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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

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COMMERCIAL FAILURES CONTINUED TO RISE in the third quarter of 1948, reaching a total of 181, the highest since the same period of 1941. The total was still below pre-war levels.

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CANADIAN PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON, FERRO-ALLOYS AND STEEL INGOTS AND CASTINGS increased during October over September, with ferro-alloys reaching a peak for the last two years, and ingots and castings at the highest level since May this year.

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GROSS VALUE OF PRINCIPAL FIELD CROPS produced on Canadian farms in 1948 is estimated at \$1,595 million, the highest in a record extending back 41 years.

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STOCKS OF CANADIAN WHEAT IN STORE or in transit in North America at midnight on December 2 totalled 177,409,000 bushels, showing a decrease of 2,733,000 bushels from the total for November 25, but an increase of 32,028,000 over the amount held on the corresponding date last year.

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INDEX OF FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS moved downward in October for the second month in succession.

FAVOURABLE TRADE BALANCE IN OCTOBER
HIGHEST FOR THE YEAR

Canada had a favourable overall trade balance of \$66,000,000 in October, slightly above the September figure of \$64,400,000 and the highest for any month this year. In October last year there was a small adverse balance of \$800,000. During the 10 months ending October the favourable balance aggregated \$327,600,000, nearly two and a half times the 10-month aggregate of \$134,200,000 in 1947.

There was a small adverse trade balance with the United States during October of \$9,700,000 as compared with an adverse balance of \$86,200,000 a year ago, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The cumulative debit balance for the 10 months declined sharply to \$275,400,000 as against \$804,500,000 in the similar period of 1947.

October's favourable trade balance with the United Kingdom amounted to \$36,500,000, an increase over the September figure of \$24,100,000, but below the balance of \$48,700,000 in October last year. During the 10 months the credit balance totalled \$336,600,000 this year as compared with \$460,200,000 in 1947.

Canada's total foreign trade in October amounted to \$552,900,000 as compared with \$508,200,000 a year ago and \$507,700,000 in September this year. The gain over October last year was due to a substantial rise in exports from \$250,800,000 to \$307,000,000, which offset by a wide margin a moderate drop in imports from \$254,500,000 to \$243,400,000. Re-exports in October were slightly lower than a year ago at \$2,500,000 compared with \$2,900,000.

Aggregate value of external trade for the 10 months this year was \$4,661,200,000 as against \$4,435,600,000 last year. Merchandise imports totalled \$2,166,800,000 as compared with \$2,150,700,000, domestic exports \$2,465,100,000 as compared with \$2,255,600,000, and foreign exports \$29,286,000 as against \$29,256,000.

IMPORTS IN OCTOBER
HIGHEST FOR THE YEAR

Value of merchandise imported for consumption in Canada reached the year's high figure of \$243,400,000 in October. This was \$21,700,000 higher than in September, but \$11,100,000 below the monthly all-time peak of \$254,500,000 registered in October last year. Aggregate value for the first 10 months of this year was \$2,166,800,000 as compared with \$2,150,700,000 in the like period last year.

The upward trend in the value of imports from British Commonwealth countries was continued in October, while purchases from foreign countries moved downward. October imports from British countries were valued at \$51,900,000 as compared with \$35,300,000 a year ago, and in the 10 months, \$415,400,000 compared with \$286,500,000. October total from foreign countries was \$191,600,000 compared with \$219,200,000 a year ago, and in the 10 months, \$1,751,400,000 compared with \$1,864,200,000.

Imports from the United States in October were again lower than a year ago, being valued at \$160,211,000 as compared with \$190,438,000. During the 10 months ending October the value was \$1,482,945,000 as compared with \$1,658,627,000 in the same period of last year. Imports from the United States accounted for about two-thirds of the total for all countries both in the month and in the cumulative period.

Continuing the upward trend, purchases from the United Kingdom moved up to \$29,257,000 in October from last year's corresponding total of \$18,269,000. This brought the cumulative total for the 10 months ending October to \$246,550,000 as compared with \$151,269,000 in the same period last year.

