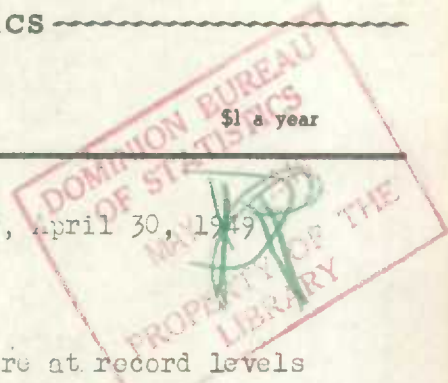




D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT AND WEEKLY SALARIES AND WAGES at March 1 were at record levels for the time of year, although employment showed a somewhat greater seasonal decline than usual from a month earlier.

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SPENDING IN CANADIAN RETAIL STORES DURING FEBRUARY amounted to \$466,900,000, down five per cent from the January dollar volume, but five per cent in advance of last year's February total of \$444,730,000.

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DOLLAR VOLUME OF WHOLESALE SALES WAS ONE PER CENT HIGHER in February than in the preceding month and two per cent above the level of the corresponding month last year.

. . .

A FURTHER SLIGHT DECLINE WAS SHOWN IN WHOLESALE PRICES in Canada during March, according to the general wholesale index.

. . .

RECORD TONNAGES OF STEEL INGOTS WERE TURNED OUT IN MARCH, exceeding the high levels of recent months by a considerable margin.

. . .

SALES AND PURCHASES OF SECURITIES between Canada and other countries in February dropped to the lowest level since mid-1947, the volume of transactions amounting to \$24,000,000.

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NET INCOME OF CANADIAN FARMERS from farming operations in 1948 reached a total of \$1,693,315,000, compared with the previous high total of \$1,234,909,000 for 1947.

. . .

GOLD PRODUCTION IN CANADA WAS MAINTAINED AT A COMPARATIVELY HIGH LEVEL in February, output for the month amounting to 307,472 fine ounces, down slightly from January, but 17 per cent in advance of February last year.

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STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER IN NINE CITIES OF CANADA ON APRIL 22 MOVED UP TO 5,264,000 pounds from 1,708,000 on the corresponding date last year.

. . .

TOTAL CATCH AND LANDED VALUE OF SEA FISH WERE LOWER in March than in the corresponding month last year, due to a sharp falling-off in landings on the Atlantic coast.

INVENTORIES IN MANUFACTURING
SLIGHTLY HIGHER IN FEBRUARY

The increase in total value of inventories during the last two years is still continuing, according to preliminary index figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The February index for all industries stood at 133.0 per cent of the average 1947 value as against 131.2 at the end of January.

Of the main industry groupings, inventory values in the consumers' goods industries continued their consistent increase, and are now at the highest point since January, 1947. Inventories of construction goods' industries, which dropped sharply last fall, appear also to have reached their highest value since January, 1947. Capital goods industries, which showed alternate rises and falls during 1948, have increased inventory values for the third consecutive month, but are below last year's high point. Inventories in the producers' materials industries, which had risen steadily since last April, showed a 4.6 point fall in February.

A breakdown of the larger groupings shows that, in the consumers' goods group, inventories of non-durable consumers' goods industries have increased in value slightly. Stocks in the food industries fell by eight points, due to seasonal declines in the fruit and vegetable preparations, fish curing and packing, slaughtering and meat packing, and dairy products industries. Other food industries showed slight increases. The tobacco industry's stocks increased seasonally, to raise the tobacco and beverages index by 12 points. Feed and flour stocks rose by 14 points, the index standing at 174.5 of the average 1947 value. This high level is due to the increase in the domestic price of wheat over the 1947 values, the actual physical stocks being 25 per cent lower than the average level in 1947.

