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--- HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE ---

COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES for all of the nine regional centres declined between April 1 and May 1, 1952. Substantial decreases in the food indexes were mainly responsible.

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DEPARTMENT STORE SALES rose 10 per cent in May as compared with the corresponding month last year, gains being recorded in all provinces.

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SALES OF WHOLESALERS in nine lines of trade rose five per cent in April over the same month last year, while inventories at the end of April were seven per cent below the corresponding date last year.

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INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT was slightly lower at the beginning of April than a month earlier, but advanced over April 1 last year. Payrolls were higher in both comparisons, while average weekly wages and salaries reached a new peak.

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CANADA'S FARM PRICES INDEX dropped to 264.6 in April from the revised figure of 267.2 for March and 292.1 for April last year.

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RAILWAY CARLOADINGS in the last 10 days in May totalled 114,062 cars as compared with 82,230 in the preceding seven days. Daily average was 11,406 cars as against 11,747.

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SHIPMENTS OF CANADIAN-MADE MOTOR VEHICLES climbed to 46,908 units in April from 41,060 in the corresponding month last year, but the cumulative total for the first four months of the year was down to 147,797 units from 168,635 in the similar period of 1951.

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VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF CANADIAN WHEAT in store or in transit in North America on May 29 increased to 217,831,000 bushels from 169,751,000 on the corresponding date last year.

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PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON in April amounted to 214,300 net tons as compared with 211,100 in the corresponding month last year, and the output of steel ingots and castings totalled 316,600 net tons as against 312,000.

COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES
FOR NINE REGIONAL CITIES

Cost-of-living indexes for all of the nine regional centres declined between April 1 and May 1, 1952. Substantial decreases in the food indexes were mainly responsible.

Declines were registered for butter, meats, other fats, sugar and fruits, while fresh vegetables moved higher, led by further increases in potatoes.

Homefurnishings and services indexes were lower at all centres except Halifax, reflecting principally declines within the electrical goods section. Higher telephone rates for Halifax were sufficient to offset the decline in electrical goods prices. Seasonal weakness in coal prices reduced the fuel and light series at most centres, although the Toronto fuel index advanced following higher rates for domestic gas.

In the miscellaneous items indexes, reductions reflected lower prices for cigarettes, automobile tires, and magazines. For Vancouver an increase in the miscellaneous items index reflected higher street car fares and theatre admission rates. Clothing price changes were slight while rents were not surveyed in May and the indexes remained unchanged.

Composite city indexes for April 1 and May 1, and May 1 group index detail are shown in the following table. 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.

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

	Total Indexes		Group Indexes - May 1, 1952					
	April 1, 1952	May 1, 1952	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Cloth- ing	Home- furnish- ings and Services	Miscel- aneous
St. John's*	103.8	103.1	103.2	105.2	107.6	103.8	102.5	100.2
Halifax	177.8	177.4	231.4	126.1	152.5	224.1	190.1	138.4
Saint John	186.8	184.2	231.7	126.1	146.6	231.4	189.8	151.4
Montreal	193.8	191.0	248.3	148.7	142.7	197.0	204.7	141.5
Toronto	184.8	182.9	223.1	152.4	176.0	210.1	192.3	147.0
Winnipeg	181.9	180.5	239.4	133.6	131.1	208.7	198.3	139.8
Saskatoon	183.7	181.0	233.1	132.3	151.7	218.7	202.9	134.0
Edmonton	180.0	177.8	238.1	124.2	121.8	219.3	190.3	140.1
Vancouver	192.3	190.6	244.7	134.0	176.9	223.0	194.5	152.7

* Index on the base June 1951=100

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT, PAYROLLS
AND WEEKLY SALARIES AND WAGES

Industrial employment was slightly lower at the beginning of April than a month earlier, but advanced over April 1 last year. Payrolls were higher in both comparisons, while average weekly wages and salaries reached a new peak.

The index number of employment, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 177.8 as against 178.0 at the beginning of March, and 173.3 a year ago. Weekly payrolls index was 411.1 against 409.0 a month earlier and 357.8 last year, while weekly wages and salaries averaged \$54.27 against \$53.95 at March 1, and \$48.43 at the same time last year.

There were increases over a year earlier in all industries except manufacturing. The index for employment in forestry -- chiefly logging -- rose to 208.2 from 208.0, mining to 122.1 from 114.7, construction to 158.6 from 141.9, public utility operation to 186.9 from 179.4, trade to 171.0 from 170.9, finance to 178.6 from 167.5, and service to 180.0 from 172.9. The index for manufacturing dropped to 188.0 from 188.8. (1)

WHOLESALE SALES HIGHER IN
APRIL; INVENTORIES LOWER

Sales of wholesalers in nine lines of trade rose five per cent in April over the same month last year, while inventories at the end of April were seven per cent below the corresponding date last year. The unadjusted index of sales, on the base 1935-39=100, stood at 361.5 in April as compared with 335.3 in March, and 352.4 a year ago.