Imports from Latin American countries as a group were slightly lower in value in October, but were substantially higher in the cumulative period. Total for the month was \$20,528,000 as compared with \$21,275,000 a year ago, and in the 10 months, \$187,799,000 as against \$153,394,000.

Among individual countries, Venezuela was the third largest source of supply for Canada's imports in October, accounting for a total of \$10,518,000 as against \$4,914,000 a year ago, bringing the aggregate for the 10 months to \$81,036,000 as compared with \$38,020,000. Purchases from British Malaya in October -- fourth largest source -- amounted to \$3,165,000 (\$609,000 last year); Australia, \$2,391,000 (\$1,182,000); India, \$2,496,000 (\$5,219,000); British Guiana, \$2,099,000 (\$2,009,000); San Domingo, \$2,059,000 (\$832,000).

Only two of the nine main commodity groups -- non-metallic minerals and chemicals -- showed increases both in the month and cumulative period. The iron and products group was slightly higher in the 10-month period but lower in October.

Imports of non-metallic minerals and products in October amounted to \$62,600,000 as against \$49,284,000 a year ago, and in the 10 months to \$510,810,000 as compared with \$371,295,000. A large part of the rise in the month and cumulative period was due to advances in coal, crude petroleum and petroleum products. Group total for chemicals was \$10,838,000 as compared with \$9,940,000 in October last year, and in the 10 months, \$97,497,000 as compared with \$94,821,000.

The iron products group of imports was valued at \$69,753,000 in October as compared with \$74,020,000 in the corresponding month last year, while in the 10 months the aggregate was \$644,801,000 as compared with \$638,019,000. The decline in the month was due for the most part to reductions in automobiles, household and other non-farm machinery.

The agricultural and vegetable products group fell from \$41,294,000 in October last year to \$32,461,000, with declines in fruits, nuts, grains and products, tea and vegetable oils. Sugar and rubber were among the larger increases. In the 10 months the group aggregate was \$279,133,000 as compared with \$292,690,000 a year ago.

Animals and animal products were imported in October to the value of \$6,307,000 as compared with \$8,375,000 last year, and in the 10 months, \$61,778,000 compared with \$74,068,000. The month's imports of fibres and textiles amounted to \$30,572,000 compared with \$32,613,000, and in the cumulative period, \$289,750,000 compared with \$330,620,000.

Group total for non-ferrous metals in the month was \$14,725,000 as compared with \$15,637,000 a year ago, and in the 10 months, \$126,733,000 compared with \$135,689,000. Wood and paper products group in October totalled \$6,378,000 as compared with \$8,348,000, bringing the 10-month total to \$61,100,000 compared with \$76,517,000. October total for the miscellaneous group was \$9,744,000 compared with \$14,952,000, and in the 10-month period, \$95,178,000 compared with \$136,976,000.

GROSS VALUE OF 1948 FIELD CROPS
AT ALL-TIME PEAK

Gross value of principal field crops produced on Canadian farms in 1948 is estimated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at \$1,595 million. This is the highest gross value in a record extending back 41 years. The Bureau's estimate is based on average prices received by farmers from August 1, beginning of the crop year, to the end of November only.

Only once, in 1919, has the \$1,500 million level been previously exceeded, and only twice, in 1920 and 1947, have field crop values been in excess of \$1,400 million. High prices were largely responsible for the enhanced values of production in each of these years.

This year's wheat crop is valued at \$550.4 million, an increase of \$95 million over last year's level. While the average price of 1948 wheat is five cents per bushel more than in 1947, most of the increased value accrues from the additional 56.6 million bushels of wheat produced this year. The total value of the oat crop, despite a lower average price, is also up nearly \$37 million.

