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COST-OF-LIVING INDEX ROSE 1.4 POINTS DURING OCTOBER

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index, on the base 1935-39=100, rose 1.4 points to 143.6 between October 1 and November 1, 1947. Higher food prices continued to dominate the advance, but each of the sub-group indexes, except for rentals moved upward. When adjusted to the base August 1939=100, the Dominion cost-of-living index moved up to 142.5 on November 1 from 141.1 on October 1.

The index for the food group rose 2.3 points to 173.6, due mainly to higher prices for eggs, fluid milk, certain meats and canned vegetables. Butter, lemons and a few fresh vegetables, on the other hand, were slightly lower between October 1 and November 1. Increases which occurred later in November were, of course not reflected in the November 1 index.

The clothing group advanced 2.8 points to 157.0, reflecting rising prices in all sub-sections, while homefurnishings and services moved up 1.5 to 151.4, due to increases for furniture, floor coverings, furnishings, dishes and cleaning supplies.

Slightly higher costs for medicinal supplies, personal care items, newspapers and gasoline were responsible for a gain of 0.6 to 118.2 in the miscellaneous items index. Fuel and lighting rose 0.7 to 122.6, due principally to higher prices for coal and coke. The rentals index remained at 119.9.

WEEKLY SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

The following are security price index numbers of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on the base 1935-39=100, for the week ending November 27, a week and month earlier:

	<u>November 27</u>	<u>November 20</u>	<u>October 30</u>
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
(100 Common Stocks)	107.3	108.1	105.0
74 Industrials	101.3	102.0	98.5
18 Utilities	112.8	114.8	115.4
8 Banks	135.8	135.4	129.6
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
(27 Stocks)	89.3	92.3	87.3
23 Golds	78.7	81.7	78.2
4 Base Metals	108.3	111.2	103.2

STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER ON DECEMBER 1

Stocks of creamery butter in nine Canadian cities on December 1 totalled 40,102,129 pounds compared with 48,862,020 on November 1, and 34,060,055 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Cheese stocks on December 1 amounted to 24,615,468 pounds compared with 26,763,770 on November 1, and 15,885,107 a year ago.

Creamery butter stocks were as follows by cities, totals for December 1 last year being in brackets: Quebec, 3,188,201 (3,407,454) pounds; Montreal, 15,621,660 (16,457,276); Toronto, 3,850,845 (3,231,553); Winnipeg, 8,357,512 (5,596,848); Regina, 504,725 (381,572); Saskatoon, 276,831 (268,857); Edmonton, 2,623,143 (1,286,552); Calgary, 1,584,840 (875,763); Vancouver, 4,094,372 (2,554,180).

WORLD WHEAT SITUATION

World production of bread-grains in 1947 is now indicated at 5.8 billion bushels of wheat and 1.5 billion of rye, according to the monthly review of the wheat situation by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The wheat crop is currently estimated at about the 1946 level but is four per cent less than the 1935-39 average, while the 1947 rye crop is four per cent above 1946, but only 88 per cent of the 1935-39 average. The record wheat crop in the United States and the anticipated record outturn of the Australian wheat crop now being harvested bring the world total for the year near average, despite much below-average crops in Europe and the Soviet-Union.

The European bread-grain crops is about a third below the 1935-39 level, placing most of that continent in a serious food position again this year, since bread constitutes such a large part of the diet and alternative foods are also scarce. European import needs will be greater than during the past season when production, though low, was estimated to be about 25 per cent larger than this year's outturn. While a moderate increase in world grain exports is anticipated this year it will evidently be insufficient to offset the sharp decrease in indigenous production in many deficit areas. Bread rations have already suffered further reductions from their already low levels in a number of European countries.

The review points out that the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations recently reported a further deterioration in world food position. He indicated that the gap between minimum needs and estimated supplies of broad grains has widened from a deficit of nine million metric tons to ten million since the FAO conference in Geneva last September, and stated there is no hope of other foodstuffs being substituted for bread.

