A Fact a Day about Canada

from the

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

No. 152. Tues. Mar. 1, 1938 -- Home Sweet Home

It would be difficult to imagine a poet writing "Home Sweet Home" or "The Auld Hoose" unless that home contained comfortable furniture. There could hardly be very much affection for an abode in which there was no bed, only a stool or two to sit upon and a rough table. In those homes which poets and writers have immortalized there must have been coziness and comfort -- a restful place, some beauty about it, where one could sleep off one's tiredness. A living-room that appeals to our sense of what home is, will probably have its log fire, its sofa, deep easy chairs. It will not stir fond memories in the striplings who have departed to make homes of their own in far places, unless there has been that atmosphere of content that is created by solid comfort. Money alone will not make a home pleasant but there has to be enough, to make real enjoyment possible.

The love of home is easy to trace. In the days of migratory life, when families travelled from spot to spot as circumstances demanded, such as following the food supply or escaping from the enemy, it was not in the nature of things to try to furnish a home. Even if they had had furniture there was no covered wagon to transport it. A grandfather's chair would be an awkward thing to carry over the mountains and across the river fords on the broad of a man's back. A baby's crib could be a positive nuisance -- far easier to carry the infant papoose-fashion.

So these far away ancestors of ours did not bother about furniture. They slept on the ground, perhaps on some balsam boughs or a spread of meadow hay. They might have loved the place where once they camped but the tent or skin shelter went with them until it wore out and nothing remained at the beautiful spot save the litter that will collect around any dwelling. That, however, was hardly likely to be so bad as in our day when, with abandon, we strew tin cans and paper all over the summer cottage lot.

No. 153. Wed. Mar. 2, 1938 -- Crude Affairs at First

When our ancestors gave up their migratory life and began to adopt a more centralized system of living, they built homes for shelter from the rigours of a cold climate. Until they had learnt how to saw wood or shape a stone, their habitations were very crude affairs. Turf huts were common -- not such well equipped turf-walled dwellings as may be seen in some parts of Canada even today, for they had no glass or plastic windows to allow the light of heaven to dispel the darkness. But they were getting somewhere.

With the nomadic character of much of primitive society well behind them, people arrived at the period of centralized living. They began to live in communities. Beds, tables and chairs came into vogue. A good bed is more comfortable than a bag of skins on the hard ground. It is easier to feed out of a bowl placed on a table than it is to dip into a big iron pot of stew or to hack a chunk of meat off an ox roasted whole. A chair was handier than squatting upon the damp earthen or stone floor.

It is not difficult to visualize the rapid progress that was made as soon as the good folk decided to end their wanderings. A pillow that was good enough for Jacob, and which now reposes in Westminster Abbey, soon became too hard for a man's head, although it wasn't so bad for the earlier fellows with their uncut growth of hair as for us roundheads, their descendants.

It was community life in the beginning, of course. Gathered together they were less liable to attack by their enemies in the shape of man or beast. Individual homes came later.

That was the point at which real furniture stepped in. The individual home was the outcome of a settled and relatively peaceful life. Once you build a home, you have a place wherein to keep things. It follows that you fashion a real bed and a big chair whereon to sprawl. Then arose the sacred tradition of hearth and home.

The earliest deities that were represented in stone were not given seats to sit upon, but later on we find gods and their worshippers equipped with chairs or seats on which they could rest easily and relax. Comfort had entered into the picture.

No. 154. Thurs. Mar. 3, 1938 -- Furnishing the Home

We can jump a few thousands of years and glance at the homes of the Greeks. Although the nature of the Greek climate is such that no actual examples of Greek furniture are extant, we have countless illustrations in vase paintings and sculpture. Headmen in council or at the games sat occasionally on thrones while subordinates occupied benches or stools. Figures are shown reclining on beds or couches, eating from small three-legged tables which could be removed or slipped beneath the couch. Sometimes these wooden couches had turned legs identical in pattern with earlier Egyptian examples. Except for the beautiful reclining chair, the Greeks owe all their furniture forms to the Egyptians. But the Greeks invested their borrowed patterns with that genius which made their architecture the sublime achievement of antique art.

The Greek was still the soldier and he had about him in his home only what he could use. However, he had his utilitarian forms exquisitely moulded and decorated. He was luxurious in his tastes and he enjoyed soft mattresses, beautiful dressings on the beds, dyed and embroidered silk and woollen covers. The Greeks were true artists.

When the provincial Romans became world conquerors, possessing a genius for power and organization, they seized upon Greek perfection but they lost the magic. A land-owning and commercial aristocracy, living in palatial homes, added luxury in the form of bronze, gold, ivory, rare veneers, marble and precious stones. Furniture went beyond the functional use and became purely decorative and ostentatious.

In Byzantium the survival of Greek culture continued to influence furniture until the fall of Constantinople in the 1400's.

After the barbarian invasions of Western Europe, the late Roman forms were continued but they were uglier. The Teutonic peoples practised the making of furniture as a craft, but it varied little from the late Roman style. Except in

the churches and monasteries the great age of Gothic architecture did not influence furniture design very much.

This sounds a good deal like an essay on furniture, but there is a purpose in setting out the story as you will shortly see, if you will exercise a little patience.

The wild and primitive people of Scandinavia carved their solid wood furniture with dragons, scenes of battle, piracy and hunting for treasure.

No. 155. Fri. Mar. 4, 1938 -- Choice Furniture

Throughout the Middle Ages, Paris was the renowned centre of the furniture industry. Skilled artisans made seats, couches, tables and chests which dazzled the eye. Extraordinary sums were spent by the newly rich for show.

The commercial revolution of the 15th to the 17th centuries, the rise of the rich Flemish and Burgundian cities and the dawning culture of the Renaissance brought to the homes of the wealthy merchants a new elegance which superseded the heavy furniture of the Middle Ages. The pomp of court life demanded decorative art, and a fresh impetus was given to furniture design.

A new structural technique, in other words the Gothic principle of holding thin panels between rails and stiles was translated into wood. The Italians produced masterpieces; their decorative artists were at the peak of their glory.

And now we come closer to our own day. The decline of the aristocracy, the broadening of the middle class, the higher standard of living, all increased the demand for furniture. The home became the social ideal, sentiment grew around it, furniture which was once only possible in the palace and the mansion became available to the many. The poet saw the change and Home Sweet Home was sung.

