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## --- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT at the first of March was 4.8 per cent higher than a year ago, but slightly lower than on February 1.

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CANADA'S OFFICIAL RESERVES OF GOLD and United States dollars fell \$743 million in 1947, dropping to \$502 million at the end of the year from \$1,245 million at the end of 1946.

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CANADA'S MERCHANDISE EXPORT TRADE in March was valued at \$228,400,000, about nine per cent above both the February figure and the March 1947 total.

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DOMESTIC DISAPPEARANCE OF TOTAL BUTTER in March was 28,000,000 pounds as compared with 27½ million in the same month last year.

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FARM INCOME from the sale of dairy products in February is estimated at \$19,593,000 as compared with \$15,494,000 a year ago.

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TOTAL OUTPUT OF MEATS from cattle, hogs, sheep and lambs in 1947 is estimated at 2,220 million pounds, a decrease of 129 million from 1946.

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COAL PRODUCTION showed a sharp upswing in March, rising 67 per cent to 1,629,000 tons as compared with 977,000 in the same month last year.

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CREAMERY BUTTER STOCKS in nine cities of Canada on April 16 amounted to 2,334,700 pounds compared with 2,882,900 on April 9.

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WHOLESALE SALES during February were 3.5 per cent higher in dollar volume than in February last year.

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STOCKS OF CANADIAN WHEAT in store or in transit in North America at midnight on April 8 totalled 87,146,900 bushels compared with 88,103,500 on April 1 and 102,833,300 a year ago.

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CAR LOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS for the week ending April 10 reached a new high for the year at 77,851 cars as compared with 74,459 in the preceding week and 71,312 last year.

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MERCHANDISE EXPORTS UP NINE PER CENT IN MARCH; 12.5 PER CENT IN FIRST QUARTER

Canada's merchandise export trade in March was valued at \$228,400,000, approximately nine per cent above both the February figure of \$208,300,000, and the March 1947 total of \$209,000,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. With higher figures registered for each month of the year, the aggregate for the first quarter advanced to \$672,000,000 from \$597,100,000 in the like period of 1947, or by 12.5 per cent.

Exports to the United States continued the marked expansion of recent months, amounting to \$112,519,000 as compared with \$83,098,000 in March last year, a gain of 35 per cent; the rise in February was 37 per cent, and in January, 32 per cent. Total for the first quarter was \$312,333,000 as compared with \$231,947,000 in the similar period of 1947, an increase of 34.6 per cent.

Exports to the United Kingdom showed a further advance in March, being valued at \$59,182,000 as compared with \$47,558,000 in the corresponding month last year, an increase of 24 per cent; the advance in February was 15 per cent. During the first quarter, shipments to the United Kingdom were valued at \$175,790,000 compared with \$142,894,000 in the same period of 1947, an increase of 23 per cent.

Shipments to European countries in March fell off to an aggregate value of \$19,949,000 as against \$30,528,000 in March last year, while those to Latin American countries declined slightly to \$8,755,000 compared with \$9,261,000.

Domestic exports to the 12 leading countries after the United States and the United Kingdom in March this year and last were as follows, totals being in thousands of dollars:

	<u>March 1948</u>	<u>March 1947</u>
Netherlands .....	\$4,744	\$5,108
Union of South Africa .....	4,393	7,612
China .....	3,419	3,680
Belgium .....	3,095	1,402
Newfoundland .....	3,005	2,837
France .....	2,880	6,555
Australia .....	2,537	4,181
Italy .....	1,599	3,523
Jamaica .....	1,524	723
Czechoslovakia .....	1,523	1,058
Switzerland .....	1,499	245
Brazil .....	1,454	2,058

The month's trend in exports was mixed among the nine main commodity groups. Wood, wood products and paper rose from \$68,900,000 in March last year to \$78,100,000, animals and animal products from \$25,100,000 to \$32,300,000, non-ferrous metals from \$23,400,000 to \$29,900,000, iron and iron products from \$20,800,000 to \$21,200,000, and non-metallic minerals from \$5,400,000 to \$6,400,000. The agricultural group was unchanged at \$45,300,000, while the fibres and textile group was down from \$3,100,000 to \$3,000,000, chemicals from \$7,400,000 to \$6,200,000, and the miscellaneous group from \$9,600,000 to \$6,000.