Fruit and vegetable wholesalers' sales were 23 per cent above April last year, while grocery wholesalers rose 11 per cent, drugs 10 per cent, and clothing six per cent. Slight gains were also shown for footwear and tobacco and confectionery trades. Wholesalers of dry goods and hardware each declined 12 per cent, and sales of auto parts and equipment dropped seven per cent.

Month-end inventories were lower for all trades except fruit and vegetables which were 27 per cent higher. Footwear wholesalers' stocks decreased 23 per cent, dry goods 21 per cent, tobacco and confectionery 18 per cent, clothing 12 per cent, groceries 11 per cent, auto parts and equipment six per cent, drugs five per cent, and there was a small decline in the hardware trade (2)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES
UP 9.8 PER CENT IN MAY

Department store sales rose 9.8 per cent in May as compared with the corresponding month last year, according to preliminary figures. Sales were higher in all provinces, British Columbia leading with an advance of 22.7 per cent, Alberta next with 20.6 per cent, Maritimes 15.1 per cent, Manitoba 10.4 per cent, Ontario 5.7 per cent, Saskatchewan 5.0 per cent, and Quebec 1.1 per cent.

FARM PRICES INDEX DOWN
BY 2.6 POINTS IN APRIL

Canada's farm prices index dropped to 264.6 in April from the revised figure of 267.2 for March and 292.1 for April last year, according to a preliminary estimate by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The decline from a month earlier was due to lower prices for live stock, dairy products, poultry and eggs, which more than offset a substantial increase in potato prices. Compared with last year's April prices, grains, live stock, poultry and eggs were lower in price in April, 1952.

The farm prices index rose in the three Maritime Provinces in the month, 45.8 points to 394.9 in Prince Edward Island, 22.2 points to 377.7 in New Brunswick, and 8.7 points to 282.4 in Nova Scotia. The index dropped 6.1 points to 294.2 in Quebec, 5.8 points to 251.1 in Manitoba, 3.6 points to 218.0 in Saskatchewan, 3.3 points to 243.1 in Alberta, 3.2 points to 284.3 in Ontario, and 2.1 points to 301.6 in British Columbia. (Mem. 1)

STOCKS AND MARKETINGS OF WHEAT

Visible supplies of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on May 29 increased to 217,831,000 bushels from 169,751,000 on the corresponding date last year. Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces rose to 12,442,000 bushels from 6,646,000 a year ago, and for the crop year to date to 376,686,000 bushels from 299,778,000 in the similar period of 1950-51. Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week were up to 8,629,000 bushels from 4,605,000, and in the cumulative period advanced to 193,549,000 bushels from 115,313,000. (Mem. 2)

CROP CONDITIONS IN CANADA

In general, crop development and outlook in the Prairie Provinces remains favourable, light to heavy rains during the past week having improved moisture conditions in many areas. However, little or no rain was received in much of southern Manitoba and drought conditions are developing, particularly in southwestern regions. Rain is also needed in wide areas of Saskatchewan, particularly in the southeast. Moisture conditions in Alberta are good to excellent except in east-central and northeastern sections and in some parts of the Peace River district. Cutworms are causing some damage to grain crops and sugar beets throughout southern Manitoba. Light to heavy wireworm damage is occurring in parts of Saskatchewan and outworms are also active in some localities of that province.

Growing conditions throughout most of Ontario have been generally good during the past two weeks with crops in some areas showing excellent promise. This is particularly true of Western Ontario a report from that area stating that farmers consider this is one of the best springs they have had for some time. Hay and pasture crops throughout the province are doing particularly well, and grain crops while appearing promising in general, have been adversely affected by dry weather in Southern Ontario, and in contrast by wet weather in Eastern Ontario where as a result, reports indicate a delay in the completions of seeding. Corn and potato planting has been underway throughout the province, and has been generally completed. Tobacco planting is nearly complete in Southern Ontario and most of the soybean crop has been sown. There is no general insect problem as yet, and any damage has been fairly well localized. In particular, cutworm damage has been severe in tobacco and tomato plantings in Southern Ontario.

While heavy rains of the past two weeks in Quebec have provided luxuriant pastures and promise of a heavy hay crop, they have delayed seeding to such an extent that 25 per cent of the spring grain has yet to be sown. This situation excludes much of the Ottawa and Montreal districts where nearly all grain seeding was completed some weeks ago. Planting of potatoes, fodder corn and sugar beets has been delayed. Dairy cattle are in excellent condition and the milk flow is abundant.

