

# D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

DOMINION BUREAU  
OF STATISTICS

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

OTTAWA - CANADA

APR 11 1950  
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Vol. XVIII - No. 14

Saturday, April 8, 1950

## --- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADA'S OFFICIAL COST-OF-LIVING INDEX ADVANCED from 161.6 for February 1, 1950 to 163.7 for March 1 for a gain of 2.1 points. This marked a new post-war peak, exceeding the previous high point of 162.8 for August 1, 1949.

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CANADA'S CREDIT BALANCE IN TRADE WITH ALL COUNTRIES declined in February to \$1,400,000 from the January figure of \$11,800,000, showing a closely similar movement to last year when the credit balance fell to \$1,200,000 in February as compared with \$15,200,000 in January.

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COMMODITIES IMPORTED FROM ALL COUNTRIES IN FEBRUARY were valued at \$200,200,000 as compared with \$211,900,000 in January, and \$206,000,000 in February, 1949.

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CHEQUES CASHED AGAINST INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS in February amounted to \$5,999,800,000, slightly above last year's corresponding total of \$5,976,000,000.

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VALUE OF INVENTORIES held by the manufacturing industries of Canada at the end of January was slightly above the December level but about five per cent under January last year.

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DEPARTMENT STORE SALES DECREASED five per cent during the week ending March 25 as compared with the corresponding week last year, all provinces sharing in the decline except Manitoba where sales remained unchanged.

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RAILWAY OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES reached new high record levels in 1949. Operating revenues rose to \$885,354,000 from \$866,549,000 in 1948, and expenses advanced to \$822,572,000 from \$798,411,000. The net result was an operating income of \$31,469,000 for 1949, a decrease of \$3,503,000 from the previous year's revised total of \$34,972,000.

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REVENUE FREIGHT LOADED ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS during the week ended April 1 amounted to 72,810 cars, a decrease of about one per cent from the same week last year.

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STOCKS OF CANADIAN WHEAT IN STORE or in transit in North America at midnight on March 23 amounted to 139,134,400 bushels as compared with 134,633,300 on the corresponding date last year.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX UP  
2.1 POINTS AT MARCH 1

The Dominion urban cost-of-living index advanced from 161.6 for February 1, 1950, to 163.7 for March 1 for a gain of 2.1 points. This marked a new post-war peak, exceeding the previous high point of 162.8 for August 1, 1949. Group indexes for rents, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items at March 1 were at their highest post-war levels, while foods, clothing and homefurnishings were appreciably below 1949 post-war highs.

The increase in the index during February was due principally to higher levels for rents and firmer prices for certain foods. The results of the March quarterly survey of rents were reflected in an increase in the rent index from 125.0 to 132.7, this advance taking account of all rent changes since last November.

The food index rose 2.7 points to 204.0 during February when strength in prices for beef, lamb, eggs, coffee and fresh vegetables outweighed narrow declines for canned vegetables. Fuel and light, the only other group to register an increase, moved up 0.4 points to 136.3.

The clothing index receded from 183.0 to 181.4 with lower prices quoted for men's and women's topcoats and men's suits, while homefurnishings and services declined 0.1 points to 166.3. The index for miscellaneous items remained unchanged at 132.1. (1)

Dominion Cost-of-Living Indexes (1935-39=100)

	Com- bined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Cloth- ing	Home furnish- ings and Services	Miscel- laneous
March 1, 1950 .....	163.7	204.0	132.7	136.3	181.4	166.3	132.1
February 1, 1950 ....	161.6	201.3	125.0	135.9	183.0	166.4	132.1
March 1, 1949 .....	159.2	199.1	121.7	131.0	182.7	167.9	128.1

SLIGHT RISE IN CHEQUES  
CASHED IN FEBRUARY

Cheques cashed against individual accounts in February amounted to \$5,999,800,000, slightly above last year's corresponding total of \$5,976,000,000. This raised the cumulative total for the first two months of the year to \$13,306,822,000 from \$12,904,849,000 in the similar period of 1949, or by three per cent.

Ontario's total in the month rose to \$2,519,671,000 from \$2,428,780,000 in February, 1949, and in the two months to \$5,625,119,000 from \$5,336,020,000 a year earlier. In Quebec the February figure was down to \$1,744,988,000 from \$1,892,827,000, but higher in the two months at \$4,029,045,000 compared with \$3,965,879,000.

