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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADA HAD A DEBIT BALANCE IN COMMODITY TRADE with all countries of \$5,700,000 in March, compared with a small credit balance of \$1,400,000 in the preceding month, and debits of \$16,900,000 and \$2,400,000 in March and April last year.

IN COMMODITY TRADE WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM in March there was a debit balance of \$2,400,000 instead of the traditional export surplus. This was due to a sharp rise to a new peak total in the value of imports and a fall in the value of exports.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES for six of the eight regional cities registered increases during March, while two moved lower. Food price changes were mainly responsible, although fuel and light costs were higher at four centres.

CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS in March numbered 133,404, up from the preceding month's total of 125,511, and above last year's March figure of 103,402.

CANADIAN FARMERS WILL SEED 400,000 fewer acres to spring wheat this year than in 1949, making a total of 27,200,000 acres seeded to wheat for harvest in 1950. A decrease of 850,000 acres in summerfallow in the Prairie Provinces is also anticipated, bringing the total summerfallow to 20,100,000 acres.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES in March -- excluding Newfoundland -- totalled \$67,361,000, down two per cent from last year's March figure of \$69,019,000.

PRODUCTION OF STEEL INGOTS in March, at 287,719 tons, was practically unchanged from a year ago when the output amounted to 287,885 tons.

SHIPMENTS OF CANADIAN-MADE MOTOR VEHICLES were again at a high level in March, totalling 30,051 units compared with 30,137 in the preceding month and 25,566 in March last year.

PRODUCTION OF ELECTRIC ENERGY by central electric stations rose to a high level in March, amounting to 4,176,563,000 kilowatt hours compared with 3,771,093,000 in February and 3,923,721,000 in March last year.

IMPORTS FROM UNITED KINGDOM
EXCEEDED EXPORTS IN MARCH

Canada had a debit balance in commodity trade with the United Kingdom in March instead of the traditional export surplus, due to a sharp rise to a new peak total in the value of imports and a fall in the value of exports. There was also an extraordinary debit balance from trade with the other countries of the Commonwealth. At the same time the debit balance with the United States continued the downward trend of recent months, imports falling below a year earlier for the fifth successive month and exports again moving to a higher level. These were only slightly offset by a small export surplus to all other foreign countries.

The net result was that Canada had a debit balance of trade with all countries of \$5,700,000 in March -- the first since April last year. This compares with a small credit balance of \$1,400,000 in the preceding month, and debits of \$16,900,000 and \$2,400,000 in March and April last year. In the first quarter of the year the balance was in Canada's favour to the extent of \$7,500,000 compared with a debit of \$600,000 in the same period of 1949.

The adverse balance with the United Kingdom amounted to \$2,400,000 as compared with credit balances of \$5,300,000 in February and \$11,300,000 in March, 1949. In the quarter, the favourable balance was \$25,700,000, less than half last year's first-quarter total of \$63,200,000.

In trade with the United States there was a marked decline in the debit balance in the month to \$3,700,000 from \$44,900,000 in the corresponding month last year. In the first quarter, the debit balance was \$38,100,000, sharply below last year's debit of \$132,800,000 in the same period.

Merchandise imports from the United Kingdom in March rose to \$32,700,000 from \$28,300,000 a year earlier, while domestic exports fell to \$30,100,000 from \$39,500,000. This is the highest value yet reached by imports from the United Kingdom and indicates a much larger volume than in any month last year. In the first quarter of the year, imports were up to \$84,200,000 from \$76,700,000, while the domestic exports were down to \$109,100,000 from \$139,400,000.

Imports from the United States in March fell to \$160,900,000 from \$169,000,000 in the corresponding month last year, while domestic exports rose to \$154,300,000 from \$122,400,000. In the quarter, imports totalled \$458,500,000 as against \$482,600,000, while domestic exports aggregated \$414,000,000 compared with \$345,200,000.

Imports from all countries in the month were valued at \$237,400,000 as compared with \$200,200,000 in the preceding month and \$235,900,000 in the corresponding month last year, bringing the total for the first quarter of the year to \$649,500,000 as against \$665,700,000 in the similar period of 1949.

Domestic exports to all countries in the month -- as published earlier by the Bureau -- were valued at \$228,200,000 as against \$199,500,000 in February and \$216,800,000 a year earlier, and in the first quarter at \$648,900,000 compared with \$658,800,000.

Foreign exports in March were valued at \$3,500,000 compared with \$2,100,000 in February and \$2,200,000 a year ago, and in the first quarter totalled \$8,100,000 compared with \$6,300,000.

