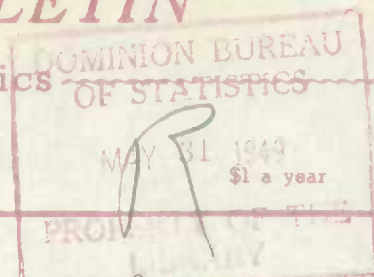




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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADA'S TOTAL FOREIGN TRADE in March was valued at \$454,900,000, showing an increase of 6.3 per cent over the corresponding month last year.

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CANADA HAD A DEBIT BALANCE ON HER FOREIGN TRADE of \$16,900,000 in March -- the first since April last year -- as compared with a favourable balance of \$33,900,000 in March, 1948.

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IMPORTS ENTERED FOR CONSUMPTION were valued at \$235,900,000 in March compared with \$197,100,000 in the corresponding month last year.

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EMPLOYMENT IN CANADA'S MAJOR INDUSTRIAL DIVISIONS at the beginning of April was down from the March level, but higher than a year ago.

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OUTPUT OF STEEL INGOTS IN APRIL was lower than the record monthly tonnage produced in March, but higher than in the corresponding month last year.

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DEPARTMENT STORE SALES IN APRIL were up 15 per cent over the same month last year, with all provinces sharing in the advance.

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NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS COMPLETED IN CANADA in the first three months of this year is estimated at 17,800, up 6,300 over the same period of 1948. First-quarter starts rose from 6,700 to 8,400.

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DOMESTIC ELECTRIC REFRIGERATORS AND DOMESTIC WASHING MACHINES were turned out in record numbers in March.

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FREIGHT PASSING THROUGH CANADIAN CANALS reached near-record tonnages in 1948.

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CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS for the week ended May 14 amounted to 74,100 cars compared with 77,500 in the corresponding month last year.

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CANADIAN PRODUCTION OF WHEAT FLOUR in April showed a decline of 19 per cent from the same month last year.

CANADA'S FOREIGN TRADE IN MARCH

Canada's total foreign trade in March was valued at \$454,900,000, showing an increase of 6.3 per cent over the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Aggregate value for the first quarter of this year was up to \$1,330,900,000 from \$1,265,600,000 in the same period of 1948, or by five per cent.

The rise in the value of total foreign trade both for the month and quarter was due to an increase in the value of imports, domestic exports being slightly lower in both periods. In the month the value of imports rose 20 per cent and in the quarter by 13.7 per cent. Domestic exports were down five per cent in the month and two per cent in the quarter.

As a result of the rise in the value of imports and the decline in the value of domestic exports, Canada had a debit balance on her foreign trade of \$16,900,000 in March -- the first since April last year -- as compared with a favourable balance of \$33,900,000 in March, 1948. In the first quarter of this year there was a small overall debit balance of \$600,000 as compared with a favourable balance of \$95,000,000 in the same period of 1948.

The debit balance on the month's trade with the United States was \$44,900,000 as compared with \$24,200,000 in the corresponding month last year, raising the three-month total to \$132,800,000 from \$107,900,000 in the same period of 1948. The credit balance with the United Kingdom in the month was down to \$11,300,000 from \$37,700,000 in the same month last year, and in the first quarter to \$63,200,000 from \$115,000,000.

Imports for consumption from all countries in March were valued at \$235,900,000 as compared with \$197,100,000 in the same month last year, and in the first three months at \$665,700,000 compared with \$585,300,000. March total for domestic exports was \$216,800,000 compared with \$228,400,000, and in the first quarter, \$658,800,000 compared with \$672,000,000.

Foreign commodities were re-exported in March to the value of \$2,200,000 as compared with \$2,500,000 a year ago, and in the first quarter to \$6,300,000 compared with \$8,300,000. (1)

MARCH IMPORT TRADE HIGHER
WITH GAINS WIDESPREAD

Showing gains in total purchases from both Commonwealth and foreign countries and increases in seven of the nine main commodity classifications, Canada's imports for consumption during March advanced in value to \$235,900,000 as compared with \$197,100,000 in March last year, bringing the cumulative value for the first quarter of the year to \$665,700,000 as against \$585,300,000 in 1948.

