



D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
MAY 1 1950
PROPERTY \$150 a Year

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

OTTAWA - CANADA

Vol. XVIII - No. 17

Saturday, April 29, 1950

--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADA'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES increased 27 per cent in March to \$154,311,000 from \$122,418,000 in the corresponding month last year. This was the fifth consecutive monthly rise. Shipments to the United States in the month amounted to the unprecedented ratio of over two-thirds of the total to all countries which aggregated \$228,200,000 compared with \$216,800,000 a year earlier.

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SALES AND PURCHASES OF SECURITIES between Canada and other countries in February declined from January totals, sales amounting to \$17,600,000 and purchases to \$18,300,000. The purchase balance of \$700,000 in February transactions compares with a sales balance of \$1,900,000 in January.

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CHEQUES CASHED AGAINST INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS in March rose to \$7,730,054,000 from \$6,867,531,000 in the corresponding month last year, or by 12.6 per cent. This raised the cumulative total for the first quarter of the year to \$21,036,876,000 -- highest in the record -- from \$19,772,380,000 in the similar period of 1949, or by 6.4 per cent.

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SALARIES AND WAGES AND SUPPLEMENTARY LABOUR INCOME in January was estimated at \$620,000,000, about three per cent under the December figure of \$642,000,000, but two per cent above the January 1949 estimate of \$607,000,000.

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WHOLESALE PRICES MOVED UP IN MARCH, the general index on the base 1926=100, rising to 159.3 from 158.0 in February. The March index was 1.7 points above March, 1949, and only three-tenths of a point below the peak of 159.6 reached in December, 1948.

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FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS in Canada, excluding Newfoundland, advanced slightly in February over January, but were below the level of February last year. Prices advanced from January to February in all the nine provinces except Prince Edward Island, but were below those of a year earlier in each province.

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DEPARTMENT STORE SALES WERE DOWN nine per cent during the week ending April 15 as compared with the corresponding week last year, all provinces sharing in the decline except British Columbia where there was an advance of three per cent.

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VALUE OF INVENTORIES held by the manufacturing industries of Canada at the end of February was slightly above the January level but below February last year.

EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES
RISE AGAIN IN MARCH

Featured by a further marked increase in the value of shipments to the United States, the value of Canada's domestic exports to all countries in March rose five per cent over the corresponding month last year, showing the first advance in the total, as compared with a year earlier, since August, the month before currencies were revalued. Lower totals were recorded in shipments to the United Kingdom and most other Commonwealth countries, and to Latin America, but there was a rise in the month in the aggregates to foreign countries in Europe and Asia. As a result of these opposite trends exports to the United States amounted to the unprecedented ratio of over two-thirds of the total.

Exports to all countries in the month were valued at \$228,200,000 as compared with \$199,500,000 in February and \$216,800,000 in the corresponding month last year. In the first quarter of this year the value was \$648,900,000 as compared with \$658,800,000 in the like period of 1949.

Domestic exports to the United States were valued at \$154,311,000 in March as compared with \$122,418,000 in March, 1949, a gain of 27 per cent. This compares with an increase of 21 per cent in February, and a gain of 13 per cent in January. The aggregate value of exports to the United States in the first quarter of this year was \$414,008,000 as compared with \$345,150,000 a year earlier, an increase of approximately 20 per cent. Price changes reflecting the premium on United States exchange have contributed to this increase, but its size indicates a substantial rise in the volume of exports.

In trade with the United States, seven of the nine main commodity groups had higher export values in the month, the exceptions being agricultural and vegetable products and miscellaneous commodities. In the first three months of the year, these two groups, as well as iron and products, were also lower in value. Largest gain both in the month and quarter was recorded by the wood, wood products and paper group, but substantial gains were also shown by the animals and animal products, non-ferrous metals and non-metallic minerals group.

Exports to the United Kingdom were again lower in March, being valued at \$30,120,000 as compared with \$39,498,000 in the same month last year, and the first quarter total fell to \$109,101,000 from \$139,435,000 a year earlier. There were declines in March in the exports of commodities in all main groups except non-metallic minerals and chemicals -- two of the smaller groups in value. These two groups, and animals and animal products, were also higher in the quarter.

