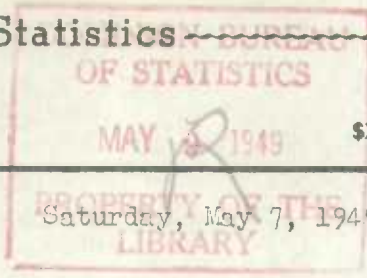




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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADA'S OFFICIAL COST-OF-LIVING INDEX moved up from 159.2 to 159.3 between March 1 and April 1, reversing slightly the downtrend of the two preceding months.

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DEPARTMENT STORE SALES in March were valued at \$69,125,000, an increase of 7.2 per cent over the \$64,486,000 recorded in the corresponding month last year.

. . .

CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS filed in March were above a year earlier, all provinces except Alberta sharing in the rise, but the month's total was down from February this year.

. . .

FINANCING OF MOTOR VEHICLE SALES during the first quarter this year rose to 36,570 units financed for \$35,861,700 as compared with 28,800 financed for \$27,102,100 in the same period last year.

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CANADA'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS declined in value in March to \$216,800,000 compared with \$228,400,000 in March last year and in the first quarter of the year to \$658,800,000 as against \$672,000,000 in 1948. Shipments rose in March to the United States, Latin America, and Commonwealth countries in Africa and Asia, but fell to the United Kingdom and to European countries as a whole.

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TOTAL CASH AND CREDIT SALES of 10 trades covered in a consumer credit survey by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics rose 7.8 per cent during the second half of 1948 over the like period of 1947, cash sales rising 6.6 per cent, instalment sales 15.1 per cent and charge account sales 11.5 per cent.

. . .

CHEQUES CASHED against individual accounts rose to \$6,867,531,000 as compared with \$6,196,130,000 in March last year, an increase of 10.8 per cent.

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PRODUCTION AND INVENTORIES OF REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS continued to move up in January, the month's output rising 10 per cent over last year, and inventories 27 per cent. Receipts of crude petroleum at the refineries rose almost 17 per cent.

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PRODUCTION OF SAWN LUMBER east of the Rockies in February is estimated at 179,445,000 feet board measure, down two and one-half per cent from the February, 1948, figure of 183,941,000 feet.

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CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS for the week ended April 23 totalled 73,840 cars, up sharply from the Easter week low of 64,776 cars, but down 337 cars or 1.1 per cent from the same week last year.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX
UP SLIGHTLY AT APRIL 1

Reversing slightly the downtrend of the two preceding months, Canada's official cost-of-living index moved up one-tenth of a point between March 1 and April 1, from 159.2 to 159.3.

At this figure, it was 7.7 points above April 1 last year and three-tenths of a point below the peak level of 159.6 which has been touched three times -- at the first of October and November last year and January this year. During the six months since reaching 159.6, the index has kept within seven-tenths of a point of that level.

The increase during the month was due to small advances in clothing, home-furnishings and services, rents and the miscellaneous group, which offset a further drop in foods.

The food index declined in the period from 199.1 to 198.5, a substantial drop in the price of butter and small decreases in lard and shortening overbalancing increases of beef, pork, milk, bread and flour. At its April 1 level the food index was 11.7 points higher than a year ago, but 6.9 points down from its peak of 205.4 reached on October 1 last.

Reflecting the results of a quarterly rent survey, the rents index rose in the month from 121.7 to 122.4, the peak figure for this index. At April 1 last year, the rent index stood at 119.9, making a rise of 2.5 points in 12 months.

The clothing index registered a further slight increase, from 182.7 to 183.2, which compares with 172.9 on April 1 1948, and the home furnishings and services index moved up from 167.9 to 168.0, the fuel and light index remained unchanged at 131.0, while the index of miscellaneous goods and services advanced from 128.1 to 128.4, reflecting an increase in the automobile transportation series. (1)

DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN MARCH
BELOW LAST YEAR

Canada's total domestic exports declined in value to March to \$216,800,000 from \$228,400,000 in March last year, but showed the usual increase over the preceding month when the value stood at \$205,000,000. The month's decline, following upon a small increase over a year ago in January and a slightly larger decrease in February, lowered the cumulative value for the first quarter of the year to \$658,800,000 compared with \$672,000,000 in 1948.

Further gains in the value of shipments to the United States over last year were recorded during March, according to returns released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, and increases in exports to Latin America, and to Commonwealth countries in Africa and Asia. However, these were offset by a marked falling-off in exports to the United Kingdom and Europe as a whole, and smaller losses in shipments to the British West Indies.

