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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADA'S RETAIL TRADE rose by an estimated three per cent in January to \$722,620,000 from \$703,840,000 in the corresponding month last year. This was the smallest monthly increase since October, 1950.

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DEPARTMENT STORE SALES in January totalled \$55,160,000, down five per cent from last year's January sales of \$58,270,000. Preliminary figures for February show that sales rose by an estimated four per cent over a year earlier.

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COST-OF-LIVING INDICES for eight of the nine regional centres moved down between January 2 and February 1, due mainly to declines in food prices.

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INDEX NUMBER OF FARM PRICES, on the base 1935-39=100, declined to 283.0 in January from 286.2 in December, but was 8.4 points above last year's January index of 274.6.

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VALUE OF MANUFACTURERS' INVENTORIES rose in December to reach \$3,585,400,000 -- highest total ever recorded. This was an advance of \$64,000,000 over November, and an increase of \$813,000,000 or 29 per cent over the revised 1950 year-end total of \$2,772,400,000.

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CANADA'S NET SALES of outstanding securities to all other countries in the year 1951 totalled \$17,700,000. This was in marked contrast to the exceptionally heavy inflow of \$238,400,000 in 1950.

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RAILWAY CARLOADINGS in the closing eight-day period of February moved up to 90,810 cars from 71,618 in the preceding week, and daily average loadings increased from 10,231 to 11,351, or by 10.9 per cent.

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SALES OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES continued to drop both in number and value in January, total standing at 20,268 units with a retail value of \$52,631,087, a decrease of 40 per cent in number and 31 per cent in value from January, 1951.

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RELEASES OF CIGARETTES AND CIGARS for consumption in Canada declined in January from a year earlier, but there was a rise in releases of cut tobacco. Beer production increased over January last year, but output of new spirits declined. Month-end stocks of distilled liquor were larger than a year ago.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES FOR NINE REGIONAL CITIES

Cost-of-living indexes for eight of the nine regional centres moved down between January 2 and February 1, due mainly to declines in food prices. Clothing and homefurnishings and services series were also lower at most centres. Decreases in foods were concentrated mainly in meats, notably beef and pork, and in eggs. These outweighed higher prices in dairy product items and vegetables except at Winnipeg and Saskatoon. The composite index for Saskatoon, as a result, registered the only increase, advancing 0.1 per cent to 187.1 between January 2 and February 1.

Clothing declines were due largely to lower quotations for nylon hosiery and woollen apparel. Lower prices for wool blankets, certain furniture items, and cleaning supplies mainly accounted for the declines in homefurnishings and services. With the exception of higher prices for coal at Saint John and electricity rates at Vancouver, fuel and light indexes were unchanged. Higher costs, mainly in the health section, contributed to slightly increased indexes in the miscellaneous items group. Rents, which were not surveyed in February, remained nominally unchanged.

The indexes show changes in retail prices and services in each city. They do not indicate whether it costs more or less to live in one city than another. Composite city indexes for January 2 and February 1 group index detail are shown in the following table:

Index Numbers of the Cost-of-Living for Nine Cities of Canada
at the beginning of February, 1952
(Base: August 1939=100)

	Total Indexes		February 1, 1952					
	Jan. 2 1952	Feb. 1 1952	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Cloth- ing	Home- furnish- ings and Services	Miscel- aneous
St. John's (a)	103.9	103.7	105.0	101.2	107.0	105.4	103.0	101.2
Halifax	179.3	178.2	239.1	124.9	144.5	227.8	183.4	136.8
Saint John	188.0	187.5	240.3	126.1	140.9	234.5	193.8	152.6
Montreal	198.1	197.1	265.8	147.4	145.0	199.7	204.6	142.0
Toronto	187.1	186.0	236.6	149.6	172.5	213.0	194.8	144.8
Winnipeg	183.7	183.4	249.3	132.9	128.2	208.8	201.7	139.5
Saskatoon	187.0	187.1	250.6	132.3	151.7	222.1	207.0	134.2
Edmonton	183.4	183.2	254.0	124.0	121.8	223.2	194.4	140.2
Vancouver	192.6	192.5	255.6	131.9	170.8	226.5	194.4	147.7

(a) Index on the base June 1951=100)

RETAIL SALES VALUED AT \$722,620,000 IN JANUARY

Estimated value of Canada's retail trade rose about three per cent in January to \$722,620,000 from \$703,840,000 in the corresponding month last year. This was the smallest monthly increase since October, 1950. Fourteen of the 21 trades covered in the monthly survey recorded sales gains, while there were advances in all provinces except Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia.

A breakdown of aggregate sales by independents and chains indicates that sales of independents rose in January to \$596,160,000 from \$589,710,000 a year earlier, while chain sales increased to \$126,460,000 from \$114,130,000.

Value of sales of grocery and combination stores -- largest of the trades covered -- rose 17 per cent in January to \$139,440,000, while motor vehicle dealers' sales -- second largest group -- fell 13 per cent to \$110,680,000. Department store sales were down five per cent to \$55,160,000, but sales of garages and filling stations increased seven per cent to \$40,010,000.

