

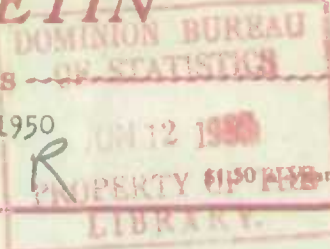


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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADA'S OFFICIAL COST-OF-LIVING INDEX remained unchanged at 164.0 between April 1 and May 1. A slight increase in foods was counterbalanced by decreases in fuel and light and clothing indexes.

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CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS in April totalled 90,123, showing a decrease of 32 per cent from the preceding month's total of 133,404, but an increase of 31 per cent over last year's total of 68,979.

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DEPARTMENT STORE SALES IN CANADA in April -- excluding Newfoundland -- totalled \$67,434,000, showing a decline of 10 per cent from the April, 1949 value of \$75,037,000. All regions of the country registered decreases, ranging from seven per cent in British Columbia to 25 per cent in Saskatchewan.

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CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS during the week ending May 27 continued heavy at 72,773 cars, up 6,616 cars or 10 per cent over the corresponding week last year.

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SALES OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES, up sharply over last year from January to March, increased still further in April to reach a new postwar monthly peak of 36,406. Sales in March were 34,653, and in April last year, 29,314 units.

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PRODUCTION OF ELECTRIC ENERGY by central electric stations was at a slightly lower level in April, at 4,061,915,000 kilowatt hours. This was about three per cent below both March and April last year.

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STOCKS OF CANADIAN WHEAT in store or in transit in North America at midnight on May 25 amounted to 111,912,000 bushels as compared with 117,532,000 a week earlier, and 95,630,000 on the corresponding date last year.

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THE 1950 EDITION OF THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK "CANADA" has been released for public distribution. It contains over 280 pages of text, more than 160 illustrations, including three pages of coloured reproduction, 100 statistical tables, as well as diagrams, charts and lithographed maps.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX
UNCHANGED AT MAY 1

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index, on the base 1935-39=100, remained unchanged at 164.0 between April 1 and May 1. A slight increase in foods was counter-balanced by decreases in the fuel and light and clothing indexes.

The food group index advanced 0.1 points to 204.6. A five-cent decline in butter, and small decreases in eggs and pork, were not sufficient to offset an average increase of four cents in beef and two cents in coffee. The clothing index registered a decline of 0.4 points to 180.8, reflecting some price reductions in women's wear.

Fuel and light moved from 138.0 to 137.5 as decreases in anthracite coal proved more important than advances in electricity rates in certain Ontario centres. The index for electricity rates is still below pre-war levels. The index of home-furnishings and services was unchanged at 166.4 as was the miscellaneous group at 132.3. Rents were not surveyed during May and the index remained at 132.7. (1)

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

	Com- bined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Cloth- ing	Home furnish- ings and Services	Miscel- aneous
May 1, 1950	164.0	204.6	132.7	137.5	180.8	166.4	132.3
April 1, 1950	164.0	204.5	132.7	138.0	181.2	166.4	132.3
May 1, 1949	159.5	199.5	122.4	129.1	183.3	168.1	128.4

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES
DOWN 10 PER CENT IN APRIL

Department store sales in Canada in April -- excluding Newfoundland -- totalled \$67,434,000, showing a decline of 10 per cent from the April, 1949 value of \$75,037,000. Cumulative sales for the first four months of this year showed a decline of three per cent, amounting to \$234,805,000 as compared with \$242,858,000 in the similar period of 1949. All regions of the country registered decreases in April, ranging from seven per cent in British Columbia to 25 per cent in Saskatchewan.

Sixteen of the 17 departments showed lower sales volumes in April compared with a year earlier. Household appliances advanced 16 per cent, recording the only gain. Women's and children's department sales were off 13 per cent, while hardware departments fell 16 per cent in sales volume.

