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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADA'S OFFICIAL COST-OF-LIVING INDEX rose 0.4 points to 171.1 between November 1 and December 1, 1950. This compares with an index level of 161.5 at December 1, 1949. The latest increase results from slight advances in all group indexes, except rents, which were not surveyed. Between August 1939 and December 1950, the cost-of-living index advanced 69.7 per cent.

CANADA'S TOTAL DOMESTIC EXPORTS rose slightly in November to \$292,700,000 from \$292,300,000 in November, 1949, and estimated total imports advanced to \$328,100,000 from \$239,600,000. Domestic exports to the United States rose to \$192,000,000 as against \$171,300,000, and to the United Kingdom declined to \$38,600,000 compared to \$56,800,000. Estimated imports from the United States amounted to \$216,300,000 compared to \$162,700,000, and from the United Kingdom to \$39,000,000 as against \$26,500,000.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT showed continued improvement at the beginning of November, the advance index being 0.3 per cent higher than at October 1, and 4.2 per cent above November 1, 1949. The sums disbursed in weekly wages and salaries rose 1.1 per cent in the month, and were 10.4 per cent higher than at the first of November, 1949.

CHEQUES CASHED AGAINST INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS rose to an all-time monthly peak total of \$11,007,877,000 in November, 29 per cent higher than the November, 1949 figure of \$8,540,116,000. This raised the cumulative total for the first 11 months of the year to \$91,320,664,000 from \$79,158,554,000 a year ago, or by 15 per cent.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES advanced six per cent in November over the corresponding month in 1949, and were up two per cent in the first 11 months of the year. Sales in Canada as a whole in November were valued at \$98,208,000 as compared with \$92,966,000 a year earlier, and in the 11 months aggregated \$754,103,000 as compared with \$741,270,000.

CANADA'S MINERAL PRODUCTION reached an all-time high value of \$1,040,000,000 in 1950, exceeding the billion-dollar mark for the first time. The gain over the preceding year's value of \$901,000,000 amounted to 15 per cent. The increase in value over the preceding year was quite general throughout the list of products but the principal gains were in crude petroleum, asbestos, gold, zinc, copper and nickel.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX UP
0.4 POINTS AT DECEMBER 1

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index rose 0.4 points to 171.1 between November 1 and December 1, 1950. This compares with an index level of 161.5 at December, 1949. The latest increase results from slight advances in all group indexes, except rents, which were not surveyed.

Foods moved from 218.6 to 218.8, as small increases in dairy products and fruits and vegetables overbalanced decreases in meats and eggs. The clothing index rose 0.4 points to 184.9, due to increases in men's and women's wear, piece-goods and footwear. The largest group index advance was registered by homefurnishings and services, which moved up 1.6 points to 176.4, increases being general throughout this group. Slightly higher prices for coke advanced the fuel index from 140.6 to 140.7. The index of miscellaneous items rose 0.7 points to 134.1 following advances in personal care, recreation, and health sub-groups. The rent index remained unchanged at 136.4.

Between August 1939 and December 1950, the cost-of-living index advanced 69.7 per cent. (1)

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

	Com- bined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Cloth- ing	Home furnish- ings and Services	Miscel- aneous
December 1, 1950	171.1	218.8	136.4	140.7	184.9	176.4	134.1
November 1, 1950	170.7	218.6	136.4	140.6	184.5	174.8	133.4
December 1, 1949	161.5	201.9	125.0	135.2	183.7	167.1	130.5

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX HIGHER IN NOVEMBER

The general wholesale price index, on the base 1926 equals 100, rose in November to 174.0 from 172.6 in October, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. At the beginning of 1950 and in November, 1949 it stood at 157.1. The consumers' goods index increased to 159.4 from 158.8 in the preceding month, while the producers' goods index rose to 176.4 from 175.1.

There were increases over October in seven of the eight main sub-group indexes, that for non-metallic minerals declining 1.5 points. The largest gain of 3.4 points was registered in the non-ferrous metals group, followed by the wood products group with a rise of 3.2 points, and textile products with an advance of 3.1 points.

Gains in solder, tin, silver, lead and its products were mainly responsible for the advance in the non-ferrous metals group, while fur, wrapping paper and newsprint were among the larger gains in the wood products group. Among the fibres and textiles there were advances in raw wool, worsted yarns, hosiery and knitted goods, wool blankets, wool cloth and carpets.

