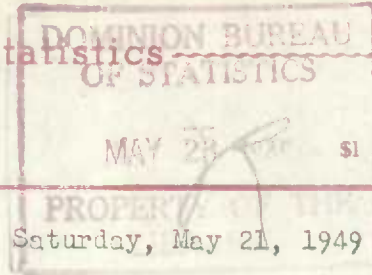


D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADIAN LABOUR INCOME in February is estimated at \$605,000,000, down \$3,000,000 from January, but up \$56,000,000 or 11 per cent from the estimate for February, 1948.

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AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES of hourly-rated personnel employed by leading Canadian manufacturers at March 1 amounted to \$41.83 -- a new high figure -- as compared with \$41.70 at the beginning of February, and \$38.02 a year ago.

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VALUE OF RETAIL SALES in March amounted to \$577,730,000, an increase of six per cent over March last year, and compares with \$493,370,000 in January and \$469,520,000 in February.

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DOLLAR VOLUME OF WHOLESALE SALES gained seven per cent in March over a year earlier, to raise first-quarter totals three per cent above the level of the same 1948 period.

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WHOLESALE PRICES continued to move upward in many countries during the second half of 1948, although peak levels in others appears to have been reached or passed.

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SHIPMENTS OF ASBESTOS from Canadian mines during March declined sharply both in the month and in the first three months of this year, due as a result of the labour dispute.

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PRODUCTION OF COAL IN CANADA was about 23 per cent lower than in the corresponding month last year, all producing provinces sharing in the reduction.

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CANADIAN IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION continued its upward climb during March, new monthly peaks being reached for pig iron and steel ingots.

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STOCKS OF CANADIAN WHEAT IN STORE or in transit in North America at midnight on May 5 amounted to 113,300,000 bushels, down 5,251,000 from the preceding week's total, but 43,884,000 higher than on the corresponding date last year.

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STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER in nine cities of Canada on May 13 amounted to 7,751,000 pounds as compared with 1,652,000 on the corresponding date last year.

VALUE OF RETAIL SALES
HIGHER IN MARCH

Canadians stepped-up their spending in retail stores in March, making purchases to the value of \$577,730,000 or six per cent more than in March last year, according to the monthly estimate by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The total was well ahead of both January and February when the respective figures were \$493,370,000 and \$469,520,000.

Aggregate dollar sales for the first quarter of this year stood at \$1,540,620,000 compared with \$1,482,410,000 in the same period of 1948, a gain of four per cent.

Due to the fact that Easter fell in March in 1948 and in April this year, the full significance of March trading will not be revealed until April sales have been estimated, states the Bureau report. It is expected that after April results are known, the March-April volume will show a substantial gain. Tax reductions announced in the budget address were probable factors in the advance in sales in March.

In March, food stores and department stores, whose combined total represents about one-third of March sales volume, showed considerable increases. Food store sales were up 10 per cent, and department stores were seven per cent higher. On the other hand, country general stores increased only two per cent, and most of this increase occurred in the western provinces.

The apparel group, which usually reacts readily to Easter sales, reflected the absence of Easter shopping this March and sales ranged from a decrease of eight per cent in shoes to a gain of less than one per cent for women's clothing. For the same reason presumably, variety stores had a decrease of six per cent in sales. Milder weather this March can be singled out as the most pertinent factor contributing to a drop of four per cent in the coal and wood trade.

Lumber and building materials showed the largest single gain of 14 per cent among the trade categories reviewed. The prevailing high level of construction largely accounts for the continuing volume increases for lumber and building material retailers. The hardware trade, somewhat allied with construction activity also, but dependent on other types of merchandise as well, showed a lesser gain of two per cent over March, 1948.

A noteworthy recovery occurred in the automotive trades in March. Accompanied by a sharp increase in shipments from factories during the month, motor vehicle dealers' sales rose 11 per cent over March, 1948, reversing the trend followed in the first two months of the year when sales were down 13 per cent from a year ago. Filling station sales were seven per cent higher in March. Jewellery store sales increased 13 per cent over last year.

