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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADA'S TOTAL IMPORTS FROM ALL COUNTRIES reached an all-time peak value in May, while the values of imports from the United States and from the United Kingdom alike were also at new peaks.

CANADA HAD A SMALL ADVERSE BALANCE of \$600,000 on merchandise account in May trade with all countries as against a credit balance of \$25,100,000 in May, 1949, and for the five months ending May an adverse balance of \$14,300,000 compared to a credit balance of \$22,200,000 last year. In May merchandise trade with the United States, there was an adverse balance of \$18,300,000 compared to \$49,100,000 a year ago, and for the five months this year the debit balance was down to \$79,200,000 from \$247,000,000 last year.

STARTS AND COMPLETIONS OF NEW DWELLING UNITS were both lower in April and the first four months this year than in the corresponding periods of 1949, but the number under construction was greater at the end of April than a year earlier.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES were three per cent higher for all Canada last month than in June last year, according to preliminary figures, gains being recorded for all main areas except the Maritime Provinces and Saskatchewan.

BOTH FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND FARM COSTS have been moving upward this year, according to the indexes compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Farm prices in May, however, were below May last year, while farm costs in April were above April last year.

ELECTRIC ENERGY PRODUCED BY CANADA'S CENTRAL ELECTRIC STATIONS in May amounted to 4,417,089,000 kilowatt hours, a new monthly peak. Production was higher than a year ago in all provinces, except Manitoba.

PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON, FERRO-ALLOYS AND STEEL INGOTS was lower in May than last year, while output of pig iron and ferro-alloys from January to May was also under 1949.

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS for the week ended July 1 reached a record for the week at 72,691 cars, an increase of 10,635 cars or 17.1 per cent over the same week last year.

MAY IMPORTS AT RECORD VALUES
BUT ONLY SMALL DEBIT BALANCE

Canada's total imports from all countries and imports both from the United States and the United Kingdom reached all-time monthly peak values during May.

Due to a substantial expansion in exports in the month, however, there was only a small overall trade deficit, while as a result of record exports to the United States the trade deficit with that country was sharply lower than a year earlier and below April this year.

Total imports from all countries in May rose sharply in value to \$290,200,000 from \$230,900,000 in April and \$250,500,000 in May last year. Besides attaining record levels from the United States and the United Kingdom, imports increased over May last year from all foreign geographic groups of countries and from all Commonwealth groups except the Oceania group. Domestic and foreign exports were valued in the month at \$289,600,000 as compared to \$209,700,000 in April and \$275,600,000 a year ago. The result was a small adverse balance of \$600,000 as against \$21,200,000 in the preceding month and a credit balance of \$25,100,000 in May, 1949.

For the five months ending May, the aggregate value of imports was \$1,170,600,000, up moderately from \$1,158,900,000 in the same period of 1949, while the total value of domestic exports amounted to \$1,141,400,000 as against \$1,169,600,000 and foreign exports aggregated \$14,900,000 compared to \$11,500,000. The five month's trade thus produced an aggregate adverse balance of \$14,300,000 this year as against a credit balance of \$22,200,000 last year.

May imports from the United States climbed sharply in value to \$195,500,000 from \$162,200,000 in April and \$172,100,000 in May last year to establish the new monthly high value. Previous peak figure was \$190,400,000 in October, 1947, which probably represents a somewhat larger volume of goods owing to the effects of devaluation last September on current purchasing value of the Canadian dollar across the border. Domestic exports in May to the United States -- as earlier announced -- also rose to a record value of \$175,300,000 from \$137,800,000 in April and \$121,200,000 in May a year ago, while foreign exports stood at \$1,900,000 as against \$1,500,000 and \$1,800,000. As a result, the adverse balance declined to \$18,300,000 as compared to \$22,900,000 for April and was sharply below last year's May debit of \$49,100,000.

During the five months ending May, Canada's imports from the United States were down slightly in value at \$816,200,000 compared to \$831,900,000, while domestic exports were substantially higher at \$727,100,000 as against \$577,000,000 and foreign exports increased to \$9,900,000 from \$8,000,000. The cumulative debit balance accordingly was reduced to \$79,200,000 compared to \$247,000,000 last year.

Purchases from the United Kingdom during May increased to \$36,300,000 from \$29,500,000 for both April and May last year to pass the previous top monthly figure of \$32,700,000 in March this year. Canadian domestic exports to the United Kingdom, recovering somewhat from their recent low levels, were valued at \$48,700,000 compared to \$25,800,000 in April and \$72,400,000 in May, 1949. Allowing for the small amount of foreign exports, the month's trade again yielded -- after two months of small debit balances -- a credit balance of \$12,500,000, which compares with \$43,400,000 last year. For the five months, imports from the United Kingdom were up in aggregate value to \$150,100,000 from \$136,300,000 the previous year, while domestic exports were down to \$183,600,000 from \$274,900,000, and the credit balance was reduced to \$34,600,000 from \$140,000,000.

Aggregate imports from Commonwealth countries other than the United Kingdom also advanced in May to \$24,245,000 compared to \$20,185,000 in the same month last year, raising the cumulative total over that of last year to \$73,636,000 compared to \$72,172,000 (excluding Newfoundland). Purchases from those in the Western Hemisphere rose in May to \$11,222,000 from \$7,548,000 a year earlier; from Commonwealth countries in Africa to \$2,692,000 from \$1,602,000; and from the Asiatic group to \$6,687,000 from \$5,853,000. On the other hand, imports from the Oceania group dropped to \$3,631,000 from \$5,180,000.