Reliable estimates place the rice shortage at about four and one-half million tons. The Japanese occupation of the rice-exporting countries of south-east Asia seriously disrupted the rice trade and much of the shortage may be attributed to reduced production in these areas. Increases in the rice-eating population augment the critical nature of the situation. A committee of FAO which has been studying the world rice situation is not optimistic that any immediate improvement in supply can be expected. The committee estimates that even by 1952 there may be a gap between supplies and requirements of about three million tons. India, China, Malaya and Ceylon were prewar importers of rice and until import supplies become adequate to these countries will doubtless endeavour to substitute wheat for rice in their rations.

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on November 20 amounted to 150,864,214 bushels compared with 151,777,131 on November 13 and 169,593,476 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Visible on the latest date comprised 140,915,695 bushels in Canadian positions and 9,948,519 bushels in United States positions.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending November 20 totalled 4,682,500 bushels compared with 5,062,971 in the preceding week. During the period August 1 to November 20, 175,491,571 bushels of wheat were marketed as compared with 211,228,746 in the similar period of the preceding crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending November 20, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 2,107,588 (2,096,220) bushels; barley, 1,517,642 (1,563,458); rye, 170,116 (242,888); flaxseed, 74,925 (131,947).

CAR LOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Car loadings for the week ended November 22 increased to 86,508 cars from 82,508 cars for the preceding week and 78,711 cars for the corresponding week last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Loadings of coal increased from 6,227 cars last year to 7,275 cars, pulpwood from 2,238 to 3,618 cars, and l.c.l. merchandise from 17,715 to 19,028 cars. Smaller increases were made by grain, vegetable, live stock, ores, lumber and gasoline oils. Fresh fruits declined from 754 cars in 1946 to 444 cars, canned food products from 824 to 638 cars, and miscellaneous freight from 5,805 to 5,613 cars.

BUTTER SUPPLIES IN OCTOBER

Creamery butter production in October reached a total of 27,169,000 pounds, exceeding the all-time record of October 1942 by 2,061,000 pounds, and of the same month last year by 5,126,000 pounds, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The dairy make moved up to 4,490,000 pounds, while whey butter fell to 179,000 pounds.

Supply of butter in October -- stocks at the beginning, plus production in October -- amounted to approximately 105,500,000 pounds, an increase of 7,750,000 pounds over October last year. This improvement may be credited to the high production in recent months which placed creamery butter stocks of November 1 at approximately 71,000,000 pounds, nearly 4,000,000 above those of the same date last year. The unusually large production in October reduced storage withdrawals. Thus, the seasonal decline in creamery butter stocks between October 1 and November 1 was only 2,500,000 pounds. A year ago there was a difference of 3,750,000 pounds in the holdings reported on these dates.

The domestic disappearance of total butter advanced to a little more than 34,000,000 pounds in October as against 32,000,000 pounds in the previous month and 30,000,000 in October, 1946. In pounds per capita, the October disappearance was 2.71 in comparison with 2.53 last month and 2.43 in the same month last year.

SALES OF FLUID MILK AND CREAM

Sales of fluid milk and cream in September fell to 339,702,000 pounds, or by approximately two per cent from the same month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Fluid milk sales amounted to 284,159,000 pounds, while cream sales, expressed as milk, reached a total of 55,543,000 pounds. Compared with the same month last year, milk sales declined $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, but cream sales increased 11 per cent.

In the nine months ended September, sales of fluid milk and cream totalled 3,143,253,000 pounds (milk equivalent); compared with the same period of 1946, this represented a decrease of 82 million pounds or $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent less than that recorded in the January-September period of 1946. Cumulative milk sales fell $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, while cream sales, in terms of milk, increased 14 per cent.

In 40 urban centres of which the Bureau has figures, the September milk sales amounted to approximately 150,351,000 pounds (58,277,000 quarts); and for the nine-month period, January-September, a total of 1,367,880,000 pounds (530,574,000 quarts). Those figures represent decreases of four and six per cent, respectively.

