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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADA'S FOREIGN COMMODITY TRADE was maintained at high levels in 1949. Trade returns for the 12 months show total exports down only slightly in value from the all-time peak established in 1948, while imports into Canada reached a new record value.

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TOTAL MERCHANDISE IMPORTS were valued at \$2,761,200,000, up \$124,300,000 or 4.7 per cent over the previous peak of \$2,636,900,000 for 1948. Most of the rise in imports was in the earlier part of the year.

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LABOUR INCOME IN NOVEMBER is estimated at \$661,000,000, showing a decline of \$2,000,000 from the preceding month, but \$29,000,000 or about five per cent above November, 1948. This brought the aggregate for the first 11 months of the year to \$6,988,000,000 against \$6,499,000,000 in the similar period of 1948, an increase of 7.5 per cent.

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AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES PAID TO HOURLY-RATED WAGE-EARNERS employed by leading Canadian manufacturing establishments reached a new high figure of \$42.86 at December 1 as compared with \$42.59 at the beginning of November and \$41.47 a year earlier.

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FARM PRICES OF CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS moved lower in 1949 for the first time since 1939, the annual average index number, on the base 1935-39, showing a slight decline from the all-time high annual average figure of 252.6 in 1948 to 251.3. The index for December, at 246.8, was slightly above the November figure of 245.9, but down from the December 1948 index of 259.9.

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COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES for eight regional cities moved lower during December. Declines in the food indexes were mainly responsible and reflected principally sharp declines in eggs coupled with small recessions in pork products.

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SALES OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES -- passenger cars, trucks and buses -- totalled 275,537 valued at \$569,907,258 in 1949 -- a new record -- as compared with 221,300 valued at \$439,216,988 in 1948. Financing of sales of both new and used motor vehicles showed substantial gains during the year.

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CLOSE TO 80,300 NEW DWELLING UNITS WERE COMPLETED in Canada during the first 11 months of 1949, an increase of 12,700 or 18.6 per cent over the 68,100 units completed in the corresponding period of 1948. Starts, however, were down, numbering 85,300 compared with 86,300 a year earlier, a decrease of 1.3 per cent. On the basis of the 11-month returns, it is not expected that completions will reach 90,000 units by the end of 1949.

IMPORTS AT NEW PEAK IN 1949
AND TRADE BALANCE DOWN

Canada's foreign commodity trade was maintained at high levels during 1949. Trade returns for the 12 months show total exports down only slightly in value from the all-time peak established in 1948, while imports into Canada reached a new record value.

Total exports -- domestic and foreign -- to all countries were valued at \$3,022,500,000 as compared with the record value of \$3,110,000,000 in 1948, the moderate decline in the total being due mainly to a reduction in the aggregate value of exports to dollar-short European countries. Total merchandise imports were valued at \$2,761,200,000, up \$124,300,000 or 4.7 per cent over the previous peak of \$2,636,900,000 for 1948. Most of the rise in imports was in the earlier part of the year. During the latter months there were appreciable declines in the volume of imports as well as some declines in value.

Total exports to the United States last year also set a new record at \$1,524,100,000, up slightly from \$1,522,200,000 in 1948, when the value increased nearly 50 per cent over the previous year, the movement of goods across the border being particularly buoyant in the last two months of the year. Imports from the United States increased \$146,100,000 from \$1,305,800,000 in 1948 to \$1,951,900,000, but at the latter level were still short of the exceptionally high total of \$1,974,700,000 in 1947 when prices were lower.

Increases in purchases from the United States over the previous year were largest in the first seven months of 1949 and tapered off from August to October. In November and December there were decreases, indicating a decline in volume since the values were in terms of devalued Canadian dollars.

In trade with the United Kingdom, both exports and imports were higher in value last year than in 1948. Total shipments to the United Kingdom were valued at \$709,300,000 as against \$688,700,000 the previous year, and imports from the United Kingdom at \$307,400,000 as compared with \$299,500,000. Values of imports from the United Kingdom were generally higher during the first eight months of the year, and lower in the last four. Volume of imports in the closing months of the year, however, was greater than the value figures indicate because of the effect of the devaluation of sterling on the Canadian dollar value.

Canada's overall credit balance on commodity account, due to the rise in imports, declined last year to \$261,200,000 as compared with \$473,100,000 in 1948, but was above the credit balance of \$237,800,000 in 1947. Most of the decline in the export balance from the previous year occurred in the earlier months of the year. November and December saw large export balances, totalling \$130,800,000, or approximately one-half the year's total balance.

