

D. B. S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

OTTAWA - CANADA

Saturday, Jan. 14, 1950

Vol. XVIII - No. 2

\$1.50 a year

--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CHEQUES CASHED AGAINST INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS in November totalled \$8,540,000,000 -- the second highest monthly total on record. This was 6.5 per cent above the November 1948 figure of \$8,022,000,000.

. . .

CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS in November numbered 124,889, up over the October figure of 77,091, and above the 73,119 in November, 1948.

. . .

EMPLOYMENT IN THE EIGHT MAJOR INDUSTRIAL GROUPS showed a further slight decline at the beginning of November, but there was a small advance in the expenditures in weekly salaries and wages as compared with October 1.

. . .

THE GENERAL INDEX NUMBER OF WHOLESALE PRICES moved down 0.1 points during November to 157.0 as compared with 157.1 in the preceding month. At the November level, the index was down 2.4 points from the same month of 1948.

. . .

COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES for the eight regional cities presented mixed changes during November. Food indexes were moderately lower for all cities but slight increases in rentals at some centres were sufficient to overbalance declines for the former indexes.

. . .

FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS WERE LOWER on the average in November than in October, the Bureau's all-Canada index, on the base 1935-39=100, being tentatively estimated at 246.0 as compared with 247.1 in October and 258.0 in November, 1948.

. . .

CASH INCOME OF CANADIAN FARMERS from the sale of farm products in 1949 amounted to \$2,409,165,000, slightly below the 1948 peak of \$2,449,900,000, but substantially above the 1947 total of \$1,962,276,000.

. . .

SALES OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES DROPPED below last year's level in November after reaching a new post-war peak in October, while the financing of sales of new and used vehicles continued to move higher.

. . .

PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON AND STEEL INGOTS moved to lower levels in November, but cumulative totals for the first 11 months of 1949 were higher than in the similar period of 1948.

CANADIAN IMPORT TRENDS
FIRST 10 MONTHS OF 1949

Three major factors affected the composition and volume of Canadian imports in the first 10 months of 1949, the latest period for which the official figures are available. The supply situation in many lines of imported goods has eased since 1948, thus tending to increase the volume of imports. The relaxation of some of the Emergency Exchange Conservation restrictions first imposed in 1947 has had a similar effect. On the other hand, the abnormal post-war demand for some types of imports has subsided, reducing purchases of these goods. These three factors have also changed the relative importance of some supplying countries. The effects of import price changes have not been very great during the period. Only a small increase in average prices appears to have occurred, so that much of the increased value of imports in the 10 months has been due to a larger volume.

As a result of these and other forces, the 10-month total value of imports for consumption rose to \$2,308.2 million, \$141.4 million above the corresponding 1948 value. However, two of the main groups of imports did not rise over their 1948 totals. These were the non-metallic minerals group, which was affected by greatly reduced imports of fuels, and the fibres and textiles group, owing chiefly to lower imports of jute and raw wool. Imports in the animals and animal products group rose only slightly above the 1948 value. Total imports in September and October fell below the corresponding 1948 monthly values, and for some months previously had shown less increase over 1948 values than characterized the early months of 1949.

The trends of the first 10 months of this year may not be continued in the succeeding months. The effects of the widespread currency revaluations in September, including the devaluation of the Canadian dollar on September 19, have not yet become fully apparent. New trends may emerge when prices and trade patterns have become adjusted to these changes.

The eased supply situation was especially evident in the iron and its products group. Demand for these products has been sustained by the high levels of domestic investment, by postwar shortages of durable-use consumers' goods, and by the part played by imported steel and steel products in Canada's heavy volume of exports. As demand in other countries fell to more normal levels or was restricted by payments difficulties, more steel could be bought by Canada. Consequently, the level of imports of iron, steel and their manufactures rose from \$390.5 million in the first 10 months of 1946 to \$644.8 million in 1948 and \$770.1 million in 1949.

Imports of a few items in the iron group ceased to rise. Tools and machinery imports (other than farm and mining machinery) levelled off or declined as the heavy postwar demand has been relieved. On the other hand, imports of such goods as rolling-mill products, farm implements and machinery, automobiles and parts, and engines and boilers have remained at a high level, although some declines appeared in the summer and the steel strike in the United States led to some interruptions in deliveries. The Alberta oil developments have been the chief factor in lifting imports of mining machinery to record levels; in the first nine months of 1949 imports of well-drilling machinery, casing for wells, and wire rope for drilling totalled \$26.4 million, while in the full year 1946 these imports reached only \$3 million.

Imports of iron and its products have increased in total value, and at a considerably higher rate than that of total imports. In the first 10 months of 1949 this group made up 33.4 per cent of all imports as against 29.8 per cent in the same 1948 period. The highest monthly values appeared in the first half of the year; since then the monthly totals have fallen off.

