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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADA'S OFFICIAL COST-OF-LIVING INDEX rose from 158.9 at December 1 to 159.6 at the beginning of January, exactly offsetting the decline during the previous month. While all budget indexes were firm, more than half of the rise was due to changes in service rates, including health, personal care, laundry and fuel gas, which are priced only at annual intervals because of their characteristic stability.

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INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLLS showed further slight increases at the beginning of December, due for the most part to seasonally heightened activity in logging and retail trade.

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NUMBER OF CLAIMED FILED FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS showed a considerable increase in December with all provinces contributing to the increase.

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CANADA'S IRON AND STEEL MILLS operated at near-capacity levels in 1948 to produce record tonnages of steel, pig iron and ferro-alloys

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RETAIL SALES IN CANADA last year were 11 per cent higher in dollar volume than in 1947.

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FREIGHT TRAFFIC ON CANADA'S LARGER CANAL SYSTEMS was considerably heavier in 1948 than in the preceding year.

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CREAMERY BUTTER PRODUCTION in January advanced 739,000 pounds over the same month of the preceding year, continuing the increases recorded in the two preceding months.

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CANADA'S BIRTH RATE fell to 26.4 per 1,000 population in the first half of 1948 from the recent high figure of 29.8 in the same period of 1947, reversing the general upward trend of wartime and previous postwar years.

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STOCKS OF CANADIAN WHEAT in store or in transit in North America at midnight on January 27 amounted to 161,473,000 bushels, showing a decline of 3,795,000 bushels from the January 20 figure, but up 36,974,000 bushels over last year's corresponding total.

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CANADA'S EXPORTS OF WHEAT AND WHEAT FLOUR in terms of wheat during the five months of the 1948-49 crop year ending December 31, show an increase over the similar period of the preceding crop year, totalling 83 million bushels as against 77.4 million bushels.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX
BACK TO NOVEMBER LEVEL

Exactly offsetting the decline during the previous month, Canada's official cost-of-living index rose from 158.9 at December 1 to 159.6 at the beginning of January. While all budget indexes were firm, more than half of the rise was due to changes in service rates, including health, personal care, laundry and fuel gas, which are priced only at annual intervals because of their characteristic stability.

At the January level, the cost-of-living index is 11.3 points above that shown for the same time last year. From August 1939 to the beginning of January this year the increase amounted to 58.3 per cent.

The food index rose from 202.0 at the beginning of December to 202.2, with further declines in egg and fruit prices acting as a partial offset to generally firmer levels for other foods. Fuel and light moved up from 129.1 to 130.0.

The clothing index rose from 181.5 to 181.9, and homefurnishings and services from 166.2 to 167.0, on scattered increases which affected nearly all sub-groups. The advance in miscellaneous items from 124.6 to 126.6, reflected changes in health and personal care services. The rentals index remained unchanged at 121.7.

At January 3 this year the standing of the cost-of-living index was 7.6 per cent higher than a year earlier. Among the group indexes the greatest increase during the 12 months was in the clothing index, which rose 12.8 per cent from 161.2 to 181.9. Food was second with an increase of nearly 11 per cent, from 182.2 to 202.2; followed by fuel and light, up nearly eight per cent from 120.4 to 130.0, and by homefurnishings and services with an increase of 5.4 per cent from 158.4 to 167.0. The miscellaneous index rose 3.3 per cent from 122.6 to 126.6, while the rent index advanced about 1.5 per cent from 119.9 to 121.7.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS
HIGHER IN DECEMBER

There was a considerable increase in the number of claims filed for unemployment insurance benefits in December with all provinces contributing to the rise. The December total of claims filed stands at 114,506 as compared with 73,119 in November and 79,848 in December, 1947, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Ordinary claims on the live unemployment register at the end of December totalled 144,058 as against 83,710 at the end of November and 94,525 at the end of December, 1947.

A total of 99,802 persons received one or more benefit payments in December aggregating \$3,592,155 for 1,687,804 unemployed compensated days, compared with 64,960 persons paid \$2,283,383 for 1,106,864 compensated days in November and 69,097 persons paid \$2,544,796 for 1,315,282 compensated days during December, 1947. The average duration of the unemployment compensated was 16.9 days in December, 17.0 days in November and 19.0 days in December, 1947.