In the petroleum industry, the value of stocks fell by five points. In the semi-durable consumers' goods group, leather tanneries showed a slight fall in inventory values, and all the other large industries (rubber, clothing, leather footwear and textiles) showed slight increases. Inventories in every large industry in the durable consumers' goods group rose to some extent, the largest rise being an 11 point gain in the automobile industry.

In the capital goods group, inventories in the aircraft industry fell by seven points, and in the agricultural implements industry by three points. Machinery, shipbuilding and railway rolling-stock increased inventory values by one, eight and nine points, respectively. Most industries in the producers' materials group fell to some extent, led by a seasonal decline of 28 points in the coke and gas industry. The iron and steel industry showed a small rise.

In the construction goods group, stocks in the cement industry have increased seasonally, and preliminary reports for sawmills also indicate a rise. Inventories in other industries are at approximately the same levels as in January. (1)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES
UP 15 PER CENT

Department store sales advanced 15 per cent during the week ending April 16 over the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Largest gain of 33 per cent was shown in the Maritime Provinces, followed by Saskatchewan with 24 per cent, Alberta 22 per cent, Manitoba 18 per cent, Quebec 17 per cent, Ontario nine per cent, and British Columbia seven per cent.

LANDINGS OF FISH DOWN 22 PER CENT
IN MARCH ; VALUE OFF 12 PER CENT

Total catch and landed value of sea fish were lower in March than in the corresponding month last year, due to a sharp-falling off in landings on the Atlantic coast where the catch of most kinds and especially of sardine herring was lower. The quantity caught on the Pacific was about doubled, with marked increases over March last year in herring, rockfishes and clams.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics the catch of all species on both coasts in March was 23,808,000 pounds, down 22 per cent from March last year. This brought the cumulative total for the first quarter of the year to 191,419,000 pounds, or 20 per cent from the same period of 1948. The value in March was \$1,217,000 compared with \$1,460,000, and in the first quarter, \$5,028,000 compared with \$5,665,000.

Landings on the Atlantic in March amounted to 16,855,000 pounds valued at \$1,009,000 compared with 27,088,000 pounds valued at \$1,258,000, and in the first quarter, 47,365,000 pounds valued at \$2,850,000 compared with 58,827,000 pounds valued at \$3,443,000.

The catch on the Pacific in March totalled 6,953,000 pounds with a value of \$208,000 compared with 3,310,000 pounds valued at \$202,000. In the first quarter, landings amounted to 144,054,000 pounds valued at \$2,188,000 compared with 181,189,000 pounds valued at \$2,222,000.

More fish is reported as being sold in the fresh filleted form than was the case in the first three months of 1948, while fewer fillets are being frozen this year. The use of practically the whole catch of sardines in Canadian canneries still continued in March, 96 per cent of the catch being so used. On the Pacific coast a smaller proportion of sablefish is being used in the smoked trade and about a third of the small catch of spring salmon was filleted. Almost two-thirds of the clam catch was reported as being canned, whereas a year ago practically the whole catch was sold in the shell. (2)

FURTHER SLIGHT DECLINE
IN WHOLESALE PRICES

Continuing the downtrend recorded in January and February, a further slight decline was shown in wholesale prices in Canada during March, according to the general wholesale index released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The index was down 0.5 points from February and 2.0 points from the high reached in December, but 10.3 points above the March index last year.

The index for the month, on the base 1926=100, stood at 157.6 as compared with 158.1 in February, 159.6 in December and 147.3 in March last year. As compared with the preceding month, decreases were recorded for all indexes with the exception of wood and iron products. Textile products remained unchanged.

Sub-group indexes were as follows in March, those for February being in brackets: vegetable products, 136.0 (137.0); animal products, 167.7 (168.4); textile products, 162.4 (162.4); wood products, 191.9 (191.1); iron products, 171.6 (171.0); non-ferrous metals, 161.6 (166.2); non-metallic minerals, 137.9 (138.0); chemical products, 127.4 (128.6). (3)

WHOLESALE SALES IN FEBRUARY Dollar volume of wholesale sales was one per cent higher in February than in the preceding month and two per cent above the level of the corresponding month last year, according to the statements from representative wholesalers in nine lines of trade. The general unadjusted index of sales, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 244.6 for February, 243.2 for January and 239.8 for February last year.