Due to the greater increase in imports than exports, Canada's debit balance with the United States increased in 1949 to \$427,800,000 from \$283,600,000 the previous year -- accounting for about two-thirds of the decrease in the overall credit balance -- but was less than half the adverse balance of \$918,100,000 in 1947. There were adverse balances with the United States during each of the first 10 months last year, but this trend was reversed in November, when Canada had an export surplus of \$10,900,000, which was followed by a further credit balance of \$10,700,000 in December.

As a result of the greater rise in exports than imports, the favourable trade balance with the United Kingdom increased slightly last year to \$401,300,000 as compared with \$389,200,000 in 1948. These compare with the 1947 balance of \$564,300,000. (1)

IMPORTS RISE IN 1949
SHOWS MIXED TRENDS

Canada's merchandise imports for the full year 1949 increased in value over 1948 from the United States, United Kingdom, the British West Indies and continental Europe, but were lower from Latin America and Commonwealth countries in Africa, Asia and Oceania. On the commodity side, there were increases in six of the nine main groups, the largest gain in value being shown by the iron group and the greatest decrease by the non-metallic minerals group.

There were increases in the value of total imports over the previous year in each of the first eight months of 1949 and in November, while the September total was only fractionally below a year earlier, and the October total moderately lower. In December, however, total imports showed a marked decline to \$213,400,000 as against \$232,000,000 in December, 1948, values of imports being lower both from the Commonwealth and foreign groups of countries and from all main geographical areas except Latin America and Commonwealth countries in Africa.

The trend in the volume of imports underwent a marked change during the year. In the first half year the volume was some 9.7 per cent higher than in the same period of 1948, but in the second half declined and was less than in the second half of 1948. While these opposite trends within the year were to a large extent offsetting in the year as a whole, there were significant changes in the volume of certain groups of commodities imported in the two years. Particularly notable declines occurred in the volume of imports of coal and petroleum products. Reductions in volume also occurred through a wide range of consumers' goods and certain types of non-farm machinery and equipment. In contrast, the volume of many other commodities was higher, examples being primary steel, tractors and other agricultural implements, passenger cars, and raw cotton.

Average import prices were slightly higher in 1949 than in 1948. The trend in these prices was downward during the year to September but following the devaluation of currencies in that month the average of all import prices rose.

Imports from the United States in the year at \$1,951,900,000 showed a gain of \$146,100,000 over 1948, exceeding the increase of \$124,300,000 in imports from all countries, and accounted for just over 70 per cent of the value of total imports. Increases in purchases from the United States were largest in the first seven months of the year, tapering off from August to October. In November there was a small decrease, while in December imports declined to \$150,978,000 as against \$159,395,000 a year earlier, indicating a significant decline in volume as the value in December, 1949, is in terms of devalued Canadian dollars.

Merchandise imports from the United Kingdom increased in the 12 months to \$307,400,000 as compared with \$299,500,000 the previous year, gains over 1948 were recorded throughout the period January to August and lower figures in each of the last four months. In December, imports from the United Kingdom were down in value to \$20,800,000 from \$24,600,000 in the corresponding month of 1948 because of the effect of the devaluation of sterling on the Canadian dollar value, but were larger in volume.

Aggregate value of imports in the year from other Commonwealth countries declined to \$185,800,000 from \$193,500,000 in 1948 (excluding Newfoundland figures). Purchases from the British West Indies and British Guiana, however, influenced by larger imports of sugar, showed a marked rise in the year to \$62,141,000 from \$42,280,000 and declined only moderately in December. Each of the other groups was lower, imports from Commonwealth countries in Africa being valued at \$20,150,000 as against \$28,593,000; from countries in Asia at \$59,142,000 compared with \$75,264,000; and from Oceania group at \$44,336,000 compared with \$47,293,000. Figures for December were lower for both of the latter groups, but higher for countries in Africa.

Total imports from European countries in 1949 rose to \$84,365,000 as compared with \$71,381,000, continuing the annual gains since 1945. Largest increases were in purchases from Belgium and Luxembourg, Germany, Italy and Switzerland, small gains being shown in those from France, the Netherlands and Sweden. In December imports from Europe fell to less than half a year earlier, being valued at only \$5,766,000.

