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## --- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

EMPLOYMENT IN THE MAJOR NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES was slightly lower at the beginning of March than a month earlier, while payrolls advanced. Both employment and payrolls were above last year's levels.

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BENEFIT CLAIMS FILED in local offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission in February numbered 109,709, slightly above last year's February total of 109,282.

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CANADA'S TOTAL CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE in March was 5,172,000, a rise of 64,000 over a year earlier. Number of males increased 19,000 in the 12-month period while the female total rose 45,000.

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SHARP UPSWING IN RETAIL TRADE which reached notable proportions in January continued in February when sales amounted to $672,000,000, a rise of 17 per cent compared with February last year.

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GOODS MOVED BRISKLY FROM WHOLESALE TO RETAIL OUTLETS in February, sales in the nine lines of trade for which statistics are available rising 24 per cent over February last year.

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VALUE OF INVENTORIES HELD BY CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS rose to a higher level in January, the Bureau's index number advancing to 150.5 from 147.4 in the preceding month and 134.4 in the corresponding month last year.

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RAILWAY OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES climbed to new high levels in 1950 despite the nine-day strike at the end of August last year. Operating revenues rose to $948,534,000 from $885,354,000, and expenses were slightly higher at $824,240,000 compared with $822,704,000.

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CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS during the week ended April 21 amounted to 79,932 cars compared with 79,737 in the preceding week and 71,925 a year ago.

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CANADIAN PRODUCTION OF STEEL INGOTS reached an all-time monthly peak total of 304,281 tons as compared with 287,719 in March last year.

CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE UP 64,000 Canada's total civilian labour force was 64,000 greater in March this year than a year earlier, according to the quarterly survey by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The rise was accompanied by important shifts between the agricultural and non-agricultural segments, the former declining 97,000, and the latter increasing 161,000. Number of males in the labour force increased 19,000 in the 12-month period, while the female total rose 45,000.

The survey indicates a total labour force of 5,172,000 in March this year as compared with 5,108,000 a year earlier. Males totalled 4,051,000 as compared with 4,032,000, and the females numbered 1,121,000 compared with 1,076,000. Total non-institutional population, 14 years of age and over, increased to 9,800,000 from 9,679,000.

Of the total labour force, persons with jobs numbered 5,000,000 as against 4,796,000 and persons without jobs and seeking work totalled 172,000 as compared with 312,000. Since the number of persons with jobs increased at a higher rate than the labour force as a whole, persons with jobs as a percentage of the labour force rose from 93.9 per cent for the week ending March 3 last year to 96.7 per cent.

The non-agricultural labour force at the beginning of March this year was 4,318,000 as compared with 4,157,000 a year ago, including 3,238,000 males as compared with 3,121,000, and 1,080,000 females compared with 1,036,000. Total agricultural labour force was 854,000 compared with 951,000, the males totalling 813,000 compared with 911,000, and the females 41,000 compared with 40,000.

The labour force in Ontario rose in the 12-month period to 1,813,000 from 1,779,000, and in Quebec to 1,452,000 from 1,411,000. In the Prairie Provinces the total fell slightly to 942,000 from 945,000, in the Maritimes to 434,000 from 437,000, and British Columbia to 428,000 from 435,000. Newfoundland's total increased to 103,000 from 101,000. (1)

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INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLLS AT MARCH 1 Employment in the major non-agricultural industries was slightly lower at the beginning of March than a month earlier, while payrolls were slightly higher, according to the Bureau's advance tabulation of monthly employment and payroll statistics. Both employment and payrolls were substantially higher than a year earlier.

The advance index number of employment, on the base 1939 equals 100, was 172.1 at March 1, down fractionally from 172.3 at February 1, but nine per cent above the level of 157.9 at March 1 last year. The latest index is a new high for March 1, exceeding by 7.8 per cent the previous maximum of 159.6 at March 1, 1949.

The payrolls index at the first of March stood at 353.3, an increase of 0.5 per cent from 351.4 at February 1 and of 17.6 per cent over 300.5 at March 1, 1950. Average weekly salaries and wages in the nine major industrial groups moved up to $48.16 -- the highest on record -- as compared to $47.87 a month earlier and $44.61 at the first of March last year.

