

D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

OTTAWA - CANADA

Vol. XX -- No. 15

Saturday, April 12, 1952

\$1.50 a year

--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

CANADA'S COST-OF-LIVING INDEX registered a further decrease of 0.9 per cent or 1.7 points from 190.8 to 189.1 between February 1 and March 1, foods accounting for most of the drop.

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INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT in the major non-agricultural industries was seasonally lower at the beginning of February than a month earlier but advanced over February last year. Payrolls and salaries and wages both reached new high levels.

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FOREIGN CAPITAL INVESTMENTS in Canada boomed along at a record-setting pace during 1951, reaching an all-time peak total at the year-end of \$9,424,000,000. This was an increase of over \$700,000,000 over 1950, and followed a rise of similar size in the preceding year.

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CANADA'S CURRENT TRANSACTIONS in all goods and services with all countries resulted last year in a deficit of \$524,000,000, up \$195,000,000 or nearly two-fifths over the current deficit of \$329,000,000 in 1950.

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VALUE OF CANADA'S RETAIL TRADE in February was estimated at \$735,097,000, four per cent above the preceding month's figure of \$703,834,000, and six per cent above last year's February total of \$694,169,000.

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SALES OF WHOLESALERS in nine lines of trade were two per cent higher in February than in the same month last year.

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CANADIAN FARMERS' RECEIPTS from the sale of farm products and from grain equalization and participation payments on previous year's crops rose to a new high figure of \$2,825,500,000 last year, up 27 per cent from the 1950 income of \$2,219,600,000.

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OUTPUT OF ELECTRIC ENERGY by central electric stations declined six per cent in February to 4,969,944,000 kilowatt hours from the all-time peak reached in January, but advanced 14 per cent over the same month last year.

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RAILWAY CARLOADINGS during the 10 days ended March 31 totalled 98,876 cars as compared with the preceding week's revised figure of 78,939 cars.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX DOWN 0.9 PER CENT BETWEEN FEBRUARY 1 AND MARCH 1

189.1 between February 1 and March 1.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index registered a further decrease of 0.9 per cent or 1.7 points from 190.8 to 189.1 between February 1 and March 1. This marked the third decline in the last four months and placed the index at its lowest level since September, 1951.

A sharp drop in the food index from 248.1 to 241.7 was mainly responsible for the latest decrease. Meats were substantially lower with beef cuts averaging down more than five cents per pound, fresh pork three cents, and bacon nearly five cents. Eggs showed a further seasonal decrease, while cabbage and orange prices were also slightly lower. Among other foods a few slight increases were recorded.

The clothing index declined from 213.0 to 211.2, due mainly to lower prices for both men's and women's top coats and men's suits. An increase from 200.1 to 200.8 for homefurnishings and services reflected slightly higher prices for items of furniture, floor coverings, dishes and hardware, along with an increase in telephone rates in Eastern Canada. Decreases were recorded for textile furnishings and cleaning supplies. The fuel and light index rose from 151.3 to 152.5 following increases in domestic bituminous coal.

In the miscellaneous index, small advances in items of health, personal care and recreation overbalanced slight decreases in automobile tires and soap, and the index for this series increased from 146.5 to 146.9. The rent index advanced from 144.8 to 146.3 as rents were surveyed for the first time since November last.

From August 1939 to March 1952, the percentage increase in the total index was 87.6. (1)

Dominion Cost-of-Living Indexes (1935-1939=100)

	Com bined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Cloth- ing	Home- furnish- ings and Services	Miscel- aneous
March 1, 1952	189.1	241.7	146.3	152.5	211.2	200.8	146.9
February 1, 1952	190.8	248.1	144.8	151.3	213.0	200.1	146.5
March 1, 1951	179.7	233.9	137.6	146.5	196.3	188.6	137.8

WEEKLY WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES

The composite index for 30 industrial material prices at wholesale continued to decline during March and weakened from 268.6 at February 29 to 264.2 at March 28. Lower prices were noted for steers, wheat, raw rubber, beef hides, sisal, raw wool, crude oil, zinc, lead and copper. These outweighed moderate advances in raw cotton and western oats.

Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets were slightly firmer in March and the composite index moved up from 245.5 to 246.5 between February 29 and March 28. The advance reflected strength in field products which moved from 205.5 to 216.6, due almost entirely to increases in eastern potato prices. Animal products declined from 285.5 to 276.3, reflecting lower prices for steers, calves, eggs and raw wool. (1)

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES Industrial, utility and bank common stocks registered a moderately firmer tone in the first three weeks of March but reacted sharply in the final week to more than cancel accumulated gains for the month. From a level of 176.8 for the week of February 28 the composite index for 105 common stocks advanced to 178.2 for the week of March 20 but dropped to 175.3 by the 27th.

The major groups all moved lower, the index for 82 industrials declining from 182.0 to 180.1, while that for 15 utilities moved down from 168.8 to 168.6 and 8 banks from 143.0 to 142.5. In mining stocks, strength in gold shares was sufficient to support a minor increase in the composite index from 101.2 to 101.8 between February 28 and March 27. The index for 25 golds advanced from 70.6 to 74.1 in the same interval. Base metals were easier, an index for this series reacting from 171.1 to 165.2, with most of the decline occurring in the final week. (1)

DEFICIT ON CURRENT ACCOUNT
IN 1951 INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONS

Canada's current transactions in all goods and services with all countries resulted last year in a deficit of \$524,000,000, up \$195,000,000 or nearly two-fifths over the current deficit of \$329,000,000 in 1950, according to the Bureau's annual report on the Canadian balance of international payments. The deficits in 1951 and 1950 were the first since the early 30's and compare with current surpluses of \$187,000,000 in 1949 and \$452,000,000 in 1948.