In contrast with the general trend for foreign countries, imports from Latin America declined in the 12 months to \$192,021,000 from \$221,259,000 in 1948, but were higher in December at \$20,306,000 as against \$16,888,000 a year earlier. Purchases were higher in the year from Brazil, Colombia and Panama, and lower from Argentina, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, and Venezuela. Imports from the remaining foreign countries increased in value to \$36,532,000 from \$30,679,000.

With nearly all main items higher in value, imports of iron and its products rose to \$891,600,000 in 1949 from \$782,300,000 the previous year. Largest advances were in castings and forgings, rolling-mill products, pipes, tubes and fittings, farm implements and machinery, mining and metallurgical machinery, automobiles and automobile parts, and engines and boilers.

Next in size, the non-metallic minerals group -- which showed the largest rise in 1948 -- declined to \$535,300,000 from \$606,200,000, due mainly to reduced imports of coal and petroleum products.

Purchases of agricultural and vegetable products moved up to \$377,400,000 as against \$349,900,000 the previous year, with imports of fruits, vegetables, coffee, tea and alcoholic beverages substantially higher and grains, cocoa and rubber lower. Imports in the wood and paper group, with gains in main items, increased to \$86,327,000 compared with \$73,730,000; those in the non-ferrous metals group to \$174,692,000 from \$155,812,000, and in the chemicals group to \$130,660,000 compared with \$118,380,000.

Due mainly to sharply increased Canadian tourists', purchases and increases for aircraft and parts, scientific equipment and refrigerators, the miscellaneous group rose sharply to \$158,128,000 as against \$115,346,000 in 1948.

Of the remaining two groups, fibres and textiles declined for the second successive year to \$333,032,000 from \$350,619,000, raw wool, cotton products, wool products, and flax, hemp, jute and their products being lower; while the animals and animal products group moved down to \$74,096,000 from \$84,702,000, with smaller imports of furs and animal oils and fats. (2)

LABOUR INCOME IN NOVEMBER Estimated total of salaries and wages and supplementary labour income in November stands at \$661,000,000, showing a decline of \$2,000,000 from the preceding month, but \$29,000,000 or about five per cent above November, 1948. This brought the aggregate for the first 11 months of the year to \$6,983,000,000 against \$6,499,000,000 in the similar period of 1948, an increase of 7.5 per cent.

Labour income in agriculture, logging, fishing, trapping and mining in the month was down to \$51,000,000 from \$53,000,000 in October and \$56,000,000 a year earlier. The 11-month total for this group was also lower at \$539,000,000 compared with \$570,000,000 in the same period of 1948.

In manufacturing, labour income totalled \$218,000,000, down \$1,000,000 from October, but \$4,000,000 higher than in November, 1948. In the 11 months ended November the group total was \$2,365,000,000 as against \$2,211,000,000 a year earlier.

In construction, the month's labour income was \$50,000,000 compared with \$52,000,000 in October and \$46,000,000 a year ago, and in the 11 months, \$486,000,000 against \$439,000,000.

The estimated total for utilities, transportation, communications, storage and trade was \$177,000,000 in November compared with \$175,000,000 in the preceding month and \$166,000,000 in the same month of 1948, bringing the 11-month figure to \$1,848,000,000 as against \$1,682,000,000 a year earlier.

In finance and services -- including government -- the month's labour income amounted to \$143,000,000 compared with \$141,000,000 in October and \$130,000,000 a year ago. In the 11 months the aggregate stood at \$1,514,000,000 compared with \$1,381,000,000.

Supplementary labour income in November totalled \$23,000,000, up \$1,000,000 over October, and \$2,000,000 above November, 1948. In the 11 months the aggregate was \$230,000,000 against \$215,000,000. (3)

MAN-HOURS AND HOURLY EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING

Average weekly wages paid to hourly-rated wage-earners employed by leading Canadian manufacturing establishments reached a new high figure of \$42.86 at December 1 as compared with \$42.59 at the beginning of November and \$41.47 a year earlier. In the heavy manufactured class the latest figure was \$42.66 compared with \$46.22 at November 1 and \$45.18 at December 1, 1948, while in the non-durable division the average was \$39.25 against \$39.21 at November 1 and \$37.80 a year earlier.

Hourly earnings in manufacturing were also at a new high average of 99.9 cents, 0.4 cents above November 1 and 3.9 cents higher than at December 1, 1948. In durable manufactured goods the average was 108.5 cents compared with 108.0 at November 1, and 104.1 at December 1, 1948, and in non-durable manufactured goods it was 91.5 cents compared with 91.4 cents at November 1, and 87.7 cents a year ago.