The Prairie Provinces still showed the largest percentage gain, Alberta leading the Dominion with a sales advance of 22 per cent, followed by Saskatchewan with a rise of 18 per cent, and Manitoba 14 per cent. British Columbia had an eight per cent sales increase, while Quebec and the Maritime Provinces were down slightly from last March. Ontario recorded a moderate gain of five per cent. (1)

WHOLESALE SALES HIGHER IN MARCH Dollar volume of wholesale sales picked up in March over a year ago, after a slow-down in the two previous months, to raise first-quarter totals three per cent above the level of the same 1948 period, according to figures received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 373 wholesalers representing nine lines of trade.

The gain in the month was seven per cent, following a rise of one per cent in February, and a slight decline in January. The general unadjusted index of sales, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 283.4 for March, 245.1 for February, and 264.9 for March last year.

All provinces shared in the rise over March last year, the largest gain of 15 per cent being recorded in the Prairie Provinces. Wholesale sales in Ontario were up eight per cent, the Maritime Provinces three per cent, while Quebec and British Columbia both registered gains of one per cent.

Sales by trades showed a mixture of gains and losses. Fruit and vegetable wholesalers recorded the largest increase of 18 per cent over March last year, bringing the gain for the first quarter of this year to 10 per cent. Counterbalancing the declines in the two previous months, sales of footwear wholesalers rose 15 per cent, while in the cumulative period, sales were down 10 per cent.

Drug wholesalers' sales were 11 per cent above March last year, while automotive equipment, grocery and hardware wholesalers all recorded gains of seven per cent. Sales of tobacco and confectionery wholesalers were up three per cent over March last year. Sales of dry goods wholesalers, down both in January and February, showed a slight gain of one per cent. This brought the sales for the cumulative period nine per cent below 1948. Sales of clothing wholesalers continued below last year by 10 per cent. (2)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES
INCREASED 27 PER CENT

Department store sales advanced 27 per cent during the week ending May 7 over the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Largest gain of 33 per cent was shown in Ontario, followed by Alberta with a rise of 31 per cent, the Maritimes 28 per cent, Manitoba 27 per cent, Quebec 23 per cent, British Columbia 22 per cent, and Saskatchewan 16 per cent.

CANADIAN LABOUR INCOME IN FEBRUARY

Canadian labour income in February is estimated at \$605,000,000, down \$3,000,000 from January, but up \$56,000,000 or 11 per cent from the estimate for February 1948, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Increases in labour income from January to February occurred in manufacturing, transportation, communication and storage, finance and fishing. These increases, however, were overbalanced by decreases in all other industries.

Average weekly earnings for the nine leading non-agricultural industries increased from \$42.77 on February 1 to \$43.05 on March 1. Over the same period, however, employment in these industries showed a decrease which overbalanced the effect of higher average earnings upon labour income. The Dominion cost-of-living index dropped one-fifth of one per cent from 159.5 on February 1 to 159.2 on March 1. (3)

MANUFACTURING INVENTORIES LOWER
IN MARCH; SHIPMENTS HIGHER

There appears to have been a slight fall in total value of inventory held by manufacturing industries during March, the preliminary index on the base 1947 average as 100 standing at 132.1 compared with 133.5 in February. If this figure is substantiated by later returns, it will mean the first drop of more than one point in the index of total inventory since the commencement of the series in January, 1947.

Practically every industry for which figures are available showed increases in shipments during March, largest being in bridge building and structural steel, automobiles and fertilizers, the two latter following regular seasonal patterns.

Inventories in the consumers' goods industries show a fall of less than a point, while in the capital goods industries there was a decline of eight points after rising for two months. In the producers' goods industries the index fell for the second consecutive month, though by less than a point in March. In the construction goods industries, there appears to have been a slight rise, but figures for sawmills, the largest component of this group, are not yet available.

