

D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

----- Dominion Bureau of Statistics -----

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
OTTAWA - CANADA

\$1 a year

APR 16 1949

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Saturday, April 16, 1949

Vol. XVII - No. 14 *H*

--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADA'S TOTAL FOREIGN TRADE in February rose five per cent in value to \$413,100,000 from \$392,500,000 in the corresponding month last year.

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CANADA'S OVERALL FAVOURABLE BALANCE OF TRADE with all countries in February was down to \$1,200,000 from \$28,100,000 a year ago.

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MERCHANDISE IMPORTS IN FEBRUARY were valued at \$206,000,000, an increase of 13 per cent over the corresponding month last year.

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CANADIAN LABOUR INCOME IN JANUARY is estimated at \$608,000,000, showing a decline of \$10,000,000 from the December figure, but a rise of \$63,000,000 or 11 per cent over January last year.

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INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT IN CANADA showed a seasonal contraction between January 1 and February 1, but was above the level of a year ago.

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DEPARTMENT STORE SALES rose eight per cent in March over the corresponding month last year.

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PRODUCTION OF ELECTRIC ENERGY by central electric stations in Canada showed a further slight decline in February.

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HIGHWAY TRAFFIC BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES in February was 14 per cent greater in volume than in the same month last year.

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THE INDEX NUMBER OF FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS fell off 4.7 points between January and February to reach the lowest point since May last year.

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STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER ON APRIL 1 amounted to 12,691,000 pounds, showing a seasonal decline from the March 1 figure which stood at 18,746,000 pounds, but substantially higher than the 8,379,000 pounds held on April 1 last year.

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RELEASES OF CIGARETTES FOR CONSUMPTION IN CANADA amounted in February to 1,183 million as compared with identical amounts of 1,262 million for January this year and February last year.

CANADA'S FOREIGN TRADE IN FEBRUARY

Canada's total foreign trade in February rose five per cent in value to \$413,100,000 from \$392,500,000 in the corresponding month last year. Imports for consumption were up 13 per cent, while domestic merchandise exports were down by 1.6 per cent. Total for the two months ending February was \$875,900,000 compared with \$837,600,000 in the same period of 1948.

As a result of the increase in the value of imports and the slight falling-off in exports, Canada's overall favourable balance of trade with all countries in February was down to \$1,200,000 from \$28,100,000 a year ago. For the two months the credit balance was \$16,400,000 compared with \$61,100,000 a year earlier.

The debit balance on the month's trade with the United States was \$40,600,000 -- almost identical with last year's February figure. In January and February this year the unfavourable balance was \$87,900,000 compared with \$83,700,000 last year.

Trade with the United Kingdom in February produced a credit balance of \$21,400,000, down from \$33,900,000 a year ago, while the two-month total was reduced to \$51,900,000 from \$77,300,000.

Imports for consumption from all countries in February were valued at \$206,000,000 as compared with \$182,200,000 a year ago. Domestic exports totalled \$205,000,000 compared with \$208,300,000, and foreign exports \$2,100,000 against \$2,000,000. (1)

MERCHANDISE IMPORTS UP
13 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY

Canada's merchandise imports in February were valued at \$206,000,000, an increase of 13 per cent over the corresponding month last year. The total was at the highest level on record for February, but at the lowest point since March last year. The trend was generally upwards among the commodity groups, only one of the nine moving to a lower level.

Imports from the United States were valued at \$148,816,000, up almost nine per cent from last year's total of \$136,847,000, while the value of goods received from the United Kingdom rose slightly more than 28 per cent, from \$17,872,000 to \$22,918,000. Imports from Latin American countries as a group were down to \$13,689,000 from \$14,130,000, due in the main to declines in the value of purchases from Cuba and Mexico.