Sales in Quebec and British Columbia continued below last year by six per cent and three per cent, respectively. Wholesalers in the Maritime Provinces reported an increase of two per cent, while gains of four per cent and 10 per cent were recorded for Ontario and the Prairie Provinces.

Dry goods and apparel sales continued below 1948 volume, although the February declines were less marked than those for January. Sales of footwear wholesalers decreased five per cent, dry goods nine per cent, and clothing wholesalers 16 per cent.

Moderate gains were shown by all other trades. Drug and tobacco and confectionery wholesalers both reported sales in February up five per cent from the same month a year ago. Sales of grocery and fruit and vegetable dealers were up four per cent, while gains of two per cent were shown by wholesalers of hardware and automotive equipment.

Wholesalers' inventories were valued 16 per cent higher at the end of February than at the corresponding date a year earlier. Footwear wholesalers recorded a decline of seven per cent but all other trades showed increases.

The largest increases in inventory values were reported by the dry goods and tobacco and confectionery trades with gains of 29 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively. Hardware wholesalers stocks were up 23 per cent, automotive equipment dealers 14 per cent, drugs eight per cent, groceries seven per cent, fruits and vegetables four per cent, and clothing two per cent. (4)

WHOLESALE FOOD TRADE IN FEBRUARY Sales of food wholesalers in February this year were higher in dollar volume than in February a year ago, while those of grocery wholesalers were slightly below January this year and of fruit and vegetable dealers higher.

In the wholesale fruit and vegetable trade, dollar sales in the month were 10 per cent above January and four per cent above February last year, according to statements received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from dealers across the country. Sales in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec combined were down four per cent from a year ago, but were three per cent higher in Ontario and 10 per cent higher in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia combined.

In the wholesale grocery trade, sales were four per cent higher than in 1948 for the country as a whole. Quebec was the only region to record a decline, with a drop of 12 per cent. Sales in the Maritime Provinces were up two per cent, in Ontario and British Columbia seven per cent, and in the Prairie Provinces nine per cent. (5)

RETAIL SALES SHOWED SMALL GAIN IN JANUARY-FEBRUARY

Spending in Canadian retail stores during February amounted to \$466,900,000, down five per cent from the January volume of \$493,370,000, but five per cent in advance of last year's February total of \$444,730,000, according to estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first two months of this year, sales amounted to \$960,270,000 as compared with \$935,530,000 in the same period of 1948, an increase of 2.6 per cent.

All provinces shared in the rise during February over last year, with the exception of the Maritimes. Largest gains recorded were 21.6 per cent in Saskatchewan and 21.5 per cent in Alberta, followed by Manitoba 9.9 per cent, Ontario 4.4 per cent, British Columbia 1.6 per cent, and Quebec 1.2 per cent. Sales in the Maritime Provinces were down 2.5 per cent.

Sharpest gains among trades in the month were: lumber and building materials, 17.3 per cent; department stores, 9.4 per cent; and variety stores, seven per cent. Motor vehicle sales showed the greatest percentage decline, falling 9.4 per cent, men's clothing stores followed with 5.5 per cent, appliance and radio stores 3.8 per cent, shoe stores 3.4 per cent, and family clothing stores 3.2 per cent.

In the cumulative period, January-February, increases of six per cent for grocery and combination stores and nine per cent for department stores were largely responsible for keeping retail volume above last year. Other trades which obtained sizeable sales increases over last year were: meat stores (11 per cent), variety stores (seven per cent), women's clothing stores (eight per cent), and lumber and building material dealers (13 per cent). The latter was the highest increase which any of the individual trades recorded in the first two months of this year.