The aggregate for the three Prairie Provinces in February advanced to \$1,026,465,000 from \$967,423,000 a year earlier, and in the two months at \$2,182,304,000 from \$2,147,876,000. British Columbia's February total was \$545,701,000 as compared with \$550,867,000, and the two-month figure stood at \$1,110,269,000 compared with \$1,157,390,000.

The total for the Maritimes and Newfoundland in February was \$162,975,000 as compared with \$136,441,000 in the same month last year, and for the two months was \$360,086,000 compared with \$297,685,000. The February figure for St. John's Newfoundland was \$31,429,000, and for the two months, \$68,465,000. (2)

COMMODITY TRADE BALANCE  
AND IMPORTS IN FEBRUARY

Canada had a greatly reduced excess of imports over exports in trade with the United States in February than a year earlier, due to a substantial rise in Canadian exports across the border and a further decrease in imports of American goods in the month; while Canada's credit balance with the United Kingdom fell to the lowest monthly figure in many years as the result of a rise in the import value of British goods and a drop in Canadian exports to the United Kingdom. In trade with all countries, Canada had a small credit balance in the month.

Imports from the United States during February, for the fourth consecutive month, showed a decrease from the corresponding month a year earlier, being valued at \$143,500,000 as against \$148,800,000. Domestic exports, on the other hand, increased in value to \$128,800,000 compared with \$106,700,000, while foreign exports were unchanged at \$1,500,000. The adverse balance with the United States, as a result, amounted to only \$13,000,000 in the month as against \$40,600,000 in February last year. The January debit balance was also down substantially from January, 1949, the total for the two months standing at \$34,500,000 as compared with \$87,900,000.

Purchases from the United Kingdom during February rose in value to \$25,400,000 from \$22,900,000 a year earlier, while total exports -- domestic and foreign -- to the United Kingdom were down sharply to \$30,700,000 from \$44,200,000. The favourable balance of trade consequently fell to the small figure of \$5,300,000 as compared with \$21,400,000 a year earlier, the two-month total being down to \$28,000,000 as against \$51,900,000 in 1949.

In trade with all countries, Canada's credit balance declined in February to \$1,400,000 from the January figure of \$11,800,000, showing a closely similar movement to last year when the credit balance fell to \$1,200,000 in February as compared with \$15,200,000 in January. Aggregate balance for the first two months was thus lower at \$13,200,000 as against \$16,400,000 for the same 1949 period.

Both commodity imports and exports in February were lower in value than in January, in keeping with the normal peacetime trend, and both were also below the values for February last year. Imports were valued at \$200,200,000 as compared with \$211,900,000 in January and \$206,000,000 in February, 1949. Domestic exports -- as earlier reported -- declined to \$199,500,000 from \$221,200,000 for January and \$205,000,000 for February a year ago, while foreign exports were valued at \$2,100,000 compared with \$2,600,000 and \$2,100,000, respectively.

Besides the decrease from the United States, February imports were lower in value than a year earlier from Latin America, continental Europe and Commonwealth countries as a whole (excluding the United Kingdom) and higher in value from the remaining foreign countries as well as the United Kingdom. Changes in values for geographic areas, however, were generally of moderate proportions.

Among the decreases, imports from Latin America, were valued at \$10,571,000 as against \$13,689,000, most of the decline being accounted for by a drop from \$6,171,000 to \$3,487,000 in purchases from Venezuela. Imports from Europe declined only to \$5,492,000 from \$5,916,000, with no particularly marked gains or losses for individual countries. Total value of imports from other foreign countries was up to \$3,925,000 as compared with \$2,519,000.

Imports from Commonwealth countries in Asia increased in value during February to \$7,217,000 from \$5,043,000 last year, substantially higher figures for India and Ceylon outweighing a decrease for Malaya. Increased purchases from British East Africa resulted in an increase also in imports from Commonwealth countries in Africa to \$1,446,000 compared with \$1,175,000. Imports from the British West Indies group, however, again declined to \$1,076,000 as against \$2,127,000 a year ago; while, in contrast with a January gain, imports from the Oceania group fell off to \$1,517,000 compared with \$3,538,000. Aggregate value for these Commonwealth groups was down only slightly to \$11,262,000 as against \$11,886,000.