Imports from Venezuela -- for some time Canada's third largest source of supply -- were valued at \$6,171,000 compared with \$4,967,000. Purchases from British Malaya had a value of \$3,484,000 compared with \$214,000, Australia \$2,564,000 compared with \$164,000, Brazil \$2,183,000 (\$1,693,000), British Guiana \$1,031,000 (\$288,000), Mexico \$1,039,000 (\$1,930,000), Colombia \$1,000,000 (\$845,000), Dominican Republic \$1,142,000 (\$458,000), Belgium and Luxembourg \$1,515,000 (\$556,000), and Arabia \$1,066,000 (nil).

The iron and its products group -- consistently the largest of the nine -- rose from \$61,000,000 a year ago to \$69,400,000. Rolling mill products, farm implements and machinery, mining and metallurgical machinery, automobiles and parts, showed the larger advances. Household and other non-farm machinery were lower in value.

The non-metallic minerals group fell from \$36,100,000 last year to \$33,700,000, sharp declines in coal and coal products outweighing advances in crude petroleum and most other commodities. There was a gain from \$10,070,000 to \$14,262,000 in the non-ferrous metals group, mainly resulting from marked increases in the imports of brass and copper products, tin and precious metals except gold.

The textiles group moved up sharply from \$22,253,000 a year ago to \$30,219,000, with marked increases in raw cotton and cotton products, wool products, artificial silk and products, and miscellaneous textiles. Imports of flax, hemp and jute were much lower, and raw and unmanufactured wool imports were down moderately.

The agricultural group of imports rose from \$22,678,000 to \$25,431,000. The trend was mixed among the commodities, with gains in fruits, vegetables, sugar, alcoholic beverages, vegetable oils and rubber, and declines in grains and products, cocoa and chocolate, tea, and coffee.

The animals and animal products group rose from \$7,118,000 to \$7,359,000; wood, wood products and paper from \$5,794,000 to \$6,493,000; chemicals and allied products from \$8,536,000 to \$9,623,000; and miscellaneous commodities from \$8,594,000 to \$9,534,000. (2)

CANADIAN LABOUR INCOME IN JANUARY

Canadian labour income in January is estimated at \$608,000,000, showing a decline of \$10,000,000 from the December figure, but a rise of \$63,000,000 or 11 per cent over January last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

In almost all industries, labour income for the month was lower than in December. The primary extractive industries, together with construction, which are greatly curtailed by winter weather conditions, showed the largest decreases. Indexes of industrial employment and production both declined in January.

According to the Department of Labour, there were only 9,700 working days lost in January through strikes and lockouts as compared with 18,939 in December. There was a slight gain in average weekly earnings in the nine leading non-agricultural industries, and the cost-of-living index dropped one-tenth of a point from 159.6 on January 3 to 159.5 on February 1.

These factors, however, were over-balanced by the drop in employment, bringing about a moderate downward movement in the total purchasing power of the Canadian labour force. (3)

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AT CANADIAN BORDER POINTS

Highway traffic between Canada and other United States in February was 14 per cent greater in volume than in the same month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The advance was principally due to Canadian traffic returning from the United States which increased by 32 per cent, while United States traffic entering Canada was only eight per cent higher.

The aggregate number of border crossings was 419,900, consisting of 289,900 foreign entries and 130,000 Canadian vehicles returning. Of the foreign inflow, 35,800 vehicles entered on traveller's vehicle permits, 239,200 were non-permit or local entries and 14,900 were commercial vehicles. The Canadian traffic comprised 6,200 units remaining abroad for more than 24 hours, 109,300 staying for shorter periods and 14,500 commercial vehicles. (4)

COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES FOR
EIGHT REGIONAL CITIES

There were declines in six of the eight regional city cost-of-living indexes between February 1 and March 1, and as in the preceding month, lower food prices were principally responsible. Clothing prices at most centres continued to average higher, while indexes for homefurnishings and services presented a varied pattern.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the index number for Saint John fell 0.4 points to 155.8 between February 1 and March 1; Montreal, 0.4 to 162.0; Saskatoon, 0.4 to 161.6; Edmonton, 0.2 to 154.2; Toronto, 0.1 to 154.6; and Vancouver, 0.1 to 160.7.

