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## Facts of Interest from Bureau Records

Fishing may well be regarded as the first industry to be systematically prosecuted by Europeans in what is to-day the Dominion of Canada. Leaving aside inconclusive evidence in favour of authentic record, one must ascribe to Cabot the honour of having discovered in 1497, the cod banks of Newfoundland, when he first sighted the mainland of North America. The industry has grown with the passing years. In 1870 the value of the fisheries production was \$6,577,000, increasing to \$21,558,000 in 1900 and to \$45,119,000 in 1940. The Second World War witnessed a tremendous expansion in the demand for the products of the fisheries of Canada, and in 1943 the value reached the highest point in the history of the Dominion at \$85,858,000. Besides supplying the domestic market with fish products, the industry contributes materially to the expert trade of Canada.

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The first printing press in what is now Canada was brought by Bartholomew Green, Jr., from Boston in 1751, and the first Canadian newspaper, the Halifax "Gazette" was established by John Bushell in the following year. It was issued weekly and was a single sheet, printed on both sides. The second newspaper established in Canada was the Quebee "Gazette" founded in 1764. It was printed in alternate columns of English and French. There were in Canada in 1942, a total of 2,375 establishments engaged in the printing trades, and the gross value of their products totalled \$146,129,000. Included in the total were periodicals printed by the publishers to the value of \$58,126,-000, daily newspapers accounting for \$42,177,000, weekly and other newspapers \$10,479,000, and magazines, etc., \$5,470,000.

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Canada's forests cover an area of 1,220,400 square miles, or more than one-third of the total land area of the country. The accessible productive portion of the forests covers 430,000 square miles, and it is from this area that the whole output of sawlogs, pulpwood, fuelwood, and other primary products is obtained. About 340,000 square miles of forests, classed as productive but not at present accessible, form a reserve for the future when transportation systems may be more highly developed. By far the larger part of the world demand for wood is for softwood, or coniferous, species. Canada possesses the principal reserves of softwoods within the British Empire, and these include large supplies of the most desirable variaties - spruce, Douglas fir, westorn hemlock, western red cedar, and white, red and other pines. In addition, the eastern provinces furnish hardwoods, such as birches, maples and elms, which are particularly useful for special purposes.

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In Canada there are over 130 distinct species of trees. Only 33 of these are conifors or softwoods, but they comprise three-quarters of the standing timber and supply nearly 80 per cent of the wood used for all purposes. Of the deciduous-leaved or hardwood species, only about a dezen are of commercial importance as compared with twice that number of conifers.

#### Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales in February

The financing of sales of new and used motor vehicles during February totalled 1,742 units with a financed value of \$808,794, down 24 per cent in number and 15 per cent in amount of financing from the 2,306 vehicles financed in February last year for \$953,930. Included in the February 1945 totals were 183 new vehicles financed to the extent of \$223,058. There were 373 new vehicles financed in the first two months of the current year as compared with 267 in the corresponding period a year ago. Used vohicles financed during the same two months totalled 2,860 in 1945 and 4,132 in 1944.

#### World Cost of Living Movements During the Second Half of 1944

In the second half of 1944 cost of living index numbers for most countries seconded small increases which were usually less than those in the first half. Series for Canada, Mexico and Mowfoundland showed minor declines between fine and December.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics December index of living costs was 0.4 per cent lower than June 1944, and 0.7 per cent below December 1943. The United States Bureau of Labor index rose 1.3 per cent between June and December, and 2.1 per cent for the year. The largest group increases were shown by clothing and house-furnishings.

The cost of living index for St. John's, Newfoundland had risen 52 per cent from October 1939 to December 1944, the December index was 2.3 per cent below the June level and only 0.3 per cent above December 1943. An extension of price controls to cover practically all foodstuffs became effective October 31, 1944.

The Ministry of Labor index of living costs in the United Kingdom has recorded a wartime increase of 30.3 per cent to August 1944. The groups responsible for the increase were foods and fuel and light. The net increase for the second half of 1944 was 0.5 per cent and for the year one per cent. The November level of living costs in Switzerland was unchanged from June 1944 and stood 1.5 per cent above December 1943.

