanced 0.2% to 179.2 as a result of increases for coal tar, asbestos products and crushed stone, sulphur showing a small decrease. Increases in the paint materials and industrial gases sub-groups were sufficient to raise chemicals and allied products 0.1% to 181.1.

In contrast to these advances, iron and its products fell 0.5% to 235.8 from 237.0 when decreases in scrap iron and steel were only partly offset by increases in iron castings, steel sheets and machine bolts. Decreases in copper and its products, gold, silver, tin and solder moved the non-ferrous metals index down 0.5% to 206.1 from 207.2. Wood, wood products and paper fell 0.4% to 304.9 from 306.0, a drop in the exchange rate for the United States dollar in Canadian funds causing decreases in newsprint, woodpulp and cedar shingles for export. Fir and cedar lumber also showed decreases, while hardwoods, pine lath and matches showed increases.

Farm Products Prices  

Canadian farm product prices rose 4.6% from May to June, the index (on the base 1935-39) advancing from 207.7 to 217.2. Gains were greatest for animal products, this index rising 5.8% from 238.0 to 251.7, reflecting higher quotations for steers, hogs, eggs, raw wool, Western lambs and Eastern cheese milk. The field products index moved up 2.9% from 177.5 to 182.6, potatoes again rising sharply and smaller gains being recorded for Ontario wheat and hay. Moderate declines were registered for flax, rye and hay in the West and tobacco, barley, corn and rye were lower in the East.

Building Materials Prices  

Prices of building construction materials rose fractionally during June, when the non-residential index (on the base 1949 equals 100) rose slightly to 127.5 from 127.4 in May and the residential index (on the base 1935-39) remained firm at 294.1 following a rise in May from 293.4 in April. Higher prices for roofing and insulation materials and for some lumber items supported both series, while the rise in the non-residential index also reflected gains for steel and metal work items. A few groups showed scattered individual declines.
Security Price Indexes (1935-39 = 100)

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Mining Stock Price Index

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MERCHANDISING

Sales Financing At New Peak In 1955

New peaks were reached in the volume of business handled by retail sales finance companies in 1955. Balances outstanding at year's end were also at new highs.

Retail instalment financing in 1955 totalled $969,878,000, an increase of approximately 20% over 1954's $805,024,000, and more than double 1951's $467,302,000. Balances outstanding at the end of the year amounted to $783,099,000, 19% larger than the preceding year's $655,865,000.

Sales financing of consumers' goods jumped 19.8% in 1955 to $755,462,000 from $630,837,000 in the preceding year. New passenger car financing rose 30.9% from $305,087,000 to $323,060,000, used passenger cars by 7.6% to $295,237,000 from $274,294,000, and radio and television sets by 34.4% to $59,330,000 from $44,133,000. Substantial increases in the amount of financing were also recorded in appliances (29% to $58,232,000), and furniture (36.6% to $15,352,000).

Financing of commercial goods by sales finance companies amounted to $214,416,000, an increase of 23.1% over 1954's $174,187,000. Paper purchased on the sale of farm implements, tractors, factory and commercial equipment totalled $94,672,000, a rise of 51.2% from 1954's $62,600,000. Sales financing of new commercial vehicles increased to $70,875,000 from $61,301,000 in the preceding year but used commercial vehicles declined to $48,89,000 from $50,286,000.

All provinces except Saskatchewan shared in the increase in the amount of paper purchased by retail sales finance companies in 1955 as compared with the preceding year. Total for the Atlantic Provinces rose to $85,622,000 from $87,351,000 in 1954, Quebec to $225,048,000 from $185,491,000, Ontario to $404,790,000 from $332,360,000, Manitoba to $33,620,000 from $31,608,000, Alberta to $99,302,000 from $84,952,000, and British Columbia and the Yukon and Northwest Territories to $89,222,000 from $67,497,000. For Saskatchewan the total declined to $32,274,000 from $35,765,000.

Balances outstanding at year's end were up in the Atlantic Provinces to $68,236,000 from $54,183,000, in Quebec to $187,425,000 from $148,072,000, in Ontario to $317,342,000 from $261,943,000, in Manitoba to $26,997,000 from $26,706,000, in Alberta to $83,066,000 from $76,699,000, and in British Columbia and the Yukon and Northwest Territories to $68,278,000 from $54,917,000. Total for Saskatchewan was down to $29,755,000 from $33,345,000. (5)
Department Store Sales Larger

Department store sales increased 16.4% in the week ending July 21 over last year's corresponding week. All provinces except Quebec reported increased sales, led by Manitoba with a sharp jump of 67.9%, Alberta next with 19.8%, followed by Ontario, 17.3%, British Columbia, 14%, Saskatchewan, 8.7% and the Atlantic Provinces, 2.5%. Sales in Quebec were down 2.4%.

Retail Cash, Instalment And Charge Sales Higher In First Quarter Of 1956

Retail cash, instalment and charge sales were higher in the first quarter of this year than last, according to the Bureau's quarterly report on retail credit. Customers' accounts receivable at the end of March were also larger this year than last.

Cash sales advanced to $1,809,900,000 in this year's first quarter from $1,651,100,000 a year earlier, instalment sales to $325,200,000 from $296,400,000, and charge sales to $654,300,000 from $607,000,000. Instalment accounts receivable totalled $362,400,000 at March 31 versus $308,200,000 and charge receivables amounted to $480,000,000 versus $436,000,000.