Following are the leading commodities, with values for March last year, figures in thousands:

	<u>March 1948</u>	<u>March 1947</u>
Wheat .....	\$17,450	\$13,103
Wheat flour .....	10,795	13,695
Fish and fishery products .....	5,606	7,109
Bacon and hams .....	10,348	4,395
Eggs, shell and processed .....	4,336	3,164
Planks and boards .....	15,350	17,733
Unmanufactured wood, other .....	6,411	6,701
Wood pulp .....	18,074	14,193
Newsprint .....	31,955	25,032
Farm implements and machinery ...	6,188	3,498
Machinery, except farm .....	4,050	2,638
Aluminum .....	7,154	3,855
Copper and products .....	5,726	3,619
Nickel .....	5,731	5,099

WHOLESALE SALES IN FEBRUARY  
MODERATELY ABOVE LAST YEAR

Wholesale sales during February were 3.5 per cent higher in dollar volume than in February last year, showing a slightly higher gain than recorded in January, but were two per cent below the latter month. The Bureau's general unadjusted index, on the base 1935-39 equals 100, stood at 239.5 for the month as compared with 231.4 for February, 1947, and 244.6 for January this year.

Quebec and British Columbia, with gains of 11 and 10.5 per cent respectively, were the only provinces to show substantial increases. There were slight gains of one per cent in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces, while in the Prairie Provinces dollar volume dropped 1.5 per cent below February, 1947.

Among the different trades, largest increases in dollar sales over January last year were recorded by dry goods and drugs, which were 17 and 14 per cent higher respectively as compared with gains of 14 and 11 per cent in January. Sales of tobacco and confectionery wholesalers were nine per cent above the volume for February last year, and those of hardware wholesalers seven per cent higher. Wholesale grocers' sales were practically unchanged.

As in January, sales of four of the nine trades were lower in February than a year earlier. Footwear wholesalers, with a drop of 10 per cent, and fruit and vegetable dealers, with sales down seven per cent, had the largest percentage decreases. Wholesale clothing sales declined five per cent, while those of the automotive equipment trade were one per cent lower as compared with a decline of seven per cent in January.

Stocks held by wholesalers at the end of February were valued 17 per cent higher than at the same date in 1947. All trades, except fruits and vegetables and drugs, reported a smaller increase over last year than recorded in January, when the overall gain was 19 per cent. Increases were reported as follows: dry goods, 35 per cent; automotive equipment, 31; clothing, 29; hardware, 22; footwear, 22; tobacco and confectionery, 16; drugs, eight; and groceries, four per cent. Fruit and vegetable dealers stocks were four per cent lower.

STOCKS OF CANADIAN GRAIN ON MARCH 31 Total stocks of Canadian wheat in all North American positions on March 31 were 209.6 million bushels, of which 2.4 million bushels were held in the United States. On March 31, 1947 Canadian wheat stocks totalled 246 million bushels, including 0.2 million held in the United States. Stocks of Canadian wheat at March 31 this year were thus 36.4 million bushels or 14.8 per cent below the level of a year ago.

Nearly three-quarters of Canada's total wheat stocks were held on farms and in country elevators, 116 million bushels or 55.3 per cent of the total being accounted for by farm-held wheat, while 39.5 million or 18.8 per cent were stored in country and private terminal elevators. A year ago there were an estimated 133.2 million bushels on farms and 65.3 million bushels in country and private terminal elevators. Lakehead stocks stood at 16.9 million bushels on March 31 in both 1947 and 1948. Despite the lower overall stock position this year, supplies of wheat in forward positions (Eastern Elevators and Pacific Coast) at approximately 19 million bushels on March 31 were up some 18 per cent over the stock level in the corresponding positions at March 31, 1947. The improved forward stock position is solely a result of higher stocks at the west coast terminals, stocks in Eastern elevators at 11.8 million bushels being down more than a million bushels from last year's level.

Farm stocks of wheat in the Prairie Provinces accounted for 112 million bushels of the total Canadian farm stocks of 116 million bushels. The quantity of wheat on farms in Manitoba is estimated at 13 million bushels; in Saskatchewan at 66 million and in Alberta at 33 million bushels. From these stocks will be taken seed for the 1948 crop and such amounts as may be required for live stock and poultry feed during the remaining third of the crop year, leaving the balance to be divided between deliveries and July 31 carry-over stocks of sufficient magnitude to meet farm requirements until new grain is available.

