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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADA'S OFFICIAL COST-OF-LIVING INDEX rose one-fifth of a point between April 1 and May 2, from 159.3 to 159.5, due mainly to a rise in foods.

SALES OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES in April showed a further advance on the gain recorded in March, rising 46 per cent in number and 56 per cent in value over the corresponding month last year.

FACTORY SHIPMENTS OF CANADIAN-MADE MOTOR VEHICLES for sale and for export amounted to 26,685 units in April as compared with 25,566 in the preceding month and 24,243 in the corresponding month last year. Total for the first four months of this year was 83,311 units against 84,452 in 1948.

CANADIAN PRODUCTION OF GOLD rose in March to its highest point since March, 1943, the month's output totalling 342,677 fine ounces as compared with 287,708 in March last year, and 347,591 fine ounces in March, 1943.

PRODUCTION OF CRUDE PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GASOLINE rose to an all-time monthly high in March, output from all Canadian sources amounting to 1,748,400 barrels compared with the previous peak of 1,443,000 attained in February, and being more than double the March, 1948 figure of 816,500.

OUTPUT OF CENTRAL ELECTRIC STATIONS in April reached the highest monthly total on record, amounting to 4,150,346,000 kilowatt hours.

CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS in April totalled 68,979 as compared with 103,402 in March and 59,265 in the corresponding month last year.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT IN CANADA showed the customary contraction in volume between March 1 and April 1, but at the latter date was at a higher level than for any previous year for which monthly statistics have been compiled. The aggregate earnings reported were also substantially above a year earlier, but slightly down from March 1 this year.

CROP CONDITIONS IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES have considerably improved, due to widespread rains over the greater part of the West, but rain is still urgently required in fairly larger areas of central Alberta and south-central and south-western districts of Saskatchewan.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX
UP SLIGHTLY AT MAY 2

Showing a slight upward movement for the second successive month, Canada's official cost-of-living index rose one-fifth of a point between April 1 and May 2, from 159.3 to 159.5. The March-April increase was one-tenth of a point.

At the May 2 level, the index was 6.2 points above May last year, and one-tenth of a point below the peak figure of 159.6 touched three times -- at the first of October and November last year and January this year. From August, 1939 to May, 1949 the increase in the cost-of-living index was 58.2 per cent.

The increase in the month was mainly due to a rise of one point in the food index, which moved up from 198.5 at April 1 to 199.5, as a result of seasonal increases in meats, coupled with advances in a number of other foods. It was the first advance in the food index since it reached the peak figure of 205.4 at October 1. Latest standing of this index compares with 191.2 at May 1 last year.

The clothing index also moved up a tenth of a point to 183.3, while the index of homefurnishings and services rose the same amount to 168.1, bringing both to their highest points. These figures compare with 173.6 for the clothing index a year earlier, and 161.9 for homefurnishings and services.

The sharpest change between April 1 and May 2 was registered by the fuel and light index which decreased from 131.0 to 129.1, due to price declines for coke and anthracite coal in Ontario and Quebec. The indexes for miscellaneous goods and services and rents were unchanged at 128.4 and 122.4, respectively. (1)

CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE BENEFITS IN APRIL

Claims for unemployment insurance benefits in April totalled 68,979 as compared with 103,402 in March and 59,265 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. At the end of the month there were 134,500 ordinary claimants on the live unemployment register compared with 185,800 at the end of March and 105,400 at April 31, 1948.

Claims filed in Quebec totalled 21,300 compared with 18,400 a year earlier, Ontario 20,900 compared with 15,800, British Columbia 8,800 compared with 7,300, Nova Scotia 4,900 (4,300), New Brunswick 4,400 (2,600), Manitoba 3,700 (4,300), Alberta 3,300 (4,300), Saskatchewan 1,300 (2,000), and Prince Edward Island, 300 (280).

Data for Newfoundland are included for the first time in April. The few unemployment insurance claims, which numbered 29, were filed by persons who had been employed in insured employment in Canada prior to April 1 but filed their claims in Newfoundland.

