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VALUE OF CANADA'S MERCHANDISE IMPORTS exceeded the value of total exports by the narrow margin of \$2,700,000 in July. In the seven months ending July, the deficit on foreign trade was \$7,700,000 compared with a credit of \$41,900,000 in the like period of 1949.

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TRADE BETWEEN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES produced a small credit balance of \$100,000 in July as compared with a debit balance of \$54,200,000 in July last year. In the seven months ending July the debit balance was cut sharply to \$87,500,000 from \$362,500,000 a year earlier.

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LABOUR INCOME IN CANADA reached a monthly peak figure of \$683,000,000 in June, showing an advance of 3.6 per cent over May, and an advance of 5.9 per cent over the same month last year. This raised the aggregate for the first six months of 1950 to \$3,862,000,000 from \$3,695,000,000 in the corresponding period of 1949.

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CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS filed in July totalled 92,179, a decrease of about 16 per cent from the June total of 62,048, but a rise of five per cent over the July, 1949 figure of 49,586.

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DOLLAR VOLUME OF WHOLESALE SALES rose 10 per cent in July over the same month last year, but fell four per cent from the preceding month.

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DEPARTMENT STORE SALES increased seven per cent during the week ending September 9 as compared with the corresponding week last year, all provinces sharing in the rise except Saskatchewan.

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CASH INCOME OF CANADIAN FARMERS from the sale of farm products during the first six months of this year -- excluding Newfoundland -- was estimated at \$870,516,000, down 18.6 per cent from the 1949 half-year estimate of \$1,069,405,000.

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TONNAGE OF FREIGHT PASSING THROUGH CANADIAN CANAL systems in July reached a new record total for the month at 3,628,783 tons, an increase of 18.8 per cent over July last year.

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CANADA'S POPULATION INCREASED 143,000 in the first six months of this year, bringing the total for the 10 provinces at July 1, 1950 to 13,871,000 as compared with 13,728,000 on January 1.

MERCHANDISE IMPORTS AND EXPORTS
IN JULY HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR

The value of Canada's merchandise imports exceeded the value of total exports by the narrow margin of \$2,700,000 in July. This small debit balance compares with credit balances of \$9,300,000 in June, and \$12,800,000 in July last year. During the first seven months of the year the deficit on foreign trade was \$7,700,000 compared with a credit of \$41,900,000 in the like period of 1949.

Trade between Canada and the United States produced a small credit balance of \$100,000 in July -- the first this year -- as compared with a debit balance of \$54,200,000 in July last year. In the seven months the debit balance was cut sharply to \$87,500,000 from \$362,500,000 a year earlier.

In trade with the United Kingdom in July the favourable balance fell to \$2,600,000, down from \$41,700,000 in the corresponding month last year, and in the seven-month period it fell to \$52,600,000 from \$215,800,000.

Imports from all countries in July were valued at \$259,500,000 as compared with \$230,900,000 in the corresponding month last year, and in the first seven months of the year the aggregate value was \$1,712,500,000 as compared with \$1,640,300,000 a year earlier. But the volume imported this year is slightly lower as average import prices have increased more than this rise of 4.4 per cent in value. Domestic and foreign exports, as announced earlier by the Bureau, were valued at \$256,700,000 in July as against \$243,700,000 in July last year, bringing the seven-month total to \$1,704,800,000 as against \$1,682,100,000.

Imports from the United States continued at a high level in July, being valued at \$170,600,000 as against \$160,300,000 a year ago -- but down to 65.7 per cent of all imports as against 69.4 per cent -- and in the seven-month period aggregated \$1,175,200,000 compared with \$1,169,000,000. An appreciable reduction in the volume of imports from the United States is indicated by this slight increase in value as average import prices since the devaluation of the Canadian dollar last September have been higher. Total exports to the United States in the month were valued at \$170,700,000 as against \$106,000,000, and in the seven-month period totalled \$1,087,700,000 as against \$806,600,000.

Merchandise imports from the United Kingdom in July rose to \$32,700,000 from \$29,400,000 a year earlier, and in the seven months were higher at \$219,900,000 as against \$192,600,000. The rise in the volume of imports from the United Kingdom has been more substantial than this rise in value as the figures of values are affected by the devaluation of sterling. Total exports, on the other hand, declined sharply to \$55,300,000 from \$71,100,000, and in the seven months were down to \$272,500,000 from \$408,500,000.

Merchandise imports from Commonwealth countries other than the United Kingdom in July were valued at \$22,000,000 as against \$15,200,000, and in the seven months aggregated \$119,000,000 compared with \$107,500,000. Purchases from foreign countries other than the United States in the month were valued at \$34,100,000 compared with \$26,000,000 last year, and in the seven months totalled \$198,400,000 compared with \$171,200,000.