Country general store sales increased 12 per cent to \$36,020,000, restaurants four per cent to \$26,460,000, coal and wood dealers 16 per cent to \$24,320,000. Sales of lumber and building materials dealers dropped six per cent in value to \$22,170,000, but drug store sales rose nine per cent to \$19,000,000, and meat store sales six per cent to \$16,020,000.

The January report on retail trade includes estimates of sales by kinds of business and for each month of 1951. These data are all based on final 1950 figures but will be revised later in the year to allow for changes in the number of stores during 1951. (1)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES UP
FOUR PER CENT IN FEBRUARY

Department store sales rose by an estimated four per cent in February over the corresponding month last year, according to preliminary figures. Sales in Saskatchewan showed the largest percentage gain of 12 per cent, followed by Alberta with an advance of nine per cent, British Columbia seven per cent, the Maritimes four per cent, Ontario two per cent, and Quebec one per cent. Sales in Manitoba remained unchanged.

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES DOWN
FIVE PER CENT IN JANUARY

Department store sales in January -- not including Newfoundland -- totalled \$55,160,000, down five per cent from last year's January sales of \$58,270,000. All regions with the exceptions of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia had lower sales, declines of 12 per cent in Ontario and 10 per cent in Manitoba being the largest. Saskatchewan led the increases with a gain of 13 per cent.

Eighteen of the 30 departments had lower sales in January than a year earlier. Largest decreases were shown by major appliances which fell 44 per cent, home furnishings by 20 per cent, and hardware and houseware departments 17 per cent. Sales in the ladies' apparel and accessories departments, women's and misses' sportswear, photographic equipment and supplies, and stationery, books and magazines showed little change. Girls' and infants' wear recorded the largest sales gain of 25 per cent, followed by an increase of 17 per cent in the boys' clothing and furnishing departments. (2)

CHAIN STORE SALES AND
STOCKS IN JANUARY

Sales of food chain stores, women's clothing stores, shoe stores, drug stores and variety stores were higher in January than in the same month last year, while hardware store sales were lower. Stocks for each of the six types of chains at the end of December were above those of a year earlier.

The food store group -- largest of the six trades -- rose 25.2 per cent to \$55,026,000 from \$43,950,000 in January last year, while variety store sales were 6.4 per cent higher at \$8,830,000 as compared with \$8,298,000.

Women's clothing store sales rose 5.7 per cent, amounting to \$2,652,000 as against \$2,509,000 in January, 1951, and drug store sales advanced 3.5 per cent to \$2,445,000 compared with \$2,363,000. Shoe store sales gained 6.3 per cent, standing at \$1,944,000 against \$1,829,000, while hardware store sales fell 15.4 per cent to \$866,000 from \$1,024,000.

Month-end inventories of food stores rose to \$44,126,000 from \$38,838,000, variety stores to \$35,149,000 from \$32,899,000, shoe stores to \$16,710,000 from \$15,331,000, drug stores to \$8,386,000 from \$8,329,000, women's clothing stores to \$7,308,000 from \$5,920,000, and hardware stores to \$4,211,000 from \$3,807,000. (3)

VALUE OF INVENTORIES HELD
BY CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS

Value of manufacturers' inventories rose during December after a decline in November to reach \$3,585,400,000 -- highest total ever recorded. This was an advance of \$64,000,000 over November, and an increase of \$813,000,000 or 29 per cent over the revised 1950 year-end total of \$2,772,400,000.

The Bureau points out that the gain over 1950 includes both prices and volume change, and that it should be interpreted against a background of changes in production levels. In the light of these conditions, it does not appear that total inventory values are unduly high in relation to value of business being transacted.

Value of inventories held by the consumers' goods group at the end of December rose to \$2,163,700,000 from \$2,141,300,000 at the end of November, and \$1,780,800,000 a year earlier, while the figure for capital goods advanced to \$466,100,000 from \$464,100,000 a month before, and \$302,400,000 at the end of 1950. In the producers' goods industries, inventory values rose in total to \$678,900,000 from \$661,100,000 at the end of November, and \$484,800,000 a year earlier, while the total for construction goods industries advanced to \$276,600,000 from \$255,000,000 at the end of November, and \$201,400,000 a year ago.

Although the value of finished products inventories rose during the year by a greater percentage than raw materials in all industries except the capital goods industries, the proportion of total inventory held in finished products rose only very slightly over the level prevailing in December, 1950. Even in the consumers' goods industries as a whole, although some considerable finished products increases were recorded in specific cases, reflecting declines in business at the retail level, the proportion of total inventory held in finished products rose only two per cent. This indicates that, while there has been some accumulation in specific areas, the increase in general was necessary to keep manufacturers' stocks at normal levels for maintenance of present and anticipated production programs. (4)

NET SALES OF SECURITIES TO OTHER
COUNTRIES \$17,700,000 IN 1951

Movements of capital connected with the trade in outstanding securities were largely offsetting in the year 1951 when Canada's net sales to all other countries totalled \$17,700,000. This was in marked contrast to the exceptionally heavy inflow of \$238,400,000 in 1950.

