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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADA'S COST-OF-LIVING INDEX rose from 175.2 to 179.7 between February 1 and March 1, 1951. This increase of 4.5 points was equivalent to an advance of 2.6 per cent.

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CANADA'S DOMESTIC EXPORTS IN FEBRUARY moved upwards in value over the previous year for the tenth consecutive month, totalling \$233,910,000 as against \$199,462,000 a year ago.

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INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT in the major non-agricultural industries was seasonally lower at the beginning of February than at January 1, but was higher than a year earlier.

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JANUARY SALES OF WHOLESALERS reached a peak for the month, rising 32 per cent over the same month last year.

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CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS during the week ended March 24 totalled 67,402 cars as against 75,352 in the corresponding week last year.

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COMMERCIAL FAILURES in 1950 rose to 1,303 from 1,066 in the preceding year, and the defaulted liabilities increased to \$24,872,000 from \$21,356,000.

. . .

LANDINGS OF SEA-FISH in February fell to 49,353,000 pounds from 121,894,000, and the value to \$1,779,000 from \$2,350,000.

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FACTORY SHIPMENTS OF CANADIAN-MADE MOTOR VEHICLES continued at a high level in February, reaching a total of 40,592 - third highest monthly output on record.

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DEPARTMENT STORE SALES declined one per cent during the week ending March 24 as compared with the corresponding week last year.

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VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF CANADIAN WHEAT in store or in transit in North America on March 22 amounted to 192,190,020 bushels as compared with 195,967,082 a week earlier, and 139,134,439 on the corresponding date last year.



COST-OF-LIVING INDEX UP
4.5 POINTS AT MARCH 1

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index rose from 175.2 to 179.7 between February 1 and March 1, 1951. This increase of 4.5 points was equivalent to an advance of 2.6 per cent. All group indexes moved higher in February, although two-thirds of the total increase was due to higher food prices.

The index for foods rose from 224.4 to 233.9, reflecting gains for most items, particularly eggs, butter, beef, pork, cabbage, carrots, shortening and oranges. An increase in the fuel and light index from 141.7 to 146.5 was mainly attributable to higher prices for coal and coke. Further gains in a broad list of clothing and footwear items moved the clothing index from 192.4 to 196.3, while the homefurnishings and services index rose from 185.1 to 188.6, as floor coverings, furnishings, hardware and furniture advanced.

The miscellaneous items index rose narrowly from 137.0 to 137.8, due to increases for personal care items, notably haircuts and health costs. Reflecting the results of the March quarterly survey, the rent index moved from 136.4 to 137.6.

From August 1939 to March 1951 the increase in the cost-of-living index was 78.3 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 Miscel- Services aneous
March 1, 1951	179.7	233.9	137.6	146.5	196.3	188.6 137.8
February 1, 1951	175.2	224.4	136.4	141.7	192.4	185.1 137.0
March 1, 1950	163.7	204.0	132.7	136.3	181.4	166.3 132.1

WHOLESALE PRICES OF GENERAL AND
RESIDENTIAL BUILDING MATERIALS

Wholesale prices of general and residential building materials moved to higher levels in February, according to price indexes compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The index of general building materials, on the base 1935-39=100, reached a new peak of 287.4 as compared with 279.7 in January, and 231.5 in February last year, and the composite wholesale index of residential building materials was at a new high of 274.9 as against 269.6 in January, and 227.4 a year earlier.

There were advances over January in seven of the nine sub-groups comprising the residential building materials index. That for cement, sand and gravel rose to 136.7 from 136.4; brick, tile and stone to 176.3 from 175.2; lumber and its products to 408.3 from 398.7; roofing materials to 260.6 from 250.0; paint and glass to 194.5 from 193.6; plumbing and heating equipment to 194.1 from 192.5; and other materials to 204.6 from 195.2. The index for lath, plaster and insulation, and electrical equipment and fixtures remained unchanged, the former standing at 124.5 and the latter at 197.6. (2)

DOMESTIC EXPORTS UP 17 PER CENT IN FEBRUARY

Canada's domestic exports in February moved upwards in value over the previous year for the tenth consecutive month. As in earlier months, the advance was due in the main to continued large-scale shipments to the United States, but there was also a reversal of last year's downward trend in the value of exports to the United Kingdom. Exports were again higher in value to Latin American countries in February and were also higher to India. Shipments declined to foreign countries in Europe as a group but were almost doubled to the remaining group of foreign countries.