Cash sales in the quarter accounted for 64.9% of total sales, up slightly from 64.6% a year ago, and charge sales declined to 23.5% from 23.8%, but instalment sales were unchanged at 11.6%. Charge account receivables fell to 57% of the total from 58.6% but instalment receivables rose to 43% from 41.4%.

Gains in cash sales were recorded by all trades in this year's first quarter over last year's: department stores, $152.4 million ($138.0 million a year ago); motor vehicle dealers, $153.2 ($144.6); men's clothing stores, $32.2 ($30.2); family clothing stores, $26.4 ($23.9); women's clothing stores, $36.2 ($32.4); hardware stores, $25.6 ($24.4); furniture, appliance and radio stores, $39.1 ($37.5); jewellery stores, $13.9 ($13.3); independent grocery and combination stores, $266.7 ($245.0); general stores, $75.1 ($70.1); fuel dealers, $23.8 ($20.3); and garages and filling stations, $97.3 ($91.3).

Instalment sales increased in all trades except men's clothing stores. Those of department stores rose to $40.1 million from $35.4 million; motor vehicle dealers, $185.0 ($169.5); family clothing stores, $2.9 ($2.5); women's clothing stores, $1.3 ($1.2); hardware stores, $1.8 ($1.5); furniture, appliance and radio stores, $60.5 ($53.8); and jewellery stores, $4.6 ($4.0). Men's clothing store instalment sales declined to $1.2 from $1.3.

Charge sales increased in all trades: department stores, $50.2 million ($45.2 million last year); motor vehicle dealers, $123.9 ($116.2); men's clothing stores, $11.0 ($9.3); family clothing stores, $9.0 ($7.5); women's clothing stores, $11.4 ($10.1); hardware stores, $16.7 ($14.5); furniture, appliance and radio stores, $24.6 ($23.1); and jewellery stores, $4.3 ($3.9).

Credit sales in independent grocery and combination stores declined to $78.1 million from $82.5 million, but increased in general stores to $36.0 million from $34.0 million, fuel dealers to $75.8 million from $68.3 million and garages and filling stations to $42.4 million from $38.3 million. (6)
Canada's foreign trade set several new records in 1955, according to the Bureau's Review of Foreign Trade for the calendar year. Exports reached a value of $4,351,300,000, and were only 9.1% below the record level of 1952. Imports stood at $4,712,400,000, and exceeded by 7.5% the previous peak in 1953. The import balance of $361,100,000 amounted to under 8% of imports and to 4% of total trade.

Both exports and imports were substantially higher in value than in 1954, exports by 10% and imports by 15%. These gains resulted predominantly from a larger volume of trade rather than from an advance in the average price level, and new peaks were achieved for exports and imports in constant dollar terms.

External and internal stimuli contributed to the rise of Canadian foreign trade from 1954 levels. The sharp recovery of business activity in the United States and the continued prosperity in the United Kingdom, most other Commonwealth countries and in Western Europe were the source of strong demand for Canadian products. The upswing in exports was in turn a contributory factor in the upward impetus of the Canadian economy which characterized the year 1955. The demands of industrial expansion, especially in connection with resource development projects, and those generated by the generally high levels of employment and incomes resulted in a steadily rising rate of purchases from abroad. Approximately two-thirds of the increase in imports over 1954 was in machinery, plant and transport equipment and raw materials for Canadian industry.

The record level of Canada's foreign trade in 1955 was achieved in the context of a new peak in world trade, of which Canada accounted for about 6%. Canada remained the world's fourth leading trading nation and was only surpassed in this respect by the United States, the United Kingdom and Germany which had by 1954 regained her traditional prewar position. Also, the value of Canada's per capita trade was again second only to that of New Zealand.

The United States was as usual Canada's leading trading partner in 1955, with a 60% share of the Canadian export total and a 73% share of total Canadian imports. Both Canadian exports to and imports from the United States reached record levels, the latter increasing considerably more than the former. The largest export gains were in forest products and minerals, particularly in iron ore, planks and boards, petroleum, woodpulp, newsprint, nickel and copper, but there were also marked advances in farm implements and certain primary and semi-finished steel items. The increase in imports was widely spread over the entire range of purchases from the United States, with particular concentration on machinery and equipment.

The United Kingdom was again Canada's second most important trading partner with an almost 18% share of the Canadian export total and 8.5% of total Canadian imports. Unlike in the case of the United States, however, exports to the United Kingdom increased considerably more than imports from that country. Canadian grains, non-ferrous metals and forest products enjoyed a strong demand in the United Kingdom in 1955, particularly large value gains being registered in wheat and aluminum. But most of Canada's principal imports from the United Kingdom showed only moderate increases, and there was a marked decline in shipments of machinery and most other steel products.
There was an increase also in total trade with each of the other principal trading areas, namely the Commonwealth (except the United Kingdom), Europe, Latin America, and all the remaining countries taken together. Imports from each of these areas rose, the largest individual value gains being made by Venezuela, Japan, Mexico, Western Germany, the Netherlands Antilles and Malaya. Exports to the Commonwealth and to Europe went up markedly, especially to the Union of South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, India and to France and the Netherlands. But a very sharp drop in exports to Brazil, only partly offset by considerably larger sales to Mexico and by moderate increases to some other countries in the area, produced a decline in total Canadian exports to Latin America. Sales were lower also to Turkey, Israel and Japan, resulting in a decrease in total exports to all remaining countries.