With barley production only moderately above 1947 levels and a lower average price ruling during the first four months of the crop year, the total value of this crop is down about \$2 million as between the two years. The production of rye was nearly doubled in 1948, but the price drop has been so pronounced as to cut the value of this crop by over \$8 million from the 1947 figure. There is a somewhat parallel situation with potatoes and dry beans, increased production being more than offset by lower prices; the value of the potato crop declining nearly \$16 million and that of beans nearly \$1 million.

Production declines coupled with relatively small changes in average prices have resulted in somewhat lowered values this year for the dry pea, buckwheat and hay and clover crops. The sugar beet prices used for 1948 are initial payments only, and upward revisions will be required in the value of this crop as soon as the extent of the final payment is known in each of the four provinces concerned. The 1948 values of all other crops for which estimates have been included in this release are higher than those recorded for 1947.

Estimated values of the 1948 field crops, with revised figures for 1947 in brackets (thousands omitted): wheat, \$550,427 (\$455,436); oats, \$251,975 (\$215,072); barley, \$144,648 (\$146,553); rye, \$35,114 (\$43,517); dry peas, \$4,283 (\$5,138); dry beans, \$6,874 (\$7,721); soybeans, \$3,955 (\$3,397); buckwheat, \$4,904 (\$6,075); mixed grain, \$60,081 (\$32,365); flaxseed, \$66,358 (\$64,135); shelled corn, \$17,218 (\$12,506); potatoes, \$83,881 (\$99,362); turnips, mangels, etc., \$20,521 (\$19,392); hay and clover, \$248,249 (\$251,154); alfalfa, \$50,910 (\$38,965); fodder corn, \$29,334 (\$19,654); grain hay, \$10,080 (\$9,264); sugar beets, \$6,085 (\$8,684).

Increases in gross value of production over 1947 levels have occurred in all provinces except New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island where the drop in potato prices seriously effected total value of production, particularly in the former province. The greatest percentage increases in value of production took place in Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec in that order, excellent 1948 grain crops being the chief factor responsible for the improved value position in these provinces. In Alberta and Saskatchewan, higher wheat crop values were nearly offset by lower prices for other major crops, with the net result that gross value of production in each province increased only one per cent over last year.

The following table shows values of field crop production by provinces in 1948 and 1947 in thousand dollars, and value and percentage changes:

Province	Total Values		Increase (+) or Decrease (-)	
	1947	1948	Thousand Dollars	Percent
Prince Edward Island	23,270	22,812	- 458	- 2
Nova Scotia	22,430	23,345	+ 915	+ 4
New Brunswick	44,178	36,894	- 7,284	-16
Quebec	170,139	188,490	+ 18,351	+11
Ontario	282,239	370,264	+ 88,025	+31
Manitoba	164,268	213,306	+ 49,038	+30
Saskatchewan	393,002	396,817	+ 3,815	+ 1
Alberta	306,976	309,232	+ 2,256	+ 1
British Columbia	32,158	33,737	+ 1,579	+ 5
Canada	1,438,660	1,594,897	+156,237	+11

The values of current field crop production in Canada are in strong contrast with those recorded in the 1930's when values (based on depression prices) ranged from \$432 million in 1931 to \$686 million in 1939. This year's figure is about 11 per cent above the revised gross value of production for 1947 and some 269 per cent above the low point reached in 1931. While prices of some of the major crops have been lower during the current crop year than in 1947-48, generally sharp increases in the 1948 production of most crops more than offset reduced prices, resulting in the substantial increase over 1947 in total value of production.

The following table shows a comparison of the gross value of field crop production from 1931 to date. Values for recent years have been revised to include, where applicable, the effects of participation payments for wheat and equalization and adjustment payments for oats, barley and flax. Upward revisions will subsequently be required to allow for additional participation payments which will accrue to the 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1948 wheat crop from the five-year pool now in operation. The 20 cents per bushel payment made in 1948 covering 1945, 1946 and 1947 wheat marketings has been taken into account.