Imports from Commonwealth countries in the month totalled \$43,900,000 compared with \$32,500,000 a year ago, and in the three months rose to \$115,300,000 as against \$92,600,000. Total from foreign countries rose to \$192,000,000 in the month from \$164,500,000 in 1948, and in the quarter to \$550,400,000 from \$492,700,000.

Purchases from the United Kingdom during March continued the upward trend of the two previous months this year, being valued at \$28,343,000 as against \$22,918,000 in February and \$21,601,000 in March last year. Total imports for the first quarter of the year were up to \$76,666,000 compared with \$61,062,000 a year ago.

Imports from the United States in March rose in value to \$168,952,000 compared with \$138,299,000 a year earlier, making the cumulative total for the first quarter \$482,570,000 as against \$425,122,000 last year.

As in January and February, imports from the Latin American countries as a whole declined, falling to \$13,981,000 compared with \$19,136,000 in March, 1948, the total value for the first three months being down to \$41,853,000 compared with \$48,764,000. March purchases were sharply lower from Argentina, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Mexico, while those from Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela showed substantial gains. Imports from Venezuela, highest in value, amounted to \$7,635,000 in the month as against \$6,000,000 a year ago, and in the quarter to \$20,811,000 compared with \$16,750,000.

Imports from Europe continued in March the moderate gains of recent months, totalling \$7,541,000 as against \$4,051,000 in 1948, and aggregating \$20,105,000 for the three months compared with \$10,814,000 last year.

Among Commonwealth countries, imports from Australia increased to \$1,734,000 in March from \$1,213,000 last year, and in the three months to \$5,014,000 compared with \$2,476,000. From New Zealand, purchases in March rose to \$2,000,000 compared with a low \$60,000 a year earlier and for the quarter totalled \$2,168,000 compared with \$2,014,000. Purchases from British Malaya moved up in March to \$2,692,000 as against \$2,150,000, and in the quarter to \$7,834,000 compared with \$4,380,000. On the other hand, imports from India declined to \$2,252,000 in the month compared with \$2,827,000 and in the quarter to \$6,360,000 compared with \$8,073,000.

Imports from Newfoundland in March -- the last month for which the figures will be recorded -- were valued at \$313,000 compared with \$272,000 last year, and in the quarter at \$918,000 compared with \$1,872,000. Purchases from the British West Indies as a whole were higher than last year both in the month and the first three months this year, larger gains being in imports from Barbados, Jamaica and British Guiana.

Iron and iron products showed the largest increase among the commodity groups with a rise in value to \$85,700,000 compared with \$60,900,000 in March last year, making a total for the three months of \$228,600,000 as against \$187,500,000. Imports of rolling-mill products gained sharply during the month to \$11,116,000 from \$6,957,000 last year, farm implements and machinery rose to \$17,230,000 from \$10,548,000, and automobile parts to \$11,222,000 from \$7,949,000. Gains were also shown in castings and forgings, pipes, tubes and fittings, mining and metallurgical machinery, automobiles and engines and boilers, while household machinery was lower.

The fibres and textiles group advanced in the month to \$33,200,000 compared with \$28,500,000, bringing the first-quarter total to \$98,500,000 against \$82,200,000. Raw cotton, cotton products, wool products and artificial silk and products were higher both in the month and the quarter, accounting for most of the increase in each period.

Imports of agricultural and vegetable products rose in March to \$28,200,000 compared with \$24,000,000 a year earlier, most of the main items being higher and the larger gains in fruits, vegetables, cocoa, tea and alcoholic beverages. Three-month total was \$79,238,000 compared with \$71,173,000 in 1948. Animals and animal products, on the other hand, declined to \$6,400,000 in the month compared with \$7,400,000, due chiefly to a sharp drop in animal oils, fats and greases; but the first quarter total was slightly above last year at \$22,600,000 against \$22,500,000.

