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H I G H L I G H T S O F T H I S I S S U E

BIRTHS REGISTERED in January numbered 32,505 against 32,897 last year, while DEATHS numbered 11,347 against 11,500. MARRIAGES increased to 6,255 from 5,722... The DIVORCE RATE was 41.0 per hundred thousand population last year, up from 39.1 in 1952, the number of decrees granted increasing by 421 or 7% to 6,055. (Page 9)

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STEEL INGOT OUTPUT dropped sharply in January to 290,487 tons, 5,858 less than in December and 48,728 less than in the first month last year. This was the lowest production for any month since September, 1952. (Page 11)

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NEW MOTOR VEHICLES sold in January numbered 23,133, a drop of 7,070 or over 23% from last year. Retail value was 21% lower at \$59,137,000 against \$75,031,000. Car sales were down 20%, truck sales 35%. (Page 10)

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INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT INDEX registered 110.2 at January 1, a decrease of 3.4% from a month earlier and 2.5% less than the same date last year. The PAYROLL INDEX of 145.9 was 5.8% under that of December but 13% above the figure for a year earlier. WEEKLY EARNINGS averaged \$56.67, down from \$58.13 in the month and up from \$53.81 a year earlier. (Page 8)

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WHEAT FLOUR OUTPUT dropped to 1,662,000 barrels in January from 1,765,000 last year, bringing the cumulative total for the first half of the current crop year to 10,419,000 barrels against 12,147,000. (Page 7)

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COASTAL FISHERMEN caught 91,712,000 pounds of sea fish in January, more than double last year's January landings of 44,252,000, but the value was lower at \$2,544,000 against \$2,639,000. Landings of cod and herring were up substantially but catches were smaller for most other species. (Page 7)

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CANNED MEAT STOCKS held by manufacturers and wholesalers totalled 30,301,038 pounds at the end of January, a sharp drop from the 89,273,036 pounds at the same date last year. (Page 6)

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX registered 115.7 at the start of February, unchanged from a month earlier... WHOLESALE prices of industrial materials fluctuated narrowly, the composite index climbing from 222.8 at January 29 to 224.1 at February 5, then declining to 223.0 at February 19... FARM PRODUCT PRICES at terminal markets moved lower, the composite index changing to 208.9 at February 19 from 209.7 at January 29. (Page 2)

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P R I C E S

Wholesale Prices Showed
Slight Rise In February

Industrial material prices at wholesale fluctuated narrowly in February as the composite index for 30 price series changed from 222.8 at January 29 to 223.0 at February 19, after touching 224.1 on February 5. Sixteen of the 30 commodities registered no net change between January 29 and February 19, while 10 moved lower and 4 advanced. Decreases occurred for wheat, oats, steers, hogs, lead, copper, structural steel, galvanized steel sheets, bleached sulphite pulp and iron ore. On the other hand, white lead, raw cotton, African sisal and tin ingots were firmer.

Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets moved intermittently lower during February as the composite index changed from 209.7 to 208.9 between January 29 and February 19. Animal products accounted for the decline and an index for this series receded from 266.5 to 265.1, due mainly to lower quotations for livestock, eggs in eastern Canada, which overbalanced strength in western livestock, and eggs and eastern raw wool. Field products recorded no net change at 152.8 as declines in eastern potatoes and western flax were balanced by increases in western potatoes. (1)

Consumer Price Index Is
Unchanged at February 1

The consumer price index remained unchanged between January 2 and February 1 at 115.7, as small increases and decreases counter-balanced each other. Two of the five group indexes were unchanged, two increased approximately 0.1%, while one declined by the same amount.

The food series moved from 111.6 to 111.7 with small scattered decreases outweighing higher prices for a number of items, particularly coffee, and pork products. The clothing index declined fractionally from 110.1 to 110.0, reflecting slightly lower prices for several items of men's and women's wear. The household operation component remained stationary at 117.5, with small decreases in appliances, furniture and textiles balancing advances in other sub-group sections.

