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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADA HAD A GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT AND EXPENDITURE of more than \$15.9 billion in 1949, an increase of three per cent from the revised estimate of nearly \$15.5 billion in 1948. In volume terms, the Bureau estimates the gain last year over 1948 at two per cent.

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TOTAL EXPORTS TO ALL COUNTRIES in February declined to \$199,500,000 from \$205,000,000 in February last year, the aggregate value for the first two months of the year showing a somewhat larger drop at \$420,600,000 as compared with \$442,000,000.

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EMPLOYMENT IN MAJOR INDUSTRIAL DIVISIONS showed a further contraction at the beginning of February, and the advance index number, on the base 1926=100, fell to 187.3 from 194.0 at January 1, and 190.5 at February 1, 1949.

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WHOLESALE PRICES MOVED UP IN FEBRUARY, the general index number, on the base 1926=100, rising to 158.0 from 157.1 in January. At this year's February level, the index was one-tenth of a point below February, 1949, and 1.6 points under the peak index of 159.6 for December, 1948.

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CASH INCOME OF CANADIAN FARMERS from the sale of farm products in 1949 -- excluding Newfoundland -- amounted to \$2,456,871,000, slightly below the revised 1948 record total of \$2,459,393,000.

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LANDINGS OF SEA-FISH IN FEBRUARY -- excluding Newfoundland -- amounted to 121,942,000 pounds, a decrease of 6.6 per cent from the same month last year, but the landed value was up slightly to \$2,352,000 from \$2,345,000.

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CONSTRUCTION OF DWELLING UNITS in 1949 reached an all-time peak total of 90,955 units as compared with 81,243 in 1948.

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FACTORY SHIPMENTS OF CANADIAN-MADE MOTOR VEHICLES rose to 30,137 units, being exceeded only by September last year.

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CANADA'S BIRTH AND DEATH RATES were slightly lower in the first half of 1949 than in the corresponding period of 1948, while the rate of natural increase was unchanged.

CANADA'S GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT
NEARLY \$16 BILLION IN 1949

Preliminary estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics indicate that Canada had a gross national product and expenditure of more than \$15.9 billion in 1949, an increase of three per cent from the revised estimate of nearly \$15.5 billion for 1948. In volume terms, the Bureau estimates the gain last year over 1948 at two per cent.

National income increased in 1949 to \$13.0 billion from the revised estimate of \$12.5 billion in 1948. This gain of four per cent is fully accounted for by a rise of seven per cent in salaries, wages and supplementary labour income, placed at \$7,630 million as against \$7,113 million in the previous year. Agricultural income, which showed a sharp increase in 1948, was down four per cent, from \$1,660 to \$1,587 million, despite higher wheat adjustment payments, while net income of other unincorporated business advanced to \$1,272 from \$1,252 million. Investment income also rose slightly to \$2,373 from \$2,348 million, a decline in corporation profits -- largest component of investment income -- being more than offset by increases in other components.

The most striking change shown in the components of gross national expenditure was a marked decline in the rate of inventory accumulation. There was no noticeable increase in inventories at the end of 1949 over 12 months earlier, whereas there was an increase of \$646 million or four per cent of gross national expenditure in 1948. In physical terms, an actual reduction of inventories last year is indicated.

Gross home investment increased in housing to \$753 million from \$647 million the previous year, and in plant and equipment to \$2,076 from \$2,016 million. However, housing alone showed an increase in volume.

Consumer spending rose seven per cent from \$10.1 to \$10.8 billion, representing -- after allowance for price increases -- an advance of two per cent in real consumption. The largest volume increase in consumer spending was on durable goods, such as automobiles and furniture, amounting to 10 per cent. On the other hand, spending on semi-durable goods, although slightly higher in value, actually declined in physical terms.

Government expenditure on goods and services increased to \$2,108 million in 1949 from \$1,787 million in 1948, accounting for 13 per cent of gross national expenditure as compared with 12 per cent. Increased federal spending on national defence and on inventories in connection with price support programs, and increased capital expenditure at provincial and municipal levels accounted for most of the change.