While up sharply over 1950, the current deficit in 1951 was due to a large deficit in the first half of the year. In the second half there was a small current surplus. Recent current deficits, the report points out, have been largely concentrated in a comparatively short period. There has been a current surplus in the postwar period as a whole, surpluses in the years from 1946 to 1949 exceeding the deficits in 1950 and 1951. Last year's deficit, while the largest recorded, was less than 10 per cent of gross current credits as compared with a deficit amounting to 26 per cent of total current credits in 1930.

Principal reason for the enlarged 1951 deficit was the growth in volume of imports, which led to a large import balance on commodity account. At the same time, there was also a larger deficit from all other current transactions, the largest net contributors to the current deficit in 1951 as in 1950 being payments of interest and dividends last year, while a small deficit appeared on travel account in contrast to appreciable surpluses in previous years.

Payments to the United States Government on account of the replacement of equipment and other defence purchases were also a notable element contributing to the current deficit. Canada also contributed Mutual Aid to NATO countries of \$165,000,000 in 1951 as compared to \$57,000,000 in 1950, but these amounts do not directly affect the size of the current account deficits, which are a measure of the new inflow of capital into Canada.

Canada's total current receipts in 1951 amounted to \$5,341,000,000, an increase of \$1,041,000,000 over the 1950 total of \$4,300,000,000. Total current payments rose to \$5,865,000,000, up \$1,236,000,000 from \$4,629,000,000.

Commodity exports in 1951 accounted for \$3,950,000,000 (adjusted value) of current receipts, showing an increase of \$811,000,000 over the 1950 total. On the current payments side, commodity imports (at adjusted value) totalled \$4,103,000,000, up \$974,000,000. There was thus a deficit in the commodity balance of \$153,000,000 as compared with a credit of \$10,000,000 in 1950.

Gold available for export in 1951 amounted to \$150,000,000, down from \$163,000,000 in 1950. Tourist and travel expenditures produced a deficit of \$9,000,000 against a surplus of \$49,000,000, while the deficit on interest and dividends was \$332,000,000 compared with \$383,000,000 and on freight and shipping account \$10,000,000 compared with \$17,000,000. Inheritances and migrants' funds yielded a credit of \$10,000,000, and the deficit in miscellaneous current transactions increased to \$180,000,000 as compared with \$151,000,000 the previous year.

During 1951 there was a widening in the disequilibrium with individual countries and areas. The current surplus with overseas countries increased substantially, rising to \$431,000,000 from \$74,000,000 in 1950, but was still below the surplus of \$576,000,000 in 1949. Over half of the increase in this surplus last year was due to a rise to \$220,000,000 from \$28,000,000 in the surplus with the United Kingdom. The remainder was distributed between O.E.E.C. countries and other foreign countries, the former group rising to \$220,000,000 from \$109,000,000 and the change with the latter group being \$60,000,000. With countries of the sterling area other than the United Kingdom there was a current deficit of \$29,000,000, up from \$23,000,000 in 1950.

Canada's current account deficit with the United States more than doubled in 1951, rising to \$955,000,000 from \$403,000,000 in 1950 and comparing with \$1,135,000,000 in 1947, the highest year earlier. The largest single change responsible for this increase was a rise of \$755,000,000 in commodity imports or 36 per cent over 1950 as compared to a rise of \$280,000,000 in the value of commodity exports, with the consequent increase in the import balance of \$475,000,000 from \$47,000,000 in 1950 to \$522,000,000. Another factor was the reduced surplus on travel account, which fell to \$9,000,000 from \$67,000,000 in 1950. Other unfavourable changes were a drop in the Canadian dollar value of gold available for export and increased deficits from freight and shipping and miscellaneous current transactions. The only net change acting to offset these increases in the deficit was a reduction in payments of dividends.

Last year was the second year of predominantly large capital movements of a predominantly inward direction, mainly from the United States. In 1951 the most characteristic inflows were long-term movements connected with the financing of Canadian development. Inflows for direct investment by foreign companies in Canadian branch and subsidiary companies and the sales of new issues of Canadian securities in the United States by provinces, municipalities and companies both increased sharply. These were of long-term character, contrasting with many of the inflows in 1950 when movements into Canadian dollar forms of assets resulting from speculative motives were prominent.

Net inflow of capital from the United States amounted in 1951 to \$560,000,000 as compared with \$960,000,000 in 1950. Capital inflows for direct investment rose to \$259,000,000 as against \$199,000,000, and new issues of Canadian securities sold in the United States rose to \$404,000,000 as compared with \$210,000,000, while retirements of Canadian securities declined to \$159,000,000 as against \$263,000,000. A major change in capital movements was a sharp reduction in the inflow of capital connected with the trade in outstanding securities, net sales of which dropped to \$20,000,000 from \$362,000,000 in 1950. (2)

INVESTMENTS OF EXTERNAL CAPITAL IN CANADA IN 1951

Foreign capital investments in Canada continued to boom along at a record-setting pace during 1951 to reach an all-time peak total at the year-end of \$9,424,000,000, according to provisional estimates released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This was an increase of over \$700,000,000 over 1950, and followed a rise of similar size in the previous year. The present level of non-resident capital investments is about one-third larger than at the end of 1945.

The principal growth has been in investments of United States capital, which rose to an estimated \$7,235,000,000 in 1951 from \$6,565,000,000 in 1950, \$5,905,000,000 in 1949, and \$4,990,000,000 in 1945. British investments in Canada have also risen in the last two years to \$1,772,000,000 in 1951 from \$1,723,000,000 in 1950, and \$1,694,000,000 in 1949.