Inventories of non-durable consumers' goods industries fell slightly in value. The food industries, largest component of this group, showed a total drop of 7.5 points, with every industry in the group registering declines. In the semi-durable consumers' goods industries, the textile group showed a six-point rise, leather footwear a six-point fall, and all other industries remained little changed from last month. The total for durable consumers' goods industries rose two points, with small increases in practically every industry in the group.

The decline in inventory values in the capital goods industries was due largely to a fall in the transportation equipment industries. Here inventories are in a somewhat different category than those in other industries, since they reflect almost the entire value of current production up to the point where major deliveries are made. In this group, shipbuilding showed a 16-point fall, and railway rolling stock a nine-point rise. All other capital goods industries dropped two points, largely due to a seasonal decline in the agricultural implements industry.

Largest change in the producers' goods industries was a seasonal fall of 20 points in the coke and gas industry. Value of stock in this industry is well above the March levels for the last two years. The total value of inventory in the iron and steel industries rose very slightly, but, of the two largest industries in the group, primary iron and steel showed a nine-point fall, while sheet metal products rose by 10 points. In the non-ferrous metals group, the brass and copper products industry showed a seven-point rise. In the construction goods industries, stocks of cement began their seasonal decline. (4)

MAN-HOURS AND HOURLY EARNINGS

Average weekly wages of hourly-rated personnel employed by leading Canadian manufacturers at March 1 amounted to \$41.83 -- a new high figure -- as compared with \$41.70 at the beginning of February, and \$38.02 a year ago, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Average hourly earnings also reached a new high of 97.5 cents, a gain of 0.3 cents over the February figure, and a rise of 10.8 per cent over March last year.

There was no general change in the average number of hours worked in manufacturing as a whole during the week of March 1 as compared with the same pay period at the beginning of February, the average standing at 42.9 hours. A year ago the average work-week was 43.2 hours. As compared with February, the working week was shorter in the tobacco, clay, glass and stone, non-metallic mineral processing, iron and steel, rubber and a number of other industries, while there were increases in lumber products, edible plant products, and printing and publishing. (5)

VEHICLE ENTRIES UP
19 PER CENT IN APRIL

Foreign vehicles entering Canada on traveller's vehicle permits in April totalled 83,500, an advance of 19 per cent over the same month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. All provinces shared in the increase except Nova Scotia, the greatest proportionate gain being in the Prairie Provinces where traffic was more than twice as heavy as in April last year. The number of entries during the first four months of this year totalled 198,100, an increase of 12 per cent over the same period in 1948.

Vehicle entries in April were as follows by provinces, totals for the same month last year being in brackets: Ontario, 47,494 (40,477); Quebec, 16,575 (14,124); British Columbia, 11,706 (9,667); New Brunswick, 5,366 (4,468); Alberta, 1,001 (585); Manitoba, 904 (420); Saskatchewan, 416 (119); Yukon Territory, 47 (42); Nova Scotia, 1 (5). (6)

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

	<u>May 12, 1949</u>	<u>May 5, 1949</u>	<u>April 14, 1949</u>
	(1935-39=100)		
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
(106 Common Stocks)	105.7	106.4	107.3
82 Industrials	99.3	100.2	100.8
16 Utilities	114.0	114.1	116.5
8 Banks	132.2	132.3	132.5
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
(30 Stocks)	82.6	84.2	87.0
25 Golds	69.8	70.5	73.1
5 Base Metals	107.0	110.5	113.5

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on May 5 amounted to 113,300,000 bushels, down 5,251,000 from the preceding week's total, but 43,884,000 bushels higher than on the corresponding date last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Farmers in the Prairie Provinces marketed 1,696,000 bushels of wheat during the week as compared with 739,000 in the same week last year. Clearances of wheat for export totalled 4,364,000 bushels compared with 1,664,000 a year ago.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending May 5, totals for the same week last year being in brackets: oats, 1,488,000 (205,000) bushels; barley, 1,100,000 (123,000); rye, 153,000 (4,000); flaxseed, 92,000 (27,000). (7)

CROP CONDITIONS IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES Continued dry weather and high temperatures are causing rapid deterioration of moisture reserves throughout the Prairie Provinces. In large areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta rain is urgently needed to promote germination and is generally needed throughout the west to promote growth. Seeding is well advanced but has been brought to a halt in many areas where drought is severe. Grasshoppers are hatching rapidly in many southern areas and control measures are under way in the most seriously affected districts.