The shelter index was likewise unchanged at 125.4 as slight declines in the repairs and replacement components of home-ownership were cancelled by an increase of 0.1% in the rent index. Other commodities and services changed from 116.4 to 116.5 following increases in hospital room rates, soap and taxi fares, which proved more important than lower quotations for automobile tires. (1)

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities & Services
February 1, 1954 ...	115.7	111.7	125.4	110.0	117.5	116.5
January 2, 1954 ...	115.7	111.6	125.4	110.1	117.5	116.4
February 2, 1953 ...	115.5	112.7	122.5	109.6	116.6	116.7

Consumer Price Indexes Advanced
In Seven Of Ten Regional Cities

Due mainly to changes in food prices and rents, seven of the ten regional consumer price indexes advanced between January 2 and February 1, while the other three declined. Coffee and some meats were higher in all cities, while mixed changes were reported for fruits and vegetables. Increased rents were recorded in all cities except St. John's and Vancouver.

Slight decreases for a few cotton items of men's wear and nylon hosiery were reflected in lower clothing indexes in four cities. Household operation series showed no change in six cities and only slight movements in three. Higher fuel wood prices in Vancouver resulted in a more significant advance in that city. Predominant changes recorded in other commodities and services were increases in toilet soap prices, higher hospital rates in five cities and decreases in automobile tire prices.

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

Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities at February 1, 1954
(Base 1949 = 100)

	Total Indexes		Group Indexes - February 1, 1954				
	January 2, 1954	February 1, 1954	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
St. John's*	102.6	102.4	100.4	107.3	101.8	104.0	102.0
Halifax	113.2	113.8	106.5	121.2	116.7	119.0	115.8
Saint John	115.4	115.8	110.6	117.2	119.9	117.3	120.1
Montreal	116.7	116.8	115.5	131.9	110.7	116.1	115.4
Ottawa	115.3	115.5	110.5	125.6	113.5	116.4	117.5
Toronto	117.7	117.6	110.0	138.1	112.4	117.7	117.6
Winnipeg	114.9	115.0	111.1	122.5	116.1	113.2	116.7
Saskatoon-Regina	113.2	113.5	110.4	112.5	116.3	118.1	111.7
Edmonton-Calgary	114.4	114.3	109.9	119.2	114.2	115.1	117.8
Vancouver	116.2	116.4	111.6	123.7	112.3	124.3	117.4

* Index on the base June 1951 = 100.

Security Price Indexes
Fluctuated In February

Common stock prices presented a circular movement in February as the composite index for 101 issues moved up from an index level of 160.4 for the week of January 28 to 165.7 for the week of February 11 but subsequently receded to 162.8 by the week of February 25.

Movements of the three major components followed a similar pattern although the industrial series was the only group to register a net gain. This series stood at 163.1 for the week of February 25 as against 159.4 for the week of January 28, while the utilities index was 150.7 as compared with 152.2 a month earlier, and the index for 8 banks stood at 188.5 compared with 189.1. Sub-group indexes were firmer for machinery and equipment, pulp and paper, oils and power and traction, while decreases occurred for building material issues and transportation.

Due to modest strength in both golds and base metals the composite index for 27 mining stocks moved up from 81.8 for the week of January 28 to 84.8 by the week of February 11, but reacted to 82.9 by the week of February 25. Both sub-groups registered a small net gain during the month, the gold series closing at 61.3 as compared with 61.1 for the final week of January, and the base metals index at 132.5 as against 129.2. (1)

Security Price Indexes

March 4, 1954

February 25, 1954
(1935-39=100)

February 4, 1954

Investors' Price Index

Total Common Stocks	163.5	162.8	161.4
Industrials	163.9	163.1	160.8
Utilities	150.5	150.7	152.3
Banks	189.8	188.5	188.8

Mining Stock Price Index

Total Mining Stocks	83.0	82.9	82.3
Golds	61.4	61.3	61.3
Base Metals	132.6	132.5	130.3

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Domestic Exports Lower
In Value In January

Figures on Canada's export trade in January by main commodity items and countries show that reduced shipments of wheat, newsprint, planks and boards, motor vehicles, farm machinery and all base metals except aluminum accounted for most of the decline of \$55,900,000 from a year earlier reported in summary figures released last week. Sales were lower to all main markets except European countries.