Canadian exports in 1955 showed a growth in a widening range of industrial materials which more than offset declines in shipments of grains and of some manufactured goods. Forest products, non-ferrous metals, non-metallic minerals and chemicals registered record values and the iron and its products group was close to its previous peak in 1952. Newsprint paper remained Canada's largest export commodity, showing uninterrupted annual value gains during the entire postwar period when it was also the leading export in all years but 1949 and 1952. Planks and boards, which in 1955 ranked second among the leading exports for the first time in recent years, had the largest value increase. Sales of all the principal minerals, and the prices of most of them, went up very substantially; the most spectacular upswing took place in crude petroleum (475%) and iron ore (150%). There was also a marked increase in exports of primary and semi-finished steel and a noteworthy recovery in shipments of passenger and freight automobiles and parts.

The overall increase in the value of imports in 1955 reflected the general expansion in the Canadian economy as evidenced by greater consumer spending and a rising level of industrial activity in general and capital investment in particular. All the main commodity groups shared in the rise, but especially iron and its products which accounted for close to one-half of the total import increase. Non-farm machinery remained the leading import in 1955 and, together with automobile parts which returned to second rank, registered the largest individual value increase of all import commodities. Rolling-mill products, tractors, passenger and freight automobiles, and internal combustion engines also showed very substantial gains, as did several other commodities in the iron and its products group; indeed all the major import items in the group, except pipes and railway cars, registered an increase over 1954. Aircraft and parts, electrical apparatus, crude petroleum and rubber were the other leading imports which showed marked value gains.

In addition to a discussion of Canada's trade with principal countries and trading areas and of the main commodity changes, the Review of Foreign Trade contains an outline of the domestic and international economic background in 1955. A special statistical note reviews Canada's imports from Central and South America during 1953-1955. A separate chapter is devoted to the structure of Canada's trade, including an outline of the changes in its composition during 1926-1955, in terms of the main export and import commodity groups and leading commodities.
Pack Of Spring Spinach  

Less spring spinach was canned in 1956 than in 1954, according to a special statement released by DBS.

Number of containers declined to 90,444 dozen compared to 123,879 in 1954 and the net weight fell to 1,065,346 pounds from 1954's total of 1,458,839 pounds. (Figures for 1955 were not published due to the small number of packers).

Crop Conditions Across Canada  

Crop prospects are generally favourable throughout the Prairie Provinces reflecting the continuation of excellent growing conditions, states the Bureau's telegraphic crop report released August 1. In Manitoba and Alberta moisture supplies are sufficient to mature the crops but in Saskatchewan some areas now need rain to maintain prospects, although most have good supplies. Fall rye harvesting has commenced and some early-sown spring crops are being swathed. Apart from hail, which has been extensive, little damage has occurred to grain crops to date. Haying has been delayed by wet weather and considerable spoilage of the crop has occurred.

Harvesting of winter wheat is becoming general in western Ontario and average to good yields are reported. Spring grains are progressing well in most areas, although in eastern Ontario many fields are still behind normal. Throughout Ontario stands of corn are variable and range from poor to good. Growth in eastern Ontario is behind normal and most areas report some damage from excess moisture. The first cutting of hay is nearly completed but the showery weather has caused some spoilage. Pastures throughout the province are excellent.

Below normal temperatures and frequent rains have prevailed in Quebec for several weeks and, as a result, haying operations have proceeded very slowly with large quantities yet to be stored. Yields are excellent, but quality has been reduced because of the adverse weather conditions. Grain crops are also suffering from lack of warm weather and excess moisture, and fodder corn is growing very slowly. The potato crop is progressing favourably, although there is some danger of mildew. Pastures and aftermath are excellent and milk production is being maintained at a high level.

In the Maritime Provinces, wet humid weather during the past two weeks in Prince Edward Island has delayed haying but grains, potatoes, root crops and pastures are generally showing good growth. In Nova Scotia the weather has been cool and an excellent hay crop is being harvested. Grain crops are heading but the straw is very short in the Truro area. Potatoes and hoed crops are up to normal but rain is needed in the Amherst area. All tree fruits are developing satisfactorily. In New Brunswick poor weather conditions have held up haying. Grain is growing well but much of the crop will be late in maturing. Early-planted potatoes indicate a good crop but late plantings are less promising. The strawberry harvest is completed and raspberries indicate a good yield. Blueberries appear average and prospects for apples are only fair. Root crops and gardens are making good growth.

The weather has been mostly hot and dry in British Columbia during the last two weeks and growing conditions have been generally good for all crops. Oats are heading rapidly in the Lower Fraser Valley and on Vancouver Island. The second crop of early potatoes is now being dug and harvesting of canning-peas is continuing with good yields reported. In the northern Okanagan second-cut alfalfa is being taken in. Field tomatoes are moving in volume and the crop is one of the best in years. In the southern Okanagan the apricot crop has now passed its peak and a few early peaches have been harvested.
Overseas Exports Of Canadian wheat moved upward again in the week ended July 18, rising 12.8% to 6,433,000 bushels from 5,701,000 last year. Exports in the August 1 - July 18 period advanced 26.6% to 254,802,000 bushels from 201,271,000 in the previous crop year's corresponding period. Prairie farmers marketed 11,909,000 bushels of wheat in the week, slightly above the preceding week's total of 10,567,000, but slightly below last year's total of 12,436,000 bushels. Visible supplies of Canadian wheat in all North American positions at July 18 amounted to 341,256,000 bushels compared to 337,627,000 a week earlier and 360,740,000 a year ago. (9)

Egg Production Up In June And Six Months Production of eggs increased 8.2% in June to an estimated 30,328,000 dozen from 27,832,000 dozen a year ago, raising January-June output 0.4% to 206,826,000 dozen from 205,954,000 dozen in last year's corresponding period. (10)

Milk Production Down In June Production of milk in June has been estimated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at 2,050,000,000 pounds, a reduction of approximately 1% as compared with the same month of 1955. May output of milk was estimated at 1,658,824,000 pounds, down nearly 6.5% from last year. In the five-month period ended May, 6,098,841,000 pounds of milk were produced, compared to 6,008,079,000 pounds in last year's corresponding period.