Sales were as follows by provinces in April, totals for the same month last year being in brackets (thousands omitted): Maritimes, \$5,212 (\$5,959); Quebec, \$11,268 (\$12,181); Ontario, \$25,085 (\$27,608); Manitoba, \$9,713 (\$10,963); Saskatchewan, \$3,214 (\$4,297); Alberta, \$4,380 (\$4,872); British Columbia, \$3,562 (\$9,157). (2)

CROP CONDITIONS IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES

While some scattered showers and fair rains have occurred during the past few days, the moisture situation in wide areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta has further deteriorated. Cool weather, however, has so far prevented any significant crop damage from lack of moisture. High winds over much of these two provinces have seriously depleted surface moisture and soil drifting has caused considerable damage at local points. Wheat seeding is practically completed in Alberta and Saskatchewan with a small proportion of coarse grains remaining to be planted. In both provinces better than average rainfall will be required in most areas from now on to promote development of a satisfactory crop.

In Manitoba, seeding is nearly completed in central and northern areas. Progress is variable in southern districts with planting in the flooded area just getting under way. Growth of early-seeded crops, as well as pastures, has been excellent.

Continuous high winds during the past week in Saskatchewan have seriously depleted surface moisture in all parts, except the extreme southeast and portions of the Park Belt area. Soil drifting has caused considerable crop damage in local areas with five to 10 per cent reseeding necessary at some points. Seeding is almost completed except for about 15 per cent of the coarse grains. Rains received at many points at the end of this reporting period promise good recovery but surface moisture depletion has been so general that further early rains are required to promote growth.

Scattered showers and some fair rains over the past 24 hours have improved immediate prospects over many parts of Alberta. Moisture supplies remain good in the Peace River district, in the extreme southwestern part of the province and in parts of the west-central area west of the Calgary-Edmonton line. Southeastern Alberta, however, is still dry but little crop damage other than that occasioned by soil drifting is indicated thus far. Wheat seeding is completed throughout the province and coarse grains should be all in during the next week. Grain crops generally appear to be in fair condition but hay crops and pasture are only poor to fair in most sections. The low level of subsoil moisture reserves and below-normal precipitation over much of the province will be felt soon unless better-than average rains occur. Wireworm damage to wheat has been reported from the Lethbridge area and hatching of grasshoppers has commenced in several southern districts.

Seeding in Manitoba is nearing completion in central and northern areas, advancing in the south, and well started in the Red River Valley where the land is just now drying up. Early-seeded crops are doing well and grass and legume growth is excellent. Rain would be welcome from Brandon north, especially along the Saskatchewan boundary. Elsewhere moisture conditions are satisfactory. Ten thousand acres of sugar beets have been planted and if the weather holds 18,000 acres will be sown by the end of this week. A considerable switch has taken place in sugar beet plantings from flooded to non-flooded land. Floods have caused considerable erosion in market garden areas, and planting has just now started in the dried up regions. (3)

WORLD WHEAT SUPPLIES
HIGHER ON MAY 1

Supplies of wheat remaining at May 1 this year in the four major wheat exporting countries for export and carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 867,000,000 bushels, an increase of 118,000,000 bushels, or almost 16 per cent over last year's corresponding total of 749,000,000 bushels, according to the May issue of the wheat review by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The gain was due, for the most part, to a rise in United States supplies to 505,000,000 bushels from 391,000,000 a year earlier. Supplies in Australia rose to 110,000,000 bushels from 92,000,000, but in Canada they fell to 172,000,000 bushels from 182,000,000, and in Argentina to 80,000,000 bushels from 84,000,000.

The outlook for the North American wheat crop is uncertain at this time. The May 1 crop report of the United States Department of Agriculture stated that U.S. crop prospects in general were less encouraging than on April 1. During May, however, weather and moisture conditions improved over much of the winter wheat belt and spring seeding made good progress except in the general area of the Red River Valley. Trade sources have suggested that the winter wheat crop might now go as high as 750,000,000 bushels.