Exports to the rest of the Commonwealth as a whole were lower both in the month and quarter. The main decreases were in shipments to the Union of South Africa and India. Exports to Australia were slightly higher in the month but lower in the quarter. Shipments to the Union of South Africa in March were valued at \$1,432,000 compared with \$4,896,000 a year earlier, and in the quarter at \$8,286,000 compared with \$12,017,000. The month's shipments to India were valued at \$1,932,000 compared with \$6,495,000, and in the quarter at \$3,509,000 against \$23,989,000. Exports to Australia amounted to \$2,707,000 as against \$2,606,000, and in the quarter, \$7,289,000 as compared with \$7,908,000.

Shipments to the Latin American countries were again reduced in the month, amounting to \$7,706,000 compared with \$9,778,000 a year earlier, exports to most principal markets except Colombia and Venezuela being lower. In the quarter, exports to the group were off to \$21,215,000 from \$26,442,000, Mexico and Venezuela being the principal exceptions to the decline.

Exports to foreign countries in Europe and other parts of the world moved up slightly in March. Purchases by the European group rose to \$11,051,000 from \$9,205,000, but were down in the three months to \$34,843,000 from \$43,103,000. Shipments to other foreign countries in the month amounted to \$10,152,000 compared with \$8,397,000, and were practically unchanged in the quarter at \$23,947,000. Exports to Belgium and Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Israel and Japan were higher in the month and quarter.

The wood and paper products group -- largest of the nine main commodity classifications -- showed a marked increase both in the month and quarter. In March the group total was \$82,300,000 as compared with \$69,700,000, and in the three months, \$222,800,000 compared with \$199,200,000. Most of the gain both in the month and quarter was in the exports of planks and boards and newsprint paper.

Sharpest drop among the main groups was shown by the iron and products section, which fell to \$19,700,000 from \$27,500,000 a year earlier, decreases being shown in most main items except pigs and ingots, and passenger cars and trucks. In the quarter, the group total was off to \$53,400,000 compared with \$74,200,000.

Agricultural and vegetable products as a group declined in March to \$45,300,000 compared with \$47,600,000 last year, main decreases being in wheat, rubber and products. The total for the quarter fell to \$131,400,000 from \$155,600,000. With marked increases in cattle, and fish and fishery products, and a sharp decline in bacon and hams, the animal products group rose in March to \$24,406,000 from \$20,475,000. In the quarter the group total was also higher, rising to \$89,666,000 from \$68,450,000.

Non-ferrous metals as a group were up to \$33,300,000 in the month from \$32,900,000, but down in the quarter at \$90,800,000 against \$100,100,000. The rise in the month was due for the most part to advances in aluminum, nickel, and precious metals (except gold). Due mainly to sharp recovery in the exports of asbestos, the non-metallic minerals group rose to \$8,625,000 in March from \$4,375,000, and in the quarter to \$22,446,000 from \$16,435,000. (1)

LABOUR INCOME IN JANUARY Estimated total of salaries and wages and supplementary labour income in January was \$620,000,000, about three per cent under the December figure of \$642,000,000, but two per cent above the January 1949 estimate of \$607,000,000.

Labour income in manufacturing rose to \$213,000,000 from \$211,000,000 a year earlier; in utilities, transportation, communications, storage and trade to \$166,000,000 from \$159,000,000; in finance and services to \$140,000,000 from \$133,000,000; and in construction to \$37,000,000 from \$35,000,000.

The total for agriculture, logging, fishing, trapping, and mining was down from \$49,000,000 to \$43,000,000, while supplementary labour income rose from \$20,000,000 to \$22,000,000. (2)

CHEQUES CASHED AGAINST
INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS

Cheques cashed against individual accounts in March rose to \$7,730,054,000 from \$6,867,531,000 in the corresponding month last year, or by 12.6 per cent, according to an advance statement by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This raised the cumulative total for the first quarter of the year to \$21,036,876,000 -- highest in the record -- from \$19,772,380,000 in the similar period of 1949, or by 6.4 per cent.