Total imports from Latin American countries increased in May to \$18,776,000 from \$16,914,000 a year ago, with larger increases for Brazil, Colombia and Mexico and imports from Venezuela slightly lower. Purchases from Europe moved up to \$8,635,000 compared to \$8,061,000, gains being recorded for Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland and decreases for Belgium and France. Imports from other foreign countries rose in value to \$6,599,000 compared to \$3,542,000, the larger increases being for Arabia, Japan, Netherlands Antilles and the Philippine Islands.

Imports of all of the nine main commodity groups, except fibres and textiles, were higher in value in May than in the corresponding 1949 month. The agricultural and vegetable products group rose to \$47,000,000 compared to \$32,500,000, most main items except alcoholic beverages being higher. The iron and iron products group, largest in value, which has been down in all previous months this year, increased to \$93,200,000 from \$86,500,000, gains for farm implements and machinery, business and printing machinery, other non-farm machinery, automobiles and automobile parts, and engines and boilers more than offsetting declines for iron ore, scrap, rolling-mill products, pipes, tubes and fittings, and mining and metallurgical machinery. Second in size, the non-metallic minerals group moved up to \$58,200,000 from \$49,000,000, mainly as the result of a large increase for coal and increases for crude petroleum and petroleum products.

The non-ferrous metals group increased to \$16,800,000 compared to \$13,900,000 last year; the chemicals group to \$15,100,000 from \$10,600,000; wood and paper, to \$8,500,000 from \$6,900,000; animals and animal products, to \$7,300,000 from \$5,700,000; and the miscellaneous group to \$14,100,000 from \$13,900,000. In contrast, the fibres and textiles group declined to \$29,900,000 from \$31,500,000, imports of raw wool, and of cotton, wool and artificial silk products being lower and of raw cotton, flax, hemp, jute and their products higher.

Imports from the United States in all commodity groups were higher in value in May than a year ago. Purchases of agricultural and vegetable products jumped from \$11,448,000 to \$17,552,000, while those in the iron and steel group rose from \$75,981,000 to \$77,097,000, in the non-metallic minerals group from \$32,403,000 to \$39,544,000, and in the chemicals group from \$9,388,000 to \$13,353,000.

In the case of imports from the United Kingdom, the iron and products group led in amount of increase with a rise from \$8,451,000 to a new peak of \$14,717,000, while small increases were also recorded for five other groups. The exceptions were the animals and animal products group and fibres and textiles, the latter dropping from \$12,159,000 to \$9,295,000. (1 and 2)

FIELD CROP PROSPECTS
BETTER THAN LAST YEAR

For Canada as a whole, the condition of all major field crops, with the single exception of sugar beets, was more favourable at June 30 this year than at the same date last year, according to the report on numerical condition of field crops at that date by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The numerical condition is expressed as a percentage of the long-time average yield per acre for each crop respectively in each of the provinces, except Newfoundland, for which data are not available.

For wheat, the numerical condition was placed at 83 per cent, well above last year's June 30 condition level of 72 per cent. Rye at 74 per cent was also well above last year, when the figure was 54 per cent. Oats at 89 per cent, barley at 85 per cent and flaxseed also at 85 per cent were eight, nine and five points respectively above the comparable 1949 figures, while mixed grains were 20 points higher at 96 per cent. The condition of many crops, including wheat and rye, however, was below 1948 levels, exceptions being oats and barley which were nine and seven points respectively higher than on the same date two years ago.

While more favourable than a year ago for the country as a whole, prospects varied considerably for different regions. Almost without exception, crops in the Maritimes showed condition ratings below those of last year, hay and clover especially being low in all three provinces due largely to winter-killing. In Ontario and Quebec, conditions were almost the reverse with ratings for nearly every crop higher than in 1949. In Manitoba, due partly to the lateness of the season, the major grain crop ratings were below last year's level, although hay and clover, alfalfa and pasture were well above. All crops in Saskatchewan had higher ratings without exception. Wheat and sugar beets excepted, the situation was similar in Alberta, although the general level of condition ratings was considerably below that of the other two Prairie Provinces. In British Columbia crop conditions showed relatively little variation from the same date last year.

Condition figures at June 30, the Bureau's report points out, do not necessarily reflect ultimate yields. Deviations from normal in weather factors, plant diseases or insect infestations between June 30 and harvest time may lead to outturns considerably different from those indicated by the June 30 numerical condition figures.

Following are the numerical condition figures for all Canada at June 30 for the major field crops, figures for June last year being in brackets: Fall wheat, 90 (85); spring wheat, 83 (72); all wheat, 83 (72); oats, 89 (81); barley, 85 (76); fall rye, 71 (51); spring rye, 81 (64); all rye, 74 (54); peas, 90 (81); beans, 91 (89); buckwheat, 94 (86); mixed grains, 96 (76); flaxseed, 85 (80); corn for husking, 92 (90); potatoes, 93 (89); turnips, etc., 91 (83); hay and clover, 81 (76); alfalfa, 82 (68); fodder corn, 94 (88); sugar beets, 87 (98); pasture, 89 (80).

In the Prairie Provinces, the condition of the principal cereal crops at June 30, 1950, was reported as follows, with the figures for June 30, 1949 within brackets: Manitoba.- Wheat, 99 (108); oats, 86 (95); barley, 86 (94); rye, 84 (90); flaxseed, 86 (91). Saskatchewan.- Wheat, 91 (70); oats, 93 (82); barley, 94 (74); rye, 72 (45); flaxseed, 86 (71). Alberta.- Wheat, 59 (61); oats, 75 (62); barley, 76 (61); rye, 71 (53); flaxseed, 75 (65). (3)

WORLD WHEAT SUPPLIES
HIGHER ON JUNE 1

Supplies of wheat remaining in the four major exporting countries -- United States, Canada, Australia and Argentina -- continue to be substantially above a year ago, and prospects for 1950 world wheat crops are generally bright, states the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in its monthly wheat review.