Throughout a large part of last century, the average man still depended upon his own skill in the making of furniture for his home and on the ordinary house carpenter. There were some joiners, latterly known as cabinet makers, who did very skilful work, but it required real money to secure their services. It was an art that was much esteemed. The village carpenter was in a very real sense the home builder. His shop, with its sweet scent of clean wood had a halo round it, for was not Jesus of Nazareth himself a village carpenter? He had entered into communion with the daily life of men, with the most intimate and sacred life -- the home life.

No. 156. Sat. Mar. 5, 1938 -- Machine Age in Furniture

Furniture making soon entered the machine age. It emerged gradually from a handicraft to an industry. Power saws and wood turning and planing machines were gradually introduced. The highly skilled machine craftsman appeared. About the middle of last century the furniture factory was highly developed.

Thus there has grown up in Canada a highly organized industry which is meeting the needs of the people well. The market is chiefly domestic. The industry is centred in south-western Ontario. There are 425 factories in the Dominion and more than half of them are in Ontario. Quebec and British Columbia follow in that

order. There are about ten thousand persons employed. It is estimated that the people of Canada spend considerably over 50 million dollars a year in purchasing furniture which has been manufactured in their own country. That makes between four and five dollars per capita per annum.

Generally speaking, our furniture is characteristic of the people who purchase it, for the variety in style is very great. Some homes are furnished for comfort, others to please the eye. We have the ornate and highly decorated pieces of furniture bought with lavish expenditure. On the other hand there are the examples of plain yet good looking and substantial furniture that is usually regarded as excellent taste. It may be said that the choice and condition of the furniture in a dwelling usually reflects the philosophy of the dwellers.

Like everything else we have fashions in furnishing, but old chairs, like old friends, have an increased attraction for us as the years pass and providing also that we can keep the squeak out of the joints.

No. 157. Sun. Mar. 6, 1938 -- Canadian Styles in Furniture

Canadian styles in furniture for a long time reflected the racial origin of the colonists, although some articles -- such as the high-boy chest and the low-boy dressing table -- are considered typical of colonial design. They came up to us from the New England States with the United Empire Loyalists.

We cannot, therefore, be said to have any distinctly national characteristic about furniture, but in the main, as is to be expected from a vigorous people who work hard, the idea of comfort prevails. That is fairly well established by the fact that in the total sales of furniture, much more is spent on articles for the living room than for any other part of the house. Sales of bedroom furniture come next and for the dining room third. The fireplace is usually in the living room and the higher standard of living makes it less necessary to sit of an evening in the kitchen with feet perched on the open door of the cooking range, when the winter months are upon us.

We have mentioned comfort a few times. There must be plenty of people around who were brought up in homes where the cushioned seats and sofas were covered with horsehair cloth. It lasted a long time -- too long for comfort -- for those were the days when the parlour was a place that was reserved for visitors and special occasions. One of these events was the visit of the Minister to see if the youngsters had memorized the Shorter Catechism and the 14th Chapter of St. John. It was an art to keep demurely seated upon the precarious surface. The real living room then was the kitchen where grandfather's chair and grandmother's rocker were established.

The horsehair sofas and chairs were made all the more troublesome and hateful because of the tidies and antimacassars that were spread over them to make the show-room more beautiful and preserve the seats from wearing out too soon. When they began to wear, the prickly surface was an abomination, but to the very small children they were pure joy as they pulled the long coarse hair from the cloth and made it curl and uncurl into all kinds of shapes.

It is noticeable that the antimacassar has almost entirely disappeared. It had a utilitarian purpose. Men used to wear their hair much longer than they do now, and they oiled it to keep it in place. Macassar oil was the favourite, so

the anti-macassar was invented to keep the cushions clean. Nowadays men wear their hair short and the oils help to make permanents for the ladies.

The deep sailors' collar is a reminder of the same thing. Its use was to keep the oily hair from dirtying the coat. The two ribbons which hang down from the collar of the Welsh Guards carry us back to the same utility -- protection against oily hair.

No. 158. Mon. Mar. 7. 1938 -- Indians as Coal Miners

It is in our minds when we interest ourselves in the advancement of Indians to a position of independence and self-support, that the great outdoors is their sphere. Under the efforts of the Department of Mines & Resources, however, a coal mine has been established on the Blackfoot Reserve near Gleichen in Southern Alberta.

Operations at the Reserve Mine began in 1931 and by October of that year the demand for coal, which is sold at the mine head, was so great that it was necessary to establish an office and commence the erection of houses and other buildings for the workers. The only white man employed is a qualified miner who supervises the mine operations. Under his direction some fifty Indian miners are employed and they are paid $1.50 per ton for all coal mined and delivered to the mine head. A very capable Indian is in the office in charge of the books, weighing and selling coal, and other routine business.

Sanitary men, the dairyman, drivers, engineers, tipple men and slack haulers are all Indians, and they are paid at the rate of 30 cents per hour. The mine is self-supporting and provides an average payroll of about $500 per week. Production in the last fiscal year amounted to 10,000 tons of coal, and after five years' operation the debts classed as bad on the books would not total $50.

The Reserve Mine provides steady employment and is run on a co-operative basis. A representative body of Indian miners and members of the Blackfoot band council meet with the Indian Agent, stationed at Gleichen, when agreements are made as to prices, wages and general development. The mine owns between 30 and 40 houses; a wash house provided with showers and wash tubs with hot water service; a dairy which provides milk from tested cattle at low cost; a barn for the mine ponies and cows; a blacksmith shop, and a dressing station and drug dispensary. In Indian woman runs a restaurant, which caters not only to the single Indian miners but also to a discriminating white clientele. A large tent with a floor for dancing provides the entertainment centre, while the spiritual needs of this happy Indian Village are cared for by two churches.

No. 159. Tues. Mar. 8. 1938 -- Ivory

Ivory is one for the glamorous articles of trade that remain to us in this more prosaic industrial age. Africa is now the chief source of supply. From Zanzibar and Mombasa, trading centres for the Kenya Colony and Uganda and Mozambique, regular shipments are made. Supplies are also obtained in the Sudan and central and west coast regions, chiefly the Congo, Cameroom and Nigeria. Russia ships annually some mammoth tusks unearthed in Siberia, of an age estimated from one thousand to fifty thousand years. A small supply is got in Siam from elephants that have died of old age.

At one time all the ivory was found dead in the African jungle. Native expeditions collected it in the "cemeteries" where elephants went to die. It is estimated that now about 50 per cent of the animals are shot, although the slaughtering is strictly controlled.