Exports of animals and animal products were sharply lower in March than a year ago and there were smaller decreases in the fibres and textiles, wood and paper, non-metallic and miscellaneous groups. The iron and its products group showed a sizeable gain in value, while the agricultural and vegetable products, non-ferrous metals and chemical groups were moderately higher.

Exports to the United States in the month were valued at \$122,418,000 as compared with \$112,519,000 in the corresponding month last year, bringing the cumulative figure for the first quarter to \$345,150,000 as against \$312,333,000 a year earlier. The increase in the month was 8.8 per cent, and in the first quarter, 10.5 per cent.

March exports to the United Kingdom were valued at \$39,498,000, down a third from last year's corresponding total of \$59,182,000. First-quarter total was \$139,435,000 as compared with \$175,790,000 a year ago.

The combined value of exports to India and Pakistan continued to show marked gains, the March total standing at \$6,750,000 compared with \$584,000 a year ago, raising the cumulative figure for the first quarter to \$26,993,000 from \$4,043,000. March total for the Latin American countries as a group was \$9,778,000, up 11.6 per cent over last year, and the three-month cumulative figure rose moderately from \$26,159,000 to \$26,442,000.

There was a general decrease in the value of exports to European countries in March, the aggregate for the area falling off from \$19,949,000 a year ago to \$9,204,000, and in the first quarter from \$72,364,000 to \$43,103,000. Shipments to Belgium and Luxembourg fell from \$3,095,000 in March last year to \$1,609,000, Czechoslovakia from \$1,523,000 to \$73,000, France from \$2,880,000 to \$1,648,000, Italy from \$1,599,000 to \$532,000, Netherlands from \$4,744,000 to \$692,000, Norway from \$1,103,000 to \$803,000, and Switzerland from \$1,499,000 to \$460,000. Exports to Germany rose from \$316,000 to \$1,958,000.

Among the individual commodities there were gains in wheat, alcoholic beverages, seeds and cattle both in the month and quarter, while bacon and hams and shell and processed eggs were down sharply in both comparisons. Planks and boards and wood pulp were lower, while newsprint paper exports continued above last year's level.

Exports of farm implements and machinery were well above 1948 values, while the exports of other types of machinery and automobiles and parts were lower in the month and quarter. Aluminum exports were off in both periods, but copper, nickel and zinc all moved up. Lead exports were lower in the month but higher in the quarter. Asbestos exports were down sharply, while the value of fertilizers was well ahead of last year. (2)

CHEQUES CASHED AGAINST INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS

Continuing the gains of earlier months, business transactions in the form of cheques cashed against individual accounts rose to a high level in March, while in the first three months of this year, the total was greater for Canada and for each of the five economic areas than in any other similar period.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the total for the month amounted to \$6,867,531,000 as compared with \$6,196,130,000 in March last year, an increase of 10.8 per cent. During the first quarter of this year, the total was \$19,772,380,000 compared with \$18,238,056,000 a year ago.

Due to the recession in Halifax and Saint John, the aggregate for the Maritime Provinces showed a decline of 2.7 per cent. Cheques cashed in Quebec amounted to \$1,995,000,000 as against \$1,892,000,000 a year earlier, gains being general in three centres, the figure for Montreal amounting to \$1,704,000,000. A considerable percentage gain was shown in Quebec City, the total moving up 18.4 per cent.

Thirteen of the 14 centres in Ontario recorded gains in March over the same month last year, Fort William having been the exception. The greatest percentage increase was shown in Ottawa, the total rising 55.4 per cent. Important relative gains were shown in Chatham, Sudbury and Windsor, while Toronto recorded a slight rise, the total standing at \$1,871,000,000.

Each of the 10 centres in the Prairie Provinces were higher, marked increases having been registered in Regina, Calgary, Edmonton and Lethbridge. In Winnipeg, the total rose to \$580,000,000, up 25.2 per cent. An increase of 13 per cent was shown in British Columbia, the total standing at \$621,000,000, while in Vancouver, cheques cashed amounted to \$524,000,000, an advance of 15 per cent. (3)

UNBROKEN TEN-YEAR RISE
IN VOLUME OF CHEQUES CASHED

During the ten years since 1938, the amount of cheques cashed or otherwise paid by the Canadian people has shown an uninterrupted annual increase that is without precedent both in duration and magnitude. Overall advance has been from \$30.9 billion in 1938 to the all-time record total of \$80.7 billion in 1948, a gain of more than 160 per cent.