An outstanding development during the year was the rise in net sales of outstanding securities to overseas countries other than the United Kingdom to \$31,000,000 as against \$5,400,000 in 1950. Most of the demand was for the stocks of Canadian companies. Continental Europe was the main source of these capital inflows. There have also been other inflows from the same group of countries for direct investments in subsidiary companies being established or expanded in Canada.

Trade in outstanding securities between Canada and the United States resulted in a small purchase balance of \$5,700,000 in 1951 compared with a sales balance of \$255,700,000 in 1950. This change was due chiefly to the reduction in United States holdings of Government of Canada bonds which occurred towards the end of the year when there was a concentration of repurchases of this group of bonds.

Net repurchases of Government of Canada bonds from the United States amounted to \$91,000,000 in 1951 compared with net sales of the same group of issues in the previous year of \$175,000,000. In contrast, the trade in other groups of Canadian bonds with the United States led to inflows of capital. Net sales were appreciable in issues of railways and other corporation bonds, amounting to \$7,700,000 and \$28,200,000, respectively. At the same time, net sales of Canadian stocks to the United States amounted to about \$25,000,000 with a substantial increase in the volume of trading in this group of securities.

During the year, Canadian holdings of United States and other foreign securities continued to be reduced. Net sales of these groups of securities to the United States amounted to about \$18,000,000, less than half the total of similar liquidations in 1950. Most of these securities sold were the stocks of United States companies. In addition there were comparatively small retirements of foreign securities owned by Canadians which are not included in these figures.

As the balance of transactions in outstanding securities between Canada and the United States was comparatively small, changes in the balance of indebtedness to the United States in 1951 arising from these transactions in outstanding securities were not large. More significant changes in the United States investments in Canada occurred through sales of new issues of Canadian securities to the United States and through large increases in United States direct investments in Canada in branches and subsidiary companies. There was consequently a further substantial rise in the value of United States investments in Canada which at the beginning of 1951 were in excess of \$6.5 billion.

There were again repurchases of Canadian securities from the United Kingdom in 1951 but in smaller volume than in the preceding year. Net repurchases of all securities were \$7,500,000 compared with \$22,800,000 in 1950. These transactions continued to be largely concentrated in Canadian stocks as has been the case for some years. There were also comparatively small repurchases of railway and other corporation bonds and of provincial and municipals, while the trade in outstanding Government of Canada issues was relatively close to balance. Transactions in outstanding securities thus has only comparatively small effects on the total of United Kingdom investments in Canada. More significant changes have been occurring through the growth in British direct investments in branches and subsidiary companies in Canada.

Three transactions in outstanding securities do not include the heavy sales of new issues of Canadian bonds which were floated in the United States by Canadian borrowers. New issues of all kinds sold in the United States in 1951 were close to twice the total of over \$200 million in the previous year. The most characteristic group of floatations of new issues in 1951 were new issues of provincial governments of some \$250 million and of municipalities of some \$70 million. (5)

NEW CAR SALES LOWER IN JANUARY Sales of new motor vehicles continued to drop both in number and value in January, while there was a more moderate decline in the number financed but a small rise in the amount of financing. Financing of used vehicles continued higher than a year earlier.

Sales of new motor vehicles in January totalled 20,268 units with a retail value of \$52,631,087, a decrease of 40 per cent in number and 31 per cent in value from January, 1951 when 33,724 new vehicles were sold for \$76,647,603. Sales of passenger cars declined to 13,745 units from 26,085, and commercial vehicles fell to 6,523 from 7,639.

New vehicle sales financed in January totalled 7,835 units involving \$12,826,808 as against 8,431 units financed for \$12,387,928. Number of new passenger cars dropped to 5,141 from 6,205, but commercial vehicles increased to 2,694 from 2,226. Used vehicles financed in January totalled 19,471 units as against 15,634, and the financed value was \$13,290,488 against \$10,855,260. (6)

RELEASES OF CIGARETTES AND TOBACCO,
AND PRODUCTION OF BEER AND NEW SPIRITS

Releases of cigarettes and cigars for consumption in Canada declined in February from a year earlier, but there was a rise in releases of cut tobacco. Beer production increased over January last year, but output of new spirits declined. Month-end stocks of distilled liquor were larger than a year ago.

Releases of cigarettes in January amounted to 1,316,000,000 as compared with 1,518,000,000 in January last year; cigars, 13,800,000 against 17,700,000; cut tobacco, 2,620,000 pounds against 2,326,000; plug tobacco, 142,000 pounds against 190,000; and snuff, 89,000 pounds, unchanged from January last year.

Beer production in January totalled 478,600 barrels compared with 456,100 a year earlier, and the output of new spirits totalled 2,290,000 proof gallons compared with 2,400,000. Spirits bottled, including imported liquors, amounted to 910,000 proof gallons as against 830,000, and month-end inventories of distilled liquor totalled 86,600,000 proof gallons against 80,590,000.

MORE BIRTHS IN CANADA IN
1951 THAN EVER BEFORE

More babies were born in Canada in 1951 than in any previous year in Canada's history and the birth rate, after three successive declines, rose to the second highest level since 1922, according to provisional estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics included in its monthly report on births, marriages and deaths for December.