The gains in Quebec and Ontario in March were more than 18 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively. The aggregates for the two provinces advanced mainly in view of the heavy payments in Montreal and Toronto. While the increase in the Maritimes was 32.6 per cent, a considerable portion of the advance was due to the inclusion of St. John's, Newfoundland. The aggregates for western areas were not greatly changed from March, 1949, the total for the Prairie Provinces having been 2.6 per cent greater, while a recession of about one per cent was shown in British Columbia.

Totals for March were as follows by provinces, figures for the same month last year being in brackets: Maritimes and Newfoundland, \$193,637,000 (\$146,008,000); Quebec, \$2,363,287,000 (\$1,995,402,000); Ontario, \$3,403,949,000 (\$2,981,141,000); Prairie Provinces, \$1,153,048,000 (\$1,124,192,000); British Columbia, \$616,132,000 (\$620,787,000). (3)

SALES AND PURCHASES OF SECURITIES
BETWEEN CANADA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

Sales and purchases of securities between Canada and other countries in February declined from January totals, sales amounting to \$17,600,000 and purchases to \$18,300,000. The purchase balance of \$700,000 in February transactions compares with a sales balance of \$1,900,000 in January.

Total volume of trade for the first two months of the year exceeded the volume for the corresponding months last year, sales and purchases amounting to \$75,800,000 as compared with \$60,400,000. Total transactions during these two months gave rise to a cumulative sales balance of \$1,200,000 in contrast to purchase balances of \$800,000 in 1949 and \$500,000 in 1948.

Sales and purchases with the United States in February were lower than in January and again resulted in a sales balance, sales amounting to \$15,900,000 and purchases to \$15,600,000. Net sales at \$300,000 compare with \$3,500,000 in January.

The volume of trade with the United Kingdom increased in February, sales rising to \$800,000, while purchases remained unchanged at \$2,300,000. As a result, the purchase balance existing in previous months declined to \$1,500,000. Sales and purchases with other countries increased over January, but resulted in the same sales balance of \$400,000 as in January. (4)

VALUE OF INVENTORIES HELD BY
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

The value of inventories held by the manufacturing industries of Canada at the end of February was slightly above the January level but below February last year, according to index numbers compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The February index, on the base 1947=100, was 128.9 -- highest since August last -- compared with 127.1 in January, and 134.0 in February, 1949. The index for capital goods was down from January and February last year, while the indexes for consumer's goods, producer's materials and construction materials were all above January but lower than in February, 1949.

The consumer's goods index for February was 131.6 compared with 133.0 a year earlier, capital goods 100.9 compared with 119.3, producer's materials 129.2 compared with 135.8, and construction materials 161.4 compared with 166.9. (5)

WHOLESALE PRICES IN MARCH Wholesale prices in Canada moved up in March, the general index on the base 1926=100, rising to 159.3 from 158.0 in February. The March level was 1.7 points above March, 1949, and only three-tenths of a point below the peak of 159.6 reached in December, 1948.

Indexes for five of the eight sub-groups moved higher in March as compared with February, while three were lower. Group indexes were as follows, figures for February being in brackets: vegetable products, 145.0 (142.9); animal products, 166.8 (163.4); textile products, 162.4 (162.8); wood products, 191.5 (190.6); iron products, 178.6 (177.2); non-ferrous metals, 137.2 (139.4); non-metallic minerals, 140.0 (139.9); chemical products, 117.4 (117.6).

The wholesale price index of general building materials advanced in March for the sixth consecutive month, rising to 205.1 from 203.5 a month earlier. This level was three-tenths of a point below the March, 1949 figure, and eight-tenths of a point below the peak of 205.9 reached in October, 1948.

In contrast with the price trend for general building materials, the wholesale price index of residential building materials showed a decline in March, dropping to 227.0 from 227.4 in February. Indexes for six of the nine sub-groups remained stable, while one rose and the remaining two declined. Roofing materials rose from 199.5 to 202.5; while the sub-group of lumber and its products dropped from 320.8 to 319.8, and plumbing and heating equipment from 180.1 to 179.4. (6)

PROPORTION OF RETAIL CASH SALES
DOWN SLIGHTLY IN LAST 1949 QUARTER

Continuing the trend of the previous nine months, the proportion of cash business transacted in 16 major retail trades declined to 62.9 per cent of total sales during the last quarter of 1949 from 64.2 per cent in the corresponding period of 1948. Most of this decline was absorbed by a gain in the proportion of instalment sales, which rose to 8.7 per cent of the total from 7.7 per cent a year earlier; charge sales increasing only to 28.4 from 28.1 per cent.