The advance index of employment in manufacturing was 186.2 at March 1, 0.9 per cent higher than at the first of February, 8.6 per cent higher than a year earlier, and the highest level reached in the postwar period. Weekly earnings of those employed by the larger manufacturing firms averaged $49.57 as compared to $49.64 a month earlier and $45.55 at March 1, 1950. Aggregate amount expended by manufacturers in weekly wages and salaries was 0.7 per cent greater than at February 1, and 18.1 per cent above the disbursements a year earlier. (2)

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CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS SLIGHTLY HIGHER IN FEBRUARY

Benefit claims filed in local offices of the Unemployment Insurance Commission in February numbered 109,709, slightly above last year's February total of 109,282. There were declines in Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia, but gains in the other provinces. In February, $9,589,561 was paid for 3,853,024 unemployed days as compared with $13,605,340 for 5,585,337 days a year ago.

Claims filed in Quebec in February totalled 35,444 compared with 32,489 in February last year, Ontario 25,999 compared with 32,744, and British Columbia 16,138 compared with 17,704. In Nova Scotia there were 6,488 claims against 6,122, Manitoba 6,272 against 6,328, Alberta 6,147 against 5,729, New Brunswick 4,579 against 4,207, Saskatchewan 4,072 against 3,192, Newfoundland 3,732 against 188, and Prince Edward Island 838 against 579. (3)

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VALUE OF MANUFACTURERS' INVENTORIES AT HIGHER LEVEL IN JANUARY

Value of inventories held by Canadian manufacturers rose to a higher level in January, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' index, on the base 1947=100, rising to 150.5 from 147.4 in the preceding month and 134.4 in the corresponding month last year. There were increases over January last year in all main sub-groups. The index for consumer's goods advanced to 159.1 from 140.5, capital goods to 117.7 from 110.7, producer's materials to 142.2 from 129.7, and construction materials to 170.4 from 145.7. (4)

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WHOLESALE SALES HIGHER IN FEBRUARY

Goods moved briskly from wholesale to retail outlets in February, sales in the nine lines of trade for which statistics are available rising 24 per cent over a year earlier. The February index of dollar sales, on the base 1935-39=100, advanced to 303.1 from 244.8 a year earlier.

Notwithstanding the rapid disposal of merchandise at the wholesale level in February, inventories were maintained at a high mark. The general increase in stocks of merchandise for the nine trades as compared with a year ago was 20 per cent.

Automotive and hardware wholesalers had sales increases over February, 1950 in the vicinity of 50 per cent. At the same time, month-end inventories were 20 per cent greater than in February a year ago.

Wholesalers of tobacco and confectionery, and of fruits and vegetables had comparatively moderate sales gains. Tobacco wholesalers' sales increased only eight per cent but their inventory holdings were up 35 per cent in value compared with a year earlier. Fruit and vegetable wholesalers, their sales governed more strictly by the availability of merchandise, obtained only a four per cent gain in sales in February. Stocks of fruit and vegetable wholesalers were down two per cent at the end of February this year compared with last. (5)

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RETAIL SALES CONTINUED UPWARD TREND IN FEBRUARY

The sharp upswing in Canada's retail trade which reached notable proportions in January, continued in February when sales amounted to $672,000,000, a rise of 17 per cent compared with the February, 1950 total of $565,000,000. Sales for the first two months of 1951 aggregated $1,343,000,000, an increase of 19 per cent over the same period of 1950. Independent store sales accounted for $557,340,000 of this year's February sales and chain stores for $114,200,000.

All 21 trades surveyed had sales gains in February, a reflection of the generally widespread increase in consumer spending. Contrary to the trend of a year ago, substantial consumer commitments for durable goods do not appear to have been made wholly at the expense of non-durable goods.

Besides a 47 per cent increase in motor vehicle dealers' sales, and a 23 per cent gain in the sales of appliance and radio dealers, there were large advances in most trades in the apparel group. Shoe stores, family clothing stores, and men's clothing stores had sales gains of 19 per cent, 13 per cent, and 11 per cent, respectively. Drug store sales were 17 per cent higher -- the largest in many months, and sales of food stores were up 13 per cent. Sales of lumber and building material dealers rose 21 per cent and hardware sales by 19 per cent.