Financial transactions of this type have traced three main economic cycles since the end of World War I, according to the annual report on cheques cashed by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The first period of high prices and active business conditions culminated in 1920, with deflation in the immediately following years, and then a considerable period of recovery. The next peak was in 1929 when cheques cashed totalled \$46.7 billion, a level that was not equalled again until 1943 when transactions reflecting expansion for war purposes amounted to \$53.8 billion. Wartime activity was the main cause of continued expansion until 1945. During the last three years, the replenishment of shortages in consumer goods, the high level of capital formation on a physical footing and the advance in prices have been the main generating forces in the continued advance in volume of cheques cashed.

By regions, the advance in cheque transactions has varied from the national pattern during the ten-year period. In the Maritimes and Quebec the trend has been steadily upward year by year, the total in 1948 being more than three times that of 1938 in the former region and close to two and a half times in Quebec. In Ontario the totals in 1946 and 1947 were below the 1945 standing, but last year the volume rose to a new peak. The advance in the Prairie Provinces has been more uneven than in the other economic areas, the most marked gain being shown in 1944, while the 1946 total was below 1945 but has been followed by further increases in the last two years. In British Columbia there has been a steady upward trend. (4)

CONSUMER CREDIT TRENDS The trend toward smaller gains in cash than in credit buying in evidence since the end of the war was maintained in the second half of 1948. Total cash and credit sales of the 10 trades surveyed by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics gained 7.3 per cent over the same period of 1947. Cash sales rose 6.6 per cent, instalment sales by 15.1 per cent, and charge account sales by 11.5 per cent.

Overall increases in the latter half of 1948 over the same period of 1947 were smaller than those in the first half. During the first part of the year cash sales were 6.6 per cent above 1947 -- the same as in the last half -- instalment sales jumped 24.4 per cent, while charge account sales at 10.7 per cent were slightly below the increase for the latter half.

Receivables, or accounts outstanding for all trades combined, as calculated from preliminary tabulations, were 20.4 per cent above the 1947 level at the end of 1948. Showing smaller gains over 1947 than the receivables at June 30, 1948, the year-end rise of 20.4 per cent represented a gain of 31.9 per cent in instalment receivables and a gain of 10.4 per cent in charge account receivables.

Four trades transacted less cash business in the latter half of 1948 than during the same period of 1947 while two trades extended less charge account business. Increased instalment sales were registered in all trades during the last half of 1948. (5)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES UP SEVEN PER CENT

Sales of department stores in March were valued at \$69,125,000, showing an increase of 7.2 per cent over the \$64,486,000 recorded in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Increases occurred in all provinces, Alberta and Saskatchewan showing the largest gains of 19.9 per cent and 14.3 per cent, respectively. The gain in Manitoba was 13.1 per cent, British Columbia 10.6 per cent, Maritime Provinces 6.5 per cent, Ontario 3.9 per cent, and Quebec 0.7 per cent.

Figures for the month show that sales of women's and children's apparel departments advanced 11 per cent; furniture, 17.4 per cent; household appliances and electrical supplies, 11.4 per cent; radios and musical instruments, 13.2 per cent; drugs, toilet articles and preparations, 9.3 per cent; piece goods, 6.9 per cent; home furnishings, 7.5 per cent; and hardware and kitchen utensils, 9.8 per cent. Sales of men's and boys' clothing and furnishings decreased 2.3 per cent, and food and kindred products 7.1 per cent.

Sales were as follows by provinces, totals for the same month last year being in brackets (in thousands): Maritime Provinces, \$5,122 (\$4,810); Quebec, \$10,874 (\$10,798); Ontario, \$25,655 (\$24,692); Manitoba, \$9,791 (\$8,657); Saskatchewan, \$3,814 (\$3,337); Alberta, \$4,953 (\$4,131); British Columbia, \$8,916 (\$8,061). (6)

WEEKLY WAGES IN MANUFACTURING

Average weekly wages paid by larger Canadian manufacturers in the last week of November, 1947 amounted to \$37.19, showing an increase of almost 15 per cent over the corresponding period of 1946. The higher earnings resulted largely from wage increases, or in some instances from the payment of larger cost-of-living bonuses. Variations in industrial activity and other factors also affected the levels of weekly wages for the different provinces. The working time averaged 43.7 hours, 44.9 hours for men and 39.7 hours for women.