STOCKS OF CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Stocks of canned fruits held by cannors, wholesale dealers and chain store warehouses on October 1 were 2,513,048 dozen cans, a decline of eight per cent from October 1 last year when the stocks were 2,730,384 dozen, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks of canned vegetables, on the other hand, rose from 12,347,454 dozen to 12,726,573 dozen.

Declines in the stocks of canned peaches from 1,247,793 dozen last year to 784,101 dozen, and in plums, gages, etc. from 895,858 dozen to 749,641 dozen, accounted for the overall decrease in canned fruit stocks. Most other types were higher. Among the canned vegetables, there were decreases in carrots and peas combined, corn, peas and tomatoes, but other varieties were held in greater volume.

NEW QUARTERLY REPORT ON SECONDARY TEXTILES

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics today issued the first of a new series of quarterly reports showing production of the main items in the secondary textile field. The present bulletin shows the production in the first two quarters of this year of women's and misses' wear, children's wear, men's and youth's wear, and boys' wear. Data in this new series are compiled on a commodity basis, irrespective of industrial classification. Additional publications will be issued as the collection of data relative to subsequent quarterly periods is completed.

RETAIL SALES OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES
REACH HIGH POINT FOR YEAR IN OCTOBER

Reaching the highest point for the year, sales of new motor vehicles in October totalled 23,640 units for a retail value of \$44,820,146, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The upward movement was the result of a substantial increase in the sale of new commercial vehicles, which rose from 6,441 in September to 8,214 in October. Passenger car sales declined slightly in October to 15,426 vehicles compared with 16,155 in September.

Sales during the first ten months of this year totalled 184,578 vehicles, with a retail value of \$328,229,027. In the same period of 1946, sales numbered 93,858 units with a retail value of \$149,280,000. Passenger car sales to the end of October amounted to 127,496 units, whereas the total in the same period of 1946 was 59,351.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES UP
12 PER CENT IN OCTOBER

Dollar sales in Canadian department stores were 12 per cent higher in October than in the same month of 1946, but were practically unchanged from September, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. While the increase over October last year was more than the 20 per cent gain shown in September, it fell only slightly short of the average increase of 15 per cent for the first ten months of the year. Unadjusted indexes of sales, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 286.4 for October, 287.7 for September and 254.3 for October, 1946.

Gains were shown in October for all regions of the country. Only in eastern sections was there any marked deviation from the rather uniform pattern of the increases from Ontario westward. The month's advance in the Maritime Provinces was 12 per cent, Quebec eight per cent, Ontario 14 per cent, Prairie Provinces 12 per cent, and British Columbia 12 per cent.

Results for individual departments indicate that the major changes in sales from last year continued to occur in durable household equipment. Highest among these were gains of 61 per cent for household appliances, 21 per cent for home furnishings, and 19 per cent for both the hardware and radio departments.

Sales in food departments were 32 per cent greater in October this year than last. Increases for apparel departments were much reduced from those shown in September comparisons, gains amounting to three and six per cent for women's and men's wear departments, respectively. Decreases occurred in drug and stationery sales.

FINANCING OF MOTOR VEHICLE
SALES UP SHARPLY IN OCTOBER

More motor vehicles were financed in October than in any previous month of this year and, in fact, the total was the highest reached since September 1941, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. New high marks for the year were attained in both new and used vehicle financing. The sharp upward trend in the last two months contrasts with the downward movement which prevailed during the fall months of 1946. Increases in October this year compared with last amounted to 149 per cent for new vehicles and 193 per cent for used vehicles.

There were 5,200 new vehicles financed in October for a total of \$7,297,401. Passenger cars, numbering 3,165, made up 61 per cent of the total and were three times the 1,057 new passenger units financed in October, 1946. New commercial vehicles financed totalled 2,035, almost double the 1,029 transactions in the same month last year.