Sub-group indexes were as follows, those for October being in brackets: vegetable products, 149.1 (148.7); animal products, 184.0 (181.7); textile products, 197.7 (194.6); wood products, 213.4 (210.2); iron products, 189.6 (189.2); non-ferrous metals, 176.4 (173.0); non-metallic minerals, 141.7 (143.2); chemical products, 130.8 (129.9).

The index number of wholesale farm product prices advanced to 142.5 from 141.3 in October, but was down from last year's November level of 148.4. (2)

WHOLESALE PRICES OF GENERAL BUILDING MATERIALS

Wholesale prices of general building materials moved lower again in November, but the composite index of residential building materials continued its unbroken series of gains since last March, according to price indexes compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The Bureau's index of general building materials declined 1.2 points to 232.9 from 234.1 for October. This compares with an October decrease of 3.0 points from 237.1 for September. At the November level, the index was 33.4 points above November, 1949, when the index stood at 199.5.

The composite index of residential building materials advanced 1.7 points from 259.5 for October to 261.2 for November, and was 34.9 points above the November, 1949 index of 226.3.

Increases among the indexes of principal components of residential building materials in November were in lumber and its products, from 380.6 for October to 385.5 for November, and paint and glass, from 178.5 to 181.2. The roofing material index declined from 237.6 to 222.5, and electrical equipment and fixtures from 191.8 to 190.5. The index for "other" materials advanced slightly from 191.4 to 191.7, while the remaining four were unchanged. (2)

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE IN NOVEMBER

A summary of foreign trade figures for November released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics shows a slight rise in the value of Canada's total domestic exports to \$292,700,000 as compared to \$292,300,000 in November, 1949, and an increase in estimated total imports to \$328,100,000 from \$239,600,000. Domestic exports to the United States rose to \$192,000,000 as against \$171,300,000, and to the United Kingdom declined to \$38,600,000 compared to \$56,800,000. Estimated imports from the United States amounted to \$216,300,000 compared to \$162,700,000, and from the United Kingdom to \$39,000,000 as against \$26,500,000.

The import figures are only preliminary and therefore subject to revision. Final and detailed statistics of imports will not be available for about three weeks. Those for exports will appear in the next issue of the Weekly Bulletin.

The preliminary figures on the month's foreign trade are summarized in the following table:-

	November, 1949		November, 1950	
	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign
	(Millions of Dollars)			
<u>Exports -</u>				
United Kingdom	56.8	0.4	38.6	0.2
Other Commonwealth countries ..	22.3	0.1	15.3	0.1
United States	171.3	0.4	192.0	3.1
Other foreign countries	41.9	2.3	46.8	0.3
Total, all countries	<u>292.3</u>	<u>3.2</u>	<u>292.7</u>	<u>3.7</u>
	November, 1949		November, 1950 **	
<u>Imports -</u>				
United Kingdom	26.5		39.0	
Other Commonwealth countries	18.6		30.0	
United States	162.7		216.3	
Other foreign countries	31.8		42.8	
Total, all countries	<u>239.6</u>		<u>328.1</u>	

** Estimate only. Subject to revision.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT
SLIGHTLY HIGHER AT NOVEMBER 1

Industrial employment showed continued improvement at the beginning of November, the advance index being 0.3 per cent higher than at October 1, and 4.2 per cent above November 1, 1949. The sums disbursed in weekly wages and salaries rose 1.1 per cent in the month, and were 10.4 per cent higher than at the first of November, 1949. The advance figure of average weekly earnings in the eight major industrial groups rose to a new high record at November 1, standing at \$46.39 as compared with the previous maximum average of \$46.00 at October 1, and the per capita earnings of \$43.80 at November 1, 1949.

Hightened industrial activity as compared with a month earlier was recorded in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, the gain of 0.9 per cent in Quebec being most noteworthy. The trend of employment in the remaining provinces was downward, the advance index number in Prince Edward Island falling 3.7 per cent, Nova Scotia 0.7 per cent, New Brunswick 2.0 per cent, Alberta 0.8 per cent, and British Columbia 1.9 per cent.