Weather conditions in British Columbia have been generally fine and moderately warm with showers in the southern portions of the province but little moisture elsewhere. On Vancouver Island and in the Lower Fraser Valley haying has started and there is every indication of a heavy crop. In the Peace River Block seeding of spring grain is completed and, although germination has been satisfactory, rain is needed. Similarly in the Prince George, Williams Lake and Kamloops areas rain would be welcome. The first digging of early potatoes is reported from the lower mainland. Shipments of strawberries are underway from Vancouver Island and starting in the Lower Fraser Valley. A heavy set of apricots and peaches is reported from the Okanagan Valley.

Recent heavy rains throughout the Maritime Provinces have brought seeding and other work on the land to a standstill. Growth of seeded grain and potatoes has been generally satisfactory except for rain damage due to excessive moisture in poorly drained fields. Pastures and hay lands, however, have done very well and good hay crops are in prospect. Fruit blossoms completely escaped spring frost damage in Nova Scotia. The apple bloom was average to heavy in the Maritime Provinces but the wet weather was not favourable to pollination. (3)

CURRENT WORLD WHEAT SUPPLIES

Supplies of wheat remaining on or about May 1 in the four major wheat exporting countries -- Canada, United States, Australia, and Argentina -- for export and carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 746,400,000 bushels, 18 per cent below the 909,700,000 a year ago. This year's supplies were held as follows, with last year's figures in brackets: Canada, 377,600,000 (275,800,000) bushels; United States, 298,900,000 (481,200,000); Australia, 66,300,000 (93,800,000); and Argentina, 3,600,000 (58,900,000) bushels. (4)

EXPORTS OF CANADIAN WHEAT
AND WHEAT FLOUR

Exports of Canadian wheat as grain in April amounted to 20,000,000 bushels, 2,900,000 bushels more than in the preceding month and more than half as large again as the April, 1951 figure of 12,700,000 bushels. This brought the cumulative total for the first nine months of the current crop year to 189,800,000 bushels, 66 per cent above the 114,100,000 bushels exported during the August-April period of 1950-51. This year's nine-month exports already exceed totals for each of the preceding five crop years.

Wheat flour exports in April totalled 5,355,000 bushels in terms of wheat -- highest monthly total for the current crop year -- as compared with 5,809,000 a year earlier. In the first nine months of the crop year, exports aggregated 34,218,000 bushels as against 40,268,000 in the similar period of 1950-51.

Some 62,500,000 bushels, representing almost one-third of Canada's August-April exports of wheat went to the United Kingdom. Other major markets were: United States, 27,600,000 bushels (of which 4,300,000 were for milling in bond); Japan, 12,700,000; Belgium, 12,200,000; and Italy, 9,300,000.

The United Kingdom was the chief market for Canadian wheat flour in the first eight months of the year with a total of 12,348,000 bushels (wheat equivalent); Philippine Islands, 3,480,000; Venezuela, 1,962,000; Trinidad and Tobago, 1,884,000; Cuba, 1,822,000; Lebanon, 1,087,000; and Hong Kong, 1,017,000.

Combined exports of wheat and wheat flour in terms of wheat in April totalled 30,516,000 bushels as compared with 16,870,000 a year earlier, bringing the cumulative total for the eight months to 234,989,000 bushels as against 155,811,000 in the similar 1950-51 period. (4)

EXPORTS OF COARSE
GRAINS AND FLAXSEED

Total bushels volume of Canadian exports of coarse grains and flaxseed during the August-April period of the current crop year was about two and one-third times as great as for the first nine months of the 1950-51 year, as the result of large increases in oats and barley. Shipments of rye and flaxseed were smaller.

Quantities exported in the period, with figures for the comparable 1950-51 period in brackets, were as follows: oats, 36,800,000 (14,200,000) bushels; barley, 40,600,000 (13,100,000); rye, 2,700,000 (4,500,000); and flaxseed, 1,600,000 (3,500,000).

The United States was the largest customer for Canadian oats in the period, accounting for 29,900,000 bushels, or about 81 per cent of the total. Belgium took 4,500,000 bushels, the Netherlands 1,800,000, and Switzerland 600,000. Exports of barley to Belgium totalled 10,400,000 bushels, United States 8,600,000, the United Kingdom 7,500,000, and Japan 7,000,000.

With the exception of some 763,000 bushels going to the United States, this year's rye exports of 2,700,000 bushels went to European destinations. Norway accounted for 1,000,000 bushels, while Finland, Germany and Belgium took quantities ranging from approximately 100,000 to 400,000 bushels. Practically all of the flaxseed exported during the nine months went to Belgium. (5)

PRODUCTION OF BUTTER AND CHEESE IN MAY Creamery butter production rose 10 per cent in May and the first five months of this year as compared with a year earlier, while domestic disappearance advanced three per cent both in the month and the January-May period.