In Canada, the official report on seeding intentions at April 30 indicated a small decline in wheat acreage, although some sources consider that the extremely backward season in parts of the west, particularly in Manitoba, may cause a greater decline in wheat acreage than farmers anticipated at April 30. Current crop conditions in the Prairie Provinces are extremely variable. Seeding is now making good progress in most areas but moisture supplies are deficient in many sections, particularly in Alberta, while flood and excessive moisture have held up operations over parts of Manitoba.

In the Argentine, moisture conditions are variable, but seeding is progressing rapidly. An over-all increase in grain acreage is anticipated in response to price incentives offered by the government. Trade circles consider that maximum wheat sowings will reach little more than 16,000,000 acres although the government's goal exceeds 17,000,000. No new information is available on the progress of seeding in Australia.

Crop conditions in Europe with the possible exception of Spain are reported to be favourable with France in particular anticipating a good wheat crop -- placed by the trade at as much as 328,000,000 bushels. Her prewar (1935-39) average production was 286,000,000 bushels. (4)

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on May 25 amounted to 111,912,000 bushels as compared with 117,532,000 a week earlier, and 95,630,000 on the corresponding date last year.

Farmers' marketings during the week amounted to 1,871,000 bushels as compared with 1,863,000 a year ago, while the export clearances totalled 4,188,000 bushels as compared with 4,948,000 last year. (Mem. 1)

FEED SITUATION IN CANADA Combined supplies of oats and barley in commercial positions were slightly higher on May 12 than at the same time last year, but farm stocks of these grains were at their lowest level in recent years, according to the coarse grains quarterly issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Visible supplies of oats this year amounted to 10,600,000 bushels as compared with 10,800,000 a year earlier, while barley supplies totalled 15,800,000 bushels compared with 13,800,000. Farm stocks of oats at the end of March totalled 124,800,000 bushels compared with 156,700,000 a year earlier, and barley stocks totalled 46,300,000 bushels as compared with 63,100,000.

Visible supplies of rye on May 12 at 6,600,000 bushels were greater by 700,000 bushels than a year ago and were significantly higher than the 1948 level of only 417,000 bushels. On the other hand, commercial flaxseed stocks declined sharply from a figure of 10,800,000 bushels in 1949 to 5,500,000 this year. The comparable figure in 1948 was 4,900,000 bushels.

Farm rye stocks of 4,000,000 bushels at March 31, were 3,700,000 bushels below a year ago, while flaxseed stocks at 600,000 bushels were 2,800,000 less than a year ago. (5)

STOCKS OF BUTTER AND CHEESE Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on June 1 this year amounted to 20,829,000 pounds as compared with 20,007,000 on May 1 and 13,203,000 pounds on the corresponding date last year. Cheddar cheese stocks totalled 22,453,000 pounds as compared with 22,852,000 on May 1, and 13,392,000 a year earlier.

Creamery butter stocks were as follows by cities, totals for June 1 last year being in brackets: Quebec, 376,000 (523,000) pounds; Montreal, 2,902,000 (4,949,000); Toronto, 4,751,000 (3,765,000); Winnipeg, 8,251,000 (1,694,000); Regina, 752,000 (296,000); Saskatoon, 298,000 (259,000); Edmonton, 2,041,000 (617,000); Calgary, 585,000 (274,000); Vancouver, 873,000 (826,000). (Mem. 2)

CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS IN APRIL Claims for unemployment insurance benefits in April totalled 90,123, showing a decrease of 32 per cent from the preceding month's total of 133,404, but an increase of 31 per cent over last year's April total of 68,979. Of the claims filed in April, 80,028 were initial and renewal claims as compared with 119,533 in March and 58,141 in April, 1949.

