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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADA'S OFFICIAL COST-OF-LIVING INDEX showed no change between October 1 and November 1, thus interrupting a series of 21 consecutive monthly increases dating from January, 1947.

THE INDEX NUMBER OF EMPLOYMENT in the eight industrial divisions rose from its previous all-time maximum of 201.8 at September 1 to 202.6 at October 1, while average weekly earnings reached a high of \$41.78 compared with \$40.86.

CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFIT rose to 43,620 in October from 34,743 a year ago, with increases in all provinces except Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Alberta.

CANADA'S RETAIL TRADE TOOK A SHARP UPTURN in October when consumers spent 14.5 per cent more for merchandise than in October last year and 12 per cent more than in September this year.

PRODUCTION OF ELECTRIC ENERGY by central electric stations in Canada was lower in October than a year ago, due to decreases in Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec, but was almost three per cent above this year's September total.

WORLD WHEAT PRODUCTION for 1948 promises to show an even larger increase over last year than earlier forecasts indicated, largely due to improvement in Europe.

OUTPUT OF CREAMERY BUTTER increased nine per cent in November over the corresponding month last year, showing the first increase since June.

PRODUCTION OF STEEL INGOTS in October amounted to 272,000 tons, the highest monthly total since May.

FACTORY SHIPMENTS OF CANADIAN-MADE MOTOR VEHICLES in October reached the highest monthly figure since March.

CANADA'S OUTPUT OF CRUDE PETROLEUM and natural gasoline in September exceeded the million-barrel mark for the fourth successive month.

EARNINGS OF CANADIAN RAILWAYS in September reached an all-time record figure of \$79,482,000.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX
UNCHANGED AT NOVEMBER 1

There was no change in Canada's official cost-of-living index between October 1 and November 1. This interruption came after a series of 21 consecutive increases dating from January, 1947.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics places the November 1 index at 159.6, unchanged from October 1, but 16.0 points above November 1 last year. From August 1939 to November this year the increase was 58.3 per cent.

The food index fell from 205.4 on October 1 to 204.7 on November 1 as declines in meats and vegetables overbalanced further increases in egg prices; other food groups showed no appreciable changes. The decline in foods exactly balanced small advances in four other budget groups.

Homefurnishings and services moved up from 165.1 to 166.0, clothing from 181.0 to 181.5, fuel and light from 128.8 to 129.0, and miscellaneous items from 124.4 to 124.6. The rent series is computed at approximately quarterly intervals and the next reckoning will be for December 1; the latest figure is 121.0

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INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT HIGHER
AT BEGINNING OF OCTOBER

The trend of industrial employment in Canada continued moderately upward at the beginning of October, when 19,359 larger establishments in the eight major industrial divisions reported an increase of 0.4 per cent in their working forces. The gain in number of employees was accompanied by a rise of 2.7 per cent in payrolls. The rise in the payrolls resulted mainly from the payment of higher wage rates in many establishments, together with a return to more normal working conditions following the vacation season.

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The index number of employment rose from its previous all-time maximum to 201.8 at September 1 to 202.6 at October, when it exceeded by four per cent the figure of 194.8 recorded at October 1, 1947. During the war years the highest index for the beginning of October was that of 187.5 in 1943. The increase indicated at October 1 took place mainly among women, for whom employment rose by 1.7 per cent. The male staffs of the reporting firms were slightly higher than at September 1.

Industrial activity generally was at a higher level than at September 1 in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, but curtailment was reported by leading firms in the Maritime Provinces and in Alberta and British Columbia. Industrially, there was important expansion in logging, in which the number added to the working forces approximated that at October 1 last year.

Manufacturing, transportation and trade also showed improvement, the gain in trade being on quite a large scale. On the other hand, the trend was unfavourable in mining, communications, construction and hotels and restaurants. The losses in construction were considerable, but those in the remaining divisions were moderate. In manufacturing, the most outstanding changes were the increase of some 6.6 per cent in vegetable food processing, and the substantial contractions, also seasonal in character, in animal foods, lumber and paper mills.