While the ratio of cash sales was lower for the combined 16 trades, four of the trades -- women's clothing, furriers, motor vehicle dealers and garages -- showed greater proportions of cash sales during the period than in the same quarter of the previous year. Seven of the 10 trades selling on the instalment plan had an increased ratio of instalment sales, marked increases being recorded by motor vehicle dealers, jewellery stores, appliance stores and department stores. Ten trades transacted a greater share of their business on charge account than in the last three months of 1948.

Accounts receivable from instalment sales followed the same pattern as instalment sales, the proportion of unpaid accounts at December 31 registered as instalment receivables rising to 32.7 per cent of total unpaid accounts as against 31.4 per cent at the end of 1948. Accounts receivable at the end of 1949 were 14 per cent higher than a year earlier, the increase being made up of increases of 21 per cent in instalment receivables and 10 per cent in unpaid charge accounts. (7)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES
DOWN NINE PER CENT IN WEEK

Department store sales were down nine per cent during the week ending April 15 as compared with the corresponding week last year, all provinces sharing in the decline except British Columbia where there was an advance of three per cent. In the Maritimes there was a decline of 27 per cent, in Saskatchewan 24 per cent, Quebec 16 per cent, Manitoba seven per cent, Ontario five per cent, and Alberta four per cent.

CHAIN STORE SALES AND STOCKS IN FEBRUARY

Sales of women's clothing and food store chains showed substantial increases in February over the corresponding month last year, while decreases were registered for shoe, hardware, drug, and variety chains, according to the Bureau's monthly report covering six kinds of chain stores. Stocks held by grocery stores and variety stores were lower, the decline in the latter being slight.

The food store group had sales totalling \$36,388,000 as compared with \$32,279,000 in February, 1949, a rise of 12.7 per cent, while sales of variety stores fell slightly to \$7,804,000 from \$7,826,000. Women's clothing store chain sales advanced 14.6 per cent, amounting to \$2,139,000 as against \$1,867,000, while drug store sales declined to \$2,137,000 from \$2,179,000, or by 1.9 per cent. Shoe store sales were 8.4 per cent lower at \$1,398,000 as compared with \$1,527,000. Hardware store sales recorded a drop of 15.1 per cent, standing at \$570,000 as against \$671,000. (8)

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

April 20, 1950 April 13, 1950 March 23, 1950

(1935-39=100)

Investors' Price Index

(106 Common Stocks)	127.2	126.3	119.3
82 Industrials	121.9	120.8	112.9
16 Utilities	133.4	133.5	128.2
8 Banks	144.9	143.9	142.9

Mining Stock Price Index

(30 Stocks)	93.5	92.8	91.5
25 Golds	75.4	76.1	74.8
5 Base Metals	129.2	125.3	124.3

INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Farm prices of agricultural products in Canada, excluding Newfoundland, advanced slightly in February over January, according to the index numbers compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, but were below the level of February last year. Prices advanced from January to February in all the nine provinces except Prince Edward Island, but were below those of a year earlier in each province.

The Bureau's monthly index number for all Canada, on the base 1935-39-100, stood at 242.8 for February as compared with 238.6 for January and 253.1 for February last year. The advance of about four points over January is largely attributable to increased prices for livestock and eggs. Compared with a year earlier, prices were lower in February for nearly all commodities.

Indexes by provinces for February, with figures for the same month of 1949 in brackets, are as follows: Prince Edward Island, 174.9 (200.5); Nova Scotia, 189.8 (219.2); New Brunswick, 203.9 (224.3); Quebec, 251.0 (271.1); Ontario, 249.2 (259.2); Manitoba, 245.7 (257.0); Saskatchewan, 235.0 (240.8); Alberta, 251.2 (255.1); British Columbia, 231.6 (246.9). (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 April 13 amounted to 131,765,000 bushels as compared with 134,329,500 a week earlier, and 124,822,700 on the corresponding date last year. Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week amounted to 781,300 bushels, down sharply from last year's corresponding figure of 2,077,200 bushels. The cumulative total for the period August 1 - April 13 was 261,494,400 bushels as against 257,555,000 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 April 13, totals for the same week last year being in brackets: oats, 278,100 (998,500) bushels; barley, 164,100 (531,100); rye, 29,200 (125,700); flaxseed, 3,800 (82,900).