An easier supply situation altered the internal composition of some commodity groups rather than their percentage of total imports. In the textile products group, for example, there has been an increase in imports of piece-goods and a relative decline in more highly manufactured products. In addition, as the supply situation in piece-goods has improved, the greater freedom of choice open to buyers has resulted in changes in the relative importance of particular fabrics, such as the increase in purchases abroad of worsteds and serges and a decline in those of tweeds and flannels.

The relaxation of import controls has had more effect on single commodities than on whole groups, an example being an increase of \$13 million in imports of fruits and of \$10 million in imports of vegetables. Tourist purchases under the \$100 customs exemption privilege were almost completely prohibited in 1948. With removal of import restrictions on travellers' purchases in 1949, they rose sharply to \$24.9 million in the 10 months.

The subsiding of the abnormal postwar level of demand has affected particularly those industrial raw materials which were scarce during the war. In the immediate postwar period, purchases of several of these were inflated by buying to replenish inventories. This type of buying has declined for many products, chiefly those from tropical areas. Similarly, purchases of some manufactured items, especially those of a durable nature, such as tools and machinery, have also fallen.

The sources as well as the composition of Canada's imports have been affected, while conditions abroad have retarded the availability of commodities for export to Canada. The United States remains Canada's leading supplier and, due in part to the relaxation of the emergency import controls, the proportion of total imports from that country has increased from 68.4 per cent in the first 10 months of 1948 to 71.0 per cent this year. The only main group of imports from the United States which has shown a decline is non-metallic minerals and products. Increased oil production in Canada and a shift to overseas sources of supply has reduced the need for imports of petroleum and its products from the United States, and imports of coal have decreased due in part to the increasing use of other fuels in home heating and industry and to the large stocks in the earlier part of the year.

The greatest increase in imports from the United States has been in the iron and its products group, which accounted for 42.6 per cent of all imports from that country in the first 10 months of the year as against 40.1 per cent of a smaller total in 1948. Imports of United States textiles and products have also increased notably, due largely to a return to American sources of supply for raw cotton. Large tourist purchases have increased the miscellaneous commodities group of imports, and imports of agricultural products, affected by the relaxation of controls, also show sizeable increases.

Imports from the United Kingdom have also risen above 1948 levels for the 10-month period as a whole, although in September and October the monthly values were below those for 1948. The increase has been largely concentrated in the iron and its products group, imports of British automobiles and tractors showing marked gains. Imports of anthracite coal from the United Kingdom have been more than double those of the same period last year, although still small in relation to Canada's total imports of this commodity and to prewar imports from this source. In some groups, notably textiles and miscellaneous commodities, imports from the United Kingdom have declined, in the former case due in part to the subsiding of demand towards more normal levels and in part to the restoration of the tariff on some textile items on July 1. The increased total imports from the United Kingdom reflect in some degree the efforts of that country's producers to meet the requirements of the Canadian market.

Imports from the British West Indies and other Commonwealth countries in the Western Hemisphere have also increased. In this case the increase is due largely to the transfer of part of Canada's purchases of sugar and other tropical products from Latin American to Commonwealth sources. Other diversions from dollar to sterling area sources have also taken place. Imports from Commonwealth countries in Africa and Asia have declined considerably from their recent high levels, due partly to difficulties of supply. Imports from Commonwealth countries in Oceania have increased slightly, and the unfavourable trade balance of that area with Canada has been reduced.

At the end of October, the cumulative total of imports from Latin America was \$34.8 million below its 1948 level, and the share of that area in Canadian imports had dropped to 6.6 per cent from 8.7 per cent in the first 10 months of 1948. Among the more important factors contributing to this trend have been a shift back from Mexico to the United States as a source of supply for a considerable proportion of Canada's imports of raw cotton, changes from Latin America to Commonwealth suppliers for a high proportion of total sugar imports, and a decline in imports of tampico fibre from Mexico.

Imports from non-Commonwealth Europe have continued to expand in 1949 so that that area now supplies some three per cent of Canada's imports. While this percentage is small, it represents a considerable advance over the 2.7 per cent of total imports supplied by this area in 1948 and the 2.1 per cent supplied in 1946. The steady expansion of imports from Europe as its recovery from war-created dislocations proceeds, is of more significance than the absolute importance of that area as a source of supply.

Some imports from the rest of the world have declined appreciably from 1948 levels. Of these, the countries whose sales to Canada have fallen most sharply are the Philippine Islands, where a drop of some \$3 million has been due chiefly to reduced purchases of copra, and the Netherlands Antilles, owing to a fall of over \$4 million in purchases of petroleum products.

The separate listing of Arabia in 1949 among the rest-of-world group added petroleum imports valued at \$7.9 million to imports from this group of countries in the first 10 months of the year, and this amount made up over a quarter of the overall total for the group in the period. Previously such imports were largely listed under Asia in the Commonwealth countries group.