The average work-week was 42.9 hours compared with 42.8 at November 1, and 43.2 at December 1, 1948. In durable goods the average was 43.0 hours compared with 42.8 at November 1, and 43.4 a year earlier, while in the non-durable goods section the average was 42.9 hours, unchanged from November 1, but down slightly from the average of 43.1 hours last year. (4)

RETAIL SALES AT NEW PEAK IN
DECEMBER AND CALENDAR YEAR 1949

Canadians spent more money in retail stores last December than in any other month on record, expenditures running to a total of \$791,420,000, up three per cent over the previous monthly peak of \$770,450,000 in December, 1948. Sales were higher in all months of 1949 compared with 1948 and the aggregate for the 12 months also reached a new all-time high figure of \$7,695,340,000 as against \$7,276,720,000 in 1948, the rise amounting to six per cent.

Christmas buying, always an important influence on December sales, was as active in 1949 as in the preceding year. Apparel stores, customarily popular gift centres, did a flourishing Christmas trade, although sales fell slightly short of December, 1948. Merchants of durable goods ended the year with substantial December sales increases. Appliance and radio stores showed a gain of 23 per cent in sales, while furniture and jewellery stores marked up advances of seven per cent and six per cent, respectively. In most other trades, results for December were close to the average gain of three per cent in total retail trade.

Sales in the year 1949 exceeded 1948 dollar volume for 16 of the 20 individual trades covered by the Bureau's monthly survey. In the four cases where declines occurred -- country general stores, men's clothing stores, family clothing stores, and coal and wood dealers -- the reductions were small. Apart from an increase of 17 per cent for motor vehicle dealers and a 10 per cent gain for garages and filling stations, the increases shown by the majority of trades were of moderate proportions.

Sales were higher in all provinces in 1949 than in the preceding year. The Prairie Provinces profited from increased cash farm income and industrial expansion brought about by the extension of oil developments. Retail trade was up 12 per cent in Alberta and Saskatchewan and 11 per cent in Manitoba. In other provinces, sales were from two per cent to five per cent higher. In December sales showed a one per cent decrease for Quebec but increases in all other provinces. (5)

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

Feb. 9, 1950 Feb. 2, 1950 Jan. 12, 1950
(1935-39=100)

Investors' Price Index

(106 Common Stocks)	119.0	118.6	119.2
82 Industrials	113.0	112.7	113.7
16 Utilities	125.7	124.9	123.9
8 Banks	142.8	143.6	142.6

Mining Stock Price Index

(30 Stocks)	91.2	91.7	92.9
25 Golds	73.1	73.3	75.3
5 Base Metals	126.9	128.2	127.5

COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES FOR EIGHT REGIONAL CITIES

Cost-of-living indexes for six of the eight regional cities moved lower during December. Declines in the food indexes were mainly responsible and reflected principally sharp drops in eggs coupled with small recessions in pork products. Clothing price indexes were generally easier at most centres while homefurnishings and services presented mixed changes. Indexes for miscellaneous items were higher, reflecting the results of annual surveys of commodities and services which are generally of a stable price nature. These included drugs, hospital charges, doctors' and dentists' fees, newspaper rates and barbers' fees. Indexes for rents were unchanged since they were not surveyed in January.

The composite cost-of-living index for Halifax declined 0.9 points to 152.7 between December 1 and January 3, Saint John 0.9 to 157.1; Winnipeg, 0.7 to 155.0; Toronto, 0.5 to 156.9; Saskatoon 0.5 to 162.2; Montreal 0.3 to 163.8. Edmonton rose 0.5 to 156.9 while Vancouver remained unchanged at 161.9. During the same interval, the Dominion index declined 0.5 to 159.7.

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

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

	<u>January 3, 1949</u>	<u>December 1, 1949</u> (August 1939=100)	<u>January 3, 1950</u>
Halifax	152.3	153.6	152.7
Saint John	156.2	158.0	157.1
Montreal	162.3	164.1	163.8
Toronto	155.0	157.4	156.9
Winnipeg	153.4	155.7	155.0
Saskatoon	162.0	162.7	162.2
Edmonton	154.5	156.4	156.9
Vancouver	160.8	161.9	161.9
Dominion	158.3	160.2	159.7

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES

Department store sales in Canada in January were two per cent higher than in the corresponding month last year. Sales in Alberta were up seven per cent, Ontario four per cent, Manitoba four per cent, and Saskatchewan three per cent. British Columbia showed a decrease of four per cent and Quebec two per cent, while sales in the Maritimes were unchanged.