A total of 191,700 persons received one or more benefit payments during April amounting to \$7,605,800 for 3,400,400 compensated unemployed days compared with 239,800 persons paid \$10,361,500 for 4,644,600 compensated days in March and 139,500 persons paid \$5,178,500 for 2,632,000 compensated days last year.

The average duration of the unemployment compensated was 17.7 days in April, 19.4 days in March and 18.9 days in April last year. The average amount of benefit paid per beneficiary was \$39.68 in April, \$43.20 in March and \$37.13 a year earlier, while the average amount of benefit paid per compensated day of unemployment was \$2.24 in April, \$2.23 in March and \$1.97 in April last year. (2)

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT AT APRIL 1
SHOWED SEASONAL TREND

Industrial employment in Canada showed the customary seasonal contraction in volume between March 1 and April 1, but at the latter date was at a higher level than for any previous year for which monthly statistics have been compiled. The aggregate payrolls were also substantially above a year earlier, but slightly down from March 1 this year.

Data tabulated by the Bureau from 20,073 of the larger establishments in the eight major industrial divisions show a decline of 0.7 per cent in their working forces as compared with March 1. This decline conforms to the pattern indicated in 22 of the 28 previous years for which the Bureau has collected these figures, the Bureau's report states, but is rather below average in extent and decidedly smaller than recorded a year earlier.

The Bureau's index number of employment, on the base 1926 equals 100, stood at 187.6 for April 1 -- a new high for early spring -- as compared with 186.6 at April 1 last year and with 188.9 at March 1 this year.

Aggregate weekly salaries and wages disbursed at April 1 by the leading firms in the eight major industrial groups declined 0.6 per cent as compared with March 1 but were nearly 12 per cent higher than at April 1 last year, the Bureau's index numbers standing at 206.4 for April 1 as compared with 207.5 for March 1 and 184.8 for April 1, 1948. Average weekly earnings of persons employed were slightly greater at April 1 than a month earlier, rising from \$43.27 at March 1 to \$43.32. The latter figure is higher than in any earlier April for which statistics are available, comparing with \$39.04 a year ago, the previous April maximum.

The slight decline in industrial employment during March took place among men, a moderate increase being shown in the number of women employed. Changes in the industrial distribution of the reported employees were largely responsible for the disparity in the trends for workers of the two sexes.

A seasonal decrease of 28 per cent in employment in logging was the most noteworthy change in the situation at April 1 as compared with March 1. There was a relatively small falling-off in communications. Manufacturing reported no general change, while the movement was favourable in mining, transportation, construction and maintenance, hotels and restaurants, laundries and dry-cleaning establishments, and retail trade. In most cases, the changes in the various industries were in accordance with the seasonal movements. (3)

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

	<u>June 2, 1949</u>	<u>May 26, 1949</u>	<u>May 5, 1949</u>
	(1935-39=100)		
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
(106 Common Stocks)	100.5	103.1	106.4
82 Industrials	93.7	96.5	100.2
16 Utilities	109.5	111.6	114.1
8 Banks	130.2	131.6	132.3
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
(30 Stocks)	77.8	80.4	84.2
25 Golds	65.7	68.3	70.5
5 Base Metals	100.7	103.3	110.5

CROP CONDITIONS IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES

Widespread rains over the greater part of the Prairie Provinces have considerably improved crop conditions in the West. The growing crops are now in quite good condition, except in fairly larger areas of central Alberta and south-central and south-western districts of Saskatchewan, where rain is still urgently required. While the situation has improved remarkably in the last two weeks, sub-soil moisture reserves are still inadequate in many areas and much additional moisture will be required to bring the growing crops to maturity.

Cooler, wet weather during the past fortnight has retarded grasshopper infestations, although severe outbreaks are reported from some localities in central Saskatchewan. Grasshopper control campaigns are being carried on in the affected areas there and elsewhere, with good results generally reported. Recovery from frost damage has been good but some reseeded of coarse grains was necessary in a few districts.