Cheddar cheese production dropped 13 per cent in May and 14 per cent in the five months. Ice cream production declined seven per cent in the month but rose three per cent in the cumulative period, while output of concentrated milk products advanced nine per cent in May and 11 per cent in the five months.

Production of creamery butter in May amounted to 31,736,000 pounds as compared with 28,771,000 a year earlier, bringing the five-month total to 77,976,000 pounds against 70,999,000. Domestic disappearance in the month amounted to 23,058,000 pounds against 22,489,000, and in the five months, 101,478,000 pounds against 98,644,000.

Cheddar cheese production in May was 7,846,000 pounds as compared with 8,996,000, bringing the total for the January-May period to 15,345,000 pounds against 17,922,000. Output of concentrated milk products in May totalled 58,606,000 pounds compared with 53,961,000, and in the five months, 160,329,000 pounds against 144,318,000.

Ice cream production in May amounted to 2,740,000 gallons compared with 2,957,000 a year earlier, bringing the five-month total to 8,859,000 gallons from 8,560,000. (6)

STOCKS OF DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS ON JUNE 1 Stocks of creamery butter were higher on June 1, totalling 25,734,000 pounds as compared with 16,362,000 on the same date last year. Holdings of cheese rose to 30,749,000 pounds from 21,238,000.

Stocks of evaporated whole milk held by or for manufacturers on June 1 advanced to 35,881,000 pounds from 11,204,000 a year ago, and holdings of skim milk powder were up to 8,303,000 pounds from 3,886,000. Stocks of eggs, shell and frozen, increased to 707,000 cases from 338,000, and holdings of poultry meat rose to 20,044,000 pounds from 8,204,000. (Mem. 3)

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF MARGARINE Production of margarine was two per cent higher in May, amounting to 7,898,000 pounds as compared with 7,733,000 in the same month last year. For the first five months of the year, 44,761,000 pounds were produced, six per cent below last year's corresponding total of 47,499,000. Stocks held by manufacturers, wholesalers and other warehouses at the beginning of June amounted to 2,518,000 pounds compared with 3,658,000. (Mem. 4)

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF PROCESS CHEESE Production of process cheese in May amounted to 2,546,000 pounds, 12 per cent below last year's corresponding figure of 2,879,000 pounds. Cumulative output for the first five months of 1952 rose eight per cent to 17,568,000 pounds from 16,327,000 in the like period of 1951. Stocks held by manufacturers at the end of May totalled 1,324,000 pounds as against 1,197,000 at May 31, 1951.

FEWER DIVORCES IN 1951 Continuing the decline of the three previous years, number of divorces granted in Canada in 1951 was slightly lower than in 1950. The steady four-year decline was in marked contrast to the sharp climb of the war and early post-war years. Last year's decrease was four per cent, and followed declines of 10 per cent in 1950, 14 per cent in 1949, and 16 per cent in 1948. In the four years the all-Canada rate fell from 65.3 to 36.9 per 100,000 population.

Preliminary figures for 1951 released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics place the number of divorces at 5,163, slightly below the preceding year's 5,373, and down sharply from 5,934 in 1949, 6,881 in 1948, and the all-time peak of 8,199 in 1947. Despite the decrease in the past four years, the 1951 total was still above the figure for 1945 and preceding war years and compares with an annual average of 2,300 between 1938 and 1941.

The trend was lower in 1951 than in 1950 in seven of the 10 provinces, increases being recorded in Alberta, Manitoba and Quebec. Ontario's total of 2,002 -- largest of the provinces -- compares with 2,228, a decline of 10 per cent. British Columbia had the second highest total of 1,339 as against 1,377, a decrease of three per cent. Alberta, third in total number, had 589 divorces against 534, for an increase of 10 per cent.

Divorces in Manitoba increased to 361 in 1951 from 309, and in Quebec to 289 from 234. Number in Saskatchewan declined to 226 from 280, Nova Scotia to 187 from 199, New Brunswick to 156 from 194, Prince Edward Island to 10 from 13, and Newfoundland to four from five.

British Columbia had the highest divorce rate with a figure of 114.9 per 100,000 population as compared with 121.0 in 1950. Alberta was next with a rate of 62.7 as against 59.7, followed by Manitoba with 46.5 against 38.9, Ontario 43.5 against 49.4, New Brunswick 30.2 against 37.2, Nova Scotia 29.1 against 30.2, Prince Edward Island 10.2 against 13.5, Quebec 7.1 against 5.9, and Newfoundland 1.1 against 1.4.

Divorces granted on petition of wives in 1951 totalled 3,153, while those granted to husbands numbered 2,010. Only in Prince Edward Island were more divorces granted on petition of husbands than wives, while in Newfoundland the numbers were equal. In Saskatchewan there was little difference, while in all other provinces divorces granted on petition of wives were much more numerous than those granted to husbands.

