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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

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"CANADA, 1948", official handbook of present conditions and recent progress has been released for public distribution.

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STOCKS OF CANADIAN WHEAT IN STORE or in transit in North America at midnight on March 31 totalled 88,103,500 bushels compared with 92,239,000 on March 24 and 105,505,300 on the same date last year.

FOREIGN TRADE OF CANADA IN FEBRUARY AT AN ALL-TIME PEAK FOR THE MONTH

Foreign trade of Canada in February was valued at $392,500,000, the highest figure ever shown for the month, but the lowest monthly total since the corresponding month last year when the value was $358,-900,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The increase over February 1947 was 9.3 per cent. For the two months, January and February, the aggregate value was $837,600,000 as compared with $743,200,000 in the similar period of 1947.

Merchnadise imports in February, with a value of $182,200,000 were at a record level for the month, although lower than in any month since February last year, comparing with $206,100,000 in January and $177,100,000 in February, 1947. During the first two months of this year, imports were valued at $388,200,000 compared with $350,900,000 in the like period of 1947.

Merchandise exports in February were valued at $208,300,000, a peacetime high figure for the month, although the lowest month's total since April last year. The figure for January was $235,400,000 and for February last year, $179,500,000.

The overall commodity trade balance was favourable to Canada to the extent of $28,100,000 compared with $33,000,000 in January and $4,700,000 in February last year. Favourable balance with the United Kingdom in February was $33,900,000 compared with $43,400,000 in January and $34,500,000 a year ago. The debit balance with the United States declined further to $40,500,000 compared with $43,-200,000 in January and $67,100,000 in February last year.

MERCHANDISE IMPORTS IN FEBRUARY

Canada's merchandise imports in February were valued at $182,200,000, showing a small advance over last year's corresponding total of $177,100,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total for the first two months of this year was $388,200,-000 as compared with $350,900,000 in the similar period of 1947, an increase of 10 per cent.

Imports from the United States showed a slight recession in February, being valued at $136,847,000 compared with $138,429,000 in February last year, while the total for the two months, January and February, was $286,823,000 as against $274,877,000 in the like period of 1947, a rise of four per cent. Imports from the United Kingdom were higher in February, amounting to $17,872,000 as against $10,515,000, bringing the two-month total to $39,462,000 as against $24,773,000.

Imports from Venezuela -- the next largest source of supply during the month -- were valued at $4,967,000 as against $2,548,000, followed by India and Pakistan at $2,140,000 compared with $5,531,000, Cuba $2,052,000 compared with $759,000, Mexico $1,930,000 compared with $781,000, Brazil $1,698,000 ($481,000), Gold Coast $1,270,000 ($831,000), New Zealand $1,236,000 ($1,520,000), Netherlands West Indies $856,000 ($386,000), Philippine Islands $847,000 ($688,000), and Colombia $845,000 ($1,516,000).

Declines were shown for seven of the nine main commodity groups of imports. Sharpest drop was registered by the fibres and textiles group which fell from $32,-700,000 in February last year to $22,300,000. Cotton and products, flax, hemp and jute, and artificial silk were lower, and wool products higher. The iron and products group rose from $48,604,000 to $61,031,000, with advances in farm implements and machinery, other machinery, automobile parts, engines and boilers, but decreases in freight and passenger automobiles.

The non-metallic minerals group rose from $25,198,000 to $36,090,000, gains being shown for coal, coal products, crude petroleum and petroleum products. The non-ferrous metals group was down slightly at $10,195,000 compared with $11,173,-000, as was the chemicals group at $8,411,000 compared with $8,466,000.

The agricultural and vegetable products group fell from $25,675,000 to $22,678,000, fruits, vegetables, tea, vegetable oils, and rubber being lower, and sugar, cocoa and chocolate, and coffee and chicory higher. The animals and animal products group fell from $8,225,000 to $7,118,000, wood, wood products and paper from $6,520,000 to $5,797,000, and the miscellaneous group from $10,555,000 to $8,594,000.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AT CANADIAN BORDER POINTS IN FEBRUARY

Volume of highway traffic at border points in February showed the same general characteristics as were shown in January. American traffic entering Canada continued to advance over the corresponding period in 1947 and Canadian traffic returning from the United States continued to decline. The aggregate number of border crossings in February was 368,000, an advance of 16 per cent over the previous year. The total volume consisted of 269,600 foreign entries and 98,400 Canadian vehicles returning. Of the foreign inflow, 33,300 cars entered on traveller's vehicle permits, 224,100 were non-permit or local entries and 12,200 were commercial vehicles. The Canadian traffic comprised 4,000 units remaining abroad for more than 24 hours, 82,700 staying for shorter periods, and 11,700 commercial vehicles.