In Manitoba seeding is almost completed, although some delay has taken place due to heavy weed growth and the necessity for some reseeded. In the area from Morden westward to the Saskatchewan boundary and north to Russell the heavy rains of a week ago further delayed late seedings but restored moisture reserves. Slight flood damage occurred in low spots. In the districts around Winnipeg and in the mid-lake area rains would now be welcomed, especially by market gardeners.

Crops in general are progressing satisfactorily in Manitoba with fall rye heading out. Early wheat is well stooled on a heavy stand, although there is considerable late crop. Some damage has been reported on light land due to soil drifting. Grasshoppers have been hatching on light soils but municipal spray rigs are operating in affected areas and little damage is indicated. Over 17,000 acres of sugar beets have been planted and thinning started this week. The potato and hay crops are promising.

As a result of the recent rains, general crop prospects in Saskatchewan are greatly improved, except in south-central and south-western districts where moisture conditions are still unsatisfactory. Conditions in the eastern half of the province appear quite favourable with grain stands fair to excellent, wheat averaging five inches and coarse grains three to four inches in height. In other areas stands are slightly shorter. Most crops have recovered from the May frosts, although some permanent damage is reported from the west-central section of the province. Insect damage during the past week has generally been slight but serious grasshopper outbreaks have been reported in some localities in the central part of Saskatchewan. An extensive control campaign, utilizing poison baits and sprays, is proving effective in most areas. While considerable recovery has been made in general crop conditions, further progress of crops will be dependent on the receipt of timely rains, since sub-soil moisture reserves are still far from adequate.

Good rains were received over much of Alberta this past week. Seeding is now completed in most of the province and, weather permitting, very little will remain by the end of the week. Grain crops are quite generally fair to good with the important exception of a large moisture deficient area in the central part of the province. This dry belt is bounded roughly by a line running northward from Calgary to Wetaskiwin and thence north-east to the Vegreville-Vermilion area. The edge of the dry area then drops south-westward to the Hanna district and back to Calgary. Growth has been poor and germination uneven in this dry section, and rainfall is urgently needed.

Throughout Alberta the height of wheat varies from two to eight inches and coarse grains from one to six. Grasshopper damage has been light. Wheat crops are recovering from the effects of the May frost but some reseeded of oats and barley has been necessary in north-eastern sections. (4)

WORLD 1949 WHEAT CROP
OUTLOOK IMPROVED

The outlook for the world's 1949 wheat crop has shown some improvement over the past month, states the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in its monthly review of the wheat situation.

The May 10 crop report of the United States Department of Agriculture placed the current winter wheat crop at 1,021 million bushels and indicated that with average yields on the prospective spring wheat acreage, a total wheat crop of 1,312 million bushels could be harvested. A crop of this order would approach the 1947 record of 1,367 million and would exceed by a wide margin the 1937-46 average of 943 million bushels.

In Canada, farmers, on the basis of their intentions at April 30, indicated they would seed 3,000,000 more acres to spring wheat this year than last, making a total of just under 27,000,000 acres seeded to wheat for harvest in 1949. During the latter part of May timely rains fell over large sections of the Prairie Provinces where drought had been imminent. Material improvement in crop conditions resulted but moisture reserves are still far below normal in many parts of the west. Frequent and ample rainfall will be required during the growing season to mature a satisfactory crop. Slight damage from frost has occurred on the Prairies and strong measures are being taken in many areas to combat serious infestations of grasshoppers.

A recent report from the Argentine indicates that planting of wheat is now under way with soil conditions mostly satisfactory. No attempts have apparently been made as yet to estimate probable acreage. Last advice from Australia states that wheat seeding is well under way. It is anticipated that the acreage sown will at least equal, and may exceed, last year's level of 13 million acres.