The average earnings of the workers on the staffs of the co-operating employers amounted to \$41.78 at October 1 as compared with \$40.86 at September 1. The latest figure is the highest in the record of over seven years.

INCREASE IN CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE BENEFIT IN OCTOBER

There was an increase in the number of claims for unemployment insurance benefit filed in October. Total for the month was 43,620 as against 34,743 in the corresponding month last year, advances being shown for all provinces except Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Alberta. At the end of the month there were 55,384 ordinary claims on the live unemployment register compared with 42,225 on the same date last year.

A total of 50,454 beneficiaries received one or more benefit payments during October, amounting to \$1,763,559 as compensation for 878,430 compensated unemployed days compared with 49,372 beneficiaries paid \$1,694,139 for 871,967 compensated unemployed days in September and 41,033 beneficiaries paid \$1,544,185 for 814,218 compensated unemployed days during October, 1947.

The average duration of the unemployment compensated was 17.4 days in October, 17.7 days in September and 19.8 days during October last year. The average amount of benefit paid per beneficiary was \$34.95 during October, \$34.31 in September and \$37.63 in October, 1947. The average amount of benefit paid per compensated day of unemployment was \$2.01 in October, \$1.94 in September and \$1.90 in October last year.

RETAIL SALES UP
SHARPLY IN OCTOBER

Canada's retail trade took a sharp upturn in October when consumers spent 14.5 per cent more for merchandise than in October last year and 12 per cent more than in September this year. These results are based on reports from chain and independent stores in 14 kinds of retail business reporting to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The increase in sales for the first 10 months of this year amounted to 11 per cent above the similar period of 1947. Unadjusted indexes of sales, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 290.6 in October, 258.8 in September and 253.9 in October, 1947.

Department stores, variety stores and women's apparel shops led all other trades from the standpoint of percentage gain over October last year. October increases were more than 20 per cent for each of these trades. The increases have also been prominent for these trades throughout the earlier part of the current year; their cumulative gains for the 10 months ending October ranged from 14 per cent to 18 per cent, and ranked highest among trade increases.

Food stores reported an average sales increase of 14 per cent, a gain similar to that in the 10-months' comparison. Men's wear and family clothing stores showed increased activity when October gains of 13 per cent in each exceeded their average increases of nine per cent for the year to date. The demand for furniture and hardware merchandise was shown when these trades increased nine per cent and 14 per cent, respectively in October as compared with smaller gains of three per cent and nine per cent in the 10-month period.

Candy stores maintained an even level, the October increase of one per cent comparing with a decline of one per cent in the cumulative period over a year ago.

Regional increases for October ranged from a high of 19 per cent in the Prairie Provinces to eight per cent for the Maritime Provinces. Gain for Ontario was 17 per cent, British Columbia 14 per cent and Quebec 10 per cent. In the January-October comparisons, increases varied, reaching a high of 14 per cent in Ontario and a low of seven per cent in the Maritime Provinces.

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

	<u>December 2</u>	<u>November 25</u>	<u>November 4</u>
	(1935-39=100)		
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
(100 Common Stocks)	116.4	116.2	120.5
76 Industrials	111.6	111.5	116.4
16 Utilities	121.5	120.5	124.2
8 Banks	132.5	132.9	132.7
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
(30 Stocks)	82.0	80.7	86.7
25 Golds	59.8	58.2	63.7
5 Base Metals	127.2	126.5	133.2

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION
OF ELECTRICITY IN OCTOBER

Production of electric energy by central electric stations in Canada was lower in October than a year ago, due to decreases in Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec, but was almost three per cent above this year's September total.

Output for the month totalled 3,780,796,000 kilowatt hours compared with 3,604,218,000 in September and 3,862,696,000 in October last year. Primary power increased in October to 3,656,151,000 kilowatt hours from 3,406,198,000 a year ago, while secondary power fell off to 124,645,000 from 456,498,000 kilowatt hours. Net exports to the United States dropped to 122,314,000 kilowatt hours from 131,563,000.