Gross Value of Canadian Field Crop Production, 1931-1948

	Thousand Dollars		Thousand Dollars
1931	432,199	1940	704,299
1932	452,527	1941	704,761
1933	453,598	1942	1,221,942
1934	549,080	1943	1,189,229
1935	511,873	1944	1,386,892
1936	612,300	1945	1,209,918
1937	556,222	1946	1,345,199
1938	550,069	1947	1,438,660
1939	685,839	1948	1,594,897

STOCKS OF COLD STORAGE FISH Stocks of frozen fish on December 1 amounted to 43,376,000 pounds compared with 46,991,000 on November 1 and 44,069,000 on the corresponding date last year. Of the current holdings, 40,390,000 pounds were frozen fresh and 2,986,000 pounds frozen smoked.

Cod stocks on December 1 amounted to 7,362,000 pounds compared with 5,672,000 a year ago, haddock 2,033,000 pounds compared with 1,540,000, salmon 10,342,000 pounds compared with 11,572,000, sea herring 5,616,000 pounds compared with 8,015,000, other sea fish 10,667,000 pounds compared with 14,184,000, and inland fish 6,121,000 pounds compared with 3,087,000.

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on December 2 totalled 177,409,000 bushels, showing a decrease of 2,733,000 bushels from the total for November 25, but an increase of 32,028,000 bushels over the amount held on the corresponding date last year.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending December 2 totalled 3,535,000 bushels as compared with 2,911,000 in the same week last year, while the export clearances totalled 3,553,000 bushels as against 2,944,000.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending December 2, totals for the corresponding week last year being in brackets: oats, 2,025,300 (1,848,200) bushels; barley, 1,185,400 (1,685,900); rye, 230,200 (46,800); flaxseed, 88,500 (55,300).

STOCKS OF BUTTER, CHEESE,
EGGS AND POULTRY MEAT

Creamery butter stocks were lower on December 1, the total standing at 46,759,000 pounds compared with 53,910,000 on November 1, and 59,325,000 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This year's December 1 total included 3,245,000 pounds of imported butter. Stocks of cheese amounted to 37,495,000 pounds compared with 43,252,000 on November 1 and 37,877,000 a year ago.

Stocks of evaporated whole milk held by or for manufacturers amounted to 18,121,000 pounds, down from the November 1 figure of 21,439,000 pounds but up sharply from the December 1, 1947, total of 6,460,000 pounds. Skim milk powder stocks totalled 7,561,000 pounds compared with 8,943,000 on November 1 and 6,378,000 a year ago.

Holdings of shell eggs on December 1 amounted to 1,180,000 dozen compared with 1,279,000 on November 1 and 2,701,000 a year ago. Frozen egg-meat stocks totalled 8,490,000 pounds compared with 9,754,000 on November 1 and 13,194,000 last year.

Stocks of poultry meat were down to 16,916,000 pounds from 29,982,000 on December 1 last year. Holdings were as follows, figures for December 1, 1947, being in brackets: broilers, 267,000 (517,000) pounds; chickens, 6,350,000 (12,251,000); fowl, 7,145,000 (13,218,000); ducks, 114,000 (188,000); geese, 327,000 (341,000); turkeys, 1,799,000 (2,321,000).

STORAGE STOCKS OF FRUITS AND
VEGETABLES ON DECEMBER 1

Stocks of fruit, frozen and in preservatives were higher on December 1 than a year ago, but were lower than on November 1, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Holdings amounted to 37,926,000 pounds compared with 41,062,000 on November 1 and 34,043,000 on the corresponding date last year. December 1 stocks of vegetables, frozen and in brine, were 11,354,000 pounds compared with 12,477,000 on November 1 and 13,192,000 a year ago.

Storage stocks of Canadian vegetables on December 1 were all increased over a year earlier, potatoes being up from 454,917 tons to 534,801, onions from 15,902 tons to 22,779, beets from 1,722 tons to 2,529, carrots from 9,806 tons to 17,580, cabbages from 4,809 tons to 7,992, parsnips from 1,041 tons to 1,683, and celery from 179,428 crates to 197,735.