Favourable weather and moisture conditions during the past month have improved crop prospects in many parts of Europe. Moderate to generous rains fell during the last week of May over a considerable part of the Continent. Reserve moisture is, however, still lacking in a number of sections and additional rainfall will be needed shortly to maintain the recent improvement. Rains have been beneficial in France but the wheat outturn is expected to be smaller than last year. A trade paper estimates the new crop at 256 million bushels. Last year's French wheat crop reached 300 million bushels, somewhat above the pre-war (1935-39) average of 287 million. The Italian wheat crop is privately estimated at 250 million bushels, the same as last year. Pre-war wheat production in Italy averaged 278 million bushels. Brief reports on crop conditions in Russia, Turkey, Hungary, Poland, Germany and North Africa have been fairly optimistic. (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 26 amounted to 95,630,000 bushels, down 4,149,000 from the preceding week's total, but 39,114,000 higher than on the corresponding date last year.

Farmers in the Prairie Provinces marketed 1,861,000 bushels of wheat during the week compared with 1,371,000 in the same week last year. Clearances of wheat for export totalled 4,592,000 bushels compared with 3,240,000.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending May 26, totals for the same week last year being in brackets: oats, 953,000 (497,000) bushels; barley, 521,000 (339,000); rye, 189,000 (17,000); flaxseed, 84,000 (30,000). (6)

MOTOR VEHICLE SHIPMENTS
HIGHER IN APRIL

Factory shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles, which had been running below 1948 levels in the first quarter of this year, moved up in April. However, the total for the first four months of this year was slightly under that for the similar period of 1948.

Shipments for sale in Canada and for export amounted to 26,685 units in April as compared with 25,566 in the preceding month and 24,243 in the corresponding month last year. Aggregate for the first four months of this year was 83,311 units as compared with 84,452 in the like period of 1948.

Of the month's total, shipments for sale in Canada amounted to 23,739 units as compared with 23,743 in the preceding month and 18,495 a year ago, and in the four months to 74,740 units as compared with 67,392 last year. Shipments of vehicles for export in April totalled 2,946 compared with 1,823 in March and 5,748 in April last year, the four-month total standing at 8,571 units compared with 17,060.

Shipments of passenger cars in April amounted to 15,932 units compared with 16,069 in March and 10,960 a year ago, and in the four months, 46,327 units compared with 41,774. April shipments of commercial vehicles totalled 7,807 as against 7,674 in March and 7,461 a year ago, and in the four-month period, 28,413 compared with 25,618. (7)

MOTOR VEHICLE SALES
UP SHARPLY IN APRIL

Sales of new motor vehicles in April showed a further advance on the gain recorded in March, rising 46 per cent in number and 56 per cent in value over the corresponding month last year. Sales in March were up 18 per cent in number and 29 per cent in value over March last year. As in March, the gain was due mainly to larger sales of passenger cars.

During January and February the number of cars sold was below last year's level. As a result of sharp increases in March and April, cumulative sales for the four months ending April rose 17 per cent in number and 28 per cent in dollar value above the same period last year.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics sales in April totalled 28,159 units retailing for \$58,687,841 compared with 19,286 sold for \$37,689,634 in April, 1948. In the four-month period, sales of 78,784 units for \$167,212,718 compared with 67,157 units for \$130,870,137 a year earlier.

The number of passenger cars sold in April was 19,653 with a retail value of \$40,388,752, showing increases of 67.6 per cent in number and 80.6 per cent in retail value. There were 8,433 trucks sold in April valued at \$16,823,048, a rise of 12.7 per cent in number and 19.9 per cent in value. Buses sold in April numbered 73 with a retail value of \$1,476,041 compared with 77 with a value of \$1,292,193 last year.