In Biblical times ivory was classed with gold and silver. Solomon's throne was made of ivory, overlaid with gold. Ivory is also got from the hippopotamus, wild boar, sperm whale and walrus. There are thousands of uses for it.

The supply does not seem to diminish. Sales are held quarterly in London and usually the quantity put on the market varies from 15 to 30 tons. The soft ivory yields about one thousand dollars per hundredweight. Not much unmanufactured ivory is imported direct by Canada, only a few hundred pounds in a year.

No. 160. Wed. Mar. 9, 1938 -- Mosquitoes

An inquiry comes from a young lady in Saskatchewan about mosquitoes. She wants to know if it is possible to produce any figures of any kind regarding these pests.

The only figures the Bureau has seen is an estimate of the loss in dairy production occasioned by mosquitoes, which should alone be sufficient to stir up energy enough to combat the plague for they are really a plague in some seasons and in some places.

According to the Dominion Entomologist, the slender, delicately built insects known as mosquitoes are among the worst blood-sucking flies which attack man and animals in many parts of Canada. Frequently harmless midges, small crane flies and similar insects are confused with mosquitoes, but the latter can always be recognized by the long, slender beak, or proboscis, and the presence of tiny scales on the veins and margins of the wings. Not only are mosquitoes a source of great annoyance to humans, but they also occasion much loss by worrying live stock. In some of the worst affected districts a marked drop in milk production is noted in dairy cows at the commencement of the mosquito season. Practical dairymen have stated that this may be as much as 40 per cent. Other classes of animals lose flesh through loss of blood and worry, and, in extreme cases death may result, especially among young animals. Even poultry and other birds are affected by these insects.

The females of most of the sixty or more species of mosquitoes that are found in Canada are bloodsuckers, and while they vary considerably in their life-histories and habits, all of them require more or less stagnant water for the immature stages (larvae and pupae) to develop. It is quite impossible for them to develop in damp grass or in dew on vegetation, although this is a commonly held belief. The fact that the larvae and pupae develop only in water, and that although they are aquatic, they must frequently come to the water surface for air, makes it possible to destroy them in vast numbers before they have a chance to emerge. This is done by spraying pools and flooded areas with petroleum oil, such as fuel oil, in spring and early summer.

No. 161. Thurs. Mar. 10, 1938 -- Births Declining - 1

For some years the population of Canada has been growing very slowly. The increase since 1931 is only about 700,000 or less than 7 per cent. That compares unfavourably with the rapid advance at the beginning of the century when from 1901

to 1911 there was a 34 per cent increase. Not all of those who came in the first decade stayed in Canada.

However, there is time yet before the next Census of 1941 to experience a great change and present indications are that such a change is taking place.

Of the two leading factors in population growth, births and immigration, the greater of these is births. Both have fallen off appreciably since the depression struck the country. In 1935, only 11,000 new citizens came to Canada. That was a smaller number than in any other year since 1860. In the early 80's there were over a 100,000 in some years. In the middle of the first decade of this century there were over 200,000, while in 1913 there were over 400,000.

Looking over the immigration statistics, a striking and similar experience is observed. It is that after periods of prosperity, whether here or abroad, the newcomers rush to Canada in great numbers and, when adversity is upon us and the rest of the world, the immigration drops off. In 1929, after conditions had been excellent for several years, 165,000 came to Canada to live, but in the fall of that year the industrial crisis came, with the result that by 1931 the immigration had declined to 27,000.

Better times have arrived and last year there was a slight advance in the immigration over 1935. This year, so far, that slight advance has been maintained. True, it isn't much but it's a sign of the times and an example of history repeating itself.

Keeping in mind that large population increase follows periods of prosperity in new countries such as Canada we find it exemplified very noticeably in the Western Provinces. The increase between 1921 and 1926 was small, following the depression after the War, but between 1926 and 1931, when times were exceptionally good, the increase was very large. Alberta's increase between 1921 and 1926 was hardly worth mentioning, while Saskatchewan, between 1931 and 1936 moved up only about 9,000.

The slow growth in Canada's population in recent years is due moreover to the decline in the number of births. Rapidly declining birth rates have been characteristic of English-speaking countries and most countries of western Europe during the post-war period. England has been worrying over it. Canada has been no exception to the rule.

In the years 1920, 1921 and 1922 the number of live births in Canada exceeded 250,000. In the year 1936, in spite of the increase in the population in the meantime, the number was only about 220,000. The Canadian birthrate which was nearly 30 per thousand of the population in 1921 had fallen to 20 per thousand in 1936.

No. 162. Fri. Mar. 11, 1938 -- Births Declining - 2

In recent years the economic depression quite naturally produced an adverse effect on the number of marriages and therefore on the number of births which had been tending to stabilize itself and was even showing some signs of an upward movement before the depression produced its effect. Not very many young men feel that they can undertake the responsibility of making a home when they are out of a job. Marriages, which totalled over 77,000 in 1929 had fallen to fewer than

63,000 in 1932 and it might fairly be estimated that the end of the year 1934 saw nearly 50,000 persons of each sex unmarried who would have been married if the rate of 1929 had continued.

But not all of the decline in births in recent years can be attributed to a lessened number of marriages, and it is important to note that although marriages have been tending to recovery, year by year, since 1933, and although the number of marriages in 1936 exceeded that of pre-depression years, there has been as yet no upward movement in the number of births.

The decline of births during the depression was in part, but by no means wholly counterbalanced by a fall in the number of deaths, and the natural increase in 1936 was only about 113,000, the lowest figure during the post war period.

But a more disturbing situation has been the extension of rural depopulation, and it has affected the birth rate very noticeably.

Women are tremendously responsible for rural depopulation. It is in the country that we expect the greater number of marriages, but our rural young women have not been staying at home. They have been flocking to the cities. Young girls preferred to leave the farm and take jobs in the urban centres. The bright lights seemed to have a greater attraction, but there was also the fact that the country offered women fewer opportunities for employment. They departed for the cities and did not go back except for brief visits, and the young men were left alone. There were no young women with whom to mate. That is why there are so many bachelors in the rural districts to-day.

No. 163. Sat. Mar. 12, 1938 - Births Declining - 3

It is possible, that in this connection the depression, through which we have just passed, may have had a good result. There were very few jobs available for young women when they arrived in the cities to look for work and they were compelled in most cases to remain at home. The young men and the young women have been growing to marriageable ages together. The girls who have been going to the cities are usually between the ages of 17 and 22 and it stands to reason that, if they remain in the country during that period they are likely to begin to think that married life is not so bad after all. The girls may then decide to let the clergyman give the bridal instructions to the men of their choice.