In terms of money, earnings of men showed larger gains than those of women, but in most cases the percentages of increase in the earnings of women were higher. The all-Canada average for men was \$41.35 as compared with \$36.23 a year earlier, and for women, \$23.11 compared with \$20.08.

Average weekly wages were the highest in British Columbia at \$41.85 compared with \$36.83 in the corresponding month of the previous year, followed by Ontario at \$38.57 compared with \$33.26, Alberta \$36.81 compared with \$32.40, Saskatchewan \$36.63 (\$32.78); Manitoba, \$35.59 (\$31.16); Quebec, \$34.82 (\$30.51); Nova Scotia \$34.58 (\$31.44); New Brunswick, \$33.55 (\$30.54). (7)

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

	<u>April 28, 1949</u>	<u>April 21, 1949</u>	<u>March 31, 1949</u>
	(1935-39=100)		
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
(106 Common Stocks)	105.4	106.2	107.1
82 Industrials	98.9	99.5	100.9
16 Utilities	113.9	115.7	115.5
8 Banks	132.1	132.7	131.3
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
(30 Stocks)	84.9	86.0	83.1
25 Golds	71.6	72.6	67.6
5 Base Metals	110.2	111.4	113.4

CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE BENEFITS

Increased numbers of claims for unemployment insurance benefits were filed in March as compared with the same month last year, all provinces sharing in the rise with the exception of Alberta. The month's total, however, was below that of February, lower figures being shown for Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

Claims filed in Quebec totalled 33,381 as compared with 23,368 a year earlier, Ontario 30,096 compared with 20,736, British Columbia 12,731 compared with 9,981, Nova Scotia 7,433 (5,346), Manitoba 5,931 (4,962), Alberta 5,720 (5,987), New Brunswick 4,985 (3,133), Saskatchewan 2,574 (2,302), and Prince Edward Island 551 (433).

At the end of March there were 185,787 ordinary claimants on the live unemployment register compared with 208,818 at the end of February and 136,356 at March 31, 1948. In addition there were 11,912 other claimants -- mainly short-time -- on the live unemployment register compared with 7,066 at the end of February and 5,249 a year earlier.

A total of 239,826 persons were paid \$10,361,473 benefit as compensation for 4,644,642 compensated unemployed days during March compared with 210,681 beneficiaries paid \$8,158,903 for 3,734,487 compensated unemployed days in February and 154,754 persons paid \$6,629,826 for 3,364,791 compensated days in March last year.

The average duration of the unemployment compensated was 19.4 days in March, 17.7 days in February and 21.7 days in March last year. The average amount of benefit paid per beneficiary was \$43.20 in March, \$38.73 in February and \$42.84 in March, 1948. The average amount of benefit paid per compensated day of unemployment was \$2.23 in March, \$2.18 in February and \$1.97 in March a year ago. (8)

FINANCING OF MOTOR VEHICLE
SALES HIGHER THIS YEAR

Financing of motor vehicle sales is running well ahead of last year both for new and used cars, the rise in dollar value being somewhat greater in each case than the advance in the number financed.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics there were 16,700 vehicles financed in March for \$16,180,700 compared with 12,600 units financed for \$11,715,000 in the same month last year. Increases amounted to 33 per cent in number and 38 per cent in dollar volume.

In the first quarter of this year, 36,570 units were financed for \$35,861,700 compared with 28,800 financed for \$27,102,100 in the same period of 1948, showing increases of 27 per cent in number and 32 per cent in financing.

There were 5,900 new motor vehicles financed for a total of \$8,537,200 in March compared with 4,800 for \$6,638,300 a year ago. In the first quarter the sales of 13,100 were financed for \$19,254,900 compared with 11,300 for \$15,834,700 in the like period of 1948.

In the used vehicle class, there were 10,800 units financed in the month for \$7,643,400 compared with 7,800 for \$5,076,500, and in the first quarter, 23,400 for \$16,606,800 compared with 17,500 for \$11,267,400. (9)

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on April 21 amounted to 120,769,000 bushels, down 4,054,000 from the preceding week's total of 124,823,000 bushels, but 44,377,000 higher than the 76,391,000 bushels held on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Farmers in the Prairie Provinces marketed 2,791,000 bushels of wheat during the week as compared with 470,000 in the same week last year. Clearances of wheat for export totalled 4,317,000 bushels compared with 2,718,000 a year ago.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending April 21, totals for the same week last year being in brackets: oats, 1,820,000 (375,000) bushels; barley, 1,085,000 (159,000); rye, 139,000 (6,000); flaxseed, 188,000 (13,000). (10)

WHEAT FLOUR PRODUCTION LOWER IN MARCH

Canadian production of wheat flour in March showed a decline of nearly eight per cent from the same month last year. The month's output amounted to 1,715,683 barrels as compared with 1,868,837. This brought the cumulative total for the eight months ending March to 14,063,981 barrels, down almost 16 per cent from the same period last year.

