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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADA'S TOTAL FOREIGN TRADE in April was valued at \$483,000,000, showing an increase of 9.3 per cent over the corresponding month last year. Aggregate value for the first four months of this year moved up to \$1,813,800,000 from \$1,707,400,000 in the similar period of 1948, or by 6.2 per cent.

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IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION FROM ALL COUNTRIES in April were valued at \$242,700,000 compared with \$226,700,000 in the corresponding month last year, and in the four months at \$908,400,000 compared with \$812,000,000.

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CANADA'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS in May, showing the usual seasonal trend, increased in value to \$272,900,000 from \$237,800,000 in April, but were 3.4 per cent below the value of \$282,300,000 for May last year. Aggregate value for the five months ended May was slightly above that for the corresponding period of 1948, amounting to \$1,169,600,000 as against \$1,166,600,000.

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WHOLESALE PRICES IN CANADA in May showed a further decline, the index on the base 1926 as 100, standing at 156.4 as compared with 157.5 in April, and 150.4 a year ago. The peak for this index was 159.6 reached in December, 1948.

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EMPLOYMENT IN LEADING ESTABLISHMENTS in the eight major industrial divisions showed moderate improvement at May 1, reversing the downward movement indicated in immediately preceding months.

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SALES OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES in May increased 45 per cent in number and 52 per cent in retail value over May last year.

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FINANCING OF SALES OF NEW AND USED MOTOR VEHICLES rose 66 per cent in number and 68 per cent in financed value in May over the corresponding month last year.

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DEPARTMENT STORE SALES IN CANADA in May were up 11 per cent over the same month last year. All provinces shared in the advance, and increased sales were recorded for all departments except food.

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STOCKS OF CANADIAN WHEAT IN STORE or in transit in North America at midnight on June 16 totalled 80,381,000 bushels compared with 85,192,000 on June 9, and 50,113,000 on the corresponding date last year.

TOTAL FOREIGN TRADE
HIGHER IN APRIL

Canada's total foreign trade in April was valued at \$483,000,000, showing an increase of 9.3 per cent over the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Aggregate value for the first four months of this year moved up to \$1,813,800,000 from \$1,707,400,000 in the similar period of 1948, or by 6.2 per cent.

Both imports and domestic exports were higher in the month and four-month period. The advance in the value of imports was seven per cent in April and nearly 12 per cent in the cumulative period. The value of exports was up 12 per cent in April, and one per cent in the four months.

Imports for consumption from all countries in April were valued at \$242,700,000 as compared with \$226,700,000 in the corresponding month last year, and in the four months at \$908,400,000 compared with \$812,000,000. The April total for domestic exports was \$237,800,000 compared with \$212,300,000 a year ago, and in the four months at \$896,600,000 compared with \$884,400,000 last year.

Foreign commodities were re-exported in April to the value of \$2,484,000 compared with \$2,752,000 in the same month last year, and in the four months at \$8,828,000 compared with \$11,009,000.

With imports slightly higher than domestic and foreign exports, Canada had a small deficit of \$2,400,000 on the month's foreign trade with all countries as compared with a deficit of \$11,600,000 in April last year. There was also a small overall debit balance of \$3,000,000 in the four months ending April as compared with a favourable balance of \$83,400,000 in the like period of 1948.

The debit balance with the United States was \$65,100,000 on the month's trade as compared with a deficit of \$48,000,000 in the corresponding month last year, and in the four months totalled \$197,900,000 compared with \$155,900,000 a year earlier. The credit balance with the United Kingdom in the month was \$33,400,000 compared with \$19,800,000 a year ago, and in the four months, \$96,600,000 compared with \$134,800,000 a year ago. (1)

Gain in Imports Widespread

Total values of imports from both Commonwealth and foreign countries were higher in April than a year earlier, and there were gains in six of the nine main commodity groups. Purchases from Commonwealth countries advanced to \$44,400,000 from \$39,500,000 in the corresponding month last year, and in the four-month period to \$159,700,000 from \$132,100,000. Amount from foreign countries in the month was up to \$198,300,000 from \$187,200,000, and in the four months to \$748,700,000 from \$679,900,000.