Investments held in other countries did not change greatly in the period until 1951 when a sharp rise occurred to an estimated \$417,000,000 from \$358,000,000 in 1950.

The rise in United States investments has been both in direct investments and in portfolio holdings of public securities. In the two years, 1950 and 1951, direct investments have increased by approximately \$800,000,000 in value. Holdings of Canadian government and municipal bonds rose by \$364,000,000 and other portfolio holdings of securities by an estimated \$131,000,000. These increases are in the book values of the investments and reflect reinvested earnings. There was an even greater rise in the market value of the investments in the last two years and the aggregate market value at the end of 1951 would be much higher than the book values.

The growth in United States investments in Canada has been distributed throughout the main branches of industry with the principal exception of public utilities. The increased investment in the petroleum industry and in mining in the last two years has accounted for a large part of the rapid growth since 1949. Increased investments in manufacturing have been a feature of all post-war years.

At the end of 1950 there were 2,568 Canadian concerns controlled in the United States, of which 1,229 were in manufacturing. This compares with a total of 1,985 concerns controlled in the United States in 1945, of which 992 were in manufacturing. (2)

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLLS AT FEBRUARY 1

Industrial employment in the major non-agricultural industries was seasonally lower at the beginning of February than a month earlier but advanced over February last year. Payrolls and salaries and wages both reached new high levels.

The composite index number of industrial employment, on the base 1939=100, was 177.9 -- highest in the record for the time of year -- as compared with 181.0 for January 1, and 172.3 for February 1, 1951. The payrolls index was 401.9 as against 388.8 at the beginning of January, and 351.5 a year ago, while weekly wages and salaries averaged \$53.03 as against \$50.42 at the beginning of January, and \$47.87 in the same month of 1951.

Industrial employment was lower than at January 1 in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, but there were advances over February last year in all areas. Seasonal curtailment of employment was evident in seven of the nine major industrial divisions as compared with January 1, but gains were general over a year earlier.

As compared with January 1, there were reductions of 7.6 per cent in trade, 5.9 per cent in construction, 5.2 per cent in logging, 1.4 per cent in transportation, storage and communications, with smaller losses in the service, public utility, and finance groups. There was some recovery of a seasonal nature in manufacturing when the index rose 0.8 per cent. The mining index increased 0.7 per cent.

Manufacturers of both durable and non-durable goods reported heightened activity, the advances in employment amounting to 0.8 per cent and 1.2 per cent, respectively, over January 1. Manufacturing, generally, was 0.3 per cent above that of a year earlier; a loss of 2.5 per cent in the non-durable goods industries was offset by a gain of 3.3 per cent in the durable goods category of manufacturing.

Among the durable goods industries, the largest increase in employment from January 1 was reported in transportation equipment, where the rise of 1.1 per cent was associated with heightened activity in shipbuilding, motor vehicle parts and aircraft production; on the other hand, employment declined in railway shops and motor vehicle plants. The iron and steel group reported moderate gains on the whole; agricultural implements and boiler and plate work showed the largest increases, with hardware and tools, heating and cooking appliances, wire and sheet metal products reporting losses. Non-ferrous smelting and refining added employees, while activity fell off in the non-metallic mineral groups and in electrical apparatus and supplies.

In light manufacturing industries, employment advanced sharply in clothing factories, where the seasonal demands restored the February 1 index number to the December level, but it was 9.6 per cent below that of February 1, 1951. Gains were recorded in all sub-groups except fur. Manufacturers of boots and shoes and other leather products also reported increased activity, employment rising 5.7 per cent over January 1. Tobacco processing, printing and publishing, rubber, and chemicals reported moderately increased activity. (3)

RETAIL TRADE HIGHER IN FEBRUARY

Value of Canada's retail trade in February was estimated at \$735,097,000, four per cent above the preceding month's figure of \$703,834,000, and six per cent over last year's February total of \$694,169,000. For the first two months of the year sales were four per cent higher than in the similar period of 1951.

All sections of the country reported higher dollar sales than in February last year except Manitoba, which fell by two per cent. Saskatchewan showed the largest sales gain of 22 per cent, followed by Quebec with an increase of nine per cent, Alberta eight per cent, British Columbia seven per cent, and Ontario and the Maritimes each three per cent.

Eighteen of the 21 trades had higher sales in February than in the same month last year, the three exceptions being motor vehicles which fell 13 per cent, appliance and radio 12 per cent, and lumber and building material dealers five per cent. Variety store sales recorded the largest sales gain of 19 per cent, and restaurants were up 18 per cent. In the apparel trades, increases were fairly general for all sections of the country, although sales of men's clothing stores in Manitoba were down 12 per cent. (4)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES UP ONE PER CENT IN WEEK

Department store sales rose by an estimated one per cent during the week ending March 29 as compared with the corresponding week last year, according to preliminary figures. Sales in Quebec advanced 19 per cent, the Maritimes nine per cent, Saskatchewan seven per cent, and Alberta one per cent. Sales dropped 20 per cent in Manitoba, and one per cent in Ontario, but remained unchanged in British Columbia.

WHOLESALESALES UP TWO PER CENT IN FEBRUARY

Sales of wholesalers in nine lines of trade covered in the Bureau's monthly survey were two per cent higher in February than in the same month last year, five trades showing sales gains and four declines. Inventories at the end of the month were three per cent below a year earlier, with decreases in five and increases in four trades. The unadjusted index of sales for the nine trades, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 313.2 for February as compared with 308.7 in the preceding month, and 307.9 for February, 1951.