Farm cash income from the sale of dairy products was estimated at $40,834,000 in May compared to $42,286,000 last year. Combining all products on a milk basis, the average for May was $2.81 per hundred pounds of milk as compared with $2.71. The prices of creamery butter fat were practically unchanged, cheese milk advanced from $2.00 to $2.22 per hundred, manufacturing milk from $2.42 to $2.51 per hundred, but fluid fell to $4.26 from $4.30 per hundred.

Domestic disappearance of butter in May is estimated at 27.5 million pounds, about one million pounds less than that of May 1955, and the average per capita was 1.74 pounds versus 1.83 a year ago. Disappearance of cheddar cheese in May was 6,205,000 pounds, reduced by almost one million pounds from the same month a year ago. However, greater quantities of evaporated milk were absorbed into consumption channels, the domestic disappearance being 25,405,000 pounds compared to 24,347,000 pounds in the same month last year. (11)

Fluid Milk Sales Up In May & Five Months Sales of fluid milk and cream, the latter expressed in terms of milk, increased 7% in May and 6% in the January-May period as compared with a year earlier. Sales in May amounted to 469,746,000 pounds, bringing five-month sales to 2,324,305,000 pounds. Except for a small decline in Prince Edward Island in the five months, sales gains were posted for all provinces both in May and the January-May period.

May sales were as follows by provinces, percentage increases over a year earlier being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 2,243,000 pounds (2%); Nova Scotia, 16,181,000 (7%); New Brunswick, 12,909,000 (7%); Quebec, 178,556,000 (7%) Ontario, 155,957,000 (6%); Manitoba, 20,717,000 (5%); Saskatchewan, 22,220,000 (7%); Alberta, 25,246,000 (8%); and British Columbia, 35,717,000 (11%). (12)
High Record Number Of Cattle And Calves On Farms On June 1

Number of cattle and calves on Canadian farms reached an all-time high total of 10,465,000 on June 1 this year, an increase of 2.2% from the previous top figure of 10,239,000 for 1955. The number of horses continued to decline, falling to an estimated 851,500 head versus 901,400 in 1955 and to less than one-quarter 1921's record total of 3,452,000 head. There was little change in the number of sheep and lambs, which were estimated at 1,706,000 head versus 1,722,700.

Only Nova Scotia and New Brunswick indicated any decline in cattle numbers as compared with June last year. Net increases amounted to 1% in Eastern Canada (5,718,000 versus 5,656,000 in 1955), and 3.5% in the West (4,747,000 versus 4,583,000).

Number of cows kept for milking purposes increased to 3,348,000 head from 3,312,300 a year earlier and the number kept for beef to 1,588,000 from 1,547,000. Yearling heifers kept for milk were fewer in number at 855,100 versus 886,500 but those intended for beef increased to 699,600 from 672,200. Steers increased to 1,086,800 from 982,100, calves to 2,652,000 from 2,607,000, and bulls to 235,500 from 231,900.

The decline in the number of horses was common to all provinces. In Prince Edward Island there were 15,700 (16,000 in 1955); Nova Scotia, 18,800 (19,400); New Brunswick, 22,000 (23,000); Quebec, 190,000 (195,000); Ontario, 142,000 (155,000); Manitoba, 78,000 (82,000); Saskatchewan, 195,000 (206,000); Alberta, 162,000 (176,000); and British Columbia, 28,000 (29,000). (13)

Oils & Fats Production

Production of oils and fats, except margarine and grease, increased in the first six months of this year as compared with a year earlier. Output of shortening rose in the six months to 77,150,000 pounds from 75,145,000 a year ago, refined oils to 20,575,000 pounds from 17,672,000, lard to 57,264,000 pounds from 52,302,000, tallow to 77,836,000 pounds from 66,401,000, and other oils and fats to 5,647,000 pounds from 5,204,000. Margarine production declined to 63,780,000 pounds from 64,429,000 and grease to 4,083,000 pounds from 4,950,000.

June production totals were (in thousand pounds): margarine (including spreads), 8,706 (8,708 a year ago); shortening (package and bulk), 12,685 (12,570); refined oils (coconut, salad and cooking), 4,000 (3,458); lard, 8,630 (8,207); tallow (edible and inedible), 13,237 (11,692); grease (white and other), 647 (810); and "other" (includes oleo oil, oleo stearin, oleo stock, neatsfoot and other oils), 877 (814). (14)

Mining

Asbestos Shipments Down

Shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines decreased 12.7% in June to 79,773 tons compared to 91,394 tons a year ago and 1.6% in the six months to 484,807 tons as against 492,527 in last year's corresponding period. Exports of asbestos rose 3.9% in May to 106,154 tons from 102,143 a year earlier, raising January-May exports 0.5% to 373,369 tons from 371,516 in the preceding year's five months. (15)
Production And Landed Imports Of Coal Increased In Half-Year

Both production and landed imports of coal increased in the first half of this year as compared with a year earlier. Landed imports rose in June but production fell. In the six-month period production rose 6.1% to 7,471,393 tons from 7,042,506 a year earlier and landed imports 11.9% to 9,251,919 tons from 8,266,189. June's landed imports increased 9.7% to 2,546,062 tons from 2,319,840 a year ago but production fell 4.9% to 894,000 tons from 940,505.