The chief areas from which imports have increased in the period have thus been the United States, the United Kingdom, Commonwealth countries in the two Americas, and Europe. Latin American, and both Commonwealth and foreign countries in Africa and Asia have sold less in the Canadian market. The net effect of these changes in sources of imports on Canada's payments position has been small, the decreased need for United States dollars to cover purchases from Latin America being more than offset by the increased need for them to cover imports from the United States. But this shift may have some influence on Canada's position in the Latin American market.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLLS

Employment in the eight major industrial groups showed a further slight decline at the beginning of November, but there was a small advance in the expenditures in weekly salaries and wages as compared with October 1, according to data received from 20,712 representative employers. The reduction in the working force again took place among male employees, whose numbers fell 0.3 per cent, while that of women rose 0.5 per cent in the month. The difference in the trends was due to the changes in the industrial distribution of employment.

Based on the 1926 average as 100, the general index number of employment in the eight leading industries at the beginning of November was 201.9 as compared with 202.2 at October 1, and 203.6 at November 1, 1948. Except for November 1, 1948, the latest index is the highest in the record of 29 years. Although the November 1, 1949 figure was 0.8 per cent below that indicated 12 months earlier, there was an increase of three per cent in the index of payrolls, which reached a new all-time maximum.

The co-operating employers reported a rise of 0.4 per cent in their disbursements in weekly salaries and wages at November 1 as compared with October 1. Further upward adjustments in wage rates in several industries contributed to the higher expenditures in which another factor was longer working hours in some industries. The indicated weekly earnings averaged \$43.78 at November 1 as compared with \$43.55 at October 1, and \$42.15 at November 1, 1948.

Moderate expansion in employment was reported in New Brunswick, Quebec and Saskatchewan, with similar reductions in the remaining provinces. Industrially, improvement over October 1 was shown in logging, mining and trade; in these divisions, recorded employment rose 23.2 per cent, 0.4 per cent, and 1.8 per cent, respectively. The trend in the other major industrial classes was downward. The percentage losses varied from 0.7 per cent in communications and one per cent in manufacturing, to 1.9 per cent in transportation and two per cent in construction. The changes in the more important industries followed the seasonal pattern.

Within the manufacturing division, there were substantial losses as compared with October 1 in vegetable food factories. Considerable reductions were also shown in lumber, pulp and paper, and iron and steel plants, while the trend was unfavourable in numerous other industries. The falling-off in rubber was mainly due to industrial disputes. Moderate gains were shown in textile, printing, and publishing and some other classes. (1)

CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
BENEFITS HIGHER IN NOVEMBER

Claims for unemployment insurance benefits in November numbered 124,839, up over the October figure of 77,091, and above the 73,119 in November, 1948. Initial and renewal claims representing mainly new cases of recorded unemployment among insured persons, totalled 114,838 in November against 69,349 in October, and 66,426 a year earlier.

As compared with November, 1948, increased claims were recorded in all provinces. Ontario's total was up from 19,948 to 44,026, Quebec from 21,092 to 36,630, British Columbia from 14,468 to 18,470, Manitoba from 3,880 to 6,026, Nova Scotia from 4,421 to 5,930, New Brunswick from 3,546 to 5,769, Alberta from 2,480 to 3,918, Saskatchewan from 2,816 to 3,502, and Prince Edward Island from 468 to 514. Benefit claims in Newfoundland in November 1949 totalled 104.

In November, benefit payments amounted to \$5,048,373 for 2,178,130 compensated unemployed days as against \$3,845,541 for 1,675,017 days in October and \$2,283,383 for 1,100,864 days in November, 1948. (2)

CHEQUES CASHED AT A
HIGH LEVEL IN NOVEMBER

Reflecting the high level of economic activity, the amount of cheques cashed against individual accounts in November was 6.5 per cent greater than in the corresponding month of 1948, the all-Canada total standing at \$8,540,000,000 -- the second highest monthly total in history -- as compared with \$8,022,000,000. This raised the aggregate for the first 11 months of 1949 to \$79,158,554,000 from \$72,887,356,000 in the similar period of 1948.

Cheques cashed in Ontario in the month rose to \$3,705,495,000 from \$3,275,765,000 in the corresponding month of 1948, or by 13 per cent. The 11-month total for the province was up to \$32,787,228,000 from \$30,067,708,000 a year earlier. Quebec's total in November was \$2,303,563,000 as against \$2,262,972,000, and in the 11 months, \$22,329,389,000 compared with \$21,468,525,000.

There was practically no change in the volume of cheques cashed in the Prairie Provinces in November, the month's figure amounting to \$1,624,087,000 compared with \$1,624,869,000 a year ago. The 11-month total, however, was up to \$15,097,482,000 from \$12,200,404,000 a year earlier.