The estimated quantities of wheat used for feed in the province in which it was produced during the 1947-48 crop year are well below the comparable estimates for the last crop year. It is estimated that 33.7 million bushels of wheat will have been fed by the end of the current crop year as compared with 40.8 millions for the last crop year. These estimates of wheat used for feed exclude western feed wheat which has moved under the Freight Assistance Policy to the eastern provinces and to British Columbia.

The total stocks of Canadian oats on March 31 were 135.5 million bushels of which 112.2 millions were in farmers' hands. Only 6,445 bushels of the total Canadian oat stocks were located in United States positions. On March 31, 1947 stocks of Canadian oats amounted to 184.2 million bushels, with 154.9 millions held on farms. Barley stocks in all positions this year totalled 72.9 million bushels in all positions. Of this quantity 46.8 million bushels were on farms. Last year at March 31 barley stocks totalled 76.9 million bushels with 58 million bushels held on farms. Stocks of rye at March 31 were estimated at 2.2 million bushels, of which 1.7 million bushels were still on farms. Total stocks of flaxseed amounted to 8.5 million bushels with farm stocks accounting for 2.6 million bushels. Commercial stocks of flaxseed at March 31 this year were approximately six million bushels as compared with about two million bushels on the same date last year.

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on April 8 totalled 87,146,885 bushels, made up of 84,765,028 bushels in Canadian positions and 2,381,857 bushels in United States positions. Total for the previous week amounted to 88,103,478 bushels, and for the corresponding date last year 102,833,283 bushels.



The following quantities of wheat and coarse grains were delivered from farms in western Canada, during the week ended April 8, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: wheat, 732,709 bushels (834,846); oats, 381,247 (481,150); barley, 201,813 (206,273); rye, 14,332 (13,467); and flaxseed, 18,914 (23,918).

DOMESTIC DISAPPEARANCE AND SUPPLY OF BUTTER IN MARCH

The domestic disappearance of total butter in March was 28 million pounds as compared with  $27\frac{1}{4}$  million in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In pounds per capita, the March disappearance was 2.18 pounds in comparison with 2.01 in February and 2.17 pounds in the same month last year.

The total supply of butter -- creamery, dairy and whey -- represented by stocks at the beginning plus March production, amounted to approximately  $36\frac{1}{2}$  million pounds, a decline of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  million when compared with March last year. This situation arises from a decline in the current make and smaller stock reserves.

Creamery butter production in March reached a total of 11 million pounds, being 856 thousand pounds below the quantity produced in the corresponding month last year. The dairy butter make was approximately six million pounds, while whey butter fell to 31 thousand pounds. The creamery butter and whey butter make declined, while dairy butter production showed a nine per cent increase over that of March, 1947.

FARM INCOME IN FEBRUARY

Farm income from the sale of dairy products in February is estimated at \$19,593,000 as compared with \$15,494,000 in the corresponding month last year. Higher prices per unit were largely responsible for this advance, the weighted average being \$3.18 per hundred pounds of milk as compared with \$2.53 in February, 1947. The upward movement in prices applied to all products.

CREAMERY BUTTER STOCKS IN NINE CANADIAN CITIES

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada as at the close of business on April 16 amounted to 2,334,693 pounds as compared with 2,882,937 on April 9, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Holdings were as follows by cities, totals for April 9 being in brackets: Quebec, 37,874 (56,142) pounds; Montreal, 520,440 (660,812); Toronto, 396,566 (496,653); Winnipeg, 391,306 (411,413); Regina, 62,333 (75,305); Saskatoon, 70,200 (78,582); Edmonton, 165,444 (195,916); Calgary, 112,455 (136,663); Vancouver, 578,075 (771,451).

SALES OF RETAIL FOOD CHAINS SHARPLY HIGHER IN FEBRUARY

With extensive gains recorded in all parts of Canada, sales of 935 chain store units in the food retailing field were 43 per cent higher in February than sales of 929 stores operated by the same firms in February last year. Increases by regions were: Maritime Provinces, 36 per cent; Quebec, 37; Ontario, 51; Prairie Provinces, 26; British Columbia, 38 per cent. Average sales per store were \$27,498 in February this year as compared with \$19,359 in February last year.