All sections of the country reported higher dollar sales volumes in February than a year earlier. A rise of 22 per cent in Alberta and Manitoba was the largest among the provinces, followed closely by a 19 per cent increase in Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. Sales in Quebec were up 14 per cent, while the Maritimes shared to a lesser degree in the large increase in retail trade, sales being six per cent higher. (6)

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DEPARTMENT STORE SALES 16 PER CENT HIGHER IN FEBRUARY

Department store sales in Canada in February -- not including Newfoundland -- totalled $58,396,000, an advance of 16 per cent over last year's February figure of $50,234,000. Increased sales were recorded in all provinces, ranging from 12 per cent in the Maritimes and Ontario to 24 per cent in Saskatchewan.

All departments showed gains in sales volume in February as compared with a year earlier. Sales of ladies' apparel and accessories rose to $14,301,000 from $12,569,000, food and kindred products to $5,054,000 from $4,649,000, home furnishings to $4,341,000 from $3,663,000, and furniture to $4,082,000 from $3,687,000. Sales of hardware and housewares increased to $3,852,000 from $3,083,000 a year ago, major appliances to $3,122,000 from $2,013,000, linens and domestics to $2,779,000 from $2,261,000, piece goods to $2,131,000 from $1,934,000, men's furnishings to $2,052,000 from $1,846,000, and men's clothing to $2,007,000 from $1,572,000.

Sales of toiletries, cosmetics and drugs totalled $1,602,000 against $1,413,000, smallwares $1,552,000 compared with $1,447,000, sporting goods and luggage $1,199,000 against $995,000, radio and music $1,111,000 against $869,000, jewellery $1,097,000 against $964,000, and boys' clothing and furnishings $1,066,000 against $908,000. Stationery, books and magazine department sales amounted to $924,000 compared with $922,000, men's and boys' shoes $921,000 compared with $685,000, china and glasswares $718,000 compared with $643,000, and photographic equipment and supplies $177,000 compared with $145,000. (7)

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CHAIN STORE SALES AND STOCKS IN FEBRUARY

Sales of six types of chain stores -- grocery, women's clothing, shoe, hardware, drug and variety -- rose in February over the same month last year. Stocks were higher for each of the six chains except shoe stores.

The food store group had sales totalling $45,626,000, an increase of 25 per cent over last year's February sales of $36,501,000. Sales of variety stores amounted to $8,598,000 as compared with $7,838,000, a rise of 9.7 per cent.

Drug store sales advanced 13.2 per cent to $2,408,000 from $2,127,000 in February, 1950, and sales of women's clothing stores rose 10.1 per cent to $2,159,000 from $1,961,000. Shoe store sales amounted to $1,649,000 as against $1,433,000, a gain of 15.1 per cent, and hardware store sales climbed 20.8 per cent to $896,000 from $742,000. (8)

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SALES AND FINANCING OF MOTOR VEHICLES HIGHER IN FEBRUARY

New motor vehicle sales and financing of sales of new vehicles continued at a high level in February. Sales in the month rose 44 per cent over a year earlier and the retail value advanced 67 per cent, while new vehicles financed rose eight per cent in number and 17 per cent in value, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

There were 43,080 new vehicles sold in February with a retail value of $100,032,497 as compared with 30,000 units sold for $59,802,993. New passenger car sales in February numbered 33,199 units as against 23,729 a year earlier, and sales of trucks and buses amounted to 9,881 compared with 6,271.

In February there were 8,730 new motor vehicles financed to the extent of $13,144,521 as compared with 8,097 units financed for $11,193,538. New passenger cars financed rose slightly to 6,463 from 6,257, and commercial vehicles to 2,267 from 1,840.

Used vehicles financed in the month numbered 16,354 units at $11,477,580 as compared with 11,963 financed to the extent of $8,087,611 a year ago. Used passenger cars financed rose to 13,625 from 10,008, and commercial vehicles totalled 2,729 compared with 1,955 in the same month last year. (9)

