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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT in Canada showed a further recession at the beginning of February, the working forces of 21,028 representative establishments falling 3.4 per cent as compared with January 1.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS of men and women employed by leading firms in the major non-agricultural industries at the beginning of February stood at \$43.90, the highest in the record.

CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS in February numbered 125,511, down sharply from the preceding month's total of 196,624, but higher than last year's February total of 108,759.

REGIONAL COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES for eight Canadian cities all moved higher during February, sharp upturns in the group indexes for foods and rents being mainly responsible.

COMMERCIAL FAILURES showed a further marked increase in number and defaulted liabilities in 1949, continuing the upswing from the wartime low reached in 1945. The year's total of business failures was 1,066, up 31 per cent over 1948, and the defaulted liabilities rose 35.8 per cent to \$21,356,000.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES were slightly higher in February, being valued at \$50,247,000 as compared with \$50,022,000 a year earlier. Advance figures for March indicate a decrease of three per cent in the month.

ALL-CANADA OUTPUT OF ELECTRIC ENERGY by central electric stations in February amounted to 3,770,596,000 kilowatt hours, eight per cent below January, but up 11 per cent over February last year.

VOLUME OF HIGHWAY TRAFFIC entering Canada from the United States in February was four per cent higher than in the same month last year, returning Canadian traffic accounting for the rise.

STOCKS OF CANADIAN WHEAT in store or in transit in North America at midnight on March 30 amounted to 136,705,600 bushels as compared with 130,737,500 on the corresponding date last year.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES FOR
EIGHT REGIONAL CITIES

Regional cost-of-living indexes for eight Canadian cities all moved higher during February, sharp upturns in the group indexes for foods and rents being mainly responsible. Fuel costs were slightly higher at Montreal, while homefurnishings and services rose fractionally at Toronto.

Composite city index advances between February 1 and March 1 were as follows: Toronto, 3.1 points to 160.7; Winnipeg, 2.5 to 153.3; Montreal, 2.4 to 166.6; Vancouver, 1.3 to 165.2; Halifax, 1.7 to 155.0; Saint John, 1.7 to 159.5; Edmonton, 1.4 to 159.5; and Saskatoon, 0.9 to 164.5. During the same interval, the Dominion index moved up 2.1 points to 162.4.

	<u>March 1, 1949</u>	<u>February 1, 1950</u> (August 1939=100)	<u>March 1, 1950</u>
Halifax	152.3	153.3	155.0
Saint John	155.3	157.3	159.5
Montreal	162.0	164.2	166.0
Toronto	154.6	157.6	160.7
Winnipeg	153.8	156.3	158.3
Saskatoon	161.6	163.6	164.5
Edmonton	154.2	158.1	159.5
Vancouver	160.7	163.4	165.2
Dominion	157.9	160.3	162.4

The city indexes show changes in living costs for each city and compare the extent of the rise and fall between cities. They do not, however, compare the actual level of living costs. Indexes shown in the above table do not yet include data covering Newfoundland.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT
LOWER AT FEBRUARY 1

Industrial employment in Canada showed a further pronounced recession at the beginning of February, the working forces of 21,028 representative establishments falling 3.4 per cent as compared with January 1. The loss was due to some extent to seasonal movements, but also resulted in part from unfavourable weather in many parts of the country, notably in British Columbia. There were decreases in all provinces, while industrially there were also widely-distributed losses, those in trade and construction being particularly large.

Although the general index number of employment, at 137.3 per cent of the 1926 average as 100, showed an above-average decline from January 1, and was 1.7 per cent below the February 1, 1949 level, it exceeded that indicated at mid-winter in any earlier year of the record. Rising fractionally from January 1, 1950, the index number of payrolls was slightly above that for February 1 last year, and was also higher than at the same date in any preceding winter.

At \$43.90, the average weekly earnings of men and women employed by leading firms in the major non-agricultural industries were the highest in the record, exceeding by nine cents the previous maximum reached at December 1, 1949. It was 2.3 per cent higher than at February 1 last year. (1)

CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE BENEFITS IN FEBRUARY

Claims for unemployment insurance benefits in February numbered 125,511, down sharply from the preceding month's total of 196,624, but higher than last year's February total of 103,759. Initial and renewal claims, representing mainly new cases of unemployment among insured persons, totalled 109,232 in February as against 132,053 in January and 93,463 a year earlier. On the last working day in February, ordinary claimants on the live unemployment register numbered 286,163 compared with 297,238 at the end of January and 208,813 on the corresponding date last year.