Imports from the United Kingdom during April continued the upward climb of the three previous months this year, amounting to \$30,120,000 compared with \$28,343,000 in March and \$24,641,000 a year ago. Total for the four months was up to \$106,786,000 from \$85,703,000.

Imports from the United States in April rose to \$177,293,000 from \$159,461,000 in the corresponding month last year, and in the four-month period to \$659,863,000 from \$584,583,000.

Continuing the decline shown in the first three months of this year, imports from Latin American countries were down in April to \$11,682,000 from \$20,074,000 last year, and in the four-month period to \$53,537,000 from \$68,838,000.

Imports from Europe continued in April the gains of recent months, totalling \$7,503,000 as compared with \$4,280,000 a year earlier, and in the four-month period, \$27,609,000 compared with \$15,092,000. There were increased imports from Belgium and Luxembourg, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.

Combined total purchases from India and Pakistan in April were up to \$2,633,000 from \$476,000 a year ago, Jamaica to \$1,476,000 from \$510,000, British Guiana to \$1,214,000 from \$882,000, Ceylon to \$1,066,000 from \$482,000. Imports from British Malaya were down to \$736,000 from \$2,157,000, Gold Coast to \$884,000 from \$1,259,000, Australia to \$1,809,000 from \$2,483,000, New Zealand to \$465,000 from \$1,761,000, and Fiji to \$809,000 from \$1,090,000.

The iron and products group showed the largest absolute increase among the main commodity groups with an increase in value to \$87,100,000 compared with \$70,300,000 in the corresponding month last year, raising the cumulative total for the four months to \$315,700,000 from \$257,791,000. Imports of rolling-mill products gained sharply during the month to \$11,794,000 from \$7,193,000, farm implements and machinery to \$18,238,000 from \$14,978,000, and automobiles and parts to \$14,014,000 from \$10,101,000. There were also increases in the imports of pipes, tubes and fittings, and mining and metallurgical machinery.

The non-metallic minerals group fell from \$45,394,000 in April last year to \$38,191,000, due in the main to sharp declines in the imports of crude petroleum and petroleum products. Coal imports showed a moderate rise. The non-ferrous metals group rose in value to \$15,756,000 from \$14,080,000. Electrical apparatus -- largest item in the group -- showed a small increase from \$6,183,000 to \$6,372,000.

Imports of fibres and textiles were down from \$33,069,000 to \$32,586,000, raw cotton and raw wool being lower, and cotton and wool products higher. Purchase of artificial silk and products increased, but miscellaneous textiles declined.

There was a rise of moderate proportions in the imports of agricultural products from \$29,199,000 in April last year to \$31,104,000. Fruits, coffee and chicory, tea, and alcoholic beverages increased, but imports of vegetable oils and rubber and products were lower in value.

The animals and animal products group rose from \$5,160,000 in April last year to \$5,797,000, chemicals and allied products from \$10,883,000 to \$11,054,000, miscellaneous commodities from \$10,728,000 to \$13,742,000, but the wood, wood products and paper group was down from \$7,866,000 to \$7,323,000. (2)

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS IN MAY Canada's domestic exports in May, showing the usual seasonal trend, increased in value to \$272,900,000 from \$237,800,000 in April, but were 3.4 per cent below the value of \$282,300,000 for May last year, according to trade returns released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Aggregate value for the five months ended May was slightly above that for the corresponding period of 1948, amounting to \$1,169,600,000 as against \$1,166,600,000.

Shipments to the United States during May increased in value over both April and May last year, while those to the United Kingdom showed a further gain over the preceding month but a drop from last year. Sharp gains over a year ago were recorded in exports to the Union of South Africa, India and Pakistan, and decreases in sales totals to European and Latin American countries.