Ordinary claims on the live unemployment register numbered 209,905 in April as compared with 265,382 in March and 134,480 in April, 1949. Persons commencing receipt of benefit in April numbered 59,965 as compared with 91,646 in March. During April, \$11,353,188 was paid in respect of 4,670,731 days as against \$15,747,725 and 6,466,268 days in March and \$7,605,824 and 3,400,443 days in April last year.

Claims in Quebec rose in April to 30,656 from 21,333 in the corresponding month last year, in Ontario to 27,186 from 20,878, and in British Columbia to 10,183 from 8,822. In New Brunswick, claims totalled 5,399 (4,430 in April, 1949), Manitoba 5,136 (3,671), Nova Scotia 4,863 (4,923), Alberta 3,834 (3,260), Saskatchewan 1,716 (1,328), Newfoundland 788 (29), and Prince Edward Island 362 (305). (6)

OUTPUT OF CENTRAL ELECTRIC STATIONS LOWER IN APRIL

Production of electric energy by central electric stations was at a slightly lower level in April, the month's output being about three per cent below both March and April last year. Despite the decline in the month, the cumulative total for the first four months of this year was six per cent over the similar period of 1949.

The month's output amounted to 4,061,915,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 4,176,563,000 in the preceding month and 4,150,340,000 in April, 1949. During the four-month period, 16,081,724,000 kilowatt hours were produced as against 15,173,258,000 in the same months last year.

Consumption of primary power in April increased to 3,647,809,000 kilowatt hours from 3,517,466,000 a year earlier, and in the four months to 14,639,010,000 kilowatt hours from 13,638,232,000. Gross exports to the United States in April increased to 190,634,000 kilowatt hours from 179,869,000 a year ago, but in the four months were down to 646,035,000 kilowatt hours from 668,266,000 in the like period of 1949.

April production was as follows by provinces, totals for the same month last year being in brackets (figures in thousands): Prince Edward Island, 1,592 (1,392) kilowatt hours; Nova Scotia, 60,780 (57,130); New Brunswick, 56,582 (56,815); Quebec, 2,158,575 (2,326,480); Ontario, 1,102,364 (1,097,470); Manitoba, 211,032 (186,872); Saskatchewan, 70,072 (70,040); Alberta, 64,360 (59,700); British Columbia, 336,558 (294,441). (7)

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

June 1, 1950 May 25, 1950 May 4, 1950

(1935-39=100)

Investors' Price Index

(106 Common Stocks)	130.7	128.8	128.0
82 Industrials	126.5	124.4	123.0
16 Utilities	132.5	130.9	131.8
8 Banks	147.2	146.5	147.6

Mining Stock Price Index

(30 Stocks)	93.0	92.9	92.5
25 Golds	73.5	73.9	74.4
5 Base Metals	131.8	130.3	128.2

SALES OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES
AT POSTWAR MONTHLY PEAK IN APRIL

Sales of new motor vehicles, up sharply over last year from January to March, increased still further in April to reach a new postwar monthly peak and widen the margin of sales gain for the early months of the year. Passenger cars were responsible for most of the gain in the month as in the previous three months.

New vehicles sold in April totalled 36,406 as compared with 34,653 in March and 29,314 in April last year, an increase of 24 per cent in the year-ago comparison. Retail value for the month amounted to \$72,363,728 as against \$60,856,368 for last year's April sales, an advance of 19 per cent.

April sales brought the aggregate for the first four months of 1950 to 127,510 units with a retail value of \$254,443,573, up 56 per cent in number and 48 per cent in value over the corresponding period of 1949 when 81,507 new vehicles were sold for \$171,866,870.

New passenger car sales numbered 27,641 in April as compared with 20,764 a year earlier, an increase of 33 per cent, with the retail value at \$54,392,441 compared with \$42,523,598, showing a lesser rise of 28 per cent. In the four months, passenger cars sold totalled 99,108 as against 53,535 for January-April, 1949, and the aggregate retail value amounted to \$196,269,257 as against \$111,847,584, representing increases of 85 per cent in number and 75 per cent in value.