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending April 13 amounted to 1,634,500 bushels as compared with 3,074,300 in the corresponding week last year, bringing the cumulative total for the crop year to date to 111,428,200 bushels against 106,575,200 in the similar period of 1948-49. (Mem. 2)

STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER
IN NINE CITIES OF CANADA

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on April 21 amounted to 18,942,000 pounds as compared with 5,624,000 on the corresponding date last year. Increased holdings were recorded for each of the nine centres except Quebec. Stocks of creamery butter were as follows by cities on April 21, totals for the same date last year being in brackets (thousands omitted): Quebec, 182 (416) pounds; Montreal, 2,274 (1,637); Toronto, 4,737 (1,648); Winnipeg, 7,528 (565); Regina, 588 (65); Saskatoon, 187 (120); Edmonton, 2,135 (222); Calgary, 555 (153); Vancouver, 756 (438).

PRODUCTION OF EGGS IN MARCH

Egg production in Canada this year has so far been running close to the level of 1949. Net production of eggs in March amounted to an estimated 34,813,000 dozen as compared with 34,595,000 in the corresponding month last year. During the first three months of the year, 90,604,000 dozen were produced as against 91,210,000 in the similar period of 1949. Layers on farms during the month averaged 25,821,000 as compared with 25,321,000 in March, 1949, and the average rate of lay per 100 layers was 1,491 eggs against 1,511.

Production of eggs in Ontario in March amounted to 12,865,000 dozen as compared with 12,492,000 in the same month last year; Quebec, 6,282,000 dozen compared with 6,139,000; Alberta, 3,805,000 (3,864,000); Saskatchewan, 3,405,000 (3,604,000); Manitoba, 2,878,000 (2,803,000); British Columbia, 2,634,000 (2,772,000); Nova Scotia, 1,512,000 (1,489,000); New Brunswick, 890,000 (849,000); and Prince Edward Island, 542,000 (583,000). (Mem. 3)

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS
INCREASED IN JANUARY

There were more births, marriages and deaths in Canada in January this year than in the same month last year. Births in the month numbered 25,362 as compared with 23,637 in January, 1949, increases being recorded in all provinces except Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Marriages during January advanced slightly to 5,582 from 5,554 a year earlier, increases in Ontario and Saskatchewan more than offsetting declines in the remaining provinces. Deaths in January totalled 9,695 as compared with 8,870 in the corresponding month last year, Saskatchewan being the only province to record a decrease. (9)

PRODUCTION OF CRUDE PETROLEUM
AND NATURAL GAS IN JANUARY

All-Canada output of crude petroleum and natural gasoline in January this year amounted to 1,926,867 barrels as compared with 1,782,856 in the preceding month and 1,356,483 in January, 1949. Two years ago the January output was 777,639 barrels, the successive annual increases being nearly equal.

Alberta accounted for 1,836,812 barrels in January as compared with 1,280,086 a year earlier. Leduc's output increased to 899,394 barrels as compared with 707,392 in January last year, Redwater to 448,978 barrels compared with 68,446, and Lloydminster 60,422 barrels compared with 46,492. Crude output from Turner Valley declined to 312,909 barrels compared with 355,818.

The month's output from wells in Saskatchewan amounted to 60,838 barrels as compared with 51,732 in January, 1949; Ontario, 22,905 barrels compared with 16,685; Northwest Territories, 4,877 barrels compared with 6,281; and New Brunswick, 1,435 barrels compared with 1,699.