Domestic exports to all countries in February were valued at \$233,910,000 as compared with \$199,462,000 in the corresponding month last year, a rise of 17 per cent. The total for January was \$285,100,000. For the two months, January and February, the cumulative total was \$519,045,000, an increase of 23 per cent over last year's corresponding value of \$420,642,000.

Shipments to the United States in February increased nearly 18 per cent to \$152,423,000 from \$128,838,000 in February, 1950, and in the first two months of the year the value rose to \$339,376,000 from \$259,697,000. Exports to the United States accounted for slightly more than 65 per cent of all exports both in February and the two months.

Increases were common to all nine main commodity groups of exports to the United States in February, largest absolute gains being in agricultural and vegetable products which rose to \$12,975,000 from \$10,276,000, animals and animal products to \$20,348,000 from \$16,592,000, wood and paper to \$78,489,000 from \$64,829,000, and non-ferrous metals to \$18,480,000 from \$17,574,000.

Domestic exports to the United Kingdom rose to a higher level in February, reversing the downward trend of the past year. The month's total rose to \$33,585,000 from \$30,374,000, but the two-month value was lower at \$73,640,000 against \$78,981,000.

There were increases in five of the nine main commodity groups of exports to the United Kingdom in February. The wood and paper group was up most sharply in February to \$6,642,000 from \$1,474,000, and there was also a large gain in non-ferrous metals to \$9,331,000 from \$6,986,000. The agricultural and animal products group both were lower, the former falling to \$13,789,000 from \$16,491,000, and the latter to \$1,174,000 from \$3,300,000.

Exports to the remaining Commonwealth countries were slightly higher in February at \$14,082,000 as compared with \$13,862,000, and in the two months advanced to \$30,081,000 from \$27,004,000. The advance in both periods was due mainly to larger shipments to India. Exports to British Commonwealth countries in Asia rose to \$5,898,000 from \$3,202,000, but to those in America the value fell to \$2,432,000 from \$2,801,000, to those in Africa to \$2,887,000 from \$3,536,000, and to Oceania to \$2,798,000 from \$4,321,000.

Exports to foreign countries in Europe were down slightly to \$13,490,000 from \$13,845,000, but were higher in the two months at \$29,918,000 against \$24,795,000. There were larger totals in the month for Belgium and Luxembourg, Germany, and Switzerland, but smaller exports to France, Norway, Portugal, and Spain.

Shipments to Latin America were generally higher with a substantial increase in total from \$6,643,000 to \$10,664,000. Shipments to remaining foreign countries were almost doubled during the month at \$8,108,000 against \$4,125,000 a year earlier. In the two months the group total rose to \$18,472,000 from \$13,802,000.

There were increases in seven of the nine main groups of commodities exported in February. Wood and paper products -- largest of the nine -- rose to \$91,100,000 from \$70,400,000, with marked gains in planks and boards, and wood pulp, and a small gain in newsprint. The agricultural group -- second largest -- rose to \$46,500,000 from \$38,700,000, wheat, other grains, wheat flour, alcoholic beverages being among the major gains.

Non-ferrous metals as a group were up in value to \$32,968,000 from \$29,374,000, with aluminum, lead, and precious metals (except gold) up sharply, and copper and zinc moderately lower. Nickel exports were steady. Non-metallies as a whole were exported to the value of \$7,226,000 as against \$7,014,000, and chemicals and allied products totalled \$9,026,000 against \$6,879,000.

Mainly as a result of larger shipments of fish and fishery products and fur and products, the animals group rose to \$25,849,000 from \$24,855,000. Cattle exports were slightly lower, but there was a marked decline in bacon and hams. The fibres group rose to \$2,388,000 from \$1,288,000.

With most main items at a lower level during the month exports in the iron and products group fell in value in February to \$15,392,000 from \$17,371,000. The miscellaneous commodities group was moderately lower at \$3,450,000 against \$3,605,000. (3)

VALUE OF MANUFACTURERS' INVENTORIES
AT HIGHER LEVEL IN DECEMBER

Value of manufacturers' inventories rose to a higher level in December, according to figures compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The index for the month, on the base 1947=100, advanced to 144.4 from 141.6 in November and 131.8 in the corresponding month of 1949.

The consumer's goods index rose to 153.5 from 149.2 in November and 137.6 a year earlier, and the capital goods index advanced to 111.3 from 108.2 in November and 107.5 in December, 1949.