Besides the increased dollar value of purchases from the United Kingdom, and the slackening in buying in the United States, purchases were higher in March than a year earlier from Commonwealth countries in Africa and the Oceania group, but were lower for Commonwealth countries in America and Asia. Buying from countries in Europe was slightly lower in value, but higher from Latin America and from other foreign countries.

Imports from Commonwealth countries in America fell off in the month to \$727,000 from \$3,028,000 in the same month last year, and in the quarter to \$3,314,000 from \$6,992,000. The drop in both periods was due to smaller purchases from Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and British Guiana. Due mainly to increased buying in British East Africa, imports from Commonwealth countries in Africa rose in the month to \$4,466,000 from \$1,948,000, and in the quarter to \$7,034,000 from \$4,716,000.

Purchases from Commonwealth countries in Asia fell in March to \$5,173,000 from \$6,533,000 a year earlier, but in the quarter rose to \$18,528,000 from \$17,851,000. Imports from India and Pakistan were higher both in the month and quarter, but fell off from the Federation of Malaya. With purchases from Fiji up sharply, imports from Oceania rose to \$3,907,000 in March from \$3,734,000 a year ago, but were down in the quarter to \$7,379,000 from \$8,139,000.

Imports from Latin American countries in March showed a marked gain to \$18,239,000 from \$13,982,000 a year earlier, but were down slightly in the quarter to \$41,168,000 from \$41,853,000. Larger gains in the month were in imports from Brazil, Mexico, Peru, while purchases from the Dominican Republic were down sharply and were steady from Venezuela.

The value of imports from European countries was down slightly in the month to \$7,249,000 from \$7,541,000, and in the three months to \$17,982,000 from \$20,105,000. Purchases were lower in the month and quarter from Belgium and Luxembourg, France, Italy and Netherlands, but higher from Switzerland. There was a drop from Germany in the month but a narrow gain in the quarter. Mainly due to increased purchases from Arabia, Japan, and the Philippine Islands, imports from the remaining foreign countries rose in the month to \$3,836,000 from \$1,413,000, and in the quarter to \$10,847,000 from \$5,357,000.

Increased purchases of iron and steel products, non-ferrous metals and products, and chemicals and allied products were chiefly responsible for the rise in March in imports from the United Kingdom as compared with March last year. Largest gain was in the value of iron and products which rose to \$12,081,000 from \$6,597,000. Imports of fibres and textiles, on the other hand, fell to \$9,912,000 from \$13,015,000. Since the devaluation of the pound sterling 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 breakdown of imports from the United States shows that the largest decline, as in January and February, was in the iron group, which fell from \$76,884,000 a year ago to \$64,435,000. The fibres and textile group was also lower at \$10,300,000 against \$12,738,000, but there were gains in agricultural and vegetable products, wood and wood products, non-ferrous metals, non-metallic minerals, chemicals and miscellaneous commodities.

Increases were shown in March over the same month last year in total imports in seven of the nine main commodity groups. The largest declines were in iron and products which fell to \$77,408,000 from \$85,665,000, and fibres and textiles to \$28,379,000 from \$33,151,000. In the former group there were major declines in rolling mill products and most main classes of non-farm machinery, while automobiles and parts rose. Cotton and cotton products, wool products and artificial silk and products contributed to the decline in the fibres and textiles group.

The agricultural group rose to \$32,820,000 from \$28,174,000, with gains in fruit, vegetables, sugar, coffee, tea, and vegetable oils, and declines in grains, cocoa, and alcoholic beverages. Animals and animal products as a group rose slightly to \$6,480,000 from \$6,362,000, and wood, wood products and paper to \$8,489,000 from \$7,288,000.

Non-ferrous metals rose to \$18,754,000 from \$15,509,000, with gains in precious metals (except gold), clocks and watches, and electrical apparatus. Non-metallic minerals also increased as a group to \$38,865,000 from \$37,203,000, declines in coal and stone being more than offset by advances in crude petroleum and petroleum products. Chemicals rose in total to \$13,290,000 from \$10,541,000, and miscellaneous commodities to \$12,880,000 from \$12,052,000. (1 and 2)

COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES FOR EIGHT REGIONAL CITIES

Cost-of-living indexes for six of the eight regional cities registered increases during March, while two moved lower. Food price changes were mainly responsible, although fuel and light costs were higher at four centres. Clothing and homefurnishings and services generally recorded narrow changes, while miscellaneous items advanced fractionally in six centres.

Composite city index increases between March 1 and April 1 were as follows: Edmonton, 0.9 to 160.4; Halifax, 0.6 to 155.6; Vancouver, 0.5 to 165.7; Saint John, 0.3 to 159.8; Saskatoon, 0.3 to 164.8; Winnipeg, 0.2 to 159.0. The index for Toronto fell 0.3 to 160.4, and that for Montreal 0.1 to 166.5. In the same interval, the Dominion index moved up 0.3 to 162.7.