New truck sales in April were three per cent above April last year at 8,736 units and for the four months were up two per cent at 28,288 units. Bus sales were below 1949 figures both in April and the four months, with the cumulative figure at 114 as against 227 last year.

Sales of new passenger cars were higher in all provinces except Saskatchewan, while sales of trucks were lower only in Manitoba and British Columbia. Passenger car sales increases ranged from 17.4 per cent in Manitoba and 18.2 per cent in British Columbia to 52.0 per cent in the Maritimes and 52.8 per cent in Ontario. The drop in Saskatchewan was 20.6 per cent. Gains in truck sales ranged from 2.3 per cent in Ontario to 19.4 per cent in Alberta. The decline in Manitoba was 16 per cent, and in British Columbia, 23.7 per cent. (8)

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND
DEATHS LOWER IN MARCH

There were fewer births, marriages and deaths in Canada in March than in the same month last year, while in the first three months of this year, births and deaths were higher and marriages lower. Births in the month numbered 28,993 as compared with 29,401 in March, 1949, declines being recorded in all provinces except the Prairies and British Columbia. During the first quarter of the year, births amounted to 81,231, an increase of 1.9 per cent over last year's corresponding total of 79,717.

Marriages during March decreased to 4,610 from 4,955 a year earlier, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan recording the only gains. In the three-month period, there were 16,061 marriages as against 16,318 in the similar period of 1949, a decline of 1.6 per cent.

Deaths in March numbered 10,330 as compared with 11,123 a year ago, all provinces being higher except Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario. During the three months ending March, deaths advanced 2.5 per cent, totalling 29,958 as compared with 29,231 in the like period of 1949. (9)

STOCKS OF UNMANUFACTURED TOBACCO Stocks of unmanufactured tobacco on hand in Canada at the end of March this year rose to 193,563,000 pounds from 141,673,000 at the end of December, and 171,373,000 on the corresponding date last year. Inventories of Canadian tobacco rose to 190,677,000 pounds from 138,646,000 pounds at the end of December, and 168,222,000 last year. (10)

COMPANY ACQUISITIONS OF TOBACCO Company acquisitions of tobacco from the 1949 crop, on the green weight basis, amounted to 139,820,000 pounds, made up of 116,668,000 pounds of flue-cured, 15,452,000 pounds of burley, 3,706,000 pounds of cigar, 2,104,000 pounds of dark, and 1,890,000 pounds of pipe tobacco. Average prices paid to growers, by types, were as follows: flue-cured, 42.08 cents per pound; burley, 30.47 cents; cigar, 22.50 cents; dark, 23.29 cents; and pipe tobacco, 17.04 cents. (Mem. 3)

SHIPMENTS OF PRIMARY SHAPES UP SHARPLY IN MARCH Shipments of primary shapes by Canadian steel mills, exclusive of producers' interchange, totalled 358,956 net tons in March, showing a sharp rise over the preceding month's total of 198,347 tons. The March shipments included 31,309 tons of semi-finished shapes, 12,201 tons of structurals, 16,371 tons of plates, 30,294 tons of rails, 10,120 tons of tie plates and track material, 59,300 tons of hot rolled bars, 21,232 tons of pipes and tubes, 24,753 tons of wire rods, 67,061 tons of black sheets, 9,307 tons of galvanized sheets, 5,991 tons of castings, and 35,448 tons of other rolled products. The amount of producers' interchange was 111,798 tons in March against 114,248 tons in February. (11)

PRODUCERS' SALES OF PRODUCTS MADE FROM CANADIAN CLAYS IN FEBRUARY Producers' sales of products made from Canadian clays were lower in February this year, amounting to \$1,019,219 as compared with \$1,161,612 in the corresponding month last year, and compares with \$1,101,288 in January this year. During the first two months of this year, sales totalled \$2,120,507, down from last year's corresponding total of \$2,429,137.