A moderate increase of one per cent was shown for British Columbia in November, the month's figure rising to \$666,780,000 from \$660,054,000. For the 11-month period to the end of November the aggregate was \$6,858,569,000 as against \$6,361,356,000. The total for the Maritimes -- reflecting the inclusion of St. John's Newfoundland, for which no data are available for preceding years -- was \$240,191,000 in November against \$198,321,000, and for the 11 months, \$2,085,887,000 compared with \$1,789,363,000. (3)

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX DOWN
0.1 POINTS IN NOVEMBER

The general index number of wholesale prices, on the base 1926=100, moved down 0.1 points during November to 157.0 as compared with 157.1 in the preceding month. At the November level the index was down 2.4 points from the same month of 1948. Four of the eight sub-groups showed increases over the preceding month, three were lower, and one remained unchanged.

Sub-group indexes were as follows for November, figures for October being in brackets: vegetable products, 143.0 (142.6); animal products, 164.0 (164.5); textile products, 159.3 (158.9); wood products, 188.1 (188.1); iron products, 173.7 (173.5); non-ferrous metals, 141.4 (141.2); non-metallic minerals, 138.1 (138.9); chemical products, 119.2 (122.0).

The index number of wholesale farm product prices stood at 145.0 in November, unchanged from October, but down 4.9 points from November last year. The index for field products was 122.6 compared with 123.0 in October and 128.0 in November last year, while the animal products index was 182.5 compared with 181.7 in October and 186.5 in November, 1948. (4)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES
DOWN FIVE PER CENT

Department store sales during the week ending December 31 decreased five per cent from the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures. All regions of the country participated in the decline except Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia. Sales in the Maritimes fell 13 per cent, followed by Ontario down 12 per cent, Quebec five per cent, and Saskatchewan three per cent. In Manitoba and Alberta, sales rose seven per cent for each, while in British Columbia a gain of four per cent was recorded.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES FOR EIGHT REGIONAL CITIES

Cost-of-living indexes for the eight regional cities presented mixed changes during November. Food indexes were moderately lower for all cities, but slight increases in rentals at certain centres were sufficient to overbalance declines for the former indexes. Index changes for other groups were generally narrow. Homefurnishings and services for Saint John rose 4.7 points during the month, due to increases in telephone rates, while the miscellaneous index for Winnipeg moved up 1.1 points, reflecting advances in street car fares and gasoline.

The composite cost-of-living index for Edmonton declined 0.7 points to 156.4 between November 1 and December 1, Halifax 0.6 points to 153.6, Vancouver 0.4 points to 161.9, Montreal 0.2 points to 164.1, and Saskatoon 0.1 points to 162.7. The index for Toronto rose 0.2 points to 157.4, Saint John 0.1 points to 158.0, while there was no change in the Winnipeg series which stood at 155.7. During the same period the Dominion index declined 0.2 points to 160.2.

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

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

	<u>December 1, 1948</u>	<u>November 1, 1949</u> (August 1939=100)	<u>December 1, 1949</u>
Halifax	150.8	154.2	153.6
Saint John	155.5	157.9	158.0
Montreal	161.5	164.3	164.1
Toronto	154.5	157.2	157.4
Winnipeg	152.2	155.7	155.7
Saskatoon	161.6	162.8	162.7
Edmonton	153.6	157.1	156.4
Vancouver	160.8	162.3	161.9
Dominion	157.6	160.4	160.2

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

	<u>Jan. 5, 1950</u>	<u>Dec. 29, 1949</u>	<u>Dec. 8, 1949</u>
(1935-39=100)			
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
(106 Common Stocks)	120.1	118.6	118.4
82 Industrials	114.2	113.1	112.9
16 Utilities	125.9	124.1	123.1
8 Banks	143.8	140.1	140.8
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
(30 Stocks)	94.5	94.3	92.8
25 Golds	76.8	76.5	73.5
5 Base Metals	129.1	129.3	130.9

SALES AND FINANCING OF
MOTOR VEHICLES IN SEPTEMBER

Sales of new motor vehicles dropped below last year's level in November after reaching a new post-war peak in October, while the financing of sales of new and used vehicles continued to move higher. Cumulative totals for the first 11 months of 1949 show advances for both sales and financing.

In November there were 18,823 new motor vehicles sold for a total of \$38,873,226, a decrease of 16 per cent in number and 12 per cent in value from the 22,345 vehicles which sold for \$44,096,591 in November, 1948. New and used motor vehicles financed in the month totalled 20,025 units involving \$18,581,510, showing increases of 47 per cent in number and 46 per cent in value over the 13,644 vehicles financed for \$12,685,532 in November, 1948.