The non-ferrous metals group increased in the month to \$15,500,000 compared with \$12,500,000 a year ago, and in the quarter to \$42,600,000 compared with \$34,000,000. Imports of non-metallic minerals and products were almost unchanged in March from a year ago, at \$37,200,000 compared with \$37,400,000, but for the three months were slightly lower at \$111,100,000 compared with \$113,700,000. Chemicals and allied products gained slightly in the month to \$10,500,000 against \$10,300,000, and for the quarter totalled \$31,000,000 compared with \$28,400,000. The wood and paper group moved similarly with a March value of \$7,300,000 compared with \$6,300,000, and a quarter value of \$19,900,000 compared with \$17,600,000. The miscellaneous group, due chiefly to increased imports of scientific equipment, and aircraft and parts, and higher tourist purchases, rose to \$12,100,000 in March from \$9,900,000 last year, and to \$32,200,000 in the quarter from \$28,300,000. (2)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES
UP 15 PER CENT IN APRIL

Department store sales in Canada in April were up 15 per cent over the same month last year, with all provinces sharing in the advance. Increased sales were recorded for all departments except food and piece goods.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics the month's sales were valued at \$74,969,000 as compared with \$65,018,000 a year earlier. Easter fell in March last year and in April this year, sales in the two-month period aggregating \$144,094,000 as compared with \$129,504,000 for the same period last year, a rise of 11 per cent.

Department store sales advanced seven per cent during the week ending May 14 over the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures. Largest gain of 11 per cent was shown in the Maritime Provinces, followed by Ontario and Alberta each with a rise of eight per cent, British Columbia six per cent, Quebec five per cent, Manitoba four per cent, and Saskatchewan three per cent.

Figures for the month show that sales of women's and children's apparel departments advanced 31 per cent over April last year; shoes and other footwear, 26.8 per cent; stationery, books and magazines, 15.1 per cent; household appliances and electrical supplies, 8.0 per cent; hardware and kitchen utensils, 6.3 per cent; radios, musical instruments and supplies, 5.8 per cent. Sales of food and kindred products were down 4.2 per cent; and piece goods, 2.2 per cent.

Sales were as follows by provinces, totals for the same month last year being in brackets (in thousands): Maritime Provinces, \$5,964 (\$4,953); Quebec, \$12,181 (\$11,024); Ontario, \$27,535 (\$24,346); Manitoba, \$10,963 (\$9,136); Saskatchewan, \$4,297 (\$3,491); Alberta, \$4,872 (\$3,348); British Columbia, \$9,157 (\$8,220). (3)

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES
LOWER IN MARCH

In contrast to the decrease in the first two months of this year, registrations of births, deaths and marriages in Canada moved higher in March, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Births increased to 29,401 from 27,233 a year ago, marriages to 5,341 from 4,982, and deaths to 11,123 from 10,154.

Totals for the first quarter of this year were lower than in the like period of 1948. Birth registrations fell to 77,484 from 79,068 in the same period of 1948, marriages to 15,475 from 16,267, and deaths to 28,780 from 31,361. (4)

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLLS AT APRIL 1 Employment in Canada's major industrial divisions at the beginning of April was down from the March level, but higher than a year ago. Aggregate payrolls were slightly lower than at March 1, but 12 per cent above last year, while average weekly earnings were up slightly from March 1 and 11 per cent above April 1 last year.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the advance index of employment in the eight leading industries, on the base 1926=100, was 187.6 on April 1 this year as compared with 188.8 at March 1, and 186.6 at April 1, 1948. Average weekly earnings amounted to \$43.31 compared with \$43.27 a month earlier, and \$39.03 a year ago.

Heightened industrial employment as compared with a month earlier was reported in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Improvement in the weather was mainly responsible for a considerable increase in employment in British Columbia, where the situation a month earlier had been seriously affected by shortage of power and other conditions associated with unfavourable weather conditions.