The average amount of benefit paid per beneficiary was \$35.99 in December, \$35.15 in November and \$36.83 in December, 1947, while the average amount of benefit paid per compensated day of unemployment was \$2.13 in December, \$2.06 in November and \$1.93 in December a year earlier.

FURTHER SLIGHT GAINS IN
EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLLS

Industrial employment and payrolls showed further slight increases at the beginning of December, due for the most part to seasonally heightened activity in logging and retail trade. Curtailment was indicated in manufacturing as a whole, and in mining, transportation, construction and maintenance, and hotels and restaurants. To a large extent, these losses were also seasonal in character.

According to information received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 19,561 leading establishments in the eight major industrial divisions, their employees at December 1 totalled 2,118,698, and the disbursements in weekly salaries and wages, \$89,415,000. The rise in employment was 0.2 per cent, and in salary and wage payments, 0.4 per cent. The per capita weekly earnings rose to \$42.20 from \$42.14 at November 1, and \$38.28 a year earlier.

Based on the 1926 average as 100, the general index number of employment at December 1 reached a new all-time maximum, standing at 204.1 as compared with 203.6 in the preceding month and 199.6 at December 1, 1947. The index of payrolls, based on June 1, 1941 as 100, stood at 218.7 as compared with 218.0 at November 1, and 193.9 at December 1, 1947. In the 12 months from December 1, 1947 to December 1, 1948 there were increases of 2.3 per cent in the index of employment, and 12.8 per cent in the payrolls index.

In the manufacturing group as a whole the employees numbered 1,082,690 at December 1, a slight decline of 0.1 per cent from November 1. There were, however, marked changes in several industries. This was notably so in the food, lumber and pulp and paper group, where there were considerable declines, and in textiles, tobacco, and iron and steel plants, in which fairly large advances in employment were indicated.

Seasonal activity in bush work resulted in substantial additions to the personnel of leading logging operators, their staffs rising to 104,897, or by 7.4 per cent. In mining, there were advances in employment in coal mines, but losses in the extraction of other non-metallic minerals, and the group total fell 0.4 per cent to 85,000.

There were slight declines in employment in communications and transportation with 49,483 and 186,834 employees, respectively. Employment in construction and maintenance showed a seasonal decline of 4.1 per cent to 243,568 employees. Activity in the services group was also lower, there being curtailment in hotels and restaurants, laundries and dry-cleaning establishments, and the group total fell 1.3 per cent to 68,853. Seasonal expansion in employment in trade raised the total to 297,369, or by 3.9 per cent.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES
UP 11 PER CENT IN WEEK

Continuing the upward trend, department store sales rose 11 per cent during the week ending January 29 as compared with the corresponding week a year earlier, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Largest gains were shown for Saskatchewan and the Maritime Provinces, with respective increases of 20 per cent and 19 per cent. Alberta followed with a rise of 18 per cent, Manitoba 11 per cent, Quebec 10 per cent, and Ontario seven per cent. Figures for British Columbia are not available.

RETAIL SALES INCREASED 14 PER CENT IN
DECEMBER AND 11 PER CENT IN YEAR

Topped off by an increase of 14 per cent in December and the highest value of Christmas trade on record, retail sales in Canada last year were 11 per cent higher in dollar volume than in 1947. The year's gain was almost exactly the same as that shown in 1947 over 1946. Increases were registered in all regions of Canada both in December and in the year.

Sharpest gains in the month were in department stores, food stores, and shoe stores, all of which had increases of 18 per cent. December sales increases for the three trades in the apparel group -- family clothing, men's clothing and women's clothing -- were similar to the average gain for retail trade as a whole.

In the 12 months, largest gain over 1947 was 16 per cent shown by women's clothing stores, followed closely by variety and department stores with increases of 14.6 and 14 per cent, respectively. Food store sales had a 12-month rise of 13.9 per cent.