Wheat flour exports dropped to 709,960 barrels in March from 907,189 in the corresponding month last year. Total exports for the eight months ended March was 7,621,116 barrels as against 9,478,870 in the preceding crop year.

Wheat used in the manufacture of flour in March amounted to 7,573,586 barrels compared with 8,480,852 in the same month a year ago, while the total processed in the eight-month period was 62,877,715 bushels compared with 76,039,963 a year earlier. (11)

STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER AND CHEESE ON MAY 1

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on May 1 were down slightly from April 1 but were well ahead of May 1 last year. According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, May 1 stocks this year totalled 6,034,000 pounds compared with 6,185,000 on April 1 and 1,566,000 a year ago. Cheese stocks were 12,645,000 pounds against 15,661,000 on April 1 and 13,449,000 on May 1, 1948.

Creamery butter stocks were as follows by cities, totals for the same date last year being in brackets (figures in thousands): Quebec, 407 (34) pounds; Montreal, 1,926 (211); Toronto, 2,093 (251); Winnipeg, 621 (365); Regina, 73 (81); Saskatoon, 171 (76); Edmonton, 170 (164); Calgary, 141 (100); Vancouver, 432 (284). (12)

SALES OF FLUID MILK AND CREAM

Combined sales of fluid milk and cream in Canada amounted to 326,851,000 pounds in February, approximately one per cent lower than in the same month last year. During the first two months of this year, fluid sales reached a total of 676,061,000 pounds, a decrease of one-quarter of one per cent.

Quantity of fluid milk sold in the month amounted to 276,361,000 pounds, nearly 1,000,000 pounds below February last year. For the two months, January-February, the total stood at 568,698,000 pounds, an increase of almost 500,000 pounds.

Cream sales expressed as milk totalled 50,490,000 pounds in February, a decrease of slightly more than 1,250,000 pounds or 2.5 per cent from the same month last year. During the two-month period, cream sales on a milk basis were estimated at 107,363,000 pounds, falling nearly 1,750,000 pounds or slightly more than 1.5 per cent. (13).

HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES
IN NEWFOUNDLAND IN 1945

There were approximately 62,000 households in Newfoundland and Labrador at the time of the 1945 Census. Of these, 82 per cent consisted of single families with or without relatives, lodgers, servants, etc. Thirteen per cent consisted of households where two or more families were living together while the remaining five per cent were classified as non-family households. The average number of persons per household was 5.1 for Newfoundland as a whole, although the most common household size was four persons.

This information is contained in a bulletin released today by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which provides basic data on households and families, with a short historical table showing total occupied dwellings and average number of persons per dwelling. A later bulletin in this series will present data on other aspects of dwellings, such as type, tenure, value, rent, and number of rooms.

The number of households and the average number of persons per household in the four largest centres of population were as follows: St. John's City -- 8,095, 5.3; Corner Brook -- 1,531, 5.6; Bell Island -- 1,435, 5.7; Grand Falls and Windsor -- 1,247, 5.8.

In 1945 there were 68,000 families in Newfoundland and Labrador averaging 4.4 persons per family. This compares with 60,569 families averaging 4.7 persons per family at the time of the 1935 Census. Among the four largest centres, the 1945 figures for total families and average size of family are as follows: St. John's City -- 9,259, 4.1; Corner Brook -- 1,720, 4.8; Bell Island -- 1,547, 5.1; Grand Falls and Windsor -- 1,436, 4.8.

Approximately 156,000 children under 25 years of age were living at home with their families in 1945. Of these, 110,581 were under 15 years of age, and 45,694 were in the age group 15-24 years. Of this latter group 17 per cent were attending school, 59 per cent were gainfully employed, and the remaining 24 per cent were neither at school or gainfully occupied. However, in the City of St. John's, of the 6,083 children in this age group living at home, 23 per cent were attending school, 61 per cent were working in gainfully occupations, and 16 per cent were neither at school nor gainfully employed. (14)

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS IN NEWFOUNDLAND

Nearly nine-tenths of the population of Newfoundland are adherents of three religious denominations, the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of England and the United Church, according to the results of the Census taken by the Newfoundland Government in 1945 and compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Thirty-three per cent in that year were Roman Catholic, 31 per cent adherents of the Church of England, and 25 per cent of the United Church.

