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

THE COST-OF-LIVING INDEX, on the base 1935-39=100, reached an all-time high point on April 1, standing at 151.6 as compared with 150.8 on March 1. The increase in this series since April last year amounted to 21 points.

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TOTAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT in Canada during the week ending February 21 was 4,669,000, a fall of about 180,000 from the first week in November 1947, and more than 300,000 lower than the seasonal high reached in mid-August.

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FINANCING OF MOTOR VEHICLE SALES moved sharply upward in March when 12,657 units were financed for \$11,689,147 as against 8,120 units financed for \$7,071,083 a year ago.

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SALES OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES in March totalled 20,887 units with a retail value of \$39,667,506. Volume was well in excess of sales in January and February this year.

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CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE filed in local offices of the U.I.C. in March totalled 63,869 compared with 76,723 in February and 43,675 last year.

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PRODUCTION OF DOMESTIC WASHING MACHINES continued at a high level in February when 23,993 units were turned out compared with 24,006 in January and 15,172 a year ago.

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STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER in nine cities of Canada on May 1 amounted to 1,547,195 pounds compared with 4,366,483 on April 1 and 3,941,864 on May 1 last year.

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RAILWAY REVENUE FREIGHT loaded at stations in Canada and received from foreign connections in January totalled 11,599,866 tons, a peacetime record for the month.

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STOCKS OF CANADIAN WHEAT in store or in transit in North America at midnight on April 22 amounted to 76,391,439 bushels compared with 81,179,957 on April 15 and 95,696,666 on the same date last year.

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PRODUCERS' SALES OF RADIO RECEIVING SETS declined sharply in February, totalling 35,833 units compared with 79,718 in the corresponding month last year.



CURRENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS A levelling out of the rise in prices coupled with a continuing high volume of industrial production, and some rise in unemployment, featured the first quarter of 1948, states the March issue of the Canadian Statistical Review. An increase in freight rates and a number of developments in the United States also affected the current outlook.

It is not yet clear what effects the general 21 per cent advance in a wide range of railway freight rates, authorized late in March, will have on existing price levels. Final passage of the European Recovery Program by the United States Congress, together with a number of proposals for increased defence expenditures, have contributed to a substantial recovery in stock prices both in Canada and the United States. Prospects for uninterrupted production have also been improved by the settlement of the almost month long strike of the United States soft coal miners.

The \$6,098 million voted under E.R.P. should help ensure a continued demand for products of the whole dollar area during the coming year. It is equal to about 31 per cent of the total value of goods and services exported by the United States during 1947 and amounts to about 2.6 per cent of their gross national product for the year. An equivalent percentage of Canada's 1947 national product would amount to about \$345 million, just over 60 per cent of the amount of loans and credits advanced to European countries by this country during 1947.

While a construction program equal in volume to that of the preceding year has been forecast for 1948, current statistical data show a few signs of weakness. Despite the higher level of building costs the dollar value of contracts awarded during the first quarter of 1948 is down almost six per cent from the same period in 1947. This drop is concentrated in the non-residential sector; contracts for business, industrial and engineering construction are down about 34 per cent while residential contracts, supported in part by government projects are up over two and one-half times. Another sign of weakness is provided by the index of employment in building construction, and this index has shown an unusually sharp drop from December 1 to February 1, though after this decline it is still 15 per cent above its level a year earlier. Incidentally, it is worth noting that, in view of the upward trend in construction activity throughout 1947, a program of equal size for 1948 would not be inconsistent with some downward trend throughout the year.

Though its 51 per cent increase since 1939 has been less than the 89 per cent rise over World War I, the cost-of-living index on March 1 reached a record high of 150.8, just 0.2 points higher than the level attained in July, 1920. Though the total index reached a new high, two groups in the index which have advanced the most during the last few years, food and clothing, are still somewhat below their 1920 level. Thus the current index for food is almost 16 points below its 1920 peak and the clothing index is over 50 points lower than the level reached in 1920. On the other hand, the index of rents, even though it had advanced less than any other group since 1939, is now 17.4 points higher than it was in July, 1920.