The index for the city of Winnipeg remained unchanged at 153.8, while that for Halifax rose 0.2 to 152.3. The index for this latter centre was supported by higher quotations for fuel, clothing, and homefurnishings and services, which over-balanced lower foods. The Dominion index receded 0.3 to 157.9 between February 1 and March 1.

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

	<u>March 1, 1948</u>	<u>February 1, 1949</u>	<u>March 1, 1949</u>
	(August, 1939=100)		
Halifax	145.5	152.1	152.3
Saint John	148.9	156.2	155.8
Montreal	154.0	162.4	162.0
Toronto	148.1	154.7	154.6
Winnipeg	145.6	153.8	153.8
Saskatoon	153.1	162.0	161.6
Edmonton	145.9	154.4	154.2
Vancouver	149.7	160.8	160.7
Dominion	149.6	158.2	157.9

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

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES

Department store sales in Canada as a whole rose eight per cent in March over the corresponding month last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. There were wide variations in the percentage changes among the provinces, ranging from a gain of 29 per cent in British Columbia to a decline of 17 per cent in the Maritimes. Sales in Alberta were up 20 per cent, Saskatchewan 14 per cent, Manitoba 13 per cent, Ontario five per cent, while sales in Quebec were unchanged.

Sales advanced 18 per cent during the week ending April 2 over the corresponding period last year. Largest gain of 23 per cent was shown in the Maritime Provinces, followed by Quebec with a gain of 25 per cent, Ontario 17 per cent, Saskatchewan 15 per cent, Alberta 15 per cent, Manitoba 12 per cent, and British Columbia 12 per cent.

FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Continuing the general downward trend in evidence since the August peak -- interrupted only in December -- the index number of farm prices of agricultural products fell off 4.7 points between January and February to reach the lowest point since May last year. The decline from the January level was attributable to lower prices for grains other than wheat, livestock, poultry and eggs.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the index for February, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 252.5, down from the January figure of 257.2, but up from the February, 1948 standing of 240.3. The February index compares with the high figure of 264.1 for August, and 247.5 for May last.

Indexes for Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia moved to higher levels between January and February, but those for the remaining provinces were lower. Figures follow with indexes for January in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 200.7 (196.5); Nova Scotia, 215.7 (213.9); New Brunswick, 224.0 (227.3); Quebec, 269.9 (273.6); Ontario, 259.2 (266.2); Manitoba, 256.1 (260.0); Saskatchewan, 240.9 (243.9); Alberta, 254.9 (260.2); and British Columbia, 240.9 (246.3). (5)

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on March 31 amounted to 130,737,000 bushels, down 3,896,000 bushels from the March 24 total, but 42,634,000 bushels higher than on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

During the week, farmers in the Prairie Provinces marketed 1,192,000 bushels of wheat as compared with 835,000 in the same week last year. Clearances of wheat for export totalled 3,662,000 bushels compared with 1,208,000 a year ago.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending March 31, totals for the same week last year being in brackets: oats, 1,022,000 (481,000) bushels; barley, 538,000 (206,000); rye, 84,000 (13,000); flaxseed, 95,000 (24,000). (6)

MEAT STOCKS LOWER ON APRIL 1

Stocks of meat held by wholesale butchers and cold storage warehouses on April 1 amounted to 77,819,000 pounds, showing a comparatively small increase over the March 1 total of 73,951,000 pounds, but sharply lower than the 132,516,000 pounds held on the same date last year.

Current stocks of frozen meat fell to 44,032,000 pounds from 90,164,000 a year ago. Most marked decline was shown in the holdings of pork which were reduced to 16,923,000 pounds from 57,885,000. Frozen beef stocks fell to 17,982,000 pounds from 24,638,000, veal to 1,562,000 pounds from 1,804,000, and mutton and lamb to 2,710,000 pounds from 5,837,000.

Stocks of fresh meat declined to 14,861,000 pounds from 18,039,000 on April 1 last year. Fresh pork stocks fell to 4,058,000 pounds from 6,371,000, beef to 8,434,000 pounds from 10,207,000, veal to 862,000 pounds from 1,119,000, and mutton and lamb to 107,000 pounds from 342,000.