Cost of living index numbers for Latin-American countries continued upward in the second half of 1944, with the exception of the Mexican series which recorded its first decline since December 1942. Lower food prices caused a decrease of 1.8 per cent in the second half in contrast to a net increase of 13.9 per cent for the year. A June-November advance of 3.2 per cent for Lima, Poru, was moderate compared with the 13 per cent increase in the first eleven months of 1944. In Rio de Janeiro, living costs showed a slightly accelerating rise, and in Santiago, Chile, the cost of living index mounted with increasing momentum in the third quarter of 1944.

The quarterly index of living costs for Australia remained throughout 1944 below the level of the second quarter of 1943 when new stabilization measures were adopted. The December 1944 index was 0.1 per cent above June 1944 and 0.3 per cent above December 1943. The New Zealand wartime index of retail prices, on the base December 1942= 100, was 100.4 in December 1944, this was 0.3 per cent above the level of June 1944 and December 1943.

# World Wholesale Price Movements During the Second Half of 1944

Wholesale price series in the second half of 1944 recorded comparatively small changes. Although the movement continued to be generally upward, occasional small decreases were noted. Mexico and Argentina, where considerable advances were recorded in the first half of the year, showed moderate increases of less than two per cent. Index numbers for Australia and Switzerland showed fractional declines.

Price series for Canada and the United States had registered their steepest wartime rise by the end of 1941, and since then their rates of advance have moderated to a marked degree. The Canadian wholesale index showed no net change in the second half of 1944, and, in fact, ended the year on a par with the December 1943 index. The United States Bureau of Labor index recorded fractional losses during the second half, but ended the year 0.4 per cent above June 1944 and 1.5 per cent above December 1943. In both series, fluctuations were usually caused by changes in farm product prices.

The Board of Trade wholesale index for the United Kingdon reached a new wartime high in August 1944, influenced by seasonal food price increases and higher prices for coal, iron and steel. Subsequent food price declines lowered the index so that the December level was only 0.7 per cent above June 1944. A 1944 net increase of 3.3 per cent, as compared with 1.3 per cent in 1943, was due principally to authorized inoreases in coal and cotton prices.

The Swiss wholesale series, which has risen only moderately since the end of 1942, recorded small losses in the second half of 1944, resulting in a decrease of 0.6 per cent between June and November, and a gain of 0.9 per cent for the year. The Australian wholesale index for December 1944 was 0.5 per cent below June 1944 and 0.8 per cent above December 1943. Price series for New Zealand and South Africa, after recording no net changes in the first half of 1944, advanced moderately between June and November, New Zealand 0.6 per cent and South Africa, 1.3 per cent. For Argentina, a slower rate of increase provailed in the second half of 1944; 1.4 per cent between June and December, as against 5.8 per cent for the year. The Mexican series recorded small intermittent declines in the second half of 1944, the first since August 1942. However, in spite of these, the June-December 1944 period witnessed an increase of 1.4 per cent, which compared with a gain of 18.5 per cent for the year. The wholesale index for Calcutta, India, continued below the levels reached in the latter part of 1943. The November 1944 index was 0.3 per cent below June 1944 and 0.7 per cent below December 1943.

### Cheques Cashed against Individual Accounts in February

The amount of cheques cashed against individual accounts in February was \$4,434,000,-000, an increase of 5.4 per cont over the corresponding month of last year when the standing was \$4,208,000,000. Increases were shown in each of the five economic areas except the Prairie Provinces. The cheques cashed during the first two months of the present year totalled \$9,504,000,000, an advance of nine per cent over the same period of 1944. Each of the five economic areas except the Prairie Provinces recorded an increase in this connection.

The greatest percentage increase in February was shown in the Maritime Provinces where the total rose from \$87,500,000 to \$99,300,000. Increases were shown in each of the three clearing centres, the total for Halifax rising from \$44,000,000 to nearly \$52,000,000. The increase in Montreal was about 10 per cent, the total in February having been \$1,194,000,000. An advance was shown in Sherbrooke while the total for the city of Quebec was at a lower level. The not result for the province was an increase of 8.7 per cent, the total rising from \$1,206,000,000 to \$1,311,000,000.