Estimated supplies remaining at June 1 this year in the four countries for export and carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 781,000,000 bushels as compared with 657,000,000 a year earlier, an increase of almost 20 per cent. Supplies this year (in million of bushels) were as follows, last year's figures being in brackets: United States, 470 (345); Canada, 144 (155); Australia, 98 (78); and Argentina, 69 (79).

World grain imports for 1949-50 are provisionally estimated by FAO at 32,200,000 metric tons -- some 5,000,000 below the 1948-49 import figure of 37,200,000 tons. Bread grain imports make up 22,400,000 tons of the 1949-50 total as against 27,900,000 tons in 1948-49, and coarse grain imports, 9,800,000 tons as against 9,300,000 in 1948-49.

Late trade reports relative to European wheat crops are very optimistic and outturns there this year may well exceed those of 1949. There are at present no indications of failure in any part of the continent. France is expected to have a sizeable exportable surplus, while good crops may be expected to reduce import requirements in other European countries. Information concerning U.S.S.R. is fragmentary but there appears to be no evidence to indicate that conditions are other than satisfactory. The Indian crop is apparently turning out better than last year.

The United States wheat crop, while below that of recent years, will still approach a billion bushels, well above the pre-war average. Rains have improved the Canadian outlook and if favourable conditions persist for the remainder of the season a good crop may be harvested. Weather in the Argentine has favoured seeding and the trade considers the wheat acreage will be significantly higher than last year. Australia, too, reports that another above-normal crop may be harvested if favourable conditions continue for the remainder of the season. (4)

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on June 29 amounted to 100,764,700 bushels as compared with 102,430,800 a week earlier, and 70,342,500 on the corresponding date last year. Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week amounted to 4,269,800 bushels, sharply above last year's corresponding total of 1,892,400 bushels. Cumulative total for the period August 1 - June 29 was 298,556,400 bushels as against 279,390,100 in the similar period of the preceding crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending June 29, totals for the same week last year being in brackets: oats, 1,217,800 (1,386,700) bushels; barley, 630,300 (677,100); rye, 87,400 (299,700); flaxseed, 11,400 (101,600).

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending June 29 amounted to 3,638,700 bushels as compared with 4,719,300 in the corresponding week last year, bringing the cumulative total for the crop year to date to 152,781,500 bushels as against 159,122,100 in the similar period of 1948-49. (Mem. 1)

CROP CONDITIONS IN THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES Almost ideal crop conditions prevail in Manitoba. Although late, stands are heavy and growth rapid. With some exceptions current crop conditions are favourable in Saskatchewan but more rain will be required to maintain present prospects. The situation improved in Alberta over the past week but moisture reserves are extremely low in many areas and crop outturns will depend upon the fall of timely rains from now on. Grasshoppers have caused some damage in parts of Saskatchewan despite a well-organized control campaign. To date little damage from this source has occurred in Manitoba and Alberta.

Crop conditions were ideal in Manitoba during the past week. Moisture reserves throughout the province are ample and warmer weather during the last few days caused a marked growth. Stands of most crops are heavy and while growth is still three weeks later than normal, especially in the southern and eastern sections, reports of first heading have come from Shellmouth and Swan River areas. Sugar beets are two-thirds thinned and early stands are promising, while later sown fields will develop satisfactorily if weather conditions continue favourable. Corn is now responding to the warmer weather. Pastures and hay crops are excellent and potatoes and gardens are doing well.

Generally favourable conditions have been maintained in Saskatchewan over the past week, although prospects remain poor to fair in the extreme southwest and in some regions of the Swift Current and Regina to Saskatoon areas. In most areas further rains are needed to advance heavy stands and to promote general progress. Wheat is up to an average height of 13 inches with coarse grains at 10 inches. Some two-thirds of the wheat crop is in shot blade with better than 10 per cent headed. The grasshopper infestation is heavy at points in south-central, south-western, central and west-central districts and, while extensive control measures have reduced potential damage, severe losses have occurred in some regions.

The crop situation in much of Alberta has been improved by scattered showers over the past week. Due to low moisture reserves, general rains, however, will be required to maintain conditions and to promote satisfactory development. Most of the wheat crop is in the shot blade and in the drier areas is heading rapidly on short straw. The grasshopper situation is well in hand but hail has occasioned severe local damage over several areas of the province. (5)

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF MARGARINE Production of margarine in Canada during June decreased to 6,116,000 pounds from 8,019,000 in the preceding month and 6,972,000 in the corresponding month last year. Despite the decline in the month, cumulative total for the first six months of this year rose to 49,038,000 pounds from 33,231,000 in the similar period of 1949. Stocks of margarine at the beginning of July amounted to 3,433,000 pounds, showing a slight rise over the June 1 total of 3,193,000 pounds. (Mem. 2)

PRODUCTION OF BUTTER AND CHEESE LOWER IN JUNE

Creamery butter production was three per cent lower in June and the first six months of this year than in the corresponding periods of 1949. The month's output declined to 40,083,000 pounds from 41,136,000 in June last year, and in the half year to 118,874,000 pounds from 123,001,000.

Cheddar cheese production was 12 per cent lower in June, amounting to 18,241,000 pounds as compared with 20,615,000 a year earlier. In the six-month period, 38,761,000 pounds were produced, showing a decline of 10 per cent from last year's corresponding total of 42,902,000 pounds.