The following table comprises the latest city and Dominion cost-of-living indexes:

	<u>April 1, 1949</u>	<u>March 1, 1950</u> (August 1939=100)	<u>April 1, 1950</u>
Halifax	152.3	155.0	155.6
Saint John	155.9	159.5	159.8
Montreal	161.9	166.6	166.5
Toronto	154.8	160.7	160.4
Winnipeg	153.8	158.8	159.0
Saskatoon	161.8	164.5	164.8
Edmonton	154.3	159.5	160.4
Vancouver	160.5	165.2	165.7
Dominion	158.0	162.4	162.7

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 this table do not yet include data covering Newfoundland.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES DOWN
TWO PER CENT IN MARCH

Department store sales in Canada in March -- excluding Newfoundland -- totalled \$67,361,000, down two per cent from last year's March figure of \$69,019,000.

Sales for the first three months of this year amounted to \$167,371,000, virtually unchanged from last year's corresponding total of \$167,821,000. Comparatively small changes in sales were reported from all regions in the month, ranging from a two per cent increase in Quebec to five per cent and six per cent decreases in Ontario and British Columbia, respectively.

During the week ending April 29, sales increased one per cent over the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures. All provinces shared in the rise except Saskatchewan and Manitoba, where declines of 13 per cent and three per cent were recorded. Sales in the Maritimes increased seven per cent, British Columbia six per cent, Alberta four per cent, and Ontario three per cent. In Quebec, sales remained unchanged.

Nine of the 18 departments reported increased sales in March as compared with the same month a year ago. The only substantial rise, however, was in household appliance sales, which advanced 16 per cent. Most other changes ranged narrowly around the overall decrease of two per cent, exceptions including piece-goods which fell 10 per cent, hardware eight per cent, and lingerie seven per cent.

Retail stocks held at the first of March were down two per cent compared with those held a year earlier, the first decrease reported over the last three years. Nine departments reported decreased stocks, hardware at 15 per cent and hosiery and gloves at 19 per cent having the largest declines. Lingerie stocks rose 10 per cent, the highest gain recorded.

Sales were as follows by provinces in March, totals for March last year being in brackets (figures in thousands): Maritime Provinces, \$5,076 (\$5,122); Quebec, \$11,091 (\$10,873); Ontario, \$24,398 (\$25,606); Manitoba, \$9,821 (\$9,791); Saskatchewan, \$3,780 (\$3,814); Alberta, \$4,814 (\$4,945); British Columbia, \$8,381 (\$8,868). (3)

CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE BENEFITS IN MARCH

Claims for unemployment insurance benefits in March numbered 133,404, up from the preceding month's total of 125,511, and above last year's March figure of

103,402. Initial and renewal claims, representing mainly new cases of unemployment among insured persons, totalled 119,533, an increase over both the February figure of 109,282, and the March, 1949 total of 88,786. On the last working day of March, ordinary claimants on the live unemployment register numbered 265,382 as compared with 286,163 at the end of February and 185,787 on the corresponding date last year.

Increased claims were recorded in all provinces except Nova Scotia, which fell to 6,729 from 7,433 in March, 1949. The number in Ontario rose to 43,650 from 30,096, Quebec to 43,628 from 33,381, and British Columbia to 14,925 from 12,731. Claims for other provinces were as follows, totals for March last year being in brackets: Manitoba, 7,048 (5,931); Alberta, 6,997 (5,720); New Brunswick, 5,465 (4,985); Saskatchewan, 3,381 (2,574); Newfoundland, 879 (-); and Prince Edward Island, 702 (551). (4)

ACREAGE INTENTIONS FOR
CANADA'S 1950 FIELD CROPS

Canadian farmers will seed 400,000 fewer acres to spring wheat this year than in 1949, making a total of 27,200,000 acres seeded to wheat for harvest in 1950, the

Dominion Bureau of Statistics estimates on the basis of farmers intentions at April 30. A decrease of 850,000 acres in summerfallow in the Prairie Provinces is also anticipated, bringing the total summerfallow to 20,100,000 acres.

Offsetting these declines, significant increases are looked for in the major coarse grain crops and flaxseed. The intended acreage of oats at 12,000,000 acres, is up six per cent from last year while barley at 6,900,000 has registered an increase of 15 per cent. Total rye acreage is practically unchanged from 1949 but an anticipated increase of 55 per cent in flax seedings should give Canada nearly half a million acres of flax this year. The acreage intended for potatoes this year is five per cent below the 1949 level.