With an increase of 33 per cent over the corresponding month in 1947, foreign traffic entering Canada on traveller's vehicle permits made an even better showing in February than in January. The gain was reflected in all provinces except Manitoba and reached its maximum in Ontario and Quebec with advances of 4,800 and 1,200, respectively. Non-permit or local traffic increased 33 per cent over February 1947, chiefly on account of large gains at Windsor, Niagara Falls, Fort Erie and Sarnia.

The number of Canadian vehicles returning to Canada in February after remaining abroad longer than 24 hours was 4,000, representing a decrease of 28 per cent from February, 1947. Reviewing the period of three months during which the current restrictions on pleasure travel have been in force, the drop from the previous year of 28 per cent in February may be compared with similar drops of 23 per cent in December and 11 per cent in January.

The volume of Canadian short term traffic remaining abroad for 24 hours or less in February was 11 per cent lower than in February 1947. More than half the decline was due to a heavy drop in short term traffic passing through the port of Niagara Falls.

CAR LOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended April 3 increased to 74,459 cars from 68,813 cars for the preceding week and 66,639 cars for the corresponding week last year; loadings for both of these weeks were depressed by the holiday on Good Friday. Grain loadings were lighter than in the same week last year by 1,150 cars and grain products also declined by 311 cars. Coal loadings increased from 3,037 cars to 6,188 cars, only 1,066 cars being loaded in the eastern division in 1947. Loadings of pulpwood, lumber, gasoline and oils and wood pulp and paper were heavier than last year and l.c.l. merchandise increased from 17,470 to 19,044 cars.

UPWARD TREND IN RETAIL SALES CONTINUES

Sales of retail stores in Canada were nine per cent higher in February this year than in the same month a year ago, according to the composite index for 14 trades. Combining the 18 per cent increase in January with the nine per cent February gain, sales in the first two months of this year were 13 per cent above the corresponding period of 1947. The decline between January and February this year was consistent with the normal seasonal trend of sales. Unadjusted indexes, on the base 1935-39=100, were 198.7 for February, 211.8 for January, and 183.1 for February, 1947.

Food stores had the largest of the increases for individual trades in the first two months of this year; sales averaged 18 per cent above the corresponding period a year ago. The 14 per cent increase for February was not quite as substantial as a 23 per cent gain recorded in January, but nevertheless ranked high among the gains recorded by various trades. Price increases have undoubtedly been one of the major factors in this trend in food store sales.

Department store sales marked up a gain of only three per cent in February, an increase which is considerably lower than the January rise of 17 per cent. Sales averaged nine per cent higher in the two-month period. Country general and variety stores reported sales up seven per cent and 13 per cent, respectively in February.

Margin of the increases for household durables has narrowed considerably in recent months. February results show gains of seven per cent for radio and electrical stores, four per cent for furniture stores and three per cent for hardware stores. Jewellery store sales fell two per cent.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES FOR EIGHT REGIONAL CITIES

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics released cost-of-living indexes for eight regional cities for March 1, together with those for February 2 and March 1 last year. Five of the eight cities -- Halifax, Saint John, Montreal, Winnipeg and Saskatoon -- showed increases of 1.2 points between February 2 and March 1, while the index for Edmonton moved up 0.8 points, and that for Vancouver advanced one point. Toronto recorded the smallest change with a rise of 0.3 points.

The Bureau points out that in interpreting the city indexes it should be understood that they compare changes in living costs in each city, but do not compare actual levels of living costs as between cities. It is incorrect to conclude, on the basis of these indexes, that it costs more to live in one city than it does in another. The comparable Dominion cost-of-living index, on the base August 1939 was 149.6 for March 1 this year.

The following table shows the city cost-of-living indexes for March 1 this year, February 2, and March 1, 1947.