Half-year production totals were as follows by provinces: Nova Scotia, 3,111,636 tons (2,984,047 a year earlier); New Brunswick, 446,625 (403,807); Saskatchewan, 1,074,394 (1,039,010); Alberta, 2,076,043 (1,924,884); and British Columbia and Yukon, 762,795 (690,758). (16)

Copper Output Up, Nickel Down In May

Production of primary copper increased 14.4% to 29,420 tons in May from 25,718 a year ago, boosting January-May output 12.8% to 145,813 tons from 129,236 in the corresponding period last year. On the other hand, nickel production decreased 1% in the month to 15,203 tons from 15,352, but increased in the five months to 75,120 tons from last year's corresponding total of 73,669 tons. (17)

Lead & Zinc Production Down, Silver Up In May

Production of silver in May rose to 2,492,339 fine ounces from 2,235,620 a year earlier, while output of lead fell to 15,446 tons from 16,808 and zinc to 35,041 tons from 37,368. January-May totals were: silver, 10,987,096 fine ounces (11,096,390 a year ago); lead, 74,221 tons (87,787); and zinc, 178,991 tons (177,317). (18)

Production Of Leading Minerals

Production of 11 of Canada's 16 leading minerals increased in April as compared with a year earlier. In the January-April period increases were recorded for 12 of the 16. Increases were particularly large in both periods for cement, clay products, gypsum, iron ore, natural gas and crude petroleum. Declines were posted both in April and the four months for lead, lime and silver.

April totals for the 16 minerals were as follows: asbestos, 99,558 tons (98,658 a year earlier); cement, 2,449,058 barrels (1,777,864); clay products, $2,683,911 ($2,201,758); coal, 1,084,796 tons (946,447); copper, 27,804 tons (25,202); gold, 368,490 fine ounces (369,965); gypsum, 422,619 tons (279,930); iron ore, 461,176 tons (199,478); lead, 11,573 tons (17,889); lime, 69,414 tons (108,230); natural gas, 13,190,384 M cubic feet (11,113,950 M); nickel, 14,431 tons (15,011); petroleum, 11,877,634 barrels (7,629,713); salt, 95,144 tons (76,137); silver, 1,823,211 fine ounces (2,304,287); and zinc, 34,790 tons (34,719). (19)

MANUFACTURING

Production And Shipments Of Gypsum Products Up In Half-Year

Both production and shipments of gypsum products increased in the first six months of this year over last. Gypsum wallboard, lath, sheathing, block and tile production increased 15% in the January-June period to 349,453,265 square feet from 303,859,933 a year ago and gypsum plasters 3.9% to 138,214 tons from 133,082 a year earlier. Shipments of gypsum wallboard, lath, sheathing, block and tile rose 10.9% in the six months to 335,582,229 square feet from 302,595,235 a year ago and those of gypsum plasters 4.3% to 139,094 tons from 133,333 in last year's corresponding period. (20)
Production And Shipments Of Veneer And Plywood

Larger quantities of plywood were produced and shipped in May and the first five months of this year than last. Both production and shipments of veneers fell in May but rose in the five-month period. Month-end stocks were larger for veneer but smaller for plywood.

January-May output of plywood amounted to 545,931,000 board feet (456,687,000) and shipments totalled 538,679,000 board feet (446,477,000). The five-month output of veneer amounted to 440,830,000 board feet (421,855,000) and shipments totalled 425,749,000 board feet (420,733,000). Month-end stocks of plywood were 44,343,000 board feet (57,815,000) and of veneer, 37,414,000 board feet (219,048,000). (21)

Sales Of Domestic Clay Products

Canadian producers' sales of products made from domestic clays increased in April and in January-April over last year. Sales rose nearly 23% in value in the January-April period to $9,612,000 from $7,833,000 in the corresponding period last year and increased 22% in April to $2,684,000 from $2,202,000 a year ago. April sales were as follows: building brick, $1,711,000 ($1,277,000 a year earlier); structural tile, $266,000 ($267,000); drain tile $184,000 ($200,000); sewer pipe, $321,000 ($331,000); fire-clay blocks and shapes, $39,000 ($19,000); pottery, $32,000 ($41,000); and other clay products, $131,000 ($67,000). (22)

Leather Footwear Production

Canadian manufacturers produced 3,709,662 pairs of leather footwear in April, up 11.7% from last year's April total of 3,319,929 and January-April output climbed 14.5% to 14,880,812 pairs from 12,995,556 in the corresponding period a year ago.