That this has been taking place to quite a large extent, all the evidence shows, and the thought occurs that it may assist in solving many problems, among them the competition of females in occupations, allowing the young men to fill vacant positions and thereby leading them to the altar of marriage.

But taking things as they are just now, there is one startling fact that creates almost consternation. If every bachelor in Canada between the ages of 20 and 35 were to make up his mind to marry, but insisted that he would not enter the wedded state unless the young lady happened to be a Canadian or a resident of Canada, and providing also that all the young ladies of Canada between these same ages were willing, there would not be enough brides to go around.

These bachelors who found themselves left would have to cross the border to find a wife or board a ship for some other country beyond the seas.

No. 164. Sun. Mar. 13. 1938 -- Births Declining - 4

The fact is that there are about 250,000 more bachelors between the ages of 20 and 35 than there are unwedded women of the same ages, which goes to show that the Canadian girl, if she wants to marry, has an infinitely better chance of finding a husband than the bachelor has of getting a wife. Thus it seems quite evident that there are many Canadian women who prefer to remain unattached like Queen Elizabeth in the days long ago. They may want homes of their own, but not with a man hanging around.

The majority of the unmarried females are in the cities and the majority of the bachelors are in the country places.

The records show that the single woman, when she decides to leave the countryside, makes for a big city, but the single man is quite content to live in one of the smaller towns. It may be that there is just as great a variety of employment for him in the smaller towns as in the cities while for her the big cities offer more chances of getting the kind of employment that suits her. There are greater opportunities in the cities for domestic service, stenography, clerical work and the many other more or less feminine occupations.

Whatever the reason, the fact is that there is a great army of one quarter of a million more bachelors in Canada between the ages of 20 and 35 than there are spinsters between these same ages.

No. 165. Mon. Mar. 14. 1938 -- Canning Food

Canned food is by no means a late date invention. When and where the first tin cans were used are facts lost in the ages, but we do know that the early Romans coated copper vessels with tin to make them suitable as containers for food and drink. These were the ancestors of the present day tin cans, which have influenced the economic and social life of the country. We know also that half a century before Christ, armoured legions of Rome were landed on the shores of Britain to secure tin from the mines of Cornwall, which were first worked by the Phoenicians of Tyre and Sidon. It is established in the writings of Pliny that the art of coating cast, or wrought iron with tin was known before the year 25 A.D.

Cornwall has lost its leadership in the production of tin, for to-day there are tin mines of Bolivia and British Malaya, whence comes the chief Canadian supply. No tin has been found in Canada, which is curious, since we have within our borders almost every other known metal.

There was a tin plate industry established in Bohemia after the discovery of the metal in that country in the 1200's, but it was in England that the manufacture of thin iron sheets, by rolling, was perfected and the success of the industry assured. Steel is now the base.

A Parisian named Appert was the first man to can food. He carried out his experiments with glass jars, which he sealed and immersed in boiling water. The French Government had offered a prize of 12,000 francs for the discovery of a process of preserving food for the soldiers and sailors of France. Napoleon was so grateful that he awarded the prize to Appert in person.

After that an Englishman, Peter Durand, invented the tin can and it took the place largely of the glass jar so easily broken.

No. 166. Tues. Mar. 15, 1938 -- Cans and Housekeeping

Hark back to the kitchen cupboard with its splendid variety of canned goods -- from coffee to spinach. There may be everything you require for breakfast, luncheon or dinner and a snack in between. Compare it with the cupboard typical of the days before the present century came in. Almost the only canned food on the shelf was salmon with its gaudy paper wrapper glued to the tin. Now and again when the picnic season was due there might be condensed milk, in which the Swiss were doing a thriving trade.

These were the days when the ladies of the household were very busy with purely domestic concerns, and cupboards were huge affairs. Much food had to be prepared for hungry mortals. Coffee had to be roasted and ground, salt cellars and pepper boxes had to be filled, mustard to be moistened. Potatoes, turnips, carrots and other accompaniments of the meat portion at dinner had to be peeled or scraped. The household implements were solid and heavy, the forks and knives had to be polished after every meal, and the work went on from early morning until late in the evening.

Nowadays, there is actually no need to do any one of these things. Meals come to us already prepared. A lady may spend an afternoon visiting friends and arrive home fifteen minutes before the dinner hour. In these few minutes she can put on the table delicious canned soup, a course of canned fish, a canned boiled dinner and canned fruit for dessert. If the housewife is so minded, she need not do much more preparation for a meal during the day than toast a slice of bread, fry a rasher of bacon, boil an egg or brew a pot of tea. Housekeeping has been simplified with a vengeance.

No. 167. Wed. Mar. 16, 1938 -- Inventions in Canning Industry

We used to have a good deal of fear about these canned goods. We were warned about the danger of poison. The old tin of salmon was opened gingerly with a weird implement that slithered and slipped and left a nasty opening which cut the unwary finger. The food had to be removed forthwith because we had been taught that the fish spoiled quickly the moment the air got at it; delay meant poisoning.

That fear is all gone. Canned food is safe. There is said to be no danger now of leaving food in a tin can which has been opened and placed in the refrigerator just like any other food. Many of these cans have lids which can be replaced.

The principle underlying the success of food canning is heat. Heat destroys the bacteria, the secrets of which Louis Pasteur revealed to the world. The destruction of the bacteria makes possible the preservation of the food.

The Canadian people use much canned corn. Canned peas are everywhere. They are such a favourite dish that it is worth while digging up from our memory the fact that two young Canadians made the first beginnings which made the pea canning industry a success.

During the last century John Chisholm and his brother, two young farmers who lived near Oakville, Ontario, had been working on a machine for shelling peas. It was a clumsy affair and had not been a success. The delicate peas were bruised and broken in the process.

The two young men had decided to give up their efforts and John, before leaving the barn, picked up disgustedly some of the pea pods. With a butter paddle in his hand he hit them much as you hit a ping-pong ball, or a tennis ball.

His brother examined the peas scattered round the floor of the barn. Every pod was empty and not a pea was bruised. That gave them the required inspiration. Their elaborate machinery had been rough with the peas. What they required was a light sharp impact such as Chisholm had given the pod with the butter paddle.