Growth of crops in Manitoba has been very satisfactory to date. Reserve moisture is being rapidly depleted, however, and general rains are greatly needed to improve the crop outlook. Seeding of late crops is being delayed to kill the heavy growth of wild oats. Wheat seeding is completed and about 50 per cent of the coarse grains have been sown.

While about 83 per cent of Saskatchewan's wheat crop is now in the ground, seeding has been brought to a halt in many areas in the south, southwest and northeast of the province, where the moisture deficiency is particularly severe. In some of these districts only 60 to 75 per cent of the intended wheat crop is in. About half of the province's coarse grain acreage is seeded. Temperatures have averaged 10 degrees above normal during the past week and rain is urgently needed, particularly throughout the western half of the province. Some 30 per cent of the wheat crop in the province as a whole is showing green, but only about 12 per cent of the seeded crop is above ground in the dry sections. Grasshoppers are hatching in large numbers in many areas and control measures are already in operation between Moose Jaw and Saskatoon.

Alberta suffered from warm, dry, windy weather during the past week. A general rain is needed badly throughout the province to promote germination. Moisture supplies are fair to good on summerfallow fields, while stubble seeded fields are dry. Sub-soil moisture in most of the province is being rapidly depleted. Wheat seeding is general throughout the province, being between 90 and 100 per cent completed in most areas. Sowing of coarse grain is about 75 per cent completed in the southern part of the province. Range grasses are suffering from lack of moisture and grasshoppers are starting to invade this section. In the central and northern part of the province coarse grains are about 35 per cent seeded. Forage crops are not good and rain is required to bring crops along and to stop some scattered wind erosion on summerfallow fields in this area. Conditions in the Peace River area are still good and seeding of all crops is general. (8)

STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER
IN NINE CITIES OF CANADA

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on May 13 amounted to 7,751,000 pounds as compared with 1,652,000 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Increased holdings were recorded for each of the nine cities.

Stocks on May 13 were as follows by cities, totals for the comparable date last year being in brackets (thousands omitted): Quebec, 386 (113) pounds; Montreal, 2,757 (304); Toronto, 2,547 (242); Winnipeg, 792 (336); Regina, 96 (69); Saskatoon, 169 (115); Edmonton, 268 (210); Calgary, 158 (113); Vancouver, 578 (150).

STOCKS OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES ON MAY 1

Stocks of fruit, frozen and in preservatives, on May 1 were lower than on April 1, but higher than a year ago, while the stocks of vegetables, frozen and in brine, were down in both comparisons. Holdings of fruit amounted to 30,522,000 pounds as compared with 33,075,000 on April 1 and 25,964,000 on May 1 last year, and vegetables 6,751,000 pounds compared with 8,300,000 on April 1 and 7,981,000 a year ago.

Storage stocks of Canadian vegetables on May 1 were all increased over a year ago with the exception of cabbages. Potatoes were up from 104,283 tons to 133,256, onions from 469 tons to 4,504, beets from 93 tons to 373, carrots from 427 tons to 2,074, parsnips from 71 tons to 217, celery from nil to 2,014 crates, while cabbages decreased from 150 to 123 tons.

There were 20 tons of imported potatoes on May 1 as compared with nil last year. Imported onions totalled 855 tons compared with 862; imported carrots 97 tons (267); cabbages, 361 tons (301); and celery, 15,224 crates (nil). (9)

STOCKS OF FISH ON MAY 1

Cold storage holdings of fish on May 1 amounted to 22,173,000 pounds, down from the April 1 figure of 25,033,000 pounds, but up from the 19,658,000 pounds held on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks on the latest date comprised 19,912,000 pounds frozen fresh and 2,261,000 pounds frozen smoked.