TOTAL OF 4,669,000 PERSONS WITH JOBS IN THIRD WEEK OF FEBRUARY

Total civilian employment in Canada during the week ending February 21 was 4,669,000, a fall of about 180,000 from the first week in November 1947, and more than 300,000 lower than the seasonal high reached in mid-August. Civilian employment was about 100,000 higher than in the corresponding period in 1947. Since February 1946, employment had risen by about 350,000. Unemployment in the week ending February 21 rose to 156,000, an increase of about 70,000 over the first week in November. Unemployment amounted to slightly more than three per cent of the labour force, showing no significant change since the same period last year.



The broad outlines of the labour force status of the Canadian population for the week ending February 21, 1948, can be seen from the tables below, which show comparable figures for 1946 and 1947:

Summary of National Estimates

(persons 14 years of age and over)

	<u>Feb. 23, 1946</u>	<u>Mar. 1, 1947</u>	<u>Feb. 21, 1948</u>
<u>Total noninstitutional</u>			
Civilian population .....	8,538,000	8,936,000	9,058,000
Civilian labour force .....	4,525,000	4,706,000	4,825,000
Employed .....	4,312,000	4,565,000	4,669,000
At work .....	4,207,000	4,426,000	4,508,000
With a job but not at work ...	105,000	139,000	161,000
Unemployed .....	213,000	141,000	156,000
Not in the labour force .....	4,013,000	4,230,000	4,233,000
<u>Men</u>			
Employed .....	3,332,000	3,604,000	3,687,000
Unemployed .....	179,000	124,000	137,000
Not in the labour force .....	704,000	776,000	748,000
<u>Women</u>			
Employed .....	980,000	961,000	982,000
Unemployed .....	34,000	17,000	19,000
Not in the labour force .....	3,309,000	3,454,000	3,485,000

These estimates are the result of the first ten labour force surveys of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics which cover the period from November, 1945, to February, 1948. These surveys are carried out quarterly and cover about 25,000 households chosen by scientific sampling methods in nearly 100 different areas in Canada.

CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN MARCH

Initial and renewal claims for unemployment insurance filed in local offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission in March totalled 63,869 as compared with 76,723 in February and 43,675 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The number of ordinary claimants on the live unemployment register at the end of March was 136,356 compared with 146,074 at the end of February and 103,291 a year ago.

During March, 154,754 persons drew one or more benefit payments amounting to \$6,629,826 for 3,364,791 compensated unemployed days compared with 138,417 persons paid \$5,017,492 for 2,544,452 compensated days in February and 109,625 persons paid \$4,479,875 for 2,304,914 days during March 1947. The average duration of the unemployment compensated was 21.7 days in March, 18.4 days in February and 21.0 days in March last year. The average amount of benefit paid per beneficiary was \$42.84 in March, \$36.25 in February and \$40.87 during March 1947. The average amount of benefit paid per compensated day of unemployment was \$1.97 in March, \$1.97 in February and \$1.94 in March last year.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT AND  
PAYROLLS AT FIRST OF MARCH

Industrial employment at the beginning of March was lower than at February 1, according to data furnished the Dominion Bureau of Statistics by 18,611 leading firms in the eight major industrial divisions, who reported a combined working force of 1,955,152 men and women, as compared with 1,957,862 at February 1. The decline reduced the index number, on the base 1926=100, from 139.3 to 139.0 at the beginning of March, when it exceeded by 4.8 per cent the figure of 130.4 at March 1, 1947.

Accompanying the slight recession in employment at March 1 as compared with February 1 was an increase of 1.9 per cent in the index of weekly payrolls, while as compared with March 1, 1947, there was a rise of 16.1 per cent. The March 1, 1948 figure was the highest in the record, with the exception of those at November 1 and December 1, 1947, when employment was in greater volume. The average weekly earnings per employee reached a new peak at the date under review, standing at \$39.44 as compared with \$38.63 at February 1, and \$35.61 at March 1, 1947.