Sales were as follows in February, totals for the same month last year being in brackets: building brick, \$618,521 (\$639,779); structural tile, \$205,108 (\$191,787); drain tile, \$28,800 (\$42,432); sewer pipe, \$93,629 (\$150,883); fireclay blocks and shapes, \$3,781 (\$23,492); pottery, \$16,535 (\$50,928); other clay products, \$52,845 (\$62,311). (12)

PASSENGER TRAFFIC ON URBAN AND INTERURBAN LINES IN FEBRUARY Total number of passengers carried by urban and interurban transit systems in February amounted to 131,029,657, showing a decrease of 3,308,577 or 2.5 per cent from the corresponding month last year. Urban lines showed a drop in patronage of 2,614,000 to 122,953,179, while interurban service was down from 8,771,059 to 8,076,478.

Despite the decline in patronage, revenues rose from \$10,833,278 to \$11,698,930, an advance of eight per cent. Urban receipts were up \$777,305 to \$8,885,009 in February, while interurban lines reported \$2,813,921 as against \$2,725,574 a year earlier.

Vehicle mileage run on urban service was 17,211,544 miles as compared with 17,081,133 in February last year, but interurban mileage eased slightly from 7,875,065 to 7,844,311 miles. (13)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Carloadings on Canadian railways during the holiday week ending May 27 continued heavy at 72,773 cars, up 6,616 cars or 10 per cent over the corresponding week last year. Eastern division loadings totalled 49,798 cars as compared with 45,159 a year earlier, while the western region had 22,975 cars as against 20,998. Cumulative total for both divisions for the 21 weeks ending May 27 amounted to 1,473,299 cars as compared with 1,517,072 in the like period of 1949. (14)

DOMESTIC ELECTRICITY SERVICE COSTS

Canadian domestic electricity service costs averaged slightly higher in 1949 than in the two previous years, but were below earlier years of the record, according to index numbers compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The all-Canada figure, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 85.67 as compared with 85.35 in 1948, 84.78 in 1947, and 103.25 in 1939.

Among the provinces there were slight increases over 1948 in the index numbers of costs in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario, but figures for the remaining provinces remained unchanged. All provincial indexes were well below 1939 levels.

The index for Nova Scotia rose to 78.27 from 76.93 in 1948, New Brunswick to 83.39 from 84.45, Quebec to 84.19 from 83.23, and Ontario to 81.65 from 81.62. Other provincial indexes were unchanged as follows: Prince Edward Island, 77.32; Manitoba, 97.71; Saskatchewan, 96.98; Alberta, 67.80; and British Columbia, 102.28. (15)

SYNTHETIC TEXTILES AND SILK INDUSTRY IN 1948

The synthetic textiles and silk industry of Canada operated at a substantially higher level in 1948 than in the preceding year. The gross value of production, amounting to \$107,142,000, rose sharply over the preceding year's total of \$84,870,000, and was four and one-half times higher than pre-war 1939.

Employment was furnished in 1948 to 16,097 persons, an advance of slightly more than nine per cent over 1947, while the payroll at \$30,739,000, rose almost 27 per cent during the year. The cost of materials used in the process of manufacture advanced to \$41,178,000 from \$32,660,000, or by more than 26 per cent.

Woven fabrics were produced to the extent of 94,692,000 yards valued at \$69,736,000, accounting for 65 per cent of the gross value of production. Fabric, woven entirely from continuous filament synthetic yarn, amounted to 63,241,000 yards valued at \$45,355,000, a substantial increase over 1947 when 55,915,000 yards were produced to the value of \$35,291,000. Fabrics of spun rayon (including spun rayon mixtures) were produced in much greater quantities in 1948, amounting to 23,158,000 yards as against 12,542,000.