The year's gain in hardware store sales was 9.4 per cent, family clothing stores eight per cent, men's clothing stores 7.6 per cent, country general stores 7.5 per cent, drug stores 6.4 per cent, and radio and electrical stores, 6.2 per cent. Restaurant sales rose five per cent during 1948, and furniture and jewellery stores four per cent each.

Largest percentage gains were shown in 1948 than in 1947 by variety stores, restaurants, women's clothing stores, and drug stores. Radio store sales, which had shown a sharp rise of 32.4 per cent in 1947 showed a moderate increase of six per cent in 1948. Jewellery store sales which had declined eight per cent in 1947 rose almost four per cent in 1948.

CURRENT WHEAT EXPORTS
ABOVE PREVIOUS CROP YEAR

Canada's export of wheat and of wheat flour in terms of wheat during the five months of the 1948-49 crop year ending December 31, show an increase over the similar period of the preceding crop year, totalling 83 million bushels as against 77.4 million bushels.

The gain in the aggregate was due to substantially increased shipments of the grain. These amounted to 59.6 million bushels compared with 48.2 million in the 1947-48 period. Exports of wheat flour fell off to the equivalent of 23.4 as against 29.5 million bushels.

Shipments of wheat were made to eight British and 13 foreign countries during the last five months of 1948. Exports to the United Kingdom accounted for four-fifths of the total, at 48,315,000 bushels. Destinations of next largest quantities were: Italy, 2,449,764 bushels; India, 2,126,232; Egypt, 1,718,248; Norway, 957,830; Union of South Africa, 909,329; Malta, 897,848; Eire, 687,067; Switzerland, 600,000 bushels.

Wheat flour was exported in large and small quantities during the period to no less than 71 different countries, 22 being British and 49 foreign. As in the case of wheat, the United Kingdom was the major destination for flour, with shipments equal to 10,154,021 bushels of wheat. Trinidad and Tobago with 1,099,454 and Newfoundland with 919,310 bushels equivalent were next among British countries, while Italy with 2,159,568, Philippine Islands with 1,280,196, Syria with 1,818,036 and Venezuela with 895,689 bushels were the top destinations among foreign countries. Other larger purchases of Canadian flour were Hong Kong, Pakistan, Jamaica, Leeward and Windward Islands, Union of South Africa, British Guiana, Barbados and Palestine.

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on January 27 amounted to 161,473,000 bushels, showing a decline of 3,795,000 bushels from the January 20 figure of 165,268,000, but up 36,974,000 bushels over last year's corresponding total of 124,499,000 bushels, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending January 27 amounted to 1,116,000 bushels as compared with 1,503,000 in the corresponding week last year. Export clearances during the week totalled 3,037,000 bushels as against 4,045,000 a year ago.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending January 27, totals for the same week last year being in brackets: oats, 506,000 (978,000) bushels; barley, 618,000 (591,000); rye, 111,000 (52,000); flaxseed, 25,000 (20,000).

CREAMERY BUTTER OUTPUT HIGHER IN JANUARY

Creamery butter production in January advanced 739,000 pounds over the same month of the preceding year, continuing the increases recorded in the two previous months. The total production was 9,696,000 pounds, 8.3 per cent higher than a year ago. In November and December the gains were nine and 16.4 per cent, respectively.

Cheese production fell 220,000 pounds in January below the quantity produced in January 1948, the total output of 751,000 pounds declining approximately 23 per cent. This decline has been continuous for many months.

Output of concentrated milk products amounted to 16,434,000 pounds as against 12,982,000 in the same month of the preceding year, a rise of 26.6 per cent. The quantity of ice cream manufactured in January was 996,000 gallons as compared with 1,013,000 in the same month last year.

STOCKS OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

Stocks of creamery butter on February 1 totalled 27,980,000 pounds, down from 37,397,000 on January 1 and 31,561,000 pounds on the corresponding date last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Cheese stocks fell from 34,556,000 pounds on January 1 to 31,227,000, but were up over the February 1, 1948 figure of 26,933,000 pounds.