Purchases from Latin American countries rose in the month to \$18,078,000 from \$16,771,000 a year ago, and were slightly higher in the cumulative period at \$108,131,000 as against \$103,222,000. Purchases were higher both in the month and seven-month period from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, and Peru, but lower from Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, and Venezuela.

Imports were higher from Europe in the month at \$8,345,000 as against \$6,262,000, but slightly lower in the seven-month period at \$49,995,000 as against \$50,964,000. There were increased purchases in both periods from Germany, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

Imports from other foreign countries rose sharply in the month to \$7,420,000 from \$2,881,000, and in the seven months to \$39,164,000 from \$15,902,000. Arabia, Japan, the Netherlands Antilles, and the Philippine Islands accounted for most of the gain.

Imports of eight of the nine main commodity groups were higher in July, the miscellaneous group alone showing a decline. In the seven months, advances were recorded in six of the nine groups, declines being shown in animals and animal products, fibres and textiles, and iron and products.

Imports of iron products -- the largest of the nine groups -- advanced in the month to \$84,158,000 from \$79,548,000, but in the seven months was slightly lower at \$563,599,000 against \$566,917,000. There were large gains in the month in rolling mill products, pipes, tubes and fittings, automobiles and parts, and engines and boilers, but declines in farm implements and machinery.

Non-metallic minerals as a group were imported in July to the value of \$53,300,000 compared with \$50,400,000, and in the seven months were valued at \$312,100,000 compared with \$298,700,000. There was an increase in the month in the value of coal imports, but declines in crude petroleum and petroleum products.

The agricultural and vegetable products group rose from \$29,100,000 in July last year to \$41,100,000, and in the seven-month period from \$205,300,000 to \$252,700,000. There were marked gains in the month in the value of fruits, vegetables, sugar and products, cocoa and chocolate, coffee, tea, vegetable oils and rubber.

The fibres and textiles group advanced from \$26,001,000 in July last year to \$26,927,000, but fell in the seven-month period from \$217,988,000 to \$194,183,000. Imports of raw cotton and wool were higher in the month, but cotton and wool products were lower.

The animal products group rose in the month from \$4,000,000 to \$4,700,000; wood, wood products and paper from \$6,500,000 to \$7,800,000; non-ferrous metals and products from \$11,400,000 to \$15,400,000; and chemicals and allied products from \$9,900,000 to \$12,600,000. The miscellaneous group was down slightly from \$14,000,000 to \$13,500,000. (1 and 2)

LABOUR INCOME AT NEW MONTHLY PEAK IN JUNE Labour income in Canada reached a monthly peak figure of \$683,000,000 in June, showing an advance of 3.6 per cent over May, and an increase of 5.9 per cent over the same month last year. This raised the aggregate for the first six months of 1950 to \$3,862,000,000 from \$3,695,000,000 in the corresponding period of 1949.

The principal cause of the latest increase in labour income was the upward movement in employment as reflected in the employment index which moved from 129.3 for June to 133.0 at July 1; it was also due, partly, to a slight rise in average weekly earnings. At 167.5, the Dominion cost-of-living index for July was 2.1 points higher than in June.

Labour income was higher than last year in each of the groups of industries both in June and the half-year period. The month's total for manufacturing advanced from \$216,000,000 a year ago to \$229,000,000, and in the six-month period from \$1,276,000,000 to \$1,316,000,000. In utilities, transportation, communication, storage and trade, the June figure was \$180,000,000 as compared with \$170,000,000, and in the six months stood at \$1,026,000,000 against \$978,000,000.

The finance and services group total for June was \$149,000,000 as against \$141,000,000 a year ago, and for the half year stood at \$871,000,000 compared with \$811,000,000. The June total for construction was \$52,000,000 compared with \$46,000,000, and for the six months amounted to \$254,000,000 compared with \$231,000,000.

Labour income in agriculture, logging, fishing, trapping and mining in June totalled \$50,000,000 as against \$51,000,000 a year earlier, and in the six-month period aggregated \$263,000,000 compared with \$275,000,000. Supplementary labour income for the month was \$23,000,000 compared with \$20,000,000, and in the six months totalled \$132,000,000 compared with \$119,000,000. (3)

WHOLESALE SALES IN JULY Dollar volume of wholesale sales rose 10 per cent in July over the same month last year, but fell four per cent from the preceding month. Cumulative sales for the first seven months of this year exceeded by two per cent the volume for the corresponding period of 1949.

The general unadjusted index of wholesale sales for the nine lines covered by this survey, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 313.5 for July, 285.5 for July, 1949, and 326.4 for June this year.

Gains were recorded for all regions of the country in July, and ranged from four per cent in Quebec to 10 per cent in Western Canada.