There were 27 tons of imported onions and 40 crates of imported celery on hand on December 1.

INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

October witnessed, for the second successive month, a downward movement of the index of farm prices of agricultural products. Lower prices for livestock and potatoes more than offset gains registered for dairy products, poultry and eggs, to account for a two point drop to a figure of 251.1. The first significant decline in nearly two years occurred in September of this year when the index eased from a high of 255.8 to 253.1. While the October figure is below that of the preceding month, it is substantially above the 208.6 established in the same month a year ago.

Provincial indexes were as follows, those for September being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 195.8 (204.3); Nova Scotia, 207.3 (216.1); New Brunswick, 222.3 (225.7); Quebec, 271.2 (270.0); Ontario, 272.0 (273.9); Manitoba, 246.8 (249.1); Saskatchewan, 223.8 (225.5); Alberta, 249.2 (252.7); British Columbia, 250.6 (248.9).

HOURLY EARNINGS AND WEEKLY WAGES IN MANUFACTURING AT RECORD HIGH

Average hourly earnings and weekly wages paid to hourly rated wage-earners employed by leading Canadian manufacturers at October 1 both were at the highest levels in the record which covers a period of 48 months.

Average hourly earnings of the 306,600 wage-earners for whom a record of man-hours is kept, stood at 94.6 cents, an increase of 1.2 cents over the figure reported for September 1, and 11.2 cents above October 1, 1947. Wages paid during the week ending October 1 rose to \$40.68 from \$38.95 at September 1 and \$35.95 a year earlier.

In manufacturing as a whole, the wage-earners worked an average of 43 hours during the week ending October 1 as compared with 41.7 hours in the week of September 1, and 43.1 hours a year ago.

Resumption of more normal activities after the holiday season and the extreme heat which had affected the situation in the week of September 1 together with moderately rising employment, were largely responsible for the increases in the hours worked. Heightened industrial activity, resulting in larger production bonuses and more overtime at premium rates, together with wage increases in a number of important industries were factors in the increased hourly wage rate.

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

	<u>December 9</u>	<u>December 2</u>	<u>November 11</u>
	(1935-39=100)		
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
(100 Common Stocks)	116.3	116.4	116.8
76 Industrials	111.6	111.6	112.5
16 Utilities	120.5	121.5	120.1
8 Banks	132.9	132.5	132.0
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
(30 Stocks)	82.5	82.0	82.1
25 Golds	59.8	59.8	60.8
5 Base Metals	128.8	127.2	125.2

CANADIAN LABOUR INCOME AGAIN
HIGHER IN SEPTEMBER

With a substantial gain from increases in employment and average earnings boosted heavily by the payment of retroactive increases to employees of Canada's two main railways, Canadian labour income rose sharply to an estimated total of \$651,000,000 in September from \$604,000,000 in August. During the first nine months of this year labour income aggregated \$5,142,000,000 as compared with \$4,470,000,000, an increase of 15 per cent.

Lump-sum payment of the 17 cent per hour wage increase for the period from March 1 to July 31, by the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways, accounted for \$31,000,000 of the \$47,000,000 increase between August and September. The effect of the retroactive increases was reflected throughout the large network of enterprises owned and operated by the railway systems. Employees engaged in the operation of the railways and their shipping services received \$22,000,000 of the increase, while those employed in locomotive, repair and other related shops, hotels and a number of small establishments accounted for the remainder.

The index of employment in the nine leading non-agricultural industries rose 0.4 per cent from 132.5 at September 1 to 133.1 at the end of the month. Over the same period average weekly earnings in these industries went up 86 cents to \$41.67 at October 1. These increases caused substantial relative gains in total salaries and wages in manufacturing, trade and forestry. Seasonal harvesting operations raised labour income in agriculture.