Exports of goods and services last year remained at approximately the 1948 level of \$4.0 billion, but imports increased from \$3.6 billion to \$3.8 billion. Thus net foreign investment declined substantially. (1)

EXPORT RISE TO UNITED STATES
CONTINUED IN FEBRUARY

For the fourth consecutive month, Canada's domestic exports to the United States registered an increase in February, with a substantial gain in value over February last year. On the other hand, lower values were recorded for domestic exports to most sterling and other dollar areas, and the overall total to all countries was slightly below that of a year earlier.

Domestic exports to the United States were valued at \$128,838,000 in February as compared with \$106,709,000 in February, 1949, a gain of nearly 21 per cent. This follows upon an increase of about 13 per cent in January over the corresponding month last year, the aggregate value of shipments across the border for the first two months rising to \$259,697,000 this year as against \$222,732,000 in 1949, an advance of one-sixth. Price changes reflecting the premium on United States exchange have contributed to this increase, but its size indicates a substantial rise also in the volume of exports.

The gain in February sales to the United States was spread over seven of the nine main commodity groups, the largest gains being in commodities classified under animals and animal products, wood and paper, and non-ferrous metals and products. Shipments of the iron and the small fibres and textiles groups alone were lower.

Total exports to all countries declined in value to \$199,500,000 from \$205,000,000 in February last year, the aggregate value for the two months showing a somewhat larger drop at \$420,600,000 as compared with \$442,000,000 in 1949.

February shipments to the United Kingdom were down sharply to \$30,374,000 from last year's value of \$44,124,000, making a decline for the first two months to \$78,981,000 from \$99,937,000. There were decreases in February in the exports of commodities in all main groups, except non-metallic minerals, one of the smallest in value. Largest decreases occurred in the agricultural and vegetable products, non-ferrous metals, and wood and paper groups.

Sales to the remaining Commonwealth countries as a whole were also down in the month to \$14,300,000 from \$17,500,000 in February last year, and in the two months to \$28,000,000 compared with \$45,400,000. The decrease in both periods, however, was due almost wholly to sharp decreases from the high value of shipments last year to India. Exports to the British West Indies group (including British Guiana, Bermuda and British Honduras) were up slightly in the month at \$2,801,000 compared with \$2,698,000 but down in the two months to \$5,312,000 from \$7,307,000. To Commonwealth countries in Africa, exports were slightly higher at \$3,536,000 for the month and lower for the two months at \$7,367,000 as against \$8,306,000; while shipments to the Oceania group rose in the month to \$4,321,000 from \$3,593,000 and in the two months to \$6,934,000 from \$6,738,000. Exports to Commonwealth countries in Asia fell in value to \$3,202,000 from \$7,845,000 for the month, and for the two months were down to \$6,676,000 from \$22,782,000, shipments to India being off to \$1,082,000 in February from \$6,304,000 and to \$1,578,000 from \$17,495,000 in January and February.

Exports to Latin America as a whole declined in February to \$6,643,000 compared with \$8,709,000 a year earlier, the values of shipments being lower to all larger markets except Venezuela, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala. Sales to Continental Europe showed a similar decrease to \$13,432,000 from \$17,331,000, decreases for France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland exceeding increases for Belgium and Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal and Spain. There was a mixture of gains and losses in exports to the remaining foreign countries, the aggregate value falling off to \$4,125,000 from \$7,202,000 in February, 1949, due mainly to sharp decreases for China, Egypt, and Israel.

Among the commodity groups, agricultural and vegetable products showed the largest drop in value at \$38,700,000 compared with \$48,200,000 for February last year, with wheat, other grains, rubber and seeds accounting for most of the decrease. The iron and products group declined to \$17,400,000 from \$21,600,000, all main items being lower except motor cars and parts, railway cars and parts, and pigs, ingots, blooms and billets. The wood and paper group, on the other hand, increased to \$70,400,000 from \$64,200,000, planks and boards and newsprint being higher and pulpwood and wood pulp lower; while the animal and animal products group advanced to \$24,900,000 from \$20,500,000 largely due to gains for cattle and fish. The non-ferrous metals group was practically unchanged at \$29,400,000, gains for aluminum and copper and their products offsetting decreases for nickel, lead and products, precious metals (except gold), zinc and products, and electrical apparatus. Of the four remaining small groups, non-metallic minerals increased over last year when shipments of asbestos were subnormal due to an industrial dispute, and chemical and allied products also advanced; while fibres and textiles and miscellaneous commodities were lower, the latter due mainly to a drop in ships and vessels. (2)