Number of deaths was also at a new high, while the number of marriages was above the three previous years but not up to the figures of the immediate post-war years, 1946 and 1947. Despite the rise in deaths, the general mortality rate -- due to the gains in population -- was the second lowest in history, and only slightly above the record low set in the previous year. The marriage rate was up from 1950 but still well below the figures for 1946 and 1947.

Births in Canada in 1951 were estimated at 382,000 -- 11,400 more than in the preceding year, and about 10,300 more than in 1947, the previous record year. The estimated birth-rate per 1,000 population was 27.2 -- the same as in 1946 and 1948 -- as against 26.8 in 1950, and the post-war high of 28.8 in 1947. Previous high annual rates were 29.6 in 1920, 29.4 in 1921, and 28.4 in 1922.

Deaths in 1951 were estimated at 126,500 as compared with 123,649 in 1950, and the rate moved up to 9.1 from the all-time low figure of 8.9 in 1950. Marriages in 1951 were estimated at 128,500 as against 124,733 in 1950, and 137,155 in 1946, and the rate was 9.2 as against 9.0 in 1950, and 10.9 in 1946.

Number of births registered in provincial vital statistics offices throughout Canada during 1951, reported to the Bureau, was 366,470 as compared with 356,228 in 1950, an increase of about three per cent. Only in the Maritimes were there fewer births in 1951.

Ontario had the largest increase in birth registrations to 116,193 from 108,554 in 1950, Quebec's total being only slightly higher at 117,126 against 117,019. Total for British Columbia was up to 27,923 from 27,095, Alberta to 27,231 from 25,858, Saskatchewan to 21,981 from 21,235, and Manitoba to 19,973 from 19,367. Registrations in New Brunswick fell to 16,312 from 16,837, Nova Scotia to 17,051 from 17,412, and Prince Edward Island to 2,680 from 2,851. Registrations in Newfoundland in 1951 totalled 12,942, but no figures are available for 1950.

Death registrations in 1951 increased in total to 123,154 from 120,770 in 1950, or by two per cent, all but two provinces showing increases. Total for Ontario rose to 44,970 from 44,106, Quebec to 34,644 from 32,817, and British Columbia to 11,614 from 11,555. Deaths in Alberta increased to 7,113 from 6,949, Manitoba to 6,754 from 6,567, Saskatchewan to 6,450 from 6,156, and New Brunswick to 4,973 from 4,965. Total for Nova Scotia was down to 5,754 from 6,754, and for Prince Edward Island to 882 from 901. The 1951 total for Newfoundland was 2,747.

There were 125,907 marriages registered during the year, an increase of three per cent over the 1950 total of 121,899. Marriages in Ontario rose to 45,498 from 44,017, Quebec to 35,235 from 33,333, British Columbia to 11,290 from 11,048, Alberta to 9,452 from 9,257, Manitoba to 7,462 from 6,964, and Nova Scotia to 5,193 from 5,130. Registrations of marriages in Saskatchewan fell to 6,842 from 7,172, New Brunswick to 4,344 from 4,354, and Prince Edward Island to 591 from 624. There were 2,216 marriages in Newfoundland during the year. (7)

JANUARY FARM PRICES DOWN FROM
DECEMBER BUT UP FROM YEAR EARLIER

Lower prices for livestock and poultry and eggs more than offset higher prices for potatoes and dairy products, and the preliminary index number of farm prices, on the base 1935-39=100, declined to 283.0 in January from 286.2 in December. Compared with January, 1951, current prices moved up for livestock, dairy products, and potatoes, but declined for grains, poultry and eggs, the overall result being a rise of 8.4 points in the index from 274.6.

Regional indexes were higher in January than in the corresponding month last year for all areas except the Prairie Provinces. In this connection, western farm prices used to construct the January, 1951 index were final prices, whereas those used in the current index are only initial prices for oats and initial prices plus interim payments for wheat and barley.

The index for Prince Edward Island moved up from 184.8 in January last year to 343.9, Nova Scotia from 209.8 to 278.1, New Brunswick from 221.3 to 329.6, Quebec from 280.6 to 311.1, Ontario from 285.7 to 307.8, and British Columbia from 256.0 to 315.3. There was a drop in Manitoba from 283.3 to 272.8, Saskatchewan from 251.9 to 235.6, and Alberta from 296.3 to 268.4. (Mem. 1)

FARM WAGES IN MID-JANUARY
HIGHER IN ALL PARTS OF CANADA

Average wages of male farm help at the middle of January this year were above those of January last year in all parts of Canada, increases being general for wages by the day and month, both with and without board, according to the regular winter survey by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The all-Canada average wage per day with board stood at \$4.60, 50 cents above the \$4.10 average at January 15, 1951, while the per month rate with board was \$86.00, a jump of \$11.00 from \$75.00. The national average without board was \$5.70 per day, up 60 cents from \$5.10, and \$121.00 per month, up \$11.00 from \$110.00.