The two Chisholms went to work again on their invention, and they were joined by another inventor, Robert Scott, who had been working on a machine for picking the peas off the vines. Within a few months these three clever young men had built a wonderful machine, the pea-viner, that picked the peas off the vines, shelled and graded them, all in one operation. It is an attractive story of Canadian enterprise. Chisholm also developed a corn husker from a clothes wringer through which he ran the corn. These inventions paved the way for the canning of peas and corn on a large scale.

No. 168. Thurs. Mar. 17, 1938 -- Changes that Canning has Developed

The development of the canned foods industry has effected great changes in the relation of foods to seasons. Fruits and vegetables of many kinds are to be had at all times of the year, not always with all the flavour of the freshly gathered products, but with much of their original freshness and flavour.

A striking illustration is the canning of tomatoes. About 90 million pounds have been canned in one year. Then we have tomato juice running up to over twenty million pounds and millions more of canned paste, puree and pulp. More tomato goes into cans in Canada than any other vegetable or fruit. Canned peas come next in quantity. Amongst the fruits, pears lead in quantity and usually in value also but in some years peaches will overtop the pears from a money point of view. Mention was made of canned soups a little while ago. In some years the quantity of canned soup is greater than all canned fruits combined.

There is one general favourite amongst desserts in Canada. It is so well liked that some people eat it for breakfast. That is pie -- apple pie in particular. The ingredients for a delicious pie may be purchased in cans. Not many people, comparatively speaking, make pumpkin nowadays for the pie of that name. Very often they buy it prepared and in cans. Mincemeat the same.

The most important branch of the industry is the canning of fruits and vegetables, which is carried on most extensively in Ontario and Quebec, where the climatic conditions for the growing of these crops are favourable. The canning season begins in June and continues throughout the summer and autumn until October, being at its height in July, August and September. That makes employment vary. Fewer than three thousand persons are employed in March, yet in the busy months there are seventeen or eighteen thousand.

Besides the fruits with which we are all familiar, we have loganberries and apricots in British Columbia.

Canned fruits and vegetables in Canada have a money value greater than all other canned foods combined. Canned fish rates next. Salmon leads the way amongst the varieties of fish and is more than twice all others combined. Practically all of the canned salmon comes from British Columbia, with a small quantity from Quebec and other provinces.

Chicken can now be bought in a can, fitted to its nicely browned curves, thus saving the blushing bride from the jokes about amateur cooking. Even the prospect of raising young children has been made simpler by prepared foods. This item is gaining rapidly in popularity as the figures for the last two years available show a doubled production of prepared food for infants.

In fact the production of concentrated milk products was double that of canned soups. The total production value of the canned food industry in 1935 amounted to 45 million dollars, an increase of nearly 3 million dollars over the year before.

Tomato juice, which is more frequently found in the bars than in the dining-rooms of hotels in England is another product that is gaining in popularity. The flavour of the Canadian tomato is well liked and the extra juice in the tins of canned tomatoes is very popular in the North of England, especially among the miners.

It is impossible to say exactly how many tin cans are made in Canada in a year, but a good guess might be 60 million of all kinds. In the United States 600 million is said to be the number.

No. 169. Fri. March 18, 1938 - Fish Sausages

The Canadian Trade Commissioner in Germany forwards the following paragraph regarding conditions in that country in 1937.

"There has been no abatement in the execution of the "Four-year Plan", which is now the dominating factor of Germany's economic life and which aims at making the country independent of foreign supplies of materials. Official utterances imply that the only limit to its objectives is that set by labour, capital and equipment. In furtherance of this program the variety of consumers' goods manufactured wholly or in part from synthetic raw materials has become increasingly great, but not without sacrifices as regards quality and, in most instances, at comparatively high cost."

Necessity has surely mothered invention in Germany and fostered the idea of substitution. For example, the poor grain crop was offset by a large potato and root crop which helped to make good the cereal deficiency. Coal is being used as raw material for synthetic rubber and gasoline and it is to replace imported oils and fats in soap making. Imported oils are to be supplanted by whale oil also.

For some reason or other we associate sausages as a German dish and it is interesting to note that they are now being made from fish rather than flesh. Efforts are being made to make this substitution popular because there is a tendency towards shortage of meat. Whether this is succeeding or not we do not know, but there has been a decrease in our shipments of sausage casings to that country. In 1936 the export was $84,000 and in 1937 it was $60,000, according to the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 170. Sat. Mar. 19. 1938 -- Growing Seeds in British Columbia

The growth of industry of seed-growing in British Columbia has been slow but healthy, and expansion can be anticipated, says the Dominion Department of Agriculture. It emphasizes that with a wide range of soil types and climatic conditions in the Pacific Province, it is possible to produce any, or all, of the common vegetable seed crops, and, although promotion of the industry has never been undertaken in a general way, a opportunity is offered to the careful farmer.

Seed-growing is a specialized line of crop production. Half hearted attention never yields results, we are told. Care must be exercised at every turn. Many of the crops concerned are biennials, and must be stored over winter, producing seed the following year.

However, the authorities state very positively that it is not the intention to promote vegetable seed growing to the stage of over-production. Marketing is still the chief problem concerned, and producers are advised that it is well to have an outlet before venturing into this line of farming.

Yet the conditions seem to warrant the view that, as time rolls on, British Columbia will become a great seed-growing province. Imported vegetable seeds constitute by far the largest volume of seed offered the trade in Canada. While in many cases it may not be possible to produce seed in competition with imported stock, many other lines may, however, be grown profitably in British Columbia.

According to the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the Dominion imported seeds for planting in the fiscal year 1937 to the value of $2,442,000. These seeds came from 31 countries, the largest amount from Argentina. Other large supplying countries were the United Kingdom, United States, New Zealand, Netherlands, Germany, Hungary and Denmark. The seed we exported amounted to $4,345,000 which was far in advance of other years. In 1936 it was $681,000. The chief purchaser was the United States, followed by the United Kingdom, Cuba, Argentina and Russia.

No. 171. Sun. March 20. 1938 -- Shedding the Fur Coat

The sun is shining brighter in the heavens, the days are becoming warmer in most parts of Canada, newspapers are carrying stories about the early birds and we are all talking about spring. It will be here in a jiffy. Whether it will be a late spring or an early one it is our privilege to discuss, but the 21st day of March is the first day of spring, being the vernal equinox, and we can't get away from that.