Production of leather footwear increased for all groups except youths' in the January-April period with men's rising to 3,449,320 pairs from 2,762,272 a year earlier, boys' to 512,186 from 421,624, women's and growing girls' to 7,202,181 from 6,459,099, misses' to 1,501,760 from 1,271,180, children's and little gents' to 1,070,281 from 1,039,664, and babies' and infants' to 1,047,143 from 937,373. Output of youths' footwear declined to 97,941 pairs from 104,364. (23)

Iron Castings Industry

Shipments from factories engaged mainly in making iron castings or iron and steel pipe and tubing declined in value in 1954 to $139,905,000, down 11.2% from $157,465,000 a year earlier and 18.1% below 1952's peak of $170,969,000, according to the Bureau's annual report on the iron castings industry. Number of establishments rose by 1 to 202, but employees fell to 13,748 from 15,346, salaries and wages to $47,535,000 from $52,986,000 and cost of materials to $61,661,000 from $69,150,000.

Value of shipments of the products in 1954 were (1953 totals in brackets): commercial castings, $30,644,000 ($40,545,000); iron and steel pipe, tubing and fittings, $70,539,000 ($74,570,000); pipe fittings (except iron and steel) and other plumbers' goods (except valves), $3,157,000 ($3,197,000); heating and cooking apparatus, $2,032,000 ($3,523,000); machinery and parts, $1,204,000 ($1,919,000); valves, including radiator valves and traps, $6,155,000 ($5,695,000); all other products, $25,228,000 ($25,171,000). Receipts from custom work and repairs amounted to $946,000 versus $2,845,000. (24)
Record Sales In 1955
By Brewing Industry
Total selling value of factory shipments by Canadian breweries in 1955 reached a new high figure of $334,868,143, up about 4% from $321,467,470 in the preceding year and slightly more than 2% above the previous peak of $327,981,578 in 1953.

Taxes and duties paid on materials and products by the breweries last year amounted to $124,29,290 - equivalent to slightly more than 37% of the total selling value of shipments - compared to $123,077,300 in 1954. Selling value less taxes thus stood at $210,572,853 to $198,390,169 in 1954 and also exceeding the previous peak of $200,885,656 in 1953.

Shipments of beer, ale, stout and porter increased in quantity in 1955 to 211,102,000 gallons from 200,459,300 gallons in 1954 and accounted for $331,117,100 of the total selling value as against $317,725,745. Increases were recorded in quantity and value both for bottled and canned and for draught shipments. Sales of carbonated beverages were up slightly over 1954 in quantity, the value of shipments rising to $1,568,800 from $1,519,200. Sales of wet grains and yeast also increased in value while those of dried grains were down. There was a drop in the number of establishments in operation in 1955 to 58 from 62 in 1954 and in the number of employees to 8,368 from 8,541, but salary and wage payments increased to $34,388,000 from $33,423,000 and the cost of materials to $48,678,000 from $47,590,000.

Awning, Tent & Sail Industry
Factory shipments of the awning, tent and sail manufacturing industry in 1954 increased 1.2% in value to $12,545,000 from the previous record value of $12,392,000 in 1953, due mainly to the increase in value of shipments of tents. Number of establishments increased to 128 from 116 a year earlier, salaries and wages advanced to $3,480,000 from $3,323,000 and fuel and electricity costs to $127,000 from $100,000, but the number of employees was down slightly to 1,574 from 1,579 and cost of materials fell to $6,676,000 from $6,950,000.

Value of shipments of some of the principal products in 1954 were (1953 corresponding totals in brackets): awnings - all kinds - $1,958,000 ($1,976,000); sails - all kinds - $89,000 ($87,000); tents, $1,694,000 ($1,161,000); covers - radiator, boat, tarpaulin and other - $3,028,000 ($3,230,000); sleeping bags, $566,000 ($40,000); life buoys and jackets, $135,000 ($123,000); window blinds, $121,000 ($138,000); venetian blinds, $143,000 ($141,000); and value of custom work and repairs, $781,000 ($686,000). (25)

Miscellaneous Clothing Industry
Factory shipments in the miscellaneous clothing industry declined 9% in value in 1954 to $10,189,000 from 1953's peak total of $11,147,000. Establishments increased in number to 68 from 67 in 1953, but employees fell to 1,365 from 1,508, salaries and wages to $2,818,000 from $2,942,000 and cost of materials to $5,469,000 from $6,272,000.

Value of the principal products in 1954 were: armlets and sleeve supporters, $45,000 ($20,000 in 1953); belts, $1,485,000 ($1,249,000); garters and hose supporters, $283,000 ($243,000); suspenders, $787,000 ($843,000); safety clothing, $309,000 ($463,000); tailors' canvas fronts, $2,932,000 ($3,421,000); shoulder pads, $1,677,000 ($1,515,000); tailors' pads and other supplies, $319,000 ($650,000); and all other products, $2,216,000 ($2,416,000). Contract work, custom work and repairs amounted to $135,000 compared to $328,000. (27)
Oilcloth, Linoleum And Coated Fabrics Industry

Value of factory shipments in the oilcloth, linoleum and coated fabrics industry increased to a record high $31,249,000 in 1954, up 1.4% from the previous peak of $30,833,000 in 1953, according to the Bureau's annual review of the industry. Number of establishments rose to 17 in 1954 from 15 a year earlier and salary and wage payments to $8,016,000 from $7,470,000. Number of employees fell slightly to 2,215 from 2,236 and cost of materials to $14,562,000 from $15,220,000.

Linoleum and felt-based floor coverings, pyroxylin and synthetic resin-coated fabrics, window blinds, table oilcloth and saturated felt were the leading products of the industry, but no breakdown of the value of these products can be given. However, shipments of linoleum and felt-based floor coverings were slightly larger than a year earlier, table oilcloth lower and window and slatted blinds virtually unchanged. (28)

Petroleum Products Industry In 1954

Mainly due to substantial increases in motor gasoline, aviation turbine fuel, stove oil, diesel fuel, furnace fuel oil and heavy fuel oil, the value of shipments by Canada's petroleum products industry in 1954 climbed 30.8% to a new high record value of $909,253,000 from $694,989,000 in the preceding year.