Motor vehicle dealers' sales were down 13 per cent in January and February from a year ago, falling off more sharply than sales of other kinds of business. Reduced deliveries to dealers, as assembly lines turned to the production of 1949 models, partly explains the reduction.

Higher sales increases were recorded in the Prairie Provinces than elsewhere in the first two months of this year. A record level of farm cash income in 1948, including large supplementary grain payments, the Bureau observes, provided a fund of purchasing power which was not exhausted last year and helped to maintain sales on a high plane in the early part of 1949. Sales were up eight per cent in Manitoba, 11 per cent in Saskatchewan, and 15 per cent in Alberta during the period. Quebec and Ontario barely exceeded 1948 volume, while British Columbia sales were unchanged from last year and the Maritime Provinces reported retail business down two per cent from a year earlier. (6)

PRODUCTION OF LEATHER FOOTWEAR IN FEBRUARY

Production of leather footwear in February rose almost 10 per cent to 2,963,000 pairs from last year's corresponding total of 2,706,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first two months of this year, 5,492,000 pairs were produced as against 5,157,000 in the similar period of last year. (7)

EMPLOYMENT DOWN IN MONTH;
UP OVER A YEAR AGO

Industrial employment and weekly salaries and wages at March 1 were at record levels for the time of year, although employment showed a somewhat greater seasonal decline than usual from a month earlier. As compared with February 1 the trend in employment was unfavourable at the first of March in all provinces except New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, while there were increases over March 1 last year in Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta, but declines in the remaining provinces.

The advance index number of employment, as compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, on the base 1926=100, stood at 189.2 at March 1 as compared with 190.5 at February 1 and 188.9 a year ago. Average weekly wage figure was \$43.17 as compared with \$42.92 at February 1 and \$39.50 last year.

Employment in manufacturing throughout Canada showed a minor decrease at March 1 when the advance index number was 202.6 as compared with 202.9 at February 1. The latest figure was the same as that recorded at March 1, 1948, but was higher than at the corresponding date in earlier post-war years.

In spite of the slight curtailment in factory employment at the beginning of March, there was an increase of 0.5 per cent in the amounts expended by leading manufacturers in weekly salaries and wages, the index number of payrolls exceeding by 10.3 per cent the figure recorded at March 1, 1948. The weekly earnings of employees averaged \$44.34 at March 1 this year as compared with \$44.17 a month earlier, and \$40.23 a year ago. (8)

SALES AND PURCHASES OF SECURITIES
BETWEEN CANADA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

Sales and purchases of securities between Canada and other countries in February dropped to the lowest level since mid-1947, the volume of transactions amounting to \$24,000,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This year's February figure compares with \$36,400,000 in January and \$28,500,000 in the same month last year, and a monthly average of \$34,800,000 in 1948. During the first two months of this year, sales and purchases totalled \$60,300,000 as against \$64,000,000 in the similar period a year earlier.

Trade with the United States totalled \$22,500,000, a decrease of 36 per cent from the January figure of \$35,100,000. Transactions in bonds and debentures resulted in a small sales balance of \$300,000, while transactions in stocks and other securities produced a purchase balance of \$1,600,000. As a result, there was a net outward movement of funds amounting to \$1,300,000.

Transactions with the United Kingdom remained unchanged at \$400,000, and sales were approximately equal to purchases. An increase was registered in transactions with other countries, totalling \$1,100,000 as compared with \$800,000 in the preceding month. Net sales amounted to \$100,000. (9)

NET INCOME OF CANADIAN FARMERS
HIGHEST ON RECORD IN 1948

Net income of Canadian farmers from farming operations in 1948 reached a total of \$1,693,315,000, the highest figure recorded since the publication of comparable statistics back to 1938, according to preliminary estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Last year's net income compares with the revised estimates of \$1,234,909,000 for 1947, the previous high total, and of \$1,161,395,000 for 1946.