Increased purchases of iron and steel products, non-ferrous metals and products, and agricultural and vegetable products were mainly responsible for the rise in February imports from the United Kingdom as compared with February last year. Largest gain was in the value of commodities in the iron and steel group, which rose to \$9,186,000 as against \$4,284,000. Imports in the fibres and textiles group, however, dropped off to \$8,081,000 from \$11,718,000. Since the devaluation of the pound would have some tendency to reduce prices of imports in terms of dollars, it may be assumed that, in terms of volume, increases were greater and decreases smaller than the value figures for imports from the United Kingdom indicate.

A similar breakdown of imports from the United States shows the largest decrease, as in January, for iron and steel products, which fell in value to \$58,569,000 as compared with \$64,133,000 a year ago. Imports in the fibres and textiles and animals also declined from a year earlier, as in January, but the decreases of these two groups were offset by a rise of nearly \$1,800,000 to \$11,355,000 for the agricultural and vegetable group and small increases for each of the other five main groups.

Decreases from February last year were recorded in total imports of five of the nine main commodity groups. The largest decline was in the fibres and textiles group, which fell to \$26,039,000 from \$30,219,000, due mainly to reductions in import values of cotton and wool products and artificial silk and products. The non-metallic minerals group declined to \$31,800,000 as against \$33,700,000, the major reduction being in crude petroleum. In contrast with a sharp falling-off in January, imports in the iron and steel group decreased only from \$69,400,000 to \$68,400,000, while non-ferrous metals -- up sharply in January -- eased down to \$13,200,000 from \$14,300,000. A smaller decrease was recorded for the animals and animal products group.

Among the four groups showing increases, agricultural and vegetable products advanced to \$26,800,000 from \$25,400,000; wood and paper to \$7,400,000 from \$6,500,000; chemicals and allied products to \$10,500,000 from \$9,600,000; and miscellaneous commodities to \$9,600,000 from \$9,500,000. (3 and 4)

VALUE OF INVENTORIES HELD BY  
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

The value of inventories held by the manufacturing industries of Canada at the end of January was slightly above the December level but about five per cent under January last year, according to indexes compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This year's January index, on the base 1947=100, stood at 126.9 as compared with 125.1 in December and 130.9 a year earlier.

The indexes for capital goods and producer's materials rose above the December standing but fell below January 1949 levels. Consumer's goods moved up in both comparisons, while construction materials were down from December but above January, 1949.

The consumer's goods index was 130.4 compared with 129.9 a year ago, capital goods 98.2 compared with 119.6, producer's materials 128.9 compared with 137.3, and construction materials 151.8 compared with 148.9. (5)

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

March 30, 1950    March 23, 1950    March 2, 1950  
(1935-39=100)

Investors' Price Index

(106 Common Stocks) .....	119.0	119.3	118.3
82 Industrials .....	113.0	112.9	112.1
16 Utilities .....	126.3	128.2	126.0
8 Banks .....	143.5	142.9	142.4

Mining Stock Price Index

(30 Stocks) .....	91.5	91.5	91.6
25 Golds .....	74.6	74.8	73.7
5 Base Metals .....	124.6	124.3	127.0

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES  
DOWN FIVE PER CENT IN WEEK

Department store sales decreased five per cent during the week ending March 25 as compared with the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures. All provinces shared in the decline except Manitoba where sales remained unchanged. Saskatchewan showed the sharpest decline of nine per cent, British Columbia eight per cent, Ontario seven per cent, Alberta four per cent, the Maritimes two per cent, and Quebec one per cent.

STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER  
AND CHEESE ON APRIL 1

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on April 1 amounted to 19,921,000 pounds as compared with 25,875,000 on March 1 and 6,185,000 on the corresponding date last year. Stocks of cheese totalled 24,664,000 pounds compared with 27,294,000 on March 1 and 15,661,000 on April 1, 1949.

Stocks of creamery butter were as follows by cities on April 1, figures for the same date last year being in brackets (thousands omitted): Quebec, 304 (652) pounds; Montreal, 2,736 (1,539); Toronto, 5,000 (1,663); Winnipeg, 7,620 (771); Regina, 553 (122); Saskatoon, 178 (173); Edmonton, 2,190 (353); Calgary, 574 (171); Vancouver, 766 (741). (Mem. 1)

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on March 23 amounted to 139,134,400 bushels as compared with 141,098,000 a week earlier, and 134,633,300 on the corresponding date last year. Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week totalled 2,233,700 bushels as compared with 1,640,900 a year earlier, bringing the cumulative total for the period August 1 - March 23 to 258,415,200 bushels as against 252,994,700 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 23, totals for the same week last year being in brackets: oats, 704,300 (1,081,200) bushels; barley, 251,800 (604,500); rye, 77,400 (77,700); flaxseed, 5,500 (101,200).