Tobacco and confectionery wholesalers recorded the greatest increase in sales in February, rising 16 per cent over a year earlier. Dollar value of fruit and vegetable wholesalers advanced 15 per cent, auto parts and equipment eight per cent, groceries four per cent, and drugs three per cent. Sales of dry goods wholesalers declined 21 per cent -- the largest drop from a year ago. Clothing wholesalers' sales were down 12 per cent, hardware 11 per cent, and footwear five per cent.

Month-end stocks of tobacco and confectionery wholesalers, who had the greatest increase in sales, showed the greatest decrease at 23 per cent below a year earlier. Stocks of grocery wholesalers were down eight per cent, dry goods nearly 10 per cent, footwear and drug wholesalers 8.5 per cent and three per cent, respectively. Fruit and vegetable wholesalers recorded an increase of 13 per cent, auto parts and equipment wholesalers six per cent, hardware and clothing wholesalers increased stocks of three and one per cent, respectively. (5)

RELEASES OF CIGARETTES AND CIGARS AND OUTPUT OF BEER AND NEW SPIRITS

Releases of cigarettes and cigars during February were smaller than in February last year and releases of cut tobacco larger. Beer production was down slightly in the same comparison, while the output of new spirits was smaller and the month-end stocks of distilled liquor larger.

Releases of cigarettes in the month totalled 1,088,000,000 as compared with 1,477,000,000 a year earlier; cigars, 14,000,000 against 14,900,000; and cut tobacco, 2,591,000 pounds against 2,154,000. Plug tobacco releases dropped to 119,000 pounds as compared with 163,000, and snuff was unchanged at 78,000 pounds.

February beer production increased to 464,800 barrels as compared with 459,600 in February last year but was below all the intervening months. Output of new spirits amounted to 2,250,000 proof gallons compared with 2,420,000, and the quantity of spirits bottled, including imported liquors, to 870,000 against 900,000 proof gallons. Stocks of distilled liquor at the end of February rose to 87,340,000 proof gallons as against 81,600,000 twelve months earlier.

RAILWAY REVENUE FREIGHT LOADINGS

Revenue freight loaded by Canadian railways during the 10 days ended March 31 totalled 98,876 cars as compared with the preceding week's revised figure of 78,939 cars. The daily average was 9,888 cars as against 11,277. Loadings in the Eastern division were 68,083 cars, while the Western total was 30,793 cars. Receipts from foreign connections amounted to 49,996 cars compared with 36,921.

Cumulative loadings for the first quarter of this year rose to 979,627 cars from 961,948 a year earlier, with the Western division accounting for the advance. Receipts from connections registered a minor gain of 3,071 cars to 474,364. (Mem. 1)

OPERATING REVENUES AND EXPENSES
OF CANADIAN RAILWAYS IN DECEMBER

Operating revenues of Canadian railways rose seven per cent in December to \$89,880,954 — a new record for the month — as compared with \$84,344,191 in the same month last year, while operating expenses increased 15 per cent to reach an all-time monthly peak of \$83,385,817 as against \$72,756,533. Operating income for the month was thus \$3,931,347, down from the December, 1950 total of \$7,732,384.

All revenue accounts except mail and miscellaneous were higher than a year earlier. Freight earnings moved up to \$68,846,594 from \$64,836,417, passenger receipts to \$8,835,855 from \$7,502,266, express to \$4,397,118 from \$3,749,109, other passenger train to \$871,055 from \$792,066, and water line to \$178,500 from \$168,841. Mail was down to \$1,504,413 from \$1,697,316, and miscellaneous revenues to \$5,247,419 from \$5,598,176.

All expense accounts advanced in December over a year earlier. Maintenance of way and structures were up to \$15,466,920 from \$11,854,260, maintenance of equipment to \$18,801,964 from \$17,095,547, traffic to \$1,754,894 from \$1,635,584, transportation to \$42,232,694 from \$37,464,577, miscellaneous operations to \$1,426,598 from \$1,196,237, and general expenses to \$3,702,747 from \$3,510,328. (Mem. 2)

OUTPUT OF ELECTRIC ENERGY IN FEBRUARY

Output of electric energy by central electric stations declined six per cent in February from the all-time monthly peak reached in January, but was 14 per cent above the same month last year. Gains were recorded over a year earlier in all provinces except New Brunswick.

The month's output amounted to 4,969,944,000 kilowatt hours as compared with the revised figure of 5,268,718,000 in January, and 4,377,699,000 in February last year. Consumption of primary power — production, less net exports and secondary power — totalled 4,500,020,000 kilowatt hours against 4,784,385,000 in the preceding month, and 3,984,239,000 a year ago. Gross exports to the United States were up to 210,454,000 kilowatt hours from 210,135,000 in January, and 164,805,000 in February, 1951. (Mem. 3)

BIRTHS AND DEATHS HIGHER IN
JANUARY; MARRIAGES LOWER

Registrations of births and deaths were higher in January this year than in the corresponding month of 1951, while there was a decline in the number of marriages, according to provisional figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Births in the month increased 1.4 per cent, numbering 29,612 as compared with 29,210 in January last year. Gains in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario more than offset declines in the other provinces. Ontario was mainly responsible for the overall gain with an increase from 9,139 to 10,103.

Deaths in January were four per cent higher at 11,088 as against 10,662, with Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan registering the only declines. Marriages in the month totalled 5,054, down 18.2 per cent from last year's January figure of 6,176. There were fewer marriages in all areas except Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. (6)

FINAL 1951 CENSUS FIGURES SHOW SUBSTANTIAL
POPULATION GAINS IN ALL METROPOLITAN AREAS

Final 1951 Census figures for metropolitan areas, released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, show that substantial population gains were made in the past decade in all 15 areas so classed for census purposes and that Canada now has two cities with metropolitan area populations of over one million.