The changes indicated at the beginning of March in the various industrial divisions generally conformed to the seasonal pattern, except that there were substantial increases from February 1 in the iron and steel branch of the manufacturing due to the resumption of operations in certain plants which had then been seriously affected by temporary shortages of gas and power, while the important recovery indicated in mining resulted mainly from the settlement of the dispute in the coal fields of Western Canada.

Manufacturing as a whole showed improvement, despite seasonal curtailment in the food industries; in addition to the revival in the iron and steel plants just mentioned, there were considerable gains in the textile divisions, in which the movement was seasonal in character. Logging released large numbers of employees as the winter's work in many camps drew to a close. Construction showed marked curtailment, likewise of a seasonal nature. The trend was also downward in hotels and restaurants and in trading establishments, although the percentage losses in these classes were much smaller than those in logging and construction. On the whole, the change indicated in transportation was slight.

DOMINION COST-OF-LIVING INDEX  
AT NEW HIGH POINT ON APRIL 1

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index, on the base 1935-39=100, reached an all-time high points on April 1, standing at 151.6 as compared with 150.8 on March 1. This rise of 0.8 was exactly the same as that recorded in the preceding month. The increase in this series since April last year amounted to 21 points. From August 1, 1939 to April 1 this year, the increase in the cost-of-living index was 50.4 per cent.

Clothing and food indexes showed the greatest changes between March and April, although small advances were registered also by fuel and light, homefurnishings and services, and miscellaneous items. The increase in the food group which rose from 185.9 to 186.8, was attributable mainly to fresh vegetables and meats, although scattered advances occurred in other sections of the food budget; there were a few minor decreases which included a further seasonal recession for eggs.

The clothing index moved up from 169.9 to 172.9, with footwear leading a broad list of increases. Homefurnishings and services changed from 161.2 to 161.9, fuel and light from 121.0 to 121.3, and miscellaneous items from 122.8 to 122.9. The rental index remained at 119.9.



MAN-HOURS AND HOURLY EARNINGS

There was a considerable increase in the number of hourly-rated wage-earners on the staffs of the manufacturers co-operating in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' monthly survey of man-hours and hourly earnings as at March 1; in large part, this resulted from the resumption of operations on a more usual scale in certain industries which had been seriously affected by shortages of gas and power in the latter part of January and the early part of February. The increase in the indicated numbers of wage-earners, which amounted to 0.9 per cent, was accompanied by a rise of 1.9 per cent in the aggregate hours worked by these employees, and of 2.6 per cent in their weekly wages.

Data were received from 6,485 leading establishments, which stated that a total of 33,647,924 hours had been worked by their 779,237 wage-earners, whose earnings in the final week of February were given as \$29,609,113. In their preceding return, these firms had shown 772,458 hourly-rated wage-earners, working 33,032,972 hours in the last week of January, for which they were paid the sum of \$28,612,320.

The average hours worked were rather higher, being 43.2 in the week of March 1, as compared with 42.8 in that of February 1, 1948. The average earnings per hour reached a new maximum, standing at 88 cents, as compared with 86.1 cents a month earlier, and 77.1 cents at March 1, 1947. At the beginning of March, the reported weekly wages in manufacturing as a whole averaged \$38.02, the highest figure in the record, as compared with \$37.06 in the week ending February 1, 1948, and \$33.46 in the week of March 1, 1947.

WORLD WHEAT SITUATION

Crop prospects over most of the world's wheat areas are generally promising, states the monthly review of the wheat situation by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The United States winter wheat crop to be harvested in June and July is forecast on the basis of April 1 conditions at 861 million bushels, an increase of 22 million bushels over the December 1 estimate. Official estimates of the Canadian spring wheat crop will not be available until August but moisture conditions in the Prairie Provinces are deemed excellent at the present time. Some concern, however, is felt about the late spring in the west where seeding has been delayed. Spring floods, too, have been causing considerable anxiety, particularly in southern districts of the Prairies. While spring seeding will admittedly be late in the Canadian west it must be remembered that similar conditions have prevailed in other years, and good harvests have still been secured. The next wheat harvests in the Argentine and Australia are, of course, many months away, but soil conditions in those countries, too, are deemed satisfactory for seeding.