Output of concentrated milk products stood at 56,385,000 pounds compared with 49,873,000 in June last year, an advance of 13 per cent. Despite the rise in the month, cumulative total for the six months ending June declined to 182,311,000 pounds from 187,955,000, or by three per cent. Ice cream production in June aggregated 3,192,000 gallons as against 3,593,000 a year ago, a decline of 11 per cent, and in the six months fell to 10,571,000 gallons from 11,640,000, or by nine per cent. (6)

STOCKS OF DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Stocks of creamery butter were higher on July 1, amounting to 49,435,000 pounds as compared with 32,127,000 on June 1 and 43,827,000 on the corresponding date last year. Cheese stocks totalled 38,730,000 pounds compared with 37,238,000 on June 1 and 32,424,000 a year earlier.

Stocks of evaporated whole milk held by or for manufacturers on July 1 amounted to 25,214,000 pounds as compared with 10,652,000 on June 1 and 46,997,000 on the same date last year, while holdings of skim milk powder were 6,562,000 pounds as against 5,382,000 on June 1 and 10,952,000 a year ago. Stocks of frozen cream on July 1 aggregated 463,000 pounds as compared with 122,000 on June 1 and 372,000 a year earlier, and of ice cream, 862,000 gallons compared with 729,000 on June 1.

July 1 stocks of eggs, shell and frozen, amounted to 850,000 cases as compared with 769,000 on June 1 and 854,000 on July 1, 1949. Holdings of poultry meat decreased to 11,662,000 pounds from 12,700,000 on June 1, but were above last year's July 1 figure of 6,544,000 pounds. (Mem. 3)

PROCESS CHEESE PRODUCTION DECREASED IN JUNE

Production of process cheese in June amounted to 2,484,000 pounds, showing a decline of three per cent from the 2,552,000 pounds produced in May, and was also three per cent lower than last year's June total of 2,570,000 pounds.

Stocks held by manufacturers increased 15 per cent, totalling 1,228,000 pounds as compared with 1,071,000 pounds held at the end of May.

FRUIT CROP ESTIMATES LOWER First estimates of Canada's 1950 fruit crops indicate that with the exception of grapes, most crops will be substantially smaller than those of a year ago, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The apple crop is currently estimated at 15,369,000 bushels, or 12 per cent less than the 1949 crop, while the pear crop is expected to be one-third smaller at 676,000 bushels. Plums and prunes will also be about one-third less at 481,000 bushels. The peach crop, estimated at 1,052,000 bushels, will be 48 per cent smaller than that of last season. While reductions are reported in both Ontario and British Columbia, the greatest decline occurred in the latter province, where the crop is practically a failure. The cherry crop also shows a sharp decline, being estimated at 301,000 bushels compared with 510,000.

A reduction of 18 per cent in the strawberry crop is looked for, with light crops reported in New Brunswick, Quebec and British Columbia. Loganberry prospects in British Columbia show little change since last season. The anticipated crop of 864,000 pounds is two per cent less than that of a year ago. A 78 per cent increase in the expected grape crop reflects the return of the Ontario crop to normal levels following the unusually light crop in 1949. The harvest this season is currently set at 64,820,000 pounds.

Recent information has resulted in a revision of the contracted acreages of the major processed vegetable crops. The revised data with 1949 acreages in brackets are: asparagus, 930 (850) acres; beans, 6,250 (5,010) acres; corn, 30,090 (63,050) acres; peas, 37,260 (33,120) acres; and tomatoes, 29,180 (39,240) acres. (Mem. 4)

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS OF FISH Cold storage holdings of fish in Canada, including Newfoundland, amounted to 40,089,000 pounds on July 1 as compared with 31,579,000 on June 1 and 46,009,000 on the corresponding date last year. Stocks on July 1 this year comprised 37,382,000 pounds frozen fresh and 2,707,000 pounds frozen smoked. (Mem. 5)

STOCKS OF MEAT AND LARD ON JULY 1 Stocks of meat held by packers, wholesale butchers and cold storage warehouses on July 1 amounted to 69,834,000 pounds as compared with 73,484,000 on June 1 and 65,347,000 on the corresponding date last year.

Holdings of frozen meat amounted to 40,645,000 pounds as compared with 43,460,000 on June 1 and 37,383,000 a year earlier. Stocks of fresh meat declined to 12,568,000 pounds from 14,729,000 on June 1, but were above last year's July 1 figure of 11,964,000 pounds. Stocks of cured meat rose to 16,621,000 pounds from 15,295,000 on June 1 and 16,000,000 on July 1, 1949.

July 1 stocks of lard amounted to 6,058,000 pounds as compared with 5,730,000 at the beginning of June and 4,335,000 on the same date last year. (Mem. 6)

FARM COSTS IN APRIL
ABOVE YEAR EARLIER

Overall cost of commodities and services used by Canadian farmers, advanced 4.6 per cent between January and April this year, while the cost of commodities and services exclusive of living costs moved up nearly seven per cent in the same interval, according to indexes compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The composite price index of commodities and services used by farmers, including farm living costs, increased 8.7 points to 196.6 for April from 187.9 for January, placing it 5.5 points above the April, 1949, standing of 191.1. Exclusive of farm living costs, the index rose to 209.9 for April from 196.3 for January, and compares with 202.9 in April last year. A seasonal increase of 11.7 per cent in farm wage rates, together with a 3.7 per cent rise in equipment and materials was mainly responsible for the increase.

With higher prices for food mainly accounting for the increase, and small advances for fuel, household equipment and miscellaneous items for both eastern and western Canada, the index of farm family living costs rose moderately from 175.3 for January to 176.7 for April. The latest index was 3.4 points above the April, 1949 index. The clothing sub-index receded almost one point from the January figure of 195.3, while health and maintenance remained unchanged at 147.2 in the five months.