The population of the census metropolitan area of Montreal, the nation's leading metropolis, now stands at 1,395,400, 250,118 or nearly 22 per cent more than the 1,145,282 population of the same area in 1941. The population of Montreal proper increased 13 per cent in the decade to 1,021,520, passing the million mark for the first time. Toronto's metropolitan area population jumped 207,542 or nearly 23 per cent in the decade from 909,928 to 1,117,470. The population of Toronto proper rose only 1.2 per cent in the ten years to 675,754.

Biggest percentage gain in population was made in the metropolitan area of Edmonton, where the population jumped 75,233 or almost 77 per cent from 97,842 to 173,075. The population of Edmonton proper rose over 70 per cent to 159,631 in the decade. Calgary made the second biggest percentage advance, the population of its metropolitan area increasing over 49 per cent or 46,084 persons from 93,021 in 1941 to 139,105 in 1951.

Vancouver's metropolitan area population increased 153,281 or almost 41 per cent from 377,447 in 1941 to 530,728 in 1951; Winnipeg's 54,132 or 18 per cent from 299,937 to 354,069; Ottawa's 55,618 or nearly 25 per cent from 226,290 to 281,908; Quebec's 50,071 or over 22 per cent from 224,756 to 274,827; and Hamilton's 61,953 or more than 32 per cent from 197,732 to 259,685. This makes seven cities with metropolitan area populations over 250,000 as against four in 1941.

Below the quarter-million mark, Windsor's metropolitan area population rose 33,699 or over 27 per cent from 123,973 to 157,672; Halifax' 35,295 or nearly 36 per cent from 98,636 to 133,931; London's 30,492 or more than 33 per cent from 91,024 to 121,516; Victoria's 29,743 or over 39 per cent from 75,560 to 104,303; and Saint John's 7,410 or over 10 per cent from 70,927 to 78,337. The population of the metropolitan area of St. John's stood at 67,749 in 1951, but no comparative figures for 1941 are available for Newfoundland's major city. However, the population of St. John's proper rose more than 18 per cent to 52,873 from 44,603 in 1945 -- date of the last official census of the new province.

The populations of other major urban areas as determined by the 1951 Census are: Brantford, 52,231; Fort William-Port Arthur, 71,191; Guelph, 30,387; Kingston, 49,327; Kitchener, 63,009; Moncton, 45,283; Oshawa, 51,582; Peterborough, 41,191; St. Catharines, 67,065; Sarnia, 41,303; Sault Ste. Marie, 40,490; Shawinigan Falls, 49,719; Sherbrooke, 56,128; Sudbury, 70,884; Sydney-Glace Bay, 104,224; and Trois Rivieres, 68,306. Comparable 1941 figures are not available for these areas. (7)

FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS LOWER IN FEBRUARY

Lower prices for live stock, poultry, eggs and potatoes resulted in a sharp drop in the preliminary index of farm prices of agricultural products in February to 272.4 from 284.0 in the preceding month. Compared with a year earlier there were price declines in grain, live stock, poultry and eggs, and the index fell 12.0 points from 285.2.

All regional indexes were lower in February than in the preceding month. As compared with February last year there were decreases in the indexes for Ontario and each of the three Prairie Provinces but advances for other areas.

The February index for Prince Edward Island rose to 319.4 from 199.9 a year ago, Nova Scotia to 268.6 from 217.7, New Brunswick to 318.2 from 224.7, Quebec to 304.9 from 293.0, and British Columbia to 309.6 from 269.0. Index for Ontario was down to 295.0 from 302.1, Manitoba to 261.2 from 292.2, Saskatchewan to 226.3 from 258.8, and Alberta to 257.1 from 301.9. (Mem. 4)

CANADIAN FARM CASH INCOME
REACHED NEW PEAK IN 1951

Canadian farmers' receipts from the sale of farm products and from grain equalization and participation payments on previous year's crops (Newfoundland excluded) rose to a new high figure of \$2,825,500,000 last year, according to estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This income is over 27 per cent above the 1950 income of \$2,219,600,000 and nearly 14 per cent above the former record of \$2,486,600,000 in 1949.

In addition to receipts included in the 1951 total, supplementary payments amounting to \$10,400,000 were made during the year under the provisions of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act as compared with \$13,800,000 in 1950 and \$17,600,000 in 1949.

Contributing to the high level cash income last year was a strong world demand for grains, a continuance of the market in the United States for cattle and calves, and a record high domestic demand. Other factors were very large grain participation and adjustment payments and heavier-than-usual spring marketings of grain. During the year the Canadian Wheat Board distributed to western grain growers the record amount of \$312,900,000, these payments including the final payment of the 1945-50 Canada-United Kingdom wheat pool and the interim price adjustment and final participation payments on the 1950 crops of wheat, oats and barley.

Cash income from the sale of grains, seed and hay, according to the preliminary estimate, rose sharply to \$916,223,000 last year from \$564,132,000 in 1950 and compares with \$865,608,000 in 1949. Wheat accounted for \$424,089,000 of the 1951 total as against \$379,145,000 the previous year. Income from the sale of vegetables and other field crops totalled \$163,205,000 as against \$153,158,000. Cash receipts from live stock, including poultry, were over the billion mark to \$1,029,369,000 as compared with \$895,569,000 in 1950, while income from the sale of dairy products increased to \$373,611,000 from \$330,088,000, with higher prices more than offsetting a slight decline in production.

Fruits accounted for \$42,686,000 as against \$41,165,000; other principal products -- eggs, wool, honey and maple products -- for \$153,559,000 compared with \$111,393,000; forest products for \$85,354,000 (\$74,728,000); fur farming for \$8,735,000 (\$7,624,000); and miscellaneous farm products for \$52,769,000 (\$41,785,000).