Production of natural gas in January rose to an all-time monthly high, totalling 9,571,840 M cubic feet as compared with the previous record of 8,120,343 in December, and 7,911,019 a year ago. Output in Alberta amounted to 8,526,930 M cubic feet as compared with 6,892,669 M a year earlier; Ontario, 933,263 M (907,944 M); Saskatchewan, 77,018 M (68,311 M); and New Brunswick, 34,629 M (42,095 M). (10)

OUTPUT OF REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS UP
NINE PER CENT IN NOVEMBER AND 11 MONTHS

Canadian production of refined petroleum products increased nine per cent in November and the first 11 months of the year as compared with 1948. Receipts of crude in November were two per cent lower than a year earlier, but rose seven per cent in the 11 months.

The month's output amounted to 8,189,873 barrels as compared with 7,538,067 in November, 1948. During the 11 months ending November, 81,986,051 barrels were produced as against 75,086,794 in the same months of 1948. Receipts of crude in the month totalled 8,431,328 barrels as compared with 8,540,908 a year ago, and in the 11 months amounted to 88,633,583 barrels against 82,867,645.

Of the crude petroleum received, 1,796,191 barrels came from Canadian sources as compared with 1,205,389 a year earlier, the 11-month total rising sharply to 18,803,868 barrels from 10,764,334. Receipts of imported crude in November fell off to 6,635,137 barrels from 7,335,519, and in the 11-month period to 69,829,715 barrels from 72,103,311. (11)

ANNUAL REPORT ON COAL
STATISTICS OF CANADA

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics released on April 25th the annual report entitled "Coal Statistics of Canada." This publication gives detailed statistics on the production and distribution of coal and coke in Canada, also data on imports, exports, retail sales, employment in coal mines, etc. Statistics are shown for Canada as a whole and for each individual province. Copies of this report may be obtained from the King's Printer, Ottawa. The price is 50 cents per copy. (12)

PRODUCTION OF NAILS AND
STEEL WIRE IN JANUARY

Production of wire nails in January this year was slightly lower than in the corresponding month last year, the month's output amounting to 7,099 tons as compared with 7,193. Production in January of steel wire decreased to 27,266 tons as compared with 29,014 a year earlier, while output of wire fencing totalled 1,998 tons as compared with 2,246 in January, 1949. (13)

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF IRON
CASTINGS AND CAST IRON PIPES

Production and shipments of iron castings and cast iron pipes and fittings both were lower in January this year than last, according to the first of a new series of monthly reports issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The month's output amounted to 59,400 tons as compared with 63,900 tons a year earlier, and the shipments totalled 37,700 tons compared with 44,600 tons. Pig iron used by iron foundries during the month amounted to 32,900 tons, while consumption of scrap iron and steel totalled 39,700 tons in the same period. (Mem. 4)

SHIPMENTS OF ASBESTOS
HIGHER IN FEBRUARY

Shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines in February amounted to 57,961 tons, more than double last year's corresponding total of 26,148 tons. In the first two months of this year, 115,133 tons were shipped, sharply above the 75,020 tons in the similar period of 1949, when labour disputes had reduced production.

Exports in the month increased to 59,499 tons as compared with 33,223 in February, 1949, bringing the cumulative total for the first two months of the year to 114,258 tons as against 76,660 in 1949. (14)

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS
OF CEMENT IN FEBRUARY

Production of Portland cement by Canadian manufacturers was higher in February and the first two months this year than in the corresponding period of 1949, while shipments to customers were down in the month and two months. February output amounted to 1,109,195 barrels compared with 1,103,605 in February last year, and shipments totalled 790,357 barrels against 908,307. For the first two months of this year, aggregate production was 2,361,700 barrels, an increase of six per cent over the 1949 aggregate of 2,225,624, while aggregate shipments dropped to 1,443,126 from 1,529,351 barrels. (15)

MANUFACTURES OF THE NON-FERROUS METALS

Production of non-ferrous metals and their manufactures in 1948 was valued at \$1,270,-323,000, showing an increase of 23.5 per cent over the preceding year's total of \$1,034,-581,000, according to final summary statistics. The average number of employees increased to 99,921 from 96,080, and the salaries and wages to \$230,892,000 from \$194,937,000.

All of the industries in this group showed increases in production in 1948 compared with 1947. The gains were as follows: electrical apparatus, 16 per cent to \$425,725,000; non-ferrous smelting and refining, 27 per cent to \$576,384,000; white metal products, 33 per cent to \$49,642,000; aluminum products, 17 per cent to \$46,797,000; brass and copper products, 27 per cent to \$122,383,000; jewellery and silverware, 19 per cent to \$42,179,000; and miscellaneous non-ferrous products industry, 27 per cent to \$7,213,000.