The trend in employment was downward in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba; seasonal curtailment in logging operations was the most important factor in the reductions in the first three of those provinces. The moderate losses in Manitoba were largely brought about by industrial disputes, together with a shrinkage in employment in transportation.

In manufacturing, the advance index of employment, at 203.1, was insignificantly higher than the March 1 figure of 203.0, and slightly exceeded the index of 202.0 recorded at April 1, 1948. Weekly disbursements of the larger factories in salaries and wages rose by 0.2 per cent in the month, and by 13 per cent as compared with a year ago, when the earnings had been affected by the Easter holidays. The advance figure of per capita weekly earnings in manufacturing stood at \$44.49 -- a new high -- as compared with \$44.39 at March 1, and \$39.60 at April 1, 1948. (5)

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

	<u>May 19, 1949</u>	<u>May 12, 1949</u>	<u>April 21, 1949</u>
	(1935-39-100)		
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
(106 Common Stocks)	105.8	105.7	106.2
82 Industrials	99.3	99.3	99.5
16 Utilities	114.2	114.0	115.7
8 Banks	133.3	132.2	132.7
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
(30 Stocks)	82.7	82.6	86.0
25 Golds	69.0	69.8	72.6
5 Base Metals	109.1	107.0	111.4

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on May 12 amounted to 105,945,000 bushels, down 7,355,000 from the preceding week's total, but 41,342,000 higher than on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Farmers in the Prairie Provinces marketed 1,605,000 bushels of wheat during the week as compared with 1,224,000 in the same week last year. Clearances of wheat for export totalled 6,691,000 bushels as compared with 4,136,000 a year ago.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending May 12, totals for the same week last year being in brackets: oats, 1,049,000 (316,000) bushels; barley, 1,285,000 (204,000); rye, 132,000 (8,000); flaxseed, 69,000 (45,000). (6)

WHEAT FLOUR OUTPUT
LOWER IN APRIL

Canadian production of wheat flour in April showed a decline of 19 per cent from the same month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's output amounted to 1,587,000 barrels as compared with 1,952,500. This brought the cumulative total for the nine months ending April to 15,650,900 barrels as against 18,729,900 in the similar period last year, a decrease of 18 per cent.

Wheat flour exports dropped to 871,300 barrels in April from 1,285,100 in the corresponding month last year, bringing total exports for the nine months to 8,323,200 barrels against 10,763,900 in the preceding crop year.

Wheat used in the manufacture of flour in April amounted to 7,027,900 bushels compared with 8,910,200 in the same month a year ago, while the total processed in the nine-month period was 69,905,600 bushels compared with 84,950,200 a year earlier. (7)

BUTTER POSITION

Domestic disappearance of butter, including dairy and whey butter in March amounted to 23,500,000 pounds, a decline of 3,250,000 pounds or 12.5 per cent from the same month last year. On a per capita basis the domestic disappearance amounted to 1.80 pounds as against 2.08 a year ago.

The combined output of creamery, dairy and whey butter amounted to 17,500,000 pounds, of which 5,500,000 pounds was dairy butter. The former represented an increase of approximately 1,250,000 pounds or seven per cent.

Stocks of butter on March 1, including creamery, dairy and whey, amounted to approximately 19,000,000 pounds, the same as that recorded at the same date in 1948. On April 1, the holdings totalled 13,000,000 pounds compared with 8,500,000 a year ago.

Supplies of butter, represented by the addition of stocks at the beginning of the month and production during the month amounted to approximately 36,500,000 pounds as compared with 35,250,000 a year ago. (8)

EGG PRODUCTION DOWN IN APRIL

Net farm production of eggs in Canada during April declined to 36,496,000 dozen from 38,264,000 dozen in the same month last year. In addition there were 3,262,000 dozen eggs laid elsewhere than on farms. Gross production per layer was 17.01 eggs compared with 16.84 a year ago.