Producer's materials index was up to 140.2 from 138.5 in November and 126.0 a year ago, and that for construction materials fell to 149.7 from 156.9 in November and 151.0 a year ago. (4)

PRODUCTION OF LEATHER FOOTWEAR

Canadian production of leather footwear was higher in January this year, amounting to 2,811,937 pairs as compared with 2,537,744 in December, and 2,509,086 in January last year. The monthly average output for the year 1950 was 2,827,860 pairs. (5)

WHOLESALE SALES AT PEAK FOR JANUARY January sales of wholesalers reached a peak for the month, rising 32 per cent over the same month last year, according to the monthly survey of nine lines of trade. The general unadjusted index of sales, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 306.7 as against 232.0 for January, 1950.

Increases were fairly uniform in the various regions of the country. Wholesalers in the Maritime Provinces had sales increases of 25 per cent over January 1950, while gains in the other provinces ranged between 30 per cent and 34 per cent.

Major increases were registered in most of the individual kinds of business. Outstanding gains were reported by automotive parts, accessories, and equipment dealers at 65 per cent, and by hardware wholesalers at 61 per cent. Dry goods wholesalers' sales were up 38 per cent and clothing 34 per cent.

Grocery, tobacco and confectionery, and drug wholesalers had sales increases of 27 per cent, 25 per cent, and 21 per cent, respectively, over January 1950, while a gain of seven per cent was recorded by fruit and vegetable wholesalers. (6)

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT AND
PAYROLLS AT FIRST OF FEBRUARY

Industrial employment in the major non-agricultural industries was seasonally lower at the beginning of February than at January 1 but was higher than a year earlier. The advance index number of employment, on the base 1939=100, was 172.4 -- a new high for the time of year -- as against 175.3 at January 1 and 158.3 at the beginning of February last year.

The payrolls index stood at 350.9 -- a new high for February 1 -- as compared with 338.2 at January 1, and 296.4 last year. Weekly wages and salaries also reached a new high level, standing at \$47.76 as compared with \$45.27 at January 1 and \$43.87 at February 1, 1950.

Curtailment in employment as compared with a month earlier was reported in all provinces but there were gains over a year ago in all areas. Industrially, the advance tabulations show that employment in manufacturing generally was in greater volume than at January 1, but the trend in most of the major non-manufacturing classes was downward, mining and finance being the exceptions. There were large losses of a seasonal character in construction and trade.

The advance index of employment in manufacturing at February 1 rose 1.1 per cent in the month, and advanced 8.2 per cent over February 1, 1950. The earnings of persons employed by the larger manufacturing establishments averaged \$49.56 as compared with \$46.60 at January 1, and \$45.15 at February 1, 1950. (7)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES
ONE PER CENT LOWER IN WEEK

Department store sales declined one per cent during the week ending March 24 as compared with the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. All provinces shared in the decrease except British Columbia and Quebec. Sales in Saskatchewan fell 30 per cent, the Maritimes 11 per cent, Manitoba four per cent, Alberta three per cent, and Ontario two per cent, while in British Columbia sales were 11 per cent higher, and Quebec six per cent.

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

	<u>March 29, 1951</u>	<u>March 22, 1951</u> (1955-59=100)	<u>March 1, 1951</u>
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
(106 Common Stocks)	160.5	163.8	164.3
82 Industrials	163.1	166.8	165.5
16 Utilities	155.7	158.3	162.4
8 Banks	145.1	146.0	157.0
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
(30 Stocks)	97.2	98.8	103.7
25 Golds	68.9	69.3	74.2
5 Base Metals	161.9	166.4	171.3

COMMERCIAL FAILURES HIGHER IN 1950

Commercial failures under the provisions of the Bankruptcy and Winding Up Acts were more numerous in 1950 than in any year since 1939. The year's total was 1,303 as compared with 1,066 in 1949 and 1,392 in 1939, and the defaulted liabilities amounted to \$24,872,000 as compared with \$21,356,000 in 1949 and \$15,089,000 in 1939. During the year there were 502 failures in trade as compared with 374 in 1949, in manufactures 257 against 232, service 273 against 203, and all other types 271 against 257. (8)

LANDINGS AND LANDED VALUE
OF SEA-FISH IN FEBRUARY

Due mainly to a marked decline in the landings of herring on the Pacific coast, overall landings and landed value of sea-fish -- excluding Newfoundland -- were sharply lower in February this year than last. The catch of all species fell to 49,353,000 pounds from 121,894,000, and the value to \$1,779,000 from \$2,350,000.