The advance index number of employment in manufacturing showed a seasonal decline at November 1 of 0.2 per cent as compared with a month earlier, but exceeded the November 1, 1949 figure by 4.3 per cent. The decline in the month was accompanied by a gain of 1.0 per cent in the weekly wages and salaries disbursed. Per capita earnings stood at \$48.03 -- the highest figure in the record of over 9½ years -- as compared with \$47.57 at October 1, and \$45.10 at November 1, 1949. (3)

LABOUR FORCE PRACTICALLY UNCHANGED
IN SIZE BUT UNEMPLOYMENT SMALLER

Canada's total civilian labour force was virtually unchanged in size between November last year and a year earlier but the proportion and number of persons without jobs declined and there was a shift in agricultural and non-agricultural employment, according to the quarterly sample survey of the labour force during the week ended November 4, 1950, by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Estimated size of the total labour force at the latest survey was 5,201,000 as compared with an estimated 5,200,000 in the week ended October 29, 1949. Out of the total, an estimated 5,084,000 persons or 97.7 per cent had jobs as against 5,053,000 or 97.1 per cent 12 months earlier. Persons without jobs and seeking work dropped to 117,000 from 147,000, or to 2.3 from 2.9 per cent of the total labour force and to 3.1 from 3.9 per cent of the paid workers in the labour force.

While the total labour force showed little change in size over the 12 months, the agricultural labour force declined by 84,000 from 1,058,000 to an estimated 974,000 and the non-agricultural labour force rose by 85,000 from 4,142,000 to 4,227,000.

Persons with jobs in non-agricultural industries increased by 110,000 as between two periods, from 4,005,000 to 4,115,000, the figure for last November also showing an advance from an estimated 4,070,000 in August, 1950. Largest increases over a year earlier in persons with jobs were in manufacturing, from 1,342,000 to an estimated 1,351,000; construction, from 329,000 to 366,000; transportation, from 365,000 to 398,000; and trade, from 669,000 to 685,000.

Number of persons with jobs in Ontario rose to 1,793,000 from 1,761,000 a year earlier, and in Quebec to 1,409,000 from 1,393,000. Total for the Prairie Provinces rose slightly to 958,000 from 956,000, but fell in British Columbia to 419,000 from 427,000, the Maritime Provinces to 410,000 from 416,000, and Newfoundland to 95,000 from 100,000. (4)

CHEQUES CASHED ROSE 29 PER CENT
IN NOVEMBER TO A NEW PEAK TOTAL

Cheques cashed against individual accounts rose to an all-time monthly peak total of \$11,007,877,000 in November, 29 per cent higher than the November, 1949 figure of \$8,540,116,000. This raised the cumulative total for the first 11 months of the year to \$91,320,664,000 from \$79,158,554,000 a year ago, or by 15 per cent. Advances were recorded for each of the five economic areas both in the month and 11 months.

A feature of the November transactions was the high level of the cheques cashed in Quebec, total for the province rising 45.6 per cent to \$3,353,908,000 from \$2,303,563,000 a year earlier. Ontario was next with an increase of 28.9 per cent to \$4,774,892,000 from \$3,705,495,000, followed closely by British Columbia with an increase of 28.2 per cent to \$855,009,000 from \$666,780,000. The aggregate for the Prairie Provinces rose 8.9 per cent to \$1,768,389,000 from \$1,624,087,000, and the total for the Atlantic Provinces increased 6.4 per cent to \$255,678,000 from \$240,191,000.

Cumulative totals by economic areas for the first 11 months of this year were as follows, the totals for the corresponding period of 1949 being in brackets: Atlantic Provinces, \$2,401,144,000 (\$2,085,887,000); Quebec, \$26,267,621,000 (\$22,329,389,000); Ontario, \$39,311,166,000 (\$32,787,228,000); Prairie Provinces, \$15,700,585,000 (\$15,097,482,000); British Columbia, \$7,640,143,000 (\$6,858,569,000). (5)

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

	<u>Dec. 28, 1950</u>	<u>Dec. 21, 1950</u> (1935-39=100)	<u>Nov. 30, 1950</u>
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
(106 Common Stocks)	150.3	148.4	140.8
82 Industrials	148.7	146.6	138.5
16 Utilities	144.4	143.6	135.2
8 Banks	154.1	152.6	152.8
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
(30 Stocks)	90.4	89.6	86.6
25 Golds	61.1	60.7	59.3
5 Base Metals	150.0	148.2	142.0

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES HIGHER
IN NOVEMBER AND 11 MONTHS

Department store sales advanced six per cent in November over the corresponding month in 1949 and were up two per cent in the first 11 months of the year. There were large increases in sales in November in the four western provinces and a small gain in Ontario, but lower sales in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. In the 11 months there were decreases in Saskatchewan and the Maritimes, but moderate gains in the rest of Canada.

Sales in Canada as a whole in November were valued at \$98,208,000 as compared with \$92,966,000 a year earlier, and in the 11 months aggregated \$754,103,000 as compared with \$741,270,000.