Wages remained highest in British Columbia, where the averages were \$6.60 per day and \$92.00 per month with board, and \$7.90 per day and \$146.00 per month without board. In three categories, wages were lowest in Saskatchewan where the averages were \$4.10 per day and \$75.00 per month with board, and \$5.30 per day without board. The rate per month without board was lowest in Manitoba where the average stood at \$107.00.

Biggest increase in wages per day with board was in Alberta where the average rose 80 cents from \$3.70 to \$4.50, while the smallest increase was reported in Saskatchewan where the average rose 20 cents from \$3.90 to \$4.10. Quebec had the most substantial increase in wages per month with board, the average rising \$17.00 from \$79.00 to \$96.00, while the smallest gain was recorded in British Columbia where the average rose \$2.00 to \$92.00. In wages per day without board, the Maritimes reported the largest gain with the average increasing 80 cents from \$4.60 to \$5.40, while Manitoba's gain of 20 cents from \$5.20 to \$5.40 was the smallest. Biggest increase in wages per month without board occurred in Alberta where the average was up \$21.00 from \$104.00 to \$125.00, while Manitoba and British Columbia tied for the smallest rise, Manitoba's average increasing \$5.00 from \$102.00 to \$107.00, and British Columbia's average rising \$5.00 from \$141.00. (Mem. 2)

TOTAL COARSE GRAINS EXPORTS
HEAVIER THAN LAST CROP YEAR

Total bushel volume of Canadian exports of oats, barley, rye and flaxseed during the first half of the current crop year was about two and a half times as great as for the August-January period of the 1950-51 year, it is noted in the current issue of the Bureau's Coarse Grains Quarterly.

Current crop year exports of the four grains to January 31, with corresponding figures for 1950-51 in brackets, were as follows: oats, 27,900,000 (9,300,000) bushels; barley, 33,400,000 (10,500,000); rye, 2,100,000 (3,300,000); and flaxseed, 1,500,000 (3,000,000) bushels.

For Canadian oats, the main export market in the six months was the United States, which took 21,800,000 bushels, or 78 per cent of the total. Most of the remainder was taken by Belgium (3,700,000), the Netherlands (1,800,000), and Switzerland (600,000) bushels. Barley exports were more widely distributed, the larger shipments being: Belgium, 8,000,000 bushels; United States, 7,400,000; United Kingdom, 6,900,000; Japan, 5,700,000; and Denmark, 1,300,000.

Rye and flaxseed exports, in contrast to oats and barley, were below the levels of last year. Approximately one half of the 2,100,000 bushels of rye went to Norway, with the remainder going to five other European countries, the United Kingdom and United States; while Belgium took all except 16,000 bushels of the 1,500,000 bushels of flaxseed. (8)

JANUARY PRODUCTION OF WHEAT FLOUR Canadian flour mills processed 8,505,951 bushels of wheat in January for a total production of 1,844,408 barrels of flour, a gain over December's output but a drop from January 1951 when 9,136,584 bushels of wheat were milled into 1,997,758 barrels of flour. In the first half of the current crop year (August to January), 50,282,769 bushels of wheat were processed into 10,967,180 barrels of flour, while in the corresponding period in 1950-51, 52,925,046 bushels yielded 11,793,636 barrels.

Exports of wheat flour during January amounted to 898,711 barrels, down from 1,266,586 in January last year. In the six months of the crop year ending January, exports totalled 4,654,659 barrels as against 5,446,782 barrels in the corresponding period of the previous crop year. (Mem. 3)

PRODUCTION OF BUTTER AND CHEESE IN FEBRUARY Production of creamery butter in February advanced seven per cent over the corresponding month last year or three per cent when February, 1952 is adjusted to a 28-day month. Domestic disappearance was relatively unchanged, but on adjusted basis declined slightly more than three per cent. Cheddar cheese production was lower by 17 per cent, or 20 per cent on a 28-day basis.

Creamery butter production in February amounted to 7,567,000 pounds as compared with 7,070,000 a year earlier. Estimated domestic disappearance in the 29 days of February this year totalled 20,264,000 pounds as compared with 20,232,000 a year earlier.

Output of cheddar cheese amounted to 1,037,000 pounds as against 1,254,000; ice cream, 1,330,000 gallons against 1,115,000; and concentrated milk products, 16,918,000 pounds against 15,313,000. (9)

STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER AND CHEESE ON MARCH 1 Stocks of creamery butter in Canada on March 1 increased to 25,852,000 pounds from 17,343,000 on the corresponding date last year, while the stocks of cheese rose to 29,639,000 pounds from 24,381,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Stocks of evaporated whole milk held by or for manufacturers increased to 15,912,000 pounds from 4,536,000, and the holdings of skim milk powder advanced to 6,327,000 pounds from 1,786,000. Poultry meat stocks rose to 31,748,000 pounds from 14,678,000, and the stocks of shell and frozen eggs increased to 384,000 cases from 239,000. (Mem. 4)

MARGARINE PRODUCTION LOWER IN FEBRUARY; MARCH 1 STOCKS HIGHER Production of margarine was slightly lower in February than in the corresponding month last year, while the March 1 stocks held by manufacturers, wholesalers and other warehouses moved up. Output during the month amounted to 9,386,000 pounds as against 9,604,000, and the stocks totalled 2,913,000 pounds against 2,805,000. (Mem. 5)

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF PROCESSED CHEESE Production of process cheese in February totalled 3,642,000 pounds compared with 3,973,000 in January and 3,348,000 in February, 1951. Cumulative output for the first two months of this year was 7,615,000 pounds, a gain of 14 per cent over the 6,691,000 pounds produced in the same period last year. Stocks held by manufacturers at the end of February totalled 1,431,000 pounds against 1,221,000 a month earlier, and 1,109,000 a year ago.