On the Pacific coast both the catch and landed value were lower than a year earlier. Landings in the month decreased to 32,292,000 pounds from 108,390,000 in February, 1950, and the value to \$583,000 from \$1,413,000. The herring catch was down from 106,600,000 pounds to 29,000,000, reflecting the fact that the present season's heaviest run of herring, which began a month earlier than last is tapering off a month earlier.

Atlantic coast landings of all species in the month totalled 17,061,000 pounds, a rise of 26 per cent over the catch of 15,504,000 a year ago, and the value rose to \$1,196,000 from \$937,000, or by 28 per cent. Landings of cod increased to 6,834,000 pounds from 3,368,000, but haddock fell to 3,491,000 pounds from 5,017,000. (9)

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF
WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Visible supplies of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on March 22 amounted to 192,190,020 bushels as compared with 195,967,082 a week earlier, and 139,134,439 on the corresponding date last year. Deliveries from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week totalled 676,453 bushels, sharply below last year's figure of 2,233,667 bushels. Cumulative loadings for the current crop year, however, rose to 265,340,724 bushels from 258,415,165 in the same period a year ago.

Overseas export clearances in the week ending March 22 amounted to 1,993,450 bushels as against 2,667,001 in the same week last year, and in the cumulative period totalled 88,717,573 bushels compared with 106,363,454.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending March 22, totals for the same date last year being in brackets: oats, 404,795 (704,275) bushels; barley, 328,898 (251,811); rye, 9,063 (77,435); flaxseed, 6,339 (5,543). (Mem. 1)

PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS OF
WHEAT FLOUR HIGHER IN FEBRUARY

Canadian production of wheat flour was higher in February, amounting to 1,984,659 barrels as compared with 1,598,265 in the corresponding month last year. In the first seven months of the current crop year, 13,718,626 barrels were produced as against 12,163,284 in the same period of 1949-50.

Exports of wheat flour in February rose to 958,882 barrels from 789,143 a year earlier, bringing the cumulative total for the seven months to 6,408,380 barrels as compared with 5,766,083 in the like period of the previous crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were ground in February, totals for February last year being in brackets: feed wheat, 230,799 (117,267) bushels; oats, 1,241,814 (1,501,596); corn, 207,406 (245,201); barley, 337,617 (437,771); buckwheat, 6,425 (1,655); mixed grain, 1,617,869 (1,502,433). (Mem. 2)

STOCKS OF BUTTER AND CHEESE

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on April 1 amounted to 4,603,000 pounds as compared with 19,899,000 on the corresponding date last year. Holdings of cheddar cheese totalled 11,779,000 pounds as against 24,714,000 a year earlier.

Creamery butter stocks were as follows by cities on April 1, totals for the same date last year being in brackets (in thousands): Quebec, 239 (304) pounds; Montreal, 1,790 (2,727); Toronto, 888 (4,992); Winnipeg, 420 (7,616); Regina, 76 (553); Saskatoon, 102 (178); Edmonton, 383 (2,190); Calgary, 221 (573); Vancouver, 484 (766). (Mem. 3)

SALES OF FLUID MILK AND CREAM
THREE PER CENT HIGHER IN JANUARY

Combined sales of fluid milk and cream were three per cent higher in January than in the same month last year. Sales were higher in all provinces, gains ranging from one per cent in Saskatchewan to eight per cent in Nova Scotia and Alberta. Sales in January amounted to 354,175,000 pounds. (Mem. 4)

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES
HIGHER IN YEAR 1950

Births, deaths and marriages in Canada in the full year 1950 were slightly higher than in the preceding year, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The increase in births was 0.9 per cent, deaths 0.6 per cent, and marriages 1.1 per cent.

Births in the year -- excluding the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Newfoundland -- totalled 356,228 as compared with 353,080 in 1949, deaths 120,770 as against 120,029, and marriages 121,899 as against 120,614.

Births in Quebec increased to 117,019 from 115,065, and in Ontario to 108,554 from 107,525. In British Columbia there were 27,095 births as against 27,141, Alberta 25,858 (23,748 in 1949), Saskatchewan 21,235 (22,180), Manitoba 19,367 (19,606), Nova Scotia 17,412 (17,835), New Brunswick 16,837 (17,160), and Prince Edward Island 2,851 (2,820). (10)

SHIPMENTS OF MOTOR VEHICLES
AT HIGH LEVEL IN FEBRUARY

Factory shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles continued at a high level in February, reaching a total of 40,592 -- third highest monthly figure on record. This year's February shipments compare with 30,137 a year ago, 41,383 in June, 1950, and the all-time peak total of 41,901 units in April, 1929.