Eight of the fourteen contres in Ontario recorded an increase in February over the same month of last year. The increase in Toronto was from \$987,000,000 to \$1,249,000,-000, an advance of more than 26 per cent. The total in Ottawa receded from \$548,000,000 to \$445,000,000. The total for Ontario was \$2,049,000,000, an increase of 8,9 per cent.

Five of the ten centres in the Prairie Provinces recorded increases, but a decline in the aggregate for the area was 8.5 per cent. Debits in Winnipeg dropped from \$439,-000,000 to \$361,000,000, while the total for the three provinces receded from \$748,000,-000 to \$684,000,000. Increases were shown in Victoria and New Westminster, the total for British Columbia rising from \$285,000,000 to nearly \$290,000,000, an advance of 1.6 per cent. The recession in Vancouver was from \$238,000,000 to about \$235,000,000.

#### Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on March 15 totalled 354,984,801 bushels as compared with 334,713,643 on the corresponding date of last year. Stocks on the latest date included 327,264,092 bushels in Canadian positions and 27,720,709 in United States positions.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ended March 15 amounted to 3,474,730 bushels as compared with 3,224,740 in the preceding week. During the elapsed portion of the present crop year, deliveries from farms in western Canada totalled 266,466,027 bushels as compared with 185,221,044 in the similar period of 1943-44.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending March 15, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: cats, 3,012,923 (2,693,156) bushels; barley, 517,190 (557,315); rye, 77,346 (75,932); flaxseed, 11,773 (10,537).

## Fisheries I eduction of Canada in 1943

The value of the fisheries production of Canada in 1943 amounted to \$85,858,358, the highest in the history of the industry. Higher prices, rather than increased catches, were the principal factor in the advance. The increase over the figure for the preceding year was \$10,741,425, or 14 per cent. The total represents the value of the fish as marketed, whether fresh, canned, cured or otherwise prepared, and includes the value of such by-products as oil and meal. The sea fisheries contributed \$73,211,575 or 85 per cent and the inland fisheries \$12,646,783, or 15 per cent.

The salmon fishery, with a marketed value of \$15,635,290, retained the leading

position, but the catch of this fish recorded a decrease of 25 per cent as compared with 1942, and the marketed value a decrease of 32 per cent. Other leading species were: cod, valued at \$13,070,933, with an increase of 11 per cent in quantity and of 32 per cent in marketed value; herring, \$12,006,217, with a decrease of 11 per cent in the catch but an increase of 10 per cent in value; and lobsters, \$8,208,533, an increase of seven per cent in landings and of 61 per cent in value.

According to marketed value, British Columbia led the other provinces with 37.8 per cent of the Dominion total, followed by Nova Scotia with 25.2 per cent, New Brunswick with 13 per cent, Quebec 6.9 per cent, Ontario 6.2 per cent, Manitoba 5.3 per cent, Prince Edward Island 3.3 per cent, Saskatohewan 1.4 per cent, and Alberta 0.9 per cent.

The total quantity of all kinds of fish, including shell fish, taken by Canadian fishermen in 1943 was 12,352,898 owt., valued at \$49,031,781 at the point of landing. This was an increase of two per cent in quantity caught and an increase of 18 per cent in landed value over the 1942 figures.

## Fur Farme of the Prairie Provinces, British Columbia and Yukon in 1943

Revenue to fur ranchers in the Prairie Provinces, British Columbia and Yukon from the sales of pelts and live animals increased substantially in 1943 as compared with 1942. In 1943 the revenues amounted to \$3,846,738, to which the sale of pelts contributed \$3,611,868 or 94 per cent and the sale of live animals the remaining \$234,870. Compared with the preceding year, pelt sales showed an increase of \$832,204 or 30 per cent and the live animal sales an increase of \$130,879 or 126 per cent.

The number of fur farms in the area declined from 2,090 to 1,874 and the number of operating farms in 1943, by provinces, was: Manitoba, 505; Saskatchewan, 474; Alberta, 643; British Columbia, 247; and Yukon, five. The number of fur-bearing animals on farms at the end of the year totalled 97,069 with a value of \$3,647,065 compared with 88,098 valued at \$2,507,535 at the close of 1942.