In no time at all we are going to throw off that winter coat that has been bearing us down for months under its great weight. We are going to open ourselves up to the balmy breezes and forget for a while that just a few weeks back there were icy blasts that threatened to freeze our chins and our ears. We could hear men saying to one another that the only sensible fellows were those who let their beards grow. We respected the common sense of the prospector and the lumber jack who rode into town, the latter with a roll in his hip pocket and a fine crop of hair upon his face. We congratulated him. Next day we met him and didn't recognize him, for the whiskers were gone and maybe, but just maybe, the roll had gone too.

However, he was, although perhaps unconsciously, illustrating the fundamental truth that, for the most part, conditions govern us and establish usages. That man would be nothing short of a fool who, with the bitter winds of the North biting into him, did not make use of the protection that Nature had provided. In town it is different. Most townsmen have been clean shaven for quite a while now. The old moustache cup is featured no more in the china merchant's window. The young blood, up to the end of the last century, had his tea served in a cup which kept his moustache under control -- but today he keeps his cheeks as smooth as a young girl's.

There is some connection, or at least association of ideas, between the whiskers and the fur coat. Men who spend much of their time in the open air of our northern climate have need of fur to keep them warm in winter. They have to armour themselves for battle with the cold, very much like the wild beasts. Man, alone among the animals, is born without a coat of his own. The monkey, which some people claim is a long-lost brother, has been more favoured; the gorilla has a good serviceable coat.

Man, therefore, has to provide himself with suitable clothing to cover his nakedness. It is a bother and an expense. Yet it has its advantages. Man and woman can adorn themselves in many fashions. The lady can acquire a spring hat and go sailing proudly under it to church when the bells ring out their invitation to worship. We are away ahead of the other animals from that point of view. The zebra, arrayed like a convict, cannot change his stripes.

No. 172. Mon. Mar. 21, 1938 -- Fewer Fur Coats on the City Men

Just as the townsmen are discarding the coverings from their chins, so they are getting away from their fur coats. Every man, big and small, rich and poor, used to own a fur coat. The favourite seemed to be the coon, but jaunty fellows went one better. A former member of parliament who later became clerk of the House of Commons, used to disport a coat made of Persian lamb. It must have cost a pretty penny. Persian lamb was rarely worn by men, but it was a warm favourite with the ladies. It spurns attempts to successfully imitate it and, no doubt, not many furriers would like the task of making the fur of a rabbit or a muskrat look and feel like Persian lamb.

It was a goodly sight years ago to see Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Hon. L.P. Brodeur, two very tall and handsome men, march together along the sidewalk from Parliament Hill in winter. They were dressed in long fur-lined coats, with mink collars and mink caps. Nowadays, prime ministers and other dignitaries are rarely to be seen in a fur coat. They are less exposed to the weather. Instead of an open sleigh they ride in a closed and heated automobile.

The ladies do not seem to wear their fur coats so early in the fall or so late in the spring as they did in the first decade of the century. Even in winter, a great many of them are sticking to the same sort of tweed or woollen coats that men affect, and which used to be considered a spring and fall outfit.

The entry of a great personage to a skating rink to see a hockey match has become less spectacular. The furs are not there. When the Countess of Minto, accompanied by her train of daughters and other ladies, made her way into the old Dey's arena, where a historic game was to be played, their appearance was impressive. Lady Minto herself wore a long coat of mink that hung to her ankles, and, along

with the fact that she was a very beautiful lady, who was as interested in and excited about the game as any fan could be, it gave her distinction.

Even though Canadian men do not wear fur so much as they did, almost everyone possesses some. The modern Canadian of the city may wear his fur cap but seldom and his fur coat less but they are around somewhere. That possession causes us to reflect upon our growing democracy. Once upon a time furs were luxuries. The outstanding people of ancient empires wore furs to indicate their wealth and importance. Kings and princes still wear furs upon great occasions, even when the weather is hot. The Coronation of King George sent fur prices soaring upwards.

No. 173. Tues. Mar. 22, 1938 -- Pomp and Splendour - 1

Before furs became associated with pomp and splendour, people wore skins for warmth and comfort. Read the Book of Genesis and you will find that Adam and Eve wore skins at the behest of the Creator. When people dwelt in tents of skins they kept the fur on the inside for the sake of heat, just as did the Russian scientists who have been floating so long on an ice floe in the Arctic Sea trying to get to Greenland. How could the Eskimos have endured their climate if they had not had skins to cover their bodies?

Pride, pomp and splendour which demand fur to make people more impressive drive them to great extremes. In our own land, when July suns are burning the grass yellow, it is not uncommon to see a lady wearing around her neck a large fox fur. She simply can't bring herself to discard the treasure during the all too few summer months.

As a people we owe much to fur. It was pelts for the courts of Europe that sent pioneers and colonists to Canada. The first currency we had was beaver skins. We made beaver hats famous. Later on, when depredations on beaver brought the industrious little animals near to extinction, we had to protect them.

Alas, we were not in time to protect the sea otter, which has the finest fur of all animals. It was the sea otter that brought the Russians to Alaska. That beautiful animal is very near total extinction.

The fur industry has changed very little during the ages. The furrier works just as his ancestor worked, matching skins and piecing them together. Styles of coats change but the manufacturer still works by hand.

It is different with processing, however. A new technique has been introduced into the fur industry. The Hudson Seal provides the best illustration, for it has become extremely popular with Canadian women. There is no such animal. Hudson Seal is simply dyed muskrat.

Other marvellous things have been done in processing fur. Rabbit skins have been transformed as by magic into electric seal, imitation beaver, squirrel and even ermine. The art of the fur dyer is a very recent development. The discovery of aniline dyes less than a century ago helped greatly. Today light skins can be dyed darker and dark fur lighter. The tanning solution is kept a closely guarded secret. Almost any colour can be made, according to fancy. Look at the coat of "leopard skins" and wonder.

No. 174. Wed. Mar. 23, 1938 -- Pomp & Splendour - 2

That is travelling far beyond what was in the minds of those gentlemen who formed the Hudson's Bay Company, which is the oldest fur trading corporation in the world. Its beginning held a romance which appeals to us strongly because it started as a co-operative plan between the French and the British. The story is not as well known as it should be. In the year 1668 two French adventurers, named Radisson and Chouart de Groseilliers, after being repulsed in Paris, succeeded in interesting a few English noblemen and merchants to the extent of outfitting two vessels to proceed to Hudson Bay. The vessels were the Eaglet with Radisson abroad, and the Nonsuch with Groseilliers. The Eaglet turned back after reaching Hudson Strait but the Nonsuch carried on and reached the mouth of Rupert River in James Bay. There they built a fort and began trading with the Indians. In the following summer they returned to England laden with furs. Next year, 1670, the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay was incorporated. Prince Rupert was the first governor.