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT LOWER AT FEBRUARY 1

Employment in the major industrial divisions showed a further substantial contraction at the beginning of February, and the Bureau's advance index number, on the base 1926=100, fell to 187.3 from 194.0 at January 1, and 190.5 at February 1, 1949. Unfavourable weather conditions, particularly in British Columbia was a factor in the decline from January, which is in keeping with the trend at February 1 in the previous nine years.

In spite of the general falling-off in employment, weekly salaries and wages disbursed by the co-operating establishments at February 1 showed an increase of 0.1 per cent as compared with the holiday week of January 1, and a gain of 0.7 per cent as compared with February 1, 1949. The advance figure of average weekly earnings was \$43.91 as compared with \$43.38 at January 1, and \$42.92 at February 1, 1949.

Curtailment in employment as compared with a month earlier was shown in all provinces. The decline in this comparison varied from two per cent in Ontario and 2.2 per cent in Nova Scotia, to 9.3 per cent in Saskatchewan and British Columbia. The provincial levels of employment were also generally lower than at the same date last year, except in Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Alberta.

Industrially, the advance tabulations show that employment in manufacturing as a whole was lower than at January 1, the moderate decline in this group being contra-seasonal in character. Logging, transportation, construction and trade showed substantial and widespread reductions. (3)

INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES TRADE
YIELDS SMALL SALES BALANCE IN 1949

Main feature of Canada's international trade in securities during 1949 was the reappearance of a small sales balance for the year as a whole after two years of purchase balances. Net sales to all countries last year amounted to \$6,500,000 compared with net purchases of \$17,900,000 in 1948 and \$18,000,000 in 1947.

Compared with the size of inflows of capital through transactions in outstanding securities during the years 1938 to 1946, however, last year's sales balance is small. Peak inflow of this period was in 1945 when net sales through the reporting channels covered in the Bureau's report reached \$191,000,000, while the lowest figure for net sales in the period was \$28,800,000 in 1940.

There was a sales balance on the year's trade with the United States of \$16,000,000. This balance accumulated in the last three months of the year following the currency revaluations in September. Repurchases of securities from the United Kingdom also increased in the same period and for the year as a whole amounted to \$10,800,000 on balance, an amount which was still below the peak level of net purchases of \$35,400,000 in 1946.

Figures for December, included in the year-end summary, show a sales balance of \$4,500,000, the largest since November, 1946. Volume of trade with the United States increased slightly and resulted in a sales balance of \$6,100,000, while transactions with the United Kingdom declined. (4)

The following table shows the sales and purchases of securities between Canada and other countries in 1948 and 1949:

	Sales		Purchases		Net Sales	(.)
	1948	1949	1948	1949	Net Purchases	(-)
	(millions of dollars)				1948	1949
United Kingdom	4.9	5.2	6.4	16.0	- 1.5	-10.8
United States	207.4	225.7	225.2	209.7	-17.8	+16.0
Other Countries	5.3	4.5	3.9	3.2	+ 1.4	+ 1.3
All Countries	<u>217.6</u>	<u>235.4</u>	<u>235.5</u>	<u>228.9</u>	<u>-17.9</u>	<u>+ 6.5</u>

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES
DOWN SIX PER CENT IN WEEK

With lower sales in all provinces except Quebec, department store sales in Canada as a whole were down six per cent during the week ending March 18 as compared with the corresponding week last year. The advance in Quebec was eight per cent. Alberta showed the sharpest decline of 16 per cent, Ontario and Saskatchewan each 10 per cent, the Maritimes and Manitoba each eight per cent, and British Columbia six per cent.

