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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

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COAL PRODUCTION in January at 1,749,400 tons was down six per cent from the same month last year, while the imports at 634,300 tons were 27 per cent lower.

. . .

SHIPMENTS OF ASBESTOS from Canadian mines decreased 20 per cent in 1949 as compared with the preceding year, amounting to 573,668 tons compared with 716,769 tons. The decline was due to the labour dispute in the first half of the year. Exports during the year aggregated 534,990 tons as compared with 690,442.

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GROSS DOLLAR VALUE OF PRINCIPAL FIELD CROPS produced last year on Canadian farms -- excluding Newfoundland -- is now placed at \$1,420,000,000, down \$265,000,000 or 16 per cent from the all-time record value of \$1,685,000,000 in 1948.

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STOCKS OF CANADIAN WHEAT IN STORE or in transit in North America at midnight on February 9 amounted to 151,763,700 bushels as compared with 153,213,000 on February 2, and 153,869,000 on the corresponding date last year.

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DEPARTMENT STORE SALES increased four per cent during the week ending February 11 over the corresponding week last year. All regions of the country participated in the rise except Quebec.

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LOADINGS OF RAILWAY REVENUE FREIGHT during the week ending February 10 advanced to 71,170 cars compared with 67,737 cars in the preceding week but remained 1,235 cars or 1.7 per cent below the same week of 1949.

WHOLESALE SALES UP THREE
PER CENT IN 1949

Sales of wholesalers in nine lines of trade showed an overall increase of three per cent in 1949 over the preceding year, while the value of year-end inventories was down 1.4 per cent. In December, sales were up one per cent over the same month of 1948, but down 14 per cent from November. The general unadjusted index of sales in December, on the base 1935-39=100, was 263.3 as compared with 306.7 in November and 259.9 in December, 1948.

Sales of automotive equipment wholesalers rose 4.9 per cent in 1949 over the preceding year, drugs 8.5 per cent, fruits and vegetables 11.7 per cent, groceries 1.1 per cent, hardware 4.2 per cent, and tobacco and confectionary 5.2 per cent. Sales of clothing wholesalers were down 6.9 per cent, footwear 1.9 per cent, and dry goods 9.2 per cent.

Sales were higher in Ontario and the Prairie Provinces during the year, but lower in the rest of Canada. The advance in the Prairie Provinces was 7.8 per cent, and in Ontario 4.2 per cent. In Quebec there was a decrease of 1.9 per cent, the Maritimes 1.8 per cent, and British Columbia 0.3 per cent. December sales showed a similar trend. (1)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES
UP FOUR PER CENT IN WEEK

Department store sales increased four per cent during the week ending February 11 over the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures. All regions of the country participated in the rise except Quebec. Sales in the Maritime Provinces advanced 18 per cent, followed by Alberta up 14 per cent, Ontario and British Columbia each four per cent, Saskatchewan three per cent, and Manitoba one per cent. In Quebec, sales decreased two per cent.

SECURITY PRICE INDEXESFeb. 16, 1950Feb. 9, 1950Jan. 19, 1950

(1935-39=100)

Investors' Price Index

(106 Common Stocks)	117.7	119.0	119.1
82 Industrials	111.4	113.0	113.5
16 Utilities	125.3	125.7	124.2
8 Banks	143.3	142.8	142.9

Mining Stock Price Index

(30 Stocks)	90.7	91.2	92.6
25 Golds	72.8	73.1	74.6
3 Base Metals	126.0	126.9	128.0

GROSS DOLLAR VALUE OF PRINCIPAL
FIELD CROPS LOWER IN 1949

The gross dollar value of the principal field crops produced last year on Canadian farms (excluding Newfoundland) is now placed by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at \$1,420,000,000, down \$265,000,000 or 16 per cent from the all-time record value of \$1,685,000,000 in 1948. Lower values were shown for most of the principal field crops. Decreases were also recorded for seven provinces, one being higher and one unchanged.