Labour income in September was as follows by groups, totals for August being in brackets (millions of dollars): agriculture, logging, fishing, trapping, mining, \$52 (\$49); manufacturing, \$217 (\$202); construction, \$48 (\$48); utilities, transportation, communication, storage, trade, \$183 (\$155); finance, services including government, \$121 (\$121); supplementary labour income, \$31 (\$29).

COMMERCIAL FAILURES HIGHER IN
THIRD QUARTER OF THIS YEAR

Commercial failures continued to rise in the third quarter of 1948, reaching a total of 181, the highest since the same period of 1941. The number of failures showed an increase of about 33 per cent over the same period of 1947 when there were 136, and may be compared with 64 and 55 for the years 1946 and 1945, respectively. Despite the sharp increase over the third quarter of 1947, failures were considerably lower than in the same period of pre-war years, comparing with 343 for the third quarter of 1939.

Failures rose appreciably in the first nine months of 1948, totalling 606, also the highest number since 1941. The increase over the first nine months of 1947 was about 51 per cent, the total for that period having been 402.

Estimated current liabilities for the third quarter of this year were \$4,140,000 compared with \$2,597,000 in the same period of 1947. Liabilities for the nine-month period totalled \$11,262,000 compared with \$7,130,000 for 1947. This is the highest total for the nine months since the pre-war year, 1939, when liabilities were \$11,571,000.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES UP
11 PER CENT IN NOVEMBER

Department store sales increased 11 per cent in November over the same month last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. On a regional basis, British Columbia showed the largest gain of 21 per cent, followed by Alberta and the Maritimes both with increases of 18 per cent, Saskatchewan 14 per cent, Manitoba 12 per cent, Ontario seven per cent, and Quebec three per cent.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES FOR EIGHT REGIONAL CITIES

Cost-of-living index numbers for eight regional cities of Canada presented divergent tendencies between October 1 and November 1, due mainly to the effect of seasonal factors on food price changes. Clothing, homefurnishings and services were higher at all centres.

Indexes for five of the eight cities registered declines during the month, Montreal, showing a decrease of 0.6 points and Halifax, Saint John, Toronto and Vancouver identical decreases of 0.2 points. Indexes for the three cities in the Prairie Provinces showed gains, that for Saskatoon being up 0.5 points, Edmonton 0.3, and Winnipeg 0.2 points. Over the same period the Dominion index registered no change.

The following table compares the latest city and Dominion cost-of-living indexes.

	<u>November 1, 1947</u>	<u>October 1, 1948</u>	<u>November 1, 1948</u>
	(August, 1939=100)		
Halifax	140.6	152.2	152.0
Saint John	141.4	156.4	156.2
Montreal	146.3	163.1	162.5
Toronto	141.5	155.4	155.2
Winnipeg	139.2	152.8	153.0
Saskatoon	145.3	161.8	162.3
Edmonton	138.7	153.9	154.2
Vancouver	143.4	161.3	161.1
Dominion	142.5	158.3	158.3

The city indexes show changes in living costs for each city and compare the extent of rise as between cities. They do not, however, compare actual levels of living costs.

IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION INCREASED IN OCTOBER

Canadian production of pig iron, ferro-alloys and steel ingots and castings increased during October over September, with ferro-alloys reaching a peak figure for the last two years and ingots and castings at the highest level since May this year.

Output of pig iron during the month, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, amounted to 186,424 tons compared with 182,465 tons in September and 163,335 tons in October last year. Cumulative total for the 10 months this year rose to 1,779,905 tons as against 1,630,149 tons in 1947. The October output consisted of 164,184 tons of basic iron, 15,760 tons of foundry iron and 6,480 tons of malleable iron.

Ferro-alloy production jumped sharply in October to 19,489 tons from 12,318 tons in September and was well above last year's October figure of 14,691 tons. Previous monthly peak was 18,456 tons in May this year. During the 10 months ending October, production aggregated 147,099 tons compared with 127,393 tons last year.