Used vehicles showed a somewhat higher margin of increase over October last year than did new vehicles. The 7,478 units financed for \$4,558,057 represented a gain of 193 per cent in number and 267 per cent in financed value compared with October a year ago. Passenger cars formed a much higher proportion of the total in the used than in the new vehicle field. Used passenger cars financed numbered 6,080 in October, 81 per cent of the total whereas the number of used trucks and buses financed was 1,398.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLLS AT BEGINNING OF OCTOBER

In spite of serious losses resulting from the dispute in meat packing plants, substantial expansion in employment was indicated, on the whole, by leading establishments at October 1, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The general gain was seasonal in character, but was rather above-average for the time of year. The staffs of the 18,182 employers in the eight leading industries rose from 1,993,483 at September 1 to 2,007,897 at October 1, or by 0.7 per cent, while weekly salaries and wages aggregated \$75,038,687, an increase of 2.4 per cent over the September 1 total of \$73,285,907.

The general index of employment, based on the 1926 average, reached a maximum of 194.6 at October 1 as compared with 193.2 at September 1. At October 1 in preceding years of the record, the figures were as follows: 1946, 178.1; 1945, 168.7; 1944, 183.3; 1943, 187.5, and 1942, 181.3. The highest index during the war was that of 190.5 reached at December 1, 1943.

Improvement in the situation as compared with September 1, was shown in the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and Ontario, but curtailment was reported by leading firms in the four Western Provinces. To a considerable extent, the losses in these provinces were due to industrial disputes, the strike of meat packing employees having a particularly marked effect in the Prairie Area. In British Columbia, disputes in the iron and steel group also caused some declines.

Industrially, there was important expansion in logging, in which the reported increase approximated that noted at October 1 last year. Trade showed considerable seasonal improvement, while building was also more active. On the other hand, the trend was unfavourable in other branches of the construction industry, and in mining, communications, transportation and hotels and restaurants. Generally speaking, the reductions were moderate. In manufacturing, the outstanding change was the reported decrease of some 10,700 workers in slaughtering and meat packing plants, largely or wholly due to the strike. Lumber and pulp and paper mills showed substantial contractions of a seasonal character. On the other hand, there were important seasonal advances in vegetable food processing and textile factories, together with smaller increases in many other divisions.

CHEQUES CASHED AGAINST INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS UP 14 PER CENT IN OCTOBER

Cheques cashed against individual accounts in October aggregated \$7,209,000,000 as against \$6,313,000,000 in the corresponding month last year, an increase of 14 per cent, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Increases were shown in each of the five economic areas, and 31 of the 33 clearing centres recorded a greater amount of financial transactions in this class.

The cheques cashed in the first ten months of this year totalled \$60,900,000,000 compared with \$57,100,000,000 in the same period of last year. Each of the five economic areas, except Ontario, recorded advances in this comparison. The aggregate for Canada was 6.7 per cent greater than in 1946, and each of the five economic areas excepting Ontario showed percentage advances greater than for the Dominion as a whole. Ottawa, among the cities in which clearing houses are maintained, was the only centre showing a decline.

REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN SEPTEMBER

Output of refined petroleum products in September totalled 6,578,492 barrels compared with 6,453,764 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the nine months ending September, 54,026,949 barrels were produced compared with 48,707,595 in the similar period of 1946.

Canadian refineries used 6,901,270 barrels of crude oil in September compared with 6,619,547 in September last year. Receipts of crude oil in September this year totalled 6,843,913 barrels, including 6,270,679 barrels of imported oil and 573,234 barrels from Canadian sources of supply. Inventories of crude at the end of the month amounted to 4,281,033 barrels compared with 4,803,410 a year ago.

PRODUCTION OF GOLD IN AUGUST

Canadian production of gold in August amounted to 260,391 fine ounces compared with 261,397 in the preceding month and 231,200 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the eight months ending August, 2,036,208 fine ounces were produced compared with 1,898,999 in the like period of 1946, an increase of seven per cent.

SHIPMENTS OF ASBESTOS IN SEPTEMBER

Shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines in September totalled 58,356 tons compared with 53,361 in the preceding month and 51,092 in September 1946, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In the nine months ended September, 479,228 tons were shipped compared with 400,731 in the same period of 1946.