Ontario's output in October declined to 937,071,000 kilowatt hours from 945,557,000 in October, 1947, in Manitoba to 165,525,000 kilowatt hours from 168,923,000, and in Quebec to 2,116,015,000 kilowatt hours from 2,297,279,000 last year. Increases were recorded for British Columbia, rising to 306,079,000 kilowatt hours as against 242,759,000 last year, Saskatchewan to 70,673,000 kilowatt hours against 57,883,000, Alberta to 63,275,000 kilowatt hours against 55,484,000, while all other provinces showed small increases.

Consumption of primary power in Canada reached an all-time monthly high in October, amounting to 3,544,291,000 kilowatt hours compared with 3,296,972,000 last year, while that of secondary power fell to 114,191,000 against 434,161,000 kilowatt hours. The Bureau's index number for consumption of primary power, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 224.8 for October compared with 229.1 for September and 209.1 for October last year.

PRODUCTION AND SALES OF
ASPHALT FLOOR TILES

Production and domestic sales of asphalt floor tiles both were lower in October, the former amounting to 1,499,000 square feet as compared with 1,505,000 in September, and the latter, 1,311,000 square feet compared with 1,429,000, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

MOTOR VEHICLE SHIPMENTS
HIGHER IN OCTOBER

Continuing the rise shown in the preceding month, factory shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles in October reached the highest monthly figure since March. The month's shipments, however, were slightly below October last year.

Figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics place shipments in the month at 25,057 units compared with 23,775 in September and 25,479 in October last year. In March this year the total was 27,112. During the first 10 months of this year, 210,079 units were shipped as compared with 213,465 in the same period last year.

October shipments comprised 18,017 passenger cars and 7,040 commercial vehicles. Of the former, 13,184 were made for sale in Canada and 4,833 for export, while of the latter 5,545 were for sale in Canada and 1,495 for export.

During the 10 months ending October, 107,806 passenger models were shipped for sale in Canada and 22,003 for export. In the same period, 61,021 commercial vehicles were shipped for sale in Canada and 19,249 for export.

PRODUCTION OF NATURAL GAS
LOWER IN SEPTEMBER

Production of natural gas in September amounted to 3,666,000 M cubic feet, increasing from the preceding month's figure of 3,421,000 M and was also above the 3,471,000 M a year ago. The September output was the highest since May, when production totalled 3,920,000 M cubic feet. During the first nine months of this year, 41,719,000 M cubic feet were produced as against 37,460,000 M in the similar period last year.

CRUDE OIL OUTPUT MAINTAINED AT
A HIGH LEVEL IN SEPTEMBER

Canada's output of crude petroleum and natural gasoline in September exceeded the million-barrel mark for the fourth successive month. The month's output amounted to 1,101,000 barrels as compared with the new high record established in August of 1,245,000 barrels and 653,000 a year ago. Mainly due to the sharply increased output from the Leduc field, production during the first nine months of this year rose to 8,649,000 barrels from 5,516,000 in the similar period last year.

September output from Leduc declined from the preceding month, standing at 462,000 barrels compared with 583,000, but was greatly advanced from the 33,000 produced a year ago. Turner Valley's output was lower in September, amounting to 347,000 barrels compared with 352,000 in August and 400,000 a year ago. Total output for Alberta was 978,000 barrels against 1,104,000 in August and 557,000 in the corresponding month last year.

STEEL INGOT PRODUCTION
INCREASED IN OCTOBER

Canadian production of steel ingots moved to a higher level in October. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports that 272,127 tons were produced as against 248,622 in September and 247,171 in October last year. This was the highest since May this year, when it stood at 279,688 tons. Output for the first 10 months of this year was also above 1947, totalling 2,550,228 tons as against 2,366,682.

Daily average output in October was 8,778 tons, higher than the September daily figure of 8,288 tons, but well in advance of the daily average of 7,973 for October, 1947. The October daily average was above previous months since May, when the daily rate amounted to 9,022 tons. Daily average output for the year to date was 8,361 tons as against 7,785 in the similar period last year.