In Europe further rains fell in a number of countries during the last week of April and weather conditions for the continent as a whole leave little to be desired. Crop advices from most countries are optimistic and barring adverse growing conditions crops much larger than last year will be harvested. In France the standing acreage in wheat is much larger than a year ago and the condition of the crop far better. Hopes are entertained that the crop will be around the prewar level and that import needs during the coming season will be small. In Italy too, the weather has continued favourable, and it is possible that estimates of wheat production will be increased. Reports from Russia and the Balkans indicate that conditions remain satisfactory for fall-sown crops and that spring planting has been making good progress. A report from India states that harvesting has been making good progress and wheat yields are described as excellent.

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF  
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on April 22 amounted to 76,391,439 bushels compared with 81,179,957 on April 15 and 95,696,666 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Visible on the latest date comprised 75,327,395 bushels in Canadian positions and 1,064,044 in United States positions.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending April 22 amounted to 469,721 bushels compared with 674,476 in the preceding week, bringing the total for the elapsed portion of the crop year to 210,170,408 bushels as compared with 266,591,410 in the corresponding period of 1946-47.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending April 22, totals for the preceding week being in brackets: oats, 374,905 (366,466) bushels; barley, 158,979 (158,371); rye, 6,191 (4,518); flaxseed, 13,234 (16,910).

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending April 22 totalled 2,948,540 bushels compared with 3,499,543 in the corresponding week last year, bringing the aggregate for the crop year to date to 92,500,911 bushels compared with 100,737,855 in the similar period of 1946-47.

STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER  
AND CHEESE ON MAY 1

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on May 1 amounted to 1,547,195 pounds as compared with 4,366,483 on April 1 and 3,941,864 on May 1 last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Cheese stocks on May 1 totalled 13,096,757 pounds compared with 14,323,388 pounds on April 1 and 9,425,886 pounds on May 1, 1947.

Creamery butter stocks on May 1 were as follows by cities, totals for the same date last year being in brackets: Quebec, 34,180 (166,312) pounds; Montreal, 206,628 (1,380,791); Toronto, 250,933 (723,710); Winnipeg, 364,579 (641,744); Regina, 77,738 (77,378); Saskatoon, 75,393 (134,918); Edmonton, 164,004 (142,447); Calgary, 99,616 (74,369); Vancouver, 274,124 (100,195).

TOTAL POULTRY IN CANADA DOWN  
LAYING HENS UP IN DECEMBER 1947

Total poultry on Canadian farms at December 1 last year was 6.5 per cent lower than a year earlier, aggregating 50,651,600 as against 54,192,400, according to figures released from the semi-annual live-stock survey by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, decreases being recorded for domestic fowl, geese and ducks, while the number of turkeys was higher.

Total domestic fowl (hens, cocks and chickens) declined to 47,309,800 compared with 50,728,500. On the other hand, the number of laying hens was 21.4 per cent greater than a year earlier at 38,429,000 compared with 31,645,300. Gains in layers were shown in all provinces, the numbers being as follows, figures for a year earlier in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 609,800 (533,100); Nova Scotia, 1,117,600 (761,000); New Brunswick, 722,200 (691,300); Quebec, 5,900,000 (4,806,800); Ontario, 16,800,000 (13,280,200); Manitoba, 2,837,800 (2,386,500); Saskatchewan, 3,903,800 (3,451,000); Alberta, 4,120,800 (3,597,200); British Columbia, 2,417,000 (2,138,200).

Turkeys totalled 2,494,900 on December 1, 1947, compared with 2,390,200 on December 1, 1946; geese, 417,800 compared with 525,800; and ducks, 429,100 compared with 547,900.