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending March 23 amounted to 2,667,000 bushels as compared with 3,569,500 in the corresponding week last year, bringing the cumulative total for the crop year to date to 106,363,500 bushels as against 95,954,400 in the similar period of 1948-49. (Mem. 2)

SALES AND CONSUMPTION OF MILK AND CREAM IN JANUARY

Combined sales of fluid milk and cream in January amounted to 358,838,000 pounds, showing an increase of 10,000,000 pounds or nearly three per cent over the same month last year. Of this amount, 84 per cent was sold as milk and 16 per cent as cream.

The daily per capita consumption of milk and cream by the milk producing population in urban areas increased from 0.83 pints in January, 1949, to 0.85 pints. Milk alone rose from 0.69 pints to 0.71. Cream consumption in terms of milk, stood at 0.14 pints, unchanged from the January, 1949 level. (Mem. 3)

STOCKS OF RAW AND REFINED SUGAR

Refinery stocks of raw and refined sugar were lower at the end of February than on the corresponding date last year. Stocks of raw sugar amounted to 70,544,500 pounds as compared with 104,892,300, and refined stocks totalled 201,109,600 pounds as against 229,897,800.

The amount of refined sugar manufactured during February was 74,266,000 pounds compared with 84,952,500 in the corresponding month last year. Receipts of raw sugar decreased sharply to 19,984,500 pounds from 95,534,100, and meltings and sales to 74,976,600 pounds against 90,983,700. (5)

PRODUCTION OF SHORTENING, LARD AND OTHER ANIMAL OILS AND FATS

Shortening production in 1949 was estimated at 115,427,000 pounds, a decrease of about 12 per cent from 1948, while the output of lard amounted to 70,396,000 pounds, an increase of 14 per cent. The production of other animal oils and fats was 101,863,000 pounds, a decrease of almost four per cent from the 1948 figure. The main items of production in 1949 were: edible tallow, 22,139,000 pounds; inedible tallow, 66,916,000 pounds; grease, 5,152,000 pounds; and oleo oil, stearing and stocks and neat's-foot oil, 7,656,000 pounds.

RELEASES OF CIGARETTES  
AND TOBACCO IN FEBRUARY

Releases of cigarettes for consumption in Canada rose to 1,459,000,000 in February from 1,408,000,000 in the preceding month and 1,183,000,000 in the corresponding month last year. In the first two months of this year, 2,867,000,000 cigarettes were released as compared with 2,445,000,000 in the like period of 1949.

Cut tobacco releases in February were also higher, amounting to 2,084,000 pounds compared with 1,963,000 in January, and 1,987,000 a year ago, the two-month total standing at 4,047,000 pounds compared with 4,024,000 a year earlier.

Cigars released in the month amounted to 14,500,000 as compared with 14,100,000 in January and 17,700,000 a year ago, bringing the two-month total to 28,600,000 compared with 35,200,000. Releases of plug tobacco in the month totalled 199,000 pounds compared with 211,000 in January and 192,000 in February, 1949. Quantity of snuff was 73,000 pounds compared with 73,000 in January and 68,000 a year ago.

PRODUCTION OF BEER AND  
SPIRITS IN FEBRUARY

Canadian production of beer in February amounted to 424,400 barrels as compared with 456,700 in the preceding month and 390,700 in the corresponding month last year. During the first two months of this year, 881,000 barrels were produced as compared with 830,800 in the same period of 1949.

February production of new spirits totalled 1,690,000 proof gallons compared with 1,940,000 in January and 1,910,000 a year ago, bringing the two-month total to 3,630,000 gallons compared with 3,870,000 a year earlier.

Spirits bottled in February amounted to 450,000 proof gallons compared with 640,000 in January and 670,000 in February last year, and in the first two months of the year amounted to 1,090,000 gallons compared with 1,380,000 in the like period of 1949. Stocks of distilled liquor at the end of February stood at 77,130,000 gallons compared with 76,400,000 at the end of January, and 71,540,000 at the end of February last year.