SILVER, LEAD AND ZINC
PRODUCTION IN SEPTEMBER

Continuing the downtrend from the year's peak established in July, the Canadian output of primary silver in September amounted to 1,230,000 fine ounces compared with 1,518,000 in August and 1,782,000 in July. In September last year the output was 1,004,000 fine ounces. During the first nine months of this year, 10,980,000 fine ounces were produced as against 9,331,000 in the similar period last year.

Primary lead production in September fell from the month's high point attained in the preceding month, but was well in advance of September last year. The month's output was 15,100 tons compared with 16,600 in August and 13,500 a year ago. In the nine months the output was 119,200 tons compared with 122,700 a year ago.

Output of primary zinc was lower in September than in August but was above September last year. September output was placed at 20,000 tons compared with 20,700 in August and 17,400 a year ago, and in the nine months, 174,900 tons compared with 152,200.

STOCKS OF NON-FERROUS SCRAP
METAL AT THE END OF OCTOBER

Stocks of ingot makers' non-ferrous scrap metal at the end of October were down from the first of the month, amounting to 2,427,600 pounds as compared with 2,963,100, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The amount purchased or received during the month was 4,318,700 pounds, while the total used or sold was 4,854,200. Month-end stocks of secondary non-ferrous ingots were above the stocks at the beginning of the month, totalling 2,590,100 pounds as against 2,302,900, while production aggregated 4,791,900 pounds. Total used or sold amounted to 4,504,800 pounds.

CREAMERY BUTTER OUTPUT HIGHER
IN NOVEMBER; CHEESE LOWER

Output of creamery butter increased nine per cent in November over the corresponding month last year, showing the first increase since June, when the advance was slightly more than three per cent. Cumulative output for the first 11 months of this year was down three per cent from last year.

The month's output was placed at 16,424,000 pounds as against 15,056,000 a year ago, with all provinces except Saskatchewan and British Columbia sharing in the advance. In the 11-month period, 271,838,000 pounds were produced compared with 280,587,000 in the same period last year.

The downward trend in the cheddar cheese make was continued in November when 2,487,000 pounds were produced compared with 3,760,000 a year ago. In the 11 months, 85,293,000 pounds were produced compared with 118,426,000 in the like period 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 November 25 amounted to 180,142,000 bushels, up 31,944,000 bushels over last year's corresponding figure of 148,198,000 bushels, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Deliveries from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week totalled 4,413,000 bushels as against 3,681,000 in the same week last year, while clearances for export amounted to 4,765,000 bushels compared with 3,505,000.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending November 25, comparable totals for 1947 being in brackets: oats, 2,788,000 (2,015,000) bushels; barley, 1,764,000 (1,682,000); rye, 246,000 (64,000); flaxseed, 202,000 (63,000).

WORLD WHEAT CROP LARGER
THAN EARLIER ESTIMATED

World wheat production for 1948 now promises to show an even larger increase over last year than earlier forecasts indicated, largely due to improvement in Europe.

Based on the latest available information, the world total is now estimated at 6,285 million bushels, some 35 million bushels above the September forecast and 470 million bushels greater than the 1947 crop, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports in its monthly review of the world wheat situation. The latest estimate also exceeds the 1935-39 average by 275 million bushels.

The upward revision from the September estimate is due principally to higher estimates for some European countries, France particularly, and to improved prospects in Australia, where harvesting began recently.

On a regional basis, perhaps the most significant factor in the improvement this year in world wheat production, the Bureau states, is an indicated increase of 440 million bushels over the 1947 crop in Europe. However, despite this gain, the European wheat crop is still 127 million bushels below the 1935-39 average. On the other hand, production in some European countries, notably France and the United Kingdom, has exceeded the prewar average. The improved supply situation in these countries has permitted the relaxation of many of the rigid control measures adopted during and immediately following the War in an effort to conserve available bread grain supplies. Although import requirements for current needs have been reduced to some extent in many European countries, there still exists a need to build up depleted reserve stocks and to reduce high extraction rates.