	March 1, 1947	February 2, 1948 (August 1939=100)	March 1, 1948
Halifax	126.7	144.3	145.5
Saint John	126.9	147.7	148.9
Montreal	130.8	152.8	154.0
Toronto	126.9	147.8	148.1
Winnipeg	124.8	144.4	145.6
Saskatoon	130.2	151.9	153.1
Edmonton	126.0	145.1	145.9
Vancouver	129.0	148.7	149.7

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

	April 8, 1948	April 1, 1948	March 11, 1948
		(1935-39=100)	
Investors' Price Index			
(100 Common Stocks)	107.6	105.5	101.3
76 Industrials	102.2	100.2	95.6
16 Utilities	114.2	112.4	107.2
8 Banks	128.9	125.1	128.5
Mining Stock Price Index			
(30 Stocks)	80.4	81.0	83.4
25 Golds	65.9	67.3	72.9
5 Base Metals	108.6	107.4	102.5

OUTPUT OF CENTRAL ELECTRIC STATIONS Central electric stations produced 3,499,-238,000 kilowatt hours during February as compared with 3,753,916,000 in the preceding month and 3,589,361,000 in the corresponding month last year. During the two months, January and February, 7,253,-154,000 kilowatt hours were produced as against 7,440,472,000 in the same period of 1947.

Consumption of primary power -- total output, less net exports and deliveries of secondary power to Canadian producers -- increased from 2,871,102,000 kilowatt hours in February 1947 to 3,177,434,000 in February 1948. Consumption for the two months aggregated 6,574,612,000 kilowatt hours compared with 5,962,519,000.

Exports to the United States were reduced to 122,485,000 kilowatt hours from 136,292,000 in January and 151,786,000 in February last year. Exports tor the two months amounted to 258,777,000 kilowatt hours compared wity 319,949,000. There were also 12,685,000 kilowatt hours imported into British Columbia in February, and during the two months, January-February, 20,049,000 were imported. Exports of secondary power amounted to 10,053,000, reduced from the 41,188,000 in February 1947.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES UP 10 PER CENT IN MARCH Department store sales increased 10 per cent in March over the same month last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Advances were shown for all sections of the country, with Ontario and British Columbia showing the largest gains of 19 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively. The advance in the Maritimes was six per cent, Quebec four per cent, Manitoba three per cent, Saskatchewan one per cent, and Alberta four per cent.

BUTTER STOCKS IN NINE CITIES Stocks of creamery butter in nine Canadian cities on April 9 amounted to 2,882,937 pounds as compared with 4,365,124 on April 1, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Holdings follow by cities, totals for April 1 being in brackets: Quebec, 56,142 (110,120) pounds; Montreal, 660,812 (1,202,034); Toronto, 496,653 (705,532); Winnipeg, 411,413 (602,132); Regina, 75,305 (105,260); Saskatoon, 78,582 (104,084); Edmonton, 195,916 (278,247); Calgary, 136,663 (297,212); Vancouver, 771,451 (980,503).

LESS BUTTER AND CHEESE PRODUCED IN MARCH

Creamery butter production in March amounted to 11,384,000 pounds compared with 12,240,000 pounds in the corresponding month last year, a decline of seven per cent, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first three months of this year, 28,410,000 pounds were produced, as compared with 30,744,000 in the like period of 1947, a decrease of 7.6 per cent. There were declines in both the month and quarter in all provinces except Alberta.

Cheddar cheese output in March totalled 1,845,000 pounds compared with 2,501,000 in the same month last year, a decrease of 26 per cent, and in the first quarter, 3,697,000 pounds compared with 5,549,000 in the same period of 1947, a drop of 33 per cent. Declines were registered in all sections of the country in the month and quarter.

The month's output of concentrated milk products also showed a decrease, falling almost 15 per cent from 21,960,000 pounds to 18,685,000 pounds. In the first three months of this year 44,668,000 pounds were produced compared with 49,024,000 in the same period of 1947, a decline of almost nine per cent. Ice cream production continued to increase, the month's output amounting to 1,413,000 gallons as compared with 720,000 in the same month last year, and in the first three months of this year, 3,439,000 gallons as compared with 2,113,000.

WORLD WHEAT SITUATION BRIGHTER

There has been a fairly steady flow of shipments from the four major wheat-exporting countries to deficit areas during the past few months. Record 1947 wheat crops in the United States and Australia, together with an excellent crop in the Argentine, have made it possible to maintain rations in these areas at better levels than had been hoped for earlier in the season.