Largest increase in the month was 17 per cent in footwear sales, but in the 11 months the gain was only 4.2 per cent. Next largest gains were shown by men's and boys' wear, girls' and infants wear, hosiery and glove departments, which were up 12 to 13 per cent in each, substantially above increases in the cumulative period.

Other notable increases were those shown by home furnishings and household appliances and electrical supplies with respective gains of 4.5 per cent and 4.3 per cent in the month. In the cumulative period the former was up 2.6 per cent, and the latter 18.5 per cent. Sales of hardware and kitchen utensils increased four per cent in November as against 0.6 per cent in the 11-month period, while sales of radios, musical instruments and supplies were down seven per cent in the month and 1.4 per cent in the 11 months.

Eleven-month sales were as follows by provinces, totals for the same period last year being in brackets (figures in thousands): Maritime Provinces, \$54,251 (\$55,193); Quebec, \$120,524 (\$117,219); Ontario, \$280,545 (\$277,159); Manitoba, \$112,657 (\$109,575); Saskatchewan, \$37,035 (\$39,033); Alberta, \$51,359 (\$48,936); British Columbia, \$97,732 (\$94,155). (6)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES UP 19 PER
CENT IN PRE-CHRISTMAS WEEK

Department store sales in the pre-Christmas week ending December 23 rose 19 per cent over the corresponding week in 1949. There were increases in all regions, the Maritimes leading with a gain of 33 per cent, followed by Quebec with 27 per cent, British Columbia 18 per cent, Ontario 17 per cent, Alberta 14 per cent, Manitoba 13 per cent, and Saskatchewan six per cent.

STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER
AND CHEESE ON JANUARY 1

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on January 1 this year amounted to 27,446,000 pounds as compared with 39,974,000 on the same date last year. Stocks of cheddar cheese totalled 17,611,000 pounds as against 30,699,000 on January 1 last year.

Holdings of creamery butter were as follows by cities on January 1, totals for the same date last year being in brackets (thousands omitted): Quebec, 1,919 (2,318) pounds; Montreal, 8,636 (13,315); Toronto, 2,403 (8,720); Winnipeg, 8,032 (9,055); Regina, 600 (923); Saskatoon, 371 (258); Edmonton, 3,716 (2,754); Calgary, 1,137 (1,200); Vancouver, 632 (1,431). (Mon. 1)

SALES OF FLUID MILK AND CREAM
UP ONE PER CENT IN OCTOBER

Combined sales of fluid milk and cream were one per cent higher in October than in the same month in 1949, and were up two per cent in the first 10 months of 1950. There were advances in the month in all provinces except New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba, and in the cumulative period were lower only in Manitoba. Sales in October amounted to 333,408,000 pounds, and in the 10-month period totalled 3,456,140,000 pounds. (Mem. 2)

MARKETINGS AND SUPPLIES OF WHEAT UP SHARPLY

Marketings of wheat by farmers in the Prairie Provinces increased sharply during the week ending December 14 over the corresponding week a year earlier, and with larger overseas export clearances the visible supplies of Canadian wheat in North America rose 31 per cent above the 1949 total.

Marketings during the week amounted to 6,620,807 bushels as compared with 3,977,303 a year ago, and the overseas export clearances totalled 2,395,374 bushels against 1,227,134. Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on December 14 aggregated 216,697,855 bushels compared with 165,932,171 bushels a year earlier.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending December 14, totals for the same week in 1949 being in brackets: oats, 2,314,016 (1,401,543) bushels; barley, 1,383,796 (547,686); rye, 48,365 (124,732); flaxseed, 48,262 (8,843). (Mem. 3)

LANDINGS OF SEA FISH HIGHER IN NOVEMBER

Landings and landed value of the sea fisheries of Canada -- excluding Newfoundland -- were sharply higher in November than in the corresponding month of 1949, marked gains being recorded for both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

During the month, 149,574,000 pounds of fish were landed with a value of \$4,741,000 as compared with 115,506,000 pounds at \$2,859,000 a year earlier. In the first 11 months of the year, landings increased to 1,209,484,000 pounds from 1,109,639,000 in the like period of 1949, and the value advanced to \$62,859,000 from \$50,285,000.

On the Pacific coast, landings in November totalled 118,736,000 pounds valued at \$3,293,000 compared with 91,932,000 pounds at \$1,820,000 a year earlier. Chum salmon and herring fisheries were the main contributors to the increases. In the 11 months ending November, 513,709,000 pounds were landed and the value was \$33,798,000 compared with 467,858,000 pounds with a value of \$24,512,000.