Indexes for farm equipment and materials increased 6.8 points from 184.4 in January to 191.2 in April, the latter level comparing with 180.4 in April last year. With the exception of binder twine which remained unchanged, price indexes were higher in April than January this year and April, 1949, for farm machinery, building materials, gasoline, oil and grease, food, fertilizer, seed and hardware. (7)

INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES
OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Farm prices of agricultural products in Canada -- excluding Newfoundland -- continued during May the uninterrupted climb shown since the beginning of this year, but were slightly below May last year, according to index numbers compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Increased prices in May in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia outweighed declines in the other five provinces as compared with April, but were below those of a year earlier in each province except Ontario.

The index number for all-Canada, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 249.5 in May as compared with 248.9 for April and 250.3 in May last year. During the period January to May, the index has gained 10 points. The steady rise from 239.3 in January is largely attributable to rising livestock prices.

Indexes were as follows in May, figures for the same month last year being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 176.1 (195.5); Nova Scotia, 190.0 (210.5); New Brunswick, 207.4 (216.9); Quebec, 252.8 (256.2); Ontario, 258.9 (251.4); Manitoba, 250.8 (257.2); Saskatchewan, 241.1 (242.7); Alberta, 260.3 (262.3); British Columbia, 235.1 (245.5). (Mem. 7)

COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES FOR
EIGHT REGIONAL CENTRES

Cost-of-living indexes for the eight regional centres all moved higher during May, although variations were substantial. Sharp advances in food prices, mostly meats, were practically responsible for the changes. Indexes for other main groups generally moved narrowly. The Saint John indexes for clothing and homefurnishings and services rose moderately, reflecting the imposition of a four per cent provincial sales tax. The rental indexes continued nominal -- the results of the June survey will be incorporated in the July indexes.

Composite city index increases between May 1 and June 1 were as follows: Montreal, 2.8 to 169.0; Saint John, 2.4 to 161.8; Toronto, 1.5 to 162.1; Halifax, 0.9 to 156.4; Edmonton, 0.9 to 161.3; Winnipeg, 0.8 to 160.1; Vancouver, 0.8 to 167.0; and Saskatoon, 0.3 to 165.0. In the same interval the Dominion index moved up 1.4 to 164.1.

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

	<u>June 1, 1949</u>	<u>May 1, 1950</u> (August 1939=100)	<u>June 1, 1950</u>
Halifax	153.4	155.5	156.4
Saint John	157.2	159.4	161.8
Montreal	164.6	166.2	169.0
Toronto	156.1	160.6	162.1
Winnipeg	155.4	159.3	160.1
Saskatoon	162.5	164.7	165.0
Edmonton	155.8	160.4	161.3
Vancouver	162.0	166.2	167.0
Dominion	159.2	162.7	164.1

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
UP 12 PER CENT IN WEEK

Department store sales increased 12 per cent during the week ending July 1 as compared with the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures. All provinces shared in the rise except Alberta and British Columbia, where declines of two per cent were recorded. Quebec and Ontario, with increases of 18 per cent, showed the sharpest percentage advances, followed closely by Manitoba's 17 per cent gain. The rise in the Maritimes was three per cent, and in Saskatchewan two per cent.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES UP
THREE PER CENT IN MONTH

Department store sales rose three per cent in June over the corresponding month last year, according to preliminary figures. Gains were recorded in all sections of the country except Saskatchewan and the Maritime Provinces. Largest gain of nine per cent was shown in British Columbia, followed by Manitoba with an advance of five per cent, Alberta four per cent, Ontario three per cent, and Quebec two per cent. Sales in Saskatchewan were down five per cent, and the Maritimes four per cent.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLLS
AT MAY 1 SHOW UPWARD TREND

The trend of employment in the major non-agricultural industries was slightly upward at May 1, continuing the improvement shown a month earlier, according to reports received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from 21,360 establishments. Aggregate weekly salaries and wages rose somewhat more than employment.

Aggregate staffs of the reporting firms increased 0.4 per cent over April 1, gains being shown in all provinces except Nova Scotia and New Brunswick where seasonal losses in some industries more than offset moderate improvement in others. The trend was upward also in 17 of the cities for which data are available. All major groups except logging showed generally heightened activity, increases ranging from 0.2 per cent in both manufacturing and mining and 0.5 per cent in communications to 4.7 per cent in transportation and 4.9 per cent in construction. The seasonal loss in logging amounted to 32 per cent, exceeding the average decline at May 1 in the period since 1920.

Accompanying the small gain in employment was a rise of 0.7 per cent in total disbursements for weekly salaries and wages by the reporting employers. There were gains in payrolls in all provinces, except Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Average weekly earnings advanced to \$44.99 for the eight leading industries, up from \$44.88 at the first of April and \$43.19 at May 1 last year, and the highest per capita figure on record. By provinces, the per capita figures were higher in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia than at April 1, but lower in the remaining provinces. (8)

CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE BENEFITS IN MAY

Claims for unemployment insurance benefits in May totalled 83,082, showing a decline of eight per cent from the preceding month's total of 90,123, but an increase of 30 per cent over last year's May figure of 63,692. Of the claims filed in May this year, 71,619 were initial and renewal claims as compared with 80,028 in April and 52,675 in May, 1949.

Ordinary claims on the live unemployment register numbered 146,453 in May as compared with 209,905 in April and 95,832 a year ago. Persons commencing receipt of benefits numbered 56,868 compared with 59,965 in April. During May, \$9,586,658 was paid in respect of 4,004,678 days as against \$11,353,188 and 4,670,731 days in April and \$5,511,135 and 2,474,080 days in May last year.