NATURAL GAS OUTPUT IN 1946

Production of natural gas in Canada in 1946 totalled 47,900,184 thousand cubic feet valued at \$12,165,050, a decrease of 1.1 per cent in both quantity and value from the 1945 output of 48,411,585 thousand cubic feet valued at \$12,309,564, according to the annual survey of the industry by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

PRODUCTION AND SALE OF
RIGID INSULATING BOARD

Production and domestic sale of rigid insulating board both were increased in October, the former amounting to 19,237,714 square feet compared with 15,567,699 a year ago, and the latter, 15,842,346 square feet compared with 12,426,741. In the ten months ending October, 169,155,077 square feet were produced compared with 131,589,421 in the like period of 1946, and domestic sales, 132,746,066 square feet compared with 108,681,332.

OUTPUT OF CENTRAL ELECTRIC
STATIONS HIGHER IN OCTOBER

Central electric stations produced 3,862,696,000 kilowatt hours in October, a record for the month, and 8.8 per cent higher than in October last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Production for the ten months ending October, at 37,703,080,000 kilowatt hours, also constituted a record for the period, comparing with 34,364,850,000 in the similar period of 1946. Consumption of primary power was at a new high with a daily average of 105,851,000 kilowatt hours compared with 102,312,000 in September and 101,022,000 in October 1943, the previous high for the month.

Exports to the United States declined to 147,164,000 kilowatt hours, which was the smallest October export since 1936. Much of these exports are on contracts of long standing that can not be reduced, but the exports of secondary or off-peak power have been declining each month since July and amounted to only 22,337,000 kilowatt hours in October as against 64,481,000 kilowatt hours in October 1946.

The plants supplying power in southern Ontario where restrictions in the use of electricity have recently been imposed, produced almost 100 per cent of the maximum possible with the equipment and water available. The plants in Quebec supplying power to the Ontario systems also generated practically 100 per cent of their maximum capacity. This was a remarkable performance in view of the enormous quantities produced by the Niagara and St. Lawrence plants where water can not be held back but the power must be produced and consumed almost continuously.

The amount of water which can be diverted from these rivers for power purposes is fixed at a daily quantity. A slight flexibility is possible where the rate can be increased at peak periods but the total daily diversion is fixed. Where the stream flow is controlled, such as on the Ottawa, Gatineau and other rivers, water can be stored during the night to be used during the day. Interconnections of these systems with the Niagara plants makes possible a very economical use of the water available for power purposes in the whole area.

PRODUCTION AND SALES OF ASPHALT ROOFING MATERIALS

Production of asphalt shingles and rolled roofing was increased in October, amounting to 526,107 squares compared with 505,077 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Sales in the month rose to 529,874 squares compared with 522,476.

During the ten months ending October, 4,671,493 squares were produced compared with 4,072,435 in the like period of 1946, while the sales aggregated 4,524,533 squares compared with 4,000,933 a year ago.

Output of tar and asphalt felts and sheathing in October amounted to 6,035 tons compared with 4,869 a year ago, the sales totalling 6,630 tons compared with 4,074. In the ten months, 47,163 tons were produced compared with 44,034 a year ago, and the sales, 46,123 tons compared with 43,333.

FIFTH DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE ON VITAL STATISTICS HELD

Called to discuss a new model vital statistics act for use as a guide in the revision or re-framing of provincial legislation, the fifth Dominion-Provincial Conference on Vital Statistics was opened on Monday, December 1, by the Hon. James A. MacKinnon, Minister of Trade and Commerce. The conference was attended both by officers in charge of vital statistics and legislative counsels of the provinces, representatives of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and of various federal departments, and by representatives of national organizations interested in vital statistics. Present from the United States as observers were Dr. Don C. Peterson, president of the American Association of Registration Executives, and Dr. Albert E. Bailey, National Consulting Service, United States National Office of Vital Statistics.