Estimates of farm cash income show increases over 1950 for all provinces, the greatest gain in absolute terms being in Saskatchewan, with Ontario and Alberta next, and Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta in that order showing the largest percentage gains. Ontario had the largest total at \$793,700,000 compared with \$678,500,000 the previous year. Saskatchewan was next at \$626,600,000 against \$408,300,000, followed by Alberta at \$470,400,000 (\$368,000,000), Quebec at \$433,400,000 (\$361,000,000), Manitoba at \$260,700,000 (\$195,400,000), British Columbia at \$119,300,000 (\$100,300,000), New Brunswick at \$49,400,000 (\$46,900,000), Nova Scotia at \$45,200,000 (\$39,400,000), and Prince Edward Island at \$26,800,000 (\$21,800,000). (Mem. 5)

PRODUCTION OF BUTTER
AND CHEESE IN MARCH

Production of creamery butter continued to climb in March, the month's output rising six per cent over a year earlier. This raised the cumulative output for the first three months of the year seven per cent above last year. Domestic disappearance advanced seven per cent during the month, but fell one per cent in the quarter.

Mainly as a result of sharp advances in Quebec and Manitoba, all-Canada output of cheddar cheese fell only two per cent in March as compared with a drop of 17 per cent in February. First-quarter output was 23 per cent under that of a year earlier. Output of concentrated milk products rose 15 per cent in the month and 10 per cent in the quarter.

March output of creamery butter amounted to 10,741,000 pounds as compared with 10,137,000 a year earlier, bringing the cumulative output for the first quarter to 27,138,000 pounds against 25,365,000. Domestic disappearance in the month was 18,926,000 pounds against 17,698,000, and in the quarter was 58,931,000 pounds against 59,643,000.

Cheddar cheese production in March was 1,713,000 pounds as against 1,754,000, bringing the total for the January-March period to 3,880,000 pounds as against 5,010,000. Output of concentrated milk products totalled 26,335,000 pounds in March and 60,966,000 in the quarter, as against respective totals of 22,963,000 and 55,399,000. (8)

STOCKS OF CREAMERY BUTTER
AND CHEESE ON APRIL 1

Stocks of creamery butter on April 1 amounted to 17,397,000 pounds as compared with 9,820,000 on the corresponding date last year, while holdings of cheese totalled 26,927,000 pounds as against 20,032,000.

Stocks of evaporated whole milk held by or for manufacturers amounted to 12,953,000 pounds compared with 2,373,000 on April 1 last year, while holdings of skim milk powder were 5,522,000 pounds against 1,809,000 a year ago. Stocks of eggs, shell and frozen, rose to 487,000 cases from 383,000, and holdings of poultry meat were up to 27,288,000 pounds from 11,794,000 on April 1, 1951. (Mem. 6)

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS
OF MARGARINE

Production of margarine in March amounted to 8,832,000 pounds as compared with 10,837,000 in the corresponding month last year, and in the first three months of this year totalled 27,616,000 pounds as against 30,226,000 in the similar period of 1951. Stocks held by manufacturers, wholesalers and other warehouses at the beginning of April aggregated 2,549,000 pounds compared with 3,009,000 on the same date last year. (Mem. 7)

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS
OF PROCESS CHEESE

Production of process cheese in March totalled 4,096,000 pounds compared with 3,648,000 in the same month last year. Cumulative output for the first three months of 1952 amounted to 11,710,000 pounds, 13 per cent above the 10,339,000 pounds produced in the like period of 1951.

Stocks held by manufacturers at the end of March amounted to 1,610,000 pounds as compared with 1,136,000 on March 31, 1951.

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF WHEAT Visible supplies of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America during the week ending March 27 amounted to 211,167,251 bushels as compared with 188,750,423 on the corresponding date last year. Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces totalled 4,462,515 bushels against 784,050 a year ago, and the overseas export clearances aggregated 2,586,805 bushels compared with 1,676,233. (Mem. 8)

PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS OF WHEAT FLOUR LOWER IN FEBRUARY Production of wheat flour in February declined to 1,812,383 barrels from 1,997,458 in the corresponding month last year, while the total for the first seven months of the current crop year decreased to 12,779,563 barrels from 13,791,094 in the similar period of 1950-51. Exports during the month totalled 689,470 barrels, down from 1,050,490 a year earlier, bringing the seven-month shipments to 5,336,104 barrels from 6,497,272. (Mem. 9)

PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS OF ELECTRIC REFRIGERATORS SHARPLY LOWER IN JANUARY Canadian production of domestic-type electric refrigerators showed a further pronounced decline in January this year as compared with a year earlier, totalling 8,340 units -- less than a fourth last year's January total of 34,694 units. Shipments in January fell to 9,057 units as against 33,235, while stocks at the end of the month were up to 46,054 units from 4,346.

Imports of electric refrigerators -- domestic or store type -- amounted to 1,104 units as compared with 8,824 in January last year, and the exports of refrigerators and parts totalled 84 units as against 173. (Mem. 10)

SALES OF TELEVISION SETS HIGHER IN NOVEMBER; RADIOS SHARPLY LOWER Sales of television receiving sets advanced in November and the first 11 months of the year over the same periods of 1950, but there was a decline in the number of radios sold.

Producers' domestic sales of television receivers in November totalled 5,626 units with a value at list prices of \$2,848,325 as compared with 4,904 at \$2,351,831, and in the 11 months numbered 34,605 units worth \$18,455,413 against 24,087 at \$10,242,154 in 1950. There was a marked decline in the sales of radios in November to 59,104 units valued at \$5,287,449 compared with 91,043 with a value of \$7,425,282 in November, 1950. In the 11-month period, sales fell to 514,890 units from 674,136 a year earlier, and the value to \$45,926,323 from \$51,911,967.