Wheat exports during May, as in April, were sharply above a year ago, shipments of farm implements and machinery nearly doubled in value, and smaller but distinctive gains were registered for grains other than wheat, cattle, fish and fishery products, newsprint, zinc and products, and ships and vessels. Major commodity decreases were in flour, bacon and hams, planks and boards, wood pulp, automobiles and parts, aluminum, asbestos, and coal.

Merchandise exports to the United States in May were valued at \$121,199,000 as compared with \$110,654,000 in April and \$114,711,000 in May last year. For the first five months this year the value of sales across the border was \$577,004,000 as against \$536,264,000 in the January-May period of 1948, a gain of nearly eight per cent.

May shipments to the United Kingdom amounted in value to \$72,403,000, up from \$63,049,000 in April but down from last year's May figure of \$85,058,000, which was the highest monthly value in 1948. Cumulative value for the five months stood at \$274,887,000 compared with \$305,201,000 last year, a decrease of nearly 10 per cent.

Exports to India and Pakistan, up sharply in preceding months, rose again from a combined value of \$2,260,000 in May a year ago to \$7,983,000, and for the five months from \$8,581,000 to \$45,036,000. Down in April, exports to the Union of South Africa increased in May to \$12,889,000 compared with \$7,815,000 last year, raising the five-month total to \$30,318,000 as against \$27,473,000. In contrast with the gains to these Commonwealth countries, sales to Australia in the month dropped to \$1,436,000 compared with \$3,216,000 last year, resulting in a cumulative total slightly below that of 1948 at \$12,018,000 compared with \$12,985,000, while exports to New Zealand declined to \$1,513,000 from \$1,838,000, and for the five months were down to \$4,724,000 against \$7,027,000.

Merchandise exports to European countries -- moderately higher in April over the corresponding 1948 month, after earlier decreases this year -- fell off to \$24,982,000 compared with \$30,694,000 and for the five months were down to \$87,033,000 compared with \$120,938,000. Larger decreases during May were in trade with Czechoslovakia, Italy, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, while substantial gains were recorded for shipments to Belgium and Luxembourg, and Germany. Exports to Latin American countries as a whole were also lower in May at \$11,852,000 compared with \$13,226,000, but the five-month total was slightly higher at \$48,448,000 as against \$48,274,000. Shipments to Argentina were again sharply lower and there were decreases in those to Brazil and Venezuela and increases to Colombia, Cuba, Mexico and Panama.

Three of the commodity groups were higher in the month and six lower. Agricultural and vegetable products rose to \$76,300,000 compared with \$57,200,000 and animals and animal products declined to \$22,600,000 compared with \$37,700,000, while other groups showed relatively small changes.

The outstanding commodity feature of the month's exports was a rise in value of wheat to \$47,065,000 as against \$19,233,000 in May last year, bringing total wheat exports in the five months to \$155,706,000 compared with \$79,937,000. Other grains increased to \$5,154,000 compared with \$4,107,000, but wheat flour declined to \$9,181,000 compared with \$15,628,000 and for the five months was down to \$43,174,000 against \$54,186,000. Cattle exports again increased to \$3,492,000 from \$2,769,000 and fish and fishery products to \$6,902,000 from \$5,833,000, while bacon and hams dropped to \$1,506,000 from \$13,795,000 and shell and processed eggs to \$924,000 from \$4,271,000.

In the wood and paper group, newsprint increased to \$38,624,000 from \$33,830,000 last year to maintain first-place leadership over wheat at \$165,044,000 for the five months against \$147,643,000. Planks and boards, however, again declined in the month to \$12,473,000 from \$16,304,000, other unmanufactured wood to \$3,873,000 from \$6,379,000, and wood pulp to \$14,812,000 from \$19,773,000.

In the iron and products group, farm machinery and implements continued to advance with a sharp rise to \$12,014,000 from \$6,296,000, while most other larger items, except railway cars and parts, showed moderate declines.