STOCKS OF FISH ON MARCH 1 Overall stocks of fish were higher on March 1, amounting to 33,379,000 pounds as compared with 31,586,000 on the corresponding date last year. Holdings of haddock increased to 2,093,000 pounds from 1,179,000 a year earlier, salmon to 9,235,000 pounds from 6,833,000, and inland fish to 3,223,000 pounds from 2,570,000, while stocks of cod fell to 3,122,000 pounds from 3,725,000, sea herring to 6,439,000 pounds from 8,782,000, and other sea fish to 8,187,000 pounds from 8,497,000. (Mem. 6)

STOCKS OF MEAT ON MARCH 1 Stocks of meat held by packers, abattoirs, wholesale butchers and cold storage warehouses were higher on March 1, amounting to 85,096,000 pounds as compared with 65,698,000 on the corresponding date last year. Holdings of frozen meat rose to 56,500,000 pounds from 34,118,000, while fresh meat fell to 12,786,000 pounds from 14,478,000, and cured meat to 15,810,000 pounds from 17,102,000. (Mem. 7)

STOCKS OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES ON MARCH 1 Stocks of fruit, frozen and in preservatives, on March 1 amounted to 31,848,000 pounds as compared with 34,641,000 on February 1, and 28,952,000 on the same date last year. Holdings of vegetables, frozen and in brine, totalled 12,804,000 pounds against 14,438,000 at the beginning of February, and 13,102,000 on March 1 last year. (Mem. 8)

PRODUCTION OF PREPARED STOCK AND POULTRY FEEDS UP IN 1951 Canadian production of prepared stock and poultry feeds in 1951 amounted to an estimated 2,043,194 tons, 195,326 tons more than in 1950 and 33,699 tons more than in 1949. There was increased production of all kinds, except dairy and cattle feeds, fox and mink feeds, mineral mixtures, and chopped, ground or crushed grain feeds. Production of poultry feeds totalled 805,911 tons compared to 637,439 in 1950; swine feeds increased from 412,705 to 471,475 tons; calf meals rose from 20,668 to 26,968 tons; and output of dog and cat feeds was 33,482 tons as against 25,988 the previous year. Production of poultry, swine, and dairy and cattle concentrates also increased. Output of dairy and cattle feeds fell off to 233,300 from 276,284 tons, and of chopped, ground or crushed grain feeds to 204,223 from 246,678 tons. (10)

OUTPUT OF LEATHER FOOTWEAR DOWN THREE PER CENT IN 1951 Production of leather footwear fell three per cent in 1951 from the preceding year, declines in each month from June to December offsetting gains in the January-May period. The year's output amounted to 32,921,092 pairs as compared with 33,934,311 in 1950. In December, 1,928,426 pairs were produced as against 2,537,744 a year earlier.

Output of all main groups of footwear were lower in 1951 than in 1950 with the exception of children's and little gents, which rose to 2,429,498 pairs from 2,419,156. Production of men's footwear fell to 7,951,292 pairs from 8,024,014, boys' to 1,063,985 from 1,187,440, youths' to 359,561 from 376,644, women's and growing girls' to 15,545,491 from 16,183,690, misses' to 2,881,781 from 2,896,839, and babies' and infants' to 2,689,484 from 2,846,478. (Mem. 9)

SHIPMENTS, IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF
PRIMARY IRON AND STEEL IN 1951

Shipments of primary shapes by Canadian steel mills -- exclusive of producers' interchange -- rose 10 per cent in 1951 to 2,121,007 net tons from 2,832,872 in the preceding year, while in December there was a slight decline to 247,559 net tons from 250,255 in the same month of 1950.

Producers' interchange in the 12-month period amounted to 1,680,870 tons as against 1,400,406 the year before, and in December the total was 137,652 tons compared with 107,222 in December, 1950.

Imports of primary forms of iron and steel -- carbon, alloy and stainless -- totalled 1,688,971 tons as compared with 1,137,503 in 1950. In December, 121,742 tons were imported as against 85,543 a year earlier. Exports of primary iron and steel in 1951 declined to 341,494 tons from 448,306 in 1950, but there was a slight rise in December to 46,857 tons from 45,899. (11)

OUTPUT OF GYPSUM WALLBOARD,
LATH AND SHEATHING

Production of gypsum wallboard in the calendar year 1951 rose to 230,211,465 square feet from 227,398,173 in the preceding year, lath to 223,075,165 square feet from 218,916,263, and sheathing to 5,722,536 square feet from 5,259,144.