PRODUCTION OF ASPHALT ROOFING  
MATERIALS HIGHER IN FEBRUARY

Production of asphalt shingles and roll roofing was higher in February, amounting to 252,200 squares as compared with 207,100 in the corresponding month last year. The month's output of tar and asphalt felts rose to 2,900 tons from 2,400 a year earlier. Production of shingles amounted to 122,200 squares compared with 84,900 a year ago; smooth surfaced roofing in rolls, 72,000 squares compared with 62,600; mineral surfaced roofing in rolls, 43,000 squares compared with 45,100; and roll type sidings, 15,100 squares compared with 14,600. (Mem. 4)

PRODUCTION AND SALES OF  
STOVES AND WARM AIR FURNACES

Canadian manufacturers produced 38,219 stoves of all kinds in February as compared with 35,370 in the preceding month, and 4,998 warm air furnaces as compared with 5,457. Factory sales of stoves in the month amounted to 34,739 units of all types as compared with 33,790, and the sales of furnaces totalled 3,101 compared with 3,970.

Among the stoves produced during the month were 13,414 electric ranges and rangettes; 6,319 coal, wood and sawdust cooking stoves; 3,412 coal, wood and sawdust heating stoves; 4,363 gas cooking stoves and ranges; 4,682 oil and gasoline stoves and heaters; and 3,066 fuel oil (distillate) cooking stoves and ranges. (Mem. 5)

DOMESTIC WASHING MACHINE AND ELECTRIC REFRIGERATOR OUTPUT AT RECORD IN 1949

Domestic electric refrigerators and washing machines were turned out in Canada in greater volume in 1949 than in any previous year.

In December, output of both was close to average monthly levels.

During the year, production of electric refrigerators amounted to 177,854 units as compared with 138,883 in 1948, an increase of 28 per cent. Shipments for sale in Canada totalled 165,367 units compared with 125,839, and 10,974 were shipped for export compared with 13,300. In December, 14,073 units were produced as against 12,147 a year earlier. Manufacturers' stocks at the end of the year advanced to 3,145 units compared with 1,632 at the end of 1948.

Output of domestic washing machines in 1949 increased eight per cent, numbering 350,884 units compared with 322,963 in 1948. Electric machines accounted for 309,357 of the 1949 total as against 285,733, gasoline for 38,755 compared with 28,940, and hand machines for 2,772 as against 8,290 in 1948. Shipments during the year totalled 342,880 units, up from 321,151 in 1948, while year-end stocks amounted to 11,057 units compared with 3,053.

Sharp declines were recorded in the imports of refrigerators and washing machines in 1949. Imports of domestic or store-type electric refrigerators fell to 633 units from 1,079 in the preceding year, and of domestic electric washing machines to 225 units from 1,438. Exports of electric refrigerators and washing machines were lower during 1949, the former falling to 12,801 units from 16,551, and the latter to 11,548 units from 13,809. (6)

SALES OF RADIO RECEIVING SETS HIGHER IN 1949

Sales of radio receiving sets by Canadian producers in 1949 totalled 728,680 units valued at \$55,323,941, an increase of 22 per cent in number over the 596,467 units valued at \$49,351,338 sold in the preceding year, but still about 13 per cent below the post-war peak of 836,419 sets sold for \$60,399,221 in 1947.

Table models accounted for 60 per cent of the total number of units sold in 1949 as compared with 68 per cent in 1948; automobile sets for 19 per cent compared with 10 per cent; consoles for 13 per cent compared with 16 per cent; and portables for eight per cent as compared with six per cent.

Sales in Ontario represented 55 per cent of the all-Canada total in 1949, up from 45 per cent in the preceding year. Quebec's proportion fell to 18 per cent from 21 per cent, the Prairie Provinces to 15 per cent from 18 per cent, British Columbia to six per cent from nine per cent, and the Maritimes to six per cent from seven per cent.

Sales were as follows by provinces during the year, totals for 1948 being in brackets: Ontario, 402,107 (267,804) units; Quebec, 121,005 (127,813); British Columbia, 45,764 (53,387); the Maritimes, 45,114 (38,857); Alberta, 42,088 (39,240); Manitoba, 39,927 (42,102); Saskatchewan, 28,189 (27,264); and Newfoundland, 4,490 (-). (7).