Holdings of cured meat were down to 18,926,000 pounds from 24,313,000 on the same date last year, pork falling to 16,215,000 pounds from 23,142,000, and beef to 661,000 pounds from 1,171,000. Lard stocks were higher, totalling 4,112,000 pounds as compared with 3,816,000. (7)

STOCKS OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES
AT THE BEGINNING OF APRIL

Stocks of fruit, frozen and in preservatives on April 1 were lower than at the beginning of March, but were higher than a year ago, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Holdings amounted to 32,360,000 pounds as compared with 35,914,000 on March 1 and 28,891,000 on the corresponding date last year. April 1 stocks of vegetables, frozen and in brine, were down in both comparisons, amounting to 6,758,000 pounds compared with 10,069,000 on March 1 and 9,069,000 on the same date a year earlier.

Storage stocks of Canadian vegetables on April 1 were all increased over a year ago, potatoes being up from 192,810 tons to 205,182, onions from 1,232 tons to 7,473, beets from 297 tons to 901, carrots from 985 tons to 6,330, cabbages from 183 tons to 388, and parsnips from 117 tons to 441. Stocks of Canadian celery totalled 2,959 crates as against nil a year ago.

There were 174 tons of imported onions as compared with 585 on April 1 last year, 514 tons of imported cabbages on hand compared with 731, and 23,335 crates of imported celery as against nil a year ago. (8)

STOCKS OF FISH ON APRIL 1

Cold storage holdings of fish on April 1 amounted to 27,801,000 pounds, but up from 23,485,000 pounds held on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks on the latest date comprised 23,273,000 pounds frozen fresh and 1,797,000 pounds frozen smoked.

There were increases over a year ago in the stocks of cod and inland fish, but holdings of haddock, salmon, sea herring and other sea fish were lower. Totals follow by kinds, those for April 1 last year being in brackets: cod, 3,115,000 (2,805,000) pounds; haddock, 676,000 (1,020,000); salmon, 3,858,000 (5,446,000); sea herring, 6,473,000 (6,826,000); other sea fish, 2,928,000 (4,808,000); inland fish, 7,540,000 (2,580,000). (9)

STOCKS OF BUTTER, CHEESE AND
EGGS ON APRIL 1

Stocks of creamery butter on April 1 amounted to 12,691,000 pounds, showing a seasonal decline from the March 1 figure which stood at 18,746,000 pounds, but substantially higher than the 8,379,000 pounds held on April 1 last year. The March "out-of-storage" movement was 6,100,000 pounds as compared with a similar movement of 10,600,000 pounds in the same month last year.

Cheese stocks on April 1 totalled 24,440,000 pounds as compared with 27,866,000 on March 1 and 22,530,000 a year ago. Stocks of evaporated whole milk held by or for manufacturers amounted to 15,268,000 pounds as compared with 12,621,000 on March 1 and 3,472,000 a year earlier. Stocks of skim milk powder rose to 7,352,000 pounds from 6,673,000 on March 1, and 2,340,000 pounds last year.

Stocks of shell eggs were higher on April 1, totalling 396,000 cases as compared with 214,000 on March 1 and 314,000 a year ago. Holdings of frozen eggs amounted to 167,000 cases as against 170,000 on March 1 and 223,000 last year.

Holdings of poultry meat were lower on April 1, amounting to 8,367,000 pounds as compared with 12,249,000 on March 1 and 21,904,000 on the same date last year. (10)

CREAMERY BUTTER PRODUCTION
HIGHER IN MARCH

Continuing the gains recorded in the four previous months, creamery butter production increased 598,000 pounds in March to 11,989,000 pounds from 11,391,000 in March last year. This raised the total for the first quarter of the year to 30,118,000 pounds from 28,374,000 in the like period of 1948, or by slightly more than six per cent.