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SECURITY PRICE INDEXES

| | Apr. 26, 1951 | Apr. 19, 1951 (1935-39=100) | Mar. 29, 1951 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Investors' Price Index** | | | |
| (105 Common Stocks) ..... | 166.4 | 166.5 | 160.5 |
| 82 Industrials ..... | 170.1 | 170.1 | 163.1 |
| 15 Utilities ..... | 159.4 | 160.2 | 155.7 |
| 8 Banks ..... | 144.9 | 144.4 | 145.1 |
| **Mining Stock Price Index** | | | |
| (30 Stocks) ..... | 95.8 | 96.8 | 97.2 |
| 25 Golds ..... | 65.8 | 66.4 | 68.9 |
| 5 Base Metals ..... | 164.6 | 166.4 | 161.9 |

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LANDINGS AND LANDED VALUE OF SEA FISH IN MARCH

Landings and landed value of sea fish in Canada -- not including Newfoundland -- both were higher in March this year than last. The catch of all species rose 27.8 per cent to 30,143,000 pounds from 23,581,000, and the value to $1,614,000 from $1,142,000, or by 41.3 per cent.

Cumulative landings for the first three months of the year totalled 206,592,000 pounds, down 6.8 per cent from last year's catch of 221,661,000 pounds, but were 16.3 per cent higher in value at $6,616,000 against $5,689,000. Large declines in the catch of Pacific herring -- one of the cheapest species -- were more than counterbalanced by an increased catch of lobsters.

On the Atlantic coast both the catch and landed value were higher in March and the first quarter than in the same periods a year earlier. The month's catch increased to 20,924,000 pounds from 18,929,000 in March last year, and the value to $1,344,000 from $931,000. In the three-month period, 57,644,000 pounds were caught with a value of $4,231,000 against 47,868,000 pounds at $3,335,000 in 1950.

Pacific coast landings of all species were sharply higher in March, totalling 9,219,000 pounds valued at $270,000 as compared with 4,652,000 pounds at $199,000. During the three months ending March, the catch fell to 148,948,000 pounds from 173,793,000 a year ago, while the value was slightly higher at $2,385,000 as against $2,354,000. (10)

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STOCKS OF BUTTER AND CHEESE

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on May 1 amounted to 4,215,000 pounds as compared with 4,610,000 on April 1, and 20,009,000 on the corresponding date last year. Holdings of cheddar cheese totalled 8,900,000 pounds as against 11,486,000 on April 1, and 22,853,000 a year earlier.

Creamery butter stocks were as follows by cities on May 1, totals for the same date last year being in brackets (thousands omitted): Quebec, 130 (251) pounds; Montreal, 1,040 (2,595); Toronto, 1,009 (5,007); Winnipeg, 471 (7,792); Regina, 57 (595); Saskatoon, 143 (243); Edmonton, 647 (2,327); Calgary, 165 (567); Vancouver, 553 (632). (Mem. 1)

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SALES OF FLUID MILK AND CREAM

Combined sales of fluid milk and cream rose one per cent in February over the same month last year. Sales were higher for all provinces except British Columbia, where a decline of two per cent was recorded. Gains ranged from one per cent in Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan to seven per cent in Prince Edward Island. Sales in February amounted to 329,519,000 pounds. (Mem. 2)

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PRODUCTION OF EGGS IN MARCH

Estimated production of eggs in March amounted to 33,000,000 dozen as compared with 26,900,000 in the preceding month, and 35,600,000 in March last year. The gain over February resulted from the sharp seasonal increase in average egg production per hen. The estimate of egg production for the first three months of the year was 87,900,000 dozen as against 94,000,000 in the same period of 1950. (Mem. 3)

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PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS OF WHEAT FLOUR HIGHER IN MARCH

Canadian production of wheat flour was higher again in March, the month's output amounting to 2,192,753 barrels -- the highest monthly total so far this crop year -- as compared with 1,861,716 in March last year. During the first eight months of the current crop year, 15,911,379 barrels were produced, an increase of 13.4 per cent over the 14,030,000 barrels in the same period of 1949-50.

Wheat flour exports in March amounted to 1,151,212 barrels, sharply above last year's corresponding total of 824,930 barrels. Cumulative exports for the crop year, August-March, was 7,603,315 barrels as against 6,591,013 in the similar period of the previous crop year.

