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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

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WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX IN AUGUST continued its gradual downward movement shown in previous months this year, the decline being interrupted only in July, when a slight gain was recorded. The August index was 1.1 points below the July level, but 3.2 points higher than a year earlier.

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CANADA HAD A FAVOURABLE BALANCE OF TRADE with all countries of \$12,800,000 in July, up from \$6,900,000 in June, but below last year's July figure of \$28,400,000. For the seven months ended July the credit balance was \$41,900,000 as against \$177,200,000 for the corresponding period in 1948.

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CANADA'S MERCHANDISE IMPORTS IN JULY were valued at \$230,900,000, a drop of nearly \$20 million from the near-record totals of \$250,500,000 for June and May, but above last year's July total of \$225,100,000.

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PRODUCTION OF STEEL INGOTS IN AUGUST amounted to 241,442 tons as compared with 232,499 in the preceding month and 254,362 in August last year. In the eight months, production totalled 2,092,425 tons, an increase of three per cent over last year's corresponding total of 2,029,479 tons.

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

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NEW RECORDS WERE ESTABLISHED IN HIGHWAY TRAFFIC between Canada and the United States in July. The total number of vehicles to cross the border into Canada -- almost 1,500,000 -- has never been exceeded in any month either before or after the war.

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LOADINGS OF RAILWAY REVENUE FREIGHT during the week ending September 17 totalled 86,039 cars as compared with 73,540 in the preceding week and 90,852 in the corresponding week last year.

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STOCKS OF CANADIAN WHEAT in store or in transit in North America at midnight on September 15 amounted to 130,360,000 bushels as compared with 106,668,400 on September 8 and 126,121,300 on the corresponding date last year.

CANADA'S FOREIGN TRADE IN JULY Canada had a favourable balance of trade with all countries of \$12,800,000 in July, up from \$6,900,000 in June but below last year's July figure of \$28,400,000. For the seven months ended July the credit balance was \$41,900,000 as against \$177,200,000 for the corresponding period in 1948.

Both domestic exports and merchandise imports were lower in value in July than in June, while exports were also below July last year and imports moderately higher. Foreign exports showed little change in both comparisons.

Domestic exports in the month were valued at \$241,300,000, down from \$255,100,000 in June and \$250,900,000 in July last year, while foreign exports at \$2,400,000 compared with \$2,300,000 and \$2,600,000, respectively. Merchandise imports declined in the month to \$230,900,000 from the high level of \$250,500,000 in June, but exceeded by a few million the value of \$225,100,000 for July, 1948.

In the seven months the aggregate values of both exports and imports were higher, with imports showing the greater increase, while foreign exports were down. The value of domestic exports for the period rose to \$1,665,900,000 compared with \$1,651,000,000 in 1948, the gain being partly offset by a drop in foreign exports to \$16,200,000 from \$21,400,000. Imports for consumption in the seven months moved up to \$1,640,300,000 as against \$1,495,200,000 in the previous year, a rise of nearly 10 per cent.

During the first seven months this year the volume of exports was lower than last year, but generally higher prices served to maintain the total value of exports to all countries. In contrast, the general volume of imports this year was appreciably higher than in the same period of 1948, although some important commodities, like certain fuels, were lower in volume. Reduced demands abroad and some factors retarding supplies have influenced the export trend, while Canadian prosperity and improving supplies abroad have combined to increase Canadian imports.

In July trade with the United States, both imports and exports were lower in value than in June, imports showing the greater decline. On the other hand, the value of exports was below July last year and that of imports higher. As a result, Canada's deficit on merchandise account with the United States decreased in July to \$54,200,000 from \$61,300,000 in June, but it was substantially greater than the deficit of \$28,600,000 for July, 1948, and brought the aggregate deficit for the seven months to \$362,500,000 compared with \$256,800,000 in the corresponding period last year and \$572,900,000 in 1947. The increase of 13 per cent in the value of Canadian imports from the United States has been the chief contributor to the increased deficit this year.

Domestic exports to the United Kingdom in July were substantially higher than in June and July last year, while imports rose only moderately over June and were unchanged from a year ago. The credit balance with the United Kingdom accordingly increased in the month, amounting to \$41,700,000 compared with \$34,100,000 in the previous month and \$27,100,000 in July last year. Due to lower balances in earlier months, however, the aggregate credit balance for the seven months was down to \$215,800,000 compared with \$248,000,000 last year and \$321,000,000 in 1947. This reduced export balance has been mainly the result of the rise in the value of Canadian imports from the United Kingdom. (1)

MERCHANDISE IMPORTS IN JULY Canada's merchandise imports during July were valued at \$230,900,000, a drop of nearly \$20 million from the near-record monthly totals of \$250,500,000 for June and May, but above last year's July total of \$225,100,000, according to returns just released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The July figure raised the cumulative total for the year to date to \$1,640,300,000 from \$1,495,200,000 for the corresponding seven months of 1948, an increase slightly in excess of 12 per cent.