A large part of the gain in February over a year earlier occurred in shipments of passenger cars, the month's total rising to 29,241 units from 22,459, but commercial vehicles also rose to 11,351 units from 7,678. Passenger cars for sale in Canada totalled 27,466 as against 21,006, and commercial vehicles numbered 10,393 compared with 6,977. Passenger cars made for export totalled 1,775 against 1,453, and commercial vehicles 958 against 701.

Shipments of vehicles imported from the United States amounted to 2,601 units in February as compared with 1,852 a year ago, and the sales of British-made cars totalled 4,055 units, comprising 3,778 passenger cars and 277 commercial vehicles. (11)

PRODUCTION AND SALES OF STOVES
AND WARM AIR FURNACES IN JANUARY

Canadian manufacturers produced 43,227 stoves of all kinds in January this year as compared with 35,370 in the same month last year, and 7,179 warm air furnaces as against 5,457. Factory sales of stoves in the month totalled 40,474 units valued at \$3,780,976 compared with 33,790 at \$2,449,435, and the sales of furnaces amounted to 6,238 units with a value of \$933,575 against 3,970 at \$492,998 in January, 1950. (Mem. 5)

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF IRON CASTINGS
AND CAST IRON PIPES AND FITTINGS

Production and shipments of iron castings and cast iron pipes and fitting both were sharply higher in January this year than last. The month's output amounted to 84,300 tons as compared with 59,400 in January last year, and the shipments totalled 61,100 tons as against 37,700. Pig iron used by iron foundries during the month amounted to 49,300 tons compared with 32,900 a year earlier, while consumption of scrap iron and steel totalled 57,700 tons against 39,700. (Mem. 6)

SALES OF ELECTRIC STORAGE BATTERIES Sales of electric storage batteries and parts by principal Canadian producers were sharply higher in January this year, amounting to \$1,672,984 as compared with \$1,152,127 in the same month last year.

Sales in January included 125,678 batteries at \$1,302,301 for the ignition of internal combustion engines for passenger cars and light trucks; 2,168 cells at \$17,006 for farm lighting plants; 1,278 cells at \$57,310 for railway service; batteries valued at \$228,916 for all other purposes, including telephone switchboards, direct motive power and ignition of internal combustion engines other than passenger cars and light trucks; and miscellaneous parts and supplies at \$54,558. (12)

SHIPMENTS OF ASBESTOS IN JANUARY Shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines in January amounted to 74,125 tons, slightly below the December figure of 75,056 tons, but sharply above last year's corresponding total of 57,172 tons. Shipments in the month included 38 tons of crude asbestos, 2,589 tons of spinning stock, 11,724 tons of shingle stock, 7,291 tons of paper stock, 16,042 tons of waste, stucco or plaster, 33,059 tons of refuse or shorts, and 1,425 tons of sand. (13)

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF COMMON SALT IN JANUARY Production of common salt was higher in January this year, the month's output amounting to 71,602 tons as compared with 71,323 in December, and 56,153 in January last year. Shipments in the month totalled 71,310 tons as against 72,310 in the preceding month, and 55,472 in January, 1950. (14)

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF PORTLAND CEMENT IN JANUARY Production and shipments of Portland cement both were higher in January than in the same month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's output amounted to 1,261,554 barrels as compared with 1,252,505 in January last year, and shipments totalled 886,979 barrels as against 652,769. (15)

PRODUCTION OF COPPER AND NICKEL HIGHER IN JANUARY Canadian production of copper and nickel was higher in January than in the corresponding month last year. Output of new primary copper amounted to 22,792 tons compared with 22,643 in December, and 21,931 in January last year, and nickel totalled 10,923 tons as against 10,287 in December, and 10,206 in January, 1950. (16)

PRODUCTION OF SILVER, LEAD AND ZINC HIGHER IN JANUARY Canadian production of silver, lead and zinc increased in January this year over the same month of 1950. The month's output of primary silver amounted to 2,014,940 fine ounces as compared with 1,195,677 in January last year. Production of primary lead in the month totalled 16,099 tons, sharply above the 9,558 tons produced a year earlier. Primary zinc production amounted to 25,708 tons as against 24,028 in January last year. (17)