Divorces granted to wives in 1951 were as follows by provinces: Ontario, 1,203; British Columbia, 868; Alberta, 334; Quebec, 218; Manitoba, 213; Saskatchewan, 114; Nova Scotia, 102; New Brunswick, 97; Prince Edward Island, 2; and Newfoundland, 2.

Provincial totals of divorces granted to husbands in 1951 were: Ontario, 799; British Columbia, 471; Alberta, 255; Manitoba, 148; Saskatchewan, 112; Nova Scotia, 85; Quebec, 71; New Brunswick, 59; Prince Edward Island, 8; and Newfoundland, 2.

Annual totals of divorces in Canada between 1939 and 1950 follow: 1939, 2,068; 1940, 2,369; 1941, 2,461; 1942, 3,089; 1943, 3,263; 1944, 3,788; 1945, 5,076; 1946, 7,683; 1947, 8,199; 1948, 6,881; 1949, 5,934; 1950, 5,373.

PRODUCTION OF PREPARED STOCK AND POULTRY FEEDS

Estimated production of prepared stock and poultry feeds in the first three months of this year was 23 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1951. Total for the period was 526,276 tons as against 427,585. Production of poultry feeds increased to 179,877 tons from 141,815; swine feeds to 120,410 tons from 94,149; dairy and cattle feeds to 64,872 tons from 64,896; chopped, ground or crushed grain feeds to 61,974 tons from 48,303; swine concentrates to 27,599 tons from 21,519; and poultry concentrates to 26,816 tons from 21,290. (7)

SHIPMENTS OF CANADIAN-MADE MOTOR VEHICLES HIGHER IN APRIL

Showing the first rise in ten months, shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles climbed to 46,908 units in April from 41,060 in the corresponding month last year, but the cumulative total for the first four months of the year was down to 147,797 units from 168,635 in the similar period of 1951.

There were increases over a year ago in the shipments of both passenger and commercial vehicles. Passenger cars rose in number to 32,115 from 28,677, and commercial vehicles to 14,793 from 12,383. In the four months, passenger car shipments were down to 89,425 units from 121,007, while the commercial vehicles increased to 60,372 units from 47,628.

Shipments in April of passenger cars intended for sale in Canada rose to 28,199 from 26,304 a year ago, but the four-month total was down to 71,319 from 112,981. Commercial vehicles for sale in Canada were up in number in April to 12,200 from 11,347, but the January-April total was off to 42,334 from 44,196.

Passenger cars for export increased in April to 3,916 from 2,373, and commercial vehicles rose to 2,593 from 1,036. In the four months, passenger car shipments increased to 18,106 from 8,026, while the commercial vehicles increased to 18,038 from 3,432. (8)

65 PER CENT DROP IN ELECTRIC REFRIGERATOR OUTPUT IN MARCH

Canadian production of domestic-type electric refrigerators totalled 12,456 units in March, 65 per cent below the output of 35,401 units in March, 1951, bringing the total for the first three months of this year to 29,290 units, more than 71 per cent lower than the 101,542 units produced in the same period last year.

March shipments totalled 19,638 units, a drop of more than 41 per cent from the 33,426 units shipped in March 1951, while total shipments in the first three months of 1952 amounted to 46,688 units, 52 per cent below the 97,908 units shipped in the first quarter of last year.

Stocks on hand at the end of March declined to 29,291 units from 36,493 a month earlier and from 46,777 units at the start of the year. At the end of March last year stocks stood at 6,344 units.

Imports of electric refrigerators totalled 6,538 units worth \$1,024,422 in March, down from 10,021 units worth \$1,592,187 in March 1951, and in the first three months of the year amounted to 12,009 units worth \$1,942,659, down from 27,904 units worth \$4,016,193 in the first quarter of last year.

Value of exports in March amounted to \$8,293 as against \$36,099 in March 1951, and in the first quarter to \$49,586 as compared to \$90,796 in the first three months of last year. (Mem. 5)

OUTPUT OF WASHING MACHINES
56 PER CENT LOWER IN MARCH

Canadian production of domestic-type washing machines totalled 13,259 units in March, nearly 56 per cent below the output of 29,903 units in March, 1951. This brought the total for the first quarter of the year to 38,598 units, down 55 per cent from last year's corresponding total of 87,625 units.

March shipments amounted to 15,982 units, nearly 46 per cent below the 29,525 units shipped in March 1951. Shipments in the first quarter of 1952 amounted to 44,474 units, over 47 per cent below the 84,837 units shipped in the first three months of last year. Factory stocks at the end of March totalled 24,057 units against 13,190 a year ago.

Imports of domestic-type electric washing machines in March amounted to 632 units worth \$82,443 as against 595 units at \$53,431 in March 1951, and in the first quarter to 1,211 units valued at \$129,074 compared with 1,725 units worth \$157,677 in the first quarter of 1951.