SALES OF FLUID MILK  
AND CREAM IN FEBRUARY

Fluid sales of milk and cream in February amounted to 328,688,000 pounds, a decrease of nearly one per cent from the same month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Fluid milk sales totalled 276,973,000 pounds, while cream sales expressed as milk amounted to 51,715,000 pounds. Compared with February 1947, milk sales declined approximately three per cent while cream sales increased 11.5 per cent.

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

	<u>April 29, 1948</u>	<u>April 22, 1948</u>	<u>April 1, 1948</u>
(1935-39=100)			
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
(100 Common Stocks) .....	111.7	111.8	105.5
76 Industrials .....	106.0	106.6	100.2
16 Utilities .....	121.2	119.7	112.4
8 Banks .....	128.0	127.5	125.1
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
(30 Stocks) .....	84.2	81.7	81.0
25 Golds .....	66.9	65.3	67.3
5 Base Metals .....	118.4	114.2	107.4

FINANCING OF MOTOR VEHICLE  
SALES HIGHER IN MARCH

Financing of motor vehicle sales moved sharply upward in March when 12,657 units were financed for \$11,689,-147 as compared with 8,120 units financed for \$7,071,-083 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first three months of this year, 29,003 units were financed for a total of \$27,155,163 as compared with 19,077 units for \$17,058,801 in the similar period of 1947.

Volume of new vehicle financing is running close to peak pre-war levels. There were 4,791 units financed in March, a high proportion of which were trucks and buses which accounted for 1,972 transactions. Increases compared with March 1947 were 36 per cent for passenger cars and 39 per cent for commercial vehicles.

There has been a marked expansion in the financing of used vehicles in recent months. March results showed 7,866 units financed for \$5,060,818 in 1948, up 70 per cent in number and 111 per cent in financed value compared with 4,631 used vehicles financed for \$2,401,529 in March, 1947. Increases in this field are currently at a much higher rate for passenger than for commercial models. Passenger car transactions increased 78 per cent in March this year over last, while the increase for commercial vehicles was 43 per cent.

SALES OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES  
HIGHER IN MARCH

Sales of new motor vehicles in March totalled 20,887 units with a retail value of \$39,667,506, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Volume was well in excess of sales in January and February this year, and also exceeded sales of 18,237 new vehicles sold for \$31,792,728 in March, 1947. Passenger car sales numbered 13,492 in March this year compared with 12,329 in the same month of 1947. The margin over last year was even greater for trucks and buses, with sales numbering 7,395 in March 1948, and 5,907 in March, 1947.

OUTPUT OF CENTRAL ELECTRIC STATIONS IN MARCH

Central electric stations produced 3,764,129,000 kilowatt hours in March as compared with 3,499,238,000 in the preceding month and 3,956,905,000 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first three months of this year, 11,017,283,000 kilowatt hours were produced compared with 11,397,377,000 in the similar period of 1947.

Consumption of primary power in March -- production, less exports and secondary power -- amounted to 3,472,249,000 kilowatt hours compared with 3,177,434,000 in February and 3,144,747,000 in March last year, and in the first quarter of this year, 10,046,361,000 kilowatt hours compared with 9,107,266,000 in the like period of 1947.

Gross exports to the United States in March totalled 140,019,000 kilowatt hours compared with 122,485,000 in February and 185,125,000 a year ago, the first-quarter total standing at 398,796,000 kilowatt hours compared with 503,074,000 in the same period last year.

PRODUCTION OF DOMESTIC WASHING MACHINES IN FEBRUARY

Production of domestic washing machines continued at a high level in February, when 23,993 units were turned out as compared with 24,006 in the preceding month and 15,172 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the two months ending February, 48,420 units were produced as compared with 27,433 in the like period of 1947.