There were increases over a year ago in the stocks of sea herring and inland fish, but holdings of cod, haddock, salmon and other sea fish were lower. Totals follow by kinds, those for May 1 last year being in brackets: cod, 3,926,000 (3,962,000) pounds; haddock, 952,000 (1,194,000); salmon, 2,975,000 (3,574,000); sea herring, 4,609,000 (4,597,000); other sea fish, 2,309,000 (4,224,000); and inland fish, 6,507,000 (2,107,000). (10)

STOCKS OF RAW AND REFINED SUGAR

Refinery stocks of raw sugar were slightly lower on April 23 than on the same date last year, but the stocks of refined sugar were sharply higher.

Raw sugar stocks fell to 83,905,000 pounds from 89,932,000 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Stocks of refined sugar were up from 120,325,000 pounds to 238,365,000.

During the four weeks ending April 23rd, 81,528,000 pounds of refined sugar were manufactured compared with 57,364,000 in the same period of 1948. Receipts of raw sugar during the period were 93,118,000 pounds compared with 89,599,000, and meltings and sales were 85,150,000 pounds compared with 58,825,000. (11)

STOCKS OF HIDES AND SKINS AND PRODUCTION OF FINISHED LEATHER

Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers at the end of March amounted to 456,000, an increase of one per cent as compared with the preceding month's figure of 449,000, but down 33 per cent from last year's corresponding total of 677,000. Stocks of calf and kip skins fell from 705,000 a year ago to 489,000, goat and kid skins from 196,000 to 99,000, horse hides from 60,000 to 39,000, and sheep and lamb skins from 61,400 dozen to 61,100.

Production of cattle sole leather in March totalled 1,817,000 pounds as compared with 2,324,000 in the same month last year, cattle upper leather 3,643,000 square feet compared with 2,932,000, and glove and garment leather 522,000 square feet compared with 391,000. Production of calf and kip skin upper leather totalled 1,041,000 square feet compared with 1,384,000 a year earlier. (12)

BEER PRODUCTION
ROSE SHARPLY IN MARCH

Gross output of beer in Canada rose sharply in March over February and was substantially above March 1948, while production of spirits increased over February but was below the quantity produced in March last year. Output of both during the first three months this year was under the corresponding period of 1948.

According to figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, beer production in March amounted to 570,100 barrels (of 25 gallons) compared with 390,700 in February and 519,200 barrels a year ago. Cumulative total for the January-March period was 1,400,900 barrels this year as against 1,490,300 barrels last year.

March production of new spirits was 2,090,000 proof gallons as against 1,910,000 in February and 2,530,000 proof gallons in March last year. Aggregate production for the first three months dropped to 5,960,000 gallons compared with 7,390,000 in 1948. Spirits bottled rose to 720,000 proof gallons against 670,000 gallons both in February and March last year, and during the first quarter amounted to 2,100,000 compared with 2,160,000 gallons.

Stocks of distilled liquor at the end of March advanced to 72,360,000 gallons compared with 71,540,000 gallons a month earlier and 66,580,000 gallons a year earlier.

TOBACCO RELEASES IN MARCH

Cigarettes released for consumption increased sharply in March to 1,401 million as compared with 1,183 million in February and 1,189 in March last year. Cumulative total of releases for the first three months this year was 3,846 million as against 3,789 million in the first quarter of 1948.

Releases of cigars during March moved up to 18.5 million from 17.7 million in February but were below last year's March releases of 19.1 million. Total for the quarter declined to 53.7 million compared with 56.4 million last year.

Cut tobacco released in the month amounted to 2,116,000 pounds compared with 1,987,000 in the previous month and 2,119,000 pounds in the corresponding month last year, and for the quarter totalled 6,140,000 against 5,941,000 pounds. Plug tobacco fell off in March to 184,000 pounds from 192,000 in February and 202,000 pounds a year earlier, and for the quarter was down to 569,000 pounds from 604,000 pounds last year.

Snuff rose in the month to 77,000 pounds from 68,000 in the preceding month, but was below last year's March quantity of 83,000 pounds, while in the three months the quantity released totalled 232,000 compared with 236,000 pounds in 1948.