Among the trades, automotive equipment wholesalers registered the greatest gain over July last year, with dollar sales up 25 per cent. The increase in hardware sales was 14 per cent, clothing 14 per cent, dry goods 13 per cent, and groceries 13 per cent -- the largest gains these trades have recorded since the beginning of the year. After showing an increase for the first time this year in June, footwear wholesalers again recorded lower sales than in 1949, the July volume being five per cent below July last year.

Inventories of wholesalers at the end of July were valued nine per cent higher than at the same date a year ago. Tobacco and confectionery wholesalers reported stocks 26 per cent in excess of the inventory value at July 31, 1949, while no change was recorded in the value of stocks held by clothing wholesalers. Gains in the other trades ranged between five per cent and 11 per cent. (4)

CHAIN STORE SALES AND STOCKS IN JULY

Sales of grocery chain stores, women's clothing stores, shoe stores, and hardware stores showed increases in July over the corresponding month last year, while decreases were recorded for drug stores and variety stores. Stocks held by each of the six types of chains were higher in July than a year earlier except women's clothing stores.

The food store group had sales totalling \$41,079,000 as compared with \$36,686,000 in July last year, an increase of 12 per cent. Sales of variety stores declined slightly to \$11,587,000 from \$11,627,000.

Women's clothing stores increased 3.1 per cent, amounting to \$2,991,000 as compared with \$2,900,000, and shoe store sales advanced to \$2,718,000 from \$2,631,000, or by 3.3 per cent. Sales of drug stores were 1.4 per cent lower at \$2,173,000 as against \$2,203,000. Hardware stores recorded a sharp advance of 30.2 per cent, standing at \$1,135,000 against \$872,000. (5)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES UP SEVEN PER CENT IN WEEK

Department store sales increased seven per cent during the week ending September 9 as compared with the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures. All provinces shared in the rise except Saskatchewan where a decline of 17 per cent was recorded. British Columbia showed the highest percentage increase, with a gain of 22 per cent, followed by Quebec up 13 per cent, Manitoba nine per cent, the Maritimes seven per cent, Ontario four per cent, and Alberta two per cent.

CANADA'S POPULATION ROSE 143,000 IN FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR

Canada's population increased 143,000 in the first six months of this year, bringing the total for the 10 provinces at July 1, 1950 to 13,871,000 as compared with 13,728,000 on January 1, according to an estimate by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The increase in the previous half year was 149,000, making an estimated gain of 292,000 during the 12 months ending July 1 this year. On July 1 last year the estimated population was 13,579,000.

HOURLY EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING AT JULY 1

Average hourly earnings of hourly-rated wage-earners reported by leading Canadian manufacturing establishments advanced to 103.9 cents at July 1 from the June 1 figure of 103.5 cents, and 99.1 cents at July 1 last year. Average weekly wages of these wage-earners moved up to \$44.26 from \$43.47 at June 1, and \$41.42 at July 1 last year. The hours of work in the week of July 1 averaged 42.6 compared with 42.0 at June 1, and 41.8 a year earlier.

In durable manufactured goods, average hourly earnings rose to 112.0 cents from 111.4 at June 1, and 106.7 at July 1 last year. The hours of work averaged 42.9 as against 42.2 at June 1, and 42.4 a year ago, and the average weekly wage was \$48.05 as against \$47.01 at June 1, and \$45.24 at July 1, 1949.

In the non-durable goods industries, hourly earnings averaged 95.6 cents as compared with 95.5 at June 1, and 91.3 at July 1 last year. Average work-week was 42.2 hours as against 41.7 at June 1, and 41.2 a year ago, and average weekly earnings amounted to \$40.34 compared with \$39.82 at the first of June and \$37.62 at July 1, 1949. (6)

CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE BENEFITS IN JULY

Claims for unemployment insurance benefits filed in July totalled 52,179, a decrease of about 16 per cent from the June total of 62,048, but a rise of five per cent over the July, 1949 figure of 49,586. Ordinary claimants on the live unemployment register numbered 92,520 as against 109,433 in June, and 79,902 a year ago, while benefit payments aggregated \$4,726,614 as against \$6,378,926 in June and \$3,371,133 in July, 1949.

Claims were down from June in all provinces except Prince Edward Island, where a slight increase was shown. Compared with July last year, there were slight increases in all provinces except New Brunswick, Ontario and British Columbia.