The value of the wheat crop was down to \$566,000,000 from \$612,000,000 in 1948, oats to \$205,000,000 from \$255,000,000, barley to \$102,000,000 from \$150,000,000, hay and clover to \$223,000,000 from \$255,000,000, potatoes to \$83,000,000 from \$92,000,000, mixed grains to \$53,000,000 from \$60,000,000, and flaxseed to \$8,000,000 from \$67,000,000.

The value of the alfalfa crop rose to \$54,000,000 from \$51,000,000, fodder corn to \$35,000,000 from \$29,000,000, shelled corn to \$17,000,000 from \$16,000,000, and soybeans to \$6,000,000 from \$4,000,000. Field roots at \$22,000,000 and sugar beets at \$9,000,000 were unchanged. All other field crops were lower.

Among the provinces the largest decline in gross value from 1948 was shown in Alberta, where the value of crops was down \$101,000,000. The decrease in Saskatchewan was \$69,000,000, Manitoba \$41,000,000, and Ontario \$34,000,000.

Saskatchewan's crop value -- largest among the provinces -- was \$370,000,000 as compared with \$439,000,000 in 1948, followed by Ontario at \$344,000,000 against \$378,000,000, Alberta \$239,000,000 against \$340,000,000, Quebec \$183,000,000 against \$196,000,000, and Manitoba \$172,000,000 against \$213,000,000.

The crop value in British Columbia was the same for both years at \$34,000,000. In New Brunswick the value fell to \$32,000,000 from \$38,000,000, Nova Scotia to \$22,000,000 from \$25,000,000, but in Prince Edward Island rose to \$25,000,000 from \$23,000,000. (2)

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on February 9 amounted to 151,763,700 bushels as compared with 153,213,200 on February 2, and 153,869,100 on the corresponding date last year. Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces amounted to 1,276,900 bushels as against 1,381,400 a year earlier. The cumulative total for the period August 1 - February 9 was 246,156,300 bushels as against 244,847,200 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 February 9, totals for the same week last year being in brackets: oats, 520,500 (571,100) bushels; barley, 270,400 (673,600); rye, 107,900 (233,800); flaxseed, 6,900 (78,900).

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending February 9 amounted to 1,168,400 bushels as compared with 2,875,700 in the corresponding week last year, bringing the total for the crop year to date to 92,826,200 bushels as against 78,388,700 in the same period of 1948-49. (3)

STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER
IN NINE CITIES OF CANADA

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on February 17 amounted to 29,000,000 pounds as compared with 12,142,000 on the corresponding date last year. Holdings were higher in seven of the nine centres, declines being shown for Quebec and Vancouver. Stocks were as follows by cities on February 17, totals for the same date last year being in brackets (thousands omitted): Quebec, 991 (1,601) pounds; Montreal, 7,341 (4,291); Toronto, 2,255 (2,286); Winnipeg, 8,150 (1,011); Regina, 699 (126); Saskatoon, 237 (151); Edmonton, 2,112 (579); Calgary, 916 (358); Vancouver, 1,299 (1,739).

SURVEY SHOWS INCREASE OF
18 PER CENT IN HOG NUMBERS

The number of hogs on Canadian Farms -- excluding Newfoundland -- on December 1, 1949, was estimated at 5,412,900 as compared with 4,604,200 on the same date in 1948, an increase of 18 per cent. There was an increase of 20 per cent in Western Canada and a gain of 16 per cent in Eastern Canada.

The fall pig crop -- pigs saved, June to November -- amounting to 4,199,100, was 19 per cent larger than in the fall of 1948. This rate of increase in the pig crop applied to both East and West. According to the estimate of sows to farrow during the spring period of 1950, the spring pig crop this year will be about 13 per cent greater than that of 1949.