TOBACCO ACREAGE UP SEVEN
PER CENT THIS YEAR

Acres planted to tobacco in Canada this year is estimated to be seven per cent greater than in 1948, amounting to 117,930 acres as compared with 110,590, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Early reports indicate that the acreage planted to flue-cured tobacco in Ontario this year may exceed last year's harvested area by 10,800 acres. A reduction of approximately 2,000 acres in the acreage allotted to cigar tobacco in Ontario and Quebec is anticipated. The 1949 acreage of dark tobacco, all of which is produced in Ontario is placed at 1,300 acres, down about 25 per cent from 1948.

Recent data based on company purchases indicate that the 1948 tobacco crop amounted to 126,629,000 pounds valued at \$50,272,000. This was made up of 102,442,000 pounds of flue-cured tobacco valued at \$43,546,000; 12,841,000 pounds of burley valued at \$3,917,000; 1,944,000 pounds of dark valued at \$493,000; 8,402,000 pounds of cigar valued at \$2,114,000; and 1,000,000 pounds of pipe valued at \$202,000. (13)

WORLD WHOLESALE PRICES Wholesale prices continued to move upward in many countries during the second half of 1948, although peak levels in others appears to have been reached or passed, according to the semi-annual report on world price movements by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Buyer's markets were developing in some of the major cereal products, and supply conditions eased also in a few other commodities such as rubber, tea, coffee and spices, towards the end of the year. Currency difficulties continued to have an adverse effect upon demand for commodities important in international trade.

Declines in cost-of-living series ranging from 0.2 per cent to 1.3 per cent were shown by the United States, the United Kingdom, Czechoslovakia and Norway. The United States index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics recorded a decrease in October, and continued downward, showing a net decline for the six months of 0.2 per cent. In the United Kingdom, the cost-of-living index showed a drop for July. Part of the loss was regained later, but the December level was 0.9 per cent below the June peak.

Cost-of-living advances for other countries, in many instances, were at less than half the rate shown for the second half of 1947. Increases, with a few exceptions, ranged within the limits of one per cent and four per cent. The Netherlands index of living costs in six municipalities recorded a net gain of 3.4 per cent between June and December; a rise of four per cent in November and December, followed the announcement of a 40 per cent cut in food subsidies.

The United States Bureau of Labor general wholesale index touched a post-war peak of 169.5 for August, but receded to 162.3 for December, to show a net decrease from June to December of 2.3 per cent. The Board of Trade wholesale price index for the United Kingdom averaged 0.6 per cent lower in December than in June, although still 8.5 per cent above December, 1947. The Canadian wholesale price index reached 159.7 for November, the highest level since August, 1920. This appeared to mark a turning point. The wholesale price index for Australia advanced seven per cent between June and December.

In France, the rate of increase in wholesale price levels was reduced to less than half that of the first six months of 1948. The rise of 16.6 per cent, while still high, compared with 38.9 per cent for the preceding six months, and 34.6 per cent for the second half of 1947. The index of wholesale prices in Italy was 10.8 per cent higher in December than in June. This was a reversal of the trend in the first half of the year, when a decline of 6.9 per cent occurred. Efforts of the Chinese Nationalist Government to stabilize the Yuan have not halted sharp price increases, and the index of wholesale prices for Shanghai, on the base August 19, 1948=100, stood at 3,585.7 for December. (14)

PRODUCTION AND SALE OF RIGID INSULATING BOARD Production of rigid insulating board in April showed a slight decline from the preceding month, but was higher than a year ago. A similar trend was shown in domestic sales. During the first four months of this year, output and sales both recorded sharp gains.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, production during the month amounted to 22,481,563 square feet as compared with 22,973,519 in March and 17,958,958 in the corresponding month last year. In the cumulative period, output rose to 85,742,018 square feet as against 67,960,324 in the similar period last year.