GOLD PRODUCTION IN JANUARY Gold production in Canada in January was down five per cent from December -- the high for recent years -- but 14 per cent above the January 1949 output. The month's production amounted to 354,773 fine ounces as compared with 373,091 in December and 309,810 in January, 1949.

Mines in Ontario accounted for 198,046 fine ounces in January as compared with 186,523 in the same month last year, Quebec for 93,378 ounces compared with 69,664, British Columbia 25,210 ounces compared with 24,431, Manitoba and Saskatchewan 22,659 ounces compared with 18,288, Northwest Territories 14,826 ounces compared with 10,873, and the Yukon Territory two ounces compared with 22. (8)

PRODUCTION OF COPPER AND NICKEL IN JANUARY Canadian production of new primary copper in January was lower than in December, but above the same month last year, while the output of nickel was down in both comparisons. The month's output of copper amounted to 22,212 tons as compared with 23,640 in December and 20,805 in January last year. Nickel production in January decreased to 10,206 tons from 10,675 in the preceding month and 11,180 a year ago. (9)

PRODUCTION OF WIRE NAILS HIGHER IN 1949 Canadian production of iron and steel wire nails reached a high total of 89,700 tons in 1949 as compared with 85,700 in the preceding year, an increase of five per cent. In December, 8,000 tons were produced as compared with 8,300 in November and 7,100 a year earlier.

During the year, 1,100 tons of iron and steel cut nails were produced compared with 900; steel wire staples, 1,800 tons compared with 1,600; and tacks of steel, brass and copper, 1,700 tons compared with 2,300. (10)

PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON AND STEEL HIGHER IN JANUARY Production of pig iron and steel moved to higher levels in January. The month's output of pig iron rose to 190,432 net tons from 172,002 in the preceding month and 183,074 in the corresponding month last year, and steel ingots and castings to 289,949 net tons from 263,949 in December and 284,707 a year ago. (Mem. 6)

SHIPMENTS AND EXPORTS OF ASBESTOS HIGHER IN JANUARY Shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines during January increased 17 per cent, amounting to 57,172 tons as compared with 48,872 in the corresponding month last year. Exports in the month stood at 54,759 tons, an advance of 26 per cent over the 43,437 tons exported in the same month last year. (11)

SALES OF ELECTRIC STORAGE BATTERIES Sales of electric storage batteries and parts by principal Canadian producers in January were valued at \$1,162,127 as compared with \$1,637,617 a year ago. Sales in the month included 115,959 batteries at \$977,064 for the ignition of internal combustion engines; 3,330 cells at \$17,800 for farm lighting plants; 807 cells at \$30,787 for railway services; 359 batteries at \$1,065 for radios; batteries valued at \$86,353 for other uses, including those for telephone switchboards and motorcycles. (12)

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF PORTLAND CEMENT IN JANUARY Production and shipments of Portland cement by Canadian manufacturers were higher in January this year than in the same month last year. The month's output amounted to 1,252,505 barrels as compared with 1,121,659, and the shipments aggregated 652,769 barrels as against 621,044. (13)

SALES OF PAINTS, VARNISHES  
AND LACQUERS IN JANUARY

Sales of paints, varnishes and lacquers by manufacturers which normally account for all but a small percentage of the total Canadian production, amounted to \$5,536,665 in January as compared with \$5,566,626 in the corresponding month last year. (14)

RAILWAY OPERATING REVENUES AND  
EXPENSES AT NEW PEAKS IN 1949

Railway operating revenues and expenses reached new high record levels in 1949. Operating revenues rose to \$885,354,000 from \$866,549,000 in 1948, and expenses advanced to \$822,572,000 from \$798,411,000. The net result was an operating income of \$31,469,000 for 1949, a decrease of \$3,503,000 from the previous year's revised total of \$34,972,000. As in 1948, Canadian railways again failed by a considerable margin to earn sufficient operating income to meet interest and other obligations despite near-record levels of activity and peak earnings.