Production this year in North America, South America and Oceania is down from last year, when all-time record wheat crops were harvested in the United States and Australia, but total production in these areas, normally supplying the bulk of world wheat exports, is well above the 1935-39 average. This year's wheat crop in North America alone is 610 million bushels greater than the average for 1935-39 and only 22 million less than in 1947. A reduction of 81.1 million bushels from last year's record crop in the United States has been offset partly by increases in Canada and Mexico.

Latest estimate, with 1947 figures in brackets, shown in thousand bushels, is as follows: North America, 1,696,000 (1,718,000); South America, 245,000 (325,000); Europe, 1,465,000 (1,025,000); U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia), 888,000 (875,000); Asia, 1,650,000 (1,517,000); Africa, 150,000 (130,000); Oceania, 190,300 (224,300); total, 6,285,000 (5,815,000).

MORE BIRTHS, MARRIAGES,
FEWER DEATHS IN SEPTEMBER

Registrations of births in Canada showed a slight increase in September over a year earlier. Increases were shown for New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, with decreases in the remaining provinces. The number of births in the month was 29,900, an increase of 2.5 per cent above the 29,100 a year ago, and in the nine months ending September, 259,200 against 271,400, a decline of about 4½ per cent.

An increase of 8.8 per cent occurred in marriage registrations in September as compared with last year, the number rising from 13,400 to 14,600. For the year to date the total number was 91,900, down 3.9 per cent from the 95,600 in the similar period last year.

Death registrations were lower in the month, standing at 8,800 as against 9,100 in 1947, but an overall increase of 2.8 per cent was reported for the cumulative period when 89,500 deaths were recorded compared with 87,000 in 1947.

RAILWAY REVENUES REACH
ALL-TIME HIGH IN SEPTEMBER

Canadian railways had record operating revenues of \$79,482,000 in September compared with \$66,136,000 in the same month last year, for an increase of \$13,346,000, or 20.2 per cent. This is the highest revenue total for any month in history. With freight volume up 4.6 per cent over September last year and rates increased, freight revenues jumped \$12,588,000 to \$63,399,000, up 24.8 per cent to establish a new peak in this phase of operations. Passenger revenues improved by 3.5 per cent or \$256,000 to \$7,590,000 and compare with \$3,127,000 in September, 1938. All other revenue accounts showed improvement over the same month last year, express increasing by \$317,000, or by 11.9 per cent.

Operating expenses likewise registered widespread gains over September a year ago, totalling \$69,583,000 as against \$59,100,000, a rise of 17.5 per cent. Maintenance of way and structures and equipment cost some \$30,540,000 during the month, an increase of \$4,985,000 over the same month last year. Transportation expenses were up from \$28,329,000 to \$33,469,000, or by 18.1 per cent. Increased pay rolls affected all departments.

Net operating revenue improved nearly \$2,963,000 to \$9,899,000 but taxes increased by \$798,000 in comparison with September, 1947. Hire of equipment and joint facilities rent eased \$43,000. Operating income advanced from \$3,105,000 to \$5,314,000.

During September the Canadian National paid \$17,299,000 in backtime pay covering March 1 - June 30 increases, and the Canadian Pacific issued \$11,786,000 extra to cover retroactive pay for the period, March 1 - July 31. The smaller lines reported \$823,000 retroactive pay.

Revenue freight carried by all railways increased from 14,905,000 tons in September, 1947 to 15,589,000 or by 4.6 per cent, while freight mileage advanced 6.3 per cent. The number of revenue passengers rose by 8,800 to 2,794,000 and the average journey was 111 miles against 109 one year earlier. Average freight receipts per revenue ton mile improved from 1.005 cents to 1.180 cents. Pay roll distributed in the month was \$43,371,000, up \$8,972,000 or 26.1 per cent, and the number of employees was 4.5 per cent greater at 184,000 compared with 176,100.