In the cumulative period, January-April, net production of eggs totalled 135,475,000 dozen against 152,714,000 last year, a decline of 11 per cent. Of this year's aggregate, 124,087,000 dozen were produced on farms. (9)

DWELLING UNITS COMPLETED IN FIRST QUARTER
CONTINUE GAINS OVER LAST YEAR

The number of dwelling units completed in Canada in the first three months of 1949 is estimated at 17,800, up 6,300 or 54 per cent over the same period of 1948. The increase is attributed to the unusually higher carryover at the beginning of 1949. In spite of the greatly increased completions, the amount of work in progress remains high, according to the monthly report by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. First-quarter starts rose 26 per cent or from 6,700 a year ago to 8,400, and the number under construction was reduced from only 56,500 at January 1 to 46,900 at March 1, the latter figure comparing with 37,500 at the end of March last year.

In March, 6,400 units were completed compared with 4,100 in the corresponding month last year, while starts were made on 3,600 units compared with 3,100 a year earlier. The average length of time required to build the dwelling units completed in March was 7.9 months, the highest for any month since the beginning of 1948. In the fall of 1948, the emphasis was upon getting dwelling units started and closed in, the interior finishing being postponed until the winter months.

Number of dwelling units completed in the first quarter of 1949 by regions, with figures for the same period of 1948 in brackets, were: Maritime Provinces, 1,160 (496); Quebec, 4,604 (2,887); Ontario, 6,396 (4,098); Prairie Provinces, 2,897 (1,899); British Columbia, 2,769 (2,189). March completions: Maritimes, 477 (158); Quebec, 1,854 (1,525); Ontario, 2,066 (1,113); Prairie Provinces, 1,248 (613); British Columbia, 731 (646). (10)

CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION OF RUBBER

Consumption of rubber showed a moderate gain of six per cent in March, total for the month standing at 14,554,000 pounds as compared with 13,725,000 in the preceding month. Natural rubber consumption rose to 8,109,000 pounds from 7,608,000, reclaim to 2,529,000 pounds from 2,319,000, and synthetic to 3,916,000 pounds from 3,798,000.

In terms of end-product use, the consumption of rubber in the production of tires and tubes, including tire repair material increased by 442,000 pounds, consumption in rubber footwear rose 37,000 pounds, and in other products up by 351,000 pounds. In the production of wire and cable, consumption decreased by 2,000 pounds.

Domestic production of synthetic rubber was higher in March, amounting to 9,289,000 pounds as compared with 8,494,000 in February, and reclaim advanced to 670,000 pounds from 605,000.

Month-end stocks of natural rubber declined to 15,752,000 pounds from the February total of 17,277,000, synthetic fell to 8,989,000 pounds from 10,107,000, and reclaim was down to 3,805,000 pounds from 4,146,000. (11)

OUTPUT OF STEEL INGOTS IN APRIL Output of steel ingots in April was lower than the record monthly tonnage produced in March but higher than in the corresponding month last year. Reflecting the growth in output over last year, cumulative figures for the first four months rose 6.4 per cent over the same period of 1948.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the month's output of steel ingots amounted to 260,300 tons compared with 287,900 in March and 254,300 in April last year. Production in the first four months of this year totalled 1,073,200 tons compared with 1,007,600 in the like period of 1948.

The daily average output for April was 8,677 tons compared with 9,286 in March and 8,477 a year earlier. Daily average for the four-month period was 8,943 tons compared with 8,327. (12)

RECORD PRODUCTION OF ELECTRIC REFRIGERATORS AND WASHING MACHINES

Canadian manufacturers turned out an all-time record number of domestic electric refrigerators and domestic washing machines in March, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's output of refrigerators reached a total of 15,900 units as compared with 13,300 in the preceding month and 10,400 in the same month last year, while the production of domestic washing machines of all kinds rose to 34,100 units from 29,300 in February and 26,800 a year ago.

During the first three months of this year, 42,500 refrigerators were produced as compared with 32,300 in the similar period last year, an increase of 32 per cent. Domestic washing machines advanced 29 per cent in the quarter, rising to 95,500 units from 74,000 in the similar period a year earlier.