Claims in Quebec rose in May to 28,100 from 19,576 in the corresponding month last year, and in Ontario to 23,044 from 22,795. In British Columbia, claims totalled 9,491 (7,696 in May, 1949), Manitoba 9,467 (3,043), Nova Scotia 4,508 (3,700), New Brunswick 3,707 (3,862), Alberta 2,825 (1,636), Saskatchewan 1,307 (1,100), Newfoundland 439 (59), and Prince Edward Island 194 (225). (9)

PRODUCTION AND DOMESTIC SALES
OF ASPHALT FLOOR TILES IN JUNE

Production of asphalt floor tiles in June amounted to 1,385,415 square feet as compared with 1,754,277 in the preceding month and 1,379,647 in the corresponding month last year. During the first six months of this year, 9,290,173 square feet were produced as against 7,530,095 in the similar period of 1949.

Domestic sales in the month increased to 1,373,481 square feet from 1,120,615 in May, but were below last year's June sales of 1,387,143 square feet. In the cumulative period, 7,676,357 square feet were sold against 8,080,405 in the like period of 1949. (Mem. 8)

HOUSING STARTS AND COMPLETIONS
LOWER IN APRIL AND FOUR MONTHS

Fewer new dwelling units were started and fewer completed in Canada during April and the first four months this year than in the corresponding periods of 1949, but the number under construction at the end of April was greater than a year earlier.

Completions in April are estimated at 5,397 units as compared to 7,251 in April last year, making a total of 23,270 completions for the four months ending April for all Canada as against 25,077 in the same period of 1949. Starts in the month numbered 7,422 as compared to 8,466 a year ago and in the four months totalled 16,437 compared to 16,682. At the end of April there were 50,775 units under construction, including 1,474 in Newfoundland, as against 48,080 a year earlier when Newfoundland was not covered in the survey. With Newfoundland figures excluded, there was an increase of 2.5 per cent for the nine other provinces in number under construction.

Completions in April were lower than a year ago in all regions except British Columbia, but in the four months were higher in Quebec and New Brunswick and lower in the other provinces. In Quebec the number completed in the four months increased to 8,341 from 6,778 last year, and in New Brunswick to 583 from 378. Completions in Ontario declined to 7,554 from 8,725; in Nova Scotia, to 839 from 1,085; Prince Edward Island, 99 (110); Manitoba, 925 (1,225); Saskatchewan, 465 (500); Alberta, 2,219 (3,023); and British Columbia, 2,059 (3,253). Completions in Newfoundland numbered 99.

Starts were higher in Quebec and the Maritimes in April and the four months and lower in both periods in the other provinces for which figures are available. For the four months starts in Quebec increased to 6,840 from 4,961 last year, and in the Maritimes to 687 from 512, increases for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island offsetting a decline for Nova Scotia. Starts in Ontario numbered 5,110 compared to 6,350; Manitoba, 409 (506); Saskatchewan, 173 (294); Alberta, 1,242 (1,780); British Columbia, 1,763 (2,459). Starts in Newfoundland are placed at 213 units.

Of the estimated total of 23,270 units completed from January to April, 17,094 were one-family detached dwellings, 3,798 apartments or flats and 2,306 two-family detached dwellings, while an estimated 28 per cent were for rental purposes. (10)

OUTPUT OF ELECTRIC ENERGY
AT RECORD LEVEL IN MAY

Production of electric energy by central electric stations in Canada reached the highest monthly total on record in May. The month's output was nine per cent above the preceding month and advanced three per cent over the previous record set in May, 1949. Total for the first five months of this year increased five per cent over the similar period of 1949. All provinces shared in the month's rise except Manitoba, while in the cumulative period production was higher in all.

The month's output amounted to 4,417,089,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 4,061,916,000 in April and 4,271,027,000 in May last year. In the five-month period, 20,498,814,000 kilowatt hours were produced against 19,444,285,000 in 1949.

May production was as follows by provinces, totals for the same month last year being in brackets (figures in thousands): Prince Edward Island, 1,629 (1,414) kilowatt hours; Nova Scotia, 63,830 (61,656); New Brunswick, 60,877 (59,138); Quebec, 2,488,625 (2,420,380); Ontario, 1,144,817 (1,113,751); Manitoba, 181,392 (187,657); Saskatchewan, 70,794 (70,698); Alberta, 66,232 (61,791); and British Columbia, 338,893 (294,542). (11)

BIRTHS IN APRIL DECLINE,
DEATHS RISE OVER LAST YEAR

There were fewer births in Canada during April than in the corresponding month last year, while the numbers of deaths and marriages were higher. In the four months ending April, the cumulative total of births was slightly below the 1949 period, marriages slightly above, while deaths increased 2.6 per cent.

Births in April numbered 28,941 compared with 30,819 in April last year, making a cumulative total for the four months of 110,172 as against 110,536 for January-April, 1949. There were increases in the month in Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and British Columbia, and decreases in the other provinces (excluding Newfoundland). Totals for the four months show increases for the same three provinces and Alberta.

Deaths in the month totalled 11,649 for the nine provinces as compared to 11,322 a year earlier, and for the four months aggregated 41,607 as against 40,553. Increases in April were recorded for Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta, while the four-month totals were also higher for these five provinces and for British Columbia.

Marriages in April advanced to 7,017 compared to 6,742, raising the four-month total slightly above last year at 23,078 as against 23,060. The April number was higher in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta. (12)

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES
LOWER IN 1949 THAN 1948

Total numbers of live births and of deaths in Canada during 1949 were above the previous year, but due to the rise in population both birth and death rates declined, according to preliminary figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics covering the fourth quarter of the year. The rate of natural increase remained unchanged from 1948.

The number of live births in 1949 is placed at 353,894, giving a birth rate of 26.9 per 1,000 population, as compared to 347,307 live births and a rate of 27.0 in 1948. Stillbirths totalled 7,028 as against 6,849, raising the rate to 19.9 as compared to 19.7 per 1,000 live births.