The decline in the July total from peaks in recent months was concentrated in imports from the United States. Likewise the rise in the month over a year earlier was due to an increase -- of double the overall gain -- in purchases from the United States. Most of the advance in the seven months was also due to a rise in the value of goods from that country, but aggregate purchases in the period were also higher from the United Kingdom, the British West Indies, the Oceania group of Commonwealth countries, and from European countries.

July imports from the United States rose in value to \$160,254,000 compared with \$149,499,000 in July last year, and in the seven months totalled \$1,169,000,000 compared with \$1,034,000,000. Purchases from the United Kingdom in the month amounted to \$29,376,000, almost identical with the value of a year earlier, and in the seven months aggregated \$192,584,000 compared with \$168,508,000. Gain for the two countries in the cumulative period thus totalled slightly over \$159,000,000 as against an overall increase of approximately \$145,000,000.

Total imports from Commonwealth countries, excluding the United Kingdom, declined in July to \$15,200,000 from \$16,200,000 in July last year, after deduction of last year's figure for Newfoundland; but, on the same basis, were higher for the seven months at \$106,600,000 compared with \$104,900,000. Imports from the British West Indies increased in July to \$7,415,000 from \$5,473,000 a year ago, and in the seven months to \$33,728,000 from \$23,346,000. Purchases from Commonwealth countries in Africa, on the other hand, dropped in the month to \$1,091,000 from \$3,603,000 and in the seven months to \$12,123,000 from \$18,444,000. Among the Asiatic countries, imports rose in July from India and Ceylon but declined from British Malaya, group total for the month increasing to \$4,696,000 compared with \$3,871,000 but declining for the seven months to \$37,487,000 from \$42,574,000. Imports from Australia fell off in July to \$1,673,000 as against \$2,361,000 last year, but remained higher for the seven months at \$13,673,000 compared with \$11,018,000; while from New Zealand they were lower in both periods at \$314,000 and \$5,914,000, respectively.

Continuing the advance of the first six months, imports from European countries were valued at \$6,262,000 compared with \$5,310,000, bringing the cumulative total to \$50,964,000 compared with \$33,371,000, a rise of 52 per cent. Increases for individual countries were small in the month, while the larger gains in the seven months were for Belgium and Luxembourg, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland. Purchases from Latin American countries were again lower at \$16,771,000 compared with \$21,318,000, the seven-month total standing at \$103,222,000 as against \$128,388,000.

The decline in total imports in July from June was distributed over every main commodity group except non-metallic minerals, although some of the groups continued to be higher than in the same month last year. For the seven months this year, however, imports had a higher value than last year in every main group except animal products and non-metallic minerals, in which imports of coal and petroleum products were lower.

Among the commodity groups, imports of iron and its products -- the largest group -- continued in July to be higher than last year, being valued at \$79,500,000 compared with \$64,500,000 in July, 1948. But total imports of this group were lower in July than in any month since February. Largest increases over last year in the group, both in the month and seven months, were in rolling-mill products, pipes, tubes and fittings, farm implements and machinery, automobiles and automobile parts, and engines and boilers; but July imports of most of these were down from peaks occurring in the earlier months this year.

Second in value, the non-metallic minerals group declined to \$50,373,000 compared with \$58,843,000 last year, due mainly to lower values for coal and coal products and petroleum products. The non-ferrous metals group, in contrast with previous months, was down slightly at \$11,426,000 compared with \$12,320,000, small decreases being shown in most main items. The chemicals group showed a similar trend, decreasing to \$9,925,000 from \$10,188,000 one year earlier, with only minor changes for major items.

Imports of agricultural and vegetable products rose in July to \$29,100,000 compared with \$26,400,000 last year, fruits and vegetables, grains, tea, alcoholic beverages and vegetable oils being higher among principal items, and sugar, cocoa and chocolate, rubber and products lower. Purchases of animals and animal products were down at \$4,000,000 compared with \$7,500,000, due chiefly to declines for furs and fur products and animal oils, fats and greases.