November landings on the Atlantic coast amounted to 30,838,000 pounds as compared with 23,574,000 a year ago, and the value was \$1,448,000 against \$1,039,000. In the 11-month period, landings totalled 695,775,000 pounds valued at \$29,061,000 against 641,781,000 pounds at \$25,773,000 a year earlier. Increases in the value of the lobster, halibut and haddock fisheries more than offset declines in other species, notably cod and sardines. (7)

MINERAL PRODUCTION VALUE EXCEEDED
BILLION DOLLARS FOR FIRST TIME IN 1950

Canada's mineral production reached an all-time high value of \$1,040,000,000 in 1950, exceeding the billion-dollar mark for the first time in history, according to preliminary annual estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The gain over the preceding year's value of \$901,000,000 amounted to 15 per cent. In the past 50 years there has been a 16-fold increase in value from the 1901 total of \$65,000,000.

The increase in value over the preceding year was quite general throughout the list of products but the principal gains were in crude petroleum, asbestos, gold, zinc, copper and nickel. For each of these, except gold, the 1950 value was the highest over recorded. All provinces shared in the increased value except Newfoundland, where there was a small decline.

The estimated value of all metals was \$620,900,000, or 15.2 per cent more than in 1949. During the early part of 1950 the trend of base metal prices was downward but later advances yielded higher averages than in the preceding year. Copper production at 523,829,000 pounds was down from 526,914,000, but up 17 per cent in value to \$122,552,000 from \$104,719,000. Nickel declined to 246,114,000 pounds from 257,379,000, but rose 14.5 per cent in value to \$113,565,000 from \$99,173,000. Zinc output rose to 622,451,000 pounds from 576,524,000, and in value to \$97,414,000 from \$76,372,000, while lead advanced to 339,777,000 pounds from 319,550,000, but fell in value to \$49,098,000 from \$50,489,000.

Gold was again the leading mineral product from the value standpoint, rising from \$148,447,000 in 1949 to \$168,540,000, and in quantity from 4,124,000 fine ounces to 4,431,000 fine ounces. On October 1, 1950, the Canadian dollar was permitted to find its own level in relation to the United States dollar, resulting in an average price of \$38.04 per troy ounce in Canadian funds in 1950 compared with \$36.00 per ounce in 1949.

Substantial increase in Alberta's crude petroleum production was largely responsible for a 9.8 per cent increase in value of mineral fuels to \$201,700,000 from \$183,654,000. Crude petroleum production totalled 29,100,000 barrels compared with 21,300,000 the year before, and the value amounted to \$84,129,000 against \$61,118,000. Coal output was only slightly changed at 19,000,000 tons valued at \$110,042,000 compared with 19,120,000 at \$110,915,000. Production of natural gas was higher in volume but lower in value, amounting to 71,274,000 M cubic feet at \$7,555,000 compared with 60,457,000 M at \$11,620,000.

Non-metallics or industrial minerals were valued at \$92,100,000 compared with \$64,600,000 in 1949. Asbestos production reached a new high at 877,700 tons at \$64,900,000 compared with 574,900 tons at \$39,746,000. Gypsum output at 3,589,000 tons was up 19 per cent and the value rose to \$6,113,000 from \$5,424,000. Salt of all grades was valued at \$6,300,000 against \$5,600,000, and the quantity was 792,000 tons against 749,000. Fluorspar, the greater proportion from Newfoundland, had a value of \$1,530,000, down from \$1,593,000, and sulphur in the form of pyrite and sulphuric acid rose to \$2,328,000 from \$2,039,000.

As a result of heavy demands for building materials, output of structurals moved to an all-time peak value of \$126,164,000 from \$113,903,000 the year before. Clay products -- brick, tile, etc. -- rose in value to \$20,954,000 from \$17,982,000. Shipments of cement amounted to 16,698,000 barrels valued at \$35,693,000 as against 15,917,000 barrels at \$32,902,000, and lime production totalled 1,147,000 tons at \$12,322,000 against 1,019,000 at \$11,310,000. Stone for buildings, monuments, railway ballast, had a value of \$22,600,000 against \$20,528,000, and sand and gravel, \$34,537,000 against \$31,182,000.

Mineral production in Ontario rose in value to \$362,354,000 from \$323,369,000 in the preceding year, and Quebec to \$217,665,000 from \$165,022,000. Value for British Columbia advanced to \$142,135,000 from \$136,386,000, Alberta to \$134,598,000 from \$113,728,000, and Nova Scotia to \$60,110,000 from \$56,093,000.