Among non-ferrous metals and non-metallic minerals and their products, nickel increased to \$8,768,000 from \$7,780,000, zinc and products to \$5,711,000 from \$3,960,000, and lead and products to \$3,830,000 from \$3,079,000, while aluminum and products declined to \$11,088,000 from \$14,882,000, copper and products to \$8,694,000 from \$9,355,000, asbestos to \$1,257,000 from \$3,691,000, and coal to \$252,000 from \$1,136,000. In the miscellaneous group, ships and vessels advanced to \$5,935,000 as compared with \$3,529,000 a year ago. (3)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES UP 11 PER CENT IN MAY

Department store sales in Canada in May were up 11 per cent over the same month last year. All provinces shared in the advance, and increased sales were recorded for all departments except food.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the month's sales were valued at \$72,198,000 as compared with \$74,969,000 in the preceding month and \$65,229,000 a year earlier. Gains varied from five per cent in Saskatchewan to 15 per cent in the Maritime Provinces. Average increase for the first five months of this year was 10 per cent over the similar period of 1948.

Figures for the month show that sales of household appliances and electrical supplies advanced 21 per cent over May last year; womens' and children's apparel departments, 15.9 per cent; furniture, 15.1 per cent; men's and boys' clothing and furnishings, 11.7 per cent; hardware and kitchen utensils, 11 per cent; shoes and other footwear, 10.4 per cent; piece goods, 9.9 per cent; smallwares, 7.3 per cent; homefurnishings, 7.4 per cent; drugs, toilet articles and preparations, 6.7 per cent. Sales of food and kindred products were down 7.6 per cent.

Sales were as follows by provinces in May, totals for the same month last year being in brackets (thousands omitted): Maritime Provinces, \$5,906 (\$5,118); Quebec, \$11,860 (\$10,772); Ontario, \$27,507 (\$24,648); Manitoba, \$10,119 (\$9,241); Saskatchewan, \$3,573 (\$3,396); Alberta, \$4,358 (\$3,867); and British Columbia, \$8,875 (\$8,187). (4)

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

	<u>June 23, 1949</u>	<u>June 16, 1949</u>	<u>May 26, 1949</u>
	(1935-39=100)		
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
(106 Common Stocks)	99.6	98.5	103.1
82 Industrials	92.4	91.4	96.5
16 Utilities	109.3	107.9	111.6
8 Banks	131.4	130.8	131.6
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
(30 Stocks)	79.9	76.9	80.4
25 Golds	67.7	64.6	68.3
5 Base Metals	103.0	100.5	103.3

MOTOR VEHICLE SALES
HIGHER IN MAY

Sales of new motor vehicles in May continued the sharp gain of April over a year earlier, rising 45 per cent in number and 52 per cent in retail value over May last year. In April, sales were somewhat greater in number and value than in May. In that month sales were up 46 per cent in number and 56 per cent in value over April, 1948. In May as in April, the gain was due mainly to larger sales of passenger cars.

According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, sales in May totalled 27,258 units retailing for \$57,381,848 compared with 18,751 vehicles sold for \$37,709,965 in May, 1948. In the five months ending May, sales aggregated 106,042 units sold for \$224,594,566 compared with 85,908 units for \$168,580,102 a year earlier.

The number of passenger cars sold in May was 18,626 with a value of \$38,314,929 compared with 10,963 units valued at \$21,486,105 in May last year. There were 8,541 trucks sold for \$17,230,950 compared with 7,711 valued at \$14,890,415 a year earlier, and 91 buses with a value of \$1,835,969 compared with 77 units at \$1,333,445 a year ago.

In the first five months of this year, sales of passenger cars totalled 69,501 with a retail value of \$145,119,863 compared with 53,647 with a value of \$101,981,548 in the same period of 1948. Truck sales in the cumulative period numbered 36,203 valued at \$72,967,618 compared with 31,960 with a value of \$61,381,937. Bus sales in the five months aggregated 338 units valued at \$6,507,085, increasing 12.3 per cent in number and 24.7 per cent in value. (5)

FINANCING OF MOTOR VEHICLE SALES

Continuing sharply above 1948 levels, financing of sales of new and used motor vehicles rose 66 per cent in number and 68 per cent in financed value in May over the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. A total of 25,735 motor vehicles were financed in May for \$24,091,915 compared with 15,531 units for \$14,375,968 in May, 1948.