In the 11 months ending November, 254,055 new vehicles were sold for \$526,265,669 compared with 199,836 vehicles valued at \$396,186,362 in the corresponding period of 1948. New and used motor vehicles financed in the 11 months totalled 214,616 units involving \$200,853,352 as compared with 143,632 units financed for \$133,023,450 in the like period of 1948. (5)

FARM CASH INCOME IN 1949

Cash income of Canadian farmers from the sale of farm products in 1949 amounted to \$2,409,165,000, according to an advance preliminary estimate by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This figure is slightly below the 1948 peak of \$2,449,900,000, but substantially above the 1947 total of \$1,962,276,000.

The Bureau points out that Canadian Wheat Board participation payments to western producers on previous years' crops were substantially larger in 1948 and 1949 than in any year up to that time. Since August 1, 1949, western producers of coarse grains have received only an initial payment per bushel as provided under the terms of the compulsory coarse grain marketing scheme which entitles them to share in any surpluses accumulated by the Canadian Wheat Board through the sale of these grains.

In addition to the above totals, supplementary payments made under the provisions of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act in 1949 totalled \$17,628,000 as compared with \$20,746,000 in the preceding year, and \$11,577,000 in 1947.

The advance estimates of cash income indicate lower returns in 1949 than in 1948 in all provinces except Saskatchewan and Alberta. Ontario had the largest total of \$641,350,000 compared with \$668,353,000, followed by Saskatchewan at \$540,638,000 compared with \$520,563,000, Alberta at \$452,384,000 compared with \$448,997,000, and Quebec \$343,604,000 compared with \$352,153,000.

Manitoba was next with \$234,530,000 against \$242,882,000, British Columbia \$97,068,000 (\$101,144,000 in 1948), New Brunswick \$42,206,000 (\$44,905,000), Nova Scotia \$36,507,000 (\$36,626,000), and Prince Edward Island \$20,878,000 (\$22,505,000). Estimates for Newfoundland are not available.

The regular annual estimates based on more complete data and including details by commodities as well as revisions for 1947 and 1948 will be released about the first of March. (6)

FARM PRICES IN NOVEMBER BELOW
OCTOBER AND YEAR EARLIER

Bureau of Statistics.

Farm prices of agricultural products was lower on the average in November than October, according to the monthly figures compiled by the Dominion

The Bureau's all-Canada index, on the base 1935-39=100, is tentatively estimated at 246.0 as compared with 247.1 in October and 258.0 in November, 1948. The month's decrease continues a more or less general decline since August 1948, when the index reached a peak of 263.9. Since that time the index has dropped about seven per cent and for November was at the lowest level since April, 1948, when it stood at 242.6.

As compared with November, 1948, prices were lower for grains, livestock, dairy products, poultry and eggs, and higher for potatoes. Compared with the preceding month, the November farm prices were down for livestock, potatoes, and poultry and eggs.

Indexes were as follows by provinces, those for November 1948 being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 190.1 (196.6); Nova Scotia, 203.1 (205.4); New Brunswick, 215.0 (223.4); Quebec, 255.7 (272.0); Ontario, 254.9 (271.3); Manitoba, 244.6 (260.8); Saskatchewan, 235.7 (241.2); Alberta, 249.5 (259.3); British Columbia, 246.0 (254.3). (7)

PRODUCTION OF BUTTER DOWN SLIGHTLY IN
DECEMBER AND YEAR 1949; CHEESE HIGHER

Production of creamery butter in December decreased two per cent from the same month in 1948, and was 1.8 per cent lower in the calendar year 1949. Output in December amounted to 11,705,000 pounds as compared with 11,945,000 a year earlier, while in the 12 months, 279,409,000 pounds were produced as against 284,431,000 in the preceding year.

Cheddar cheese production rose sharply in December, amounting to 2,318,000 pounds as compared with 1,182,000 a year ago, raising the cumulative total for the 12 months to 110,005,000 pounds from 86,698,000, or by 26.9 per cent.

The month's output of concentrated milk products moved down 15.3 per cent, totalling 16,738,000 pounds compared with 19,758,000 a year earlier. In the 12 months of 1949, production aggregated 370,496,000 pounds as against 396,768,000 in 1948, a decrease of 6.6 per cent. (8)

STOCKS OF DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Stocks of creamery butter on January 1 this year amounted to 57,022,000 pounds as compared with 66,353,000 on December 1 and 37,279,000 on the corresponding date in 1949. Cheese stocks totalled 43,850,000 pounds compared with 47,245,000 on December 1 and 34,551,000 a year earlier.

Stocks of evaporated whole milk held by or for manufacturers on January 1 amounted to 35,322,000 pounds as against 41,853,000 at the beginning of December and 16,271,000 on the same date in 1949, while the holdings of skim milk powder were 5,534,000 pounds compared with 7,448,000 on December 1 and 7,901,000 a year ago.