The number of animals born on the farms in 1943 was 186,062, a decrease of 72,869 from the preceding year. The number of silver foxes born was lower than in 1942 by 9,993 or 26 per cent but the number of new type foxes increased by 4,126 or 56 per cent. The numbers of mink born were sharply lower in 1943 than in the preceding year.

#### Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended March 10 increased to 69,105 oars from 67,468 in the preceding week, but were slightly below the total of 69,188 for the corresponding week last year. Loadings in the eastern division increased from 44,966 cars in 1944 to 47,210, but in the western division the total fell from 24,222 to 21,895 cars. Loadings of western grain declined from 6,431 to 3,615 cars.

## Production of Leather Footwear in January

Production of leather footwear in January amounted to 2,878,444 pairs as compared with 2,627,342 in the preceding month and 2,683,731 in the corresponding month of last year. The advance over December was 9.5 per cent and over January of last year, 7.3 per cent.

#### Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Preparations

Production by manufacturing plants in Canada which were engaged chiefly in making patent and proprietary medicines, pharmaceuticals and similar commodities was valued at \$50,772,686 at factory prices in 1943 as compared with \$41,983,247 in the preceding year and \$35,471,898 in 1941.

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## Price Index Numbers of Commodities and Services Used by Farmers in January

The composite Dominion price index of commedities and services used by farmers, including farm family living costs recorded a drop of 2.3 points to 131.5 between August 1944 and January 1945. Compared with January 1944, however, an increase of 1.0 had occurred. A decline in the commedities and services index was mainly responsible for the recossion, the composite index for this series falling 3.9 points to 137.4. In the same interval, farm family living costs recorded to 122.8. A sub-group breakdown showed a sharp seasonal decline in the Dominion index of farm wages from a level of 275.2 in August to 234.6 in January. In the commedities section, a provisional index for farm implements at 113.0 in January was down 3.8 points from the August level. This reflected the removal of the war exchange tax as well as certain tariffs on imported farm implements. Among other commedity groups to record changes, gasoline, oil and grease moved down 0.7 to 119.9, while the seed and building materials series each rose 0.8 to 136.4 and 174.9 respectively.

Due almost entirely to the previously mentioned regional differential in the wage rate decline, changes registered by eastern and western Canada composite index series were marked. Between August and January the commodity series of eight factors remained unchanged at 127.3 for castern Canada, while the western series eased 1.2 to 122.2. In the same period commodities and services for eastern Canada moved down 1.4 to 140.6 while in the west a docline of 7.7 points to 132.5 occurred.

Regional changes in farm family living costs were identical, the composite index for eastern Canada at 122.5 and western Canada at 123.3, each recording an advance of O.2 over August levels. In both instances higher costs for health maintenance were primarily responsible for the change. Foods were slightly lower in both regions.

# Estimates of Tourist Expenditures in 1944

Preliminary estimates of international travel expenditures in 1944 indicate that Canadians spent \$60,000,000 on eight million visits to other countries, while persons from other countries spent \$112,000,000 on 13 million entries into this country. When compared with corresponding data for 1943, the number of Canadian trips shows an increase of 57 per cent, and the number of foreign entries an increase of 26 per cent, while Canadian expenditures abroad have rison by 60 per cent and foreign expenditures in Canada have risen by 25 per cent.

Although the movement of Canadians abroad has not yet regained pre-war levels; It now represents 40 per cent of the combined movement of all persons into and out of Canada, approaching closely the proportion of 41 per cent which it represented in 1939. Under the influence of wartime restrictions Canadian travel to other countries reached a low of 22 per cent of the combined movement in the year 1941. The movement of foreign travellers into Canada reached its wartime low in 1943, showed an increase in 1944, but has not yet equalled the 1941 mark of 14 million entries.