The following quantities of coarse grains were ground in March, totals for March last year being in brackets: feed wheat, 339,283 (145,354) bushels; oats, 1,429,696 (1,863,513); corn, 282,770 (289,635); barley, 407,540 (536,536); buckwheat, 2,511 (1,124); mixed grain, 1,977,786 (1,603,585). (Mem. 4)

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STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF WHEAT AND COARSE GRAINS

Visible supplies of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on April 19 amounted to 178,-888,734 bushels as compared with 181,177,446 a week earlier, and 129,130,775 in the corresponding week last year. Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week totalled 2,334,731 bushels as compared with 1,431,620 a year earlier, bringing the cumulative total for the crop year to date to 271,710,463 bushels as against 264,896,015 in 1949-50.

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending April 19 amounted to 2,610,587 bushels as against 2,081,856 in the same week last year, and in the cumulative period totalled 97,938,662 bushels as compared with 113,510,047.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending April 19, totals for the same week last year being in brackets: oats, 991,748 (338,377) bushels; barley, 608,892 (192,958); rye, 42,702 (53,882); flaxseed, 17,045 (4,752). (Mem. 5)

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS HIGHER IN JANUARY

There were increases in births, marriages and deaths in January this year as compared with the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The increase in births was 1.5 per cent, marriages 4.2 per cent, and deaths 4.1 per cent.

Births in the month numbered 27,118 as compared with 26,720 in January last year, deaths 10,927 compared with 9,892, and marriages 5,928 compared with 5,688. (11)

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PRODUCTION OF STEEL INGOTS AT NEW MONTHLY HIGH IN MARCH

Canadian production of steel ingots reached an all-time monthly peak total of 304,281 tons as compared with 287,719 in March last year. Previous high was 299,410 tons in January this year. The daily average output for March was 9,816 -- a new high for a month -- as compared with 9,281 a year earlier.

Cumulative production for the first three months of the year amounted to 874,913 net tons, six per cent above last year's corresponding total of 823,503 tons. Daily average output for the first quarter was 9,721 as against 9,150 in the similar period of 1950. (12)

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SHIPMENTS OF PRIMARY SHAPES BY CANADIAN STEEL MILLS

Shipments of primary shapes by Canadian steel mills, exclusive of producers' interchange, totalled 274,600 net tons in January as compared with 211,400 in the corresponding month last year, a rise of almost 30 per cent. January shipments included 7,600 tons of semi-finished shapes, 19,800 tons of structurals, 15,700 tons of plates, 24,800 tons of rails, 7,200 tons of tie plates and track material, 45,300 tons of hot rolled bars, 24,300 tons of pipes and tubes, 31,800 tons of wire rods, 28,300 tons of black sheets, 8,400 tons of galvanized sheets, 9,400 tons of castings and 44,200 tons of other rolled products. The amount of producers' interchange was 136,000 tons in January as against 92,100 in January last year. (13)

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PRODUCTION OF REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS 17 PER CENT HIGHER IN JANUARY

Canadian production of refined petroleum products increased 17 per cent in January this year over the corresponding month last year, while receipts of crude were six per cent higher. Increases were recorded in the month's output of napththa specialties, aviation gasoline, motor gasoline, tractor fuel, kerosene, stove oil, and light and heavy fuel oil, while a decline was shown in the production of diesel fuel.

In January output of all petroleum products totalled 8,670,693 barrels as compared with 7,324,561 a year ago. Crude oil received at the refineries in the month amounted to 8,352,720 barrels as against 6,329,459 in January last year. Receipts of crude from domestic sources rose to 2,408,612 barrels from 1,778,846, and receipts of imported crude increased to 5,944,108 barrels from 4,540,613.

Production of naphtha specialties rose to 86,985 barrels from 80,79[illegible] in January, 1950, aviation gasoline to 64,450 barrels from 11,124, motor gasoline to 3,659,165 barrels from 3,320,331, tractor fuel to 8,129 barrels from 5,188, kerosene to 83,508 barrels from 57,916, stove oil to 736,446 barrels from 379,467, light fuel oil to 1,284,262 barrels from 908,191, and heavy fuel oil to 1,935,980 barrels from 1,723,102. Output of diesel fuel was sharply lower at 283,708 barrels as compared with 470,708.