Imports of all kinds of refrigerators and washing machines -- domestic, store and other -- were sharply lower in March. The month's imports of electric refrigerators numbered 33 against 90 a year ago, bringing the total for the three months to 74 units compared with 745 in the like period in 1948. Imports of washing machines in March fell to 51 units from 327, and for the quarter to 79 units compared with 1,200

Exports of electric refrigerators showed a marked rise, amounting to 1,300 units compared with 782 in March 1948, bringing exports for the cumulative period to 2,500 units against 1,400 in the similar period last year. March exports of washing machines increased to 1,800 units from 1,600 a year before, and in the quarter advanced to 3,200 units from 2,900 in 1948. (13 and 14)

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF NAILS IN MARCH

Production of iron and steel wire nails was increased in March, amounting to 7,500 tons compared with 6,500 in February and 7,100 a year ago. Production for the three months ended March rose to 21,200 tons against 19,600 in the similar period last year.

Shipments during the month increased to 7,200 tons from 6,600 in February, but were down from the 8,000 tons shipped in March, 1948. Aggregate shipments for the cumulative period increased to 22,300 tons against 21,600 in the like period of 1948. (15)

PRODUCTION OF COPPER AND NICKEL HIGHER

Continuing the gains of earlier months, Canadian production of new primary copper reached a total of 21,900 tons in March, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This year's March figure compares with 21,500 produced in February and 21,100 in March last year. During the first three months of this year, 64,200 tons were produced as against 60,600 in the similar period last year.

Nickel output in March increased to 12,600 tons from 10,900 in the preceding month and 10,500 in the corresponding month last year. Production for the three months ended March totalled 34,600 tons as compared with 30,900 in the like 1948 period. (16)

STOCKS OF INGOT MAKERS' NON-FERROUS SCRAP METAL

Stocks of ingot makers' non-ferrous scrap metal at the end of February amounted to 4,393,700 pounds as compared with 2,903,400 at the beginning of the month, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The amount purchased or received during the month was 8,267,400 pounds, and the total used or sold, 6,777,100 pounds.

Stocks of secondary non-ferrous ingot at the end of the month amounted to 3,411,100 pounds as compared with 2,727,200 at the first of the month. The amount produced during the month was 5,240,000 pounds, while the amount used or sold was 4,556,200 pounds. (17)

PRODUCTION AND DOMESTIC SALES OF ASPHALT FLOOR TILES IN APRIL

Production and domestic sales of asphalt floor tiles both were lower in April than in the corresponding month last year. The month's production amounted to 1,065,398 square feet as compared with 1,216,077 in March and 1,629,770 a year earlier. In the cumulative period, 4,716,735 square feet were produced as against 6,893,729 in the same months of 1948.

Domestic sales fell to 1,402,859 square feet in the month from 1,438,201 in March and 1,498,862 in April, 1948. During the four-month period, 5,327,499 square feet were sold as against 5,846,541 in the like period last year. (18)

CANAL TRAFFIC UP SHARPLY IN APRIL

With the canals generally opened to traffic earlier this year than the average for the past decade, the tonnage of freight passing through all Canadian canals moved up sharply in April, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Freight moved in April amounted to 2,211,400 tons, a rise of 1,242,300 tons or 128 per cent above April last year. The number of vessels locked through rose from 959 to 1,753.

Traffic on the Sault Ste. Marie canals -- Canadian and United States locks -- showed appreciable gains over April, 1948 with eastbound volume up from 7,870,900 tons to 10,746,600, and westbound more than doubling at 1,283,000 tons compared with 594,000. On the Welland, total freight more than doubled, advancing from 669,700 tons to 1,425,700, while on the St. Lawrence canals the tonnage jumped from 134,500 tons to 511,200.