Exports of domestic-type electric washing machines in March amounted to 1,063 units with a value of \$119,669 against 1,078 at \$136,415 a year ago, and in the three months totalled 2,786 units worth \$288,891 compared with 2,744 at \$300,621. (Mem. 6)

PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON AND
STEEL INGOTS AND CASTINGS

Canadian production of pig iron and steel ingots and castings moved higher in April as compared with the corresponding month last year, according to figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's output of pig iron amounted to 214,300 net tons as compared with 211,100 in April, 1951, and the production of steel ingots and castings totalled 312,000 net tons as against 316,600. (Mem. 7)

MARCH SHIPMENTS OF
PRIMARY STEEL SHAPES

Shipments of primary shapes by Canadian steel mills, exclusive of producers' interchange, totalled 260,323 net tons in March as compared with 266,769 tons in the corresponding month last year, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

March shipments included 263 tons of semi-finished shapes, 17,419 tons of structurals, 20,009 tons of plates, 21,282 tons of rails, 6,900 tons of tie plates and track material, 46,261 tons of hot rolled bars, 23,868 tons of pipes and tubes, 32,195 tons of wire rods, 22,667 tons of black sheets, 10,203 tons of galvanized sheets, 11,320 tons of castings, and 41,395 tons of other rolled products. The amount of producers' interchange was 152,350 tons as against 150,089 in March, 1951. (9)

PRODUCTION OF STEEL WIRE, NAILS
AND WIRE FENCING IN MARCH

Production of steel wire and wire fencing was higher in March than in the corresponding month last year, while output of iron and steel wire nails was slightly lower, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Output of steel wire in the month amounted to 36,517 tons as compared with 31,255 in March last year, and in the first three months of this year totalled 101,007 tons as against 92,349 in the similar period of 1951. Production of wire nails in March aggregated 7,551 tons compared with 7,571 a year ago, and in the first quarter amounted to 23,640 tons against 21,989. March output of wire fencing was 1,987 tons against 1,837, bringing the three-month total to 6,335 tons compared with 5,459. (Mem. 8)

PRODUCTION, IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COKE IN MARCH

Canadian production of coke increased in March and the first three months of this year as compared with the corresponding periods of 1951. Exports also rose in both comparisons, while there was a decline in imports.

Output in the month totalled 341,215 tons as compared with 335,246 in March last year. In the three-month period, 1,006,322 tons were produced as against 989,116 in the same months of 1951.

Supplies available for consumption in March -- production, plus imports less exports -- rose to 373,186 tons from 372,625 a year ago, but fell in the three months to 1,068,213 tons from 1,090,616.

Imports in March amounted to 44,163 tons as compared with 47,621 a year earlier, and in the January-March period totalled 139,825 tons as against 145,702. Exports in March aggregated 12,192 tons against 10,242, and in the three months were 77,934 tons compared with 44,802. (10)

OUTPUT OF CRUDE PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GASOLINE IN FEBRUARY

Canadian production of crude petroleum and natural gasoline rose 24 per cent in February over the same month of 1951, and there was a gain of 29 per cent in the first two months of this year. Output in the month amounted to 3,460,000 barrels as compared with 2,801,000 in February last year, and in the two months totalled 7,490,000 barrels against 5,797,000 a year earlier.

Alberta's output in the month rose to 3,282,000 barrels from 2,653,000 in February last year, Saskatchewan to 121,700 from 101,100, Northwest Territories to 36,400 from 28,900, Ontario to 16,500 from 16,000, while New Brunswick's total was down to 938 barrels from 1,200. (Mem. 9)

SALES OF MANUFACTURED AND NATURAL GAS IN FEBRUARY

Sales of manufactured gas was lower in February, amounting to 2,557,063,000 cubic feet as compared with 2,593,901,000 in the corresponding month last year. Sales in Eastern Canada were down to 2,153,600,000 cubic feet from 2,188,332,000, and in the West to 403,463,000 cubic feet from 405,569,000.

Natural gas sales rose in February to 8,440,754,000 cubic feet from 8,093,907,000 a year earlier, total for the East rising to 1,316,398,000 cubic feet from 1,300,426,000, and in the West to 7,124,356,000 cubic feet from 6,793,481,000. (Mem. 10)

SHIPMENTS AND EXPORTS OF ASBESTOS LOWER IN APRIL

Shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines declined in April and the first four months of this year from the corresponding periods of 1951, while exports were also lower in both comparisons, according to figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Shipments in the month amounted to 81,301 tons as compared with 86,767 in April last year, and in the four months totalled 298,683 tons as against 327,260 in the similar period of 1951. Exports in April aggregated 79,036 tons compared with 89,040 a year earlier, and in the January-April period amounted to 281,504 tons against 319,808. (Mem. 11)

NICKEL PRODUCTION UP Production of nickel in all forms in April amounted to 12,253
COPPER DOWN IN APRIL tons, up from 12,316 tons in the previous month and 10,536
 in April, 1951. This brought the total production for the
 first four months of the year to 46,981 tons as against 42,701 in the similar period
 of 1951.