During the week ending February 4 sales were up five per cent as compared with the corresponding week last year. Manitoba, with a decline of three per cent, was the only province to record a drop in sales. The advance in Alberta was 13 per cent, British Columbia eight per cent, Quebec eight per cent, the Maritimes eight per cent, Ontario four per cent, and Saskatchewan two per cent.

COMPLETIONS OF DWELLING UNITS UP 18.6 PER CENT; STARTS DOWN 1.3 PER CENT

Close to 80,800 new dwelling units were completed in Canada during the first 11 months of 1949, an increase of 12,700 or 18.6 per cent over the 68,100 units completed in the corresponding period of 1948. Starts, however, were down, numbering 85,300 as compared with 86,300 a year earlier, a decrease of 1.3 per cent. On the basis of the 11-month returns, it is not expected that completions will reach 90,000 units by the end of 1949.

Showing the first decline in the monthly completions in 1949 as compared with 1948, the November estimate fell to 8,700 from 9,701 a year earlier. Starts were higher in the month at 8,434 as compared with 7,795, but the carry-over of dwellings under construction at the end of November was slightly lower at 60,749 units compared with 61,093 at the same time in 1948.

There were increased numbers of dwelling units completed in all provinces except British Columbia in the first 11 months of 1949. Starts were increased in Prince Edward Island and Ontario, while the number under construction at the end of November was higher only in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario.

Completions in the 11 months of 1949 were as follows by provinces, totals for the same period of 1948 being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 252 (170) units; Nova Scotia, 2,722 (2,226); New Brunswick, 1,697 (1,694); Quebec, 21,385 (18,052); Ontario, 28,854 (23,935); Manitoba, 4,449 (4,074); Saskatchewan, 3,307 (2,899); Alberta, 8,680 (5,286); British Columbia, 9,411 (9,767).

The length of time required to construct a dwelling unit completed in November averaged about 6.3 months as against 6.0 months for the previous year's November completions.

It is estimated that 26.3 per cent of the completions in the first 11 months of 1949 were for rental purposes, the remainder being for owner-occupancy. This is a slightly higher proportion than for the same period of 1948. (6)

FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SLIGHTLY LOWER IN 1949

Farm prices of Canadian agricultural products moved lower in 1949 for the first time since 1939, the annual average index number, on the base 1935-39, showing a slight decline from the all-time high annual average figure of 252.6 in 1948 to 251.3. For 1947 the index stood at 212.5 and for 1946 at 200.8, while for 1939 the average was 91.8. The index for December, at 246.8, was slightly above the November figure of 245.9, but down from the December 1948 index of 259.9.

There were declines in 1949 from 1948 in the prices of grains, dairy products, potatoes, vegetables and furs, but increases in livestock, poultry and eggs, fruits, tobacco and maple products. In December there were price decreases from a year earlier for nearly all commodities. Compared with November, prices for livestock and dairy products were higher, but were lower for potatoes, poultry and eggs.

Among the provinces there were small increases over 1948 in the annual average indexes for Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, but decreases in the remaining provinces. Indexes were lower in all provinces in December as compared with a year earlier.

Annual average indexes were as follows by provinces, figures for 1948 being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 204.0 (237.9); Nova Scotia, 210.0 (213.1); New Brunswick, 220.7 (250.6); Quebec, 261.9 (265.6); Ontario, 259.4 (259.3); Manitoba, 251.9 (254.6); Saskatchewan, 239.4 (239.3); Alberta, 257.2 (256.2); British Columbia, 244.0 (238.0). (7)

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on February 2 amounted to 153,213,200 bushels as compared with 157,922,133 on January 26, and 157,062,104 on the corresponding date last year. Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending February 2 totalled 617,519 bushels, down sharply from last year's corresponding total of 1,422,034 bushels.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending February 2, totals for the same week last year being in brackets: oats, 258,124 (546,693) bushels; barley, 111,317 (721,959); rye, 29,841 (156,109); flaxseed, 1,541 (50,114).