Venezuela and the United States accounted for the bulk of Canada's crude oil imports in January, receipts from the former country rising to 2,787,298 barrels from 1,951,351, and from the latter to 2,273,744 barrels from 1,953,574. Imports from Arabia totalled 882,838 barrels against 635,688, and from Trinidad 228 barrels compared with nil. (14)

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PRODUCTION OF COKE NINE PER CENT HIGHER IN FEBRUARY

Coke production moved up nine per cent in February over the corresponding month last year, amounting to 312,000 tons as compared with 286,000. For the two months, January and February, the cumulative total was 654,000 tons as against 609,000 in the similar period of 1950, a rise of seven per cent.

Supplies available for consumption in February -- production, plus imports, less exports -- rose to 340,000 tons from 270,000, and for the two months aggregated 717,000 tons compared with 587,000.

Coke imports in February amounted to 40,000 tons compared with 24,000, and the exports amounted to 12,500 tons against 39,900. (15)

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PRODUCTION OF MINERAL WOOL March production of mineral wool comprised 11,725,500 square feet of batts, 525,700 cubic feet of granulated wool, and 126,900 cubic feet of bulk or loose wool. Stocks of batts at the end of March amounted to 3,406,600 square feet, granulated wool 409,100 cubic feet, and bulk or loose wool 111,300 cubic feet. (Mem. 6)

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PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF SAWN LUMBER IN BRITISH COLUMBIA Production and shipments of sawn lumber in British Columbia both were higher in February than in the same month last year. The month's output amounted to 271,566 M feet as compared with 201,332 M in February last year, bringing the cumulative total for the first two months of the year to 556,890 M feet, sharply above last year's figure of 354,515 M feet. Shipments in February totalled 266,579 M feet as against 202,091 M a year earlier, and in the cumulative period amounted to 536,120 M feet compared with 354,860 M. (16)

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PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF GYPSUM WALLBOARD, LATH AND SHEATHING Production of gypsum wallboard in March amounted to 20,550,488 square feet, lath 20,355,197 square feet, and sheathing 967,889 square feet. During the first three months of the year 59,446,658 square feet of wallboard were produced, 62,680,524 square feet of lath, and 1,168,235 square feet of sheathing.

Shipments of wallboard totalled 21,803,197 square feet in March and 60,070,335 square feet in the three-month period; lath to 21,002,686 square feet and 62,432,283; and sheathing to 838,800 square feet and 1,089,350. (Mem. 7)

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RUBBER CONSUMPTION AND STOCKS Rubber consumption increased in February, and the month-end stocks were down from a year ago. Consumption was higher for natural, synthetic and reclaim, and the inventories moved up for reclaim but were lower for natural and synthetic. Production of both synthetic and reclaim advanced in the month.

Consumption of all types of rubber in February amounted to 8,051 tons as compared with 6,390 a year earlier, and the month-end stocks totalled 8,794 tons against 10,959. Consumption of natural rubber amounted to 4,339 tons against 3,690, synthetic 2,225 tons compared with 1,630, and reclaim 1,487 tons against 1,070. Domestic production of synthetic rubber totalled 4,726 tons against 4,345, and reclaim amounted to 460 tons against 291.

Month-end stocks of natural rubber were 4,153 tons compared with 4,964, synthetic 2,676 tons against 4,300, and reclaim 1,965 tons against 1,695. (17)

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CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS Carloadings on Canadian railways continued steady during the week ending April 21, amounting to 79,932 cars as compared with 79,737 cars in the preceding week, but rose 8,007 cars or 11 per cent over the same week last year. Loadings for the 16 weeks ending April 21 aggregated 1,201,351 cars against 1,099,269 in the like period of 1950. (Mem. 8)

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RAILWAY OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES AT NEW PEAKS IN 1950

Railway operating revenues and expenses climbed to new high levels in 1950, despite the nine-day strike at the end of August last year. Operating revenues rose to $948,534,000 from $885,354,000 in 1949, or by 7.1 per cent, and expenses were slightly higher at $824,240,000 compared with $822,704,000. The net result was an operating income of $81,497,000 for 1950 as against $31,279,000 in the preceding year.

Freight revenues for the year advanced 8.7 per cent or $60,757,000 to $761,839,000 -- a new record -- while passenger fares fell 7.6 per cent or $6,388,000 from 1949 to $78,004,000. Mail pay, augmented by retroactive payments, totalled $14,089,000, a rise of $4,749,000, while express receipts were up slightly to $35,872,000.