January 1 stocks of eggs, shell and frozen, amounted to 159,000 cases compared with 147,000 on December 1 and 279,000 on January 1, 1949. Holdings of poultry meat increased to 26,402,000 pounds from 21,994,000 on December 1 and 17,205,000 a year earlier. (9)

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF MARGARINE IN DECEMBER

Production of margarine in December amounted to 6,902,000 pounds as compared with 7,199,000 in November and 6,779,000 in October. This brought the cumulative total for the year 1949 to 73,958,000 pounds. Stocks of margarine at the beginning of January this year totalled 1,966,000 pounds as compared with the revised figure of 1,778,000 on December 1.

Holdings were as follows by regions, totals for December 1 being in brackets (thousands omitted): Maritimes, including Newfoundland, 321 (111) pounds; Ontario, 912 (1,028); Manitoba, 228 (160); Saskatchewan, 102 (76); Alberta, 178 (186); British Columbia, 225 (217). (Mem. 1)

STOCKS OF MEAT AND LARD ON JANUARY 1

Stocks of meat, held by packers, wholesale butchers and cold storage warehouses were lower on January 1 this year, amounting to 68,646,000 pounds as compared with 75,723,000 on December 1 and 80,992,000 in the corresponding month last year.

Holdings of frozen meat totalled 32,978,000 pounds compared with 34,129,000 on December 1 and 52,612,000 on January 1, 1949. Stocks of fresh meat declined to 12,735,000 pounds from 19,052,000 at the beginning of December and 13,133,000 a year ago, while cured meat increased to 22,933,000 pounds from 22,542,000 on December 1 and 15,247,000 a year earlier.

Lard stocks advanced to 3,914,000 pounds from 2,929,000 on December 1 and 3,387,000 in the same month of 1948. (10)

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on December 29 amounted to 167,415,576 bushels as compared with 165,310,873 on December 22, and 170,945,039 on the corresponding date last year. Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Province amounted to 4,881,010 bushels as against 3,026,421 a year earlier.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending December 29, totals for the same week last year being in brackets: oats, 1,098,725 (535,390) bushels; barley, 585,549 (591,778); rye, 81,606 (103,010); flaxseed, 11,852 (77,983).

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending December 29 amounted to 1,521,116 bushels as compared with 3,259,134 in the corresponding week last year, bringing the total for the crop year to date to 80,005,206 bushels as compared with 58,203,604 in the same period of 1948-49. (11)

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF SAWMILLS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Production of sawn lumber and ties in British Columbia totalled 260,272 M feet in September as compared with 260,483 M in the same month of 1948. Production of coast mills showed an increase of 1.8 per cent over September, 1948, and interior mills a decrease of 4.9 per cent.

Shipments in September totalled 241,285 M feet compared with 238,834 M a year ago, an increase of one per cent, with coast mills registering an increase of 5.9 per cent and interior mills a decrease of 14.4 per cent. Stocks on hand at the end of September amounted to 358,848 M feet as compared with 277,616 M a year earlier. Coast mills reported stocks totalling 226,256 M feet, while interior mills showed 132,592 M feet. (12)

PRODUCTION OF IRON AND
STEEL LOWER IN NOVEMBER

Production of pig iron, ferro-alloys, and steel ingots moved to lower levels in November, but cumulative totals for the first 11 months of 1949 were higher than in the similar period of 1948.

The month's output of pig iron amounted to 157,327 net tons as compared with 166,771 in November, 1948, the 11-month total rising to 1,982,350 tons as against 1,946,676 a year ago. The November output of ferro-alloys stood at 14,758 tons compared with 17,594, and in the 11 months, 199,750 tons against 164,693.

Production of steel ingots and castings in November amounted to 259,722 tons as compared with 277,978 in the corresponding month of 1948, while the total for the 11 months was 2,922,981 tons compared with 2,921,231 a year earlier. (Mem. 2)

PRODUCTION OF COKE IN OCTOBER

Production of coke in Canada in October amounted to 310,000 tons as compared with 309,000 in the preceding month and 348,000 in the corresponding month of 1948. Output for the 10 months ending October was 3,251,000 tons as against 3,261,000 in the similar period of 1948.

Producers' stocks of oven and retort coke, excluding breeze, at the end of October, amounted to 273,000 tons, of which 113,000 tons were located in the eastern provinces, 153,000 tons in Ontario and 8,000 tons in the western provinces. Stocks of breeze totalled 130,000 tons, the eastern provinces accounting for 22,000 tons, Ontario for 97,000 tons, and the western provinces for 11,000 tons.