October production of steel ingots and castings combined was 281,866 tons as compared with 257,865 in the preceding month and 256,461 tons a year ago. The month's output was the third highest this year, being exceeded in May and March. Cumulative output for the 10 months was 2,643,253 as compared with 2,440,025 tons in the corresponding 1947 period.

PRODUCTION OF WIRE NAILS
AT ALL-TIME HIGH

Production of iron and steel wire nails rose to a new all-time monthly high in October, the month's output amounting to 7,974 tons. This compares with the preceding month's figure of 7,798 tons and 7,443 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first 10 months of this year, 71,269 tons were produced as against 64,102 in the similar period last year.

Shipments of iron and steel wire nails reached the highest monthly total since October last year. This year's October total amounted to 8,072 tons as against 8,058 in September and 8,241 in October, 1947. Cumulative shipments for the year to date amounted to 73,778 tons compared with 65,107 in 1947.

Production of steel wire amounted to 28,064 tons in October compared with 28,619 in September and 29,489 in October last year, bringing the aggregate for the 10 months to 265,739 tons compared with 262,124 last year.

Output of steel wire fencing in October totalled 1,710 tons as compared with 1,613 in September and 2,297 in October, 1947. In the 10-month period, production amounted to 20,006 tons as against 21,772 in the same months last year.

ACTIVITY IN THE CANADIAN
MINING INDUSTRY

Activity in the Canadian mining industry is at a high level. Production figures for September show that the month's output of all but one of 16 of Canada's leading mineral products moved upward, while in the nine months production was advanced in all but two items. In September the decrease was in gypsum, while in the cumulative period, lead and salt were lower.

This year's nine-month production was as follows by items, figures for the same period of 1947 being in brackets: asbestos, 522,728 (479,228) tons; cement, 10,697,367 (8,923,008) barrels; clay products, \$12,273,702 (\$10,477,532); coal, 12,857,435 (10,617,021) tons; copper, 360,424,259 (330,378,928) pounds; feldspar, 35,515 (26,291) tons; gold, 2,582,304 (2,284,405) fine ounces; gypsum, 2,284,564 (1,829,173) tons; lead, 238,394,546 (245,311,444) pounds; lime, 764,577 (713,841) tons; natural gas, 41,719,481 (37,460,451) M cubic feet; nickel, 190,210,273 (171,406,866) pounds; petroleum, 8,649,474 (5,516,421) barrels; salt, 546,413 (551,409) tons; silver, 10,980,206 (9,331,260) fine ounces; zinc, 349,717,631 (305,423,121) pounds.

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Carloadings on Canadian railways for the week ended December 4 declined to 81,306 cars from 85,313 cars for the preceding week and 81,860 cars for the corresponding week last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The decline was seasonal and probably will continue for the next four weeks.

The cumulative total for the 49 weeks at 3,861,432 cars exceeds the high record established in 1947 by almost 124,000 cars, or 3.3 per cent. The year's total will likely pass the 4,000,000 mark for the first time.

Compared with 1947 loadings, grain products and live stock continued light. Coal declined from 7,513 to 7,019 cars, pulpwood from 3,725 to 2,672 cars and lumber from 4,327 to 3,608 cars. Shipments of automobiles increased from 950 to 1,186 cars, and l.c.l. merchandise from 17,732 to 19,050 cars.

FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Measured by the number of juveniles brought before the courts and the number of convictions for offences against the law, juvenile delinquency in Canada during 1947 showed a continuation of the downtrend indicated since 1943, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The number of children brought before the courts during 1947 fell to 8,265 from the preceding year's total of 8,707, a decline of slightly more than five per cent. Convictions also were lower, totalling 7,545 in 1947 as compared with 7,856.

Young offenders charged with major offences decreased from 5,409 in the preceding year to 5,152 in 1947, a decline of 4.8 per cent, while the convictions fell from 4,949 to 4,683 or by 5.4 per cent. The number charged with minor offences and disposed of by the courts was 3,113 compared with 3,298, a decrease of 5.6 per cent, while the convictions fell from 2,907 to 2,362.