There was a five-fold increase in the downward movement of wheat on the Sault Ste. Marie canals, the tonnage advancing from 261,600 tons to 1,283,000 tons. Iron ore bound for eastern smelters rose from 7,461,200 to 9,015,600 tons, while westbound soft coal amounted to 982,300 tons compared with 315,900. On the Welland, the movement of wheat increased from 57,800 tons to 381,600, and soft coal from 314,000 tons to 433,800. On the St. Lawrence, wheat shipments rose from 20,900 tons a year ago to 223,300, and soft coal from 31,900 to 92,100 tons. (19)

CANAL TRAFFIC LAST YEAR
10 PER CENT ABOVE 1947

Reflecting increased movements of soft coal, iron ores, other ores, gasoline, barley and flaxseed, the tonnage of all freight passing through the Canadian canal systems during 1948 reached 23,559,313 tons, a gain of 2,045,374 tons or 9.5 per cent above the volume recorded in the 1947 season. Last year's tonnage has been exceeded only by the 24,636,462 tons attained in 1938.

There were 22,643 passages of vessels through the canals during the year compared with 20,874 in 1947, while the net registered tonnage of the vessels was 23,943,307, an increase of 1,533,348 tons. The Canadian locks at the Sault were in use for 244 days, six more than in 1947, while the Welland Ship canal was open one day more at 272 days, and the St. Lawrence three days less with 234 days.

Passengers on vessels passing at Sault Ste. Marie totalled 63,707 compared with 53,782 in 1947. The Welland Ship canal reported 5,790 passengers against 5,273 in 1947, while the St. Lawrence had 12,417 compared with 13,430 one year earlier. Thousands of pleasure craft were also locked through the canals.

The volume of traffic moving to and from Lake Superior and Montreal or beyond totalled 451,961 tons during 1948. Traffic using the St. Lawrence only aggregated 4,190,930 tons. That passing through the Welland Ship canal only reached 7,311,821 tons, while the grand total for this canal was 13,373,321 tons, 2,466,753 tons of which used the St. Lawrence and Welland Ship systems, 451,961 tons the St. Lawrence, Welland Ship and Sault Ste. Marie, and 3,142,786 tons the Sault Ste. Marie and Welland Ship.

In combination with the four American locks at Sault Ste. Marie, which form an essential part of the Great Lakes system, the grand total of all canal freight traffic during 1948, including traffic using more than one canal, was 137,082,901 tons compared with 130,273,579 tons in 1947, an increase of 6,809,322 tons or 5.2 per cent.

Of the 23,559,313 tons of freight passing through Canadian canals during the year, 87.2 per cent or 20,533,377 tons was carried in Canadian bottoms, and in the Welland Ship canal 79 per cent was in Canadian vessels. (20)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Carloadings on Canadian railways for the week ended May 14 amounted to 74,104 cars compared with 74,354 cars in the preceding week and 77,458 cars in the corresponding week last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Gains over 1948 were indicated in grain, building products, gasoline and petroleum, sugar, and autos and trucks. The principal declines were shown in fresh fruits, live stock, coal, ores and concentrates, pulpwood, wood pulp and paper, and l.c.l. merchandise. (21)

ASBESTOS MINING INDUSTRY

Shipments of asbestos by Canadian mining concerns reached an all-time record level in 1948, amounting to 717,000 short tons valued at \$42,231,000 compared with 662,000 short tons valued at \$33,006,000 in the preceding year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Shipments of all grades were higher in 1948 than in the preceding year, shorts amounting to 474,000 tons compared with 439,000, fibres 242,000 tons compared with 222,000, and crudes 977 tons compared with 958.

The 11 firms engaged in asbestos mining during 1948 employed 4,959 persons who received \$12,136,615 in salaries and wages. (22)

LUMBER INDUSTRY IN QUEBEC, 1947 Gross value of production of Quebec's lumber industry in 1947 amounted to \$73,898,677 as compared with \$66,160,934 in the preceding year, an increase of 12 per cent, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. There were 2,051 active mills in the year as compared with 1,989 in 1946. The industry employed 11,613 workers receiving \$13,570,091 in salaries and wages as compared with 11,581 earning \$12,309,305 in 1946, an advance of 10 per cent.