Canadians travelling in the United States in 1944 spent a total of \$57,000,000 as compared with \$34,000,000 in the preceding year and \$67,000,000 in 1939. Nearly all of the increase in 1944 over 1943 was due to travel by means other than the automobile. The advance appears to have been about equally divided between train and boat, and other means of travel excluding automobiles. In the latter group spectacular gains of 172 per cent and 100 per cent were made in amounts spont respectively by bus and plane passengers. Scarcity of gasoline and tires for privately-owned automobiles has been largely responsible for pushing expenditures by this residual group of travellers to a figure almost twice that of its former high point.

While a largernumber of Canadians visited overseas countries in 1944 than in the years immediately preceding, expenditures dropped from \$3,500,000 in 1943 to \$2,800,000, due to the shorter average passage occasioned by increased travel to destinations in the West Indies and other points relatively close to Canada. In 1939, expenditures of Canadian travellers in overseas countries amounted to \$14,000,000.

Travel in Canada from the United States rose in 1944, but by a much smaller amount in proportion to the size of the traffic than was the case of Canadian travel to the United States. Total expenditures at \$109,000,000 showed an increase of 25 per cent over the preceding year. In terms of traffic types, the largest relative expenditure increase was 47 per cent in the case of automobiles, but the absolute increase of \$12,-000,000 in amounts spent by train and boat passengers was more than the rise in expenditures by all other types of traffic combined. Overseas expenditures in Canada were practically the same in 1944 as Canadian expenditures overseas, the amounts being just under \$3,000,000 in each case. Entries from Newfoundland amounted to more than half of the volume of travel but accounted for only a quarter of the amount spent in Canada. Volume of travel and expenditures both showed a slight increase over the preceding year.

## Man-Hours and Hourly Earnings

With the current survey of employment and payrolls for November 1, 1944, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics instituted the collection of monthly data on man-hours and hourly earnings. The provision of such information fills an obvious and long-felt want in the field of labour statistics in Canada; the material will also provide information of great value to those interested in the measurement of the volume of production and in productive capacity. The published statistics of this nature are at present limited to manufacturing, mining and building, and highway construction in Canada as a whole. It is planned, later on, to issue statistics upon a provincial basis, and for the leading cities as well as for additional industries as this becomes possible.

According to tabulations made by the Bureau, there was relatively little difference, in most cases, in the average hours worked in the weeks ending nearest November 1 and December 1, while the working time in the week nearest January 1 was affected to a greater or lesser extent by the observation of the holidays. For the manufacturing industry as a whole, the average number of hours worked during the week nearest December 1 was 46.3 as compared with 39.6 at January 1, in mining 45.8 as compared with 39.1, building construction 41.5 as compared with 35.1, and highway construction 33.5 as compared with 35.2 at January 1.

Little change was revealed in the average hourly earnings from month to month. The variations shown were due, in the main, to fluctuations in the amount of overtime, and to a lesser extent, to some variation in the firms reporting for the three months. Considerable variations in the rates as between industries were shown. The average of 77 to 78 cents per hour in the durable manufactured goods industries no doubt contains payment for a relatively greater amount of overtime than is shown in plants producing non-durable manufactured goods, in which the rates during the period of observation varied from 60 to 61 cents.

The highest averages of hourly earnings were reported in coal-mining, and in petroleum, automotive, aircraft and shipbuilding plants and structural iron and steel manufacturing, most of which employ large numbers of highly-skilled workers, and considerable proportions of male workers. The exception in the case of the latter factor, is the aircraft division, in which the latest survey of sex distribution showed a ratio exceeding that generally indicated in the heavy manufacturing industries as a whole, 291 per thousand of the employees in aircraft plants at October 1, 1944, being women and girls. In the heavy manufacturing industries as a whole, the proportion of females was then 188 per thousand, while women constituted 402 per thousand workers in the production of nondurable manufactured goods.

In manufacturing as a whole, the 807,405 wage-earners for whom were available statistics of man-hours and hourly earnings constituted 73.6 per cent of the total number of persons in recorded employment in manufacturing industries at January 1, 1945. The proportion in the durable manufactured goods was 77.6 and that in the nondurable goods industries, 69.1 per cent. The ratio varied from 432 per cent in the dairying industry and 50.8 per cent in bread and bakery products, in which relatively small numbers of workers are hourly-rated employees, to 87 per cent in silk and artificial silk goods, 86 per cent in explosives and ammunition manufacturing, 93.5 per cent in cotton yarn and cloth and 94.8 per cent in steel shipbuilding and repairing. In most cases, the coverage of total wage-carners was fairly adequate.