Stocks of evaporated whole milk held by or for manufacturers on February 1 at 13,992,000 pounds, were substantially lower than the January 1 holdings of 16,271,000 pounds, but moved up sharply from last year's corresponding total of 3,405,000 pounds. Skim milk powder stocks were 7,053,000 pounds as compared with 7,901,000 on January 1 and 3,956,000 a year ago.

Holdings of shell eggs on February 1 amounted to 267,000 cases as compared with 281,000 on January 1 and 514,000 a year ago. Stocks of poultry meat at February 1 declined to 15,012,000 pounds from the January 1 figure of 17,137,000 pounds, and showed a sharp decrease from the February 1, 1948 total of 31,709,000 pounds.

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES IN DECEMBER

Registrations of births, deaths and marriages in cities, towns and villages of Canada having a population of 10,000 and over were increased in December over the corresponding month of 1947. Births increased 12 per cent, and deaths and marriages by three per cent. Births numbered 14,974 compared with 13,322, deaths 5,851 compared with 5,654, and marriages 4,761 compared with 4,627.

BIRTHS AND DEATH RATES
DOWN FIRST HALF 1948

Reversing the general upward trend of wartime and previous postwar years, Canada's birth rate fell to 26.4 per 1,000 population in the first half of 1948 from the recent high figure of 29.8 in the same period of 1947. The general mortality rate was slightly lower at 9.6 compared with 9.8, and the rate of natural increase fell from 20.0 to 16.8. The infant mortality rate rose from 48 in 1947 to 49, and the maternal death rate was reduced 1.4 from 1.5.

Preliminary totals for the first half of 1948 show that live births numbered 169,392 as compared with 185,572 in the first half of 1947. Stillbirths numbered 3,325 as against 3,913. Deaths totalled 61,788 compared with 61,013, and the natural increase was 107,604 compared with 124,559. Marriages totalled 49,720 compared with 55,149, giving a marriage rate of 7.8 as against 8.9.

Deaths under one year numbered 8,347 as compared with 8,928 in the same period of 1947, while deaths under one month totalled 4,596 compared with 5,179. There were 245 maternal deaths compared with 284.

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

	<u>February 3, 1949</u>	<u>January 27, 1949</u>	<u>January 6, 1949</u>
	(1935-39=100)		
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
(106 Common Stocks)	110.5	112.2	116.3
82 Industrials	104.9	* 107.0	* 111.3
16 Utilities	117.2	* 117.8	* 121.2
8 Banks	130.8	131.9	133.6
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
(30 Stocks)	88.1	87.4	88.6
25 Golds	70.1	68.0	68.5
5 Base Metals	123.6	126.2	129.0

* Change in index following the yearly revision of stocks in the index list.

OUTPUT OF REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS
HIGHER IN NOVEMBER

Canadian production of refined petroleum products increased 12.8 per cent in November over the corresponding month of 1947, advancing to 7,538,000 barrels from 6,680,000. This brought the cumulative output for the 11 months of the year to 75,087,000 barrels as compared with 67,286,000 in the like period of 1947, a rise of 11.5 per cent.

Receipts of crude oil from all sources of supply during the month rose to 8,541,000 barrels from the November, 1947 total of 6,787,000, raising the aggregate for the 11-month period to 82,868,000 barrels from 70,903,000 in the like period of 1947.

Receipts of domestic crude again rose sharply in November, totalling 1,205,000 barrels compared with 573,000 a year earlier, and in the 11 months to 10,764,000 barrels compared with 6,212,000. Amount of imported crude received in November was 7,336,000 barrels compared with 6,213,000, and in the cumulative period, 72,103,000 barrels compared with 64,691,000.

CRUDE PETROLEUM OUTPUT
AT NEW PEAK IN NOVEMBER

With production from the Leduc field again sharply higher, Canada's production of crude petroleum and natural gasoline rose to a new high record total of 1,265,000 barrels in November, comparing with the October total of 1,206,000, and 731,000 in November, 1947. The previous high record was set in August 1948, when 1,245,000 barrels were produced. The November figure brought the output for the first 11 months of 1948 to 11,120,000 barrels as against 6,963,000 in the similar period of 1947.