Intended wheat seedings in the Prairie Provinces are placed at 26,100,000 acres, down some 400,000 from 1949. Ontario's wheat acreage for harvest in 1950 is currently placed at 917,800 acres, nearly all of which is winter wheat, an increase of six per cent over the 1949 harvested area. Wheat is of much less importance in the remaining provinces and the small changes indicated have little effect on the national total. Winter wheat is seeded to some extent in Alberta and Saskatchewan but official estimates on these seedings are not currently available. It is thought, however, that the total of such wheat on the Prairies is probably less than 200,000 acres.

The anticipated change in wheat acreage from last year in each of the Prairie Provinces is as follows: Manitoba, down 317,000 acres or 10 per cent; Saskatchewan, up 157,000 acres or one per cent; and Alberta, down 228,000 acres or three per cent. A western wheat acreage of the magnitude of 26,100,000 will, if realized, considerably exceed the 1940-49 average of 22,700,000 but would be some six per cent below the record level of 1940 when 27,800,000 acres were sown to wheat in the Prairie Provinces.

For the country as a whole, farmers intend to seed 12,000,000 acres to oats as compared with 11,400,000 in 1949. Increases are indicated in all provinces, with Alberta and Saskatchewan accounting for the major portion. The 1940-49 average acreage of oats in Canada as a whole was 12,800,000. The intended barley acreage for all Canada is estimated at 6,900,000 acres as compared with 6,000,000 last year and the 10-year average of 6,600,000. Increases are anticipated in all provinces except Nova Scotia and Ontario.

The area of fall rye for harvest in 1949 is placed at 832,300 acres, a decrease of five per cent from last year's harvested acreage. Spring rye seeding intentions are up 12 per cent from the 1949 acreage level. For all rye the indicated acreage is 1,200,000 acres, practically unchanged from 1949. The intended flaxseed acreage of just under half a million acres represents an increase of 55 per cent from the 1949 level of only 321,000 acres. This compares with the 1940-49 average of 1,300,000 acres and the record seeding in 1943 of 2,900,000 acres. (5)

CROP SEASON LATER AND WELL
BEHIND NORMAL IN MOST AREAS

The spring season with few exceptions is later than last year and in most areas well behind normal, states the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in the first of its 1950 series of telegraphic crop reports.

Very little seeding has been done in the Maritimes and little or none in Quebec. Good progress has been made in southern and central counties of Ontario but work will not start in the north for another week to 10 days. Pastures have been slow to start throughout eastern Canada and most cattle are still being stable fed.

In the Prairie Provinces, with the exception of small areas in southern Alberta and Saskatchewan, practically no seeding has been done. Seeding over much of Alberta and Saskatchewan should become general this week but excessive moisture in the greater part of Manitoba will delay seeding for another week or more. Temperatures throughout the Prairies have been generally well below normal to date this season. For the most part, surface moisture is adequate to promote germination in Alberta and Saskatchewan but subsoil reserves are generally below normal. Backward weather has also delayed field work in British Columbia. Prospects for most fruit crops are considered generally below normal.

The season in the Maritimes is considerably delayed by cold weather. Seeding is under way in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia and some ploughing has been done in Cumberland County. Elsewhere in the province work on the land has not started. Pastures have wintered well but some winter-killing of clovers is reported in the Amherst area. In New Brunswick only a few very early fields have been seeded with most of the land being too wet to handle. Clovers and alfalfa suffered severe winter injury and warm weather is needed for the growth of meadows and pastures.

In strong contrast to last year it has not yet been possible to start field work in Quebec. It is expected, however, that some farmers in the districts around Montreal will start seeding this week, given warmer weather. Low temperatures and night frosts have delayed growth in pastures and meadows with the result that cattle are still being stable fed. Meadows have been damaged in some areas but it is too early to estimate the general extent of winter-killing.

Persistent cold, backward weather throughout Ontario has delayed spring seeding considerably this year. Very little was completed in April, but good progress was made in the southern and central counties during the first week of May. It will be another week to 10 days before work on the land is started in northern Ontario. Although pastures have made very little growth, lack of feed supplies has forced a number of farmers to turn out their young cattle and dry cows. However, most cattle are still being stable fed. Extensive winter-killing of clover and alfalfa has been reported and the prospective hay crop has been reduced considerably. From 10 to 15 per cent of the winter wheat acreage has been killed and the development of the remainder has been slowed by the cool, frosty weather. Fruit buds have been slow in developing and the general fruit crop prospect is below that of a year ago.

Appreciably below normal temperatures throughout the Prairie Provinces have delayed drying and retarded pasture development. Field work is as much as two weeks later than usual in most areas. The situation in Manitoba is aggravated by excessive precipitation and serious flooding in the Red River Valley. For the most part surface moisture is adequate to start germination in Alberta and Saskatchewan but subsoil moisture reserves are generally below normal.