Values for the remaining provinces and territories were as follows, with 1949 totals in brackets: Saskatchewan, \$36,183,000 (\$36,055,000); Manitoba, \$32,694,000 (\$23,840,000); Newfoundland, \$25,962,000 (\$27,584,000); New Brunswick, \$12,601,000 (\$7,134,000); Northwest Territories, \$8,103,000 (\$6,802,000); and the Yukon, \$7,882,000 (\$5,099,000). (8)

PRODUCTION OF LEADING MINERALS Production of 14 of 16 of Canada's leading minerals was higher in September than in the corresponding month of 1949, while in the first nine months of the year output advanced in all but four items. In the month, declines were recorded for coal and copper, while in the cumulative period, copper, iron ore, lead and nickel were lower.

Output was as follows in September, totals for the same month in 1949 being in brackets: asbestos, 92,215 (71,963) tons; cement, 1,615,506 (1,559,238) barrels; clay products, \$2,137,149 (\$1,707,670); coal, 1,514,908 (1,747,084) tons; copper, 20,849 (22,151) tons; gold, 364,906 (364,689) fine ounces; gypsum, 437,378 (380,463) tons; iron ore, 604,543 (470,723) tons; lead, 19,390 (12,760) tons; lime, 97,343 (84,156) tons; natural gas, 4,512,746 (3,724,555) M cubic feet; nickel, 11,679 (9,616) tons; petroleum, 2,724,985 (2,167,334) barrels; salt, 76,962 (72,171) tons; silver, 2,164,097 (1,161,567) fine ounces; zinc, 28,743 (22,706) tons. (9)

PRODUCTION OF COKE IN OCTOBER Production of coke from ovens and gas retorts in October amounted to 342,100 tons as compared with 310,400 in the corresponding month of 1949. Cumulative output for the first 10 months of 1950 advanced to 3,261,600 tons from 3,251,200 a year earlier.

Producers disposed of 354,700 tons in October, bringing the figure for the 10 months to 3,521,200 tons. Of the October total, 41,700 tons were used in coke or gas plants, 176,000 tons in producers' smelters, 20,000 tons for domestic use, 64,400 tons for other uses, 33,100 tons sold to dealers for resale, and 19,700 tons for export. (10)

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF CEMENT IN OCTOBER Production and shipments of Portland cement by Canadian manufacturers were higher in October and the first 10 months of 1950 than in the corresponding periods of 1949. The month's output amounted to 1,560,000 barrels as compared with 1,493,300 in October, 1949, and in the cumulative period totalled 13,907,300 barrels as against 13,445,800 in 1949.

October shipments amounted to 1,556,600 barrels compared with 1,465,700 a year earlier, raising the aggregate for the 10-month period to 14,506,000 tons from 13,760,800 in the same months of 1949. (11)

SALES OF PAINTS, VARNISHES
AND LACQUERS IN OCTOBER

Sales of paints, varnishes and lacquers by manufacturers which normally account for all but a small percentage of the total Canadian production were higher in October and the first 10 months of 1950 than in the same periods of 1949. The month's sales totalled \$7,633,954 as compared with \$6,039,078 in October a year earlier, raising the cumulative figure for the 10-month period to \$74,171,285 as against \$68,986,272. (12)

PRODUCTION OF ASPHALT ROOFING

Production of asphalt shingles and roll roofing was lower in November, amounting to 348,701 squares as compared with 395,985 in November, 1949. The month's output of tar and asphalt felts rose to 5,005 tons from 4,584 a year earlier. Production of shingles amounted to 145,435 squares compared with 151,011 in November, 1949; smooth surfaced roofing in rolls, 105,859 squares compared with 118,947; mineral surfaced roofing in rolls, 59,434 squares compared with 79,832; and roll type sidings, 37,973 squares compared with 46,195. (Mem. 4)

PRODUCTION AND DOMESTIC SALES
OF ASPHALT FLOOR TILES

Production and domestic sales of asphalt floor tiles both were lower in November than in the same month of 1949, while in the 11 months ending November, output was higher but sales declined. In the month, 1,576,700 square feet were produced as compared with 1,597,600 in November, 1949, bringing the cumulative total for the 11 months to 16,090,100 square feet from 15,373,300 in 1949. Domestic sales in November totalled 1,344,800 square feet compared with 1,628,600 a year ago, and in the 11-month period aggregated 14,856,800 square feet as against 15,653,200. (Mem. 5)

CANAL TRAFFIC AT NEAR RECORD IN OCTOBER

Freight traffic through Canadian canal systems during October advanced to a near-record for the month at 3,819,231 tons, an increase of 35 per cent over the October, 1949 total of 2,820,223 tons. Peak for the month was reached in 1938 when traffic totalled 3,889,192 tons. Soft coal, oil and gasoline, iron ore, pulpwood and miscellaneous freight featured the general advance.