Leduc's output rose in November to 617,000 barrels from 85,000 in the corresponding month of 1947, and in the 11 months ending November to 3,996,000 barrels from 264,000. Crude output from the Turner Valley field fell from 399,000 barrels to 350,000, and in the 11 months from 4,602,000 barrels to 4,082,000.

Production of natural gas in the month amounted to 5,502,573 M cubic feet as compared with 4,676,152 M in October and 5,260,958 M in November, 1947. The November output was the highest since March 1948, when 6,070,587 M cubic feet were produced. Up to the end of November, output aggregated 51,898,309 M cubic feet compared with 46,792,514 M in the similar period of 1947.

PRODUCTION OF IRON AND STEEL
AT HIGH POINT IN 1948

Canada's iron and steel mills operated at near-capacity levels in 1948 to produce record tonnages of steel, pig iron and ferro-alloys.

Preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics place the year's output of steel ingots and castings combined at 3,202,000 tons, well above the preceding year's total of 2,945,000 tons and three per cent higher than the wartime peak of 3,110,000 tons in 1942. The current total compares with 1,294,000 tons in 1938.

The year's output of pig iron amounted to 2,121,000 tons compared with 1,970,000 tons in the preceding year and 1,975,000 tons in 1942 -- the previous high figure. The total for 1948 was close to three times the tonnage turned out in 1938.

The output of ferro-alloys also moved up sharply in 1948, totalling 251,000 tons compared with 150,000 tons in 1947, and 209,000 tons in 1942, the highest of the war years. Production last year was four times the 1938 total of 63,000 tons.

SALES OF ELECTRIC STORAGE BATTERIES
UP SHARPLY IN 1948

There was a sharp rise in the value of sales of electric storage batteries and parts by principal Canadian producers in December and for the calendar year 1948. The year's total amounted to \$16,480,210 as compared with \$13,910,746 in 1947, and in December, \$1,948,794 as against \$1,904,833 in November and \$1,319,909 in December, 1947.

The sales in the 12 months included 1,427,845 batteries at \$12,828,981 for the starting and ignition of internal combustion engines, 2,606 batteries at \$18,233 for motorcycle starting, 47,405 cells at \$508,639 for farm lighting plants, 10,528 cells at \$347,740 for railway service, car lighting and signal, batteries valued at \$1,991,104 for other purposes, including telephone, and miscellaneous parts and supplies for batteries valued at \$785,513.

STOCKS OF NON-FERROUS SCRAP METAL

Dealers' stocks of non-ferrous scrap metal at the end of November were as follows, totals for the first of the month being in brackets: aluminum scrap, 1,606,510 (1,746,505) pounds; brass and bronze scrap, 6,902,470 (6,600,066); copper scrap, 3,282,690 (3,145,782); magnesium scrap, 36,040 (36,990); nickel scrap, 217,226 (240,475); tin-lead scrap, 4,279,793 (4,596,892); zinc scrap, 648,265 (497,549); drosses, 1,403,824 (1,282,222).

GAIN IN GOLD PRODUCTION
CONTINUED IN NOVEMBER

Gold production in Canada moved upward during November for the second successive month, reaching the highest level for any month in 1948 and the highest since June, 1943, and increasing further the cumulative gain earlier recorded over 1947.

Output for the month, as reported by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, amounted to 311,347 fine ounces compared with 306,928 in October and 252,235 in November, 1947. The figure for June, 1943, was 326,839 fine ounces. There were advances over a year earlier in all producing provinces, except Nova Scotia, the largest increase as in earlier months being in Ontario, followed by Quebec.

During the 11 months ending November, production totalled 3,200,640 fine ounces as against 2,795,468 in the similar period of 1947. Gains were also shown in this period in all producing provinces, except Nova Scotia.

November production by provinces, with figures for November, 1947, in brackets was as follows: Ontario, 179,523 (154,655) fine ounces; Quebec, 68,241 (51,284); British Columbia, 24,643 (21,847); Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 16,920 (12,389); Yukon, 12,162 (5,511); Northwest Territories, 9,815 (6,528); Nova Scotia, nil (2).