Domestic sales in April totalled 19,939,731 square feet compared with 21,705,501 in March and 14,842,110 a year ago, bringing sales for the four-month period to 81,004,746 square feet against 57,563,166 in the like 1948 period. (15)

COAL PRODUCTION DOWN SHARPLY IN APRIL; UP IN FOUR-MONTH PERIOD

Reversing the upward trend of previous months, production of coal in Canada in April was about 23 per cent lower than in the corresponding month last year, all producing provinces sharing in the reduction. Despite the decline in the month, output for the four months ending April rose 11 per cent over the similar period of 1948. Imports were up 94 per cent in the month, but down two per cent in the cumulative period.

Preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics place the all-Canada output at 1,236,600 tons in April as compared with 1,605,266 a year earlier. During the four-month period, production rose to 6,438,600 tons as against 5,815,437 in the same period last year. Imports during the month totalled 2,008,505 tons as compared with 1,035,388 in April, 1948, bringing the total imports for the year-to-date to 4,377,860 tons against 4,445,945 in 1948.

Mines in Alberta produced 519,900 tons in the month as compared with 697,081 a year earlier. Total for Nova Scotia was 464,200 tons compared with 607,169, British Columbia and Yukon 150,000 (161,036), Saskatchewan 71,500 (104,617), and New Brunswick 31,000 (35,363). (16)

SALES OF MANUFACTURED AND NATURAL GAS UP IN MARCH

Sales of manufactured and natural gas by distributing companies were at higher levels than last year both in March and in the first three months of this year, according to figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Manufactured gas sold in March amounted to 2,384,208 M cubic feet as compared with 2,350,426 in the same month last year. In the cumulative period, 7,406,063 M cubic feet were sold as against 7,294,115 in the similar period a year earlier.

The month's sales of natural gas totalled 5,614,141 M cubic feet compared with 5,339,659 a year ago, bringing the total for the first quarter of this year to 18,432,677 M cubic feet as against 15,847,285 in the same months last year. (17)

ASBESTOS SHIPMENTS DOWN IN MARCH

With production reduced as a result of the labour dispute, shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines during March declined sharply both in the month and in the first three months of this year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

In March, shipments totalled 11,770 tons as compared with 62,524 in the same month last year, bringing total shipments for the cumulative period to 86,790 tons as compared with 159,284 in the similar period of 1948. Exports in the month totalled 12,357 tons compared with 57,463 in March, 1948. During the first quarter, 89,017 tons were exported as against 149,831 in the like period a year earlier. (18)

PRIMARY IRON AND STEEL IN FEBRUARY

Shipments of primary shapes by Canadian steel mills, exclusive of producers' interchange, totalled 216,862 net tons in February compared with 233,548 net tons in January. The February total included 10,507 tons of semi-finished shapes, 10,879 tons of structurals, 18,084 tons of plates, 26,697 tons of rails, 7,307 tons of tie plates and track material, 46,186 tons of hot rolled bars, 14,932 tons of pipes and tubes, 26,930 tons of wire rods, 17,920 tons of black sheets, 8,038 tons of galvanized sheets, 9,656 tons of castings, 3,837 tons of miscellaneous hot rolled products, and 15,889 tons of all other products. The amount of producers' interchange was 76,465 tons in February, and 89,761 tons in January. (19)

PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON AND STEEL
INGOTS AT HIGH LEVEL IN MARCH

ingots.

Canadian iron and steel production continued its upward climb during March, new monthly peaks being reached for pig iron and steel

Pig iron output for the month amounted to 202,130 tons, sharply above last year's output of 172,675 tons, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Cumulative output for the first three months of this year was 557,928 tons, an increase of 74,088 tons over the comparable production of 483,840 tons in 1948. Ferro-alloy output in March also registered a sharp gain, totalling 22,457 tons as against 14,293 a year earlier, making the three-month production 66,101 tons compared with 43,241 tons for January-March last year.