Increased claims were recorded in all provinces in February except Nova Scotia, which fell slightly to 7,055 from 7,071 in February, 1949. The number in Ontario rose to 37,436 from 31,201, Quebec to 37,129 from 31,909, and British Columbia to 20,313 from 19,715. Claims for the other provinces were as follows, totals for February last year being in brackets: Manitoba, 7,311 (5,320); Alberta, 6,593 (4,871); New Brunswick, 4,891 (4,326); Saskatchewan, 3,880 (3,202); Prince Edward Island, 682 (644); and Newfoundland, 211 (-).

In February, benefit payments amounted to \$13,605,340 for 5,515,337 compensated days as against \$11,781,142 for 4,925,331 days in January and \$8,185,903 for 3,734,487 days in February last year. (2)

COMMERCIAL FAILURES HIGHER IN 1949

Commercial failures under the provisions of Bankruptcy and Winding Up Acts showed a further marked increase in number and defaulted liabilities in 1949, continuing the upswing from the wartime low reached in 1945. The year's total of business failures was 1,066, up 31 per cent over the preceding year's total of 813, and the highest since 1940 when 1,173 failures were reported. The defaulted liabilities amounted to \$21,356,000, up 35.8 per cent from 1948, and the largest since 1934 when the aggregate was \$23,598,000.

Failures in Quebec rose to 327 from 613 in 1948, and their defaulted liabilities moved up to \$12,842,000 from \$10,622,000. In Ontario there were 131 failures with liabilities of \$5,222,000 compared with 116 failures and liabilities of \$2,723,000 in 1948. In British Columbia there were 55 failures compared with 41 with liabilities of \$1,985,000 compared with \$1,612,000. Totals for the other provinces were comparatively small.

Failures in trade during the year increased to 374 from 289 in 1948, in manufactures to 232 from 133, service to 203 from 144, construction to 94 from 77, transportation and public utilities to 46 from 30, and finance to 19 from four. (3)

TRAVEL BETWEEN CANADA AND THE
UNITED STATES IN FEBRUARY

Volume of highway traffic entering Canada from the United States in February was four per cent higher than in the same month last year, the increase in returning Canadian traffic accounting for the rise. Foreign traffic declined one per cent, a drop in non-permit or local vehicles more than offsetting a gain in vehicles entering on traveller's vehicle permits.

Border crossings during the month totalled 438,300 as compared with 419,916 in February last year. United States vehicles numbered 285,639 compared with 289,936, and returning Canadian vehicles totalled 152,743 against 129,980. United States traffic consisted of 39,006 entries on traveller's vehicle permits (35,826 in February, 1949), 229,037 non-permit or local traffic (239,202), and 17,596 commercial vehicles (14,903). (4)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES UP
SLIGHTLY IN FEBRUARY

Department store sales in Canada -- excluding Newfoundland -- were slightly higher in February, being valued at \$50,247,000 as compared with \$50,022,000 a year earlier. Alberta, British Columbia, and Quebec registered gains of 10 per cent, seven per cent, and five per cent, respectively, in the month, while sales in Ontario showed the sharpest decline of four per cent.

Preliminary figures for March show that sales were down three per cent as compared with the corresponding month last year, all provinces being lower except the Maritimes and Quebec, where gains of two per cent were recorded for each. Sales in British Columbia decreased six per cent, Ontario five per cent, Alberta five per cent, and Saskatchewan one per cent. Manitoba's sales remained unchanged.

Comparatively minor changes in sales occurred in all departments in February as compared with 1949. Sales increases in durable household departments were much reduced compared with those of earlier months. Radio and music departments, with a decrease of 15 per cent, was the only instance in which the change from last year's sales volume was greater than 10 per cent.

Sales were as follows by provinces in February, totals for the same month last year being in brackets (thousands omitted): Maritime Provinces, \$3,059 (\$3,044); Quebec, \$8,025 (\$7,657); Ontario, \$19,327 (\$20,091); Manitoba, \$7,391 (\$7,443); Saskatchewan, \$2,193 (\$2,249); Alberta, \$3,441 (\$3,142); British Columbia, \$6,811 (\$6,396). (5)

SALES AND FINANCING OF
MOTOR VEHICLES IN FEBRUARY

Sales and financing of sales of motor vehicles continued to show large gains in February, passenger cars accounting for all of the gain in the sales of new vehicles, and for a large part of the financing in the new and used class. Greater gains were registered in the financing of sales of new vehicles than in used vehicles.