The number of hogs on farms was as follows by provinces, totals for December 1, 1948, being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 74,000 (57,200); Nova Scotia, 62,500 (54,000); New Brunswick, 92,600 (71,000); Quebec, 1,146,600 (939,200); Ontario, 2,283,800 (2,021,400); Manitoba, 324,400 (262,500); Saskatchewan, 422,400 (343,900); Alberta, 940,600 (792,200); British Columbia, 66,000 (62,800). Current estimates for Newfoundland are not available, but the census of October 1, 1945, placed the number at 11,443. (Mem. 1)

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC UP
11 PER CENT IN JANUARY

Foreign vehicles entering Canada on traveller's vehicle permits increased 11 per cent in January this year, numbering 36,193 as compared with 32,590 in the corresponding month last year. All provinces reported gains except British Columbia where many highways were closed by heavy storms. A decline was also shown for the Yukon Territory.

Entries were as follows for January, figures for the same month last year being in brackets: Newfoundland, five (-); Nova Scotia, nine (two); New Brunswick, 3,946 (2,243); Quebec, 8,933 (7,932); Ontario, 20,294 (17,591); Manitoba, 212 (130); Saskatchewan, 83 (27); Alberta, 350 (303); British Columbia, 2,334 (4,328); Yukon Territory, 27 (34). (Mem. 2)

SHIPMENTS OF PRIMARY STEEL
SHAPES HIGHER IN NOVEMBER

Shipments of primary shapes by Canadian steel mills, exclusive of producers' interchange, totalled 239,797 net tons in November compared with 206,291 tons in the preceding month. The November shipments included 7,955 tons of semi-finished shapes, 11,327 tons of structurals, 12,540 tons of plates, 31,777 tons of rails, 8,573 tons of tie plates and track material, 47,277 tons of hot rolled bars, 16,549 tons of pipes and tubes, 23,138 tons of wire rods, 26,326 tons of black sheets, 8,118 tons of galvanized sheets, 6,189 tons of castings, and 13,370 tons of other rolled products. The amount of producers' interchange was 72,690 tons in November as against 63,995 tons in October. (4)

DEALERS' STOCKS OF NON-FERROUS SCRAP METAL

Dealers' stocks of non-ferrous scrap metal were as follows at the end of October, totals for the beginning of the period being in brackets: aluminum scrap, 1,843,700 (2,099,000) pounds; brass and bronze scrap, 7,135,700 (7,386,900); copper scrap, 2,586,000 (2,682,400); magnesium scrap, 12,500 (8,800); nickel scrap, 270,100 (275,000); tin-lead scrap, 3,630,500 (3,422,900); zinc scrap, 785,000 (1,033,900); drosses, 1,443,300 (1,497,000). (5)

JANUARY OUTPUT OF STEEL INGOTS

Production of steel ingots in January rose to 281,544 tons from 257,883 in the preceding month and 275,987 in January last year. The month's output compares with a monthly average of 257,447 tons in 1949. On a daily basis, the January output amounted to 9,082 tons compared with 8,319 in December and 8,935 a year ago. (6)

PRODUCTION AND IMPORTS OF COAL LOWER IN JANUARY

Production of coal in January was about six per cent lower than in the corresponding month of 1948, according to preliminary figures. Imports during the month showed a decrease of 27 per cent. The month's output amounted to 1,749,400 tons as compared with 1,856,100, while the imports totalled 634,300 tons as against 870,900.

Production was down in Alberta and British Columbia, but higher in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Saskatchewan. Alberta's output amounted to 738,000 tons as compared with 887,900 in the same month last year, and Nova Scotia's production was 589,700 tons compared with 571,000. Total for Saskatchewan was 269,700 tons as compared with 202,600, British Columbia 108,500 compared with 151,600, and New Brunswick 43,500 tons compared with 43,000.

Imports of coal in Ontario in January fell to 453,000 tons from 606,300 tons in the same month last year, and Quebec's total was down to 164,800 tons from 242,200. (7)

SHIPMENTS AND EXPORTS OF ASBESTOS IN 1949

Shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines decreased 20 per cent in 1949 as compared with the preceding year, the decline being due to the labour dispute in the first half of the year when shipments fell off 54 per cent. In the second half there was an increase of almost 10 per cent. Exports for the full year were down 23 per cent.