Purchases of fibres and textiles, which have been running at a higher level this year than last, fell off in July to \$26,000,000 compared with \$29,700,000, small increases for raw cotton and flax, hemp and jute being more than offset by declines for cotton products, raw and unmanufactured wool and artificial silk and products. The wood and paper group increased to \$6,500,000 from \$5,400,000, and the miscellaneous group to \$14,000,000 from \$10,300,000. Gain in the latter group was largely the result of increases in Canadian tourist purchases of \$2,977,000, in parcels of small value, and in imports of aircraft and parts. (2)

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT OFF SLIGHTLY
WHILE PAYROLLS ADVANCE

Industrial employment in Canada at the beginning of August showed a very slight advance over a month earlier and a small decline as compared with the corresponding date last year. The decrease from last year, which was limited to 0.9 per cent, was the first to be recorded in a 12-month comparison in a lengthy period. Despite this decline in employment, payrolls showed a rise of 5.6 per cent over August 1, 1948.

The advance general index number of employment, based on 1926 as 100, was 199.0 as compared with 198.9 on July 1, and 200.9 a year ago. Construction and certain other non-manufacturing industries reported greater activity at the beginning of August, while manufacturing was generally quieter than a month and year earlier.

The advance figure of per capita weekly salaries and wages of persons employed by leading firms in the major industrial divisions was \$43.06, the highest in the record for the beginning of August. Per capita weekly earnings of salaried employees and wage-earners in the manufacturing division stood at \$44.07, as compared with \$41.45 a year earlier. (3)

WHOLESALE PRICES LOWER IN AUGUST

The general wholesale price index in August continued the gradual downward movement shown in previous months this year, the decline being interrupted only in July, when a slight gain was recorded. The August index was 1.1 points below the July level, but 3.2 points higher than a year earlier.

The index for August this year, on the base 1926=100, stood at 155.5 as compared with 156.6 in the preceding month and 152.2 a year ago. As compared with August last year, decreases occurred in five of the eight sub-groups, the exceptions being vegetable, textile and iron products. In comparison with July, indexes were higher for non-ferrous metals and chemical products.

Sub-group indexes were as follows in August, those for the same month last year being in brackets: vegetable products, 142.1 (140.0); animal products, 167.8 (177.4); textile products, 160.2 (157.5); wood products, 182.2 (189.1); iron products, 170.9 (164.5); non-ferrous metals, 134.2 (159.1); non-metallic minerals, 133.6 (136.1); chemical products, 122.2 (126.8). (5)

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

	<u>Sept. 22, 1949</u>	<u>Sept. 15, 1949</u>	<u>Aug. 25, 1949</u>
	(1935-39=100)		
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
(106 Common Stocks)	110.0	110.4	107.8
82 Industrials	103.1	102.6	100.6
16 Utilities	120.8	125.4	119.6
8 Banks	135.8	135.8	134.2
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
(30 Stocks)	91.4	89.4	89.1
25 Golds	76.0	74.9	75.3
5 Base Metals	121.1	117.3	115.3

RECORD NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLE ENTRIES IN JULY

New records were established in July in highway traffic between Canada and the United States. The total number of vehicles to cross the border into Canada -- almost 1,500,000 -- has never been exceeded in any month either before or after the war. Previous records were broken both by the number of American vehicles entering Canada and the number of Canadian vehicles returning from the United States. American entries exceeded the previous peak of July, 1948 by seven per cent and Canadian vehicles returned in 18 per cent greater volume than in August, 1947 when the former high mark was set.

The aggregate number of border crossings in July was 1,495,200, consisting of 1,169,400 foreign entries and 325,800 Canadian vehicles returning. Of the foreign inflow, 453,200 vehicles entered on traveller's vehicle permits, 695,600 were non-permit or local entries and 20,600 were commercial vehicles. The Canadian traffic comprised 61,900 units remaining abroad for more than 24 hours, 248,800 staying for shorter periods and 15,100 commercial vehicles. The density of traffic at the busier ports on the Independence Day holiday can be judged from the fact that the average number of vehicles entering Canada at the single port of Fort Erie, day and night throughout the month, was between six and seven per minute. (6)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES
UP SIX PER CENT IN AUGUST

Department store sales in Canada in August -- Newfoundland excluded -- were up six per cent over the same month last year, all provinces sharing in the advance. Increased sales were recorded for all departments with the exceptions of food and kindred products, radios, musical instruments and supplies.

The month's sales were valued at \$57,180,000 compared with \$54,016,000 a year ago. Gains ranged from two per cent in British Columbia to 12.3 per cent in Quebec.