The month's total exports were valued at \$265,400,000 as compared to \$321,300,000 last year, domestic exports amounting to \$260,700,000 against \$317,300,000. Most of the drop of 17.4% in value was due to a reduction of about 15% in volume, prices averaging about 3% less than last year.

Domestic exports to the United States fell by \$31,253,000 or nearly 17% from \$188,-590,000 to \$157,067,000. Largest decrease in shipments was in the wood and paper group, down from \$88,278,000 to \$71,149,000. Exports in the non-ferrous metals group were also sharply lower at \$28,238,000 compared to \$35,911,000, and substantial decreases were recorded for iron and products at \$10,598,000 against \$15,987,000 and agricultural and vegetable products at \$12,463,000 against \$15,799,000. Exports of animals and animal products, on the other hand, rose to \$14,874,000 from \$12,352,000. There were small increases in fibres and textiles and non-metallic minerals and minor decreases in chemicals and the miscellaneous group.

The month's sales to the United Kingdom fell nearly 23% to \$37,931,000 from \$49,235,000, with shipments lower for all except the generally small non-metallic minerals and miscellaneous groups. The major decreases were in agricultural and vegetable products, down to \$14,279,000 from \$17,166,000, and non-ferrous metals, off sharply to \$12,748,000 from \$17,-776,000. Domestic exports to all other Commonwealth countries declined to \$12,020,000 from \$16,974,000, with most of the drop in shipments to countries in Asia, mainly India and Pakistan, which were down to \$2,114,000 from \$8,610,000; exports to the Oceania group rose to \$4,380,000 from \$1,882,000 with most of the gain in shipments to Australia.

Shipments to the Latin American countries fell to \$10,156,000 from \$18,225,000, lower figures being recorded for all the major markets except Venezuela and most of the lesser markets. Largest decreases were in trade with Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, Panama and Peru. Exports to Venezuela were moderately higher. With chief gains in shipments to the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland, total exports to European countries advanced to \$22,573,000 from \$21,521,000. Exports were down to Belgium and Luxembourg, France and Italy. Total exports to the remaining foreign countries amounted to \$20,-091,000 compared to \$21,096,000. Sales to Japan climbed to \$15,256,000 from \$11,188,000, largely offsetting decreases for most other countries.

Total sales of wheat in January were valued at \$25,411,000 as against \$38,381,000 last year. Other grains were only slightly lower at \$7,226,000, while wheat flour rose to \$8,-167,000 from \$7,279,000. Total value for the agricultural and vegetable products group was down to \$57,533,000 from \$70,791,000, only slightly more than the decrease for wheat. In contrast, exports of animals and animal products totalled \$24,091,000, up from \$18,638,000. Main increases were in bacon and hams, and meats other than fresh, total for which rose to \$7,093,000 from \$2,537,000, and in eggs and furs. The fibres and textiles group also was higher at \$1,543,000 against \$1,417,000. Exports of newsprint paper dropped to \$42,785,000 from \$52,382,000, planks and boards to \$14,807,000 from \$19,823,000, and wood pulp to \$18,-287,000 from \$20,019,000. Most other main items of the wood and paper group showed smaller declines, the total value for the group dropping to \$84,911,000 from \$103,188,000.

In the iron group, sales of passenger cars and trucks fell to \$732,000 as compared to \$5,180,000, while exports of parts increased to \$1,939,000 from \$1,552,000. Farm machinery and implements declined to \$5,389,000 from \$9,410,000 and rolling-mill

products to \$443,000 from \$2,272,000, while ferro-alloys and other smaller items were generally lower. Total value for the group was down to \$19,544,000 from \$30,782,000. Among the non-ferrous metals, aluminum and products rose to \$13,483,000 from \$12,632,000, while nickel declined to \$12,302,000 from \$14,411,000, copper to \$8,969,000 (\$10,783,000), lead to \$2,178,000 (\$4,503,000), and zinc to \$3,786,000 (\$8,404,000). The total value for the group fell to \$47,653,000 from \$62,844,000.