WHOLESALE PRICES IN FEBRUARY

Wholesale prices in Canada moved up in February, the general index number on the base 1926=100, rising to 158.0 from 157.1 in January. At this year's February level the index was one-tenth of a point below February 1949, and 1.6 points under the peak index of 159.6 for December, 1948.

Indexes for five of the eight sub-groups moved higher in February as compared with January, while three were lower. Group indexes were as follows, figures for January being in brackets: vegetable products, 142.9 (143.4); animal products, 163.4 (160.7); textile products, 162.8 (162.2); wood products, 190.6 (189.1); iron products, 177.2 (174.8); non-ferrous metals, 139.4 (139.7); non-metallic minerals, 139.9 (139.3); chemical products, 117.6 (118.0).

The index number of wholesale farm product prices also moved higher in February, advancing to 145.2, up 1.1 points over January, and 0.1 points above February last year. The sub-index for field products was 123.5 as compared with 123.8 for January and 125.3 for February, 1949, and the sub-index for animal products was 181.5 compared with 178.0 for January and 178.3 for February last year. (5)

PRODUCTION OF LEATHER FOOTWEAR

Production of leather footwear in January this year continued the downtrend shown in the final quarter of 1949, amounting to 2,509,086 pairs as compared with 2,511,794 in December and 2,529,123 in the corresponding month last year. The monthly average output for the year 1949 was 3,021,362 pairs. (6)

NEARLY 91,000 NEW DWELLINGS COMPLETED IN 1949

Construction of dwelling units in Canada boomed along at a record-setting pace in 1949, the year's completions from new construction and conversions of existing structures reaching an all-time peak total of 90,955 units as compared with 81,243 in 1948. The year's increase of 9,712 units was entirely due to the marked upswing in new construction, which resulted in the completion of 87,533 units as compared with 76,097, conversions falling off to 3,422 units from 5,146.

Starts, excluding conversions, were down slightly in the year to 89,509 units from 90,194 in 1948, while the carry-over of dwelling units under construction at the end of the year, at 58,169 units was higher than the 1948 year-end total of 56,456 units. The small increase in this carry-over may indicate a levelling-off in the volume of residential construction.

There were increased numbers of dwelling units completed in 1949 in all provinces, except New Brunswick and British Columbia. Starts were up in Prince Edward Island, Ontario and Manitoba, but lower in the rest of Canada, and the carry-over of uncompleted dwellings at the year-end was higher in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba.

Completions in Ontario in 1949 rose to 31,440 from 26,391 in the preceding year and in Quebec to 22,912 from 20,171, but were down slightly in British Columbia to 10,272 from 10,731. In Alberta, completions totalled 9,411 compared with 6,223; Manitoba, 4,807 (4,561 in 1948); Saskatchewan, 3,576 (3,211); Nova Scotia, 3,056 (2,588); New Brunswick, 1,801 (1,991); and Prince Edward Island, 258 (230).

Starts in Ontario in 1949 increased to 34,023 units from 29,976 in 1948, but were lower in Quebec at 24,196 compared with 24,982, and in British Columbia at 9,702 compared with 11,633. In Alberta the starts numbered 8,465 compared with 9,519, Manitoba 5,039 (5,018 in 1948), Saskatchewan 3,061 (3,354), Nova Scotia 2,636 (3,148), New Brunswick 2,012 (2,339), and Prince Edward Island 375 (225).

Dwelling units under construction in Ontario at the end of 1949 totalled 23,585 units, up from 21,112 at the end of 1948, while Quebec's total was also higher at 14,984 compared with 13,848. In British Columbia the total of houses under construction was 7,166 compared with 7,729, Alberta 4,309 (5,262), Manitoba 2,781 (2,632), Nova Scotia 2,326 (2,748), Saskatchewan 1,452 (1,853), New Brunswick 1,274 (1,069), and Prince Edward Island 292 (203).