Largest gains in sales of the household appliances and furniture departments in August represented the continuation of a trend which has been developing for some months, the former rising 35.1 per cent and the latter 22.1 per cent. Stationery, books and magazines rose 9.9 per cent; drugs, toilet articles and preparations, 9.8 per cent; shoes and other footwear, 8.1 per cent; women's and children's apparel, 5.0 per cent; hardware and kitchen utensils, 4.7 per cent; homefurnishings, 2.8 per cent; smallwares, 2.4 per cent; piece goods, 0.9 per cent; and men's and boys' clothing and furnishings, 0.7 per cent. Sales of food and kindred products were down 17.0 per cent, and radios, musical instruments and supplies 4.2 per cent.

Sales were as follows by provinces in August, totals for the same month last year being in brackets (thousands omitted): Maritime Provinces, \$4,363 (\$4,183); Quebec, \$8,974 (\$7,992); Ontario, \$20,966 (\$20,063); Manitoba, \$8,342 (\$7,696); Saskatchewan, \$2,571 (\$2,421); Alberta, \$3,785 (\$3,643); and British Columbia, \$8,179 (\$8,018). (6)

LANDINGS OF SEA FISH
UP 7.4 PER CENT IN AUGUST

Landings in the sea fisheries of Canada in August, Newfoundland excluded, advanced 7.4 per cent as compared with August last year, due to increased landings on the Pacific Coast. The catch for the first eight months of this year, however, was 9.6 per cent lower than for the similar period of 1948.

Total catch for the month amounted to 147,577,000 pounds valued at \$9,652,000 compared with 137,371,000 pounds valued at \$9,796,000 a year ago. The aggregate for the eight months ending August was 744,222,000 pounds with a value of \$36,765,000 as against 823,354,000 pounds at \$40,493,000 in the like 1948 period.

On the Pacific Coast, landings for the month were 62,720,000 pounds, showing a sharp increase of 39.5 per cent over the 44,976,000 pounds in August last year. The greater part of the gain was accounted for by greater landings of salmon -- especially pinks. The tuna fishery, which reached "gold-rush" proportions last year has so far proved disappointing in that, although the volume has increased, the value has decreased appreciably.

Landings on the Atlantic Coast amounted to 84,857,000 pounds compared with 92,395,000 in August, 1948, a decrease of 8.2 per cent. Of the Eastern provinces, only Quebec recorded an increased catch, and for this increase cod alone was almost wholly responsible. The New Brunswick fisheries showed the greatest decline. This was caused almost entirely by lower landings of sardines. (7)

DOMESTIC DISAPPEARANCE OF
BUTTER LOWER IN JULY

The domestic disappearance of butter in July, including dairy and whey butter, amounted to 28,000,000 pounds, a decline of 4,750,000 pounds or 14.7 per cent as compared with the same month last year. On a per capita basis the domestic disappearance amounted to 2.14 pounds as against 2.54 pounds a year ago. The use of butter substitute explains the decrease in the domestic disappearance of butter during the first half of 1949. (8)

STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER
IN NINE CITIES OF CANADA

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on September 23 amounted to 53,216,000 pounds as compared with 33,135,000 on the corresponding date last year.

Increased holdings were recorded for six of the nine centres, exceptions being Quebec, Calgary and Vancouver.

Stocks were as follows by cities, totals for the same date last year being in brackets (thousands omitted): Quebec, 4,022 (4,688) pounds; Montreal, 19,910 (11,509); Toronto, 10,820 (3,793); Winnipeg, 10,515 (5,612); Regina, 1,118 (414); Saskatoon, 366 (226); Edmonton, 3,581 (2,402); Calgary, 1,471 (1,731); Vancouver, 1,413 (2,760).

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on September 15 amounted to 130,360,000 bushels as compared with 106,668,400 on September 8 and

126,121,300 on the corresponding date last year.

Farmers in the Prairie Provinces marketed 28,182,600 bushels during the week ending September 15 as compared with 34,480,100 in the corresponding week last year, bringing the cumulative total for the crop year to date to 105,205,300 bushels against 107,021,900 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 September 15, totals for the same week last year being in brackets: oats, 4,674,200 (4,096,100) bushels; barley, 4,647,800 (4,458,100); rye, 491,700 (788,300); flaxseed, 135,900 (1,228,100).