Farm cash income from the sale of farm products also established an all-time high record of \$2,449,865,000 last year as against \$1,962,276,000 in the preceding year, and there were further increases in the value of home-consumed farm produce. The decrease in the value of the year-end change of farm-held livestock inventories more than offset some increase in the value of year-end changes of farm-held grain inventories, but it was insufficient to offset the gains in cash income and income of kind, the result being that gross income for 1948 also set a record.

Farm operating expenses during 1948 continued their upward climb. From \$968,-372,000 in 1947, they increased to \$1,083,556,000 last year, a gain of nearly 12 per cent. While gains were registered for nearly all of the expense items, the most significant increase occurred in livestock feeds, which rose by approximately \$45,000,000 or about 19 per cent.

With the exception of British Columbia, all of the 1948 provincial net incomes were larger than in 1947, while compared with 1946, net incomes were lower in Nova Scotia and British Columbia. Greatest absolute gain in net income last year as compared with 1947 occurred in Saskatchewan.

Net income was as follows by provinces, in millions of dollars, totals for 1947 being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, \$14.3 (\$10.1); Nova Scotia, \$20.6 (\$17.2); New Brunswick, \$33.8 (\$28.4); Quebec, \$259.5 (\$190.3); Ontario, \$447.2 (\$350.3); Manitoba, \$186.0 (\$114.6); Saskatchewan, \$380.7 (\$259.9); Alberta, \$297.6 (\$209.1); British Columbia, \$41.6 (\$55.0). (10)

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on April 14 amounted to 124,823,000 bushels, down 2,088,000 from the preceding week's total of 126,911,000 bushels, but 43,643,000 higher than the 81,180,000 bushels held on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Farmers in the Prairie Provinces marketed 2,078,000 bushels of wheat during the week as compared with 674,000 in the same week last year. Clearances of wheat for export totalled 2,570,000 bushels compared with 3,663,000 a year ago.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending April 14, totals for the same week last year being in brackets: oats, 998,000 (366,000) bushels; barley, 531,000 (198,000); rye, 126,000 (5,000); flaxseed, 83,000 (17,000). (11)

STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER
IN NINE CITIES OF CANADA

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on April 22 moved up to 5,264,000 pounds from 1,708,000 on the corresponding date last year. There were increases in eight of the nine cities, Regina being the single exception.

Holdings were as follows by cities, comparable totals for 1948 being in brackets (thousands omitted): Quebec, 416 (44) pounds; Montreal, 1,637 (329); Toronto, 1,648 (288); Winnipeg, 565 (285); Regina, 65 (67); Saskatoon, 120 (72); Edmonton, 222 (128); Calgary, 153 (96); Vancouver, 438 (399).

EGG PRODUCTION DOWN IN MARCH Net production of eggs in Canada during March declined to 37,412,000 dozen from 40,961,000 dozen in the same month of 1948, according to the monthly report by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Farm eggs numbered 34,289,000 dozen and eggs produced elsewhere 3,123,000 dozen. There was an increase of 15 eggs per 100 layers but the average number of layers was nearly 10 per cent lower at 27,359,000 birds.

In the period, January-March, net production of eggs totalled 95,717,000 dozen as against 111,006,000 dozen in the same quarter last year. Of this year's aggregate, 87,591,000 dozen were from farms. (12)

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

April 21, 1949 April 14, 1949 March 24, 1949

(1935-39=100)

Investors' Price Index

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| (106 Common Stocks) | 106.2 | 107.3 | 106.6 |
| 82 Industrials | 99.5 | 100.8 | 100.4 |
| 16 Utilities | 115.7 | 116.5 | 114.1 |
| 8 Banks | 132.7 | 132.5 | 131.8 |

Mining Stock Price Index

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| (30 Stocks) | 86.0 | 87.0 | 83.4 |
| 25 Golds | 72.6 | 73.1 | 67.4 |
| 5 Base Metals | 111.4 | 113.5 | 114.8 |