Reflecting the effects of the import restrictions, only 373 domestic electric washing machines were imported in February this year as compared with 3,162 a year ago, and in the two months ending February, 889 units as compared with 6,067 in the same period of 1947. Exports of domestic washing machines in the month increased from 336 units last year to 432, and in the two months from 1,085 units to 1,300.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AT CANADIAN BORDER PORTS IN MARCH

Highway traffic at the Canada-United States border in March followed the same trend that was apparent in January and February. American vehicles continued to enter Canada in greater volume than in the corresponding period in 1947, and the number of Canadian vehicles returning from the United States continued to decline. The rate of decline of Canadian traffic in March, however, was less than in any of the other months since the current regulations on pleasure travel went into effect.

The aggregate number of border crossings in March was 448,800, consisting of 319,100 foreign entries and 129,700 Canadian vehicles returning. Of the foreign inflow, 46,100 cars entered on traveller's vehicle permits, 258,300 were non-permit or local entries, and 14,700 were commercial vehicles. The Canadian traffic comprised 7,800 units remaining abroad for more than 24 hours, 108,800 staying for shorter periods, and 13,100 commercial vehicles.

RADIO SALES LOWER IN FEBRUARY

Producers' sales of radio receiving sets declined sharply in February, totalling 35,833 units compared with 79,718 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first two months of this year, sales totalled 74,879 units compared with 145,759 in the similar period of 1947.

Sales were lower in all provinces in February, totals being as follows, with those for February last year in brackets: Maritimes, 2,408 (5,695) units; Quebec, 7,285 (15,943); Ontario, 16,265 (39,761); Manitoba, 2,378 (5,819); Saskatchewan, 1,506 (3,688); Alberta, 1,821 (3,916); British Columbia, 4,170 (4,896).



PRODUCTION OF COAL AND  
COKE IN FEBRUARY

Production of coal in February amounted to 1,141,098 tons compared with 1,136,038 in the corresponding month last year. Output for both of these periods was affected by strikes -- last year in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and this year in Alberta and British Columbia. During the first two months of this year 2,526,154 tons were produced compared with 2,836,551 in the similar period of 1947.

Compared with February 1947, production was reduced 44 per cent in Alberta and 67 per cent in British Columbia as a result of the strike which had been in effect since January 16. Saskatchewan, however, showed an increase of 40 per cent over the output of February last year. Normal output was maintained in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and showed a slight decrease from the preceding month.

Coke production in February amounted to 291,000 tons compared with 323,000 in the preceding month and 289,000 tons in February last year. During the two months ending February, 614,000 tons were produced compared with 627,000 in the like period of 1947.

Coal imported during the month amounted to 1,103,281 tons compared with 1,178,735 tons in February last year, while the exports totalled 11,369 tons compared with 37,367.

PRODUCTION OF GOLD IN FEBRUARY

Canadian production of gold in February totalled 262,203 fine ounces compared with 273,366 fine ounces in January, and 223,017 fine ounces in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the two months ended February, 535,569 fine ounces were produced as against 457,154 in 1947.

Production in February follows by provinces, totals for February 1947 being in brackets: Nova Scotia, nil (290) fine ounces; Quebec, 58,718 (37,221); Ontario, 155,295 (153,837); Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 14,992 (13,749); British Columbia, 26,162 (14,124); Yukon, 528 (nil); Northwest Territories, 6,511 (3,796).

OUTPUT OF SILVER, LEAD AND  
ZINC HIGHER IN FEBRUARY

February production of primary lead amounted to 23,726 tons, up sharply from the February 1947 figure of 12,636 tons, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Zinc output for the month was 17,527 tons compared with 16,014, and silver, 1,501,907 fine ounces as compared with 896,329.

OUTPUT OF LEADING MINERAL  
PRODUCTS IN FEBRUARY

Production of all but two of 16 of Canada's leading mineral products moved up in February as compared with the same month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The exceptions were gypsum and salt, the former falling from 81,759 tons to 40,040, and the latter from 58,264 tons to 54,083.