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending February 2 totalled 3,039,846 bushels as compared with 3,899,503 in the corresponding week last year, bringing the cumulative total for the crop year to February 2 to 91,657,785 bushels as compared with 75,512,975 in the similar period of the preceding crop year. (8)

STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER IN NINE CITIES OF CANADA

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on February 10 amounted to 30,827,000 pounds as compared with 13,903,000 on the corresponding date last year. Holdings were higher in seven of the nine centres, decreases being shown for Quebec and Vancouver. Stocks were as follows by cities, totals for the same date last year being in brackets: Quebec, 1,211,000 (1,808,000) pounds; Montreal, 8,450,000 (4,957,000); Toronto, 7,495,000 (2,462,000); Winnipeg, 8,287,000 (1,215,000); Regina, 709,000 (157,000); Saskatoon, 220,000 (171,000); Edmonton, 2,246,000 (665,000); Calgary, 876,000 (373,000); Vancouver, 1,333,000 (2,095,000).

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF PROCESSED CHEESE

Production of processed cheese in January amounted to 2,622,000 pounds as compared with 2,834,000 in December and 2,851,000 in the same month last year. Stocks held by manufacturers at February 1 totalled 1,026,000 pounds as compared with 1,113,000 at January 1.

STOCKS OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Stocks of fruit, frozen and in preservatives on February 1 this year amounted to 29,070,000 pounds as compared with 28,124,000 on January 1, and 37,245,000 on the corresponding date last year. Holdings of vegetables, frozen and in brine, totalled 9,599,000 pounds compared with 10,580,000 on January 1, and 11,266,000 a year ago.

Holdings of Canadian potatoes, parsnips, and celery were higher than a year ago but others were lower. Stocks of potatoes amounted to 517,928 tons compared with 408,250 a year ago, onions 9,370 tons compared with 15,615, beets 1,455 tons compared with 1,690, carrots 7,926 tons compared with 12,879, cabbages 3,294 tons compared with 3,758, parsnips 1,359 tons compared with 864, celery 55,197 crates compared with 3,459. Stocks of imported celery amounted to 13,665 crates against 13,273. (Mem. 1)

STOCKS OF FISH ON FEBRUARY 1 Cold storage holdings of fish were lower on February 1, amounting to 31,741,000 pounds as compared with 39,258,000 on January 1 and 32,284,000 on the corresponding date last year. Stocks on February 1 comprised 29,865,000 pounds frozen fresh and 1,876,000 pounds frozen smoked. Stocks of fish in Newfoundland totalled 2,022,000 pounds of frozen fresh sea fish, and 17,000 pounds of frozen smoked sea fish. These figures are not included in the all-Canada total. (Mem. 2)

STOCKS OF MEAT AND LARD ON FEBRUARY 1 Stocks of meat held by packers, wholesale butchers and cold storage warehouses were lower on February 1, amounting to 56,817,000 pounds as compared with 70,293,000 on January 1 and 80,720,000 on the corresponding date last year.

Holdings of frozen meat totalled 30,618,000 pounds compared with 33,738,000 on January 1 and 50,529,000 on February 1, 1949. Stocks of fresh meat increased to 14,081,000 pounds from 12,986,000 at the beginning of January, but were slightly lower than last year's total of 15,153,000 pounds, while cured meat decreased to 12,118,000 pounds from 23,569,000 on January 1 and 15,038,000 a year earlier.

Lard stocks amounted to 3,651,000 pounds on February 1 as compared with 4,008,000 on January 1 and 4,489,000 on the same date last year. (Mem. 3)

SALES AND FINANCING OF MOTOR VEHICLES SHARPLY HIGHER IN 1949 Sales of new motor vehicles -- passenger cars, trucks and buses -- and the financing of sales of new and used vehicles were sharply higher in 1949, passenger cars accounting for a large part of the year's gain. Advances were recorded in all provinces.

According to preliminary figures, sales of new vehicles during the year totalled 275,537 valued at \$569,907,258 -- a new record -- as compared with 221,300 valued at \$439,216,988 in 1948. Sales of passenger cars numbered 192,121 compared with 145,655, involving \$394,099,497 compared with \$282,903,958. Truck sales moved up to 82,849 units from 74,858, and the value to \$165,221,513 from \$142,837,037. Bus sales were down to 567 from 787 units, and the value was lower at \$10,586,248 as against \$13,475,993.

Financing of sales of both new and used motor vehicles showed substantial gains during the year. The sales of 52,764 new passenger cars were financed to the extent of \$70,410,571 compared with 29,923 involving \$37,680,009 the year before, while the financed sales of 123,921 used passenger models involved \$81,299,287 compared with 83,323 units and \$53,254,994 in 1948.

During the year, 28,208 new commercial vehicles were financed for \$44,304,964 compared with 21,944 units financed for \$36,125,663 in 1948. In the used vehicle class, 26,792 commercial vehicles were financed for a total of \$21,615,415 compared with 20,444 units financed for \$17,894,347 in 1948.