New passenger vehicles totalled 4,995 units with a financed value of \$6,473,656 compared with 2,004 units financed for \$2,548,614 in May last year. The advance in the new commercial vehicles was more moderate, 3,198 units being financed for \$5,296,946 compared with 2,559 financed for \$4,243,426. New passenger cars, trucks and buses combined totalled 8,193 units and were financed to the extent of \$11,770,602 compared with 4,563 financed for \$6,792,040, showing increases of 79.6 and 73.3 per cent, respectively.

There were 17,542 used vehicles financed for \$12,321,313 in May this year compared with 10,968 units financed for \$7,581,928 in May last year, showing increases of 59.9 per cent in number and 62.5 per cent in value. Used passenger models financed in May numbered 14,676 with a value of \$9,904,730 compared with 8,649 financed for \$5,449,194. Commercial vehicles financed in the month totalled 2,868 involving \$2,416,583 compared with 2,319 financed for \$2,132,734 a year ago. (6)

EMPLOYMENT AND WEEKLY EARNINGS

Employment in leading establishments in the eight major industrial divisions showed moderate improvement at May 1, reversing the downward movement indicated in immediately preceding months, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The rise in employment was accompanied by a slight advance in total payrolls. Per capita weekly earnings, however, were down slightly from April but above May last year.

The advance index number of employment, based on 1926 as 100, stood at 188.6 -- a new high for May 1 -- as compared with 187.6 at April 1, and 186.5 at May 1, 1948. Marked seasonal curtailment was noted in logging operations in the Eastern and Central provinces, but the trend in numerous other industries was favourable at the beginning of May.

The rise in the advance index number of employment at May 1 as compared with April 1, was 0.5 per cent, and 0.1 per cent in the index of payrolls. The per capita weekly earnings of the employees reported in the eight principal industries stood at \$43.16 at May 1 as compared with \$43.35 at April 1, and \$39.70 at May 1, 1948.

Greater activity as compared with April 1 was indicated in Quebec and the four Western provinces. The gains ranged from 0.7 per cent in Quebec, to 3.7 per cent in British Columbia and 4.1 per cent in Saskatchewan. The losses in the remaining provinces varied from 0.1 per cent in Ontario to 4.4 per cent in Nova Scotia. The trend of payrolls was generally downward in all provinces except Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Reduced working time in some industries was a factor contributing to the decline in the disbursements in salaries and wages.

The advance index number of employment in manufacturing, at 203.2, was insignificantly higher than that of 203.0 at April 1, and also slightly exceeded the May 1, 1948, figure of 201.8. The index of payrolls, however, showed a loss of 0.1 per cent in the month, but was 9.8 per cent higher than at May 1 last year. The preliminary figure of per capita weekly salaries and wages of persons employed in leading manufacturing establishments at May 1 was \$44.45, as compared with \$44.54 at April 1, and \$40.78 at May 1, 1948. (7)

CREAMERY BUTTER STOCKS HIGHER

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on June 24 amounted to 25,040,000 pounds compared with 13,332,000 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. There were increased stocks in six of the nine cities, Quebec, Saskatoon, and Vancouver, reporting lower holdings.

Stocks were as follows by cities, totals for the same date last year being in brackets (thousands omitted): Quebec, 734 (1,665) pounds; Montreal, 10,379 (5,349); Toronto, 6,330 (2,249); Winnipeg, 3,847 (1,759); Regina, 646 (158); Saskatoon, 162 (209); Edmonton, 1,534 (569); Calgary, 562 (463); Vancouver, 846 (911).