Canadian production of new primary copper in April amounted to 22,124 tons, down
 from 22,493 tons in the previous month and 23,853 tons in April last year. This
 brought the total for the four months to 87,609 tons from 91,232 a year earlier.

April exports of nickel amounted to 12,923 tons worth \$13,937,126 compared with
 11,636 tons at \$11,217,609 in April, 1951. Exports in the four-month period totalled
 47,792 tons valued at \$51,352,784 compared with 42,940 tons worth \$41,371,962 in the
 same months of 1951.

Exports of copper in ore, concentrates, matte, ingots, bars and billets totalled
 13,415 tons worth \$7,190,754 in April compared with 15,530 tons at \$7,658,186 in
 April last year. Exports in the four months totalled 46,643 tons worth \$26,103,007
 against 46,481 tons at \$22,599,433 a year earlier. (Mem. 11)

PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF Production of dry common salt in April amounted to 38,500
DRY COMMON SALT tons as compared with 38,600 in the corresponding month last
 year, bringing the cumulative total for the first four
 months of the year to 163,200 tons as against 157,000. Producers' stocks at the end
 of April were 20,700 tons as against 25,800 a year earlier. (Mem. 12)

STOCKS, CONSUMPTION AND Combined stocks of rubber -- natural, synthetic and reclaim --
PRODUCTION OF RUBBER at the end of April rose to 13,500 long tons from 10,000 on
 the same date last year, while consumption was down to 7,500
 tons from 9,900. Domestic production of synthetic and reclaim increased to 6,600 tons
 from 5,100.

Stocks of natural rubber at the end of April amounted to 4,000 tons as compared
 with 4,900 a year earlier, synthetic 7,900 compared with 3,100, and reclaim 1,600
 compared with 2,000. Consumption of natural rubber totalled 3,000 tons against 4,800,
 synthetic 3,200 against 2,400, and reclaim 1,300 against 1,700. Domestic production
 of synthetic rubber aggregated 6,200 tons compared with 4,600, and reclaim 403 compared
 with 486. (11)

PRODUCTION OF GYPSUM Production of gypsum wallboard, lath, sheathing, blocks
WALLBOARD, LATH, SHEATHING and tile in April amounted to 30,876,000 square feet
 as compared with 42,115,300 in the corresponding month
 last year, bringing the cumulative total for the first four months of the year to
 120,215,000 square feet as compared with 165,406,000. Output of gypsum plasters in
 April totalled 18,000 tons as against 16,000 a year ago, and in the four months,
 58,000 tons against 68,000. (Mem. 13)

STOCKS AND CONSUMPTION OF UNMANUFACTURED TOBACCO

Unmanufactured tobacco used in the production of tobacco products during the first three months of this year amounted to 18,937,000 pounds as compared with 18,363,000 in the corresponding period of 1951. Of this amount 426,000 pounds were imported types as against 441,000 a year earlier.

Cigarettes accounted for 10,037,000 pounds of the total domestic consumption in the January-March period this year compared with 10,880,000 in the same period last year; tobacco and snuff, 7,598,000 pounds compared with 6,325,000; and cigars, 876,000 pounds against 717,000.

Production of cigarettes in the quarter totalled 3,745,922,000 as compared with 4,636,877,000; cigars, 44,783,000 against 50,078,000; plug and twist, 406,000 pounds against 597,000; and cut tobacco, 5,598,000 pounds against 6,875,000.

Stocks of unmanufactured tobacco on hand at the end of March amounted to 213,981,000 pounds as compared with 193,354,000 a year earlier. Stocks of Canadian tobacco totalled 210,946,000 pounds as against 190,316,000, and of imported tobacco, 3,036,000 pounds against 3,038,000. (12)

RAILWAY REVENUE FREIGHT LOADINGS

Railway carloadings in the last 10 days of May totalled 114,062 cars as compared with 82,230 in the preceding seven days. Daily average was 11,406 cars against 11,747. Available comparisons for the closing period of May last year indicate lighter overall traffic in the current period. Receipts from foreign connections totalled 45,043 cars, slightly below approximately the same span in 1951.

Cumulative loadings for the first five months this year show a near-record total of 1,663,725 cars compared with 1,679,446 to the end of May, 1951. Receipts from connections in the five-month period were 761,018 cars against 778,892 a year earlier. (Mem. 14)

ANNUAL REPORTS OF NATION'S PRINCIPAL RAILWAY SYSTEMS

For Canada's two principal railway systems last year was a record one in both operating revenues and operating expenses, according to annual reports on the Canadian National Railways and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

However, in 1951 operating expenses increased faster than operating revenues, with the result that both systems had lower net operating revenues than in the post-war peak year of 1950, although in each case the net operating revenue was higher than in any other year since 1945.