Output of wallboard in January this year amounted to 17,209,684 square feet as compared with 16,348,735 in December, and 20,102,546 in January, 1951, while production of lath totalled 14,450,381 square feet against 12,328,492 in December, and 20,755,363 a year ago. (Mem. 9)

PRODUCTS MADE FROM CANADIAN CLAYS

Producers' sales of products made from Canadian clays declined in November from the corresponding month of 1950, while in the first 11 months of the year there was an advance over a year earlier. Sales in the month totalled \$1,780,903 as compared with \$2,048,049 in November, 1950, and in the 11-month period amounted to \$21,287,551 as against \$18,939,777.

Sales were as follows in November, those for a year earlier being in brackets: building brick, \$1,035,098 (\$1,272,324); structural tile, \$263,222 (\$236,674); drain tile, \$96,985 (\$107,568); sewer pipe, \$150,397 (\$211,127); fireclay blocks and shapes, \$35,733 (\$42,434); pottery, \$85,721 (\$43,180); other clay products, \$113,736 (\$134,742). (Mem. 10)

TRANSIT SYSTEMS HAD FEWER PASSENGERS
BUT HIGHER RECEIPTS IN NOVEMBER

Nationwide fare increases raised gross receipts of Canada's urban and interurban transit systems to \$13,614,908 in November, 9.7 per cent more than in the same month of a year earlier. At the same time the total number of passengers carried decreased 1,312,514 or one per cent to 132,114,838. Cumulative figures to the end of November indicate a rise of some three per cent in earnings over the same period of 1950, and a traffic decline of about two per cent. (Mem. 11)

OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES OF AIR CARRIERS AT PEAK FOR NOVEMBER

Revenues and expenses of Canadian air carriers rose to peak levels for November, earnings advancing 22 per cent to \$4,166,293 from \$3,427,431 in November, 1950, and expenses 11 per cent to \$4,467,727 from \$4,010,776. The resulting net deficit was thus cut to \$301,434 compared to \$583,345.

All revenue accounts were higher in November than a year earlier with the exception of non-transportation which dropped to \$48,487 from \$63,725. Passenger fares increased to \$2,711,171 from \$2,288,995, mail pay to \$616,958 from \$578,970, goods carried to \$269,178 from \$175,429, and excess baggage to \$33,963 from \$19,309. Charter transportation receipts were up to \$294,405 from \$151,581, contract transportation to \$54,674 from \$48,221, and net incidental revenues to \$134,457 from \$101,201.

Operating expenses all moved to higher levels, reflecting increased traffic and costs of manpower and materials. Aircraft operation and maintenance expenses advanced to \$2,469,541 from \$2,351,090 in November, 1950, ground to \$1,211,588 from \$944,456, traffic to \$487,021 from \$437,143, general administration to \$275,665 from \$258,969, and general taxes to \$23,912 from \$19,118. (12)

CARLOADINGS ON CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Railway carloadings in the closing eight-day period of February moved up to 90,810 cars from 71,618 in the preceding week, and daily average loadings increased from 10,231 to 11,351 cars, or by 10.9 per cent. Compared with approximately the similar period of 1951, on a daily loading basis, betterment was also indicated. In addition, connections furnished 44,843 cars as compared with 38,049 a week earlier, daily average receipts being up from 5,435 to 5,605 cars.

In the first two months of this year, an even 649,000 cars of revenue freight were loaded at Canadian stations. This is a new record and an increase of nearly four per cent or 23,229 cars over January-February last year which was a day shorter. Receipts from connections advanced to 314,888 cars from 299,557. (Mem. 12)

The following table shows the loadings of principal commodities on Canadian railways in the period ended February 29 this year, a week and month earlier:

	<u>Feb. 29</u>	<u>Feb. 21^x</u>	<u>Jan. 31</u>
Grain	9,736	7,100	11,668
Grain products	3,182	2,522	4,186
Coal	5,946	5,442	11,034
Ores & Concentrates	2,749	2,433	3,262
Sand, stone, gravel, etc.	3,315	2,887	3,863
Pulpwood	8,976	6,887	12,083
Lumber, lath, shingles & plywood	4,167	2,842	4,274
Gasoline, petroleum oils, etc.	5,603	4,644	7,961
Iron & Steel products (manufactured) .	2,823	2,153	3,205
Woodpulp and paper	6,414	5,113	7,711
Other manufactures & miscellaneous ...	5,967	4,787	7,824
Merchandise l.c.l.	18,022	14,239	22,734
Total revenue cars loaded	90,810	71,618	115,497
Total revenue cars received from connections	44,843	38,049	52,313

x Revised.

STATISTICS OF MENTAL INSTITUTIONS

Both the number of admissions to Canadian mental institutions and the admission rates per 100,000 of the general population increased in 1949 and 1950 over the preceding year, while discharges also rose in number and rate per 1,000 patients, and deaths decreased in relation to number of patients, according to a preliminary report on mental institutions covering the years 1948 to 1950 released by the Bureau.