An average of seven months was required to build the dwelling units completed in Canada in 1949 compared with a 1948 average of 6.5 months. From the types of dwellings built during the year it is estimated that 26 per cent were for rental purposes and the remainder for owner-occupancy. This was not significantly altered from the estimate of 25 per cent of completions for rental purposes in 1948. (7)

FARM CASH INCOME IN 1949 Cash income of Canadian farmers from the sale of farm products in 1949 -- excluding Newfoundland -- amounted to \$2,456,871,000, according to the regular preliminary estimate by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This total is above the advance preliminary figure of \$2,409,165,000 published by the Bureau on January 7, but is slightly below the revised 1948 peak total of \$2,459,393,000. Income in 1947 amounted to \$1,967,263,000.

The maintenance of farm cash income last year at a near-record level may be largely attributed to increased returns from the sale of wheat and live stock and the substantial grain equalization and participation payments distributed in 1949 for previous years' crops. The latter payments amounted to \$220,000,000 in 1949 compared with \$179,800,000 in 1948. In addition, supplementary payments made under the provisions of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act in 1949 totalled \$17,628,000 compared with \$20,748,000 in 1948.

Cash income from the sale of grains, seed and hay rose to \$855,913,000 in 1949 from \$808,601,000 in the preceding year, wheat alone accounting for \$464,786,000 compared with \$407,851,000. Income from the sale of live stock totalled \$806,212,000 compared with \$787,375,000, dairy products \$350,032,000 compared with \$386,551,000, vegetables and other field crops \$154,737,000 compared with \$159,422,000, and fruits \$45,352,000 compared with \$46,901,000.

Other products -- eggs, wool, honey, and maple products -- accounted for \$119,435,000 compared with \$146,017,000, forest products sold off farms for \$69,928,000 compared with \$69,179,000, fur farming \$8,896,000 compared with \$9,958,000, and miscellaneous farm products \$46,366,000 compared with \$45,389,000.

The preliminary estimates of cash income show lower returns in 1949 than in 1948 in all provinces except Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Ontario had the largest total of \$653,500,000 compared with \$662,032,000 in 1948, followed by Saskatchewan at \$556,400,000 compared with \$534,000,000, Alberta at \$460,200,000 compared with \$452,500,000, and Quebec at \$346,700,000 compared with \$355,000,000.

Manitoba was next with a total of \$238,100,000 (\$247,300,000 in 1948), British Columbia \$98,000,000 (\$102,300,000), New Brunswick \$44,700,000 (\$46,400,000), Nova Scotia \$38,000,000 (\$37,500,000), and Prince Edward Island \$21,300,000 (\$22,400,000). (8)

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on March 16 amounted to 141,098,000 bushels as compared with 143,369,800 a week earlier, and 137,712,800 on the corresponding date last year. Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week amounted to 2,076,500 bushels as compared with 1,894,200 a year earlier. The cumulative total for the period August 1 - March 16 was 256,181,500 bushels as against 251,353,800 in the similar 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 March 16, totals for the same week last year being in brackets: oats, 575,500 (1,094,000) bushels; barley, 237,700 (834,700); rye, 81,600 (137,100); flaxseed, 5,100 (108,100).

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending March 16 amounted to 1,899,400 bushels as compared with 2,856,300 in the corresponding week last year, bringing the cumulative total for the crop year to date to 103,696,500 bushels against 92,384,900 in the similar period of 1948-49. (Mem. 1)

PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS OF
WHEAT FLOUR IN FEBRUARY

Wheat flour production increased four per cent in February over the preceding month, and was nine per cent above February last year. Output in the month amounted to 1,606,200 bushels as compared with 1,550,300 in January and 1,470,500 a year earlier. In the first seven months of the current crop year, 12,201,500 barrels were produced compared with 12,379,700 in the like period of 1948-49.

Wheat flour exports in February amounted to 741,500 barrels as compared with 933,700 in January and 684,900 in February last year. In the seven months of the crop year 5,832,200 barrels were exported against 6,782,300 in the same period of the preceding crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were ground in February, totals for the same month last year being in brackets: oats, 1,548,400 (1,344,400) bushels; corn, 241,500 (187,100); barley, 465,600 (648,300); buckwheat, 3,500 (2,900); mixed grain, 1,604,900 (1,613,300). (Mem. 2)

MILK PRODUCTION AND INCOME
FROM DAIRYING IN JANUARY

Milk production in Canada appears to be increasing. The estimated output for January this year amounted to 942,541,000 pounds, an increase of 27,000,000 pounds over the corresponding month last year. Reports from dairy correspondents indicate that production in February rose 3.3 per cent over February, 1949.