In his address of welcome, Mr. MacKinnon pointed out that the first two Dominion-Provincial conferences on vital statistics were held in 1918, when the first model vital statistics act for Canada was discussed and approved. As a result of the labours of these conferences, a Dominion-wide system of vital statistics was established. During the intervening years many important changes had taken place. The present conference was for the purpose of considering revisions in legislation relating to the registration of vital statistics that are necessary or desirable for meeting present-day needs.

Dr. Paul Parrot, Demographer, Ministry of Health of the Province of Quebec, was elected chairman of the conference; G. Rutherford, Attorney-General's Department, Manitoba, vice-chairman; and J. T. Marshall, Assistant Dominion Statistician, secretary.

MANITOBA FARMS FEWER IN NUMBER BUT INCREASE IN SIZE

Total number of occupied farms in Manitoba declined from 58,024 in 1941 to 54,448 in 1946, but the proportion and also number of farms over 200 acres increased, according to Prairie Census figures on Manitoba farms released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Aggregate area of occupied farm lands in 1946 was 16,072,535 acres, only 0.1 per cent less than in 1941.

Farms over 200 acres in 1946 numbered 30,131 or 55.3 per cent of the total number of farms as compared with 29,191 or 50.3 per cent in 1941. Largest number in this larger-size group in both years were those from 300 to 479 acres. Those numbered 14,842 in 1946 and 14,410 in 1941, representing 27.3 and 24.8 per cent respectively of the total numbers. Next were farms of 400 to 639 acres, which numbered 5,721 or 10.5 per cent in 1946 and 5,502 or 9.5 per cent in 1941. Farms of 640 to 959 acres also increased to 4,402 in 1946 compared with 4,248 five years earlier; and of 201 to 299 acres to 3,333 against 3,704. Those of 960 acres upward declined by two to 1,327 compared with 1,329 in 1941. Below the 200-acre size, farms of 101 to 200 acres numbered 16,712 or 30.7 per cent of all farms in 1946 as compared with 20,013 or 34.5 per cent in 1941, and formed in each year the largest of the different size groups. Numbers in other smaller-size groups were also lower in 1946 than five years earlier. Those of 51 to 100 acres were recorded at 3,325 as compared with 3,330; five to 50 acres, at 3,676 compared with 4,249; and small holdings below five acres, at 602 against 739.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE
POPULATION OF ALBERTA

The proportions of the population of Alberta in 1946 at the younger ages have declined, while those in middle and older age groups have increased when compared with the census of 1941 and 1936, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. A similar trend was indicated both for Manitoba and Saskatchewan in earlier releases by the Bureau.

Of Alberta's population of 803,330 on June 1, 1946, 46 per cent were under 25 years of age, 48 per cent in the age groups between 25 and 64, and the remaining six per cent were 65 years of age and over. Corresponding figures for 1941 and 1936, respectively, were as follows: total population, 796,169 and 772,782; under 25, 48 per cent and 50 per cent; 25 to 64 years, 47 per cent and 46 per cent; 65 years and over, five per cent and four per cent.

Although the proportions of the population under 25 years of age decreased as a whole from 1936 to 1946, the 0-4 age group showed a sizeable increase. In 1936 the population under five years of age amounted to 76,023, dropped to 74,901 in 1941, but in 1946 had risen to 85,296.

Figures for rural localities show declines in the age groups up to 54 years of age, with a resulting drop of over 37,000 in the total rural population during the ten-year period. In urban localities the total population increased by approximately 68,000, the principal gains being in the 0-4 age groups, in the groups between 20 and 44, and in all groups over 54 years of age.

Males outnumbered females in rural areas at all age levels. In urban centres as a whole, females slightly outnumbered males from ten to 39 years, and again at ages of 80 and over. This difference was greatest in the urban centres of over 30,000 population (Calgary and Edmonton) and for the age group 20 to 24 years, in which the ratio of males to females was one to 1.45.