Deaths in the year numbered 121,115 compared to 119,384 in 1948, the general mortality rate declining to 9.2 from 9.3 the previous year. Deaths under one year totalled 15,158 compared to 15,164 resulting in a drop to 43 from 44 in the rate per 1,000 live births, while deaths under one month fell to 8,522 from 8,897 and the rate to 24 from 26 per 1,000 live births. The maternal death rate was also lower at 1.4 compared to 1.5 per 1,000 live births, with 504 compared to 510 maternal deaths.

The natural increase in 1949 is placed at 232,779 as compared to 227,923 persons in 1948, the rate of natural increase standing at 17.7 for both years. Marriages in the year totalled 121,378 as against 123,314 in the previous year, the marriage rate dropping to 9.2 from 9.6. (13)

PRODUCTION OF IRON AND
STEEL LOWER IN MAY

Production of pig iron, ferro-alloys and steel ingots and castings declined in May from the corresponding month last year. During the first five months of this year, output of pig iron and ferro-alloys moved lower, while steel ingots and castings increased.

Production of pig iron in the month amounted to 195,893 net tons as compared with 185,259 in the preceding month and 202,148 in May last year, bringing the cumulative total for the five-month period to 903,728 net tons as against 940,816 in the similar period of 1949.

May output of ferro-alloys totalled 12,707 net tons compared with 14,627 in April and 20,652 in the corresponding month last year, and in the five months declined to 64,104 net tons against 111,180 last year.

Production of steel ingots and castings amounted to 290,906 net tons as compared with 279,320 in April and 293,179 in May last year. Cumulative output for the five months ending May totalled 1,412,601 net tons, showing a slight increase over last year's corresponding total of 1,405,586 tons. (Mem. 9)

REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN JANUARY

Canadian production of refined petroleum products increased 17 per cent in January over the corresponding month last year, while receipts of crude were six per cent higher. The month's output amounted to 7,324,561 barrels as compared with 6,278,713 in January last year, while crude oil received in the month increased to 6,329,459 barrels from 5,991,307.

Of the crude petroleum received during January, 1,788,846 barrels came from Canadian sources of supply as compared with 1,275,112 a year earlier. Receipts of imported crude fell off in the month to 4,540,613 barrels from 4,716,195. (14)

PRODUCTION AND SALES OF STOVES
AND WARM AIR FURNACES IN MAY

Canadian manufacturers produced 45,662 stoves of all kinds in May as compared with 42,520 in the preceding month, and 4,305 warm air furnaces as against 4,003. Factory sales of stoves in the month amounted to 44,502 units of all types compared with 34,730, and the sales of furnaces totalled 3,753 compared with 3,674.

Among the stoves produced during the month were 17,520 electric ranges and rangottes; 6,574 coal, wood and sawdust cooking stoves; 2,751 coal, wood and sawdust heating stoves; 4,148 gas cooking stoves and ranges; 7,299 oil and gasoline stoves and heaters; and 5,031 fuel oil (distillate) cooking stoves and ranges. (Mem. 10)

PASSENGER TRAFFIC ON URBAN AND
INTERURBAN LINES IN MARCH

Total number of passengers carried by urban and interurban transit systems in March declined slightly from the same month last year, totalling 145,184,388 as compared with 148,586,650, a decline of 2.3 per cent or some 3,402,000 fares. Urban lines carried some 2,603,000 fewer fares than in March last year, while interurban service dropped nearly 799,400 to 8,796,940 passengers.

Despite the decline in patronage, total revenues due to widespread increases in fare tariffs rose from \$11,999,895 to \$12,897,575, up 7.5 per cent or \$897,680. Urban receipts advanced \$865,214, with the largest rise in Quebec, and all other provinces showed larger total revenues for all services. (15)

CANAL TRAFFIC IN MAY Canadian canal systems had a fairly active month during May -- the first full month of this season -- when a total of 3,609,322 tons of freight was locked through as compared with 3,587,191 tons in May last year, an advance of 22,131 tons. Peak tonnage for the month was 3,946,215 tons recorded in 1942. Traffic was heavier in May this year at the Canadian Sault, through the St. Lawrence system and on the Richelieu in comparison with last year's volume.

Total freight moving through the Sault Ste. Marie canals -- both Canadian and United States locks -- weighed 13,512,174 tons in May against 15,803,330 tons one year earlier. The decline was all on the American side with the Canadian locks checking 343,772 tons compared with 280,839 tons in May last year. Increases in total traffic for both systems were registered in wheat eastbound, up from 1,030,007 in May, 1949, to 1,203,856 tons, and in other grain, which rose 147,177 tons to 417,768 tons. Steel and coal were considerably heavier. Declines were shown in pulpwood and in iron ore eastbound, and in stone, oil and gasoline, and other freight upbound. Vessel passages numbered 2,546 for both systems as against 3,164 in May, 1949.

Traffic was lighter on the Welland Ship canal this May, standing at 1,872,166 tons compared with 2,071,952 tons last year as 782 vessels were recorded against 1,013. Passenger volume was down sharply. Movements of barley, corn, oats, flour, gasoline, sugar, paper, sand, coke and miscellaneous freight were heavier, but wheat, pulpwood, soft coal and iron ore were lighter.

Total freight on the St. Lawrence canals was up from 1,191,401 tons in May last year to 1,329,434 tons following a slow April. Vessel passages numbered 1,479 against 1,256 one year earlier. Gains were fairly general with barley, oats, corn, gasoline, petroleum, sugar, pulpwood, autos, paper, woodpulp, and coal recording good advances over a year earlier. (16)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS Carloadings on Canadian railways for the week ended July 1 reached a record for the week at 72,691 cars, an increase of 10,635 cars or 17.1 per cent over the same week last year. The holiday falling on Saturday had less effect on the current year's loadings, but daily activity has been considerably greater lately.