Purchased yarn continued to be the leading material used by the industry and in 1948 was consumed in the following quantities: continuous filament viscose, acetate and benberg, 14,919,000 pounds valued at \$14,102,000; spun rayon (including spun rayon mixtures), 3,800,500 pounds valued at \$2,727,000; nylon, 405,000 pounds valued at \$967,000; and cotton, 3,588,000 pounds at \$2,862,000. Rayon staple fibre was used to the extent of 7,562,000 pounds valued at \$2,818,000, and other materials at \$3,985,000. (16)

BREAD AND OTHER BAKERY PRODUCTS
INDUSTRY IN 1948 AND 1949

Output of the bread and other bakery products industry in Canada increased in value both in 1949 and 1948 over the preceding years, but the increase was less in dollar terms in 1949 than in 1948, according to a preliminary estimate of principal statistics of the industry for 1949 and the detailed annual report for 1948 released together by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Value of the industry's production last year is estimated by the Bureau at \$202,648,500 as compared with \$187,933,333 for 1948. These figures compare again with \$165,749,588 for 1947. The 1949 estimate thus indicates an advance of \$14,715,167 in value over 1948 as against a rise of \$22,183,745 in 1948 over 1947. The output of the industry has risen in value each year since 1939, when it was placed at \$76,040,651.

The Bureau's preliminary compilation for 1949, prepared to meet the demand for early statistics, is based on returns received by May 15 from 342 establishments having a production of \$50,000 or over and accounting for nearly three-fourths of 1948 production. Figures for Newfoundland are not included.

Numbers of persons employed in the industry in 1949 is placed at 32,100, up slightly from 31,543 in 1948 and 31,501 in 1947. Salaries and wages totalled \$56,920,000 as against \$53,407,360 in 1948 and \$47,896,265 the previous year, while the cost of materials rose to \$101,302,100 in 1949 compared with \$94,383,761 in 1948 and \$80,084,523 in 1947. Consumption of hard wheat flour is estimated at 4,866,300 barrels in 1949, down from 4,966,690 barrels in 1948, and of soft wheat flour at 282,200 as compared with 288,434 barrels; but values of each were higher in 1949.

There were 2,859 establishments of all sizes classified in this industry in 1948 as compared with 2,942 in 1947. Quebec had the largest number at 1,052, followed by Ontario with 1,020 and British Columbia with 261. The industry ranked 15th in Canada in gross value of production in the year. Measured by value, its principal products were: bread, \$110,644,115; pies, cakes, cookies and pastries, \$55,965,702; buns, \$15,699,847; and doughnuts, \$3,280,618. (17 and Mem. 4)

CEMENT PRODUCTS INDUSTRY Continuing the gains of earlier years, production of manufactured cement products during 1948 reached a total of \$26,186,413, an increase of 38.3 per cent over the preceding year's value of \$18,934,224.

A total of 369 plants operated in the industry in 1948 as compared with 297 in 1947. Ontario accounted for 56 per cent of the total production, establishments in Quebec contributed 28 per cent, and works in British Columbia six per cent. Plants in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta accounted for the remaining 10 per cent. The average number of employees was 3,760 with salary and wage payments of \$6,899,349 compared with 3,151 persons earning \$5,323,910 in 1947.

Products included ready-mixed concrete worth \$7,117,954, concrete pipe of all kinds \$4,155,134, hollow building blocks of concrete \$8,096,364, cinder blocks \$1,733,158, artificial stone \$671,540, concrete bricks \$715,427, and other items, such as haydite blocks and slabs, laundry tubs, burial vaults, etc. (18)

FURNITURE INDUSTRY IN 1948

Gross value of products manufactured by the furniture industry of Canada in 1948 amounted to \$142,243,000, an advance of 13 per cent over the preceding year's total of \$126,199,000. There were 1,128 establishments in operation during the year giving employment to 25,893 persons who earned \$47,667,000 in salaries and wages as compared with 1,046 plants employing 24,781 workers receiving \$41,278,000 in 1947. (19)

EMPLOYEE GROUP LIFE INSURANCE AND SICKNESS BENEFIT PLANS

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has issued a reference paper containing descriptive notes of different types of employee group life insurance and sickness benefit plans in effect in a number of Canadian industries. The paper is based on information contained in 53 booklets which companies forwarded to the Bureau.