Cheddar cheese production in March was down 393,000 pounds, amounting to 1,293,000 pounds compared with 1,686,000. First quarter total was 2,643,000 pounds compared with 3,587,000 in the same period of 1948, a decline of 26 per cent.

Output of concentrated milk products in the month amounted to 24,382,000 pounds compared with 21,028,000 in the corresponding month last year, raising the total for the first three months of 1949 to 56,282,000 pounds from 47,078,000 a year earlier. (11)

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES
SHOW DOWNWARD TREND

Continuing the downward trend shown in the first half of the year, Canada's birth rate fell to 27.2 per 1,000 population in the first nine months of 1948 from 29.5 in the corresponding period of 1947. The general mortality rate was also lower at 9.2 as compared with 9.4, the infant mortality rate falling from 45 in 1947 to 44, and the maternal death rate moving down from 1.6 to 1.4. The rate of natural increase in the nine months was reduced to 18.0 from 20.1.

Preliminary figures for the January-September period of last year issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics place the number of live births at 262,624 as compared with 277,281 in the same period of 1947. Deaths at all ages numbered 89,018 as compared with 88,150, and the natural increase in the population was 173,606 as compared with 189,131. Marriages totalled 91,895 compared with 96,611, and the marriage rate was 9.5 compared with 10.3.

Stillbirths numbered 5,141 compared with 5,764 in the first nine months of 1947. Deaths under one year totalled 11,607 compared with 12,593, while deaths under one month numbered 6,756 as compared with 7,411. There were 376 maternal deaths compared with 436.

Diseases of the heart accounted for 25,179 deaths in the first nine months of 1948, or 28.3 per cent of the total from all causes. This compares with 23,506 deaths or 26.7 per cent in the same period of 1947. Deaths from cancer totalled 11,933 compared with 11,531, intracranial lesions of vascular origin 7,567 compared with 7,146, nephritis 5,105 compared with 4,972, pneumonia 4,404 compared with 4,195, tuberculosis 3,690 compared with 4,296, diseases of the arteries 1,754 compared with 1,746, diarrhoea and enteritis 1,399 compared with 1,567, motor vehicle accidents 1,354 compared with 1,291, and other accidents 4,214 compared with 4,310. (12)

PASSENGER TRAFFIC ON URBAN AND
INTERURBAN TRANSIT COMPANIES

The number of passenger carried by urban and interurban transit companies in December totalled 144,613,142, showing a minor increase of 0.6 per cent or 857,377 over the same month last year. Both urban and interurban lines had heavier passenger traffic, the former being up 776,493 and the latter 80,884 over December, 1947.

A feature of the urban record was the great advance in the traffic moved by trolley bus which numbered 11,056,725 for the month as against 6,165,510 one year earlier. Autobus traffic also increased, while electric cars have shown steady decline. (13)

OUTPUT OF CENTRAL ELECTRIC STATIONS

Production of electric energy by central electric stations in Canada showed a further slight decline in February, amounting to 3,401,425,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 3,492,823,000 in the corresponding month last year. The decrease of 2.7 per cent was about the same as that registered in January, and the aggregate for the two months ending February fell to 7,100,897,000 kilowatt hours from 7,246,997,000 in the like period of 1948.

Consumption in the month amounted to 3,250,193,000 kilowatt hours compared with 3,382,982,000 a year earlier, primary power falling to 3,114,191,000 kilowatt hours from 3,171,019,000, and secondary to 136,002,000 kilowatt hours from 211,963,000. Total consumption for the two months amounted to 6,800,479,000 kilowatt hours, down from 7,008,228,000 in the like period of 1948.

Exports to the United States in February were increased to 161,793,000 kilowatt hours from 122,526,000 a year ago, and in the two months to 313,374,000 kilowatt hours from 258,818,000.