In the first four months of this year, sales of passenger cars totalled 50,875 with a retail value of \$106,804,934 compared with 42,684 with a value of \$80,495,443 in the same period of 1948. Truck sales in the cumulative period totalled 27,662 units with a value of \$55,736,668 compared with 24,249 units with a value of \$46,491,522 a year earlier. Bus sales in the four months aggregated 247 vehicles sold for \$4,671,116 compared with 224 units valued at \$3,883,172, for increases of 10.3 per cent in number and 20.3 per cent in value. (8)

PRODUCTION OF ELECTRIC ENERGY
AT ALL-TIME HIGH IN APRIL

Output of electric energy by central electric stations in Canada showed an advance of six per cent in April over the corresponding month last year to reach the highest monthly total on record. As a result of the rise in April, the total for the first four months of this year was slightly above that for the same period of 1948. All provinces shared in the month's advance with the exception of New Brunswick, while in the cumulative period production was higher in all.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the month's output amounted to 4,150,346,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 3,727,459,000 in April last year. In the four-month period, 15,173,264,000 kilowatt hours were produced as against 14,733,022,000 in the similar period a year ago.

Consumption of primary power rose in the month to 3,517,183,000 kilowatt hours from 3,318,715,000 in the same month last year, and in the first four months to 13,637,949,000 kilowatt hours from 13,353,800,000. Exports to the United States in April were 179,869,000 kilowatt hours compared with 166,052,000, and in the cumulative period to 668,264,000 kilowatt hours compared with 564,889,000.

April production was as follows by provinces, totals for April last year being in brackets (thousands omitted): Quebec, 2,326,480 (1,995,987) kilowatt hours; Ontario, 1,097,470 (1,045,151); British Columbia, 294,441 (269,830); Manitoba, 186,872 (180,985); Saskatchewan, 70,040 (64,292); Alberta, 59,700 (55,553); Nova Scotia, 57,136 (56,655); New Brunswick, 56,815 (57,681); and Prince Edward Island, 1,392 (1,325).

PASSENGER TRAFFIC ON URBAN
AND INTERURBAN LINES

Canadian transit companies transported a total of 133,922,730 passengers during February as compared with 133,678,510 in the same month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Urban systems had 125,366,376 fares against 125,797,436 one year earlier, while interurban companies carried 8,556,354 against 7,881,074.

Heavier urban traffic was experienced in New Brunswick, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, with the advance in Alberta noteworthy. Interurban volume increased in all provinces except British Columbia. Interprovincial traffic was lighter with 42,465 passengers compared with 44,925 one year earlier, the daily average declining from 1,549 to 1,516.

The general trend across Canada has been towards higher fares designed to meet the increased costs of wages, equipment, materials and supplies, the Bureau report states. In part reflecting this trend, revenues on urban systems rose from \$7,852,828 in February last year to \$8,097,264 in the month under review, and interurban service reported receipts of \$2,709,888 compared with \$2,324,155 in 1948. Total expenditures by the public for transportation on transit systems were larger in all provinces. (10)

LUMBER OUTPUT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Production of sawn lumber and ties in British Columbia amounted to 194,133 M feet in January this year as compared with 216,201 M in the same month last year, a decrease of 10.2 per cent. Production of coast mills, which account for about 79 per cent of the total, showed a decrease of 10.6 per cent from the same month in 1948, and that of interior mills fell 8.8 per cent.

Shipments in the month declined 8.3 per cent, totalling 187,413 M feet compared with 204,461 M. Coast mills registered an advance of 2.2 per cent and interior mills a drop of 42 per cent. Stocks on hand at the end of January amounted to 338,454 M feet compared with 248,406 M at the end of January a year earlier, coast mills reporting stocks of 217,065 M and interior mills 121,389 M feet. (11)

RAILWAY REVENUES AND EXPENSES
AT NEW PEAK FOR MONTH IN MARCH

Both operating revenues and expenses of Canadian railways, repeating the advances of earlier months this year, rose sharply in March over the corresponding month last year to reach new peaks for the month. The rise in operating expenses considerably exceeded the advance in revenues and both net operating revenue and operating income declined.

Operating revenue for the month totalled \$74,325,000, an increase of \$6,219,000 or slightly more than nine per cent over March last year, while operating expenses jumped \$9,755,000 or 16 per cent to \$70,612,000 as compared with \$60,857,000 a year earlier. Net operating revenue declined in consequence to \$3,713,000 as compared with \$7,249,000 and, after allowance for tax accruals, hire of equipment and joint facilities rents, operating income amounted to the reduced figure of \$1,315,330 as against \$3,654,475 in March last year.