Sales of independent food stores during February, on the basis of the sample of 1,121 stores across the country reporting to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, were a moderate 2.8 per cent higher in February than a year earlier. Sales in eastern Canada increased from 3.5 per cent for the Maritime Provinces to 5.5 per cent for Ontario, while decreases were reported for each of the Prairie Provinces. Sales volume was unchanged for British Columbia.

OUTPUT AND CONSUMPTION  
OF MEATS IN 1947

Total output of meats from cattle, hogs and sheep and lambs slaughtered in Canada during 1947 is estimated at 2,220 million pounds, a decrease of 129 million pounds, or 5.5 per cent, from the revised estimate of the 1946 output, but almost 50 per cent above the 1935-39 average of 1,481 million pounds. The 1947 output of each kind of meat was below that of 1946. Declines were 8.6 per cent for beef, 4.2 per cent for veal, 5.6 per cent for mutton and lamb and 2.2 per cent for pork.

Total consumption of meat per capita during 1947 was 146 pounds. Whereas this total is the same as that for 1946 there were slight increases in the per capita consumption of beef and pork, a decrease in veal and no change in mutton and lamb.

Stocks of meat in cold storage at the first of January 1948 amounted to 116.5 million pounds as compared with 79.9 million pounds at the beginning of 1947. These stocks are the largest since the exceptionally large holdings of 135.9 million pounds at the first of January 1944 and are quite substantial in comparison with the 1935-39 average of 66.8 million pounds.

Exports of live-stock meats, other than horse meat, totalled 417 million pounds in 1947, a decline of 34.2 per cent from 1946 exports. The 1947 exports were only about 46 per cent of the peak exports of 894 million pounds in 1944 but about 2 1/6 times the pre-war level of 193 million pounds.

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

April 15, 1948      April 8, 1948      March 18, 1948  
(1935-39=100)

Investors' Price Index

(100 Common Stocks) .....	108.8	107.6	99.8
76 Industrials .....	103.6	102.2	93.9
16 Utilities .....	114.9	114.2	105.5
8 Banks .....	128.9	128.9	128.9

Mining Stock Price Index

(30 Stocks) .....	80.9	80.4	80.1
25 Golds .....	65.5	65.9	68.8
5 Base Metals .....	111.0	108.6	101.2

CAR LOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended April 10 reached a new high for the year at 77,851 cars as compared with 74,459 cars for the previous week and 71,312 cars for the corresponding week last year. Grain loadings declined from 8,087 cars in 1947 to 5,117 cars and grain products from 3,312 to 3,052 cars, but practically all other commodity groups showed increases.

Coal increased from 3,436 cars in 1947, when loadings in the eastern division were depressed by strikes, to 6,212 cars; ores from 1,901 to 2,370 cars; sand, stone and gravel from 3,512 to 3,795 cars; other mine products from 1,132 to 1,785 cars; pulpwood from 2,948 to 4,247 cars; lumber from 2,862 to 3,710 cars; implements, tractors, machinery from 695 to 1,022 cars; and l.c.l. merchandise from 19,085 to 19,367 cars.



CANADIAN BALANCE OF  
INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS

Canada's official reserves of gold and United States dollars fell by \$743 million in 1947, dropping to \$502 million at the end of the year from \$1,245 million at the end of 1946, according to the preliminary statement on the Canadian balance of international payments released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The large loss in official reserves was due chiefly to the combination of a greatly enlarged current deficit with the United States and the large amount of exports to the United Kingdom and other overseas countries financed by Canadian Government loans and export credits. Excluding contributions of official relief, of \$38 million, Canada's surplus of credits on current account with all countries was \$47 million. But no convertible exchange was received from overseas exports financed by export credits amounting to \$563 million. In addition, there were net outflows of capital of \$154 million, mainly for redemption of Canadian securities owned abroad, and the gold subscriptions of \$74 million by Canada to the International Monetary Fund.