PRODUCTION OF ASPHALT ROOFING Production of asphalt shingles and roll roofing was sharply higher in February, amounting to 336,733 squares as compared with 252,989 in February last year. The month's output of tar and asphalt felts rose to 3,796 tons from 2,937 a year ago. Production of shingles amounted to 181,058 squares compared with 122,975 in February, 1950; smooth surfaced roofing in rolls, 82,064 squares compared with 71,957; mineral surfaced roofing in rolls, 63,103 squares compared with 42,959; and roll type sidings, 10,508 squares compared with 15,098. (Mem. 7)

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF MINERAL WOOL IN FEBRUARY Production of mineral wool in February comprised 10,835,813 square feet of batts, 811,868 cubic feet of granulated wool, and 131,604 cubic feet of bulk or loose wool. Month-end stocks of batts amounted to 3,028,461 square feet, granulated wool 441,503 cubic feet, and bulk or loose wool 128,416 cubic feet. (Mem. 8)

STOCKS OF RAW HIDES AND SKINS AND PRODUCTION OF LEATHER IN JANUARY Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers at the end of January this year amounted to 344,939 as compared with 404,996 in the same month last year. Calf and kip skins totalled 431,587 compared with 496,505, goat and kid skins 43,891 compared with 33,839, horse hides 54,295 compared with 24,760, and sheep and lamb skins 47,411 dozen compared with 43,931. (Mem. 9)

CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION OF RUBBER Consumption of rubber in January this year was slightly lower than in the preceding month, a decline in natural outweighing advances in synthetic and reclaim. Total consumption in the month amounted to 17,952,898 pounds as compared with 18,049,744, comprising 9,683,330 pounds of natural against 10,093,570 pounds, 4,991,145 pounds of synthetic against 4,862,045, and 3,278,423 pounds of reclaim against 3,094,129.

Domestic production of synthetic rubber moved lower in January, totalling 11,710,720 pounds as compared with 11,744,320 in December, but reclaim increased to 1,072,960 pounds from 1,005,760. Month-end stocks of natural rubber advanced to 9,228,800 pounds from 7,663,040 in December, synthetic to 7,087,360 pounds from 6,753,600, and reclaim to 4,074,560 pounds from 3,831,200. (18)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS Carloadings on Canadian railways during the week ended March 24 totalled 67,402 cars as against 76,825 in the preceding week, and 75,852 in the corresponding week last year. Cumulative loadings for the first 12 weeks of this year reached 882,719 cars -- a new record for the period -- as compared with 821,748 in the same weeks last year. (19)

OPERATING RESULTS OF CHAIN CLOTHING STORES Gross profits of four types of retail chain clothing stores -- men's clothing, women's clothing, family clothing, and shoe stores -- were close to 30 per cent of net sales for each of the four, according to the biennial survey of these trades by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Chain shoe stores realized the highest net profit before deduction of income tax at 5.04 per cent of net sales, and family clothing stores the lowest at 4.04 per cent. Rate of stock turnover was 6.09 times during the year for women's clothing stores, 3.89 times for family clothing stores, 3.29 times for men's clothing stores, and 2.41 times for shoe stores. (20)

RETAIL CHAIN STORES AT
ALL-TIME PEAK IN 1949

Canadian retail chain store sales reached a new all-time peak value of \$1,420,080,800 in 1949, an increase of six per cent over the previous high figure of \$1,335,735,100 in 1948. Although the number of chain companies dropped from 403 in 1948 to 381, the number of retail outlets rose from 6,821 to 6,839 in 1949. Average sales per store, continuing an uninterrupted series of gains which began in 1935, rose from \$195,827 to \$207,645. Salaries and wages paid to employees increased eight per cent to \$115,902,900 from \$107,450,200.

All areas of the country except the Yukon and Northwest Territories showed increased sales volumes in 1949. Sales in Ontario rose to \$641,303,800 from \$595,545,600 in 1948, Quebec to \$283,387,500 from \$271,306,800, and British Columbia to \$152,333,800 from \$149,220,000. Sales in Alberta were valued at \$96,711,900 compared with \$85,383,200, Saskatchewan \$71,811,100 compared with \$67,198,000, Manitoba \$68,392,300 compared with \$63,327,100, Nova Scotia \$56,947,000 compared with \$54,682,500, New Brunswick \$43,046,700 compared with \$42,747,300, Yukon and Northwest Territories \$4,841,400 compared with \$5,254,100, and Prince Edward Island \$1,305,300 compared with \$1,070,500. (21)

PRIMARY IRON AND STEEL
INDUSTRY AT RECORD IN 1949

The value of products manufactured by Canada's primary iron and steel industry rose to an all-time record of \$305,735,000 in 1949, an advance of eight per cent over the preceding year's total of \$282,167,000, and 32 per cent above the wartime peak of \$232,106,000 in 1942.