OUTPUT OF STEEL INGOTS AT HIGH LEVEL IN MARCH Canadian steel mills turned out record tonnages of steel ingots in March, exceeding the high levels of recent months by a considerable margin. Reflecting the growth in output, cumulative figures for the first quarter rose eight per cent over the comparatively high totals for the same period of 1948.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the month's output of steel ingots advanced to 287,885 short tons from 249,009 in the preceding month and 275,349 in the same month last year. Output for the first quarter of 1949 aggregated 812,881 short tons compared with 753,300 a year earlier.

The daily average output for March reached the high total of 9,286 short tons compared with 8,893 in February and 8,882 in March last year. Daily average for the first quarter was 9,032 tons compared with 8,278 in the like period of 1948. (13)

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF STEEL WIRE IN FEBRUARY Shipments of steel wire by Canadian producers amounted to 9,930 tons in February as compared with 8,177 in the same month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first two months of this year, 20,938 tons were shipped as against 18,549 in the similar period of 1948.

Production during the month totalled 28,219 tons as compared with 25,082 a year ago, bringing the aggregate output for the year-to-date to 56,598 tons as against 51,582 in the same period a year earlier. (14)

GOLD PRODUCTION IN FEBRUARY
INCREASED OVER LAST YEAR

Gold production in Canada was maintained at a comparatively high level in February, output for the month, as recorded by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, amounting to 307,472 fine ounces, showing a slight decline from the January figure of 308,989, but 17 per cent in advance of the 261,603 produced in February last year.

Output for the two months ended February totalled 616,461 fine ounces as compared with 534,969 in 1948, an increase of 15 per cent. There were substantial advances over a year earlier in Quebec, Ontario and the Northwest Territories, and small decreases in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and British Columbia.

February production by areas, with figures for the same month last year in brackets, was as follows: Ontario, 182,917 (155,295) fine ounces; Quebec, 71,443 (58,715); British Columbia, 24,642 (25,562); Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 14,829 (14,992); Northwest Territories, 13,601 (6,511); and the Yukon, 23 (528). (15)

PRODUCTION OF SILVER, LEAD
AND ZINC IN FEBRUARY

Production of both primary silver and lead continued downward in February, silver reaching its lowest point since April, 1947, and lead its lowest since May, 1944. Primary zinc showed a substantial increase over last year.

The month's output of primary silver amounted to 936,372 fine ounces as compared with 975,434 in January and 1,035,568 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the first two months of this year, 1,911,806 fine ounces were produced as against 1,993,793 in the similar period a year ago. Output for April, 1947, stood at 924,469 fine ounces.

Production of primary lead declined to 10,627 tons from 10,796 in January and 12,966 in February last year. Output for the cumulative period aggregated 21,423 tons as against 24,033 in 1948. The May, 1944 output was 10,245 tons.

Primary zinc production amounted to 20,013 tons, down from 21,948 in the preceding month, but substantially above the 17,527 tons produced in the same month last year. Total for the year-to-date was 41,961 tons compared with 34,693 in the same months of 1948. (16)

COPPER AND NICKEL OUTPUT

Production of new primary copper in February amounted to 21,540 tons, increasing over the preceding month's output of 20,805 tons and 19,112 tons in the corresponding month last year. During the first two months of this year, 42,345 tons were produced as against 39,559 in the similar period last year.