Western division volume was 23,516 cars during the week compared with 21,955 cars one year ago, up 7.1 per cent, while the eastern section reported 49,175 cars, an advance of 22.6 per cent above last year.

For the first six months of this year, a total of 1,867,135 cars of revenue freight were loaded at Canadian points, almost unchanged from the 1,875,707 cars moved in the same period of 1949. (17)

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS
ROSE NEARLY 13 PER CENT IN 1949

Registrations of motor vehicles of all kinds in Canada increased nearly 13 per cent in 1949 over 1948, the total rising by 257,514 from 2,034,943 in 1948 to 2,292,457, according to a preliminary summary of provincial figures by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This increase compares with a rise of about 195,000 or slightly under 11 per cent in 1948 over 1947.

Registrations of passenger automobiles, both new and renewals, numbered 1,655,312 (excluding taxi cabs), accounting for over 70 per cent of all registrations. Registrations of motor trucks totalled 544,943; motor cycles, 39,959; tractors, 21,552; motor buses, 7,696; and other motor vehicles, 5,955.

In relation to population, the number of motor vehicles registered in 1949 rose to one per 5.9 persons as against one to 6.4 persons in 1948; while the ratio for passenger cars alone rose to one to 8.1 as compared to 8.8 persons.

By provinces, registrations were: Newfoundland, 13,981; Prince Edward Island, 13,211; Nova Scotia, 86,041; New Brunswick, 67,280; Quebec, 384,733; Ontario, 969,368; Manitoba, 139,836; Saskatchewan, 185,027; Alberta, 200,428; British Columbia, 230,008. Figures for Newfoundland are included in the tabulation for the first time. Comparative figures for the other provinces show increases in all cases over 1948. (18)

HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES
HIGHER IN 1948

Estimated expenditures by all authorities on the construction, maintenance and administration of Canada's highway systems and rural roads, including bridges and ferries, continued to increase during 1948, reaching a record total of \$265,802,214, showing an advance of 14.3 per cent over the previous year's all-time high of \$232,514,295.

Provincial expenditures climbed from \$209,283,093 in 1947 to \$248,975,024 in 1948, while municipal expenditures fell from \$14,811,914 to \$10,097,131, and Dominion outlays from \$7,962,716 to \$6,447,655.

Expenditures on construction of roads, bridges and ferries totalled \$151,057,111 in 1948 as compared with \$124,863,912 in 1947, while outlays on maintenance amounted to \$102,614,957 compared with \$98,350,826, and on administration \$12,130,146 compared with \$9,299,557.

Total expenditures were higher in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and Alberta. Expenditures in Quebec rose to \$77,081,042 in 1948 from \$68,848,654 in 1947, Ontario to \$75,478,963 from \$68,064,750, British Columbia to \$25,776,802 from \$21,732,365, Nova Scotia to \$22,136,226 from \$14,951,526, New Brunswick to \$20,898,090 from \$15,552,320, Manitoba to \$10,455,720 from \$6,975,020, and Saskatchewan to \$9,148,331 from \$8,840,535. In Alberta, expenditures declined to \$18,328,920 from \$20,196,164, and in Prince Edward Island to \$2,157,554 from \$2,727,913. Expenditures in the Yukon and Northwest Territories were also lower, falling to \$4,236,289 from \$4,563,991.

Total highway mileage increased 1,775 miles during 1948, bringing the total for all classes of roads to 556,266 miles. During this period, the mileage of surfaced roads increased by 4,684 miles, from 145,809 to 150,493, the 1948 total comprising 129,659 gravel crushed stone surface, 10,780 bituminous surface, 7,512 bituminous pavement, 2,359 portland cement concrete, and 183 miles of other surfaces. Improved earth mileage was 148,298, and other earth 257,475 miles. (19)

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, May (10 cents).
2. Monthly Summary of Imports for Consumption, May (20 cents).
3. Condition of Field Crops at June 30 (10 cents).
4. The Wheat Review, June (25 cents).
5. Telegraphic Crop Report, Prairie Provinces (10 cents).
6. Dairy Factory Production, June (10 cents).
7. Price Index Numbers of Commodities and Services Used by Farmers, April (10 cents).
8. The Employment Situation at the Beginning of May, Together with Payrolls (25 cents).
9. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, May (25 cents).
10. New Residential Construction, January 1 to April 30 (25 cents).
11. Central Electric Stations, May (10 cents).
12. Births, Marriages and Deaths in Canada, April (10 cents).
13. Births, Marriages and Deaths in Canada, Fourth Quarter, 1949 (\$1.00 a year)
14. Refined Petroleum Products, January (25 cents).
15. Transit Report, March (10 cents).
16. Summary of Canal Traffic, May (10 cents).
17. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
18. Registrations of Motor Vehicles, Preliminary Report, 1949 (10 cents).
19. Highway Statistics, Canada, 1948 (25 cents).
20. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways of Canada, March (10 cents).
21. Survey of Higher Education, 1946-48 (60 cents).
22. Trade of Canada: Exports (Detailed), May (50 cents).

Memoranda

1. Grain Statistics - Week Ended June 29 - (10 cents).
 2. Margarine Statistics, June (10 cents).
 3. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, July 1 (10 cents).
 4. Fruit and Vegetable Report, Summary (10 cents).
 5. Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, July 1 (10 cents).
 6. Stocks of Meat, Lard and Tallow, July 1 (10 cents).
 7. Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, May (10 cents).
 8. Asphalt Floor Tiles, June (10 cents).
 9. Production of Pig Iron and Steel, May (10 cents).
 10. Stoves and Furnaces, May (10 cents).
 11. Financial Statistics of Municipal Governments, 1947 (25 cents).
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