The following showed increases during the month: asbestos, 50,126 (42,207 in February, 1947); cement, 647,405 (422,308) barrels; clay products, \$931,553 (\$375,455); coal, 1,141,098 (1,136,088) tons; copper, 38,359,706 (30,257,351) pounds; feldspar, 4,117 (3,271) tons; gold, 262,203 (223,017) fine ounces; lead, 47,451,842 (25,271,273) pounds; lime, 76,450 (67,958) tons; natural gas, 6,726,773 (5,985,254) M cubic feet; nickel, 19,365,922 (17,144,086) pounds; petroleum, 779,841 (534,510) barrels; silver, 1,501,907 (896,329) fine ounces; zinc, 35,053,442 (32,028,943) pounds.

PRODUCTION OF NATURAL GAS  
AT NEW HIGH IN FEBRUARY

Production of natural gas reached a new high point in February, amounting to 6,726,773 M cubic feet as compared with 6,319,243 M in the preceding month and 5,935,254 M in the corresponding month of 1947, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the two months ended February, 13,046,016 M cubic feet were produced as compared with 11,956,060 in the like period of 1947. Production in February follows, by provinces, totals for the preceding month being in brackets: New Brunswick, 40,109 (47,913) M cubic feet; Ontario, 969,233 (1,101,073); Saskatchewan, 32,331 (33,480); Alberta, 5,685,100 (5,136,777) M cubic feet.

SALES OF MANUFACTURED AND  
NATURAL GAS IN FEBRUARY

Sales of manufactured gas by distributing companies in Canada in February amounted to 2,464,997 M cubic feet as compared with 2,473,692 M in January and 2,315,827 M in the same period of 1947, and the revenues from sales, \$2,335,463 as against \$2,365,245 in January and \$2,027,055 in February, 1947. During the two months, January and February, sales amounted to 4,943,689 with a revenue of \$4,700,708 as compared with 4,708,462 and a revenue of \$4,138,357.

Natural gas sales in February totalled 5,236,425 M cubic feet as against 5,271,201 M in January and 5,138,044 M in February, 1947, and the revenues from sales \$1,773,693 as compared with \$2,365,245 in January and \$1,665,635 in February last year. During the two months ended February, 10,507,626 M cubic feet were sold, as compared with 10,319,789 in 1947, and the revenues from sales, \$3,522,351 and \$3,321,292 respectively.

STOCKS OF INGOT MAKERS'  
NON-FERROUS SCRAP METAL

Stocks of ingot makers' non-ferrous scrap metal at the end of March amounted to 2,709,564 pounds as compared with 2,366,315 pounds held on the first of the month, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Amount purchased or received during the month was 4,274,562 pounds compared with 3,650,425 in February, and the total used or sold, 3,931,313 pounds as against 3,605,891 in the preceding month. Stocks of non-ferrous ingot at the end of March amounted to 3,003,693 pounds compared with 2,898,184 in February.

CAR LOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended April 24 declined for the second consecutive week to 74,587 cars from 74,657 for the preceding week and 76,033 for the corresponding week last year. Affected by strikes last year, coal loadings in the eastern division increased from 1,494 to 3,728 cars, and sand, stone, gravel, etc., increased from 3,262 to 3,935 cars, but many commodities showed decreases.

Flood conditions undoubtedly were a factor in the decreases in the western division where total loadings declined to 23,494 cars from 26,415 last year. Western grain loading declined from 6,723 to 3,852 cars, grain products from 1,747 to 1,341 cars, and live stock from 1,122 to 816 cars.

RAILWAY REVENUE FREIGHT  
LOADINGS HIGHER IN JANUARY

Railway revenue freight loaded at stations in Canada and received from foreign connections in January totalled 11,599,806 tons, a peacetime record for the month and was exceeded only by January 1944. In January last year the total was 11,512,470 tons. Freight loaded at stations in Canada actually was an all-time record for the month but receipts from foreign connections declined 355,214 tons from the same month in 1947, and 684,156 tons from January 1944 when intransit movements were heavy.



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