Sales of new motor vehicles in December amounted to 21,482 units with a retail value of \$43,641,589, slightly above the 21,464 units valued at \$43,030,626 in December, 1948. New vehicles financed in the month numbered 6,829 compared with 4,774, and the financed value was \$9,801,561 compared with \$6,690,025. The used vehicles financed totalled 10,240 units compared with 7,228, involving \$6,975,324 compared with \$5,241,538. (9)

OUTPUT OF CANADA'S LEADING MINERALS

Output of 12 of 16 of Canada's leading minerals was higher in October than in the corresponding month of 1948, while in the first 10 months of the year, production was advanced in 11 of the 16 items.

Output was as follows in October, totals for the same month of 1948 being in brackets: asbestos, 71,677 (66,264) tons; cement, 1,465,952 (1,377,554) barrels; clay products, \$1,691,965 (\$1,737,841); coal, 1,927,176 (1,811,537) tons; copper, 44,542,980 (40,712,831) pounds; gold, 365,651 (306,989) fine ounces; gypsum, 385,489 (415,110) tons; iron ore, 345,088 (298,760) tons.

Lead production in October amounted to 26,675,632 pounds (32,097,545 pounds in October, 1948); lime, 91,157 (98,455) tons; natural gas, 5,123,101 (4,657,448) M cubic feet; nickel, 21,462,272 (20,644,134) pounds; petroleum, 2,060,286 (1,206,738) barrels; salt, 68,973 (68,817) tons; silver, 1,894,019 (1,527,350) fine ounces; zinc, 51,662,122 (44,187,999) pounds. (10)

GOLD PRODUCTION IN NOVEMBER

Canadian production of gold in November continued the uninterrupted monthly gains of previous months in 1949 over 1948, amounting to 361,311 fine ounces, 16 per cent above the November 1948 output of 311,399 fine ounces.

Aggregate output for the first 11 months of 1949 rose to 3,739,166 fine ounces from 3,202,575 for the corresponding period of 1948, or by 17 per cent.

Production in November by areas, with totals for the same month of 1948 in brackets, was as follows: Quebec, 35,790 (68,440) fine ounces; Ontario, 203,533 (179,909); Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 23,203 (16,735); British Columbia, 25,471 (24,268); Yukon, 11,269 (12,162); Northwest Territories, 11,980 (9,842).

Eleven-month production was as follows: Quebec, 862,449 (699,709) fine ounces; Ontario, 2,142,502 (1,895,412); Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 214,016 (174,104); British Columbia, 275,205 (231,078); Yukon, 74,076 (55,826); Northwest Territories, 165,073 (91,186). (11)

PRODUCTION OF IRON AND STEEL
IN DECEMBER AND YEAR 1949

Production of pig iron, ferro-alloys, and steel ingots and castings moved to lower levels in December from the same month of 1948. In the calendar year 1949 the output of pig iron was slightly higher than in the preceding year, but there was a small decline in the output of steel ingots and castings. Output of ferro-alloys was also lower in the year.

In December the production of pig iron amounted to 172,002 tons as compared with 174,233 in the corresponding month of 1948, bringing the total for the year to 2,154,352 tons as against 2,120,909 a year earlier.

Output of steel ingots and castings in December totalled 263,949 net tons compared with 280,425 in the same month of 1948. In the 12 months, production aggregated 3,186,930 tons compared with 3,201,656 in 1948.

Ferro-alloy output in December was down to 11,853 tons compared with 23,708, and in the year to 211,603 tons from 250,659. (Mem. 4)

PRODUCTION OF NAILS Production of wire nails in November amounted to 8,325 tons as compared with 7,312 in the same month of 1948. The aggregate for the first 11 months of the year increased to 81,668 tons as against 78,581 in the similar period of 1948. (12)

SALES OF ELECTRIC STORAGE BATTERIES Sales of electric storage batteries and parts by principal Canadian producers were valued at \$1,182,499 in November as compared with \$1,904,883 in the corresponding month of 1948. During the first 11 months of the year, sales declined to \$14,126,521 from \$14,531,416 in the similar period of 1948. (13)

STOCKS OF HIDES AND SKINS AND PRODUCTION OF LEATHER Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers at the end of December amounted to 454,946 as compared with 493,794 on the corresponding date last year. On the same date there were 551,827 calf and kip skins on hand compared with 584,754 a year earlier; 45,889 goat and kid skins compared with 63,003; 28,668 horse hides compared with 24,789; and 47,721 dozen sheep and lamb skins against 65,968.