DOMESTIC DISAPPEARANCE OF BUTTER

Domestic disappearance of butter, including dairy and whey butter in April amounted to 24,500,000 pounds, a decline of 3,000,000 pounds or 10.5 per cent from the same month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. On a per capita basis the domestic disappearance amounted to 1.88 pounds as against 2.13 a year ago. (8)

EGG PRODUCTION IN MAY

Net production of eggs in May declined to 39,944,000 dozen from 41,047,000 in the corresponding month last year. During the first five months of this year net production totalled 175,419,000 dozen compared with 193,761,000 in the similar period of 1948, a decline of 9.5 per cent. (9)

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on June 16 totalled 80,881,000 bushels compared with 85,192,000 on June 9, and 50,113,000 on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Farmers in the Prairie Provinces marketed 2,273,200 bushels of wheat during the week ending June 16 as compared with 4,450,800 in the corresponding week last year, bringing the cumulative total for the crop year to date to 275,612,000 bushels as against 226,748,000 in the like period of the preceding crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending June 16, totals for the same week last year being in brackets: oats, 1,522,800 (1,851,100) bushels; barley, 1,203,400 (1,139,800); rye, 264,200 (10,000); flaxseed, 165,000 (108,900).

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending June 16 totalled 5,182,900 bushels compared with 4,087,800 in the same week last year, and in the cumulative period, 147,731,400 bushels against 115,657,400 a year earlier. (10)

WHEAT FLOUR PRODUCTION
LOWER IN MAY

Canadian flour mills produced 10 per cent less wheat flour in May this year than last, the month's output amounting to 1,570,000 barrels as compared with 1,732,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Cumulative production for the first 10 months of the current crop year declined 16 per cent to 17,221,000 barrels from 20,462,000 in the like period last year.

Wheat flour exports declined in May to 918,800 barrels from 1,130,100 in the corresponding month last year, and in the 10-month period to 9,282,400 barrels from 11,894,100.

Wheat used in the manufacture of flour in May amounted to 6,967,100 bushels against 7,898,600, and in the 10 months, 76,872,700 bushels compared with 92,848,800. Stocks of wheat in flour mills at the end of May amounted to 2,225,800 bushels.

The following quantities of coarse grains were ground in May, totals for May last year being in brackets: oats, 1,516,100 (1,630,800) bushels; corn, 233,600 (140,100); barley, 652,800 (741,900); buckwheat, 120 (490); mixed grains, 1,347,100 (1,412,900). (11)

PRODUCTION OF LEATHER FOOTWEAR

Canadian production of leather footwear in April decreased nine per cent from the high total registered in March, but seven per cent above the same month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Production for the month amounted to 3,188,900 pairs as compared with 3,491,500 in March and 2,983,600 a year ago. This year's April figure brought production for the four months of this year to 12,172,600 pairs as against 11,231,400 in the similar period a year ago, a gain of eight per cent.

Of the 3,188,900 pairs produced in April, 1,151,100 were soled with materials other than leather. (12)

WHOLESALE PRICES LOWER IN MAY

A further decline was shown in wholesale prices in Canada in May, according to the general wholesale price index number issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The index was down 1.1 points from April, 3.2 points from the high reached in December, but six points above May last year.

The index for May this year, on the base 1926 as 100, stood at 156.4 as compared with 157.5 in April, 159.6 in December, and 150.4 a year ago. As compared with April, there were decreases in six of the eight sub-group indexes, vegetable products and iron products being higher.

Sub-group indexes were as follows in May, those for the preceding month being in brackets: vegetable products, 141.5 (140.3); animal products, 166.4 (167.2); textile products, 162.0 (162.3); wood products, 186.9 (189.5); iron products, 173.2 (171.5); non-ferrous metals, 134.7 (149.0); non-metallic minerals, 134.5 (136.7); chemical products, 124.0 (125.2). (13)

INDEXES OF GENERAL AND RESIDENTIAL BUILDING MATERIALS DECLINE SLIGHTLY

Wholesale price levels of both general and residential building materials declined slightly between April and May, according to the price indexes compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. It was the second successive monthly decline for general building materials and the third for the index of residential building materials.

The Bureau's index of general building materials, on the base 1926 equals 100, moved down from 204.3 for April to 202.8 for May, making a total drop of 2.6 points from this year's high point of 205.4 for March. Highest point reached by the index was 205.9 last October. This year's May standing compares with 193.5 for May, 1948.