Sales of television sets in November in the Toronto-Hamilton area totalled 2,588, in the Windsor area 1,551, in the Niagara Peninsula 1,175, and in other areas 312. The number of radios sold in Ontario dropped to 26,720 units from 45,792 a year earlier, Quebec to 13,593 from 18,074, British Columbia to 4,349 from 6,454, the Maritimes to 4,019 from 5,332, Alberta to 3,950 from 5,803, Manitoba to 3,759 from 5,785, Saskatchewan to 2,142 from 3,033, and Newfoundland to 572 from 770. (9)

PRODUCTION, IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COKE IN JANUARY Production of coke was slightly lower in January this year, amounting to 341,682 tons as compared with 341,763 in the same month of 1951. Imports declined to 48,255 tons from 58,003 a year earlier, but there was a rise in exports to 35,060 tons from 22,109. Amount available for consumption -- output, plus imports less exports -- fell to 354,877 tons from 377,657. (10)

PRODUCTION OF STOVES AND FURNACES IN 1950

Warm air furnaces, and electric cooking stoves and rangettes were produced in greater numbers in 1950 than in 1949, while there were declines in the output of coal and wood stoves and ranges, kerosene and fuel oil stoves and space heaters.

Year's output of warm air furnaces amounted to 100,760 units as compared with 80,669 the year before; coal and wood stoves and ranges, 210,521 against 243,428; gas stoves, ranges, and space heaters, 66,449 (79,448); electric cooking stoves and ranges -- over 35 amperes -- 160,382 (135,810); electric rangettes, 50,722 (61,692); electric cooking plates and grills, 256,493 (245,584); kerosene and fuel oil stoves, ranges, and space heaters, 116,672 (182,696); and power type oil burners, 86,097 (54,269). (11)

OPERATING RESULTS OF FILLING STATIONS AND GARAGES IN 1950

Both gross and net profits of filling stations were smaller in proportion to net sales in 1950 than in 1948, while gross profits of garages were larger and net profits smaller, according to the Bureau's biennial survey of operating results of a sample of establishments in these two fields.

Filling stations included in the survey were those in which net sales of gasoline and oil accounted for 75 per cent of merchandise sales and repairs for not more than 25 per cent, while garages were those in which merchandise sales accounted for more than 50 per cent of total sales. Service garages where repair work predominated and dealer garages where motor vehicles were sold were excluded from the study.

Average net sales of the filling stations from which reports were received by the Bureau increased in dollar value from \$53,912 in 1948 to \$63,150 in 1950. Gross profit of all was down moderately from 18.97 per cent of net sales to 18.66 per cent, while total operating expenses declined somewhat less from 12.80 to 12.65 per cent. The result was a decline in net profit before deduction of proprietors' salaries and income tax from 6.17 to 6.01 per cent.

Gross profit in proportion to net sales generally decreased in the larger sizes of business, and during 1950 ranged from 20.7 per cent in the smallest size rented establishments (annual sales of \$10,000 to \$19,999) to 15.35 per cent in the largest class (\$100,000 and over) owned establishment. Net profits ranged from 13.41 per cent for the smallest rented group to 4.27 per cent for the rented group of largest size and were 4.38 per cent for the largest owned size.

Gross profit of garages increased from 26.23 in 1948 to 27.8 per cent of net sales in 1950, and operating expenses rose from 18.41 to 20.08 per cent with most of the increase due to higher salary and occupancy costs. Net profit was down from 7.82 to 7.72 per cent in relation to net sales.

Gross profit was highest at 37.6 per cent in the smallest size rented establishment and lowest at 25.2 per cent in owned establishments of \$50,000 to \$99,999 annual net sales. Operating expenses were also lowest in the latter group at 18.7 per cent and highest at 25.2 per cent in rented establishments with sales of \$100,000 and over. Salary expenses generally increased and other expenses generally declined in sales ratio in the larger sales-size groups. Net profits ranged down from 18 per cent of net sales in the smallest owned category to five per cent in the largest rented class. (12)

SHEET METAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY Gross value of products turned out by the sheet metal products industry in 1950 amounted to \$171,947,000, an increase of 10 per cent over the preceding year's value of \$156,717,000. A total of 283 plants operated during the year giving employment to 17,049 workers earning \$42,630,000 in salaries and wages against 275 establishments with 16,414 employees paid \$39,305,000. Cost of materials used totalled \$92,352,000 against \$84,811,000.

Total production of metal cans from all industries in 1950 amounted in value to \$63,130,000 against \$56,562,000 the year before, steel barrels and drums \$2,535,000 against \$2,230,000, domestic range boilers \$2,604,000 against \$2,402,000, metal bottle caps \$10,298,000 against \$8,883,000, sheet metal culvert tile \$5,944,000 against \$5,378,000, aluminum kitchenware \$8,521,000 against \$10,125,000, galvanized sheets \$12,447,000 against \$12,115,000, and stove and furnace pipe \$2,156,000 against \$1,820,000. (13)

CANADIAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY Canadian textile mills had a gross factory value of production of \$1,364,323,000 in 1949, an increase of about four per cent over the preceding year's total of \$1,314,635,000, according to the general review of the industry by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. There were 3,905 establishments in operation in 1949 as compared with 3,822 the year before. They furnished employment to 195,525 persons as compared with 190,921, and their salaries and wages aggregated \$362,679,000 against \$332,869,000. (14)

HIGHWAY EXPENDITURES HIGHER IN 1950 Canada spent \$277,913,759, or \$20 per person, on its highways in 1950, \$7,700,000 more than in 1949, and wound up the year with 567,155 miles of roads, an increase of 5,808 miles or one per cent. Mileage of surfaced roads rose 7,699 miles to 169,498 miles, boosting the proportion of surfaced highways from 28.2 to 30 per cent. Mileage of concrete roads dropped 192 miles to 2,045 miles, but mileage of bituminous pavements and surfaces increased 2,272 miles or 11.1 per cent to 22,272 miles. With the increase in motor vehicle registrations, the number of motor vehicles per miles of surfaced road rose from 14.2 in 1949 to 15.3.