Thus it was left to the British, the greatest sailors of all time, to tap the trade of Central Canada by a sea route through Hudson Bay, while the French, who had settled in Eastern Canada, carried on trade to the westward, mainly by means of expeditions along the Great Waterways.

This trade and the public sales which were held in London had the effect of focussing attention on the English capital as a fur centre and were instrumental in leading London to become the principal world market for raw furs, a position which it has held down to this day.

It is no conjecture to say that the general influence of the fur trade on the whole did much to develop this country from its earliest days. In the main it was a good influence. The confidence and esteem of the Indians was won by treatment that was fair and just. Without an army or even any police system and with but a few scattered forts, a great territory was conquered by peaceful means. With the exception of a few minor outbreaks during that long period, peace existed. It provides us with an illustration of what trading at its best should be. It should be a friendly, co-operative thing. It must be so, to be successful.

But the trade did more than that. It gave to Canada many men who have played a strong part in the making of the Dominion. These include descendants of the ancient inhabitants of the country, who have risen to eminence and power in Canada.

No. 175. Thurs. Mar. 24, 1938 -- High Quality Fur

A century ago the value of Canada's export trade in furs exceeded that of any other product. This has, of course, been greatly changed, yet the export of Canadian furs still occupies an important place in our economic affairs. In recent years the value of that trade has run between 15 and 21 million dollars.

The chief item of production is the silver fox, with a production of close to 200,000 pelts. They come almost entirely from the fur farms. Farming now plays an important part in the fur trade of Canada and the value of pelts of ranch-bred animals represents approximately 40 per cent of the total value of the raw fur production of the Dominion. For many years fur farming was concerned almost entirely with the silver fox but during the past few years much success has been attained

in the raising of mink. Other kinds of fur-bearers are also found on the farms -- red, cross and blue fox, raccoon, skunk, marten, fisher, fitch -- but their numbers are small compared with silver fox and mink.

Next to the silver fox in value is the humble muskrat. More than one and a half million pelts are taken in a year, or twice the number of rabbits. Comparatively speaking the average value of a rabbit pelt is only about 12 cents. The most expensive of all is the pelt of the fisher which brings about $51, followed by the silver fox at $33. The skin of a black or brown bear brings less than $2, the grizzly $7 and the white bear $14. A fancy price has to be paid for a sea otter when one is available.

The fact that ermine is much used by royalty and other high titled folk suggests that it is expensive, but an ermine or weasel pelt fetches less than one dollar. The fur of the domestic cat averages 16 cents and the wildcat $6. The pelts of the coon coat which is to be put away until next winter are worth about $4 each.

The high quality of Canadian fur is acknowledged everywhere. A European possessing a fur coat will boast that the fur came from Canada. About forty years ago, the Master of Elibank, after a visit to Canada during which he acquired a beautiful fur lined coat, displayed it proudly everywhere he went and gave a certain filip to the trade.

The talk of the high quality of Canadian furs is not merely a boastful patriotic statement. Last October at the great Paris Exhibition, our own Department of Trade and Commerce was awarded the Grand Prix d'Honneur for its fur exhibit at the Canadian Pavilion. That was the highest prize that could be bestowed on any exhibit. The Canadian exhibit included pelts of all the principal fur-bearing animals of the Dominion, particular displays being made of silver fox and other domestically bred foxes. The award was made by a judging committee which included official representatives from different countries represented at the Exposition.

So we can shed our old fur coat until another winter whitens the landscape and put it safely away with loving regard, secure in the belief that there is nothing better to be got anywhere.

No. 176. Fri. Mar. 25, 1938 -- Horses for the Old Land

If there is one thing more than another which exemplifies the pride and skill of the Canadian farmer, surely it is his horses. Readers of "A Fact a Day about Canada" will remember that some time ago the Royal Canadian Mounted Police gave us some particulars about their horses, those splendid animals that stir the heart so when we see them on parade -- the horses that made so brave a show at the Coronation of King George last year. You will remember that a great many people had the idea that the R.C.M.P. bred their own horses, but we were told that these fine animals were purchased mainly from farmers living in the district where the Mounted Police were going to use them. Surely there could be no finer tribute to the Canadian farmer's skill.

It will not be surprising, therefore, to learn that in 1937 Canadian horses were imported into the United Kingdom to the number of 287 as compared with 279 in 1936. Forty of last year's lot were hunters. The others were work horses, some of which were taken over to Great Britain by Canadian dealers. One lot, however, was chosen by a British buyer who came over to Canada and made his own selections.

In all cases the selection of the horses is said to have been particularly good, mostly around 16 to 17 horses, sound and well broken, and from four to five years of age.

We know, of course, that many Canadian horses go to the United States for special purposes, such as polo ponies, but it seems unusual to have so many hunters go to the United Kingdom which has Ireland to draw from. Evidently the breed has improved in the Canadian climate.

No. 177. Sat. Mar. 26, 1938 -- Line Men

When we see a belted man skilfully clambering up a telephone or telegraph pole and adjusting or repairing the wires, we gaze in wonder. He is an agile, brave fellow who rarely makes mistakes. A mistake is likely to be his finish. Our minds turn to the pictures we have seen of South Sea Islanders footing their way up palm trees for cocoanuts.

We call these telephone men "line men", but they are by no means the first to be given that appellation. The New York Sun tells us of one of the little known professions in New York in this day and age, that of the "line man" who has nothing to do with telephony or telegraphy.

Housekeepers of 25 years ago will recognize the term readily and those of years before that, says the Sun, who lived on the East Side will recall that the skill of the "line man" was indispensable for the cleanliness of her linen.

A few of these line men are left. They become less numerous each year and it won't be long before they have joined the cowboys of Eleventh Avenue in the limbo of New York history.

The special province of the "line man" is that solitary and slim pole which still occupies the central position in the areaways behind tenement houses, festooned with clothes lines which stretch from the windows of the buildings on all sides to it like spokes of a wheel that have gone limp. The line men scale these slender monuments of the day when housewives did their own washing and repair the pulleys and clothes lines. It is an organized industry.