POPULATION OF ALBERTA BY
MARITAL STATUS AND SEX

Figures relating to marital status of the population of Alberta on June 1, 1946, reveal that 410,394 persons, or 51 per cent of the total were single, while 360,230 or 45 per cent were married, 30,474 or slightly less than four per cent were widowed, and 2,232 or a small fraction of one per cent were divorced, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Comparisons with the Censuses of 1941 and 1936 indicate a uniform increase in the number of married persons relative to the total population, and a corresponding drop in the number of single persons. Whereas 39 out of every hundred persons in Alberta in 1936 were married, the proportion in 1941 was 42, and in 1946 close to 45. Single persons per hundred population numbered 57 in 1936, 54 in 1941, and 51 in 1946.

This increase in the ratio of married to single applies to rural and urban parts of the province alike. In rural localities the percentage of married persons rose from 37 in 1936 to almost 42 in 1946, while the percentage of single persons dropped from nearly 60 in 1936 to 55 in 1946. Similarly, in urban communities the proportion of the population married advanced from 43 in 1936 to 49 in 1946 while those in the single category dropped from 53 to 46 during the period.

It is probable that this rise in the proportion married was partly due to an increase in the number of marriages during the war years. However, earlier census figures show that a slight rise in the proportion married prevailed even during the period 1931-36, when economic conditions tended to discourage marriage. It is therefore quite likely that an important contributing factor was the advancing age trend of Alberta's population and the increase in the proportion reaching marriageable ages.

While the figures reveal that the divorce rate for Alberta increased noticeably during the period 1936 to 1946, it still remains a very small percentage of the total population. The number of divorced persons increased from 1,263 in 1936 to 1,518 in 1941 and 2,232 in 1946.

CIVIL AVIATION IN CANADA IN 1946

There has been a tremendous advance in all phases of civil aviation in Canada in recent years. According to figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, revenue miles flown increased between 1940 and 1946 from 10,341,329 to 25,844,570 miles, or by 150 per cent. Revenue passengers carried (exclusive of traffic between foreign ports) increased from 135,779 to 802,811, or by 494 per cent, revenue passenger miles from 38,438,439 to 206,776,408, or by 438 per cent, revenue freight ton miles by 141 per cent, and mail ton miles by 151 per cent. Comparisons with 1945 operations show increases in revenue aircraft miles flown of 39 per cent, in passengers carried 64 per cent, in passenger miles 35 per cent, and in freight ton miles 42 per cent, but mail tons miles declined 27 per cent.

REPORTS ISSUED DURING THE WEEK

1. Civil Aviation in Canada, 1946 (10 cents).
2. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, October (10 cents).
3. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
4. Natural Gas Industry in Canada, 1946 (15 cents).
5. Department Store Sales, October (10 cents).
6. Quarterly Production on Secondary Textiles (25 cents).
7. Stocks of Canadian Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Nine Cities, Dec. 1 (10 cents).
8. Number of Occupied Farms by Size of Holdings, Manitoba (10 cents).
9. Age Distribution, Alberta, 1946 (10 cents).
10. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation (10 cents).
11. Monthly Dairy Review, October (10 cents).
12. Rigid Insulating Board Industry, October (10 cents).
13. Production and Domestic Sales of Asphalt Roofing October (10 cents).
14. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
15. Sales of New Motor Vehicles, October (10 cents).
16. Asbestos, September (10 cents).
17. Gold Production, August (10 cents).
18. Employment Situation at Beginning of October (10 cents).
19. Cheques Cashed and Money Supply, October (10 cents).
20. Price Movements, November 1 (10 cents).
21. Stocks of Canned Fruits and Vegetables October 1 (10 cents).
22. Refined Petroleum Products, September (20 cents).
23. Central Electric Stations, October (10 cents).
24. Alberta, Marital Status, 1946 (10 cents).
25. Housing Characteristics of Prince Albert, 1946 (10 cents).
26. The Leather Industry, 1946 (25 cents).
27. Crude Petroleum Industry, 1946 (25 cents).
28. Fluid Milk Trade, September (10 cents).

Copies of these and other Bureau reports may be obtained on application to the Dominion Statistician, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

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