Traffic through the combined systems of the Sault Ste. Marie canals -- Canadian and United States locks -- rose sharply to 15,800,755 tons from 4,438,079 in October, 1949, when coal and other strikes had restricted activity in the United States. Eastbound volume rose from 3,927,323 tons to 13,181,268, while westbound traffic increased from 510,756 tons to 2,619,487.

Traffic on the Welland Ship canal in October totalled 2,027,890 tons, up sharply from 1,338,280 a year earlier. Volume continued large throughout the month in the St. Lawrence canals, 1,362,998 tons of freight being recorded, a gain of 160,690 tons over October, 1949. (13)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Carloadings on Canadian railways for the week ended December 23 totalled 74,389 cars -- a new record for the week -- as compared with 65,398 in the same week a year earlier. Western loadings increased to 27,128 cars from 22,781 a year ago, while eastbound volume continued seasonally higher at 47,261 cars, a gain of 4,644. Cumulative loadings for the 51 weeks of 1950 were 3,851,285 cars, down 6,378 cars from the 1950 corresponding total of 3,857,663 cars. (14)

BIRTH RATE SLIGHTLY LOWER IN 1949 Canada's birth rate moved slightly lower in 1949 for the second successive year, declining to 27.1 per 1,000 population from 27.2 in 1948, and 28.8 in 1947, the latter being the highest in recent years, according to provisional figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Despite the two-year fall the rate was substantially above the 1941-45 five-year average of 23.6. The death rate was also slightly lower at 9.2 as against 9.3 in 1948, and the rate of natural increase was unchanged from 1948 at 17.9 but below the 1947 figure of 19.4.

There were 366,137 live births in Canada in 1949 -- 7,196 more than in the preceding year, but 5,603 fewer than in 1947. All provinces registered increased births except the three Maritime Provinces, the declines in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia being slight.

Newfoundland's birth rate at 35.3 per 1,000 population was the highest among the provinces, followed by New Brunswick with 32.3, Prince Edward Island and Quebec each with 30.1, Alberta 28.6, Nova Scotia 27.5, Saskatchewan 25.2, Manitoba 24.8, British Columbia 24.5, and Ontario 24.2.

Total deaths from all causes rose to 124,044 from 122,492 in 1948. The natural increase in the population -- the difference between births and deaths -- for the year was 242,093, up from the 1948 figure of 236,449, but down from the all-time peak of 250,690 in 1947. Newfoundland had the highest rate of natural increase among the provinces at 27.1 per 1,000 population, the figures ranging downward to 14.3 for British Columbia and 14.4 for Ontario.

The all-Canada infant mortality rate was again lower in 1949, falling to 43 per 1,000 live births from 44 in 1948, and 46 in 1947. The maternal mortality rate was 1.5 per 1,000 live births, unchanged from 1948, but slightly below the 1947 figure of 1.6.

There were 123,877 marriages in 1949 as compared with 125,924 in the preceding year, and the rate fell to 9.2 per 1,000 population from 9.5 in 1948. (15)

PRINTING AND WRITING INKS Gross value of products turned out by manufacturers of printing and writing inks reached an all-time peak total of \$8,939,638 in 1949, an increase of eight per cent over the previous high of \$8,287,580 in 1948. Production of printing inks in 1949 increased to 21,567,526 pounds valued at \$7,586,964 from 20,251,448 pounds at \$6,991,707, and the value of writing inks declined to \$316,807 from \$319,331, while the output of printers' rollers was valued at \$504,194 against \$495,233 a year earlier. (16)

POLISHES AND DRESSINGS INDUSTRY Gross factory value of products manufactured by establishments engaged in the production of polishes and dressings in 1949 rose to \$11,865,149, a gain of 18 per cent over the preceding year's total of \$10,080,000. Output of polishes and floor wax during 1949, including small amounts from other industries was as follows: paste floor wax, 7,695,107 pounds valued at \$2,498,256; liquid floor wax and polish, 1,739,688 gallons at \$4,790,192; stove polishes and dressings, \$1,020,394; furniture polishes, \$425,568; shoe polishes, \$66,833; brass polishes, \$61,190; silver polishes, \$127,365; auto polishes, \$364,409; and miscellaneous polishes, \$336,420. (17)

PROVINCIAL DISTRIBUTION OF
MANUFACTURING OUTPUT IN 1948

Out of a gross value of production by the manufacturing industries of Canada amounting to \$11,876,790,000 in 1948, Ontario accounted for \$5,743,141,000 or 48 per cent and practically the same proportion as in 1947, according to the detailed annual report on the manufacturing industries of Canada by provinces for 1948 by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Quebec was next with a gross value of \$3,599,306,000 or about 30 per cent of the overall total, and British Columbia third with \$985,593,000 or eight per cent. Next in order were Manitoba, Alberta, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, and Prince Edward Island.