Nickel output in the month was lower than in January but showed a slight rise over February, 1948. This year's February figure was recorded at 10,863 tons compared with 11,180 in January and 9,683 a year earlier. Cumulative production in the two-month period was 22,043 tons as against 20,457 in the like period of 1948. (17)

OUTPUT OF WIRE FENCING IN FEBRUARY Production in Canada of steel wire fencing rose slightly to 2,092 tons in February as compared with 2,031 in the same month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Output for the first two months of this year aggregated 4,338 tons as against 4,393 in the similar period a year ago. This year's February total included 1,834 tons of farm fencing, 150 tons of lawn fencing, and 108 tons of chain link fabric. (18)

SALES OF MANUFACTURED AND NATURAL GAS IN FEBRUARY Sales of manufactured and natural gas by distributing companies were at higher levels than last year both in February and the first two months of this year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Manufactured gas sold in February amounted to 2,487,236 M cubic feet as compared with 2,464,997 a year earlier. In the cumulative period, 5,021,855 M cubic feet were sold as against 4,943,689 in the similar period last year.

The month's sales of natural gas totalled 6,414,245 M cubic feet compared with 5,236,425 a year ago, bringing the total for the first two months of this year to 12,818,536 M cubic feet as against 10,507,626 in the same months last year. (19)

PRODUCTION OF COKE IN FEBRUARY Production of coke from ovens and gas retorts in Canada during February amounted to 317,046 tons as against 290,545 in the corresponding month last year. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec accounted for 84,979 tons, Ontario for 210,801 tons and western Canada for 21,266 tons. Output for the two months ended February totalled 669,000 tons as against 614,000 in the similar period last year. Producers' stocks of oven and retort coke, excluding breeze, at the end of February amounted to 146,672 tons. (20)

PRODUCTION OF DOMESTIC TYPE ELECTRIC REFRIGERATORS Production of domestic type electric refrigerators by Canadian manufacturers was maintained at a high level in February. The month's output amounted to 13,319, showing a slight decline from the preceding month's figure of 13,331 units, but 23 per cent in advance of last year's 10,785 units, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Output for the first two months of this year rose to 26,650 units from 21,929, an increase of slightly more than 21 per cent.

Exports of Canadian-made units were also at a comparatively high level in February, totalling 1,538 units as compared with 130 in January and 213 a year earlier. Imports were down in both comparisons, falling to 17 units from 75 in January and last year's high figure of 630 in February last year.

Manufacturers' stocks at the end of February amounted to 1,996 units as against 1,445 a year ago. (21)

SALES OF PAINTS AND VARNISHES Sales of paints, varnishes and lacquers by manufacturers which normally account for 96 per cent of the total Canadian production, were below 1948 levels during the first two months of this year. According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, they amounted to \$6,157,584 in February as compared with \$7,048,488 in the corresponding month last year, and during the first two months totalled \$11,724,210 as against \$13,326,478 in the similar period of 1948. In February, trade sales, exclusive of water paints, accounted for about 50 per cent of the total, industrial sales 36 per cent, water paints two per cent, and unclassified sales 12 per cent. (22)

RAIL REVENUES AND EXPENSES
HIGHER IN DECEMBER

Both revenues and expenses of Canadian railways increased in December over a year earlier, expenditures showing the greater increase and net operating revenue being consequently reduced.

Operating revenues reported by the railways for the month amounted to \$77,483,-353, an increase of \$8,852,381 or nearly 13 per cent over December 1947, and of \$15,557,000 above December 1946, setting a new high for any December, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Operating expenses rose more sharply to \$72,522,817, up \$14,172,924 or 24 per cent above a year earlier. Net operating revenue was thus reduced from \$10,281,079 in 1947 to \$4,960,536 for the month. Owing to a considerable easing in tax accruals, however, operating income suffered only a minor decline from \$6,904,417 to \$6,836,085.

All revenue accounts, except passenger and water line, improved over December, 1947. Freight revenues increased \$8,013,640 or 15 per cent to \$61,042,287, express was up \$437,796 or 15 per cent at \$3,383,135, and miscellaneous or all other revenue rose \$479,547 to \$3,773,936. Every expense account was also appreciably higher, with maintenance of way and structures up \$1,278,171, maintenance of equipment advanced \$7,542,-329 to \$17,457,829, and transportation expenses at \$4,131,896 or nearly 13 per cent higher at \$36,426,618.