Total number of admissions for all Canada increased from 14,184 in 1948 to 15,476 in 1949 and 16,377 in 1950, the rate per 100,000 of the estimated population rising successively from 110 to 114 and 118. Discharges in the three years numbered 9,952, 11,303 and 11,714, respectively, the rate per 1,000 patients moving upward from 144 in 1948 to 158 the following year and 159 in 1950. Deaths of patients increased slightly in number from 3,083 in 1948 to 3,125 in 1949 and then declined to 2,993, the rate per 1,000 patients falling off from 45 in 1948 to 44 in 1949 and 41 in 1950.

Number of patients on the books of institutions at the end of 1950 was 59,051, up from 57,256 a year earlier and 55,858 at the end of 1948. The average daily population during 1950 was also higher in number at 53,282 as compared with 51,881 for 1949 and 50,191 for 1948, while the rate per 100,000 estimated general population was up at 386 from 384 in 1949 but below the rate of 390 for 1948. (Mem. 13)

CONFECTIONERY PRODUCTION
AT ALL-TIME HIGH IN 1950

Canada had 207 factories in 1950 mainly engaged in the production of confectionery and these establishments turned out confectionery and other products with a factory selling value of \$104,853,478 to establish a new industry record that was \$2,167,485 above the previous peak of 1948 and \$5,429,393 above 1949's production.

Most valuable items in 1950 were 22,820,792 pounds of packaged chocolates with a factory selling value of \$16,080,169; 29,400,513 dozen chocolate-covered five-cent candy bars worth \$14,264,766; 53,772,687 pounds of bulk sugar confectionery worth \$13,315,320; and 28,886,184 dozen five-cent chocolate bars with a factory value of \$11,373,485.

Production of chewing gum increased from 12,808,305 boxes worth \$7,289,188 in 1949 to 13,358,914 boxes worth \$7,732,938. Production of cocoa powder, cocoa butter, marshmallows and popcorn confectionery were also up, but output of toffees, ice cream and penny candies were down. (13)

PRODUCTION OF FERTILIZERS IN 1950

Factory value of fertilizers produced in Canada was slightly higher in 1950 than in the preceding year, amounting to \$78,755,000 as against \$77,419,000 the year before. Output of mixed fertilizers totalled 666,000 tons valued at \$26,300,000 as against 655,800 tons at \$24,500,000, and superphosphate, ammonium nitrate (fertilizer grade), and ammonium sulphate, 838,700 tons at \$40,622,000 against 845,700 tons at \$40,997,000.

There were 36 plants engaged principally in the manufacture of fertilizers in 1950 with a factory selling value of products of \$68,997,000, two per cent above the 1949 figure of \$67,428,000. These plants furnished employment to 3,253 persons who received \$9,443,000 in salaries and wages as compared with 32 concerns employing 3,269 workers paid \$9,005,000 in 1949. Cost of materials used totalled \$33,350,000 against \$31,671,000. (14)

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. Retail Trade, January (25 cents).
2. Department Store Sales and Stocks, January (10 cents).
3. Chain Store Sales and Stocks, January (10 cents).
4. Inventories and Shipments by Manufacturing Industries, December (25 cents).
5. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, December 1951, and Review of Trade During 1951 (10 cents).
6. New Motor Vehicle Sales and Motor Vehicle Financing, January (20 cents).
7. Births, Marriages and Deaths, December (10 cents).
8. Coarse Grains Quarterly, February (25 cents).
9. Dairy Factory Production, February (10 cents).
10. Shipments and Inventories of Prepared Stock and Poultry Feeds, December (25 cents).
11. Primary Iron and Steel, December (25 cents).
12. Civil Aviation, November (10 cents).
13. The Confectionery Industry, 1950 (25 cents).
14. The Fertilizers Industry, 1950 (25 cents).
15. The Glass and Glass Products Industry, 1950 (25 cents).
16. The Hat and Cap Industry, 1950 (25 cents).
17. The Silver-Lead-Zinc Mining Industry, 1950 (30 cents).
18. The Primary Plastics Industry, 1950 (25 cents).
19. Civil Aviation, October (10 cents).
20. The Veneers and Plywoods Industry, 1950 (25 cents).
21. The Shipbuilding Industry, 1950 (25 cents).
22. The Feldspar and Quartz Mining Industry, 1950 (25 cents).
23. Trade of Canada: Articles Imported from Each Country, Calendar Year 1951 (50 cents).
24. Trade of Canada: Exports -- Detailed Report -- January (50 cents).

Memoranda

1. Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, January (10 cents).
 2. Farm Wages in Canada, January, 1952 (10 cents).
 3. Grain Milling Statistics, January (10 cents).
 4. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, March 1 (10 cents).
 5. Margarine Statistics, February (10 cents).
 6. Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, March 1 (10 cents).
 7. Stocks of Meat, Lard and Tallow, March 1 (10 cents).
 8. Stocks of Fruit and Vegetables, March 1 (10 cents).
 9. Production of Leather Footwear, December (10 cents).
 10. Gypsum Products, December 1951, and January 1952 (10 cents).
 11. Products Made from Canadian Clays, November (10 cents).
 12. Transit Report, November (10 cents).
 13. Carloadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
 14. Preliminary Report on Mental Institutions, 1948-1950 (10 cents).
 15. Grain Statistics Weekly (10 cents).
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