The remaining three groups showed smaller decreases. Non-metallic minerals declined to \$9,020,000 from \$10,373,000, with asbestos down. Chemicals and allied products was down to \$10,754,000 from \$11,622,000 with minor changes in main items, while the miscellaneous group declined to \$5,633,000 from \$7,612,000 due mainly to lower figures for ships and vessels and aircraft. (2)

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Production Of Most Processed Foods Except Canned Meat Larger Last Year

Processed food production was generally higher last year than in 1952, with the exception of canned meat, according to the Bureau's report on processed foods for the final 1953 quarter. More biscuits and chocolate bars were made. Less tomato soup, tomato ketchup and baked beans were produced, but overall output of vegetable preparations was up. Most fruit preparations and most of the miscellaneous foods showed increases.

Total output of canned meat was down sharply to 55,494,404 pounds from the exceptionally high production of 144,183,026 pounds in 1952, when large quantities of pork were canned, but was slightly above the 1951 total of 54,545,118 pounds. Spiced pork and ham fell to 11,567,046 from 86,804,948 pounds, roast pork and ham to 13,299,657 from 24,798,022, pork sausage to 987,265 from 1,065,028, and miscellaneous pork products to 469,565 from 494,287 pounds. Output of corned beef also dropped to 197,772 from 701,616 pounds, roast beef to 353,742 from 1,804,118, spiced beef to 520,116 from 607,757, chicken and turkey to 1,635,761 from 2,231,224, bologna to 875,257 from 1,148,757, and lunch meat to 571,282 from 1,064,098 pounds. On the other hand, ready dinners rose to 16,109,282 from 14,006,001 pounds, lunch tongue to 607,453 from 562,725, meat paste to 4,874,375 from 4,498,657, weiners to 928,062 from 774,307, and miscellaneous beef products to 663,218 from 308,323 pounds.

Production of plain and fancy biscuits rose to 198,729,525 pounds in 1953 from 185,969,101 in 1952, and soda biscuits were up to 51,334,533 from 45,164,000. Output of chocolate bars increased to 49,332,389 dozen from 46,035,578 dozen, with the swing towards bars costing 10 cents or more. Ten-cent bars numbered 21,683,817 versus 13,451,361 dozen, bars of over 10 cents 3,110,435 versus 3,050,408 dozen, solid bars less than 10 cents 11,346,005 versus 13,941,620 dozen, and chocolate-coated bars of less than 10 cents 13,192,132 versus 15,592,189 dozen. Chocolate confectionery in bulk increased to 16,976,007 from 15,751,309 pounds, but boxed and packaged chocolates showed a slight decline to 22,196,993 from 22,725,769 pounds. Moulded chocolate novelties rose to 1,212,026 from 705,282 pounds and sugar confectionery showed a slight increase to 72,626,197 from 72,409,284 pounds, but penny goods dropped to 3,508,169 from 4,041,041 gross. Ice cream cones increased to 461,070 M from 362,058 M and marshmallows to 5,193,239 from 5,106,971 pounds, but chewing gum fell to 12,194,128 from 13,067,554 boxes, cocoa powder for sale to 7,182,476 from 8,300,191 pounds, and chocolate coatings for sale to 12,237,371 from 12,657,789 pounds.

Only declines among fruit preparations were for crystallized and glaze fruits (to 1,376,085 from 1,520,429 pounds) and marmalades (to 18,466,600 from 19,133,667 pounds). Output of jams rose sharply to 80,383,888 from 69,519,501 pounds, with strawberry up to 39,040,933 from 31,612,133, raspberry to 15,421,550 from 14,292,879, and other kinds to 25,921,405 from 23,614,489. Jellies advanced to 5,835,469 from 4,984,112 pounds, glaze cherries to 3,123,319 from 2,418,741, maraschino cherries to 3,238,053 from 2,847,589,

MORE

and fruit peel to 2,981,020 from 2,777,032. Production of quick-frozen fruits climbed to 8,277,715 from 4,854,899 pounds. Among vegetable preparations, canned mushrooms increased to 1,385,667 from 1,101,341 and quick-frozen vegetables to 8,453,971 from 7,598,042. The decline for baked beans was to 75,117,574 from 90,028,778 pounds. Bottled olives were up to 490,135 from 435,950 gallons, pickles to 6,501,665 from 4,377,841 and relishes to 918,797 from 596,201. The drop for tomato ketchup was to 25,515,638 from 32,180,135 pounds. Output of canned tomato soups decreased to 5,841,957 from 8,415,270 dozen, but canned vegetable soups increased to 5,594,240 from 5,283,777 dozen and other canned soups to 10,578,423 from 10,148,264 dozen. Among other fruit and vegetable preparations, production of infant and junior foods climbed to 53,729,248 from 44,380,973 pounds, with cereals up to 6,859,604 from 6,523,615, fruits to 9,586,988 from 9,205,358, vegetables to 7,303,654 from 4,955,114, soups to 5,504,848 from 3,747,911, and other varieties to 24,474,154 from 19,948,975.