Total payroll for December was approximately \$41,400,000, up 18 per cent from \$35,059,984, while the number of employees rose from 173,102 to 177,075. The portion of payroll chargeable to railway operations increased \$5,069,939 to \$38,071,884. (23)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Carloadings on Canadian railways for the week ended April 16 were affected by the Good Friday holiday, declining to 64,776 cars from 71,997 in the preceding week. Comparisons with the corresponding week last year indicate little change in volume on a daily basis, assuming that some loading was done on the holiday. Good Friday occurred earlier during 1948.

Cumulative totals for the first 15 weeks amounted to 1,080,969 cars compared with 1,102,381 in the similar period last year and 1,045,291 cars in 1947. Grain loadings show a gain of 18,919 cars over 1948 at 96,915, coal was up 6,214 cars to 89,620, coke improved by 1,498 cars, ores and concentrates were 4,762 cars heavier, while gasoline and petroleum, iron and steel, autos and sugar have moved in greater volume. Recessions were indicated in marketings of grain products, hay and straw, live stock, dairy products, meats, all forest products, fertilizers and miscellaneous manufactures. (24)

ASBESTOS PRODUCTS INDUSTRY IN 1947

Production by manufacturers of asbestos goods in Canada in 1947 was valued at \$7,116,000, an increase of 11 per cent over the 1946 total of \$6,409,000. The products included brake lining valued at \$1,644,000, boiler and pipe covering at \$603,000, clutch facings at \$435,000, asbestos packings at \$314,000, and such other lines as asbestos gaskets, cloth, yarn, dryer felts, cements, etc.

Exports of asbestos in 1947 rose in value to \$32,291,000 from \$23,839,000 in 1946, and asbestos products to \$690,000 from \$654,000. Imports of asbestos products were valued at \$3,680,000 compared with \$2,320,000.

There were 14 establishments in the industry in 1947, two more than in 1946. Their employees averaged 966 compared with 965, and salary and wage payments \$1,808,000 compared with \$1,532,000. (25)

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. Inventories and Shipments by Manufacturing Industries, February (25 cents).
2. Canadian Fisheries Statistics, March (10 cents).
3. Prices and Price Indexes, March (10 cents).
4. Wholesale Trade, February (10 cents).
5. Current Food Trends, February (10 cents).
6. Retail Trade, New Series, February (including January) (10 cents).
7. Production of Leather Footwear, February (10 cents).
8. Advance Statement on Employment and Weekly Earnings, March 1 (10 cents).
9. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, February (10 cents).
10. Net Income of Farm Operators from Farming Operations, 1948 (15 cents).
11. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
12. Monthly Poultry Estimates, March (10 cents).
13. Steel Ingots, March (10 cents).
14. Steel Wire, February (10 cents).
15. Gold Production, February (10 cents).
16. Silver, Lead and Zinc Production, February (10 cents).
17. Copper and Nickel Production, February (10 cents).
18. Wire Fencing, February (10 cents).
19. Sales of Manufactured and Natural Gas, February (10 cents).
20. Coal and Coke Statistics, February (10 cents).
21. Domestic Type Electric Refrigerators, February (10 cents).
22. Sales of Paints, Varnishes and Lacquers, February (10 cents).
23. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways in Canada, December (10 cents).
24. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
25. The Asbestos Products Industry, 1947 (25 cents).
26. The Lumber Industry in Manitoba, 1947 (10 cents).
27. The Wine Industry in Canada, 1947 (25 cents).
28. Trade of Canada: Imports Entered for Consumption (Detailed), February, and Two Months Ended February (25 cents).
29. Macaroni and Kindred Products Industry in Canada, 1947 (15 cents).
30. Leather Footwear Industry, 1947 (25 cents).
31. Summary of Monthly Transit Reports, 1948 (10 cents).

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