In British Columbia the season is fully two weeks later than last year. While seeding has commenced in the lower Fraser Valley, work on the land generally has been delayed by the backward weather. The danger of floods is still serious in many areas because of the large amount of snow remaining in the mountains. Orchards throughout the province, show serious damage. Provincial officials state that peach and apricot crops will be a near failure, while cherries and prunes will be reduced by half. Nearly normal crops of pears are expected but apples may be reduced considerably. Strawberry and raspberry production is expected to reach the 1949 level but loganberries will be short. (6)

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on April 27 amounted to 126,780,200 bushels as compared with 129,130,800 a week earlier, and 118,551,000 on the corresponding date last year. Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week amounted to 2,080,500 bushels, down from last year's corresponding total of 2,345,400 bushels. The cumulative total for the period August 1 - April 27 was 265,006,500 bushels as against 262,687,500 in the similar period of the preceding crop year.

Oversens export clearances of wheat during the week ending April 27 amounted to 2,594,700 bushels as compared with 2,690,400 in the corresponding week last year, bringing the cumulative total for the crop year to date to 116,104,800 bushels against 112,226,400 in the similar period of 1948-49. (Mem. 1)

PRODUCTION OF BUTTER AND
CHEESE LOWER IN APRIL

Creamery butter production was slightly lower in April than in the corresponding month last year, falling to 19,369,000 pounds from 19,477,000, but was higher in the first four months of the year at 50,175,000 pounds against 49,878,000.

Cheddar cheese production was also lower in the month at 4,855,000 pounds compared with 5,286,000 last year, but was higher in the four-month period at 9,646,000 pounds compared with 7,915,000 pounds.

April output of concentrated milk products stood at 31,312,000 pounds compared with 35,245,000 a year ago, total for the four-month period standing at 83,245,000 pounds compared with 91,394,000. Ice cream production in March was 1,549,000 gallons as against 1,923,000 a year ago, and in the cumulative period totalled 4,677,000 gallons compared with 5,380,000. (7)

PROCESS CHEESE PRODUCTION
DECREASED IN APRIL

Production of process cheese in April amounted to 3,064,000 pounds, a decrease of 23 per cent from the revised figure of 3,967,000 pounds produced in March, but an increase of 10 per cent over the 2,789,000 pounds recorded in April last year. Stocks held by manufacturers advanced 15 per cent, totalling 1,157,000 pounds as compared with 1,011,000 held at the end of March.

STOCKS OF DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS Stocks of creamery butter were higher on May 1, amounting to 28,547,000 pounds as compared with 27,860,000 on April 1 and 13,520,000 on the corresponding date last year. Cheese stocks totalled 33,744,000 pounds compared with 34,976,000 on April 1 and 23,977,000 a year earlier.

Stocks of evaporated whole milk held by or for manufacturers on May 1 amounted to 6,868,000 pounds as compared with 6,555,000 on April 1 and 19,062,000 on the same date last year, while holdings of skim milk powder were 3,529,000 pounds as against 2,567,000 on April 1 and 9,953,000 a year ago.

May 1 stocks of eggs, shell and frozen, amounted to 538,000 cases as compared with 379,000 on April 1 and 721,000 on May 1 last year. Holdings of poultry meat decreased to 14,296,000 pounds from 17,185,000 on April 1, but were above last year's May 1 figure of 6,084,000 pounds. (Mem. 2)

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF MARGARINE Production of margarine in Canada in April decreased to 7,187,000 pounds as compared with 11,003,000 in the preceding month and 7,326,000 in the corresponding month last year. Despite the decline in the month, the cumulative total for the first four months of this year rose sharply to 34,900,000 pounds from 19,059,000 in the similar period of 1949. Stocks of margarine at the beginning of May amounted to 3,957,000 pounds, an increase over the April 1 total of 2,819,000 pounds. (Mem. 3)

STOCKS OF MEAT AND LARD ON MAY 1 Stocks of meat held by packers, wholesale butchers and cold storage warehouses on May 1 amounted to 73,517,000 pounds as compared with 66,560,000 on April 1 and 80,469,000 on the corresponding date last year.

Holdings of frozen meat totalled 41,276,000 pounds compared with 33,334,000 on April 1 and 48,232,000 on May 1 last year. Stocks of fresh meat decreased slightly to 15,977,000 pounds from 16,257,000 on April 1, but were above last year's May 1 figure of 15,741,000 pounds. Stocks of cured meat fell to 16,264,000 pounds from 16,969,000 on April 1 and 16,496,000 on May 1, 1949.