While of longer duration, the downward movement in residential building materials, as indicated by the Bureau's indexes, has been of slighter proportions than that in general building materials. Based on 1935-39 equals 100, the residential materials index eased off just four-tenths of a point in the month from 229.5 for April to 229.1 for May. The latter figure is 1.3 points below the high point for the index of 230.4 in February and compares with 214.6 for May a year ago.

Among the nine principal components of the residential materials index, the indexes for four declined from April to May, three were higher and two unchanged. Major decline was in the index for electrical equipment and fixtures, down from 180.9 to 169.1. Other decreases were: lath, plaster and insulation, 118.7 to 118.1; roofing materials, 193.6 to 190.4; plumbing and heating equipment, 180.8 to 180.5. Increases were: cement, sand and gravel, 126.6 to 127.1; brick, tile and stone, 149.2 to 151.1; and "other materials", 176.1 to 178.1. Indexes were unchanged for the second successive month for lumber and lumber products, and paint and glass, both of which eased off in March from their peak levels. (13)

1948-49 EDITION OF CANADA
YEAR BOOK NOW AVAILABLE

The 1948-49 edition of the Canada Year Book is now available. This volume is the official statistical annual of the country and contains an up-to-date account of the natural resources of the Dominion and their development, the history of the country, its institutions, its demography, the different branches of production, trade, transportation, national accounts and public finance, education, labour, and so on. In brief, it is a comprehensive study, within the limits of a single volume, of the social and economic conditions of the Dominion.

This new edition, which extends to 1,300 pages, has been thoroughly revised, and includes in its 32 chapters the latest material available at press time. In addition to the regular chapter material there are several special articles dealing with the physical geography of the Canadian western Arctic, the climate of Canada, the contribution to science made by the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, and the chemical industry in Canada.

The current issue also includes a statistical summary of Canada for the years 1871-1948, a calendar of events for 1948, a directory of sources of official information, a list of official appointments, and legislation of the third session of the twentieth parliament. Upwards of eleven maps and forty-three diagrams have been inserted.

Cloth-bound copies of the Canada Year Book may be obtained from the King's Printer, Ottawa, at the price of \$2.00 per copy. By a special concession, a limited number of paper-bound copies have been set aside for ministers of religion, bona fide students and school teachers, who may obtain such copies at the price of \$1.00 each. Applications for these special copies should be sent to the Dominion Statistician, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

Each year a number of articles from the Canada Year Book are made available in reprint form. These are chosen for their special interest and on the basis of the demand that exists for them. A list of reprints is given in the Year Book together with their prices, of ten to fifteen cents a copy. Applications for copies of these articles should be made to the Dominion Statistician. (14)

LUMBER OUTPUT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Production of sawn lumber and ties in British Columbia totalled 187,900 M feet in February as compared with 210,500 M in the same month last year, a decrease of 11 per cent, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Output of coast mills, which account for 78 per cent of the total, showed a decline of 13 per cent from a year ago, and that of interior mills, fell three per cent.

Shipments in the month declined 26 per cent, amounting to 157,800 M feet as compared with 214,200 M in February last year. Coast mills decreased 23 per cent, and interior mills dropped 40 per cent.

Stocks on hand at the end of February totalled 387,000 M feet compared with 255,600 M at the end of February, 1948. Coast mills reported stocks totalling 250,900 M feet, while interior mills showed 136,100 M. (15)

SALES AND PURCHASES OF SECURITIES
BETWEEN CANADA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

Security transactions between Canada and other countries in April resulted in a sales balance of \$4,200,000, the largest since November, 1946. Total transactions in the month amounted to \$38,600,000, the highest monthly total in the current year, but only slightly higher than the monthly average of \$34,800,000 in 1948.

Transactions during the first four months of the year resulted in net sales in each month but February. The cumulative sales balance at the end of April was \$4,100,000, contrasting with purchase balances of \$6,400,000 and \$5,000,000 in the same periods of 1948 and 1947.