The numbers of adherents of the six numerically largest religious denominations in 1945, with 1935 figures in brackets, were as follows: Roman Catholic, 106,006 (93,925); Church of England, 100,878 (92,709); United Church, 80,094 (76,134); Salvation Army, 22,571 (18,054); Pentecostal, 7,558 (3,721); Congregational and Presbyterian, 1,548 (2,384); and other denominations, 2,886 (2,613).

In the quarter of a century since the taking of the 1921 Census, the number of persons reporting adherence to the Church of England increased from 84,665 in 1921 to 100,878 in 1945, Roman Catholic from 86,576 to 106,006, Salvation Army from 13,023 to 22,571, and the United Church (classed as Methodist in 1921) from 74,205 to 80,094.

Church of England followers were relatively most numerous in the Districts of Bugeo La Poile where they comprised 84 per cent of the population; St. Barbe, 70 per cent; Fortune Bay and Hermitage, 65 per cent; and Harbour Grace, 64 per cent. Roman Catholics comprised 98 per cent of the population in the District of Ferryland; 92 per cent in Placentia and St. Mary's; 77 per cent in St. George-Port-au-Port; 56 per cent in Harbour Main - Bell Island and in Placentia West. Adherents to the United Church comprised 58 per cent of the population in Carbonear-Bay de Verde and 52 per cent in Twillingate. (15)

RAILWAY REVENUES AND EXPENSES HIGHER IN 1948

Railway revenues and expenses registered all-time record totals in 1948 and were also at new high levels for the month in January this year. Operating expenses in both periods exceeded relative advances in revenues, resulting in decreases in net operating revenues.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, operating revenues in 1948 aggregated \$866,548,950, showing a rise of 11.6 per cent over 1947. Operating expenses jumped to \$798,474,125 from \$683,045,372, or by 16.9 per cent, and net operating revenues declined to \$68,074,825 from \$93,475,012.

Operating revenues in January amounted to \$66,983,683, an increase of \$6,532,981 or 10.8 per cent over the similar period of 1948. Operating expenses rose to \$67,312,776, up \$8,371,760 or 14.2 per cent, and the deficit in operating income was \$2,996,706 compared with \$1,212,804, an increase of nearly \$1,784,000.

For the year freight revenues were \$692,244,920, up 15 per cent or \$90,222,537 from 1947, while tonnage of revenue freight increased only 468,844 tons or 0.3 per cent, and ton mileage receded 1.8 per cent. Passenger revenues were off 4.9 per cent at \$82,886,394 compared with \$87,128,485 and revenue passengers carried numbered 35,655,239, down 6.5 per cent. A decline of 6.8 per cent was shown in passenger mileage although the average journey was little changed at 96.7 miles against 97.0. Mail revenue was up 5.8 per cent and express improved 7.8 per cent.

Total pay roll was by far the highest on record in 1948 at \$486,732,907, up \$77,488,389 or 18.9 per cent over 1947. Employees increased from 173,078 to 178,349 or by three per cent, and their average earnings were \$2,729 against \$2,364, up 15.4 per cent. A total of \$444,704,773 in pay roll was charged to railway operations against \$383,535,091 in 1947.

In the month increased freight revenues accounted for most of the gain in operating revenues, advancing 13.2 per cent to \$54,266,216, but volume of revenue freight declined 4.9 per cent to 12,489,752 tons. Passenger revenues eased 4.2 per cent to \$6,026,833, while the number of passengers declined 10 per cent to 2,901,118. (16 and 17)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Carloadings on Canadian railways for the week ended April 23 totalled 73,840 cars, up sharply from the low of Easter week when 64,776 cars were loaded, and down 837 cars or 1.1 per cent from the same week last year. Loadings in the western division at 25,106 cars registered a gain of 1,612 cars over the same week last year, while eastern loadings eased 2,449 cars to 48,734 cars.