Freight revenues in the month improved 12.5 per cent over the previous March, aggregating \$61,610,000 compared with \$54,779,000. Revenue mileage rose 1.7 per cent, although revenue tonnage declined 8.6 per cent. Passenger revenues declined as in previous months, dropping 12.6 per cent from \$6,574,000 to \$5,748,000, the number of revenue passengers carried decreasing to 2,796,313 from 3,308,022. Mail revenues improved two per cent and express was up six per cent.

Maintenance expenses were considerably heavier than a year earlier, outlays on way and structures amounting to \$12,375,000 compared with \$9,654,000 and on equipment to \$17,142,000 as against \$13,964,000. Transportation expenses rose nearly 11 per cent from \$31,805,000 to \$35,234,000, and all other expense accounts also increased.

Reflecting in part reduced income, tax accruals dropped from \$2,503,000 a year earlier to \$1,526,000, while hire of equipment eased \$253,260 to \$720,159. Employees during March numbered 174,393 receiving \$41,308,000 as compared with 172,996 earning \$35,404,000 in March, 1948. Payroll chargeable to railway operations rose 15.7 per cent to \$38,416,000 from \$33,198,000. (12)

MARCH GOLD OUTPUT
CONTINUED UPWARD TREND

With increased output recorded for all producing provinces and territories, Canadian production of gold rose in March to its highest monthly point since March, 1943. According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the month's total amounted to 342,677 fine ounces as compared with 307,608 in the preceding month and 287,708 in the corresponding month last year. Production for March, 1943, stood at 347,591 fine ounces.

During the first three months of this year, 959,274 fine ounces were produced as against 822,677 in the similar period last year, a gain of 17 per cent. Advances were registered for all areas with the exception of British Columbia and the Yukon.

March production by provinces, with figures for the same month last year shown in brackets, was as follows: Ontario, 203,684 (172,350) fine ounces; Quebec, 77,182 (64,285); British Columbia, 27,643 (27,415); Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 17,028 (15,287); Northwest Territories, 16,599 (8,324); and the Yukon, 533 (47). (13)

CRUDE PETROLEUM OUTPUT AT
NEW MONTHLY HIGH IN MARCH

Continuing the gains of earlier months, Canadian production of crude petroleum and natural gasoline rose to an all-time monthly high in March. The rise in the month was principally due to sharply increased output in the Leduc and Redwater fields of Alberta. Production from Turner Valley was lower.

According to figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, output in March from all Canadian sources amounted to 1,748,400 barrels as compared with the previous peak of 1,443,000 attained in February, and was more than double the March, 1948 figure of 816,500. During the first three months of this year, output totalled 4,547,900 barrels as against 2,373,900 in the similar period last year.

Alberta accounted for 1,651,000 barrels in March compared with 709,100 a year earlier. Leduc's output rose sharply to 860,300 barrels from 173,300, Redwater to 300,800 barrels from nil, and Lloydminster to 48,900 barrels from 34,700. Crude output from Turner Valley dropped to 347,000 barrels against 402,000.

The month's output from wells in Saskatchewan amounted to 59,300 barrels compared with 56,700 a year ago, Ontario 19,400 barrels compared with 12,000, New Brunswick 1,650 (1,700), and Northwest Territories 17,100 (37,000).

During the month, 5,896,500 M cubic feet of natural gas were produced as compared with 7,127,400 in the preceding month and 6,070,600 in the corresponding month last year. Output in Alberta totalled 4,981,800 M cubic feet compared with 6,233,500 a month earlier; Ontario, 825,900 M (812,600 M); Saskatchewan, 53,000 M (43,200 M); and New Brunswick, 35,700 M (38,100 M). (14)

PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS OF COKE
HIGHER IN MARCH; IMPORTS LOWER

Canadian production of coke from ovens and gas retorts in March amounted to 348,600 tons as compared with 317,000 in the preceding month and 334,100 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec accounted for 96,000 tons, Ontario for 227,400, and the western provinces for 25,100. Output for the first three months of this year rose to 1,017,700 tons as against 948,000 in the similar period last year.