Imports of non-ferrous metals and their products were valued at \$156,000,000 in 1948 compared with \$161,000,000 in 1947, and exports of Canadian-made goods of this class were appraised at \$396,000,000 as against \$304,000,000 in 1947. (16)

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF
SAWN LUMBER IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Production of sawn lumber and ties in British Columbia in February was seven per cent lower than in the corresponding month last year, while the shipments rose almost 22 per cent.

The month's output amounted to 202,202 M feet board measure as compared with 187,945 M a year earlier, the total for the first two months of the year also being lower at 355,932 M feet compared with 382,078 M.

Shipments in the month totalled 202,091 M feet board measure as compared with 157,798 M a year ago, raising the two-month total to 354,860 M feet from 345,211 M in the same period of 1949. (17)

ASPHALT FLOOR TILES Production and domestic sales of asphalt floor tiles both were higher in March, the month's output amounting to 1,765,300 square feet as compared with 1,216,100 in the corresponding month last year, while the sales rose to 1,494,000 square feet from 1,438,200.

During the first three months of this year, 4,740,100 square feet were produced as against 3,651,300 in the similar period of 1949. Sales in the period amounted to 3,882,500 square feet as compared with 3,924,600 in the like period of 1949. (Mem. 5)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS Carloadings on Canadian railways during the week ended April 15 rose to 69,042 cars from 63,594 in the preceding week and 64,776 in the corresponding week last year. In the first 15 weeks of this year, 1,027,188 cars were loaded compared with 1,080,969 in the same period of 1949. (18)

DISTILLED LIQUOR INDUSTRY
ADVANCED 19 PER CENT IN 1948

Value of production of the distilled liquor industry of Canada in 1948 was \$81,445,000, showing an increase of 19 per cent over the preceding year's value of \$68,378,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Whiskies and other spirits produced during the year 1948, and placed in bond for maturing, totalled 17,211,972 proof gallons with an inventory value of \$16,-219,242. Net sales of potable spirits -- sales outside the distilling industry, to liquor boards, export sales, etc. -- amounted to 8,259,233 proof gallons valued at \$54,400,398. The relatively high level of production, as compared with sales, indicates a building up of maturing stocks.

Other important products manufactured included 9,019,772 proof gallons of industrial alcohol valued at \$6,276,899, of which 5,778,978 proof gallons were denatured and 3,300,794 proof gallons were not denatured.

In 1948 there were 18 establishments engaged in the production of distilled liquor, seven in Quebec, nine in Ontario and two in British Columbia. These establishments had 4,213 persons on their payrolls who received \$9,416,330 in salaries and wages. (19)

LEATHER FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY Production of Canada's leather footwear industry rose to a record value of \$105,339,643 in 1948 as compared with \$104,147,182 in the preceding year. Boots and shoes accounted for \$104,665,327 of the total, miscellaneous products such as gloves, insoles and shoe uppers for \$403,999, and custom repair work for \$270,317.

Average number of persons employed in the industry in 1948 was 21,265 as compared with 21,433 in 1947, while salaries and wages rose to \$32,513,272 from \$30,039,570. Cost of materials used totalled \$56,073,584 as against \$57,444,769.

The number of pairs of leather footwear manufactured in 1948 declined to 32,326,766 as compared with 35,395,666 in 1947, while the average price per pair of all shoes and slippers rose from \$2.92 to \$3.24. (20)

LEATHER GLOVES AND MITTENS The output of the leather glove and mitten industry in 1948 was valued at \$10,189,000, a decrease of 12.4 per cent from the record value of \$11,628,000 reached in 1947. The volume of output declined 13.8 per cent. The employees numbered 2,415 as compared with 2,829, and their salaries and wages aggregated \$2,991,000 as compared with \$3,298,000. (21)

MISCELLANEOUS LEATHER PRODUCTS INDUSTRIES UP FOUR PER CENT IN 1948 Gross value of production of the miscellaneous leather products industry in 1948 was \$22,868,000, an increase of four per cent over the preceding year's total of \$21,941,000, but a decline of two per cent from the peak value of \$23,248,000 in 1946.