Claims were as follows by provinces, totals for July last year being in brackets: Quebec, 17,943 (16,121); Ontario, 15,869 (16,187); British Columbia, 7,663 (8,073); Nova Scotia, 2,848 (2,783); Manitoba, 2,240 (1,861); New Brunswick, 2,223 (2,280); Alberta, 2,066 (1,304); Saskatchewan, 819 (732); Newfoundland, 287 (37); Prince Edward Island, 216 (200). (7)

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

	<u>Sept. 14, 1950</u>	<u>Sept. 7, 1950</u>	<u>Aug. 17, 1950</u>
	(1935-39=100)		
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
(106 Common Stocks)	142.7	137.1	136.5
82 Industrials	140.5	134.6	133.5
16 Utilities	139.7	134.1	134.9
8 Banks	147.8	147.2	146.3
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
(30 Stocks)	90.8	86.9	86.0
25 Golds	62.4	60.6	60.2
5 Base Metals	148.3	140.0	138.3

STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER
IN NINE CITIES OF CANADA

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on September 15 amounted to 49,590,000 pounds, showing a decline of seven per cent from last year's corresponding total of 52,259,000 pounds. Holdings were down in Quebec, Montreal, Toronto and Regina, but larger in each of the other five centres.

Holdings were as follows by cities on September 15, totals for the same week last year being in brackets (thousands omitted): Quebec, 3,582 (3,986) pounds; Montreal, 16,569 (19,358); Toronto, 6,550 (10,672); Winnipeg, 12,901 (10,438); Regina, 920 (1,094); Saskatoon, 472 (354); Edmonton, 5,071 (3,544); Calgary, 1,922 (1,397); Vancouver, 1,603 (1,416).

CROP CONDITIONS IN CANADA Rains over the past 10 days have delayed harvesting in Manitoba and Saskatchewan but ideal harvesting weather has been experienced in Alberta. While yields of cereals will be above average, the quality, particularly of wheat, will be generally poor. Extensive areas were affected by frost with the result that a large portion of the wheat crop will grade Number 5 or lower. While about half of the cutting or swathing has been completed in Manitoba, less than 10 per cent has been threshed. In Saskatchewan, up to 65 per cent of the crop has been cut to date. About 10 per cent has been threshed in southeastern Saskatchewan with 35 per cent threshed elsewhere in the province. Cutting and threshing are well advanced in southern Alberta. In the remainder of the province cutting should be finished by the end of the month while threshing has just commenced.

Harvest in Manitoba has been delayed by recent heavy rains. About half of the cereal crop has been cut or swathed to date with less than 10 per cent threshed. Fields are drying now, however, and harvest is again in full swing in many areas. Wheat and oats in some districts are yielding rather less than anticipated earlier in the season and grades run quite generally from Number 3 down. Barley is turning out quite well. Another week to 10 days of warm, frost-free weather will be required in southern and central areas to see the corn and sunflower crops through to maturity. Lifting of sugar beets started last week and the crop is promising. Pastures are excellent.

Adverse weather has held up harvesting in Saskatchewan for the past week or 10 days. About 65 per cent of the cutting has been completed except in the northern portion of the southeast part of the province. With the exception of this area 35 per cent of the grain has been threshed. Frosts have reduced yields and caused a drastic lowering of grades of wheat in most parts of the province.

In contrast to the adverse weather conditions experienced in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, weather in Alberta has been ideal and harvest is progressing satisfactorily. In the south, both cutting and threshing are well advanced. In most other areas cutting should be completed by the end of the month. Threshing has started but is not yet general. Frost damage was widespread but variable and, while lowered quality is evident in many areas, some fairly good grades are anticipated. Satisfactory yields of alfalfa and bromo seed are indicated but other forage seed yields are light. Supplies of fodder and feed grains are said to be ample in most districts. Light to heavy hail storms have occurred in scattered areas of the province during the past month.

Harvesting throughout most of southern Ontario has been at a complete standstill during the past week due to wet weather. Accompanying cool weather, however, has checked the growth of grain in stocks much more effectively than after earlier rains this summer. While rains delayed harvesting operations and the planting of fall wheat, they were of material benefit to pastures and new seedings, most of which are in excellent condition. Silo filling is commencing in areas where the ground will permit the use of harvesting equipment. Grain corn is generally good although some of it lacks maturity. Tomatoes and fruit crops have been damaged by the excessive rain, with peaches showing considerable rot. Potatoes are generally good but some blight is evident in most parts of the province. In northern Ontario much of the grain is in the field with some still to be cut. While yields of spring grains throughout the province are above average, harvesting operations have been repeatedly delayed by long periods of wet weather, with consequent deterioration in quality of both grain and straw.

Harvesting is well underway in Quebec and in some areas it has been completed. Many reports indicate better-than-average yields of high quality grains. Pastures and second growth of meadows appear excellent except in the Gaspé Peninsula, lower St. Lawrence and Saguenay districts where conditions are only fair owing to lack of moisture. Frosts in several districts have damaged or killed most of the tender crops. Reports on potatoes, fodder corn, husking corn, sugar beets and flue-cured tobacco are generally good and garden crops satisfactory.