Output of petroleum refineries climbed to $890,997,000 from $679,961,000 in 1953. Shipments for concerns engaged in blending oils and grease rose to $12,697,000 from $10,391,000 and for absorption plants to $5,559,000 from $4,637,000. Forty petroleum refineries were in operation in 1954, three more than in 1953, and their daily rated capacity was 561,450 barrels of crude versus 509,300.

During the year 2,722,901,936 gallons of imported crude oil and 3,263,312,419 gallons of crude oil and absorption gasoline from Canadian wells, or a total of 5,986,214,355 gallons, was put through Canadian refineries, amounting to about 84% of the rated year-end capacity. Of the total crude input about 5.1% was imported from the United States and nearly 40.4% from other countries, while about 54.5% came from Canadian wells.

Major products made for sale in petroleum refineries in 1954 were: aviation gasoline, 17,282,637 gallons (21,061,321 in 1953); motor gasoline, 2,397,598,690 gallons (2,230,393,120); naphtha specialties, 28,684,651 (30,511,242); aviation turbine fuel, 57,285,089 (40,226,081); kerosene, 14,995,947 (15,096,608); stove oil, 328,441,602 (207,759,232); diesel fuel, 430,170,300 (380,091,987); furnace fuel oil, 780,279,245 (582,105,846); heavy fuel oil, 1,057,140,028 (1,017,137,918); lubricating oil, 55,339,50 (57,075,800); lubricating grease, 25,596,871 pounds (34,381,316); and asphalt, 204,189,368 gallons (195,290,243). (29)

TRANSPORTATION

Operations Of Express Companies

Gross earnings of the four express companies operating in Canada in 1955 amounted to $73,434,962, an increase of $3,395,908 or 4.8% over the preceding year. Operating expenses advanced $559,029 or 1.2% to $48,726,272, and express privileges rose $2,780,267 or 13.5% to $23,533,770. As a result, net operating revenue before taxes amounted to $1,174,920 versus $1,118,308, and net income totalled $656,119 versus $572,867. The value of financial paper issued during the year increased to $162,413,8.3 from $159,777,046, with money order sales rising to $133,479,411 from $130,807,463. (30)
Revenues & Expenses Of Major Telephone Companies Up In 1955

Net income of the 15 largest telephone systems in Canada rose 7.6% to $45,929,128 in 1955 from $42,661,029 in the preceding year. Revenues increased 11% to $354,186,276 from $319,457,490, expenses rose 12% to $251,043,054 from $222,800,776, and net operating revenues increased 6.7% to $103,143,222 from $96,656,714.

By the end of 1955 the number of telephones operated by these fifteen systems had increased by 8% to 3,823,537 from 3,534,581 in 1954. Telephones on individual lines, which accounted for 32.7% of the total, increased almost 15%. Private branch exchanges and extensions accounted for almost 24% of the total and increased 11% over 1954. Some 33% of the total number were on two and four-party lines, little changed from the preceding year. Telephones on party lines of more than four parties increased by 5%, while telephone pay stations rose 5%.

Conversations, estimates of which are available from only 12 systems, increased by almost 11%, totalling 6,605,859,000 for 1955, or an average of 1,738 calls per telephone. Included in this estimate was a count of 153,087,485 completed long distance calls, 11% above 1954's 137,760,909. (31)

TRAVEL

New Records In Travel Last Year Between Canada And Other Countries

Both the number of visitors to Canada and their expenditures in this country, and the number of Canadians travelling abroad and their travel spending reached new records last year, according to estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics presented in the annual report on travel between Canada and other countries. As in previous recent years, however, the degree of increase in the number and expenditure of Canadian travellers abroad was greater than that of visitors to Canada.

Number of visits to Canada by residents of other countries rose an estimated 7% in 1955 over 1954, exceeding the previous 1953 record. Canadian visits to the United States were up 6% continuing a steady rise and to overseas countries rose about 20%.

Expenditures in Canada by all visitors last year is placed at $328,000,000, a rise of $23,000,000 or over 7% from the revised estimate of $305,000,000 for 1954 and an all-time peak. Canadian travel expenditures in the United States and overseas countries, however, rose more sharply to an estimated $449,000,000, some $60,000,000 or 15% above the 1954 record total. Canada thus had a new high debit balance on travel account of $121,000,000, up $37,000,000 from $84,000,000 in 1954, and the fifth in succession after many years of credit balances.

Visitors from the United States spent an estimated $303,000,000 in Canada last year, an increase of about $20,000,000 or 7% above their expenditures in 1954 and 1953 when there was little change. Canadians visiting the United States spent a larger estimated $363,000,000, nearly $43,000,000 or 13% more than in 1954 and about double the expenditure in 1950. Thus Canada had a deficit of about $60,000,000 on travel account with the United States compared to $7,000,000 the previous year.
Expenditures by Canadians on visits to overseas countries climbed last year to an estimated $86,000,000 from $69,000,000 in 1954, while receipts from the visits of residents of overseas countries to Canada rose to about $25,000,000 from $22,000,000, the customary debit balance rising to $61,000,000 from $47,000,000. Biggest share of Canadian travel expenditures overseas was in the United Kingdom, amounting to $40,000,000 compared to $35,000,000 the previous year. Expenditures in the O.E.E.C. countries of Europe are placed at $32,000,000 last year as against $23,000,000 in 1954, expenditures in other sterling area countries, mainly Bermuda and the British West Indies, at $8,000,000 compared to $7,000,000; and in the remaining countries, mainly Latin America, at $6,000,000 against $4,000,000.