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending September 15 totalled 3,404,300 bushels compared with 1,724,100 in the same week last year, and in the cumulative period, 22,866,700 bushels against 12,951,800. (9)

PRODUCTION OF EGGS IN AUGUST

Production of eggs in Canada in August amounted to 27,030,000 dozen as compared with 27,964,000 in the same month last year, a decline of three per cent. Of this year's August total, 24,695,000 dozen or 91.4 per cent were produced on farms, and 2,335,000 dozen or 8.6 per cent elsewhere than on farms. The gross production per hen was 11.78 eggs, down 0.5 from last year, and a seasonal reduction of 1.5 from July.

Cumulative output for the first eight months of this year totalled 263,387,000 dozen as against 286,553,000 in the same period last year. Eggs per 100 layers totalled 1,178 compared with 1,228 in August, 1948.

Eggs sold for consumption amounted to 21,407,500 dozen in August valued at \$10,610,300, while 5,408,400 dozen at an estimated value of \$2,552,700 were used for food by producers. (10)

CROP OF HOPS SLIGHTLY HIGHER

The Canadian hop crop this year is currently estimated at 2,209,000 pounds, showing an increase of four per cent over the preceding year. While the acreage again was lower, yields per acre were improved. The value of the crop is placed at \$1,546,000, slightly under the 1948 total of \$1,559,000.

British Columbia -- largest of the three producing provinces -- accounted for 2,126,000 pounds this year as against 2,009,000 in 1948. The crop in Ontario amounted to 63,000 pounds against 88,000, and in Quebec, 20,000 pounds compared with 33,000. (11)

FARM WAGE RATES LOWER IN AUGUST

Average wages for male farm help for Canada as a whole showed a general downward trend in August for the first time since the inception of the current farm wage survey in 1940. With the exception of Prince Edward Island, this downward trend was evident in eastern Canada for both daily and monthly rates. While daily rates in the West continued to rise, the direction of monthly wages was somewhat varied.

With board provided by the employer, the average farm wage-rate per day for all Canada was \$4.35 at August 15 as compared with \$4.40 at the same date in 1948 and \$4.13 in 1947. By provinces, rates ranged from \$3.14 in Prince Edward Island to \$5.51 in Saskatchewan. Without board, the average daily rate decreased to \$5.29 from \$5.44 a year earlier, and compares with \$5.17 in 1947, rates being below 1948 levels in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario.

The average monthly rate with board for all provinces amounted to \$84.92 compared with \$86.79 in 1948 and \$82.75 two years ago, rates ranging by provinces between \$59.09 in Prince Edward Island and \$92.69 in Saskatchewan. There were declines from a year ago in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. When workers provided their own board, the average rate for men hired by the month was \$114.96 as against \$116.67 in August last year and \$109.03 in August, 1947. In this case, all provinces were lower except Manitoba and Saskatchewan. (12)

REVENUE FREIGHT LOADINGS

Canadian railways transported 11,831,000 tons of revenue freight during May compared with 11,337,000 in April and 12,239,000 in May last year. The decline from 1948 was 408,000 tons or 3.3 per cent, and occurred in four of the five groups, agricultural products being the exception. Loadings at Canadian stations were advanced from 8,774,000 tons a year ago to 8,915,000 tons, or by 1.6 per cent, while receipts from foreign connections dropped from 3,465,000 to 2,916,000 tons, both imports and intransit freight showing reduced movements.

By provinces, loadings were heavier than in May 1948, in Prince Edward Island, up from 42,100 to 43,500 tons, Manitoba at 516,100 tons against 431,600, Saskatchewan increasing from 436,200 to 644,800, and Alberta climbing from 828,900 to 1,008,000 tons. Loadings in British Columbia eased slightly in the same comparison, while Quebec dropped from 1,692,300 to 1,494,200 tons and Ontario from 3,322,500 to 3,257,800 tons. Nova Scotia declined nearly 36,000 tons while New Brunswick's volume was down 30,700 tons to 304,100. (13)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Loadings of railway revenue freight during the week ending September 17 totalled 86,039 cars compared with 73,540 in the preceding week and 90,852 in the corresponding week last year. The cumulative total for the 37 weeks ending September 17 was down 3.2 per cent from the same period of 1948.

Increased activity in the week was shown in the loadings of grain, base bullion, gasoline and petroleum oils, iron and steel manufactures, automobiles and trucks, and fertilizers. Loadings of grain products, hay and straw, fresh vegetables, live stock, dairy products and meat, coal and coke, and building products, wood pulp and paper, and l.c.l. merchandise were lower. (14)

CRUDE PETROLEUM AND NATURAL
GAS PRODUCTION IN JUNE

Canadian production of crude petroleum and natural gasoline in June declined one per cent from May, but showed a sharp advance of 64 per cent as compared with June last year. The decrease in the month was principally due to reduced output from Turner Valley and in the Northwest Territories. Production from Leduc and Redwater fields of Alberta rose sharply.