Grain loadings were up 3,636 cars over the corresponding week of 1948, reaching 8,183 cars; ores and concentrates rose from 2,238 to 3,216 cars, gasoline and petroleum from 1,762 cars to 5,070, automobiles from 950 to 1,341 cars, and fertilizers from 1,247 to 1,516 cars. The main declines from last year were in grain products, hay and straw, live stock, meats, coal and coke, other mine products, pulpwood, lumber, wood pulp and paper, and l.c.l. merchandise. (18)

PRODUCTION, INVENTORIES AND STOCKS OF REFINED PETROLEUM

Production and inventories of refined petroleum products continued to move up in January, the month's output rising 10 per cent over last year, and inventories 27 per cent. Receipts of crude petroleum at the refineries rose almost 17 per cent.

The month's production of refined petroleum products amounted to 6,279,000 barrels compared with 5,706,000 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks at the end of the month were 12,873,000 barrels compared with 9,925,000.

Receipts of crude during the month totalled 5,991,000 barrels compared with 5,130,000 a year ago. The amount received from domestic sources rose to 1,275,000 barrels from 727,000, representing 21.3 per cent of the total as compared with 13.7 per cent a year ago. Receipts of imported crude amounted to 4,716,000 barrels as compared with 4,404,000.

Venezuela -- now Canada's principal source of imported crude petroleum -- accounted for 2,425,256 barrels in January this year as compared with 1,909,723 in the corresponding month last year. The United States -- second largest outside source -- supplied 1,828,068 barrels as compared with 2,382,619. (19)

PRODUCTION AND SALES OF ASPHALT ROOFING MATERIALS

Production and domestic sales of asphalt shingles and rolled roofing both registered marked declines in March and in the first three months of this year. A similar trend was shown for tar and asphalt felts and sheathing in both periods.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, output in March of asphalt shingles and rolled roofing amounted to 239,440 squares as compared with 447,192 in the corresponding month last year. During the first three months of this year, 691,525 squares were produced as against 1,232,621 in the similar period last year. Production of tar and asphalt felts and sheathing fell to 3,692 tons in March from 5,555 in the same month a year ago. In the cumulative period, output totalled 10,495 tons compared with 16,393 in the same period last year.

In March, sales amounted to 227,281 squares as compared with 355,656 in March, 1948. This brought the total for the year-to-date to 662,405 squares as against 1,079,918 a year earlier. Tar and asphalt felts and sheathing sold in March declined to 3,454 tons from 5,117, bringing the total sales for the three-month period to 9,530 tons as against 14,483 in the similar period last year. (20)

PRODUCTION AND DOMESTIC SALES OF ASPHALT FLOOR TILES

Production and domestic sales of asphalt floor tiles both were lower in March than in the corresponding month last year, but were substantially above the preceding month. During the first three months of this year, output and sales were down in comparison with the same months last year.

According to figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the month's production amounted to 1,216,077 square feet as compared with 1,887,269 in March a year ago and 1,143,436 in the preceding month. In the cumulative period, 3,651,337 square feet were produced as against 5,263,758 in the similar period last year.

Domestic sales fell to 1,438,201 square feet from 1,470,270 a year earlier, but increased over the 1,157,815 recorded in February. During the first quarter of this year, 3,724,640 square feet were sold as compared with 4,347,679 in the same period a year earlier. (21)

PRODUCTION OF SAWN LUMBER IN FEBRUARY

Production of sawn lumber east of the Rockies in February is estimated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at 177,445,000 feet board measure, down two and one-half per cent from the February, 1948 figure of 183,941,000 feet. During the first two months of this year, 328,477,000 feet board measure were produced as against 338,410,000 in the similar period a year ago, a decline of three per cent.

Output for the month was as follows by provinces, totals for the same month last year being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 231,000 (75,000) foot board measure; Nova Scotia, 26,776,000 (27,707,000); New Brunswick, 19,928,000 (21,066,000); Quebec, 42,973,000 (41,982,000); Ontario, 14,600,000 (18,175,000); Manitoba, 3,504,000 (2,835,000); Saskatchewan, 10,823,000 (18,934,000); Alberta, 60,610,000 (53,167,000). (22)

CEMENT INDUSTRY IN 1948

Production of cement in Canada during 1948 exceeded all previous records both in quantity and total value of products, according to the annual report released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. During the year, 14,127,123 barrels valued at \$28,264,987 were sold or used by the producers as compared with 11,939,245 barrels worth \$21,968,909 in 1947, an increase of 18 per cent in quantity and 32 per cent in value.