All provinces shared in the advance of nearly 13 per cent in the gross value of manufacturing production in 1948 over 1947. For Ontario, the figure was up 17 per cent from \$4,903,473,000 in 1947, while the gross value for Quebec rose 19 per cent from \$3,017,049,000 and for British Columbia nearly 15 per cent from \$858,285,000.

Gross value of production by manufacturing industries in Manitoba increased 21 per cent to \$462,201,200 from \$383,130,300; Alberta, 24 per cent to \$366,090,100 (\$296,054,100 in 1947); Nova Scotia, 21 per cent to \$246,111,700 (\$204,219,400); New Brunswick, 13 per cent to \$234,579,700 (\$208,366,400); Saskatchewan, 13 per cent to \$221,363,600 (\$196,452,200); Prince Edward Island, 35 per cent to \$17,074,100 (\$12,653,500).

Pulp and paper, slaughtering and meat packing, and non-ferrous metal, smelting and refining, as in 1947, were the three leading industries in gross value of production. The electrical apparatus and supplies industry moved up from fifth to fourth place, while sawmills dropped from fourth to fifth. The automobile industry, butter and cheese, and primary iron and steel were unchanged in sixth, eighth and 10th places, respectively, but petroleum products advanced to seventh from ninth place in 1947 displacing flour and feed mills which took over ninth position. (18)

PEAT INDUSTRY IN 1949 Production of peat moss in Canada during the calendar year 1949 amounted to 80,249 tons valued at \$2,376,849 as compared with 89,800 tons at \$2,767,372 in 1948. Output of peat fuel was 56 tons valued at \$560 as against 85 tons at \$850 in 1948. Exports of peat moss in 1949 totalled 68,390 tons valued at \$2,554,368 as compared with 77,924 at \$2,946,923 a year earlier. (19)

DETAILED REPORT ON MERCHANDISE
IMPORTS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1949

The final detailed report on imports entered for consumption by articles and countries of origin for the calendar year 1949 has been released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This volume, the third in a series of annual reports on the foreign trade of Canada, completes the series for the year 1949, and may be obtained from the King's Printer at \$2.00 per copy. The set of three volumes, i.e., Total Trade (Volume I), Exports (Volume II), and Imports (Volume III), may be obtained for a total of \$5.00. (20)

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

Reports and Bulletins

1. Preliminary Price Movements, December (10 cents).
2. Prices and Price Indexes, November (20 cents).
3. Advance Statement on Employment and Weekly Earnings at November 1 (10 cents).
4. The Labour Force, Quarterly Survey, Week Ended November 4, 1950 (25 cents).
5. Cheques Cashed in Clearing Centres, November (10 cents).
6. Department Store Sales and Stocks, November (15 cents).
7. Monthly Review of Canadian Fisheries Statistics, November (30 cents).
8. Preliminary Estimate of Canada's Mineral Production, 1950 (15 cents).
9. Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, September (10 cents).
10. Coal and Coke Statistics, October (25 cents).
11. Cement and Cement Production, October (10 cents).
12. Sales of Paints, Varnishes and Lacquers, October (10 cents).
13. Summary of Canal Traffic, October (10 cents).
14. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
15. Vital Statistics, 1949, Provisional Figures (25 cents).
16. The Inks Industry, 1949 (25 cents).
17. The Polishes and Dressings Industry, 1949 (25 cents).
18. The Manufacturing Industries of Canada, By Provinces, 1948 (75 cents).
19. The Peat Industry, 1949 (25 cents).
20. Trade of Canada: Imports, Vol. III -- Year Ended December 31, 1949 (\$2.00).

Memoranda

1. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products in Nine Cities, December (10 cents).
 2. Sales of Fluid Milk and Cream, October (10 cents).
 3. Grain Statistics Weekly (10 cents).
 4. Asphalt Roofing, November (10 cents).
 5. Asphalt Floor Tiles, November (10 cents).
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