Producers' stocks of oven and retort coke, excluding breeze, at the end of March amounted to 149,700 tons, of which 37,300 tons were located in the eastern provinces, 107,000 tons in Ontario, and 1,700 tons in the western provinces. Stocks of breeze totalled 105,200 tons, the eastern provinces accounting for 14,000 tons, Ontario 88,200 tons, and the western provinces 3,000 tons.

Imports of coke during the month amounted to 32,100 tons compared with 50,700 tons in March 1948, bringing imports for the cumulative period to 98,300 tons against 145,400 in the like 1948 period. Exports rose sharply in March, amounting to 27,900 tons compared with 5,300 a year earlier. In the quarter, exports increased to 91,600 tons from 9,300 in the similar period last year. (15)

STOCKS OF NON-FERROUS SCRAP METAL

Dealers' stocks of non-ferrous scrap metal at the end of March were as follows, totals for the first of the month being in brackets: aluminum scrap, 1,372,149 (1,348,020) pounds; brass and bronze scrap, 6,138,867 (6,755,169); copper scrap, 2,676,009 (2,869,935); magnesium scrap, 7,907 (8,122); nickel scrap, 369,030 (259,716); tin-lead scrap, 3,161,970 (3,006,970); zinc scrap, 717,446 (714,460); and drosses, 1,349,810 (1,368,895). (16)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES
UP SEVEN PER CENT

Department store sales advanced seven per cent during the week ending May 28 over the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures. Largest gain of 13 per cent was shown in Alberta, followed by the Maritimes and Manitoba each with a rise of 11 per cent, Ontario eight per cent, British Columbia five per cent, Saskatchewan three per cent, and Quebec one per cent.

ASPHALT ROOFING PRODUCTION
AND SHIPMENTS IN APRIL

Production of asphalt shingles and of tar and asphalt felts increased substantially in April over previous months this year, while output of smooth and mineral surfaced rolls was practically unchanged. Shipments of asphalt roofing materials were generally higher.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, asphalt roofing production in April was as follows (figures for March in brackets): asphalt shingles, 134,072 squares (102,791); smooth surfaced rolls, 62,842 (62,691); mineral surfaced rolls, 46,421 (46,395); roll type sidings, 15,888 (26,096) squares; tar and asphalt felts, 3,094 tons (2,463); tar and asphalt sheathings, 914 (1,229). Shipments of asphalt singles in the month totalled 152,116 squares; rolled roofing aggregated 148,823 squares; tar and asphalt felts, 2,473 tons; and tar and asphalt sheathings, 951 tons.

Starting with the April report, the Bureau's figures on asphalt roofing are based on a new classification and direct comparisons are not possible with previous years. (17)

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. Preliminary Price Movements, May (10 cents).
2. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, April (10 cents).
3. Employment Situation at the Beginning of April, Together with Payrolls (10 cents).
4. Telegraphic Crop Report, Prairie Provinces (10 cents).
5. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation (10 cents).
6. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
7. Motor Vehicle Shipments, April (10 cents).
8. Sales of New Motor Vehicles, April (10 cents).
9. Central Electric Stations, April (10 cents).
10. Transit Report, February (10 cents).
11. Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, January (25 cents).
12. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, March (10 cents).
13. Gold Production, March (10 cents).
14. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, March (10 cents).
15. Coal and Coke Statistics, March (10 cents).
16. Dealers' Report on Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal, March (10 cents).
17. Asphalt Roofing, January to April (New Classification) (10 cents).
18. Civil Aviation, December (10 cents).
19. Shipments and Inventories of Prepared Stock and Poultry Feeds, March (10 cents).
20. Refined Petroleum Products, February (20 cents).
21. Fruit Crop Report (10 cents).
22. Trade of Canada: Imports Entered for Consumption, March (25 cents).
23. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).

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