Output in June amounted to 1,701,500 barrels as compared with 1,717,900 in May and 1,038,500 a year ago. During the first six months of this year, 9,812,800 barrels were produced as against 5,125,500 in the similar period last year, a gain of 91 per cent.

Alberta accounted for 1,591,300 barrels in June compared with 900,500 a year earlier. Leduc's output rose to 777,200 barrels from 398,800, Redwater to 323,600 barrels from nil, and Lloydminster to 77,300 barrels from 65,500. Crude output from Turner Valley dropped to 310,400 barrels from 340,900.

The month's output from wells in Saskatchewan amounted to 81,900 barrels compared with 83,600 in June last year, Ontario 20,600 barrels compared with 15,200, New Brunswick 1,600 barrels compared with 1,700, and Northwest Territories 6,200 barrels compared with 37,500.

In June, output of natural gas continued the downward trend shown since the beginning of the year, amounting to 3,624,900 M cubic feet compared with 4,036,900 in May and 3,528,000 in June, 1948. Production in Alberta totalled 2,864,700 M cubic feet compared with 3,135,000 M a month earlier; Ontario, 712,400 M (851,400 M); New Brunswick, 30,200 M (32,400 M); and Saskatchewan, 17,600 M (18,200 M). (15)

PRODUCTION OF STEEL INGOTS IN AUGUST

Production of steel ingots in August was increased over the total for July but was lower than in 1948 for the second successive month. The cumulative total for the first eight months of this year was well ahead of the similar period of 1948.

The month's output amounted to 241,442 tons as compared with 232,499 in the preceding month and 254,362 in August last year. In the eight months, production totalled 2,092,425 tons, an increase of three per cent over last year's corresponding total of 2,029,479 tons.

On a daily basis the August output worked out at 7,788 tons as compared with 7,500 in July and 8,204 in August, 1948. The daily average for the eight months was 8,611 tons compared with 8,318 a year earlier. (16)

COKE PRODUCTION LOWER IN JULY; HIGHER IN SEVEN MONTHS

Reversing the upward trend of recent months, production of coke in Canada moved to a lower level in July, totalling 296,000 tons as against 327,000 in the preceding month and 335,000 in July last year. Output for the first seven months of this year was 2,325,000 tons, an increase of 78,000 tons over the same period last year.

Producers disposed of 261,000 tons of coke during the month, bringing the cumulative figure for the seven-month period to 2,258,500 tons. Of the month's total, 28,300 tons were used in coke and gas plants, 150,000 tons in producers' smelters, 8,100 tons sold for domestic use, 48,000 sold for other uses, 20,800 sold to dealers for resale, and 5,500 sold for export. (17)

ASBESTOS SHIPMENTS AND EXPORTS HIGHER IN JULY

Reversing the downward movement shown in previous months in comparison with last year, shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines rose to the highest monthly point since November last year. Declines in earlier months of this year were due to the labour dispute.

The month's shipments amounted to 64,700 tons as compared with 29,200 in the preceding month and 56,500 in the same month last year. During the first seven months of this year, 219,500 tons were shipped as against 392,000 in the similar period last year. In November last year, 68,400 tons were shipped.

Exports in July rose sharply to 53,000 tons from 22,800 in June, and compare with 51,200 in July last year. In the seven months ending July, 198,500 tons were exported as against 376,800 in the like 1948 period. (18)

SALES OF CLAY PRODUCTS HIGHER IN JUNE

Producers' sales of products made from Canadian clays in June rose to the highest monthly total since November last year, totalling \$1,626,100 as compared with \$1,499,900 in May and \$1,621,300 a year ago. During the first six months of this year, sales amounted to \$8,116,500 as against \$7,363,300 in the similar period of 1948. Sales in November, 1948 stood at \$1,744,800.

Sales for the month were as follows, totals for June last year being in brackets: building brick, \$902,000 (\$860,100); structural tile, \$220,300 (\$243,200); drain tile, \$107,900 (\$99,300); sewer pipe, \$215,700 (\$201,400); fireclay blocks and shapes, \$36,800 (\$29,800); pottery, \$49,000 (\$121,400); other clay products, \$94,400 (\$66,100). (19)

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF PORTLAND CEMENT IN JULY

Shipments to customers by Canadian manufacturers of Portland cement in July amounted to 1,520,900 barrels as compared with 1,417,800 in the corresponding month last year, an increase of seven per cent. During the first seven months of this year, 9,083,300 barrels were shipped, an advance of 17 per cent over last year's corresponding total of 7,768,600.