The report contains new information obtained from special surveys of Canadian travel in the United States and overseas, and United States travel to Canada by automobile. Among the new light on travel movements is information on the purposes of travel. (32)

**Travel Between Canada And...**

Volume of highway traffic across the Canada-United States border into Canada increased 10% in June to 1,734,800 vehicles compared to 1,578,800 a year ago, comprising 9% more foreign vehicles (987,000 versus 905,000) and 11% more returning Canadian vehicles (747,800 versus 673,600).

Number of foreign vehicles entering Canada on travellers' vehicle permits set a new record for the month, increasing 11% from a year ago and 8% higher than the previous record set in June 1953, but cumulative entries in the six months were lower by 10,000 vehicles or approximately 1%. Volume of long-term Canadian traffic abroad over 24 hours rose between 7% and 8% in the month and 15% in the six months over a year earlier. Traffic by rail, through bus, boat and plane was down slightly in May from last year. The number of foreign visitors entering Canada by these means declined 0.2% to 100,600 from 100,800 and returning Canadians by 0.9% to 107,400 from 108,400 last year. (33)

**PUBLIC FINANCE**

**Estimated Expenditure And Revenue Of Provincial Governments 1956-57**

Net general expenditure, excluding debt retirement, for Canada's ten provincial governments has been estimated at $1,693 million for April 1956 to March 1957, while revenue is expected to amount to $1,542 million. The balance is to be raised chiefly from bond issues for capital projects.

These totals, presented in the Bureau's annual Summary of Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of Provincial Governments issued August 1, cover the fiscal year ended March 31, 1957, were determined by analysis of the published estimates and budget speeches of the provinces. The report shows estimated expenditure is up $188 million from the previous year and revenue up $184 million, with increases in every province.

The chief sources of provincial revenue for 1956-57 will be: taxation, $617 million; federal tax rental agreements, $354 million; privileges, licences and permits, $380 million; and liquor profits, $128 million. Main expenditure items are: transportation (largely highways), $489 million; health, $268 million; social welfare, $138 million; education, $354 million; and natural resources and primary industries, $136 million. Each of these items is up appreciably from previous years. (34)
Business Failures Rose

In First Quarter Of 1956

Business failures under the provisions of the Bankruptcy and Winding Up Acts rose to 709 in the first quarter of 1956 from 661 last year and their defaulted liabilities increased to $19,071,000 from $14,858,000. Average liability per failure was appreciably higher than last year at $26,898 against $22,479.

Number of bankruptcies in the trade sector dropped substantially this year to 201 from 253. Bankruptcies of manufacturing establishments fell to 60 from 117, but service insolvencies rose to 139 from 114. Failures in the construction sector nearly trebled, rising to 119 from 44. Bankruptcies rose in Quebec to 522 from 475 and in Ontario to 145 from 122, but declined in the Atlantic Provinces to 8 from 9, in the Prairie Provinces to 20 from 35 and in British Columbia to 14 from 20. (35)

RELEASED THIS WEEK

1-Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, June, 25¢
2-Estimates of Labour Income, May, 10¢
3-Employment & Payrolls, May, 20¢
4-Prices & Price Indexes, June, 20¢
5-Sales Financing, 1955, 25¢
6-Retail Credit, First Quarter 1956, 25¢
7-Review of Foreign Trade, Calendar Year 1955, 75¢
8-Telegraphic Crop Report - Canada, August 1, 10¢
9-M: Grain Statistics Weekly, July 18, 10¢
10-M: Production of Eggs, June, 10¢
11-Dairy Review, June, 20¢
12-M: Fluid Milk Sales, May, 10¢
13-M: Report on Live Stock Surveys - Cattle, Sheep & Horses, June 1, 10¢
14-M: Oils & Fats, June, 10¢
15-M: Asbestos, June, 10¢
16-M: Preliminary Report on Coal Production, June, 10¢
17-M: Copper & Nickel Production, May, 10¢
18-M: Silver, Lead & Zinc Production, May, 10¢
19-Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, April, 10¢
20-M: Gypsum Products, June, 10¢
21-M: Peeler Logs, Veneers & Plywoods, May, 10¢
22-M: Products Made From Canadian Clays, April, 10¢
23-M: Production of Leather Footwear, April, 10¢
24-Iron Castings Industry, 1954, 25¢
25-Brewing Industry, 1955, 25¢
26-Awning, Tent & Sail Industry, 1954, 25¢
27-Miscellaneous Clothing Industries, 1954, 25¢
28-Miscellaneous Textiles Industries, 1954, 25¢
29-Petroleum Products Industry, 1954, 25¢
30-Express Statistics, 1955, 25¢
31-M: Telephone Statistics (Preliminary Report on Large Telephone Systems), 1955, 10¢
32-Travel Between Canada & Other Countries, 1955, 40¢
33-Travel Between Canada & The United States, June, 20¢


M: Memorandum

Prepared in Press and Publicity Section, Information Services Division

Edmond Cloutier, C.M.G., O.A., D.S.P.,
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