Reviewing the year's operating revenues, each account registered an increase over 1948. Freight earnings rose 1.3 per cent or \$8,836,900 to \$701,081,900 -- a new record -- while passenger revenues were up 1.8 per cent or \$1,505,200 from 1948 to \$84,392,000. Mail receipts rose 1.5 per cent, while express gained 10.7 per cent or \$3,464,400 to \$35,738,600 -- an all-time high. Other passenger train earnings increased 14 per cent, and the miscellaneous accounts, 9.5 per cent. Operating expenses showed increases of 3.1 per cent or \$4,948,700 in the maintenance of way and structures which required \$162,086,500 during 1949, while maintenance of equipment advanced \$11,664,500 over 1948 to \$184,705,100. Traffic expenses were up five per cent to \$17,561,500. Transportation account at \$402,536,200 increased \$2,901,300, and general expenses were 8.8 per cent heavier at \$41,161,500.

Freight carried in 1949 -- excluding Newfoundland -- declined 14,507,800 tons to 155,135,700, but ton mileage eased only 4.8 per cent, indicating a rise in average length of haul from 347 to 361 miles. Revenue passengers numbered 32,198,700 compared with 35,655,200 one year earlier, a decrease of 9.7 per cent, while passenger miles were down 9.3 per cent, with average journey little changed. Loaded freight car miles were reduced 2.8 per cent or over 60,080,000, and empty mileage rose 32,876,000 or 3.7 per cent. Total pay roll for 176,600 employees was \$491,738,600, an average of \$2,784, compared with \$2,735 in 1948, when 178,300 employees earned \$487,730,200, including retroactive pay. (15)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Revenue freight loaded on Canadian railways during the week ended April 1 amounted to 72,810 cars, a decrease of 681 cars or 0.9 per cent from the same week of 1949. In the first quarter of the current year, total cars loaded in Canada were 894,552, off 5.3 per cent as compared with 944,196 cars in the same period of 1949. The main declines in the elapsed portion of 1950 were in grain, grain products, live stock, logs, pulpwood, and l.c.l. merchandise, while good gains over 1949 were shown in fruit, coal, other mine products, lumber, gasoline and crude oil, autos and paper. (16)

BOAT-BUILDING INDUSTRY

The gross value of products manufactured by establishments engaged wholly or chiefly in the manufacture of small wooden vessels and pleasure craft, such as row boats, canoes, sailboats, motor boats, etc. was \$5,410,300 in 1948 as compared with \$5,432,500 in the preceding year. The cost of materials used was \$2,105,300 as compared with \$2,206,800, and the value added by manufacture was \$3,213,500 compared with \$3,126,200. (Mem. 7)

REFERENCE PAPER ON Detailed statistics on the results of each of the 17 quarterly  
LABOUR FORCE SURVEYS labour force surveys conducted by the Dominion Bureau of  
 Statistics since their inception in the Fall of 1945 to the  
 end of 1949 are contained in a reference paper issued on Thursday, April 6. It  
 contains details on the size of the labour force, persons with jobs and persons without  
 jobs seeking work, by region, sex and age. Estimates of the number of persons not  
 in the labour force are included. (Ref. Paper 1)

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. Price Movements, Preliminary, March (10 cents).
2. Cheques Cashed in Clearing Centres, February (10 cents).
3. Monthly Summary of Foreign Trade, February (10 cents).
4. Summary of Imports for Consumption, February (20 cents).
5. Inventories and Shipments by Manufacturing Industries, January (25 cents).
6. The Sugar Situation, February (10 cents).
7. Domestic Washing Machines and Electric Refrigerators, December (10 cents).
8. Radio Receiving Sets, December (25 cents).
9. Gold Production, January (10 cents).
10. Copper and Nickel Production, January (15 cents).
11. Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products, December (15 cents).
12. Asbestos, January (10 cents).
13. Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, January (10 cents).
14. Cement and Cement Products, January (10 cents).
15. Sales of Paints, Varnishes and Lacquers, January (10 cents).
16. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, Year 1949 (10 cents).
17. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
18. Transit Report, December (10 cents).
19. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways in Canada,  
 December (10 cents).
20. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways of Canada, December (10 cents).
21. Trade of Canada: Imports, January (50 cents).
22. Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, December (10 cents).

#### Memoranda

1. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products in Nine Cities -- Advance Statement --  
 April 1 (10 cents).
2. Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
3. Fluid Milk Sales, January (10 cents).
4. Asphalt Roofing, February (10 cents).
5. Stoves and Furnaces, February (10 cents).
6. Production of Pig Iron and Steel, January (10 cents).
7. The Boat-building Industry, 1948 (10 cents).
8. The Cooperage Industry, 1948 (10 cents).

#### Reference Paper

1. The Labour Force, 1945-49 (25 cents).

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