The line men as we know them in Canada are the repairers of the wires that carry out messages from one part of the country to the other, and sometimes just around the corner. There are nearly seven thousand of them working on that job according to the last Census.

No. 178. Sun. Mar. 27, 1938 -- March Birth Stone -- Hematite

There are two birth sones for March, therefore one can have a choice. They are the Hematite and the Aquamarine.

Hematite was the "blood stone" of the ancients, and to us it is still the more familiar term. The name Hematite is derived from the Greek word "haima", meaning "blood". There are no Greek characters on the Bureau typewriters, so we have used the Roman letters to signify the Greek word.

When powdered or cut in thin sections, and in transmitted light, it is blood-red. It is always associated with Mars, the god of war, and on the field of battle was considered to be an invaluable help to the warrior who had rubbed his body with it.

The common variety of Hematite is mined commercially for its iron content, its chemical composition being ferric oxide. It has a steely gray to black metallic colour. The blackest material with the highest metallic lustre is the most valuable. It is extremely heavy and tough, and is usually cut for men's stone signet rings, often with sunken engravings known as intaglios.

No. 179. Mon. March 28, 1938 -- March Birth Stone - Aquamarine

The deep sea-green, blue-green, and light-blue beryls are called aquamarines, although one rarely thinks of them as differing from the emeralds, except in colour. Aquamarine emeralds, Tecla emeralds, and Crystalline emeralds are a few of the doubtful names for compositions of aquamarine or rock crystal cleverly coloured by inserted layers of green glass or cement, properly called triplets. The so-called "Evening Emerald" will be found to be a peridot. "Uralian Emerald" is not the emerald found in the Ural mountains but a green garnet from these same hills.

The emerald is the green variety of the mineral species, beryl. The chemical composition of beryl is silicate of aluminium and beryllium. Only about one per cent of the material found is of fine gem quality. Flawless stones are almost, but not entirely unknown. Usually the better colours, especially those from Colombia, are less perfect, and most of them are marred by many cracks and unperfections that reduce their value. The beautiful rose coloured beryl, such as is found in Madagasca and California, is called Morganite. It was named after John Pierpont Morgan.

Imitation aquamarines are made of glass. Analysed, the glass itself discloses the identical chemical composition and reproduces perfectly the colour and customary flaws. However, imitations have never seriously affected the value or desirability of genuine gems. With the development of the science of gems within recent years, no student of gemology need be deceived, since tests of hardness, dichroism, refractive index and nature of inclusions reveal the counterfeit.

No. 180. Tues. Mar. 29, 1938 -- Bees from Dixieland

Honeybees are imported in combless packages from the southern United States by the honey producers of the northern states and Canada. The reasons for this are, that in the South surplus bees can be produced very early in the spring and can be packaged and shipped north in plenty of time for the main honey flow. In certain regions, they will produce extraordinary crops of honey. Because of this, many beekeepers follow the practice of killing all their bees in the fall of the year and replacing them with package bees the following spring. Package bees will give better results in regions where the main honey flow is gathered during the months of July and August, but, where the flow starts about the middle of June and ceases during July, the returns are much smaller, often being little more than the cost of the packages plus transportation charges.

Package bees may be obtained in sizes ranging from one to five pounds in weight. The two-pound size is more popular, and packages of this size have been known to produce over 300 pounds of surplus honey under very favourable conditions. The average, however, is much below this, according to C.B. Gooderham, Dominion Apiarist. For most places the packages should arrive during the latter half of April, although bees arriving during the early part of May may give a good account of themselves. In northern regions where the opening of spring is late, the first half of May is a good time. There is no duty on package bees, nor is there excise tax on orders of less than $25.

The number of bees imported from the United States has been increasing very much in recent years. Last year the value was $193,000 as against $176,000 in 1936. Last year we got bees from the United Kingdom to the value of $272, but that is a long journey. A few years ago we got some from Jamaica, according to the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 181. Wed. Mar. 30, 1938 -- Plywood Market in the West of England

Plywood is strong thin board made by gluing layers of wood with grains cross-wise. It is used in veneering, a process of covering wood with a thin coating of finer wood. Cheaper or stronger lumber can be made into furniture and a covering of beautifully grained or expensive wood can make the article handsome as well as serviceable.

In recent years by intensive study and experiment the manufacturers of plywood have been able to produce in certain fields a product which is superior to natural wood in strength, durability and artistic appeal. The problem of warping and the layers separating have been overcome, and whereas thirty years ago it was used mainly for bottoms of drawers, backs and partitions of furniture, chair seats and tea chests, now it has entered widely into building construction, office and house furnishing and manufacture of transportation vehicles especially aeroplanes, automobiles and small boats.

The pronounced activity in industry during the past two years in the West of England, South Midlands and South Wales had resulted in a demand for more factory, warehouse and commercial space, and for additional house construction.

Canadian birch and Douglas fir are listed among the types of plywood imported by the United Kingdom. Although the export of birch plywood is small a considerable quantity of Canadian birch is made into plywood in England, principally for aeroplanes.

Canadian exports of veneers and plywood increased from $131,000 in 1935 to $683,000 in 1936. The export to the United Kingdom was five times greater, that to New Zealand rose from $2,000 to $11,000 and to the Netherlands from $20 to $25,000.

These figures are taken from a report from the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 182. Thurs. Mar. 31, 1938 -- Mrs. Sulphur Gets Caught

Sulphur was a 76-foot whale caught by British Columbia whalers last year. As it happened, the big Sulphur was the only member of its particular branch of the whale family to be among the season's catch of 317. Probably curiosity as to what other whales were doing was her downfall.

From the point of view of the whaler, the so-called sulphur is the most important species. This whale is the largest living animal -- perhaps the largest ever known. It has been known to reach the length of 91 feet and weight of 140 tons. An average animal weighs about 60 tons.

There were seven Humpbacks taken, 44 Finbacks and the rest Sperms. The Humpback is remarkable for the great length of its flippers and weighs about 27 tons. The Finback is valuable for its whalebone. It is slender and reaches a length of 55 to 60 feet and a weight of 50 tons. Sperm whales yield the spermaceti, a white brittle, fatty substance used for candles and ointments.

The Fisheries Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports a catch of 370 whales in 1936. Whalebone meal marketed amounted to 300 tons, whale fertilizer nearly 700 tons and 764,000 gallons of whale oil. The total value of the whale catch in that year was $172,000, an increase of nearly $67,000 over the year before.