The weather has been fine and warm in British Columbia for the past three weeks and has favoured the harvesting of grain and seed crops. Threshing is in full swing in the southern sections of the province and elsewhere harvesting is now general. In the interior, good crops are reported on the irrigated lands but in the non-irrigated areas yields are poor. The apple crop in the southern Okanagan Valley is sizing well but lacks colour. The crop will be heavy in this district but in the northern sections of the Valley the fruit is small as a result of winter injury. Range grass in the interior sections is dry even at high altitudes and some cattle have already been moved to winter pastures. Much hand feeding will be necessary.

In Prince Edward Island the weather during the past two weeks has been favourable for harvesting of grains but in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick high winds and heavy rains caused some lowering of yields and quality. Pastures, as a result of the heavy rains, are generally excellent throughout the three provinces. Digging of potatoes is now under way but yields have been affected in varying degrees by late blight. Losses from this cause in the commercial producing areas of New Brunswick, however, are reported to be negligible. Harvesting of the Nova Scotia apple crop has commenced but the fruit is colouring slowly. Yields this year have been reduced by high winds and scab. (8)

STOCKS AND MOVEMENTS OF WHEAT

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending September 7 were sharply higher than in the corresponding week last year, while overseas export clearances were moderately below last year's volume. Visible supplies on September 7 also declined.

Deliveries during the week ending September 7 amounted to 17,079,804 bushels as compared with 5,104,625 a year earlier, and the export clearances totalled 2,332,115 bushels as against 2,642,678. Stocks in store or in transit in North America on September 7 amounted to 98,673,259 bushels compared with 106,668,403.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending September 7, totals for the same week last year being in brackets: oats, 1,738,779 (2,069,432) bushels; barley, 3,083,831 (2,754,884); rye, 1,372,997 (55,415); flaxseed, 9,193 (60,224). (Mem. 1)

STOCKS OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Stocks of fruit, frozen and in preservatives, amounted to 33,106,000 pounds on September 1 as compared with 31,328,000 on August 1 and 33,282,000 on the corresponding date last year. Holdings of vegetables, frozen and in brine, increased to 13,215,000 pounds from 10,355,000 on August 1 and 9,983,000 on September 1 last year. (Mem. 2)

FARM CASH INCOME IN FIRST
SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR

Cash income of Canadian farmers from the sale of farm products during the first six months of this year -- excluding Newfoundland -- was estimated at \$870,516,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This was 18.6 per cent below the half-year estimate of \$1,069,405,000 in 1949, and 5.9 per cent lower than the revised figure of \$925,008,000 for the first six months of 1948.

In addition to the above receipts, supplementary payments amounting to more than \$13,000,000 were paid out during the first six months of the year under the provisions of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, to farmers in the drought stricken areas of the Prairie Provinces. This figure compares with more than \$9,000,000 and \$15,000,000 paid out during the respective periods of 1949 and 1948.

The substantial decline in farm cash income in 1950 is largely attributable to the fact that while \$213,300,000 were paid out to Prairie farmers in the form of participation and equalization payments during the first half of 1949, only \$6,300,000 were disbursed during the January-June period of this year. The payments in 1949 and 1950 were for the most part, in the form of equalization payments made on wheat received by western farmers during the period August 1, 1945 to March 31, 1949 and came as a result of a government announcement early in 1949 that the initial payment to western producers for wheat at the Lakhed would be raised 20 cents per bushel and made retroactive to August 1, 1945.

Cash income from the sale of wheat in 1950 was up as a result of both higher initial prices and increased marketings. On the other hand, reduced marketings and the receipt of initial prices only during the first half of this year have resulted in a coarse grains income below that of the same period a year ago.

Higher average prices for all livestock except hogs and increased marketings of all classes except sheep and lambs during the first half of this year have produced a cash income from this source of \$589,400,000, an increase of 10.4 per cent over the 1949 figure of \$52,800,000. This gain is due largely to an increase of approximately \$55,000,000 from the sale of cattle and calves.

Income from the sale of dairy products, estimated at \$153,700,000, was seven per cent below the corresponding 1949 figure of \$165,200,000. A decline of 13 per cent in the cash income from the sale of eggs to the end of June resulted from reduced prices more than offsetting an increase in marketings.

The reduction in the amount of money paid to Prairie farmers in the form of participation and equalization payments is reflected in the sharp drop in farm cash income received in this area. In the case of Saskatchewan, this drop in income amounted to nearly 50 per cent, while in Manitoba and Alberta it came to approximately 44 and 33 per cent, respectively. In the other provinces, the changes were much less significant, varying from almost no change in Nova Scotia to an increase of eight per cent in Prince Edward Island.