Principal changes in 1947, as compared with 1946 when the loss of official reserves was much smaller, were a sharp reduction in the current account surplus with all countries to \$47 from \$357 million in 1946 and a widening of the gaps in the accounts both with the United States and with overseas countries. The amount of disequilibrium in Canada's account with the United States was greater than ever before, while the credit balances in the accounts with overseas countries were exceeded only by the balances in certain wartime years. Specifically, the current deficit with the United States increased from \$613 million in 1946 to \$1,138 million last year. At the same time, the current surplus with overseas countries rose from \$970 million to \$1,185, of which \$563 million were financed, as already stated, by loans and export credits as compared with \$750 in 1946.

The reduction in Canada's current surplus with all countries in 1947, the report states, resulted from the relatively small growth of about 11 per cent in current receipts as compared with the more substantial growth of about 25 per cent in current expenditures abroad. The growth in imports was of basic importance in the latter increase. While higher prices both for exports and imports account for some of the increased value of commodity trade, there was an appreciable growth also in the volume of Canada's imports, which was widely distributed as to types of commodities. This growth was affected by improving supplies of commodities in the United States as well as by heavy Canadian demands for imports arising from the record levels of Canadian consumption and private investment. On the other hand, the aggregate value of Canadian exports does not appear to have been greatly different from 1946, although the composition showed some changes. Further, the total value of exports in 1947 was affected by contracts with the United Kingdom, which in some instances were at prices less than those prevailing elsewhere during the year.

SALES AND PURCHASES OF SECURITIES BETWEEN  
CANADA AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN FEBRUARY

The increase in volume in international sales and purchases of securities which was evident in December and January did not continue into February. Total transactions in February were 20 per cent less than in January and were equivalent to an average month in the latter part of 1947. Sales and purchases each decreased by the same amount, \$3.5 million, with the result that the purchase balance in February of \$2.5 million was the same as in January.

The increase in volume in international sales and purchases of securities which was evident in December and

During the first two months of 1948 net purchases from all countries totalled \$5 million. The corresponding period in 1947 produced a sales balance of \$3.2 million, but that was contrary to the general trend of the year which resulted in a net outward movement of \$18 million. Transactions in January and February followed a common pattern in which repurchases of Dominion bonds and Canadian stocks were prominent features.

Sales to the United States in February declined more than purchases, resulting in a larger outflow of capital to that country than in January. The purchase balance with the United States of \$2.7 million in February was due principally to repurchases of Dominion bonds and Canadian stocks.

In trade with the United Kingdom, net sales of United Kingdom stocks practically balanced net purchases of Canadian bonds, resulting in a purchase balance of less than \$0.1 million. Transactions with other countries were somewhat lighter than in January, and a purchase balance of \$0.1 million in that month was replaced by a sales balance of \$0.2 million in February.

#### INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLLS

Industrial employment at the first of March was 4.8 per cent higher than a year ago, but slightly lower than at February 1, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The advance index number of employment in the eight leading industrial divisions, on the base 1926=100, was the highest on record for the first of March, standing at 139.0 compared with 139.3 for February 1 and 130.4 for March 1, 1947. The advance figure of weekly earnings was \$39.44, also a new all-time high, comparing with \$36.83 at February 1 and \$35.61 at March 1, 1947.

Provincially, the outstanding change at March 1, 1948, as compared with a month earlier was the increase in Alberta, largely resulting from the re-employment of coal miners following the settlement of the dispute which had greatly affected the situation at February 1. Improvement was also indicated in Ontario, and there was a slight gain in Prince Edward Island. The trend in the remaining provinces was downward; this was due in part to seasonal curtailment in construction and certain other industries, but there were also declines in logging.

In New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the preliminary tabulations indicate higher disbursements in salaries and wages by leading employers in the major industrial groups, while in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Manitoba and British Columbia, the reported payrolls were rather lower than at February 1. The average weekly earnings in all provinces except Prince Edward Island, however, showed increases.

Standing at 202.5, the advance index of employment in manufacturing was 0.9 per cent higher than at February 1, and exceeded by 4.1 per cent the March 1, 1947, index. In the month, the index of weekly payrolls rose by three per cent. The latest index was also higher by 17.1 per cent than at March 1 of last year. The salaries and wages reported by leading manufacturers averaged \$40.19 per employee at the beginning of March, the highest on record; a month earlier, the per capita figure was \$39.38, and that at March 1, 1947, \$35.81.