Production was as follows by provinces in February, totals for the same month last year being in brackets (thousands omitted): Quebec, 1,737,466 (1,955,849) kilowatt hours; Ontario, 1,001,728 (885,024); British Columbia, 243,654 (266,527); Manitoba, 185,679 (181,736); Saskatchewan, 67,909 (63,811); Alberta, 62,287 (58,287); Nova Scotia, 57,081 (53,955); New Brunswick, 44,202 (26,262); Prince Edward Island, 1,419 (1,372). (14)

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

April 7, 1949 March 31, 1949 March 10, 1949
(1935-39=100)

Investors' Price Index

(106 Common Stocks)	106.7	107.1	107.0
82 Industrials	100.0	100.9	101.1
16 Utilities	116.5	115.5	113.7
8 Banks	132.4	131.3	131.2

Mining Stock Price Index

(30 Stocks)	85.9	83.1	83.4
25 Golds	71.7	67.6	67.5
5 Base Metals	113.2	113.4	114.5

CIGARETTE AND TOBACCO
RELEASES IN FEBRUARY

Releases of cigarettes for consumption in Canada amounted in February to 1,183 million as compared with identical amounts of 1,262 million for January this year and February a year ago, according to figures published in the weekly supplement to the Canadian Statistical Review. The month's total was the lowest since July last year.

Cigars released during February totalled 17.7 million as compared with 17.5 million in the previous month and 19.2 million in February, 1948. Releases of cut tobacco amounted to 1,987,000 pounds as against 2,037,000 in January and 1,940,000 in the corresponding month last year; plug tobacco to 192,000 compared with 193,000 and 207,000 pounds, respectively; and snuff to 68,000 as against 87,000 and 78,000 pounds.

OUTPUT OF BEER AND SPIRITS
DOWN IN FEBRUARY

Production of beer and spirits and the quantity of spirits bottled during February was lower than in February last year, while stocks of distilled liquor at the end of the month were greater than the stocks at the end of the previous month and a year earlier.

Beer produced during the month declined to 390,700 barrels (of 25 gallons) from 440,100 barrels in January and 467,200 barrels in February last year. Production of new spirits amounted to 1,910,000 proof gallons as against 1,960,000 and 2,440,000 gallons, respectively, while the quantity of spirits bottled was also lower at 670,000 proof gallons compared with 710,000 in January and 730,000 gallons in February last year. Stocks of distilled liquor at the end of February increased to 71,540,000 proof gallons from 70,650,000 at the end of January and compares with 65,350,000 at the end of February, 1948.

DWELLINGS COMPLETED IN FEBRUARY
CONTINUE GAINS OVER LAST YEAR

There were about a 1,000 more dwelling units completed in Canada during February this year than in 1948, while the number of units on which construction was begun was slightly lower, according to estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Total completions and starts in the first two months of the year, however, were substantially higher than last year, and the number of units under construction at the end of February was over 11,000 greater than a year earlier.

Dwelling units completed in the month are put at 4,807 as compared with 3,778 in February last year, making an estimated total of 11,450 for the first two months of the year as against 7,514 in the same period of 1948. Number of units on which work was begun in February was 1,745 as compared with 1,394 last year, but owing to a large gain in starts in January the total for the first two months increased to 4,811 as against 3,569 in 1948. At the end of February there were an estimated 49,667 units under construction compared with 38,270 at the same date last year.

The average length of time to build the dwelling units completed in February rose to 7.3 months from 7.0 months for those completed in January, and 6.4 for December. This appears to be the normal seasonal increase, according to the Bureau. Only 17 per cent of those finished in the month took longer than nine months to complete. Judging by the types of dwellings, as in 1948, one-fourth of those completed in the first two months this year are for rental purposes.

Number of dwelling units completed during February by regions, with figures for February, 1948 in brackets, were: Maritime Provinces, 358 (174); Quebec, 1,159 (798); Ontario, 1,881 (1,451); Prince Edward Island, 717 (676); British Columbia, 692 (679). (15)

SALES OF CLAY PRODUCTS IN JANUARY

Producers' sales of products made from Canadian clays were substantially higher in January than in the corresponding month last year, totalling \$1,268,000 as compared with \$982,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Sales for the month were as follows, totals for January, 1948 being in brackets: building brick, \$704,665 (\$490,252); structural tile, \$201,862 (\$166,981); drain tile, \$47,292 (\$34,809); sewer pipe, \$155,044 (\$136,282); fireclay blocks and shapes, \$29,302 (\$33,637); pottery, \$70,984 (\$61,730); other clay products, \$58,412 (\$58,446). (16)