Provincially, Ontario had the largest total of \$324,224,000 as compared with \$311,172,000 in 1949, followed by Quebec with \$159,022,000 compared with \$157,437,000, Alberta \$139,463,000 compared with \$207,988,000, and Saskatchewan \$114,322,000 compared with \$221,240,000.

Manitoba was next in order with \$51,055,000 compared with \$90,981,000, British Columbia \$35,836,000 compared with \$35,103,000, New Brunswick \$20,456,000 (\$20,012,000), Nova Scotia \$16,636,000 (\$16,659,000), and Prince Edward Island \$9,502,000 (\$8,813,000). (9)

STARTS AND COMPLETIONS OF DWELLING UNITS IN FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR

Starts on the construction of new dwelling units in the first six months of this year were increased over the same period of 1949, gains in both May and June accounting for the rise. On the other hand, completions were lower in the month and half year, resulting in a substantial increase in the carryover of dwelling units in various stages of construction at the end of the period.

The number of dwelling units on which construction was started in the half year was 42,149 as compared with 40,199 in the similar period of 1949. Completions totalled 35,968 as against 39,726, and the carryover of uncompleted units was 63,634 against 56,787. In June, starts were up to 12,065 units from 10,528, but completions fell to 6,527 units from 7,275. Figures for Newfoundland are included in the 1950 all-Canada totals, but are not available for 1949.

Starts in Quebec rose in the six-month period to 14,980 units from 11,528 a year earlier, but the total for Ontario fell to 13,221 from 14,788. Alberta's total rose to 4,491 units from 4,077, but that for British Columbia moved lower to 3,815 from 4,431. In Manitoba there were 1,528 starts as against 2,096, New Brunswick 1,278 against 789, Saskatchewan 1,201 against 1,337, and Prince Edward Island 208 against 67. Newfoundland's total for the half year was 389.

Completions in the six months in Ontario were 12,249 units as compared with 14,059, Quebec 12,020 compared with 10,756, Alberta 3,390 against 4,359, British Columbia 3,350 against 4,905, Manitoba 1,461 against 2,194, Nova Scotia 1,172 against 1,648, Saskatchewan 768 against 1,140, New Brunswick 972 against 553, and Prince Edward Island 214 against 112. Completions in Newfoundland totalled 372 units.

The backlog of uncompleted dwelling units at the end of June was as follows by provinces, totals for the same date last year being in brackets: Ontario, 23,320 (21,740) units; Quebec, 17,193 (14,610); British Columbia, 7,566 (7,254); Alberta, 5,407 (4,975); Manitoba, 2,837 (2,511); Nova Scotia, 2,201 (2,186); Saskatchewan, 1,860 (2,049); New Brunswick, 1,573 (1,304); Prince Edward Island, 300 (158); Newfoundland, 1,377 (-). (10)

CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION OF RUBBER

Consumption of rubber in July amounted to 14,273,300 pounds as compared with 15,386,800 in June. Natural rubber consumption declined to 8,122,400 pounds from 9,052,700, synthetic to 3,770,400 pounds from 4,069,400, and reclaim to 2,380,600 pounds from 2,764,800. Domestic production of synthetic rubber moved higher in July, totalling 10,600,500 pounds as compared with 10,055,400 in the preceding month, while reclaim fell sharply to 432,300 pounds from 898,200. (11)

PRODUCTION AND DOMESTIC SALES
OF ASPHALT FLOOR TILES

Production and domestic sales of asphalt floor tiles both were lower in August than in the corresponding month last year, while in the first eight months of this year, output was higher but sales declined.

The month's output amounted to 1,157,978 square feet as compared with 1,027,427 in July and 1,528,526 in August last year, bringing the cumulative total for the eight-month period to 11,475,578 square feet as against 10,424,335 in the same months last year.

Domestic sales totalled 1,427,553 square feet in August, showing an increase over the preceding month's figure of 1,198,775, but a decline from last year's August sales of 1,470,764. During the eight months ending August, 10,302,685 square feet were sold against 11,502,615 a year earlier. (Mon. 3)

PRODUCTION AND DOMESTIC SALES
OF RIGID INSULATING BOARD

Production and domestic sales of rigid insulating board advanced in August over the corresponding month last year, while in the first eight months of this year, production and sales were lower.

The month's output amounted to 21,137,927 square feet compared with 19,394,797 in July and 13,899,090 in August last year. During the eight months ending August, 138,906,327 square feet were produced as against 153,025,773 in the similar period of 1949.