Sales of new motor vehicles in February totalled 29,497 units with a retail value of \$58,581,025 as compared with 14,496 units sold for \$31,487,383 in February, 1949. There were 23,310 new passenger cars sold for \$46,176,023 as compared with 8,036 at \$17,466,515. New truck sales numbered 6,159 compared with 6,414, retailing for \$11,398,956 as compared with \$13,117,502.

In the month there were 19,824 new and used vehicles financed to the extent of \$19,095,861 as compared with 10,567 for \$10,402,316 a year earlier. New vehicles financed numbered 8,022 at \$11,098,761 compared with 3,612 financed for \$5,462,738. Used vehicles financed totalled 11,802 units involving \$7,997,100 as compared with 6,955 units financed for \$4,939,578.

There were 6,197 new passenger car sales financed to the amount of \$8,219,171 in February as compared with 2,067 with a financed value of \$2,918,386 in February last year. Commercial vehicle sales financed numbered 1,825 involving \$2,879,590 compared with 1,545 units financed for \$2,543,852.

Among used vehicles there were 9,867 passenger units financed for \$6,449,204 as compared with 5,544 units financed for \$3,671,506 last year. The commercial vehicles totalled 1,935 compared with 1,411, and their financed value amounted to \$1,547,896 compared with \$1,263,072. (6)

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

April 6, 1950 March 30, 1950 March 9, 1950
(1935-39=100)

Investors' Price Index

(106 Common Stocks)	123.3	119.0	117.9
82 Industrials	117.7	113.0	111.6
16 Utilities	129.6	126.3	126.3
8 Banks	144.0	143.5	142.6

Mining Stock Price Index

(30 Stocks)	92.5	91.5	89.3
25 Golds	75.4	74.6	72.5
5 Base Metals	125.8	124.6	122.3

SUPPLIES OF CANADIAN WHEAT Supplies of Canadian wheat available for export and carry-over on March 1 this year amounted to 198,200,000 bushels, showing a decrease of 19,900,000 bushels from last year's corresponding total of 218,100,000 bushels, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Exports of Canadian wheat and wheat flour in the first seven months of the current crop year -- August to February -- amounted to 131,600,000 bushels as compared with 116,600,000 in the similar period of 1948-49. Wheat exports in the period totalled 105,400,000 bushels compared with 86,100,000, and wheat flour exports in terms of wheat amounted to 26,200,000 bushels compared with 30,500,000.

Carry-over stocks of wheat at the start of the present crop year amounted to 102,400,000 bushels compared with 77,700,000 a year earlier. The new crop was estimated at 367,400,000 bushels compared with 386,300,000. With small imports of wheat and wheat flour added, the total supply amounted to 469,800,000 bushels as compared with 464,300,000.

Domestic requirements for the crop year were estimated at 140,000,000 bushels compared with 129,600,000, and the quantity available for export or carry-over in the crop year totalled 329,800,000 bushels compared with 334,700,000. (7)

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on March 30 amounted to 136,705,600 bushels as compared with 139,134,400 a week earlier, and 130,737,500 on the corresponding date last year. Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week amounted to 1,388,800 bushels as against 1,201,100 a year earlier. The cumulative total for the period August 1 - March 30 was 259,804,000 bushels as compared with 254,195,800 in the similar period of the preceding crop year.

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending March 30 amounted to 1,780,900 bushels as compared with 3,915,800 in the corresponding week last year, bringing the cumulative total for the crop year to date to 108,144,000 bushels against 99,870,200 in the similar period of 1948-49. (Mem. 1)

CREAMERY BUTTER PRODUCTION UP
SLIGHTLY IN MARCH; CHEESE HIGHER

Creamery butter production was slightly higher in March and the first quarter of this year than in 1949, while cheddar cheese output rose sharply. Production of concentrated milk products and ice cream moved lower both in the month and quarter.

The month's output of creamery butter amounted to 12,445,000 pounds as compared with 12,166,000 in March last year, bringing the total for the first three months of the year to 30,306,000 pounds from 30,401,000. Cheddar cheese production in March totalled 2,114,000 pounds compared with 1,358,000, and in the quarter amounted to 4,791,000 pounds compared with 2,629,000.