Production of cement totalled 1,416,900 barrels in July compared with 1,244,500 a year ago, up 14 per cent. In the cumulative period, output amounted to 9,050,500 barrels against 7,711,000 in the same month last year, a gain of 17 per cent. (20)

MANUFACTURES OF NON-FERROUS METALS
AND NON-METALLIC MINERALS IN 1948

Production of non-ferrous metals and their manufactures, and the output of manufacturing establishments using non-metallic minerals as their principal materials both rose sharply in value in 1948. The former advanced 22 per cent from \$1,034,581,000 in 1947 to \$1,261,285,000, and the latter almost 29 per cent from \$550,800,000 to \$708,400,000. Both groups of industries showed increases in all economic areas of the country.

There were increases in production values for each of the seven industries comprising the non-ferrous metals group. The non-ferrous smelting and refining industry -- largest of the group -- rose 27.2 per cent to \$576,384,000; electrical apparatus and supplies, second in order of value, advanced 16.2 per cent to \$425,725,000. The value of aluminum products advanced 16.5 per cent to \$46,429,000; brass and copper products, 17.8 per cent to \$113,839,000; white metal products, 32.4 per cent to \$49,609,000; jewellery and electro-plated ware, 18.4 per cent to \$42,093,000.

All but one of the 15 industries in the non-metallic minerals group showed increased production values in 1948 as compared with 1947. The petroleum products industry -- largest in the group -- accounted for a large part of the over-all increase, rising \$110,000,000 to \$389,377,000. Abrasive products rose from \$31,772,000 to \$33,523,000; cement products from \$18,448,000 to \$25,030,000; cement from \$23,582,000 to \$30,562,000; coke and gas from \$74,091,000 to \$91,746,000; and glass from \$36,585,000 to \$40,671,000.

Production values for the nine remaining industries in the non-metallic minerals group were as follows, figures for 1947 being in brackets: asbestos products, \$8,448,000 (\$6,331,000); gypsum products, \$14,072,000 (\$11,027,000); lime, \$11,075,000 (\$8,850,000); products from imported clay, \$12,275,000 (\$9,773,000); products from domestic clay, \$17,350,000 (\$14,404,000); salt, \$5,829,000 (\$5,447,000); sand-lime brick, \$1,268,000 (\$727,000); stone products, \$13,204,000 (\$10,573,000); and miscellaneous, \$16,984,000 (\$20,040,000). (21 and 22)

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS
AT RECORD LEVELS IN 1948

Registrations of motor vehicles in Canada in 1948 reached an all-time record total of 2,031,000, showing an increase of 195,000 or 10.6 per cent over the 1947 total of 1,836,000. Increases were common to all provinces and territories.

The year's gain was the third in succession, following increases of 13 per cent in 1947 over 1946, and 7.8 per cent in 1946 over 1945 -- the low point reached in the wartime period. The overall increase in the three years since the end of the war was 534,000 or 35 per cent.

There were increases in 1948 in the registrations of all types of motor vehicles with the exception of motor buses. Registrations of passenger cars rose to 1,497,000 from 1,370,000, or by nine per cent, while commercial vehicles were up to 485,000 from 426,000, or by 11 per cent. Registrations of motor cycles showed a sharp rise to 33,934 from 26,129, and tractors to 7,584 from 5,264. Motor buses were down to 4,246 from 6,826, while other types of motor vehicles rose to 2,484 from 1,764. Driver licenses totalled 2,095,000 compared with 1,993,000, and chauffeur licenses 746,700 compared with 695,500.

Taking into account registrations of all types of vehicles, the number of motor vehicles in Canada averaged one per 6.34 persons in 1948 as against 6.85 in 1947, and 7.60 in 1946. Including only passenger cars, there was an average of one to 8.6 persons compared with 9.2 in 1947, and 10.0 in 1946. (23)

VARIETY STORE CHAINS IN 1948 Sixteen variety store chains sold merchandise in 1948 to the amount of \$133,906,900 through the medium of 540 retail stores. This represented an increase of 13.6 per cent in dollar volume over the 1947 sales of 18 chains operating 536 stores. Variety chain warehouses had 48 per cent more merchandise on hand at the end of 1948 and their retail outlets were stocked 28.5 per cent above the 1947 total.