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS
OF PORTLAND CEMENT

Production and shipments of Portland cement by Canadian manufacturers were higher in February than in the corresponding month of 1948, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

In February, output amounted to 1,103,605 barrels as compared with 1,003,963 in the same month last year. During the first two months of this year, 2,225,264 barrels were produced as against 2,011,713 in the similar period of 1948.

Shipments to customers during the month amounted to 908,307 barrels as compared with 846,682 a year earlier. In the cumulative period, 1,529,351 barrels were shipped as against 1,146,480 in 1948. Stocks at plants and warehouses at the end of February totalled 1,292,947 barrels compared with 1,595,010 on the same date a year ago. (17)

OUTPUT OF CONCRETE BUILDING MATERIALS

Production of concrete building blocks by manufacturers which normally account for the bulk of the total for Canada, amounted to 3,034,835 in February as compared with 2,011,476 in the same month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Output of concrete brick fell to 860,863 from 934,659 a year earlier, while the production of drain pipe, sewer pipe, water pipe and culvert tile amounted to 8,021 tons as compared with 10,226. (18)

ASBESTOS SHIPMENTS
DOWN IN FEBRUARY

With production reduced as a result of the labour dispute, shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines during February declined sharply to 26,148 tons from 48,872 tons in January and 50,127 tons in February last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Shipments for the first two months of the year totalled 75,020 tons as against 96,760 tons in the corresponding period of 1948. Exports during February amounted to 33,223 tons compared with 44,601 tons a year ago, and for the two months to 76,660 compared with 92,368 tons. (19)

PRIMARY IRON AND
STEEL IN JANUARY

Shipments of primary shapes by Canadian steel mills, exclusive of producers' interchange, totalled 233,548 net tons in January compared with 212,886 net tons in December, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The January total included 3,214 tons of semi-finished shapes, 17,265 tons of structurals, 19,484 tons of plates, 33,200 tons of rails, 5,764 tons of tie plates and track material, 54,635 tons of hot rolled bars, 13,219 tons of pipes and tubes, 25,540 tons of wire rods, 18,419 tons of black sheets, 7,722 tons of galvanized sheets, 8,328 tons of castings, 5,321 tons of miscellaneous hot rolled products, and 16,437 tons of all other products. The amount of producers' interchange was 89,761 tons in January and 66,005 tons in December. (20)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Carloadings on Canadian railways for the week ended April 9 declined to 71,997 cars from 73,491 cars in the preceding week and 77,789 cars in the corresponding week last year. The main declines from 1948 were in coal, pulpwood, lumber, miscellaneous freight, and live stock. Grain, ores and concentrates, building products, gasoline and petroleum oils, iron and steel products, and automobiles were among the larger advances. (21)

REPORTS ISSUED DURING THE WEEK -- (The numbers in this list correspond with those at the end of news items, indicating the report on which an item is based).

1. Monthly Summary of Foreign Trade, February (10 cents).
2. Imports for Consumption, February (10 cents).
3. Monthly Estimates of Canadian Labour Income in Canada, January (10 cents).
4. Highway Traffic at Canadian Border Points, February (10 cents).
5. Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, February (10 cents).
6. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
7. Holdings of Meat, Lard and Tallow, April 1 (10 cents).
8. Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, April 1 (10 cents).
9. Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, April 1 (10 cents).
10. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, April 1 (10 cents).
11. Dairy Factory Production, March (10 cents).
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22. Miscellaneous Iron and Steel Products Industry, 1947 (10 cents).
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24. Salt, February (10 cents).
25. Handbags, Luggage and Sundry Leather Goods; Leather Belting, Leather Boot and Shoe Findings, 1947 (25 cents).
26. Summary of Cold Storage Reports, 1948 (25 cents).

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