RAILWAY OPERATING EXPENSES IN 1947  
AT PEAK, REVENUES SECOND HIGHEST

The year 1947 was a record-breaking year for steam railway operations in Canada, according to summary figures on railway operating revenues, expenses and other statistics released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total operating expenses - the aggregate for all railways, including the smaller railways as well as the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways - reached the highest figure in Canadian railway history; operating revenues were the second highest on record, being exceeded only in the peak war year 1944; volume of freight carried was the largest for any peacetime year; and the total payroll rose to an all-time high.

Reversing the downward trend of the two preceding years, operating revenues of all railways in 1947 amounted to \$776,520,384, an increase of \$65,134,185 or 9.2 per cent over the 1946 aggregate of \$711,386,199. The year's total compares with \$796,636,786 in 1944. Freight revenues totalled \$602,022,383, a new all-time high, and 14 per cent above the 1946 figure of \$527,043,096. Express revenue rose \$2,452,727 to \$29,934,515, and mail revenue was up \$189,223 to \$8,694,345, while passenger revenues declined about 12 per cent from \$99,474,928 to \$87,128,485.

Total operating expenses for the year rose sharply to \$683,045,372 from \$618,880,518 for 1946. Transportation expenses were \$42,152,536 or 14 per cent higher at \$343,928,456; maintenance of equipment outlay increased by six per cent to \$144,345,093, and maintenance of way and structures expenses were 9.4 per cent heavier at \$132,304,531.

In the income account, hire of equipment, principally for freight cars from the United States lines, showed a debit of \$13,165,331 compared with \$8,733,824 in 1946, and total operating income declined to \$52,723,507 from \$58,107,279 the previous year. This figure compares with \$118,111,506 in 1944, when operating revenues approached comparability, indicating that operating expenses have increased more rapidly than revenues.

Tons of freight carried in 1947 totalled 169,174,660 tons, an increase of 9.2 per cent over 1946, while freight train mileage rose about six per cent. Total revenue passengers carried was 38,122,771 as against 40,487,660 the preceding year, the average number of passengers per train mile dropping from 102 to 83, excluding commuters.

Ratio of operating expenses to revenue increased to nearly 88 per cent from 87 per cent. Total payroll reached an all-time high at \$409,244,118 for 173,078 employees on Canadian lines compared with \$377,770,198 for 168,914 employees in 1946.

RAILWAY REVENUE FREIGHT LOADINGS

Loadings of railway revenue freight during March totalled 332,000 cars as compared with 286,000 in February and 306,000 cars in March last year. Aggregate for the three months ending March was 935,000 cars as against 878,000 in the first quarter of 1947.

Estimated tonnage of freight loaded during the month rose to 9,311,000 tons, compared with 7,232,000 in February and 8,451,000 tons in March, 1947. Aggregate for the first quarter of this year also advanced to 25,035,000 tons compared with 23,175,000 tons last year.

COAL PRODUCTION UP  
SHARPLY IN MARCH

Coal production showed a sharp upswing in March, rising 67 per cent to 1,629,000 tons as compared with March last year when 977,000 tons were produced, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Operations were resumed at most of the mines in Alberta during March, but the strike continued at a number of mines in Edmonton district and also at the mines of Canadian Collieries Limited in British Columbia. During March last year mines in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were idle due to strikes. Total output for the first quarter of this year was 4,155,000 tons compared with 3,814,000 in the like period of 1947.

Imports of coal into Canada during March amounted to 1,205,400 tons compared with 1,263,900 in the corresponding month last year, bringing the three-month total to 3,408,500 tons as compared with 3,731,700 in the corresponding period of 1947.

PRODUCTION OF LEATHER FOOTWEAR

Production of leather footwear in February amounted to 2,705,800 pairs compared with 2,451,000 in the preceding month and 3,299,500 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first two months of this year 5,156,800 pairs were produced compared with 6,431,700 in the similar period of 1947.

PRODUCTION AND DOMESTIC SALES  
OF RIGID INSULATING BOARD

Production and domestic sales of rigid insulating board both were higher in February than in the corresponding month last year, the former advancing from 15,075,000 square feet to 17,838,400 square feet, and domestic sales from 11,613,000 square feet to 14,797,100.