Production of cattle sole leather in December amounted to 1,174,803 pounds as compared with 1,921,150 in the same month last year, and the finished stocks on hand at the end of the month totalled 2,427,474 pounds compared with 3,903,829. Production of cattle upper leather in the month totalled 3,535,915 square feet compared with 3,420,411, and the stocks on hand amounted to 2,132,045 square feet compared with 1,955,134. (Mem. 5)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS Loadings of revenue freight during the week ended February 4 increased to 67,737 cars from 64,033 cars in the preceding week but were still 5,051 cars or 6.9 per cent under the same period last year. Track blockages again delayed movement in British Columbia where snowslides were frequent. Western division loadings were 20,105 cars against 24,935 one year earlier, while the eastern region from the Head of the Lakes to Newfoundland totalled 47,632, down only slightly from the 47,853 cars a year ago. (14)

CANADIAN BREWING INDUSTRY IN 1948 Total selling value of the Canadian brewing industry's output reached a new peak in 1948 at \$215,552,230, up from the previous peak of \$196,171,931 in 1947. Sales tax and other excise taxes and duties paid to the Dominion and provincial governments in 1948 amounted to \$88,613,094, or approximately 41 per cent of the total selling value, as compared with \$81,625,121 in 1947, leaving a net value of production of \$126,939,136 for 1948 as against \$114,546,810 the previous year.

The number of establishments engaged in production of malt liquors was 61 in 1948, unchanged from the two previous years. Of these, 22 were located in Ontario, eight in Quebec, 11 in British Columbia, six in Manitoba, five each in Alberta and Saskatchewan, and two each in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Net value of production by provinces was: Ontario, \$51,021,921; Quebec, \$35,511,807; British Columbia, \$11,104,822; Alberta, \$10,807,960; Saskatchewan, \$7,441,110; Manitoba, \$7,050,551; Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, \$4,000,965. (15)

OUTPUT OF FARM IMPLEMENTS AND
MACHINERY INDUSTRY UP SHARPLY

The factory selling value of products manufactured by establishments in the farm implements and farm machinery industry reached a record total of \$146,956,000 in 1948, showing an increase of 64 per cent over the preceding year's value of \$89,923,000. In other industries there was a small production of farm machinery amounting in value to \$6,582,000 as against \$3,963,000 in 1947.

The industry employed an average of 19,111 persons during 1948 as compared with 16,013 in the preceding year, a rise of 19 per cent, and their salaries and wages totalled \$45,271,000 compared with \$31,244,000, a gain of 45 per cent. The cost of materials used rose to \$81,591,000 from \$49,799,000, or by 63.8 per cent. (16)

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, December (10 cents).
2. Imports for Consumption, December (20 cents).
3. Estimates of Labour Income, November (10 cents).
4. Man-Hours and Hourly Earnings, December 1 (25 cents).
5. Retail Trade, December (25 cents).
6. Housing Bulletin.No. 23, November (10 cents).
7. Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, December (10 cents).
8. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
9. Sales of New Motor Vehicles and Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, December (25 cents).
10. Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, October (10 cents).
11. Gold Production, November (10 cents).
12. Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products, November (15 cents).
13. Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, November (10 cents).
14. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
15. The Brewing Industry, 1948 (25 cents).
16. Farm Implements and Machinery Industry, 1948 (25 cents).
17. The Fertilizer Manufacturing Industry, 1948 (25 cents).
18. Consumption of Petroleum Fuels in Canada, 1948 (25 cents).
19. The Adhesives Industry, 1948 (15 cents).
20. The Cotton and Jute Bag Industry, 1948 (25 cents).
21. Consumption, Production and Inventories of Rubber, December (25 cents).
22. Traffic Report of Railways, October (10 cents).
23. Jewellery and Silverware Industry, 1948 (25 cents).
24. Stocks of Canned Fruits and Vegetables, January 1, 1950 (25 cents).
25. The Roofing Paper Industry, 1948 (25 cents).

Memoranda

1. Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, February 1 (10 cents).
2. Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, February 1 (10 cents).
3. Stocks of Meat, Lard and Tallow, February 1 (10 cents).
4. Production of Pig Iron and Steel in Canada, December (10 cents).
5. Hides, Skins and Leather, December (10 cents).
6. Mineral Wool, December (10 cents).
7. The Woodenware Industry, 1948 (25 cents).

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