Although Canada's 1947 wheat crop was below average and carry-over stocks at the outset of the crop year were very low, exports of wheat and flour in terms of wheat will be close to the 200-million-bushels mark for the current crop year. It is estimated that, by the end of May, exports of grains and grain products from the United States will have amounted to 521.9 million bushels (in grain equivalent), this amount including 432.5 million bushels of wheat and flour in terms of wheat. It now appears likely that crop-year exports of all grains and grain products from the United States may approach a total of 570 million bushels, of which wheat and flour will make up considerably more than 450 million bushels. Exports of grains from Russia, too, have not been inconsiderable.

In the light of these favourable factors some international food authorities have forecast an end to the international allocation of cereal grains. Any such final decision, however, will likely hinge on the size of the United States 1948 winter wheat and corn crops in addition to satisfactory 1948 harvests in the world's deficit areas.

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on March 31 totalled 88,103,500 bushels compared with 92,239,300 bushels on March 24 and 105,505,300 bushels on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Visible on the latest date comprised 85,834,900 bushels in Canadian positions and 2,268,600 bushels in United States positions.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending March 31 totalled 834,800 bushels compared with 1,202,200 in the preceding week, bringing the total for the period August 1 - March 31 to 208,293,500 bushels compared with 262,311,400 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 March 31, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 481,200 (575,500) bushels; barley, 206,300 (226,400); rye, 13,500 (5,300); flaxseed, 25,900 (15,700) bushels.

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending March 31 amounted to 2,058,500 bushels compared with 1,608,600 in the corresponding week last year. Total for the period August 1 - March 31 was 84,472,800 bushels compared with 93,494,700 in the like period of 1946-47.

STOCKS OF DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS ON APRIL 1

Stocks of creamery butter in cold storages, dairy factories and in transit were lower on April 1, amounting to 8,189,300 pounds compared with 15,-356,200 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks of dairy butter totalled 4,900 pounds compared with 9,000, and whey butter, 53,900 pounds compared with 54,100. Cheese stocks rose from 18,953,000 pounds on April 1 last year to 22,356,000.

Stocks of evaporated whole milk held by or for manufacturers on April 1 amounted to 3,472,100 pounds, down sharply from last year's corresponding total of 13,948,000 pounds. Skim milk powder stocks were 2,325,800 pounds compared with 2,416,400. Shell eggs in storage totalled 8,131,700 dozen compared with 6,403,900, while the holdings of frozen egg meats amounted to 8,447,900 pounds compared with 3,956,300. Poultry meat stocks on April 1 amounted to 22,322,900 pounds compared with 16,833,600 on the same date last year.

STOCKS OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

There was a general decrease in the stocks of Canadian fresh vegetables in cold and common storage on April 1, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Potato stocks fell from 262,767 tons on April 1 last year to 192,494, onions from 4,931 tons to 1,232, beets from 390 tons to 297, carrots from 2,899 tons to 985, cabbages from 1,054 tons to 183, parsnips from 409 tons to 117. There was no celery in storage on April 1, whereas a year ago stocks comprised 4,140 crates of Canadian and 19,135 crates of imported. Stocks of imported onions on April 1 amounted to 585 tons compared with 154 on April 1 last year, beets one ton compared with 25, carrots 452 tons compared with 655, cabbages 731 tons compared with 503.

April 1 stocks of fruit, frozen and in preservatives amounted to 29,068,415 pounds compared with 24,494,582 on the corresponding date last year, while the holdings of vegetables, frozen and in brine, totalled 8,940,295 pounds compared with 4,927,164. Stocks of apples on April 1 amounted to 1,220,746 bushels compared with 500,299 a year ago, and pears, 2,622 bushels compared with 2,214.

STOCKS OF MEAT ON APRIL 1

Stocks of meat held by packers, abattoirs, wholesale butchers and cold storage warehouses on April 1 amounted to 129,747,000 pounds, down slightly from the March 1 figure of 130,-727,000, but more than double last year's corresponding total of 64,135,000 pounds, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Pork stocks were higher in both comparisons amounting to 85,040,000 pounds compared with 80,507,000 on March 1, and 44,089,000 on April 1, 1947. Holdings of beef totalled 35,838,000 pounds compared with 39,422,000 on March 1, and 16,042,000 a year ago.

Stocks of veal amounted to 2,861,000 pounds compared with 3,525,000 on March 1 and 1,156,000 last year, while the stocks of mutton and lamb totalled 6,014,000 pounds compared with 7,274,000 on March 1 and 2,848,000 on April 1, 1947.