The number of plants in operation during the year was 55, unchanged from 1948. These establishments employed an average of 29,097 workers who received \$82,958,000 in salary and wage payments as against 29,367 persons earning \$77,358,000. Cost of materials used advanced to \$147,229,000 from \$132,779,000. (22)

1951 EDITION OF HANDBOOK "CANADA"
RELEASED FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

Publication is announced of the 1951 edition of the Official Handbook "CANADA". Initiated 21 years ago to supplement the field of the CANADA YEAR BOOK, it is especially designed for ready use by businessmen, teachers, students, lecturers, and all those interested in the progress of Canada. This convenient pocket-sized annual contains up-to-date official information on all phases of the country's economic organization.

The current edition contains over 300 pages of text, reproductions of more than 180 photographs illustrating the textual matter, four scenic views in colour, as well as diagrams, charts and lithographed maps.

A special article in this edition deals with the development, resources and people of the Northwest Territories and Yukon. The chapter material covers population and vital statistics, education, scientific research, social and cultural relationships, national income, agriculture, forestry, mines and minerals, water powers, fisheries, furs, manufactures, construction, labour, transportation and communications, domestic and foreign trade, public finance, banking and insurance.

Price of the CANADA HANDBOOK is 25 cents. Applications for copies should be sent to the King's Printer, Ottawa, accompanied by a postal script or money order. Postage stamps cannot be accepted. (23)

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, March 1 (10 cents).
2. Prices and Price Indexes, February (25 cents).
3. Trade of Canada: Monthly Summary of Domestic Exports, February (20 cents).
4. Inventories and Shipments by Manufacturing Industries, December (25 cents).
5. Production of Leather Footwear, January (10 cents).
6. Wholesale Trade, January (10 cents).
7. Advance Statement on Employment and Payrolls, February 1 (10 cents).
8. Commercial Failures Under the Provisions of the Bankruptcy and Winding Up Acts, Fourth Quarter, 1950 (10 cents).
9. Canadian Fisheries Statistics, February (30 cents).
10. Births, Marriages and Deaths in Canada, December (10 cents).
11. Motor Vehicle Shipments, February (10 cents).
12. Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, January (10 cents).
13. Asbestos, January (10 cents).
14. Salt, January (10 cents).
15. Cement and Cement Products, January (10 cents).
16. Copper and Nickel Production, January (10 cents).
17. Silver, Lead and Zinc Production, January (15 cents).
18. Consumption, Production and Inventories of Rubber, January (25 cents).
19. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
20. Operating Results of Chain Clothing Stores, 1949 (25 cents).
21. Retail Chain Stores, 1949 (40 cents).
22. The Primary Iron and Steel Industry, 1949 (25 cents).
23. Canada, 1951 (25 cents).
24. Man-Hours and Hourly Earnings, January 1 -- Summarized in D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN, No. 13, Saturday, March 31, 1951 -- (25 cents).
25. Shipments and Inventories of Prepared Stock and Poultry Feeds, December (25 cents).
26. The Leather Glove and Mitten Industry, 1949 (20 cents).
27. The Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Industry, 1949 (25 cents).
28. Boilers, Tank and Plate Work Industry, 1949 (25 cents).

Memoranda

1. Grain Statistics Weekly - March 24, 1951 (10 cents).
2. Grain Milling Statistics, February (10 cents).
3. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products in Nine Cities -- Advance Statement -- April 1 (10 cents).
4. Fluid Milk Sales, January (10 cents).
5. Stoves and Furnaces, January (10 cents).
6. Iron Castings and Cast Iron Pipes and Fittings, January (10 cents).
7. Asphalt Roofing, February (10 cents).
8. Mineral Wool, February (10 cents).
9. Statistics on Hides, Skins and Leather, January (10 cents).
10. Gypsum Products, February (10 cents).

Reference Paper

1. Canadian Labour Force Estimates, 1931-1950 (25 cents).

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