The sales balance in April was principally due to trade with the United States, in which there was an excess of sales over purchases of \$3,900,000. The most prominent transactions were sales of United States stocks and Canadian municipal bonds and repurchases of Canadian stocks.

Sales to the United Kingdom in April increased \$400,000, while purchases remained unchanged from the preceding month, resulting in a sales balance of \$100,000. The total value of trade with other countries remained unchanged from March, while sales exceeded purchases by \$200,000.

Sales to all countries in April were valued at \$21,400,000 as compared with \$14,600,000 in March and \$19,000,000 in April last year, while the purchases from all countries totalled \$17,200,000 compared with \$13,800,000 in March and \$20,400,000 in April last year.

In the four months ending April, sales to all countries aggregated \$65,700,000 compared with \$64,100,000 in the similar period of 1948, and the purchases, \$61,600,000 as compared with \$70,500,000. (16)

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING UP SHL RPLY Residential building in Canada rose sharply during the first four months this year with completions and starts both showing substantial gains over the same period last year. There were 25,100 dwelling units completed in the period, an increase of 6,800 or 37 per cent over the same period of 1948, according to estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This gain is due to the high carry-over of houses under construction at the end of 1948. Starts were also made on 16,900 dwelling units in the first four months of this year, an increase of 12.7 per cent over the same period of 1948.

The number of units under construction at the end of April was 48,100 compared with 56,500 at January 1. Ontario led the provinces with a total of 18,600 units under construction at the end of April, followed by Quebec with 12,000, British Columbia 6,900, Alberta 4,000, Nova Scotia 2,100, Manitoba 1,900, Saskatchewan 1,600, New Brunswick 800, and Prince Edward Island 100. Among the larger metropolitan areas, there were close to 8,000 units under construction in Montreal, 4,800 in Toronto, 4,000 in Vancouver, 1,600 in Winnipeg, 1,100 in Hamilton, 850 in Victoria and 820 in London.

In April, 7,300 units were completed compared with 6,700 in the corresponding month last year, while starts were made on 8,466 units compared with 8,274 a year ago. The average length of time required to build the dwelling units completed in April was 7.9 months, unchanged from the March figure.

The number of dwelling units completed in the first four months of 1949 by regions, figures for the same period of 1948 being in brackets: Maritimes, 1,573 (773); Quebec, 6,778 (4,865); Ontario, 8,725 (6,806); Prairie Provinces, 4,748 (2,817); British Columbia, 3,253 (3,037). (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. Summary of Foreign Trade, April (10 cents).
 2. Imports for Consumption, April (10 cents).
 3. Domestic Exports, May (10 cents).
 4. Department Store Sales and Inventories, May (10 cents).
 5. Sales of New Motor Vehicles, May (10 cents).
 6. Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, May (10 cents).
 7. Advance Statement on Employment and Weekly Earnings, May 1 (10 cents).
 8. Dairy Review of Canada, May (10 cents).
 9. Monthly Poultry Estimates, May (10 cents).
 10. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
 11. Canadian Milling Statistics, May (10 cents).
 12. Production of Leather Footwear, April (10 cents).
 13. Prices and Price Indexes, May (10 cents).
 14. Canada Year Book, 1948-49; Cloth Bound Copies, \$2.00; Paper-Bound, \$1.00
 15. Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, February (25 cents).
 16. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, April (10 cents).
 17. Housing Bulletin No. 16 (10 cents).
 18. Quarterly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, January-March, 1949 (25 cents).
 19. Hops, 1948 (10 cents).
 20. Preliminary Estimates of the Principal Statistics of the Bread and Other Bakery Products Industry, 1948 (10 cents).
 21. Preliminary Report on Benefit Years Established and Terminated Under the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1948 (25 cents).
 22. Railway Revenue Freight Loadings, May (10 cents).
 23. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
 24. Chemicals and Allied Products, Preliminary Summary Statistics, 1948 (15 cents).
 25. Refined Petroleum Products, March (10 cents).
 26. Fluid Milk Trade, April (10 cents).
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