May 1 stocks of lard amounted to 5,427,000 pounds as compared with 3,734,000 at the beginning of April and 4,769,000 on the same date last year. (Mem. 4)

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS INCREASED IN FEBRUARY There were more births, marriages and deaths in Canada in February and the first two months of this year than in the same periods of 1949. Births in the month numbered 25,518 as compared with 24,446 in February, 1949, increases being recorded in all provinces except New Brunswick, Quebec and Saskatchewan. During the two months ending February, births amounted to 52,238, an increase of 3.8 per cent over last year's corresponding total of 50,316.

Marriages during February advanced to 5,763 from 5,615 a year earlier, gains being recorded in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Ontario and Alberta. In the two-month period, there were 11,451 marriages as against 11,363 in the similar period of 1949. Deaths in February numbered 9,736 as compared with 8,787 a year ago, all provinces being lower except Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. In the two months, deaths advanced 8.4 per cent, totalling 19,628 compared with 18,108 in the like period of 1949. (8)

MOTOR VEHICLE SHIPMENTS IN MARCH Factory shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles were again at a high level in March, with a substantial advance over a year earlier, the gain being due to increased shipments of passenger cars. Cumulative total for the first three months of this year was nearly 60 per cent higher than in the similar period of 1949.

There were 30,051 units shipped in March as compared with 30,137 in the preceding month and 25,566 in March last year. The cumulative total for the first quarter increased to 88,715 units as compared with 56,626 in the like period of 1949.

Shipments of passenger cars in March advanced to 21,922 units as compared with 17,057 in March last year, while commercial vehicles were slightly lower at 8,129 units as against 8,509. In the three-month period, 65,308 passenger cars were shipped as against 33,516 a year ago, and 23,407 commercial vehicles compared with 23,110.

Vehicles shipped for sale in Canada accounted for 28,108 of the month's total as compared with 23,743 in March, 1949, bringing the cumulative total to 82,531 units against 51,001 in the same months last year. Vehicles for export numbered 1,943 units in March compared with 1,823 a year earlier, and in the quarter totalled 6,184 units compared with 5,625. (9)

SALES AND FINANCING OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN MARCH While registering a more moderate increase over 1949 than in the two previous months, March sales of new motor vehicles were maintained at a high level. Financing of sales of new and used vehicles also continued to show large increases.

A total of 34,492 new vehicles were retailed for \$68,766,768 in March as compared with 24,637 vehicles sold for \$52,359,305 in the same month last year, raising the aggregate for the first three months of this year to 90,582 units valued at \$181,062,711 from 50,625 units at \$108,524,877 in the like period of 1949.

During the month there were 26,654 new and used motor vehicles financed to the extent of \$25,248,367 as against 16,711 units financed for \$16,180,664 a year earlier. In the quarter the number of units financed was 61,263 compared with 36,570, and their financed value totalled \$58,670,298 compared with \$35,861,722. (10)

PRODUCTION OF ELECTRIC REFRIGERATORS AND DOMESTIC WASHING MACHINES IN FEBRUARY Production of electric refrigerators rose to an all-time monthly high record in February, while the output of domestic washing machines was substantially below February last year. Factory stocks of both appliances at the end of the month were sharply higher than a year earlier.

Output of electric refrigerators amounted to 21,410 units as compared with 13,319 in the corresponding month of 1949, raising the total for the first two months of this year to 38,945 units as against 26,650 in the similar period of 1949. The month's production of domestic washing machines declined to 19,267 units from 29,341 in February last year, and in the two months to 44,944 units from 61,427.

Factory stocks of electric refrigerators at the end of February rose to 4,585 units from 1,996 a year ago, while the stocks of washing machines were up to 16,672 units as compared with 2,872. (11)

PRODUCTION OF CANADA'S LEADING MINERALS

Production of nine of 16 of Canada's leading minerals was higher in February this year than in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

January production was as follows, totals for the same month last year being in brackets: asbestos, 57,172 (48,872) tons; cement, 652,920 (622,621) barrels; clay products, \$1,100,953 (\$1,267,525); coal, 1,800,458 (1,856,141) tons; copper, 44,423,973 (41,611,545) pounds; gold, 354,773 (309,810) fine ounces; gypsum, 157,059 (152,011) tons; iron ore, 2,763 (2,457) tons.

Lead production in the month amounted to 19,116,053 tons (21,592,887 tons in January, 1949); lime, 78,229 (84,134) tons; natural gas, 9,571,840 (7,911,019) M cubic feet; nickel, 20,412,249 (22,358,071) pounds; petroleum, 1,926,867 (1,356,483) barrels; salt, 55,472 (61,041) tons; silver, 1,195,677 (975,991) fine ounces; zinc, 39,422,409 (43,895,475) pounds. (12)

PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON AND STEEL IN MARCH

Production of pig iron and steel ingots and castings fell in March from a year earlier, but was higher than in the preceding month. In the first quarter of this year both were lower than in the same period of 1949, the decline in steel ingots and castings being slight.