Lard stocks were higher on April 1, totalling 3,633,000 pounds compared with 3,565,000 on March 1, and 1,314,000 on the corresponding date last year.

FISH STOCKS LOWER ON APRIL 1 Stocks of frozen fish were lower on April 1, totalling 23,863,000 pounds compared with 28,284,000 on March 1 and 25,786,000 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Holdings comprised 21,211,000 pounds frozen fresh and 2,652,000 frozen smoked.

Cod stocks on April 1 were 2,759,000 pounds as against 1,574,000 on March 1 and 5,683,000 a year ago, while the holdings of salmon amounted to 5,416,000 pounds compared with 9,110,000 on March 1 and 4,260,000 on the same date last year.

There were 6,816,000 pounds of sea herring and kippers in store as against 7,697,000 on March 1 and 7,318,000 on April 1 last year, and 1,018,000 pounds of haddock and finnan haddie as against 850,000 on March 1 and 461,000 a year ago.

Holdings of inland fish on April 1 amounted to 2,548,000 pounds as against 1,907,000 on March 1 and 2,479,000 a year ago.

CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE Claims for unemployment insurance benefit filed at local offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission in February totalled 88,016 as against 109,311 in January and 55,569 in the corresponding month last year. Ordinary claimants on the live unemployment register at the end of February numbered 146,076 compared with 130,-798 at the end of January and 110,062 at the end of February, 1947. In addition there were 7,279 on the live unemployment register at the end of February, 14,462 as at January 31, and 2,358 a year ago.

A total of 138,417 persons received benefit payments amounting to $5,017,-492 for 2,544,452 compensated unemployed days during February compared with 106,-367 persons paid $3,924,641 for 1,999,849 compensated days in January and 102,972 persons paid $3,916,634 for 2,006,459 compensated days during February, 1947. The average duration of the unemployment compensated was 18.4 days in February, 18.8 days in January and 19.5 days in February last year. The average amount of benfit paid per beneficiary was $36.25 in February, $36.90 in January and $38.04 in February, 1947.

INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS The index number of farm prices of agricultural products as of February 15 was relatively unchanged from mid-January but was substantially higher than on the same date last year. The latest figure, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 223.6 compared with 223.9 for January and 187.1 a year ago. When compared with the preceding month, gains in this year's February farm prices for potatoes and livestock were offset by declines in the prices of feed grains, poultry and eggs. When compared with February prices of a year ago, farm prices displayed substantial gains for almost every class of agricultural produce considered in the index.

STOCKS, PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF RUBBER

Stocks of natural rubber at the end of February fell slightly to 5,704 long tons as compared with 5,739 at the end of the preceding month, but increased over the February 1947 figure of 2,876 long tons, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Reclaim stocks decreased from 3,114 long tons at the end of February last year to 2,162, and synthetic from 4,551 long tons to 4,062.

Domestic production of synthetic rubber fell from 4,024 long tons in February last year to 3,388, while reclaim increased from 330 long tons to 388. Domestic consumption of natural rubber increased from 2,224 long tons to 3,474, but synthetic declined from 2,823 long tons to 1,886, and reclaim from 1,463 long tons to 1,216.

PRODUCTION AND DOMESTIC SALES OF ASPHALT FLOOR TILES

The production of asphalt floor tiles in March amounted to 1,889,300 square feet as compared with 1,647,400 square feet in February, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Domestic sales totalled 1,470,300 square feet as against 1,376,700 square feet in February. During the three months ending March, production amounted to 5,264,000 square feet and domestic sales totalled 4,347,700 square feet.

STOCKS OF RAW AND REFINED SUGAR

Refinery stocks of raw sugar on March 20 amounted to 59,158,000 pounds as compared with 108,252,000 pounds on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Refined sugar stocks were 164,075,000 pounds as compared with 181,304,000 pounds.

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

Births registered in Canadian cities, towns and villages having a population of 10,000 and over numbered 12,930 in February, deaths 5,544 and marriages 3,347, as compared with 14,130 births, 4,959 deaths and 3,979 marriages in February last year, showing decreases of eight and 16 per cent respectively for births and marriages and an increase of 12 per cent for deaths.

SALES OF PRODUCTS MADE FROM CANADIAN CLAYS

Reaching the lowest monthly total since February last year, producers' sales of products made from Canadian clays amounted in value to $993,200 in January compared with $1,150,400 in December and $863,300 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The figure for February 1947 was $875,500.