During the period January to September operating revenues of all railways aggregated \$625,475,000 compared with \$571,474,000 in the first nine months of 1947. However, expenses, including back pay and increased wage rates payments, rose over \$80,000,000 in the same comparison, climbing from \$510,310,000 to \$590,993,000, and operating income dropped from \$29,919,000 in 1947 to \$6,461,000.

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Carloadings of railway revenue freight during the week ending November 27 declined to 85,320 cars from 86,961 cars for the preceding week and 85,522 cars for the corresponding week last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Cumulative loadings for the 48 weeks ending November 27 amounted to 1,762,107 cars as against 1,772,288 in 1947 and 1,659,176 in 1946.

Loadings of grain during the week increased from 9,323 cars in 1947 to 10,589 cars, but grain products continued light, decreasing from 3,368 to 2,750 cars. Live stock declined from 3,483 to 2,857 cars, pulpwood from 3,531 to 2,358 cars, and lumber from 4,649 to 3,549 cars. Coal increased from 7,591 to 7,858 cars, ores from 2,658 to 2,976 cars, gasoline and oils from 3,766 to 4,130 cars, woodpulp and paper from 4,405 to 4,678 cars, and l.c.l. merchandise from 18,138 to 19,002 cars.

SALES AND CONSUMPTION
OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Canadians and visitors to Canada spent a grand total of \$525,000,000 on alcoholic beverages during the 12 months ending March 1947, the latest period for which country-wide figures are available, it is estimated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. More than half of this sum was returned to the Dominion and provincial governments as duties, taxes and other revenue.

Direct sales by provincial Liquor Control Boards or their agents aggregated \$427,000,000. To this amount must be added the mark-up on sales by persons licensed in some provinces to re-sell certain beverages to the public, placed at \$98,000,000.

During the fiscal year ending March this year, the apparent consumption of beer and spirits in Canada was still on the increase, while the consumption of wine showed a drop. Estimated consumption of spirits during the 12 months amounted to 7,320,000 proof gallons compared with 6,543,000 in 1947; of beer, 165,743,000 gallons compared with 146,981,000; and native and imported wine, 5,214,000 gallons compared with 5,584,000.

Production of spirits during the 12 months ending March this year amounted to 28,198,000 proof gallons as compared with 21,571,000 in the preceding year. Production of beer was 173,202,000 gallons as compared with 155,801,000.

Imports of spirits advanced from 2,097,000 proof gallons in the fiscal year ended March, 1947 to 2,691,000, beer from 17,000 gallons to 37,000, but wine imports fell from 929,000 gallons to 619,000. Exports of Canadian-made spirits fell from 4,758,000 proof gallons to 3,843,000, beer from 4,109,000 gallons to 4,024,000; wine exports rose from 30,000 gallons to 41,000.

Excise and import duties, validation fees and licenses on spirits collected by the Dominion Government during the fiscal year ending March, 1948 aggregated \$84,945,000 (a new peak figure) compared with \$78,377,000 in the preceding year. Excise and import duty revenues and license fees on malt and malt production increased from \$51,826,000 to \$57,535,000, but the figure for wine fell from \$3,310,000 to \$2,922,000.

BEER PRODUCTION LOWER IN OCTOBER

Beer production was slightly lower in October, the month's output amounting to 15,360,000 gallons as compared with 15,990,000 in the preceding month and 15,620,000 in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first 10 months of this year, 152,690,000 gallons were produced compared with 143,670,000 in the similar period last year.

New spirits produced during the month amounted to 1,650,000 proof gallons compared with 1,540,000 in September and 2,360,000 a year ago, while spirits bottled -- including imported liquors -- totalled 750,000 proof gallons compared with 680,000 in September and 850,000 last year.

Stocks of distilled liquor at the end of October amounted to 68,840,000 proof gallons compared with 68,950,000 at the end of September and 59,800,000 a year ago.