Trans-Canada highway construction accounted for \$16,000,000 of the total expenditures, and the construction of bridges and ferries for \$21,000,000, a drop of over \$1,000,000 from the record high of \$22,283,000 spent in 1949. Increases in the highway expenditures of Ontario, Alberta and Newfoundland, up \$12,400,000, \$5,400,000, and \$2,700,000, respectively, more than offset decreases in British Columbia, Quebec and Manitoba, down \$8,600,000, \$5,200,000, and \$2,300,000, respectively. Nova Scotia expenditures eased slightly while those in the other provinces and in the territories were a little higher than in 1949. (Mem. 11)

SUMMARY REVIEW OF THE GOLD MINING INDUSTRY The Dominion Bureau of Statistics this week released its annual summary review of Canada's gold mining industry. The report contains principal statistics for the industry as a whole and for each of its three main sections -- the alluvial gold mining industry, the auriferous quartz mining industry, and the copper-gold-silver mining industry. Statistics on the production of gold are given for Canada and each province and territory from 1941 to 1950, and an historical table contains production figures from the beginning of the century. (15)

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 (10 cents).
2. The Canadian Balance of International Payments, 1951, and Foreign Capital Invested in Canada (25 cents).
3. Employment and Payrolls, February (25 cents).
4. Retail Trade, February (25 cents).
5. Wholesale Trade, February (10 cents).
6. Births, Marriages and Deaths, January (10 cents).
7. Population of Census Metropolitan Areas, 1951 (25 cents).
8. Dairy Factory Production, March (10 cents).
9. Radio Receiving Sets, November (20 cents).
10. Coal and Coke Statistics, January (20 cents).
11. Heating and Cooking Apparatus Industry, 1950 (25 cents).
12. Operating Results and Financial Structure of Filling Stations and Garages, 1950 (25 cents).
13. Sheet Metal Products Industry, 1950 (25 cents).
14. General Review of All Textiles, 1949 (50 cents).
15. Gold Mining Industry, 1950 (50 cents).
16. General Review of Textiles Except Clothing, 1949 (25 cents).
17. Miscellaneous Clothing Industries, 1950 (25 cents).
18. Trade of Canada: Exports -- Detailed Report -- February and Two Months Ended February (50 cents).
19. The Foods and Beverages Group -- General Review -- 1949 (50 cents).
20. Quarterly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, October-December, 1951 (25 cents).

Memoranda

1. Carloadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
 2. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, December (10 cents).
 3. Central Electric Stations, February (10 cents).
 4. Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, February (10 cents).
 5. Farm Cash Income, 1951 (25 cents).
 6. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, April 1 (10 cents).
 7. Margarine Statistics, March (10 cents).
 8. Grain Statistics Weekly (10 cents).
 9. Grain Milling Statistics, February (10 cents).
 10. Domestic Electric Refrigerators, January (10 cents).
 11. Highway Statistics, Canada, 1950 (10 cents).
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D. B. S. NEWS NOTES

In 1951, 125,907 couples were married in Canada, three per cent more than the 121,899 couples wed in 1950.

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A total of 81,310 new dwelling units were built in Canada in 1951.

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An estimated 126,500 persons died in Canada in 1951, more than in any other year in the country's history.

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British Columbia's occupied farm land is the most valuable in Canada. The average value in 1951 was \$92 per acre.

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At last count Canada had over 15 motor vehicles for every mile of surfaced road.

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Daily average number of patients in public hospitals of Canada in 1950 was 53,267, an increase of slightly more than five per cent over 1949.

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Most of the paint and varnish used by Canadians is made in Canada. Domestic production was valued at \$84,122,000 in 1950 and imports at \$2,149,000, while exports were worth \$375,000.

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The population of Edmonton, booming capital of oil-rich Alberta, jumped over 70 per cent in the decade between 1941 and 1951, giving it a total of 159,631 inhabitants and boosting it from ninth to eighth largest city in the country.

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The average factory selling price of Canadian-made wooden handles for axes and such long-handled tools as rakes and hoes is about forty-five and one-half cents apiece.

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About 11,000,000 wooden broom and mop handles are manufactured in Canada every year.

. . .

Canadian farmers grew a total of 5,850,000 pounds of asparagus in 1951.

. . .

Latest figures show that Canada has 567,155 miles of road, of which 169,498 miles, or 30 per cent, are surfaced.

. . .

An average of \$20 for every man, woman and child in Canada was spent in 1950 on building and improving the nation's highways.

. . .

A total of 81,310 new dwelling units were built in Canada in 1951.

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Canadians were among the world's largest consumers of fabrics in 1949, and ranked first in per capita consumption of woollen goods.

. . .

Results of the 1951 Census of Canada show the population of Montreal proper as 1,021,520, 13 per cent more than it was a decade earlier. This was the first time the population of a Canadian city had been recorded above the million mark.

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The provinces of Quebec and Ontario dominate the field of textile manufacturing in Canada. In 1949, Quebec accounted for \$759,239,000 or 55.6 per cent of the gross value of total textile production and 109,023, or 55.8 per cent of total employees in the industry. In the same year, Ontario accounted for \$501,382,000 or 36.7 per cent of production and 70,981 or 36.3 per cent of employees.

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