Operating expense items moved within a narrow range. Maintenance of ways and structures declined $875,000 from 1949 to $161,212,000, while equipment maintenance was $188,024,000 or $3,319,000 above the preceding year. Traffic expenses moved up to $18,528,000 from $17,562,000. Transportation charges were $400,021,000, down from the revised 1949 total of $402,669,000. Miscellaneous account was 4.8 per cent lower, while general expenses rose 3.6 per cent. (18)

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HOTELS IN CANADA IN 1949

There were 5,847 hotels in Canada in 1949 with gross receipts of $355,226,000, and with 155,512 rooms capable of providing accommodation for 268,343 persons, according to a survey of these establishments by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The number of hotels was comparatively little changed from the 1941 Census total of 5,646, but receipts increased 141 per cent from $147,488,000.

The 1949 figures include 4,799 hotels which operated on a year-round basis and had receipts of $336,746,000 as compared with 4,844 hotels with receipts of $140,613,000 in 1941. Seasonal hotels numbered 1,048 in 1949 as against 802, and their receipts totalled $18,480,000 compared with $6,875,000 in 1941.

Ontario hotels in 1949 numbered 1,960 and their receipts totalled $140,191,000, while the 1,582 hotels in Quebec had receipts of $72,967,000. There were 618 hotels in British Columbia, 575 in Saskatchewan, 449 in Alberta, 279 in Manitoba, 173 in Nova Scotia, 138 in New Brunswick, 44 in Newfoundland, and 29 in Prince Edward Island.

A tabulation by volume of receipts showed that 744 of the 3,612 licensed establishments had receipts in 1949 of more than $100,000 and accounted for 59 per cent of receipts of all licensed hotels. Only 35 of the 1,187 non-licensed establishments fell within this upper size category and they obtained 38 per cent of receipts of non-licensed hotels.

One-hundred and thirty-six hotels in Canada with more than 100 rooms each obtained almost 25 per cent of total hotel receipts in 1949. On the other hand, 1,456 establishments included in the survey had 10 rooms or fewer and these accounted for about 10 per cent of gross receipts. Included in this "10-rooms-or-fewer" class were 166 public houses in Ontario.

By far the greatest number of hotels in Canada were operated as independent establishments. Only 173 hotels belonged to multiple or chain organizations. These multiple and chain establishments accounted for 11 per cent of all rooms and took in 17 per cent of total receipts. (19)

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

Reports and Bulletins

1. The Labour Force, Quarterly Survey, Week Ended March 3, 1951 (25 cents).
2. Advance Statement on Employment and Weekly Earnings at March 1 (10 cents).
3. Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, February (25 cents).
4. Inventories and Shipments by Manufacturing Industries, January (25 cents).
5. Wholesale Trade, February (10 cents).
6. Retail February, February (25 cents).
7. Department Store Sales and Stocks, February (15 cents).
8. Chain Store Sales and Stocks, February (10 cents).
9. Sales of New Motor Vehicles and Motor Vehicle Financing, February (25 cents).
10. Canadian Fisheries Statistics, March (30 cents).
11. Births, Marriages and Deaths in Canada, January (10 cents).
12. Steel Ingots, March (10 cents).
13. Primary Iron and Steel, January (25 cents).
14. Refined Petroleum Products, January (25 cents).
15. Coal and Coke Statistics, February (25 cents).
16. Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, February (25 cents).
17. Consumption, Production and Inventories of Rubber, February (25 cents).
18. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways in Canada, For the 12 Months Ended December 31, 1950 (10 cents).
19. Hotels, 1949 (25 cents).
20. Production, Shipments and Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, January (25 cents).
21. Laundries, Dry Cleaners and Dyers, 1949 (25 cents).
22. Trade of Canada: Exports, February, 1951, and Two Months Ended February, 1951 -- Detailed Report -- (50 cents).
23. Refined Petroleum Products, 1950 (50 cents).
24. Employment and Payrolls, February (25 cents).

Memoranda

1. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products in Nine Cities, May 1 (10 cents).
2. Fluid Milk Sales, February (10 cents).
3. Poultry Estimates, March (10 cents).
4. Grain Milling Statistics, March (10 cents).
5. Grain Statistics Weekly (10 cents).
6. Mineral Wool, March (10 cents).
7. Gypsum Products, March (10 cents).
8. Carloadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).