SALES OF PAINTS, VARNISHES  
AND LACQUERS IN FEBRUARY

Sales of paints, varnishes and lacquers by manufacturers which normally account for 96 per cent of the total Canadian production amounted to \$7,345,900 in February compared with \$6,538,400 in January and \$5,378,800 in the same month last year. Trade sales -- exclusive of water paints -- accounted for 51 per cent of the February total, industrial sales for 29 per cent, water paints for two per cent, and unclassified sales for 18 per cent.

PRODUCTION OF NAILS IN FEBRUARY

Production of wire nails in February amounted to 5,670 tons compared with 6,854 in the preceding month and 6,015 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Tonnage shipped during the month amounted to 6,408 as against 7,211 in January and 5,523 in February, 1947.

LUMBER INDUSTRY OF ONTARIO

Gross value of products turned out by the lumber industry of Ontario in 1946 was \$41,526,400, up almost 40 per cent over the preceding year's figure of \$29,705,900, according to preliminary totals by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The cost of materials used rose from \$16,930,900 in 1945 to \$22,196,300, and the net value of products from \$21,546,600 to \$19,027,800.

Production of all species of sawn lumber in 1946 totalled 673,400 M feet board measure compared with 522,500 in 1945. There were 1,605,700 sawn ties produced compared with 1,594,700, pulpwood, cut-up and barked, 70,200 cords (65,800 in 1945), 14,600 M feet board measure of box shooks (11,900), and 7,300 squares of shingles (8,800).



PRODUCTION OF WIRE  
FENCING IN FEBRUARY

Production in Canada of steel wire fencing amounted to 2,000 tons in February as compared with 2,400 tons in the preceding month and 2,400 tons in February 1947, and included 1,900 tons of farm fencing, 91 tons of lawn fencing and 49 tons of chain link fabric. During the two months, January and February, 4,400 tons were produced as against 4,700 tons in the like period of 1947.

HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES IN  
SASKATCHEWAN AT THE 1946 CENSUS

There were 205,270 households in Saskatchewan on June 1, 1946, of which 122,784 were in rural areas and 82,486 in urban areas, according to revised figures of the 1946 Census of the Prairie Provinces.

Family households, i.e., those in which the head of the household is also head of a family, numbered 173,190 or 84.4 per cent of the total households in 1946. Of the total family households, 123,646 or 71.4 per cent were living in owner-occupied dwellings. This proportion was higher in rural areas where 81,450 or 78.7 per cent of the family households were living in owner-occupied dwellings.

There were 14,388 households with lodgers or seven per cent of the total households in 1946, as compared with 12,102 in 1941, or 5.6 per cent of the total. The number of households with lodgers in urban centres was 10,302 or 71.6 per cent of the total number of households with lodgers, and the number of households with two or more families 11,005 or 5.4 per cent of the total households.

The average size of family in Saskatchewan at the 1946 Census was 3.9 persons. Of the 188,610 families, 52,213 or 27.7 per cent were composed of two persons, 44,682 or 23.7 per cent of three persons, 73,655 or 39 per cent had from four to six persons in the family, 14,641 or 7.8 per cent had from seven to nine persons and 3,419 or 1.8 per cent had 10 persons or more in the family.

COMPREHENSIVE STATISTICAL STUDY  
OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES

From time to time the Dominion Bureau of Statistics receives requests for comprehensive statistical data illustrating the course of development of different regions of Canada, particularly those consisting of contiguous provinces with similar economic interests. Such a study dealing with the Maritime Provinces is released under the title "The Maritime Provinces in Their Relation to the National Economy of Canada".

In this report an attempt has been made to assemble the more important social and economic statistics relating to the Maritime Provinces from earlier times to the present. They are shown against the background of similar statistics for Canada as a whole. Certain relevant data of an interpretative and historical nature are also included.

This study follows the same general plan as similar studies issued in 1926 and 1934 but is somewhat more comprehensive in scope. In addition to the chapters dealing with physiography and natural resources, population, production and industry, trade and transportation, income, prices and the cost of living, and public finance, which appeared in the earlier studies, there are chapters dealing with births, marriages and deaths, labour, public health and welfare services, and education.

The study provides in readily available form basic statistical data for further studies of social and economic conditions in the Maritime Provinces.





REPORTS ISSUED DURING THE WEEK

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