Sales of fluid milk and cream, the latter expressed as milk, amounted to 358,838,000 pounds in January, an increase of approximately 9,500,000 pounds over the same month of 1949. Sales included about 301,000,000 pounds of fluid milk, and 58,000,000 pounds of fluid cream.

Cash income from the sale of dairy products in January amounted to \$19,929,000, a decrease of approximately \$750,000 from January last year. The weighted average price of \$3.06 per hundred pounds of milk was down from last year's average of \$3.21. (9)

CREAMERY BUTTER STOCKS IN NINE CANADIAN CITIES Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on March 24 amounted to 19,660,000 pounds as compared with 6,603,000 on the corresponding date last year, holdings being higher in each of the nine centres except Quebec and Vancouver. Totals follow by cities (in thousands), last year's figures being in brackets: Quebec, 390 (739) pounds; Montreal, 2,243 (1,742); Toronto, 5,105 (1,637); Winnipeg, 7,719 (862); Regina, 601 (128); Saskatoon, 193 (171); Edmonton, 2,149 (284); Calgary, 577 (225); Vancouver, 683 (815).

PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF HONEY LOWER IN 1949 Canada's 1949 honey crop amounted to 33,204,000 pounds, according to the second and final estimate for the year. This was sharply below the 1948 near-record crop of 45,145,000 pounds, but equal in size to the 1940-44 average. The value of last year's crop was \$5,179,000 compared with \$9,336,000 in 1948, while the value of bees wax was \$196,000 compared with \$295,000. The drop in honey production in 1949 was common to all provinces except British Columbia.

Average prices received by producers during the 1949-50 season declined to 16 cents per pound from 21 cents in the preceding season. Decreases were shown in all provinces, and ranged from a drop of two cents per pound in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick to six cents per pound in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Production by provinces in 1949 was as follows, totals for 1948 being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 63,000 (64,000) pounds; Nova Scotia, 103,000 (125,000); New Brunswick, 140,000 (200,000); Quebec, 3,709,000 (4,831,000); Ontario, 10,809,000 (15,736,000); Manitoba, 5,586,000 (6,525,000); Saskatchewan, 6,000,000 (6,492,000); Alberta, 5,830,000 (10,254,000); British Columbia, 964,000 (918,000).

Total value of production was as follows in 1949, comparable data for 1948 within brackets: Prince Edward Island, \$13,000 (\$14,000); Nova Scotia, \$28,000 (\$38,000); New Brunswick, \$43,000 (\$66,000); Quebec, \$742,000 (\$1,159,000); Ontario, \$1,838,000 (\$3,305,000); Manitoba, \$726,000 (\$1,240,000); Saskatchewan, \$780,000 (\$1,233,000); Alberta, \$816,000 (\$2,051,000); British Columbia, \$193,000 (\$230,000). (Mem. 3)

LANDINGS OF SEA-FISH IN FEBRUARY Landings of sea-fish in Canada in February -- excluding Newfoundland -- amounted to 121,942,000 pounds, a decrease of 6.6 per cent from the same month last year, but the landed value was up slightly to \$2,352,000 from \$2,345,000. In the first two months of the year, landings totalled 198,141,000 pounds as compared with 167,702,000 in the like period of 1949, and the value rose to \$4,564,000 from \$3,375,000.

February landings on the Pacific Coast amounted to 108,439,000 pounds valued at \$1,419,000 as compared with 117,657,000 pounds at \$1,693,000 in the same month of 1949. In the two months, landings totalled 169,206,000 pounds compared with 137,182,000, and the value was \$2,163,000 compared with \$2,033,000.