March output of concentrated milk products stood at 22,179,000 pounds compared with 24,406,000 a year earlier, first quarter total standing at 51,933,000 pounds compared with 56,149,000. Ice cream output in March was 1,257,000 gallons against 1,469,000, and in the quarter totalled 3,123,000 gallons against 3,457,000. (8)

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF MARGARINE

Production of margarine in Canada in March rose to 10,951,000 pounds from 8,712,000 in the preceding month and 7,349,000 in the corresponding month last year. This raised the cumulative total for the first three months of this year to 27,661,000 pounds as compared with 11,733,000 in the similar period of 1949. Stocks of margarine at the beginning of April amounted to 2,722,000 pounds, up sharply from the March 1 stocks of 1,345,000 pounds. (Mem. 2)

STOCKS OF DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Stocks of creamery butter on April 1 amounted to 27,918,000 pounds as compared with 36,452,000 on March 1 and 12,724,000 on the corresponding date last year. Cheese stocks totalled 34,915,000 pounds compared with 39,077,000 on March 1 and 24,744,000 a year earlier.

Stocks of evaporated whole milk held by or for manufacturers on April 1 amounted to 6,555,000 pounds as compared with 12,536,000 on March 1 and 14,937,000 on the same date last year, while the holdings of skim milk powder were 2,641,000 pounds as compared with 2,864,000 on March 1 and 7,700,000 a year ago.

April 1 stocks of eggs, shell and frozen, amounted to 380,000 cases as compared with 284,000 on March 1 and 541,000 on April 1 last year. Holdings of poultry meat decreased to 17,216,000 pounds from 21,315,000 on March 1, but was above last year's April 1 figure of 7,991,000 pounds. (Mem. 3)

MEAT PRODUCTION DOWN IN 1949
BUT DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION HIGHER

Canadians consumed more meat in 1949 than in the preceding year, but both production and exports were lower, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Per capita consumption in 1949 rose to 139.2 pounds from 134.5 in 1948, but production of meats from live stock slaughtered, together with estimated meat equivalent of animals exported alive was 2,131 million pounds, a decrease of five per cent from the 1948 production of 2,235 million. Exports of meats, on a cold dressed carcass basis fell to 205,669,000 pounds from 418,313,000 in 1948. These figures compare with a 1935-39 average of 193,436,000 pounds. Exports of all kinds of live animals except calves were also lower than in 1948.

The most significant decline in exports was in pork which fell to 76,060,000 pounds from 229,496,000 pounds, and was less than half the 1935-39 average of 176,630,000 pounds. Beef exports were also lower at 105,121,000 pounds as against 133,822,000, mutton and lamb at 3,906,000 pounds compared with 5,056,000, and canned meats at 13,312,000 pounds compared with 43,079,000.

Per capita consumption of pork rose to 59.3 pounds from 53.9 pounds in 1948, and canned meats to 5.7 pounds from 2.7. Beef was down to 56.5 pounds per capita from 57.5, veal to 9.1 pounds from 10.9, and mutton and lamb to 3.0 pounds from 3.5. (Mem. 4)

OUTPUT OF CENTRAL ELECTRIC
STATIONS IN FEBRUARY

All-Canada output of electric energy by central electric stations in February was eight per cent below January, but up 11 per cent over February last year. Production for the first two months of the year was 10 per cent higher than in the similar period of 1949. All provinces shared in the rise in the month and cumulative period except Ontario.

The month's output amounted to 3,770,596,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 4,071,545,000 in January and 3,399,725,000 in February last year. During the two months ending February, 7,842,141,000 kilowatt hours were produced as against 7,100,897,000 in the same months last year.

Consumption of primary power in February advanced to 3,424,763,000 kilowatt hours from 3,112,488,000 a year earlier, and in the two-month period to 7,198,543,000 kilowatt hours compared with 6,519,096,000. Exports to the United States in February declined to 151,521,000 kilowatt hours from 161,796,000, and in the two months stood at 279,596,000 kilowatt hours against 313,379,000.

February production was as follows by provinces, totals for February last year being in brackets (figures in thousands): Prince Edward Island, 1,616 (1,419) kilowatt hours; Nova Scotia, 60,368 (57,081); New Brunswick, 54,837 (44,202); Quebec, 1,990,201 (1,737,466); Ontario, 997,545 (1,001,728); Manitoba, 205,549 (185,679); Saskatchewan, 71,831 (67,909); Alberta, 64,301 (62,287); British Columbia, 324,348 (241,954). (9)

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF
MINERAL WOOL IN FEBRUARY

Production of mineral wool in February comprised 7,821,100 square feet of batts and 1,426,800 cubic feet of granulated, bulk or loose, and industrial wool. There were 3,153,500 square feet of the former and 855,400 cubic feet of the latter in the factories at the end of the month. (Mem. 5)