The month's sales comprised the following, totals for January last year being in brackets: building brick, $501,200 ($445,700); structural tile, $167,000 ($112,500); drain tile, $34,800 ($31,100); sewer pipe, $136,300 ($113,200); fireclay blocks and shapes, $33,600 ($8,800); pottery, $61,800 ($114,300); other clay products, $58,400 ($49,900).

PRODUCTION OF NATURAL GAS INCREASED IN JANUARY

Production of natural gas was further increased in January, amounting to 6,186,254,000 cubic feet compared with 6,075,695,000 in December and 5,970,806,000 in January 1947, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's output comprised 5,136,777,000 cubic feet from Alberta, 969,233,000 from Ontario, 47,913,000 from New Brunswick and 32,331,000 from Saskatchewan.

LUMBER PRODUCTION DOWN THREE PER CENT IN JANUARY

Canadian production of sawn lumber in January has been estimated at 341,226,000 feet board measure as compared with 352,796,000 in the corresponding month last year, a decrease of three per cent, according to estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Estimates for the month follow by provinces, in thousands, totals for January last year being in brackets: British Columbia, 186,757 (172,390) feet; Alberta, 60,866 (45,069); Quebec, 24,002 (42,219); Saskatchewan, 19,376 (30,740); Nova Scotia, 21,472 (28,324); New Brunswick, 14,129 (17,362); Ontario, 12,805 (13,617); Manitoba, 1,748 (2,923); Prince Edward Island, 71 (152).

CRUDE PETROLEUM OUTPUT HIGHER IN JANUARY

Continuing the up-trend of recent months, Canadian output of crude petroleum and natural gasoline reached a high point in January, amounting to 775,628 barrels as compared with 766,309 in December and 597,572 in January last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Alberta produced 687,447 barrels compared with 562,172 a year ago, Saskatchewan 73,753 barrels compared with 19,725, Ontario 12,839 barrels compared with 10,401, and New Brunswick 1,589 barrels compared with 2,237.

PRODUCTION OF CONCRETE BUILDING MATERIALS

Production of concrete building blocks -- solid, hollow and cinder -- amounted to 2,011,500 pieces in February, down slightly from the January figure of 2,095,000, but up sharply from last year's corresponding total of 1,111,000. Output of concrete bricks totalled 934,700 compared with 606,400 in January and 1,130,000 in February last year, while the production of cement drain pipe, sewer pipe, water pipe and culvert tile amounted to 10,200 tons compared with 9,700 in January and 7,300 a year ago.

PRODUCTION OF ELECTRIC REFRIGERATORS IN FEBRUARY

Output of domestic electric refrigeratorx in February amounted to 9,839 units compared with 10,244 in January and 8,272 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Imports of 630 units -- domestic or store type -- were higher than in the two previous months, but otherwise were the lowest since June 1946. Exports in February totalled 476 units compared with 99 in January and 263 a year ago.

1948 EDITION OF HANDBOOK "CANADA" RELEASED FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

Publication is announced of the 1948 edition of the Official Handbook CANADA. Initiated eighteen years ago to supplement the field of the CANADA YEAR BOOK, this convenient pocket-sized annual contains official information in condensed form and is especially designed for ready use by business men, students, and all interested in the progress of Canada. While placing emphasis on those aspects of most importance currently, it deals so far as space permits with all phases of the country's economic organization and brings statistics up to the latest possible date.

Containing over 260 pages of text, more than 100 illustrations including eleven pages of colour, 100 statistical tables, together with diagrams, charts and two map inserts, the current edition is both an attractive and readable publication. The frontispiece illustration is a colour photograph of H.R.H. the Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh, and H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, taken at Buckingham Palace immediately following the wedding ceremony in Westminster Abbey on November 20, 1947.

Special articles in this edition deal with "Canadian External Relations" and "Travel and National Unity". The chapter material falls under headings of vital statistics and public health, welfare services and veterans' affairs, survey of production, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, furs, mines and minerals, water powers, manufactures, transportation and communications, domestic trade, prices and price control and cost of living, foreign trade and international payments, construction, labour, national accounts and public finance, banking and insurance, education, science and culture.

Price of the handbook is 25 cents a copy. Applications for copies should be made to the King's Printer, Ottawa, accompanied by postal script or money order.