Increased volume of business placed more stores in the larger size brackets and they accounted for a greater proportion of total sales. In 1948, 83 stores did over \$300,000 business each as compared with 69 stores in 1947, and they transacted 58.72 per cent of the total trade as compared with 52.62 per cent in 1947. (Mem. 1)

FEWER MURDER CHARGES IN CANADA IN 1948 Murder charges were faced by 56 persons in Canada in 1948, five fewer than in 1947, and 10 less than in 1946 when an all-time high number was written into the record, according to advance figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. There were 33 acquittals as compared with 30 in 1947, while four persons were detained for lunacy compared with 13.

Death sentences were pronounced on 19 persons during the year, one more than in 1947, but down sharply from 1946 when 32 death sentences were passed. There were four commutations of death sentences in 1948 as compared with six in 1947 and eight in 1946. Twelve persons were executed during the year as compared with 10 the year before, and 14 in 1946.

PACK OF CANNED PEAS DOWN SHARPLY THIS YEAR The commercial pack of canned peas this year is down sharply from 1948, amounting to 4,607,655 dozen cans compared with 7,839,997, according to preliminary figures. The net weight of contents, at 61,747,473 pounds, is approximately half the 1948 total.

On the other hand, the amount processed other than by canning showed a substantial rise. The amount quick frozen, not for re-processing, was up to 4,100,678 pounds from 2,223,917, and for re-processing to 1,326,401 pounds from 647,749 pounds. (Mem. 2)

SASH, DOOR AND PLANING MILLS Gross value of production in the sash, door and planing mills industry of Canada in 1947 was \$97,499,500 as compared with \$79,920,800 in the preceding year, an increase of 22 per cent. The cost of materials used was \$57,184,100 as against \$47,501,500, up 17 per cent. Number of employees advanced from 14,000 to 15,900, and the salaries and wages paid from \$19,628,800 to \$24,261,600. (24)

SYNTHETIC TEXTILES AND SILK INDUSTRY IN 1947 There was greater activity in the synthetic textiles and silk industry of Canada in 1947. The gross value of products turned out by the industry amounted to \$84,870,000, an increase of 29.5 per cent over the preceding year. Employment was furnished to 14,700 persons, an advance of 12.5 per cent, while the payroll at \$24,284,000, was 28.5 per cent higher than in 1946. The cost of materials used was \$32,660,000, or 35.5 per cent more than in the preceding year. (25)

RELEASED 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. Monthly Summary of Foreign Trade, July (10 cents).
2. Monthly Summary of Imports for Consumption, July (10 cents).
3. Advance Statement of Employment and Weekly Earnings, August 1 (10 cents).
4. Prices and Price Indexes, August (20 cents).
5. Monthly Statement by Ports of Highway Traffic at Canadian Border Points, July (25 cents).
6. Department Store Sales and Inventories, August (10 cents).
7. Canadian Fisheries Statistics, August (10 cents).
8. Dairy Review of Canada, August (25 cents).
9. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
10. Poultry Estimates, August (10 cents).
11. Hops, 1949 (10 cents).
12. Farm Wages in Canada, August, 1949 (10 cents).
13. Traffic Report of Railways, May (10 cents).
14. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
15. Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Manufactured Gas, June (15 cents).
16. Steel Ingots, August (10 cents).
17. Coal and Coke Statistics, July (25 cents).
18. Asbestos, July (10 cents).
19. Products Made from Canadian Clays, June (15 cents).
20. Cement and Cement Products, July (10 cents).
21. Manufactures of Non-Metallic Minerals, 1948 (15 cents).
22. Manufactures of the Non-Ferrous Metals, 1948 (15 cents).
23. Registrations of Motor Vehicles, 1948 (10 cents).
24. Sash, Door and Planing Mills Industry, 1947 (25 cents).
25. Synthetic Textiles and Silk Industry, 1947 (25 cents).
26. Salt, July (10 cents).
27. Civil Aviation, April (15 cents).
28. Trade of Canada: Articles Exported to Each Country, Six Months Ended June (25 cents).
29. Wholesale Trade, 1948 -- Revised Indexes -- (25 cents).
30. Coal Tar Distillation Industry, 1948 (15 cents).
31. Electrical Apparatus and Supplies Industry, 1948 (30 cents).
32. Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal and Secondary Non-Ferrous Ingot, June (15 cents).
33. Hat and Cap Industry, 1947 (25 cents).
34. Household Equipment, November (25 cents).
35. Non-Ferrous Smelting and Refining Industry, 1948 (25 cents).

Memoranda

1. Variety Store Chains, 1948 (25 cents).
 2. Pack of Peas, 1949 (10 cents).
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