The year's output amounted to 573,668 tons as compared with 716,769 in 1948. In the first half of the year, shipments fell to 154,727 tons from 335,530 in the similar period of 1948, but rose to 418,941 tons in the second half from 381,239. In December, 61,098 tons were shipped as compared with 58,459 a year earlier.

Exports during the year aggregated 534,990 tons as compared with 690,442 in the preceding year. In December, 64,056 tons were exported compared with 64,245 in December, 1948. (8)

PETROLEUM SUPPLIES IN SEPTEMBER

Domestic sources are accounting for an increasing proportion of the crude petroleum consumed in Canada. Of the total receipts at refineries in September, 22.6 per cent came from Canadian oil fields as against 12.4 per cent in the corresponding month of 1948, while in the first nine months of the year the percentage was 20.9 as compared with 12.8 in the similar period of 1948.

Total receipts in the month amounted to 8,632,000 barrels as compared with 8,817,000 a year earlier, of which 1,941,000 barrels were of domestic origin compared with 1,097,000, and 6,691,000 barrels were imported compared with 7,720,000. In the nine months, receipts aggregated 71,721,000 barrels compared with 65,739,000, Canadian sources contributing 15,016,000 barrels compared with 8,427,000, and foreign sources 56,705,000 barrels compared with 57,312,000.

Venezuela was the largest outside source of crude petroleum supplies both in September and the nine months of the year. The United States was in second place, followed by Arabia and Trinidad.

Output of refined petroleum products in September amounted to 8,446,000 barrels compared with 7,987,000 in the corresponding month of 1948, bringing the nine-month total to 65,986,000 barrels compared with 59,536,000. The respective increases were 5.7 and 10.8 per cent. Most of the cumulative increase was in motor gasoline, output of which rose to 30,453,000 from 24,992,000 barrels in 1948. (9)

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES IN 1949

More babies were born in Canada in 1949 than in any year except 1947. The increase over the preceding year amounted to 1.6 per cent, while the decrease from 1947 was 2.3 per cent. There was a slight rise over 1948 to a new high total in the number of deaths, while marriages declined for the fourth year in succession.

Preliminary totals released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics place the number of births in Canada -- exclusive of the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Newfoundland -- at 351,135 as compared with 345,689 in 1948 and 359,094 in 1947. There were increases over 1948 in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

Births by provinces in 1949 were as follows, totals for 1948 being in brackets: Quebec, 112,832 (112,422); Ontario, 107,525 (105,916); British Columbia, 27,141 (26,178); Alberta, 23,748 (23,085); Saskatchewan, 22,468 (21,310); Manitoba, 19,606 (18,630); Nova Scotia, 17,835 (17,721); New Brunswick, 17,160 (17,590); Prince Edward Island, 2,820 (2,837).

Deaths in 1949 numbered 119,578, slightly higher than the preceding year's total of 119,470. There were fewer deaths in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and British Columbia, but increases in the other provinces. The marriages totalled 121,422 as compared with 123,637, decreases being recorded in all provinces except Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta. (10)

LEATHER FOOTWEAR PRODUCTION
ADVANCED 12 PER CENT IN 1949

Production of leather footwear in Canada during 1949 was 12 per cent greater in number of pairs than in 1948 and slightly above 1947, but still fell considerably short of the record 1946 output.

Total number of pairs made last year was 36,256,400 as compared with 32,406,700 in 1948, 35,574,000 in 1947 and 43,255,000 in 1946. The 1949 production was also 46 per cent greater than 10 years earlier, output in 1939 amounting to 24,805,300 pairs.