Output of pig iron in the month amounted to 174,944 net tons compared with 157,200 in the preceding month and 202,130 in the corresponding month last year, bringing the cumulative total for the first quarter to 522,576 tons against 557,928.

March output of steel ingots and castings totalled 294,303 net tons compared with 258,123 in February and 298,461 in March, 1949, and in the first three months of this year amounted to 842,375 net tons compared with 842,439.

Production of ferro-alloys in March amounted to 17,157 net tons compared with 9,602 in February and 22,457 last year. First-quarter total was 36,720 net tons compared with 66,101 tons. (Mem. 5)

PRODUCTION OF STEEL INGOTS

Production of steel ingots in Canada in March, at 287,719 tons, was practically unchanged from a year ago when the output amounted to 287,885 tons. During the first three months of this year, 823,503 tons were produced as compared with 812,881 in the like period of 1949. (13)

GOLD PRODUCTION IN FEBRUARY

Gold production in Canada in February was down one per cent from January, but increased 14 per cent above February, 1949. The month's production amounted to 350,704 fine ounces as compared with 353,911 in January and 307,608 in February last year. During the first two months of this year, 704,615 fine ounces were produced as against 617,418 in the similar period of 1949, an advance of 14 per cent.

Mines in Ontario accounted for 199,465 fine ounces in February as compared with 182,917 in the same month last year; Quebec for 89,501 fine ounces compared with 71,443; British Columbia, 24,847 fine ounces (24,778 in February, 1949); Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 22,369 (14,829); Northwest Territories, 13,911 (13,601); and Yukon Territory, nil (23). (14)

SALES OF PAINTS, VARNISHES
AND LACQUERS IN MARCH

Sales of paints, varnishes and lacquers by manufacturers which normally account for all but a small percentage of the total Canadian production, amounted to \$6,439,580 in March as compared with \$6,704,000 in the same month last year. During the first three months of this year, sales totalled \$17,531,442 as against \$18,428,210 in the similar period of 1949. (15)

OUTPUT OF CENTRAL ELECTRIC
STATIONS HIGHER IN MARCH

Production of electric energy by central electric stations rose to a high level in March this year, being exceeded only by the all-time peak total for May last year. The month's output was 11 per cent above the preceding month, and six per cent higher than in March, 1949. Total for the first three months of this year increased nine per cent over the similar period of 1949. All provinces shared in the rise both in the month and cumulative period except Ontario.

The month's output amounted to 4,176,563,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 3,771,093,000 in February and 3,923,721,000 in March last year. During the first quarter, 12,019,809,000 kilowatt hours were produced as against 11,022,918,000 in the same months last year. Output in May, 1949, stood at 4,271,027,000 kilowatt hours.

Consumption of primary power in March increased to 3,791,553,000 kilowatt hours from 3,601,670,000 a year earlier, and in the three-month period to 10,991,201,000 kilowatt hours compared with 10,120,766,000. Exports to the United States in March totalled 175,805,000 kilowatt hours, slightly above last year's corresponding total of 175,018,000 kilowatt hours. Despite the small gain in the month, exports for the three months declined to 455,401,000 kilowatt hours from 488,397,000 in the like period of 1949. (16)

PASSENGER TRAFFIC ON URBAN AND
INTERURBAN LINES IN JANUARY

The total number of passengers carried by both interurban and urban transit systems in Canada in January dropped 3,372,494 or 2.4 per cent from last year's January total of 138,717,300. The decrease in urban traffic was nearly 2,672,000, while interurban was off 700,547 fares. Urban receipts increased from \$8,539,628 to \$9,351,900 or by 9.5 per cent, while interurban revenues at \$3,065,848 were up \$81,319 or 2.7 per cent from January, 1949. (17)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Carloadings on Canadian railways during the week ended April 29 totalled 75,148 cars, a near record for the period, as compared with 74,098 cars in the same week last year, an advance of 1,050 cars or 1.4 per cent. Cumulative loadings for the first four months of this year were 1,174,270 cars against 1,228,907 last year.

Eastern division loadings in the week climbed to 50,315 cars as compared with 49,125, while the West, despite floods in southern Manitoba, reported 24,833 cars against 24,973 cars in the same period of 1949. (18)

TREND IN UNIVERSITY ENROLMENT
DOWNWARD SINCE 1947-48

The trend in university enrolment in Canada has been downward in the past two academic years after reaching an all-time peak in 1947-48, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Despite the drop in the two years, enrolments currently exceed war and pre-war years by a wide margin.

The larger Canadian universities which normally account for about 95 per cent of all enrolments had 67,375 students enrolled for the 1949-50 term, indicating that enrolment in all universities in Canada is now about 70,000 as compared with 85,000 two years ago.