Eight plants were in operation in 1948, unchanged from the preceding year. The industry employed an average of 1,723 persons who received \$4,356,086 in wages and salaries compared with 1,650 employees whose earnings aggregated \$3,679,446 in 1947. Raw materials, process supplies and containers cost \$5,699,042, and fuel and electricity \$7,158,156. Raw materials used in 1948 included 3,449,947 tons of limestone, 119,821 tons of gypsum, 277,178 tons of clay, 9,182 tons of iron oxide, 47,749 tons of silica sand, and 78,377 tons of shale.

Imports of Portland cement into Canada amounted to 1,120,671 barrels valued at \$3,995,173 in 1948, a decrease of 10 per cent in quantity from the 1,248,625 barrels in the preceding year. Exports amounted to 72,999 barrels valued at \$200,575. The apparent consumption of cement was 15,174,795 barrels during the year.

Shipments by provinces were as follows in 1948, figures for the preceding year being in brackets: Quebec, 6,517,031 (5,453,407) barrels; Ontario, 3,660,756 (3,529,438); Manitoba, 1,697,042 (1,352,107); Alberta, 1,224,313 (737,551); British Columbia, 1,027,981 (863,740). (23)

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PREPARATIONS

The gross value of production, number of employees and salaries and wages paid by the fruit and vegetable preparations industry were at record levels in 1947, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The physical volume of production, however, was slightly lower than the preceding year's all-time high.

The gross value of products turned out in 1947 was \$152,713,000 as compared with \$136,004,000 a year earlier, an advance of 12 per cent, while the cost of materials used was \$89,333,000 compared with \$83,434,000. The number of plants in operation decreased from 513 in 1946 to 502. Average number of employees totalled 17,036 who were paid \$22,199,000 in salaries and wages as compared with 16,373 persons receiving \$19,169,000 in 1946.

Compared with 1946, output of canned fruits increased 40 per cent; pickles and relishes, 36 per cent; jams, jollies and marmalades, 27 per cent; and catsup and sauces, 16 per cent. Soups and canned vegetables fell 23 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively. (24)

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. Price Movements, Preliminary, April (10 cents).
2. Trade of Canada: Domestic Exports, March (10 cents).
3. Cheques Cashed in Clearing Centres, March (10 cents).
4. Annual Report on Cheques Cashed, 1948 (10 cents).
5. Retail Consumer Credit, July, 1945 - December, 1948 (25 cents).
6. Department Store Sales and Inventories, March (10 cents).
7. Advance Statement of Hours of Work and Hourly and Weekly Earnings of Male and Female Wage-Earners and Salaries and Employees Reported by Leading Manufacturers for the Last Week of November, 1947 (10 cents).
8. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, March (10 cents).
9. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, March (10 cents).
10. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
11. Canadian Milling Statistics, March (10 cents).
12. Stocks of Butter, Cheese and Eggs in Nine Cities of Canada, May 1 (10 cents).
13. Fluid Milk Trade, February (10 cents).
14. Population of Newfoundland Classified According to Households and Families for Districts and Selected Centres of Population, 1945 (10 cents).
15. Population of Newfoundland by Religious Denominations and Sex, 1945 (10 cents).
16. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, 1948 (10 cents).
17. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, January (10 cents).
18. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
19. Refined Petroleum Products in Canada, January (20 cents).
20. Production and Domestic Sales of Asphalt Roofing, March (10 cents).
21. Asphalt Floor Tiles, March (10 cents).
22. Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies, February (25 cents).
23. Cement Manufacturing Industry, 1948 (25 cents).
24. Fruit and Vegetable Preparations Industry, 1947 (25 cents).
25. Annual Report on Current Benefit Years Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1947 (25 cents).
26. Dealers' Monthly Report on Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal, February (10 cents).
27. The Boatbuilding Industry, 1947 (10 cents).
28. Carriages, Sleighs and Vehicle Supplies, 1947 (10 cents).
29. Wire and Wire Goods Industry, 1947 (25 cents).
30. Canadian Statistical Review, April (35 cents).
31. Cooking and Heating Apparatus Industry, 1947 (25 cents).
32. Lumber Industry in Nova Scotia, 1947 (10 cents).
33. Lumber Industry in Prince Edward Island and Yukon Territory, 1947 (10 cents).
34. Miscellaneous Non-Metallic Mineral Products Industry, 1947 (10 cents).
35. Boilers, Tanks and Plate Work Industry, 1947 (25 cents).
36. Cement Products Industry, 1947 (25 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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