In December production amounted to 2,511,800 pairs as against 3,075,600 in November, continuing the downward movement shown from September, and was also below the output of 2,783,900 in December, 1948. (11)

PRODUCTION AND DOMESTIC SALES
OF RIGID INSULATING BOARD

Production and domestic sales of rigid insulating board both were at lower levels in January, the month's output amounting to 14,064,300 square feet as compared with 17,175,500 in December and 20,154,800 in the corresponding month last year. Domestic sales during the month decreased to 13,011,300 square feet from 16,723,400 in the preceding month and 19,557,000 in January last year. (Mem. 3)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Loadings of railway revenue freight during the week ending February 10 advanced to 71,170 cars compared with 67,737 cars in the preceding week but remained 1,235 cars or 1.7 per cent below the same week of 1949. Eastern division loadings were nearly maintained at 48,030 cars against 48,126 cars one year ago with good gains in coal, coke, lumber, gasoline and autos, while the western region, still restricted by snow conditions in the mountain divisions, reported 23,140 cars compared with 24,279 cars, a decline of 4.7 per cent. (12)

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE
PREPARATIONS INDUSTRY

The gross factory selling value of products of the fruit and vegetable preparations industry of Canada reached an all-time record of \$162,505,000 in 1948, showing a rise of about eight per cent over the previous peak value of \$152,713,000 in 1947. This was about three times the pre-war total of \$55,165,000 for 1939.

There were 499 establishments in the industry in 1948, three less than in the preceding year. The employees numbered 16,644 as compared with 17,036, and their salaries and wages totalled \$25,451,000 compared with \$22,199,000. The cost of materials used in the process of manufacture was \$98,326,000 as compared with \$89,333,000.

Canned vegetables were produced in 1948 to the value of \$48,088,000 as compared with \$35,156,000 in 1948; canned fruits, \$14,886,000 compared with \$17,180,000; jams, jellies and marmalades, \$16,394,000 (\$17,575,000 in 1947); canned soups, \$17,991,000 (\$22,752,000); catsup, \$9,765,000 (\$5,553,000); and pickles and relishes, \$7,345,000 (\$8,503,000). (13)

BRASS AND COPPER PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

Gross factory value of products turned out by 168 brass foundries and other plants in Canada engaged chiefly in the manufacture of commodities other than electrical equipment from brass, bronze and copper amounted to \$122,382,000 in 1948, an increase of 27 per cent over the preceding year's total of \$96,550,000. (14)

TOBACCO STATISTICS The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has released a reference paper entitled "Historical Series of Tobacco Statistics" bringing up to 1948 inclusive the statistical data relative to tobacco production, manufacture and trade presented in the "Statistical Handbook of Canadian Tobacco" prepared with the cooperation of the Tobacco Division, Central Experimental Farm, and published in 1947. (Ref. Paper 1)

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. Wholesale Trade, December (10 cents).
2. Revised Estimate of Production and Value of 1949 Field Crops (10 cents).
3. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
4. Primary Iron and Steel, November (25 cents).
5. Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal and Secondary Non-Ferrous Ingot, October (15 cents).
6. Steel Ingots, January (10 cents).
7. Preliminary Report on Coal Production, January (10 cents).
8. Asbestos, December (10 cents).
9. Refined Petroleum Products, September (25 cents).
10. Births, Marriages and Deaths, December (10 cents).
11. Production of Leather Footwear, December (10 cents).
12. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
13. Fruit and Vegetable Preparations Industry, 1948 (25 cents).
14. Brass and Copper Products Industry, 1948 (25 cents).
15. Preliminary Report on the Pack of Canned Fruits and Vegetables, 1949 (10 cents).

Memoranda

1. Report on the Live Stock Survey of December 1, 1949 -- Hogs -- (10 cents).
2. Volume of Highway Traffic Entering Canada on Traveller's Vehicle Permits, (10 cents).
3. Rigid Insulating Board, January (10 cents).

Reference Papers

1. Historical Series of Tobacco Statistics -- Production, Processing and Trade -- (\$1.00).

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