CANADA'S MINERAL PRODUCTION
AT NEW PEAK VALUE IN 1949

Ontario accounted for slightly more than a third of the total value of minerals produced in Canada in 1949, Quebec being next in order with 18 per cent, British Columbia third with 15 per cent, and Alberta fourth at 13 per cent, according to the preliminary annual report containing detailed statistics for the year released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The all-Canada total reached a record figure of \$890,200,000, showing an increase of 8.5 per cent over the previous peak of \$820,249,000 in 1948. The 1949 value includes for the first time an amount of \$25,681,500 for Newfoundland, representing 2.9 per cent of the all-Canada total. The total value for the other nine provinces and two territories in 1949 was \$864,500,000, up 5.4 per cent over 1948.

Ontario's output in the year was valued at \$315,323,400 as compared with \$294,239,700 in the preceding year, Quebec \$163,962,200 compared with \$153,038,900, British Columbia \$133,395,400 compared with \$148,223,600, and Alberta \$116,171,900 compared with \$93,211,200.

The value of production for the remaining provinces and the two territories, with 1948 figures in brackets, was: Nova Scotia, \$57,766,500 (\$56,400,200); Saskatchewan, \$34,704,000 (\$34,517,200); Newfoundland, \$25,681,500 (-); Manitoba, \$24,135,300 (\$26,081,300); New Brunswick, \$7,219,100 (\$7,003,300); Northwest Territories, \$6,868,300 (\$4,267,500); and Yukon, \$4,991,200 (\$4,265,900). (10)

PRODUCTION OF SAWN LUMBER IN JANUARY

Canadian production of sawn lumber was lower in January than in the corresponding month last year, all provinces sharing in the decrease except New Brunswick where the advance was nine per cent. The estimated output of lumber East of the Rockies amounted to 120,878 M feet board measure as compared with 149,032 M, a decline of 18.8 per cent. In British Columbia the output, including ties, totalled 153,730 M feet board measure as compared with 194,133 M, a decline of 20.8 per cent.

Alberta's production in January was estimated at 46,803 M feet as compared with 56,301 M a year ago, in Quebec at 22,298 M compared with 26,445 M, New Brunswick at 13,691 M compared with 12,523 M, Ontario 13,251 M compared with 18,489 M, Nova Scotia 11,224 M compared with 17,639 M, Saskatchewan 10,172 M compared with 13,536 M, Manitoba 3,144 M compared with 3,788 M, and Prince Edward Island 295 M compared with 311 M. (11 and 12)

1949 Output East of the Rockies: Correction .- In the issue of the Weekly Bulletin for March 4, figures of production for 1949 by operators reporting to the Bureau were inadvertently printed instead of the figures of estimated total production for the year. Following are the correct Bureau estimates of 1949 production in provinces East of the Rockies, totals for 1948 being in brackets (figures in M board feet):

Total for eight provinces, 2,554,640 (2,739,035); Prince Edward Island, 12,293 (10,749); Nova Scotia, 228,641 (304,077); New Brunswick, 240,956 (269,673); Quebec, 1,026,329 (1,050,961); Ontario, 665,270 (699,518); Manitoba, 50,195 (47,096); Saskatchewan, 58,885 (83,614); Alberta, 272,001 (273,347). Total output East of the Rockies was nearly seven per cent lower last year than in 1948.

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. The Employment Situation at the Beginning of February, Together with Payrolls (25 cents).
2. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, February (25 cents).
3. Commercial Failures, Fourth Quarter, 1949 (10 cents).
4. Travel Between Canada and the United States, February (10 cents).
5. Department Store Sales and Stocks, February (15 cents).
6. Sales of New Motor Vehicles and Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, February (25 cents).
7. The Wheat Review, March (25 cents).
8. Dairy Factory Production, March (10 cents).
9. Central Electric Stations, February (10 cents).
10. Preliminary Report on Mineral Production, 1949 (35 cents).
11. Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, January (25 cents).
12. Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies, January (25 cents).
13. Primary Iron and Steel, January (25 cents).
14. The Inks Industry, 1948 (25 cents).
15. The Sand-Lime Brick Industry, 1948 (10 cents).
16. Shipments and Inventories of Prepared Stock and Poultry Feeds, January (25 cents).

Memoranda

1. Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
 2. Margarine Statistics, March (10 cents).
 3. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, April 1 (10 cents).
 4. Estimates of Production and Consumption of Meats, 1949 (10 cents).
 5. Mineral Wool, February (10 cents).
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