Among the larger faculties, reductions are particularly noticeable in agriculture, engineering, and applied science. Medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and schools of social work show increases. Enrolments in the law course have remained steady. The number of arts and science students has decreased at the undergraduate but risen at the post-graduate level. (Mem. 6)

PRODUCTION AND SALES OF
WINE LOWER IN 1948

Wine produced in Canada in 1948 and placed in bond for maturing amounted to 5,039,000 gallons, showing a decrease of 17 per cent from the preceding year's total of 6,088,000 gallons. Fermented wines bottled or sold in bulk were also lower, amounting to 4,245,000 gallons compared with 4,976,000 the year before.

The inventory value of the wine produced in 1948 was \$3,300,000, down from \$4,296,000 in 1947, while the value of the wine sold was \$9,576,000 as compared with \$10,713,000 in the preceding year. All other products of the wine industry -- grape concentrate, grape juice, wine spirits, etc. -- made and sold during the year had a value of \$856,000 as compared with \$1,171,000. (19)

MACARONI AND KINDRED PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

Gross value of production of the macaroni and kindred products industry in 1948 amounted to \$7,753,558 as compared with \$5,963,158 in the preceding year. There was an average employment of 676 persons who received \$1,289,074 in salaries and wages as compared with 703 employees whose earnings totalled \$1,133,224 in 1947. The cost of materials used was \$4,827,220 against \$3,468,816.

The production of macaroni, spaghetti, vermicelli, noodles, etc., amounted to 83,130,860 pounds with a selling value at the factory of \$7,629,818 as compared with 79,255,918 pounds valued at \$5,811,027 in 1947. (20)

AUTOMOBILE PARTS INDUSTRY

Gross value of products turned out by the automobile parts industry in 1948 amounted to \$140,068,414, an increase of 6.5 per cent over the preceding year's total of \$131,513,510.

One-hundred and thirty-seven establishments were in operation during the year giving employment to a monthly average of 16,388 persons who received \$39,226,370 in salaries and wages as compared with 128 plants employing 17,487 workers who were paid \$36,559,864 in 1947. Cost of materials used was \$70,004,484 as against \$65,430,940. (21)

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. Monthly Summary of Foreign Trade, March (10 cents).
2. Monthly Summary of Imports for Consumption, March (20 cents).
3. Department Store Sales and Stocks, March (15 cents).
4. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, March (25 cents).
5. Intention to Plant Field Crops. Winter-killing and Spring Condition of Fall Wheat, Fall Rye, and Hay and Clover Meadows. Progress of Spring Seeding (10 cents).
6. Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada (10 cents).
7. Dairy Factory Production, April (10 cents).
8. Births, Marriages and Deaths, February (10 cents).
9. Motor Vehicle Shipments, March (10 cents).
10. Sales of New Motor Vehicle and Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, March (25 cents).
11. Domestic Washing Machines and Electric Refrigerators, February (10 cents).
12. Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, January (10 cents).
13. Steel Ingots, March (10 cents).
14. Gold Production, February (10 cents).
15. Sales of Paints, Varnishes and Lacquers, March (10 cents).
16. Central Electric Stations, March (10 cents).
17. Transit Report, January (10 cents).
18. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
19. The Wine Industry in Canada, 1948 (25 cents).
20. The Macaroni and Kindred Products Industry, 1948 (15 cents).
21. The Automobile Parts Industry, 1948 (15 cents).
22. Electric Vacuum Cleaners, 1949 (10 cents).
23. The Machine Shops Industry, 1948 (15 cents).
24. The Asbestos Products Industry, 1948 (15 cents).
25. Water Transportation, 1946, 1947, 1948 (25 cents).
26. Operating Results and Financial Structure of Miscellaneous Retail Stores, 1948 (25 cents).
27. The Button, Buckle, and Fastener Industry, 1948 (15 cents).
28. The Labour Force -- Quarterly Survey Week Ended March 4, 1950 (25 cents).
29. Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, March (10 cents).

Memoranda

1. Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
2. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, May 1 (10 cents).
3. Margarine Statistics, April (10 cents).
4. Stocks of Meat, Lard and Tallow, May 1 (10 cents).
5. Production of Pig Iron and Steel, March (10 cents).
6. Preliminary Report on University and College Enrolment, 1949-50 (25 cents).
7. Production, Shipments and Stocks of Gypsum Products, February (10 cents).
8. Pack of Apples and Apple Products from 1949 Crop (10 cents).
9. Asphalt Floor Tiles, April (10 cents).
10. Ammonium Sulphate, 1949 (10 cents).
11. Stoves and Furnaces, March (10 cents).

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