Atlantic landings of sea-fish in February amounted to 13,503,000 pounds valued at \$233,000 compared with 12,966,000 at \$652,000 a year earlier. Landings in the two months were 28,935,000 pounds compared with 30,520,000, and the value stood at \$2,401,000 compared with \$1,842,000. (10)

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES LOWER
IN FIRST HALF OF 1949

Canada's birth and death rates were slightly lower in the first half of 1949 than in the corresponding period of 1948, while the rate of natural increase was unchanged. The birth rate per 1,000 population for the half year was 26.9 as compared with 27.2 a year earlier, while the general mortality rate was 9.5 as compared with 9.8. The rate of natural increase was 17.4 for both periods.

Preliminary totals for the first half of 1949 issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics show that live births numbered 175,824 as compared with 174,711 in the first half of 1948. Stillbirths numbered 3,482 as compared with 3,484. Deaths totalled 62,020 as compared with 63,147, and the natural increase was 113,804 as compared with 111,564. Marriages in the half year numbered 49,122 compared with 50,593, giving a marriage rate of 7.5 as compared with 7.9.

Deaths under one year numbered 7,695 as compared with 8,578 in the same period of 1948, the rate per 1,000 live births falling to 44 as against 49; while deaths under one month totalled 4,244 compared with 4,737, the rate declining to 24 from 27 per 1,000 live births. There were 263 maternal deaths compared with 264. (11)

MOTOR VEHICLE SHIPMENTS
HIGHER IN FEBRUARY

Factory shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles rose to a high level in February, being exceeded only by September last year. The advance in the month was principally due to increased shipments of passenger cars. Cumulative total for the first two months of the year was sharply higher than in the similar period of 1949.

In February, 30,137 units were shipped as compared with 28,527 in the preceding month and 17,197 in February, 1949. The cumulative total for the two months ending February increased to 58,664 units from 31,060 in the like period of 1949. Shipments in September last year aggregated 30,894 units.

Shipments of passenger cars in February increased sharply to 22,459 units as compared with 9,285 in February last year, while commercial vehicles were slightly lower at 7,678 units compared with 7,912. In the two-month period, 43,386 passenger cars were shipped as against 16,459 a year ago, and 15,278 commercial vehicles compared with 14,601.

Vehicles shipped for sale in Canada accounted for 27,983 of the month's total as compared with 15,672 in February, 1949, bringing the cumulative total to 54,423 units against 27,258 in the same months last year. Vehicles for export numbered 2,154 units in February compared with 1,525 a year earlier, and in the two months, 4,241 units compared with 3,802 in 1949. (12)

PRODUCTION OF COKE IN JANUARY

Production of coke from ovens and gas retorts in January amounted to 323,000 tons as compared with 320,000 in the preceding month and 352,000 in the corresponding month last year.

Producers' stocks of oven and retort coke, excluding breeze at the end of January, amounted to 180,000 tons, of which 71,000 tons were located in the eastern provinces, 105,000 tons in Ontario, and 4,000 tons in the western provinces. Stocks of breeze totalled 103,000 tons, the eastern provinces accounting for 14,000 tons, Ontario 77,000 tons, and the western provinces 12,000 tons.

Producers' disposed of 370,000 tons of coke in January. Of the month's total, 51,000 tons were used in coke and gas plants, 170,000 tons in producers' smelters, 17,000 tons for domestic use, 56,000 tons for other uses, 38,000 tons sold to dealers for resale, and 37,000 tons for export. (13)

OUTPUT OF REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS
ADVANCED FIVE PER CENT IN OCTOBER

Canadian production of refined petroleum products increased five per cent in October over the corresponding month of 1948, while in the first 10 months of the year a gain of 10 per cent was recorded. Receipts of crude in October were seven per cent above October, 1948, and were nine per cent higher in the cumulative period.

The month's output amounted to 8,430,182 barrels as compared with 8,012,589 in October, 1948. During the 10 months ending October, 74,416,038 barrels were produced as against 67,548,727 in the like period of 1948. Receipts of crude in the month totalled 9,164,170 barrels compared with 8,587,607 a year ago, and in the 10 months amounted to 80,884,897 barrels against 74,326,737.

Of the crude petroleum received during the month, 1,991,624 came from Canadian sources as compared with 1,131,679 a year earlier, the 10-month total rising sharply to 17,007,677 barrels from 9,558,945. Receipts of imported crude in October fell off slightly to 7,172,546 barrels from 7,449,943, and in the 10-month period to 63,877,220 barrels from 64,761,807.