Domestic sales in August, at 22,147,720 square feet, were 1,713,794 over the July level and 3,546,450 above August, 1949. In the cumulative period, sales totalled 139,343,845 square feet against 148,702,017 in the like 1949 period. (Mon. 4)

RAILWAY REVENUES AND
EXPENSES IN JUNE

Operating revenues of Canadian railways rose to a new peak for June, at \$81,053,717, a gain of \$9,947,399 or 14 per cent over the same month last year when revenues totalled \$71,106,318. Increased freight rates and heavier traffic were mainly responsible for the increase.

Freight revenues rose by \$10,039,270 or 18.5 per cent over June, 1949, to a record for the month of \$67,418,726 with revenue ton miles up 11.2 per cent. Passenger receipts fell 10.4 per cent to \$7,370,242 compared with \$8,224,775 one year earlier.

Operating expenses were a near record for the period at \$69,983,559, up 2.1 per cent or \$1,457,765 from June, 1949. Maintenance of way and structures expenses rose 8.8 per cent or \$1,303,123 to \$16,112,855, while maintenance of equipment eased fractionally to \$17,607,319. Transportation charges took \$31,891,009 or 1.2 per cent more than the \$31,522,652 a year ago. General expenses were reduced five per cent to \$3,531,258.

Net operating revenues of \$11,070,158 increased \$8,489,634 over June last year. Tax accruals increased nearly \$291,900, hire of equipment \$113,916, while joint rents declined \$31,962 leaving operating income of \$8,372,315, a considerable gain over the \$92,623 in June last year.

For the half year operating income was \$18,515,927 compared with a deficit of \$1,401,527 at the end of June, 1949, but was sharply below the wartime peak of \$69,705,000 shown for the first half of 1943. (12)

CANAL TRAFFIC SETS RECORD FOR JULY

Tonnage of freight passing through Canadian canal systems during July attained a new record total for the month at 3,628,783 tons, an advance of 573,822 tons or 18.8 per cent over the 3,054,961 tons for July last year, and compares with the previous high of 3,436,263 tons in 1943. Soft coal, corn, and petroleum led the advance in volume.

Total tonnage locked through the Sault Ste. Marie canals -- Canadian and United States locks -- was 16,196,586 tons in July, up 611,265 tons or nearly four per cent over July last year. Wheat declined from 628,782 to 379,601 tons eastbound, but steel, stone and other freight improved. Downbound iron ore shipments were fairly well maintained at 13,049,319 tons as against 13,128,230 one year earlier. Westbound soft coal more than doubled from 840,981 to 1,765,091 tons, while oil and gasoline shipments were lighter. Traffic through the Canadian lock in July was 284,054 tons compared with 379,933 in July, 1949.

Welland Ship canal freight traffic amounted to 1,850,703 tons, a gain of 197,109 tons or nearly 12 per cent over a year earlier. Corn advanced from 16,287 to 121,453 tons, wheat from 328,128 to 336,954 tons, oats doubled at 13,467 tons, while flour, petroleum, sugar, paper, woodpulp, sand and other freight improved. Soft coal rose from 318,838 to 569,407 tons, but iron ore was down sharply from 342,044 to 173,637 tons, and no rye moved as against 24,378 tons a year ago.

Greatly augmented traffic was reported on the St. Lawrence canals during July, with 1,428,693 tons of freight as against 955,246 tons in July, 1949, an increase of 49.6 per cent. Large advances were shown in the movement of corn, up from 8,915 to 35,176 tons, oats from 1,216 to 10,817 tons, wheat 347,514 against 207,901 tons, petroleum, 70,460 tons heavier at 163,413 tons, pulpwood, paper, woodpulp, hard coal and in soft coal which jumped from 155,749 to 258,965 tons. Gasoline, autos, sand and other freight also increased over July, 1949 volume. (13)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Cars loaded with revenue freight during the week ended September 9 totalled 78,023, up 4,483 cars or 6.1 per cent over the same week last year, to establish a new peak for the period. The week of September 2, following the resumption of service on August 31, showed 47,641 cars loaded -- a very heavy volume for a three-day period. (14)

OUTPUT OF STEEL INGOTS UP
14 PER CENT IN AUGUST

Canadian production of steel ingots moved up 14 per cent in August to 275,100 tons as compared with 241,400 in the corresponding month last year. This raised the cumulative total for the first eight months of the year to 2,184,100 tons from 2,092,400 a year earlier, a gain of 4.4 per cent.

The daily average output in August rose to 8,874 tons from 7,788 in August last year, and in the eight-month period it advanced to 8,988 tons from 8,607 a year earlier. (15)

OUTPUT OF COPPER AND
NICKEL LOWER IN JULY

There were slight declines in the production of both copper and nickel in July, the former amounting to 21,236 tons as compared with 21,494 a year ago, and the latter, 9,342 tons as against 9,673. In the seven months ending July, 152,681 tons of copper were produced compared with 150,425, while nickel output aggregated 71,364 tons compared with 77,711. (16)

PRODUCTION AND IMPORTS
OF COAL IN AUGUST

Production of coal in August amounted to 1,051,150 tons, showing a decline of 18 per cent from the August, 1949 output of 1,278,136 tons, according to preliminary figures. Cumulative total for the first eight months of this year was 11,751,759 tons, about two per cent above the 11,536,501 tons produced in the similar period of 1949.