The C.N.R., operating 24,176 miles of road, had operating revenues of \$624,834,120 in 1951 as against \$553,831,581 in 1950, operating expenses of \$580,150,221 against \$493,997,079, and a net operating revenue of \$44,683,899 as against \$59,834,502.

The C.P.R., operating 17,009 miles of road, had operating revenues of \$460,369,966 in 1951 as against \$405,855,900 in 1950, operating expenses of \$410,442,244 as against \$349,283,886, and a net operating revenue of \$49,927,722 as against \$56,572,014 in 1950. (13 and 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. Employment and Payrolls, April (20 cents).
2. Wholesale Trade, April (10 cents).
3. Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada (10 cents).
4. The Wheat Review, May (20 cents).
5. Coarse Grains Quarterly, May (25 cents).
6. Dairy Factory Production, May (10 cents).
7. Shipments and Inventories of Prepared Stock and Poultry Feeds, March (25 cents).
8. Motor Vehicle Shipments, April (10 cents).
9. Primary Iron and Steel, March (10 cents).
10. Coal and Coke Statistics, March (25 cents).
11. Consumption, Production and Inventories of Rubber, April (20 cents).
12. Quarterly Stocks of Unmanufactured Tobacco, March (25 cents).
13. Canadian National Railways, 1923-1951 (25 cents).
14. Canadian Pacific Railway Company, 1923-1951 (25 cents).
15. Annual Report of Hospitals, 1949 (50 cents).
16. Trade of Canada: Exports, April -- Detailed Bulletin -- (50 cents).

Memoranda

1. Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, April (10 cents).
 2. Grain Statistics Weekly (10 cents).
 3. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, June 1 (10 cents).
 4. Margarine Statistics, May (10 cents).
 5. Domestic Electric Refrigerators, March (10 cents).
 6. Domestic Washing Machines, March (10 cents).
 7. Production of Pig Iron and Steel, April (10 cents).
 8. Steel Wire and Specified Wire Products, March (10 cents).
 9. Crude Petroleum, Natural Gas, and Manufactured Gas, February (10 cents).
 10. Asbestos, April (10 cents).
 11. Copper and Nickel Production, April (10 cents).
 12. Salt, April (10 cents).
 13. Gypsum Products, April (10 cents).
 14. Carloadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
 15. Stocks of Meat, Lard and Tallow, June 1 (10 cents).
 16. Condition of Fruit Crops, May (10 cents).
 17. Traffic Report of Railways, February (10 cents).
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In 1950, nearly one-fifth of Canada's juvenile delinquents came from homes broken by death, divorce or separation.

...

In 1951, the average haul of revenue freight was 406.6 miles on C.N.R. lines and 442.3 miles on C.P.R. lines.

...

Canadians bought 22.64 pounds of butter and 7.44 pounds of margarine per capita in 1951.

...

The predominant dwelling size in Canada is five rooms.

...

It costs less than three cents a mile to travel by train in Canada.

...

In 1951 Canada's municipal waterworks used a total of 39,255,000 pounds of chemicals for water purification.

...

At last count there were 431 plants in Canada's cement products industry.

...

Latest tabulations show that provincial telephone systems of the Prairie Provinces had 303,819 telephones, or ten per cent of the national total.

...

Canadian standard typewriters cost an average of \$103 apiece at the factory.

...

Preliminary figures for 1951 place the number of divorces in Canada at 5,163, slightly below 1950 total of 5,373, and down sharply from 5,934 in 1949, 6,881 in 1948, and the all-time peak of 8,199 in 1947.

...

Apartments and flats constitute close to 56 per cent of all Quebec dwellings.

...

The average mill selling price of a barrel of Canadian wheat flour in 1950 was \$9.22.

...

It cost an average of \$4.64 per day to care for a T.B. patient in hospital in Canada in 1949.

...

At last count over 2,000 commercial and industrial power-type oil burners were being made in Canada each year.

...

About \$2,000,000 worth of leather belting is made in Canada each year.

...

About \$118 was spent on clothing and personal furnishings in 1951 for every man, woman and child in Canada.

...

Not counting Quebec, it is estimated that by 1954-55 Canada will need 71,200 public school teachers, 12,600 more than it had in 1950-51.

...

Canadian-made wooden handles for such small tools as hammers, screwdrivers and putty knives cost an average of four cents each at the factory.

...

Value of products of Canada's mining industry reached a new high total of \$1,228,000,000 in 1951, an increase of 17.5 per cent over the 1950 value of \$1,045,000,000. The principal gains were for crude petroleum, copper, nickel, zinc, asbestos, lead and cement.

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