There were 273 establishments in operation in 1948 employing 4,936 persons who received \$7,603,000 in salaries and wages as compared with 290 plants with 4,979 employees earning \$7,080,000 in 1947. Cost of materials used in the year totalled \$10,930,000 as against \$11,074,000.

Ontario was the major producing province in 1948, accounting for 50 per cent of the total value of production, Quebec following with 41 per cent, and the remaining provinces for nine per cent. (22)

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF SULPHURIC ACID Production of sulphuric acid in Canada in 1949 amounted to 705,000 tons -- a new peak total -- as compared with 679,000 in the preceding year. The apparent consumption during the year was 687,700 tons as compared with 650,000 in 1948. Exports amounted to 17,336 tons, down from the 1948 total of 29,478 tons; imports were only 24 tons compared with 59 tons a year earlier.

The consumption of sulphuric acid in 1948 by the fertilizers industry -- the largest user -- amounted to 467,000 tons; by the heavy chemicals industry, 59,000 tons; in the coke and gas industry, 35,200 tons; iron and steel, 20,800 tons; explosives, 19,700 tons; petroleum refining, 19,600 tons; and textiles, 12,500 tons. (Mem. 6)

MISCELLANEOUS FOODS INDUSTRY Gross value of products manufactured by the miscellaneous foods industry rose five per cent in 1948, amounting to \$133,284,924 as compared with \$127,439,940 in the preceding year. There were 294 establishments in operation in 1948 giving employment to 6,440 persons whose salary and wage payments totalled \$11,443,469 compared with 303 plants with 7,005 employees receiving \$11,153,337 in 1947. Cost of materials used increased to \$92,667,103 from \$94,412,054. (23)

HAT AND CAP INDUSTRY Gross value of production of the hat and cap industry of Canada in 1948 amounted to \$24,955,000 as compared with \$26,814,000 in the preceding year, a decline of almost seven per cent.

One-hundred and sixty four establishments were in operation in the year, giving employment to 4,714 persons whose salary and wage payments amounted to \$8,359,000, as against 169 plants employing 5,167 workers earning \$8,287,000 in 1947. The amount expended for materials decreased to \$11,143,000 from \$12,746,000. (24)

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. Domestic Exports -- Summary Bulletins -- March (20 cents).
2. Estimates of Labour Income, January (10 cents).
3. Cheques Cashed in Clearing Centres, March (10 cents).
4. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, February (10 cents).
5. Inventories and Shipments by Manufacturing Industries, February (25 cents).
6. Prices and Price Indexes, March (25 cents).
7. Retail Consumer Credit, Fourth Quarter, 1949 (25 cents).
8. Chain Store Sales and Stocks, February (25 cents).
9. Births, Marriages and Deaths, January (10 cents).
10. Crude Petroleum, Natural Gas and Manufactured Gas, January (15 cents).
11. Refined Petroleum Products, November (25 cents).
12. Coal Statistics for Canada, 1947 and 1948 (50 cents).
13. Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products, January (10 cents).
14. Asbestos, February (10 cents).
15. Cement and Cement Products, February (10 cents).
16. Manufactures of the Non-Ferrous Metals, Final Summary Statistics, 1948 (10 cents).
17. Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, February (25 cents).
18. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
19. The Distilled Liquor Industry, 1948 (25 cents).
20. Leather Footwear, Leather Boots and Shoe Findings, 1948 (30 cents).
21. Leather Gloves and Mittens, 1948 (20 cents).
22. Miscellaneous Leather Products and Leather Belting, 1948 (30 cents).
23. The Miscellaneous Foods Industry, 1948 (25 cents).
24. The Hat and Cap Industry, 1948 (25 cents).
25. Railway Revenue Freight Loadings, March (10 cents).

Memoranda

1. Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, February (10 cents).
2. Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
3. Poultry Estimates, March (10 cents).
4. Iron Castings and Cast Iron Pipes and Fittings, January (10 cents).
5. Asphalt Floor Tiles, March (10 cents).
6. Sulphuric Acid, 1949 (10 cents).

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