Production in Alberta in August declined to 485,000 tons from 653,810 a year ago, Nova Scotia to 311,000 tons from 359,989, British Columbia to 127,500 tons from 141,813, and New Brunswick to 45,000 tons from 51,003. Output in Saskatchewan rose to 82,000 tons against 70,891, and in the Yukon to 650 tons against 630 tons.

Imports of coal advanced both in the month and cumulative period, the month's total rising to 3,053,294 tons from 2,102,574 in August last year, and in the eight months ending August to 16,395,456 tons from 14,492,035 in the like period of 1949. (17)

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF CEMENT
HIGHER IN JULY AND SEVEN MONTHS

Production and shipments to customers by Canadian manufacturers of Portland cement were higher in July and the first seven months of this year than in the corresponding periods of 1949. The month's shipments totalled 1,679,889 barrels as compared with 1,520,861 in July, 1949, bringing the cumulative total for the seven months to 9,721,747 barrels as against 9,083,288 in the like 1949 period.

July output amounted to 1,595,381 barrels compared with 1,416,876 a year ago. During the seven months ending July, 9,408,543 barrels were produced against 9,050,518 in the similar period of 1949. (18)

VALUE OF INVENTORIES HELD
BY CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS

The value of inventories held by Canadian manufacturing industries moved up slightly in July, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics index number, on the base 1947=100, rising to 133.4 from 131.6 in June, and 131.4 in July last year.

The index number for the consumer's goods group stood at 137.6 as compared with 138.0 in June and 130.2 a year ago, while that for capital goods was 102.3 for both June and July this year and 105.3 for July last year.

This year's July index for producer's materials was 128.8 as against 124.4 in June, and 143.2 a year ago, and the construction materials figure was 170.2 against 152.1 in June, and 176.6 in July last year. (19)

PACK OF CANNED STRAWBERRIES
LARGER THIS YEAR

The pack of canned strawberries was larger this year than last, according to preliminary totals released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The year's pack amounted to 292,404 dozen cans compared with 259,768, and the net weight of contents totalled 3,500,150 pounds against 3,006,723. The amount quick frozen was about doubled at 7,778,483 pounds as against 3,943,053, and the amount processed in SO₂ was 1,156,308 reclaimable pounds against 1,342,848. (Mem.5)

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, July (10 cents).
2. Monthly Summary of Imports for Consumption, July (20 cents).
3. Estimates of Labour Income, June (10 cents).
4. Wholesale Trade, July (10 cents).
5. Chain Store Sales and Stocks, July (10 cents).
6. Man-Hours and Hourly Earnings Reported at the First of July (25 cents).
7. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, July (25 cents).
8. Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada (10 cents).
9. Farm Cash Income, April-June (25 cents).
10. New Residential Construction, January 1 to June 30 (25 cents).
11. Consumption, Production & Inventories of Rubber, July (25 cents).
12. Operating, Revenues, Expenses & Statistics of Railways, June (10 cents).
13. Summary of Canal Traffic, July (10 cents).
14. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
15. Steel Inpts, August (10 cents).
16. Copper & Nickel Production, July (10 cents).
17. Preliminary Report on Coal Production, August (10 cents).
18. Cement & Cement Products, July (10 cents).
19. The Lumber Industry, 1948 (35 cents).
20. Inventories & Shipments by Manufacturing Industries, July (20 cents).
21. The Asbestos Mining Industry, 1949 (25 cents).
22. The Lime Industry, 1949 (25 cents).
23. The Salt Industry, 1949 (25 cents).
24. The Cement Manufacturing Industry, 1949 (25 cents).
25. Department Store Sales and Stocks, 1949 (50 cents).
26. Preliminary Report on Steam Railways, 1949 (10 cents).

Memoranda

1. Grain Statistics, Week Ended September 7 (10 cents).
 2. Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, September 1 (10 cents).
 3. Asphalt Floor Tiles, August (10 cents).
 4. Rigid Insulating Board Industry, August (10 cents).
 5. Pack of Strawberries, 1950 (10 cents).
 6. Statistics on Hides, Skins and Leather, July (10 cents).
 7. Iron Castings and Cast Iron Pipes and Fittings, July (10 cents).
 8. Financial Statistics of Provincial Governments, 1948 (75 cents).
 9. Mineral Wool, July (10 cents).
 10. Pack of Rhubarb, 1950 (10 cents).
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