WOOD-USING INDUSTRIES IN 1946

Gross value of products turned out by the wood-using industries of Canada reached a record figure of \$278,892,000 in 1946, an increase of 21.4 per cent over the preceding year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The number of employees increased from 50,900 to 58,400, and salary and wage payments from \$68,277,000 to \$81,484,000.

CANADA'S HIGHWAYS IN 1946 An annual average of 5,200 miles have been added to Canada's network of highways during the 25 years from 1922 to 1946. The mileage at the end of 1946, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics was 553,000 as compared with 423,000 in 1922, an overall increase of 130,000 miles.

During this period the mileage of surfaced roads increased from 48,695 to 140,049 miles, the 1946 total comprising 121,813 miles of gravel and crushed stone surface, 8,698 miles bituminous surface, 6,931 miles bituminous pavement, 2,485 miles portland cement concrete, and 122 miles of other surfaces. Improved earth mileage was 136,870, and other earth 276,044 miles.

Total estimated expenditures by all authorities on the construction, maintenance and administration of Canada's highway systems and rural roads, including bridges and ferries, amounted to \$144,469,000 during 1946, an increase of nearly 72 per cent over the total of \$84,165,000 for 1945, a large part of the increase representing construction and maintenance postponed during the war years. Provincial outlays climbed from \$73,536,000 in 1945 to \$126,611,000, with construction up \$44,300,000. Dominion expenditures, due mainly to the taking over of the Alaska Highway in April, 1946, from the United States Army, rose from \$1,073,581 to \$6,293,419. Municipal expenditures were also heavier, increasing from \$9,441,779 to \$11,266,811.

Expenditures on construction of roads, bridges and ferries totalled \$80,589,000 in 1946, while outlays on maintenance amounted to \$58,247,000 and on administration to \$5,633,000.

Expenditures in Ontario in 1946 totalled \$49,478,000, Quebec \$37,601,000, Alberta \$12,049,000, New Brunswick \$11,750,000, British Columbia \$9,506,000, Nova Scotia \$8,214,000, Saskatchewan \$6,323,000, Northwest Territories \$4,439,000, Manitoba \$3,644,000, and Prince Edward Island \$1,466,000.

FEWER CIGARETTES RELEASED IN OCTOBER Fewer cigarettes were released for consumption in October, the month's figure standing at 1,429,000,000 as compared with 1,481,000,000 in the preceding month and 1,524,000,000 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Releases during the first 10 months of this year totalled 13,013,000,000 as compared with 12,450,000,000 in the corresponding period last year.

Cigar releases were also lower during the month, totalling 17,900,000 as against 18,000,000 in September and 21,200,000 a year ago. Cut tobacco releases at 2,301,000 pounds were down from 2,417,000 in September and 2,499,000 a year ago, while plug tobacco at 199,000 pounds increased from 185,000 pounds in September, but fell from the October, 1947 total of 259,000 pounds.

GYPSUM INDUSTRY IN 1946 Shipments of gypsum from the quarries in 1947 reached a new record both in tonnage and value. The year's shipments amounted to 2,497,000 tons valued at \$4,735,000 as compared with 1,811,000 tons valued at \$3,672,000.

There were 13 plants in 1947, one less than in 1946. Employees numbered 908 compared with 753, and the amount paid in salaries and wages during the year was \$1,696,000 as against \$1,247,000. Cost of fuel, electricity, supplies and containers totalled \$1,050,000 and the net value of production was \$3,732,000.

REPORTS ISSUED DURING THE WEEK

1. Wood-Using Industries in Canada, 1946 (35 cents).
2. Sugar Industry in Canada, 1947 (25 cents).
3. Highway Statistics, 1946 (25 cents).
4. The Gypsum Industry in Canada, 1947 (25 cents).
5. Department Store Sales and Inventories, October (10 cents).
6. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, October (10 cents).
7. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
8. Labour Force Bulletin No. 9 (25 cents).
9. Asphalt Floor Tiles, October (10 cents).
10. Preliminary Annual Report, Vital Statistics of Canada, Final Figures, 1946 (25 cents).
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