Production of sawn lumber of all species aggregated 1,227,055 M feet board measure valued at \$63,258,288 in 1947 as against 1,161,607 M with a value of \$55,249,378 a year earlier. Output was as follows by kinds in 1947, totals for 1946 being in brackets: spruce, 637,583 (600,562) M cubic feet; yellow birch, 138,706 (113,835); white pine, 89,695 (89,313); balsam fir, 74,137 (73,435); jack pine, 79,769 (86,578); hemlock, 41,359 (46,219); white birch, 34,360 (33,745); maple, 40,446 (33,236); aspen, 23,751 (23,215); basswood, 20,311 (17,529); red pine, 11,505 (13,048); cedar, 9,247 (10,022); elm, 6,696 (5,371); and poplar, 9,020 (7,392). (23)

POPULATION OF NEWFOUNDLAND BY MARITAL STATUS, AGE GROUPS AND SEX

Figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics resulting from the 1945 Census of Newfoundland and relating to marital status of the population show that 185,187 or over 57 per cent of the total population of 321,819 were single, 122,076 or almost 38 per cent were married and 14,428 or over four per cent were widowed. Fewer than a 100 persons were reported as divorced.

Of the 172,366 persons under 25 years of age in 1945, 162,038 or 94 per cent were reported as single, and 10,246 or almost six per cent as married. Persons between 25 and 64 years of age numbered 128,918, and of these, 21,952 or 17 per cent were single, 100,354 or almost 78 per cent were married, and 6,558 or five per cent were widowed. The remaining group of 20,135 persons, 65 years of age or over at the 1945 Census, showed 1,050 or five per cent single, 11,316 or over 56 per cent married, and 7,756 or over 39 per cent widowed.

Single males outnumbered single females in all but two of the 25 districts, St. John's East and St. John's West each reporting 48 per cent of the unmarried population as males. Districts reporting the highest percentages of single males were Ferryland, Placentia and St. Mary's, and Placentia West, in each of which males comprised more than 56 per cent of the single population. (24)

PUBLICATION SETTING OUT STATISTICAL BACKGROUND OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Designed primarily as a source of reference material, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has just released a publication setting out the statistical background of the Province of Newfoundland.

The bulletin, of approximately 100 pages, contains information on the geography and climate, population, vital statistics, public health and welfare, education, industries, labour, transportation and communications, foreign trade, prices, national income and public finance for the new province. Each section contains a textual summary as well as statistical tables.

Copies of this publication may be obtained on application to the Dominion Statistician, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa. The price is 40 cents per copy. (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. Summary of Foreign Trade, March (10 cents).
2. Imports for Consumption, March (10 cents).
3. Department Store Sales and Inventories, April (10 cents).
4. Births, Marriages and Deaths, March (10 cents).
5. Advance Statement of Employment and Weekly Earnings, April 1 (10 cents).
6. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
7. Canadian Milling Statistics, April (10 cents).
8. Dairy Review of Canada, April (10 cents).
9. Poultry Estimates, April (10 cents).
10. Housing Bulletin No. 15, March (10 cents).
11. Consumption, Production and Inventories of Rubber, March (25 cents).
12. Steel Ingots, April (10 cents).
13. Domestic Type Electric Refrigerators, March (10 cents).
14. Domestic Washing Machines, March (10 cents).
15. Nails, Tacks and Staples, March (10 cents).
16. Copper and Nickel Production, March (10 cents).
17. Ingot Makers' Monthly Report on Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal and Secondary Non-Ferrous Ingot, February (10 cents).
18. Asphalt Floor Tiles, April (10 cents).
19. Summary of Canal Traffic, April (10 cents).
20. Canal Statistics for the Year Ended December 31, 1948 (25 cents).
21. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
22. Asbestos Mining Industry in Canada, 1948 (25 cents).
23. The Lumber Industry in Quebec, 1947 (10 cents).
24. Population of Newfoundland by Marital Status and Sex, 1945 (10 cents).
25. Province of Newfoundland -- Statistical Background (40 cents).
26. Wire Fencing, March (10 cents).

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

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