Combined output of steel ingots and castings in March rose to a high level, aggregating 298,461 tons as compared with 286,026 tons last year. Production for the three months totalled 842,439 tons against 782,398 tons last year. Steel ingot output was recorded at 287,885 tons compared with 275,349 a year earlier, and for the three months 812,881 tons compared with 753,300. Steel castings in March fell to 10,576 tons from 10,677 tons last year, while the cumulative output for the first quarter increased to 29,558 tons from 29,098 tons a year ago. (20)

RADIO SALES IN FEBRUARY

Producers' sales of radio receiving sets in February increased 23.5 per cent over the corresponding month last year, while in the two months ending February, sales were up 13.6 per cent. The value of units sold in February was up three per cent, but in the cumulative period there was a decline of 4.5 per cent. In both periods increased value of sales were recorded in all provinces with the exception of Manitoba and British Columbia.

Sales in February totalled 44,268 units with a value of \$3,328,642 compared with 35,833 units sold for \$3,230,740 a year earlier. In the two months, 85,062 units were sold for \$6,636,912 compared with 74,879 for \$6,950,842 a year ago.

Provincial totals for the month were as follows, those for February last year being in brackets: Maritimes, 3,813 (2,408) units; Quebec, 8,434 (7,285); Ontario, 24,049 (16,265); Manitoba, 1,883 (2,378); Saskatchewan, 1,812 (1,506); Alberta, 2,564 (1,821); British Columbia, 1,713 (4,170). (21)

SALES OF STORAGE BATTERIES AND PARTS

There was a slight rise in the value of sales of electric storage batteries and parts by principal Canadian producers in March, the month's total standing at \$1,076,000 compared with \$1,073,000 in the same month last year. During the first three months of this year, sales aggregated \$4,163,000 as against \$3,487,000 in the similar period last year, an increase of 19 per cent.

Sales in the first quarter included 330,836 batteries valued at \$3,313,238 for the starting and ignition of internal combustion engines, 4,029 cells at \$171,865 for railway services, 8,764 cells at \$75,562 for farm lighting plants, and batteries valued at \$435,621 for other purposes. (22)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS Carloadings on Canadian railways for the week ended May 7 totalled 74,354 cars, an increase of 256 cars over the previous week, but 984 cars or 1.3 per cent down from the corresponding week last year. This brought the cumulative total to 1,303,261 cars as against 1,325,750 cars in the same period of 1948, and 1,273,243 cars in 1947. (23)

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. Retail Trade, March (10 cents).
2. Wholesale Trade, March (10 cents).
3. Estimates of Canadian Labour Income, February (10 cents).
4. Inventories and Shipments by Manufacturing Industries, March (25 cents).
5. Man-Hours and Hourly Earnings, March (10 cents).
6. Volume of Highway Traffic Entering Canada on Traveller's Vehicle Permits, April (10 cents).
7. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
8. Telegraphic Crop Report, Prairie Provinces (10 cents).
9. Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, May 1 (10 cents).
10. Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, May 1 (10 cents).
11. The Sugar Situation in Canada, March 26 to April 23 (10 cents).
12. Statistics of Hides, Skins and Leather, March (10 cents).
13. Tobacco Crop Report (10 cents).
14. World Price Movements, July-December, 1948 (25 cents).
15. Rigid Insulating Board Industry, April (10 cents).
16. Coal Production in Canada, April (10 cents).
17. Sales of Manufactured and Natural Gas, March (10 cents).
18. Asbestos, March (10 cents).
19. Primary Iron and Steel, February (10 cents).
20. Production of Iron and Steel, March (10 cents).
21. Radio Receiving Sets, February (10 cents).
22. Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, March (10 cents).
23. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
24. Current Trends in Food Distribution, March (10 cents).
25. Shipments and Inventories of Prepared Stock and Poultry Feeds, February (10 cents).
26. Railway Revenue Freight Loadings, April (10 cents).
27. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, February (10 cents).
28. Sales of Paints, Varnishes and Lacquers, March (10 cents).
29. Cement, March (10 cents).
30. Salt, March (10 cents).
31. Census of Fisheries, by District, Newfoundland, 1945 (10 cents).
32. Advance Report on Textile Industries of Canada, 1946 (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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