Producers disposed of 309,000 tons of coke during the month, bringing the total for the 10-month period to 3,137,000 tons. Of the month's total, 35,000 tons were used in coke and gas plants, 147,000 tons in producers' smelters, 16,000 tons for domestic use, 50,000 tons for other uses, 48,000 tons sold to dealers for resale, and 12,000 tons for export. (13)

STOCKS OF NON-FERROUS
SCRAP METAL IN AUGUST

Dealers' stocks of non-ferrous scrap metal were as follows at the end of August, totals for the beginning of the period being in brackets: aluminum scrap, 1,820,287 (1,663,001) pounds; brass and bronze scrap, 7,353,744 (6,774,718); copper scrap, 2,629,304 (2,650,956); magnesium scrap, 8,309 (6,307); nickel scrap, 283,252 (215,325); tin-lead scrap, 3,473,209 (3,288,765); zinc scrap, 948,662 (632,485). (14)

SALES OF ELECTRIC STORAGE
BATTERIES IN OCTOBER

Sales of electric storage batteries and parts by principal Canadian producers were valued at \$1,640,210 in October as compared with \$1,796,513 in the same month of 1948. During the first 10 months of 1949, sales totalled \$12,944,022, up slightly over the 1948 figure of \$12,626,533. (15)

SALES OF RADIO RECEIVING
SETS LOWER IN SEPTEMBER

Showing the first decline in several months, sales of radio receiving sets in September moved down to 64,090 units with a value of \$5,232,877 as compared with 78,228 units sold for \$6,099,765 in September, 1948. During the first 10 months of 1949, sales totalled 460,649 units valued at \$33,326,189 as against 351,931 at \$29,775,-915 in the same period of 1948.

Provincial totals for the month were as follows, totals for September, 1948 being in brackets: Newfoundland, 550 (-) units; Maritimes, 4,317 (5,366); Quebec, 11,328 (16,169); Ontario, 29,657 (33,226); Manitoba, 4,392 (6,080); Saskatchewan, 3,942 (4,597); Alberta, 4,396 (6,919); British Columbia, 5,008 (5,371). (16)

CIVIL AVIATION AT ALL-TIME HIGH IN JULY

Revenues of Canadian air carriers totalled \$4,199,632 in July, an advance of \$477,753 or 13.1 per cent over July, 1948, and \$1,466,174 above July receipts in 1947, to establish a new record for any month. Scheduled carriers reported total revenues of \$3,475,021 against \$2,925,181 one year earlier. Most accounts showed increases with total passenger revenues for all services up nearly \$559,000 to \$2,616,001.

Total expenses were also heavier, advancing from \$3,194,371 in July, 1948, to \$3,600,016, up \$405,645 or 12.7 per cent, with every account increasing. Due to improved earnings, net operating revenues for the month were \$519,616 against \$447,508 in July, 1948, a betterment of \$72,108.

Total revenue passengers numbered 130,868 for the month, a gain of nearly 15 per cent or 17,004 over the preceding July. Scheduled Canadian carriers reported 86,744 passengers against 74,376 in the corresponding month of 1948, while international routes improved from 35,588 to 40,711 passengers, of which 24,612 were carried by foreign companies. Revenue passenger mileage at 40,280,261 was 5,462,519 miles above the same month of 1948. (17)

PASSENGER TRAFFIC ON URBAN AND INTERURBAN LINES IN SEPTEMBER

The volume of traffic carried by transit companies in September totalled 129,808,335 passengers, showing a slight decline of 978,852 fares or 0.8 per cent from the same month of 1948. Urban service had 1,037,603 fewer fares at some 120,221,000, while interurban volume improved 58,751 to 9,587,786 passengers for the month.

Urban service at \$8,112,644 were up \$293,753 over September, 1948, while interurban gained \$275,085 to \$4,416,651, both reflecting fare increases which more than offset declines in traffic volume. (18)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Carloadings on Canadian railways in the holiday week ending December 31 totalled 49,063 cars as compared with 52,419 in the corresponding week last year. Loadings in the eastern division were 34,590 cars against 35,491 a year ago, while the western division -- beset by snow, cold and floods -- contributed 14,473 cars compared with 16,928.

Cumulative loadings for the 52 weeks of 1949 show a total of 3,906,655 cars of revenue freight on Canadian railways compared with 4,038,456 in 1948 and 3,947,817 in the same period of 1947. The decline from 1948 was 3.3 per cent, while a minor recession from the 1947 total was recorded. (19)

SILVER-LEAD-ZINC MINING INDUSTRY IN 1948

The value of ores and concentrated sold by the silver-lead-zinc mining industry of Canada in 1948 was \$103,431,000, showing a marked increase over the preceding year's total of \$74,045,000. The number of employees rose from 3,240 in 1947 to 4,040, and their salaries and wages from \$8,305,000 to \$11,421,000. (20)

RECORD AMOUNT SPENT BY CANADIANS
ON MOTION PICTURE ENTERTAINMENT

Canadians spent a record total of \$83,283,400 on motion picture theatre entertainment in 1948, an increase of six per cent over the preceding year's total of \$78,476,800. Of the gross receipts in 1948, \$13,626,000 was paid to Dominion and Provincial governments in taxes as compared with \$15,819,000 in 1947. Net receipts were up to \$69,657,200 from \$62,865,300, or by 11 per cent. There were 222,459,200 paid admissions during the year, a gain of one per cent.