An outstanding point of interest lies in the fact that the total number of major offences in 1947 for all delinquents is lower than any figure reported since 1924. The reductions in 1947, which account for this improvement, are to be found in fewer cases than in 1946 of aggravated assault and wounding, endangering life on railway, theft and receiving stolen goods, wilful damage to property and immorality.

In 1947 it was the younger children who showed an increase in the number of major offences over those of 1946. They were of both sexes, seven and eight years of age, 10-year old girls and 11 and 12-year old boys.

Over 37 per cent of major offences involving boys were committed by lads of 12 years of age and younger. Juveniles of 14 and 15 years of age were responsible for 55.8 per cent of the convictions for major offences committed by girls and 45.8 per cent of those committed by boys.

Over a 10-year period, only about one in every four of the juveniles brought before the court for major offences failed to profit by the warning given to them and made at least a second appearance. The figures in 1947 show 72.1 per cent were first offenders, 14.4 per cent appeared in court a second time, seven per cent a third time, 2.9 per cent a fourth and 3.6 per cent five or more times.

OVER 8,000 DWELLING UNITS
COMPLETED IN OCTOBER

During October an estimated 8,164 dwelling units were completed in Canada, bringing the estimated total for the 10 months this year to 58,402 units, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. October completions were the highest for any month this year, as builders shifted their emphasis from starts to completions.

During the 10 months this year construction was commenced on 78,553 units and at the end of October the number under construction stood at 62,890. For the first time since April, completions in October exceeded starts. At the same time, although below the level of April to September, starts in October numbering 7,437 were at a high rate for the time of year, and the carry-over into 1949 of dwelling units under construction will probably exceed 50,000 as compared with 42,215 units at the beginning of this year.

The average length of time required to build the dwellings completed in October was 6.1 months, showing an increase over the low of 5.4 months in September. This is attributed to a shift in emphasis from starts to completions, the Bureau pointing out that many units under construction for some time are now being completed to get them ready for winter occupancy.

REPORTS ISSUED DURING THE WEEK

1. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, December 1 (10 cents).
2. Housing Bulletin No. 10 (10 cents).
3. Juvenile Delinquents, 1947 (25 cents).
4. Sales of Paints, Varnishes and Lacquers, October (10 cents).
5. Births, Deaths and Marriages, October (10 cents).
6. Production of Iron and Steel, October (10 cents).
7. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
8. The Motor Vehicle in Canada, 1947 (25 cents).
9. Commercial Failures in the Third Quarter of 19-8 (15 cents).
10. Trade of Canada: Exports of Canadian and Foreign Produce, October (25 cents).
11. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
12. Cold Storage Holdings of Meat and Lard, December 1 (10 cents).
13. Advance Report on the Fisheries of New Brunswick, 1947 (10 cents).
14. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, August (10 cents).
15. Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, September (10 cents).
16. Shipments of Primary Iron and Steel, September (10 cents).
17. Imports for Consumption, October (10 cents).
18. Monthly Summary of Foreign Trade, October (10 cents).
19. Hides, Skins and Leather, October (10 cents).
20. Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, December 1 (10 cents).
21. Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, October (10 cents).
22. Gold Production, September (10 cents).
23. Average Hours Worked and Average Hourly Earnings at the Beginning of October (10 cents).
24. Pack of Plums, 1948 (10 cents).
25. Stocks of Fish in Cold Storage, December 1 (10 cents).
26. December Estimate of Value of Field Crops (10 cents).
27. Monthly Estimates of Canadian Labour Income, September (10 cents).
28. Farm Holdings Cross-Classified by Size, Tenure, Type, and Value of Products, Saskatchewan, 1946 (10 cents).
29. Domestic Type Electric Refrigerators, October (10 cents).
30. Steel Wire, October (10 cents).
31. Wire Fencing, October (10 cents).
32. Nails, Tacks and Staples, October (10 cents).
33. Domestic Washing Machines, October (10 cents).

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

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