Venezuela was the chief source of crude petroleum imports in the first 10 months of the year, accounting for 29,896,961 barrels, down from 31,998,824 a year ago. Imports from the United States declined to 24,534,156 barrels from 27,378,858, while imports from Arabia rose sharply to 7,052,463 barrels from 2,275,554. Crude supplies from Trinidad amounted to 2,082,953 barrels compared with 2,171,333, Iraq 310,687 barrels compared with nil, Iran nil compared with 223,916, and Mexico nil compared with 213,322. (14)

PRODUCTION OF SILVER, LEAD,
AND ZINC IN JANUARY

Canadian production of both silver and zinc was higher in January this year than in the same month of 1949, while the output of lead declined sharply to reach the lowest level since October, 1944. The month's output of primary silver amounted to 1,196,000 fine ounces as compared with 1,718,500 in December and 976,000 in January last year. Production of primary lead decreased to 9,600 tons from 22,400 in December, and 10,800 in January, 1949. Primary zinc production in the month amounted to 24,000 tons as against 27,400 in December, and 21,900 in January last year. (15)

STOCKS OF NON-FERROUS
SCRAP METAL IN NOVEMBER

Stocks of ingot makers' non-ferrous scrap metal at the end of November amounted to 2,644,079 pounds, slightly under the 2,669,175 pounds at the first of the month, while the stocks of secondary non-ferrous ingot totalled 2,483,145 pounds as compared with 2,453,523. During the month, 5,929,402 pounds of non-ferrous scrap were purchased and 5,954,498 pounds used or sold. Secondary non-ferrous ingots produced in the month amounted to 5,287,065 pounds, and the sales totalled 5,257,443 pounds.

Following were the stocks of non-ferrous scrap metal held by dealers at the end of November, figures for the first of the month being in brackets: aluminum, 1,640,-244 (1,843,749) pounds; brass and bronze, 6,926,950 (7,135,655); copper, 2,613,167 (2,586,018); tin-lead, 3,659,017 (3,630,479); zinc, 499,779 (784,955); drosses, 1,465,127 (1,443,257). (16)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS Carloadings on Canadian railways during the week ended March 18 amounted to 74,311 cars against 71,127 in the preceding week and 72,991 in the corresponding week last year. Eastern division volume was up from 47,563 cars in 1949 to 49,836, but western loadings were down to 24,475 cars from 25,428. (17)

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).

Reports and Bulletins

1. National Accounts Income and Expenditure, Preliminary, 1949 (25 cents).
2. Trade of Canada: Domestic Exports, February -- Summary Bulletin (20 cents).
3. Advance Statement on Employment and Weekly Earnings at February 1 (10 cents).
4. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, December, 1949, and Review of Trade During 1949 (10 cents).
5. Prices and Price Indexes, February (20 cents).
6. Production of Leather Footwear, January (10 cents).
7. Housing Bulletin No. 24, December, 1949 (25 cents).
8. Farm Cash Income, 1949 (25 cents).
9. The Dairy Review, February (25 cents).
10. Canadian Fisheries Statistics, February (30 cents).
11. Births, Marriages and Deaths, Second Quarter, 1949 (25 cents).
12. Motor Vehicle Shipments, February (10 cents).
13. Coal and Coke Statistics, January (25 cents).
14. Refined Petroleum Products, October (25 cents).
15. Silver, Lead and Zinc Production, January (15 cents).
16. Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal and Secondary Non-Ferrous Ingot, November (15 cents).
17. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
18. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, January (10 cents).
19. Canadian Statistical Review, March (35 cents).
20. Products Made from Canadian Clays, December (15 cents).
21. Quarterly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, October-December, 1949 (25 cents).
22. Trade of Canada: Articles Imported from Each Country, Calendar Year, 1949 (25 cents).

Honoranda

1. Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
2. Grain Milling Statistics, February (10 cents).
3. Final Estimates of Honey Production, 1949 (10 cents).
4. Asphalt Floor Tiles, February (10 cents).

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