SALES OF CLAY PRODUCTS AT
MONTHLY PEAK IN NOVEMBER

Continuing the gains of earlier months, producers' sales of products made from Canadian clays reached an all-time monthly high figure of \$1,739,324 in November as compared with \$1,737,841 in October and \$1,302,465 in November, 1947. This brought the 11-month aggregate to \$15,750,867 as against \$12,823,591 in the like period of 1947.

Sales of all categories of clay products, except drain tile and fireclay blocks and shapes, showed substantial gains in November over a year ago. The month's sales were as follows, those for November, 1947 being in brackets: building brick, \$949,091 (\$671,354); structural tile, \$250,783 (\$189,876); drain tile, \$101,865 (\$120,484); sewer pipe, \$206,340 (\$157,052); fireclay blocks and shapes, \$30,704 (\$31,317); pottery, \$120,695 (\$74,664); other clay products, \$79,846 (\$57,718).

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF
PORTLAND CEMENT IN 1948

There was a sharp increase in the supplies of Portland cement in Canada in 1948, both production and shipments to customers rising to all-time record totals.

Preliminary figures for the year compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics place the year's output at 14,007,000 barrels, showing an increase of nearly 15 per cent over the 1947 production of 12,219,000 barrels and 52 per cent over 1946, when output amounted to 10,675,000 barrels. Shipments to customers rose to 14,099,000 barrels, 18 per cent higher than in 1947, and 22 per cent more than in 1946.

Year-end stocks at plants and warehouses were reduced to 600,000 barrels from 731,000 at the end of 1947, but were well above the 1946 total of 467,000 barrels.

During the 11 months ending November, 1,083,000 barrels of Portland cement were imported to supplement domestic production compared with 1,217,000 in the corresponding period of 1947. Exports in the same period totalled 71,500 barrels compared with 81,400.

CANAL TRAFFIC HEAVIER IN 1948 Freight traffic on Canada's larger canal systems was considerably heavier in 1948 than in the preceding year, according to summary figures for the year released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Traffic through Canadian and United States locks of the Sault Ste. Marie canals during the year increased to 115,895,000 tons from 110,888,000 in the preceding year, and compares with a peak tonnage of 120,201,000 reached in 1941. Downbound iron ore increased from 80,577,000 tons in 1947 to 85,232,000, and upbound soft coal from 15,529,000 tons to 16,558,000, hard coal from 343,000 tons to 361,000, and stone from 1,215,000 tons to 1,323,000. Downbound wheat declined from 7,591,000 tons to 6,613,000.

Total traffic using the Welland ship canal during the season increased from 11,806,000 tons in 1947 to 13,438,000. Wheat shipments decreased from 1,798,000 tons to 1,748,000, petroleum and other oils from 1,572,000 tons to 1,433,000, cement brick, lime and plaster from 65,000 tons to 55,000, and iron and steel from 26,000 tons to 10,000. Shipments of soft coal rose from 4,153,000 to 5,045,000 tons, iron ore from 1,176,000 to 1,646,000 tons, gasoline from 814,000 to 842,000 tons, and pulpwood from 501,000 to 523,000 tons.

Due mainly to heavy shipments of gasoline and oils, total traffic using the St. Lawrence canals increased to 7,378,000 tons from 7,180,000 in 1947. Gasoline increased from 478,000 to 591,000 tons, petroleum and other oils from 697,000 to 789,000 tons, and pulpwood from 560,000 to 589,000 tons. Corn declined from 75,000 to 55,000 tons, wheat from 940,000 to 888,000 tons, and soft coal from 2,940,000 to 2,644,000 tons.

OPERATIONS OF CANADIAN RAILWAYS IN NOVEMBER Operating revenues of Canadian railways in November aggregated \$80,750,000, a new peak for the year. This was \$14,155,000 or 21.3 per cent higher than in November a year earlier, but off nearly \$2,090,000 from the peak established in October. The net improvement over the previous November was mainly in freight revenues which rose 26.2 per cent to \$67,553,000, while passenger revenues declined by \$351,000 to \$5,433,000, or by 6.1 per cent. Express and mail receipts were up \$401,000 to \$3,006,000.