WAGE-EARNER FAMILY EARNINGS IN ALBERTA AT THE 1946 CENSUS

Average family earnings of wage-earner families in Alberta increased 44.3 per cent, during the five years from 1941 to 1946, while the number of such families rose about 25 per cent, according to a preliminary bulletin of the 1946 Prairie Census released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

There were 77,096 wage-earner families in the province at the time of the 1946 Census, an increase of 15,368 over 1941 when the number was 61,728. Of the 1946 total wage-earner families, 74,794 or about 97 per cent - about the same proportion as in 1941 - had a male head of family.

Average family earnings of wage-earner families - that is families with a wage-earner head - during the year ended June 1, 1946 was $1,896. This compares with average earnings of $1,314 at the 1941 Census. Earnings in the census include only cash earnings from wage or salaried employment and do not include earnings in kind or from any "own account" occupation carried on in any part of the census year. Family earnings include earnings of the head and other wage-earning members of his private family only but not the earnings of any relatives or lodgers who may be part of his household but not of his private family.

Wage-earner families living in rural areas average $1,540 in the year ended June 1, 1946, while in urban areas their average was $2,005. In 1941 the corresponding figures were $947 and $1,450. Showing a considerable increase over 1941, average family earnings in Calgary was $2,163 as compared with $1,577; Edmonton, $2,062 ($1,507 in 1941); Lethbridge, $2,059 ($1,491 in 1941); and Medicine Hat, $1,928 ($1,473 in 1941). Urban centres having a population of 1,000 to 5,000 at the 1946 Census showed average family earnings of $1,795 as compared with $1,307 in 1941 and centres with a population under 1,000 an average of $1,610 as against $1,131 in 1941.

A tabulation of family earnings in families with wage-earner heads of the 1946 Census showed that aggregate earnings of all wage-earning members of the family was less than $950 in approximately 14 per cent of these families, less than $1,950 in approximately 57 per cent, and below $2,950 in about 82 per cent of all wage-earner families. Family earnings were not reported by 4,536 or about six per cent of all wage-earner families.

REPORTS ISSUED DURING THE WEEK

1. Sugar Report, February 21 to March 20, 1948 (10 cents).
2. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, April 1 (10 cents).
3. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation (10 cents).
4. Monthly Summary of Foreign Trade, February (10 cents).
5. Imports for Consumption, February (10 cents).
6. Bicycle Manufacturing Industry, 1946 (25 cents).
7. Central Electric Stations, February (10 cents).
8. Paper Box and Bag Industry, 1946 (25 cents).
9. Number of Occupied Farms by Size of Holdings and "Non-Resident" Farms, by Subdivision, 1946, Alberta (10 cents).
10. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
11. Number and Area of Occupied Farms by Tenure, Saskatchewan, 1946 (10 cents).
12. Domestic Washing Machines, 1947 (25 cents).
13. Dairy Factory Production, March (10 cents).
14. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, February (10 cents).
15. Retail Sales, February (10 cents).
16. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
17. The Boatbuilding Industry, 1946 (10 cents).
18. Domestic Type Electric Refrigerators, February (10 cents).
19. Canada 1948 (25 cents).
20. Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills, January (25 cents).
21. Products Made from Canadian Clays, January (10 cents).
22. Dealers' Report on Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal, January (10 cents).
23. Concrete Building Blocks and Cement Pipe, February (10 cents).
24. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, January (10 cents).
25. Cement Manufacturing Industry, 1947 (25 cents).
26. Housing Characteristics by Social Areas, Saskatoon, 1946 (10 cents).
27. Sand and Gravel Industry, 1946 (25 cents).
28. Stocks of Fruits and Vegetables, April 1 (10 cents).
29. Cold Storage Holdings of Meat and Lard, April 1 (10 cents).
30. Highway Traffic at Canadian Border Points, February (10 cents).
31. Salt, 1946 (25 cents).
32. Wage-Earner Family Earnings for Census Divisions, Rural and Urban and Urban Centres of 1,000 Population and Over, 1946 Alberta (10 cents).
33. Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, February (10 cents).
34. Births, Deaths and Marriages, February (10 cents).
35. Farm Machinery on Farms, Saskatchewan, June 1, 1946 (10 cents).
36. Food Products, Beverages, Rubber, Tobacco and Miscellaneous Manufactures Based on Vegetable Products, 1945 (50 cents).
37. Consumption, Production and Inventories or Rubber, February (25 cents).
38. Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, March 1 (10 cents).
39. Asphalt Floor Tiles, March (10 cents).
40. Department Store Sales, March (10 cents).

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