Expenditures on this form of entertainment in 1948 amounted to \$6.50 per person compared with \$6.30 in 1947 and \$5.01 in 1942. Provincial averages ranged from \$3.97 in Prince Edward Island to \$8.52 in British Columbia. Decreases in per capita expenditures from 1947 were recorded in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Increases in net receipts were shown for all provinces, the greatest gain of 18 per cent being recorded in Quebec. Net receipts in New Brunswick were up 12 per cent, while increases of 10 per cent were shown for Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan. Receipts in Ontario were up nine per cent, British Columbia seven, Manitoba five, and Nova Scotia three per cent.

Paid admissions in Prince Edward Island and Quebec were increased six per cent, New Brunswick five per cent, Saskatchewan two per cent, and Alberta one per cent. Little change was recorded by theatres in Ontario, while decreases in attendance of two per cent in British Columbia, four per cent in Nova Scotia, and five per cent in Manitoba were reported. (21)

RETAIL CHAINS STORES IN 1948

Sales of retail chain stores in Canada showed an increase of 13.5 per cent in 1948 to reach an all-time peak value of \$1,335,735,000 as compared with the previous year's high total of \$1,177,323,000. The average sales per store rose from \$175,300 in 1947 to \$195,800. Salaries and wages paid to store employees were up from \$91,265,800 to \$107,450,200.

All provinces except Prince Edward Island shared in the greater volume of dollar sales in 1948. Sales in Ontario were up to \$595,545,600 from \$509,078,800 in 1947, Quebec to \$271,306,800 from \$247,093,800, and British Columbia to \$149,220,000 from \$130,555,100. In Alberta sales were valued at \$85,383,200 (\$72,888,600 in 1947), Saskatchewan \$67,198,000 (\$63,026,500), Manitoba \$63,327,100 (\$56,137,700), Nova Scotia \$54,682,500 (\$51,063,600), New Brunswick \$42,747,300 (\$41,295,900), Northwest Territories and Yukon \$5,254,000 (\$5,107,300), and Prince Edward Island \$1,070,500 (\$1,075,400).

Sales of grocery and combination stores -- largest group -- rose to \$387,136,600 from \$301,796,300 in 1947, while sales of liquor stores were up to \$267,492,100 from \$264,490,500. Sales of variety chains increased to \$133,906,900 from \$117,925,300; lumber and building material dealers to \$56,285,400 from \$51,239,200; office, school and store supplies and equipment dealers to \$40,580,900 from \$35,724,900.

Furniture store sales were valued at \$35,678,900 in 1948 (\$32,891,300 in 1947); women's apparel and accessories stores, \$34,834,400 (\$29,023,700); family clothing stores, \$33,816,000 (\$30,453,600); shoe stores, \$31,377,800 (\$28,731,500); drug stores, \$27,458,100 (\$26,868,800); household appliance, radio and music stores, \$27,273,400 (\$22,657,900); restaurants, \$21,898,800 (\$20,726,400); men's and boys' clothing and furnishings, \$17,919,200 (\$16,504,000); and tobacco stores and stands, \$15,944,900 (\$14,954,100). (22)

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).

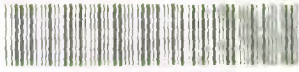
Reports and Bulletins

1. The Employment Situation, November (20 cents).
2. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, November (25 cents).
3. Cheques Cashed Against Individual Accounts, November (25 cents).
4. Prices and Price Indexes, November (20 cents).
5. Sales of New Motor Vehicles and Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, November (25 cents).
6. Cash Income from the Sale of Farm Products, 1949 (10 cents).
7. Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, November (10 cents).
8. Dairy Factory Production, December (10 cents).
9. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, January 1 (10 cents).
10. Stocks of Meat, Lard and Tallow, January 1 (10 cents).
11. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
12. Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, September (25 cents).
13. Coal and Coke Statistics, October (25 cents).
14. Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal and Secondary Non-Ferrous Ingot, August (15 cents).
15. Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, October (10 cents).
16. Radio Receiving Sets, September (25 cents).
17. Civil Aviation, September (10 cents).
18. Transit Report, September (10 cents).
19. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
20. Silver-Lead-Zinc Mining Industry, 1948 (30 cents).
21. Motion Picture Theatres, Exhibitors and Distributors, 1948 (35 cents).
22. Retail Chains in Canada, 1948 (25 cents).
23. Volume II of the Trade of Canada: Exports, 1948 (\$2.00)
24. Flour Mills in Canada, 1949 (\$1.00).

Memoranda

1. Production and Stocks of Margarine, December (10 cents).
 2. Production of Pig Iron and Steel, November (10 cents).
-

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010729535