In manufacturing as a whole, the difference between the average weekly earnings of hourly-rated employees and the average salaries and wages of all persons in recorded employment at December 1 was 65 cents. There were considerable variations in the difference in the two averages for many of the industries. In the durable manufactured goods division, the difference amounted to 29 cents, while in the light manufacturing industries, the salaries and wages averaged \$1.75 higher than the computed weekly wages of hourly-rated employees.

Statistics of man-hours and hourly earnings will be published monthly hereafter.

#### Retail Merchandise Trade in 1943

The dollar value of sales through retail merchandise stores in 1943 was estimated at \$5,753,874,000 as compared with \$3,632,952,000 in the preceding year, an advance of \$120,922,000, or 3.3 per cent. The increase in 1942 over 1941 had been 5.6 per cent. These comparatively small rates of increase in the value of retail purchases were due in large measure to the marked reductions which have taken place since 1941 in the retail automotive trade. On removing the figures of the automotive trade from the grand totals for all retail trading establishments, the gain in dollar sales between 1941 and 1943 was increased from nine to 21 per cent.

Restrictions on the production of furniture and more especially on the production of radios and household appliances are reflected in the sales of stores specializing in these commodities. Furniture store sales averaged six per cent lower in 1943 than in 1941. The decline for stores specializing in the sale of radios or household appliances was considerably greater, amounting to 25 per cent. Increased sales in 1943 as compared with 1941 were registered by other major groups into which the retail trade is subdivided.

The following are the values of retail sales by kind-of-business groups in 1943 with corresponding totals for 1942 in brackets: focd, \$945,965,000 (\$901,354,000); country general stores, \$274,400,000 (\$245,456,000); general merchandise, \$600,088,000 (\$592,763,000); automotive, \$311,331,000 (\$364,331,000); apparel, \$372,509,000 (\$354,429,-000); building materials, \$206,103,000 (\$194,670,000); furniture, household, radio, \$101,327,000 (\$114,686,000); restaurants, \$189,056,000 (\$157,088,000); coal and wood yards, \$133,177,000 (\$120,619,000); drug stores, \$129,420,000 (\$115,450,000); jewellery stores, \$49,581,000 (\$43,174,000).

### Loadings of Revenue Freight

Revenue freight loaded at Canadian stations and received from foreign connections during December 1944 amounted to 11,493,059 tons as compared with 12,721,577 in the corresponding month of the preceding year. The aggregate for the full year 1944 was 154,845,277 tons as compared with 152,949,096 in 1943, an advance of 1,896,181 tons.

### Reports Issued During the Week

1. The Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Preparations Industry, 1943 (25 cents). 2. Production of Leather Footwear, January (10 cents). 3. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents). 4. World Price Movements, Second Half of 1944 (25 cents). 5. Advance Report on Fisheries of Canada, 1943 (10 cents). 6. Advance Report on the Fur Farms of the Prairie Provinces, British Columbia and Yukon, 1943 (10 cents). 7. Railway Revenue Freight Loadings, February (10 cents). 8. Bank Debits to Individual Accounts, February (10 cents). 9. Monthly Review of Business Statistics, February (10 cents). 10. Silver, Lead and Line Production, December (10 cents). 11. Copper and Nickel Production, December (10 cents). 12. Traffic Report of Railways, December (10 cents). 13. Preliminary Estimates of Tourist Expenditures, 1944 (25 cents). 14. Gold Production, December (10 cents). 15. Statistics of Man-Hours and Hourly Earnings (10 cents). 16. Retail Merchandise Trade in Canada and the Provinces 1942 and 1943 (25 cents). 17. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, February (10 cents). 18. Changes in Single Track Mileage Operated by Steam Railways of Canada, 1943 (10 cents). 19. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents). 20. Price Index Numbers of Commodities and Services Used by Farmers in January (10 cents).