Of the companies under study, 28 have group life insurance plans for their employees. With the exception of one administered by a non-profit organization, the plans are part of a "package", which also provides for some kind of sickness benefit. Premiums cover both life insurance and sickness benefits. Administration and eligibility requirements for participation in the plan are the same as for the respective sickness benefit plans.

Under some sickness benefit plans, fixed weekly amounts are paid, but some non-profit plans provide for payments of full wages or a certain percentage thereof for a limited length of time. The period for which benefits are paid ranges in most cases from the second to the 13th week of illness, but in some cases, payments begin with the fourth or fifth day of illness. In case of accident, benefits start usually with the first day of illness.

In case of hospitalization, daily reimbursements are either fixed uniform amounts, or they are scaled according to earnings and contributions, while reimbursements for surgical fees are made in accordance with prepared schedules. (Ref. Paper 1)

1950 EDITION OF HANDBOOK "CANADA" RELEASED FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

Publication is announced of the 1950 edition of the Official Handbook CANADA. Initiated 20 years ago to supplement the field of the CANADA YEAR BOOK, it is especially designed for ready use by business men, teachers, students, lecturers, and all those interested in the progress of Canada. This convenient pocket-sized annual contains up-to-date official information on all phases of the country's economic organization.

Containing over 280 pages of text, more than 160 illustrations, including three pages of coloured reproduction, 100 statistical tables, as well as diagrams, charts and lithographed maps, this 20th edition is both attractive and readable.

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Price of the Canada Handbook is 25 cents. Applications for copies should be sent to the King's Printer, Ottawa, accompanied by a postal script or money order. (20)

RELEASED DURING THE WEEK -- (The numbers in this list correspond with those at the end of news items, indicating the report on which an item is based).

Reports and Bulletins

1. Price Movements, May (10 cents).
2. Department Store Sales and Stocks, April (10 cents).
3. Telegraphic Crop Report, Prairie Provinces (10 cents).
4. Wheat Review, May (10 cents).
5. Coarse Grains Quarterly, May (25 cents).
6. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, April (25 cents).
7. Central Electric Stations, April (10 cents).
8. Sales of New Motor Vehicles and Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, April (25 cents).
9. Births, Marriages and Deaths, March (10 cents).
10. Stocks and Consumption of Unmanufactured Tobacco, March (25 cents).
11. Primary Iron and Steel, March (25 cents).
12. Products Made from Canadian Clays, February (10 cents).
13. Transit Report, February (10 cents).
14. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
15. Index Numbers of Cost of Electricity for Domestic Service, 1949 (25 cents).
16. Synthetic Textiles and Silk Industry, 1948 (25 cents).
17. The Bread and Other Bakery Products Industry, 1948 (25 cents).
18. The Cement Products Industry, 1948 (25 cents).
19. The Furniture Industry, 1948 (25 cents).
20. Handbook Canada, 1950 (25 cents).
21. Cheques Cashed in Clearing Centres, April (10 cents).
22. Prepared Stock and Poultry Feeds Industry, 1948 (25 cents).
23. The Gypsum Mining Industry, 1948 (25 cents).
24. The Sash, Door and Planing Mills Industry, 1948 (25 cents).

Memoranda

1. Grain Statistics, Week Ended May 25, 1950 (10 cents).
2. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products in Nine Cities, June 1 (10 cents).
3. Tobacco Crop Report, 1949 (10 cents).
4. Preliminary Estimate of the Principal Statistics of the Bread and Other Bakery Products Industry, 1949 (10 cents).
5. Quinquennial Census of Charitable and Benevolent Institutions, 1949 and 1946 (75 cents).

Reference Papers

1. Employee Group Life Insurance and Sickness Benefit Plans (10 cents).
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