Expenses reported for the month also increased considerably, totalling \$65,303,000 as against \$55,709,000, for an increase of 17.2 per cent. Each expense item registered an increase with maintenance rising \$3,643,000 to \$24,809,000, and transportation advancing \$5,330,000 to \$34,849,000.

In the income accounts, tax accruals, hire of equipment and rental of joint facilities were heavier, but operating income improved from \$7,473,000 to \$11,750,000. The net betterment of \$4,278,000 gained over November, 1947, and was the best showing for any month in 1948. Operating income was the highest since June, 1945.

For the 11 months of 1948, revenues increased from \$707,889,000 to \$789,066,000, but operating expenses showed a greater increase and the operating income was reduced from \$45,819,000 to \$28,075,000.

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS Carloadings on Canadian railways for the week ended January 29 showed a slight increase, rising to 71,850 cars from 71,776 cars for the preceding week, but were down from last year's corresponding total of 73,189 cars. Grain declined from 5,837 cars in 1947 to 5,316, grain products from 3,200 to 2,257 cars, live stock from 1,975 to 1,501 cars, pulpwood from 7,091 to 6,682 cars and lumber from 3,783 to 2,831 cars. Coal increased from 5,425 to 6,883 cars, ores from 1,962 to 2,521 cars and gasoline and oils from 3,598 to 4,060 cars.

CONTRACT DRILLING FOR FUELS
SHARPLY INCREASED IN 1947

Contract drilling for petroleum, natural gas and other fuels in Canada during 1947 increased sharply over the previous year, while diamond drilling of mineral deposits (other than fuels) fell substantially below both 1946 and 1945.

Excluding drilling done by oil companies with their own equipment, the footage drilled totalled 1,253,794 as compared with 570,948 in 1946. There were 48 firms engaged in contract diamond drilling of mineral deposits other than fuels, compared with 62 operators in 1946. Income received by these firms from their drilling operations totalled \$6,636,476, down 25 per cent from \$8,650,864 reported in 1946.

REPORTS ISSUED DURING THE WEEK

1. Preliminary Report on Births, Deaths and Marriages in the Second Quarter of 1948 (25 cents).
2. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
3. Fisheries Statistics of Canada, 1946 (50 cents).
4. Coal Statistics for Canada, 1946 (50 cents).
5. Production of Iron and Steel, December (10 cents).
6. Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages, December (10 cents).
7. Farms Reporting Certain Crops and Classes of Livestock by Census Division and Size of Farm, Saskatchewan, 1946 (10 cents).
8. Cement, December (10 cents).
9. Sales of Paints, Varnishes and Lacquers, December (10 cents).
10. Gold Production, November (10 cents).
11. Dealers' Monthly Report on Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal, November (10 cents).
12. Transit Report, October (10 cents).
13. Employment Situation at the Beginning of December, Together with Payrolls (10 cents).
14. Products Made From Canadian Clays, November (10 cents).
15. Dairy Factory Production, January (10 cents).
16. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, February 1 (10 cents).
17. Trade of Canada: Exports of Canadian and Foreign Produce, December and 12 Months Ended December, 1948 (25 cents).
18. Retail Sales, December (10 cents).
19. Farms Reporting Certain Crops and Classes of Livestock by Census Division and Size of Farm, Alberta, 1946 (10 cents).
20. Refined Petroleum Products, November (10 cents).
21. Operating Results of Dry Goods, Piece Goods and Footwear Wholesalers, 1947 (25 cents).
22. Monthly Indexes of Retail Sales, 1947 (25 cents).
23. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, November (10 cents).
24. Price Movements, January (10 cents).
25. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
26. Summary of Canal Statistics, December, and Season of Navigation, 1948 (10 cents).
27. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, November (10 cents).
28. Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, December (10 cents).
29. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, December (10 cents).
30. Contract Drilling in the Canadian Mining Industry, 1947 (25 cents).
31. Livestock and Animal Products Statistics, 1947 (50 cents).
32. Canadian Statistical Review, January (35 cents).

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

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