Figures for the miscellaneous foods group show the 1953 production of roasted coffee was 80,680,399 pounds as against 75,728,522 in 1952, and a smaller increase for blended and packed tea to 44,142,232 from 43,374,014 pounds. Dry macaroni was up to 80,553,242 from 71,940,891 pounds, but canned macaroni dropped to 29,520,575 from 32,919,826 pounds. Salted and roasted peanuts fell to 16,994,893 from 17,449,735 pounds, but peanut butter was slightly higher at 23,991,185 against 23,824,769 pounds. Salad dressing and mayonnaise was up to 22,894,213 from 21,530,884 pounds, while sandwich spreads declined to 3,585,549 from 3,803,865. Custard powders were up to 791,438 from 601,830 pounds, jelly powders to 15,056,205 from 13,203,165, and pudding and pie filling powders to 18,695,007 from 16,532,246, but ice cream powders were down to 1,657,812 from 2,267,710. Food drinks increased to 3,823,556 from 3,775,272 pounds, dried yeast to 1,186,446 from 1,174,769, fresh yeast to 24,825,864 from 24,799,917 pounds and prepared mustard to 1,213,433 from 1,073,801 gallons. Baking powder declined to 8,192,609 from 10,248,989 pounds, ready-to-serve cereals to 74,786,239 from 75,029,442, and mincemeat to 5,798,619 from 5,827,155. Production in 1953 (1952 figures not available) of prepared candy and icing mixtures amounted to 1,093,832 pounds, of prepared cake mixes to 37,444,980, of other prepared mixes to 19,647,544, and of beverage syrups to 509,960 gallons. (3)

Stocks Of Canned Meats Down At End Of January

Stocks of canned meats held at manufacturers' and wholesalers' levels on January 31 amounted to 30,301,038 pounds, a decrease from 89,273,036 held at the same time last year, according to a special statement.

Holdings were as follows by kinds, totals for January 31, 1953 being in brackets: beef products — beef stews and boiled dinners, 3,345,860 pounds (3,371,722); roast beef, 170,187 (69,089); corned beef, 800,792 (854,048); other beef products, 1,556,379 (1,538,727). Pork products — spiced pork and ham, 20,326,799 (78,927,338) pounds; roast pork and ham, 810,248 (671,049); other pork products, 1,630,605 (1,620,732). Miscellaneous — canned fowl, 639,139 pounds (521,520); meat paste, 556,402 (725,032); other, 464,627 (973,779) pounds.

Stocks Of Wheat Up 38% At February 17

Visible supplies of Canadian wheat on February 17 totalled 368,229,000 bushels, slightly under the February 10 stocks of 369,820,000, but 38% larger than last year's corresponding total of 266,715,000.

Farmers in the Prairie Provinces marketed 8,200,000 bushels of wheat during the week, down from the preceding year's 9,294,000 bushels. Deliveries of oats were up from 1,228,000 bushels to 2,976,000, rye from 53,000 bushels to 109,000, and flaxseed from 26,000 to 83,000, but barley declined from 1,782,000 bushels to 1,242,000.

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week declined to 3,155,000 bushels from 3,438,000 a year earlier, and cumulative clearances from August 1 to February 19 dropped to 118,818,000 bushels from 155,271,000. (4)

Wheat Flour Production Lower In January, First Half Of Crop Year

Wheat flour production in January dropped to 1,662,000 barrels from the preceding year's 1,765,000 bringing the cumulative total for the first half of the current crop year to 10,419,000 barrels, down 1,700,000 from a year earlier. Wheat milled for flour in January amounted to 7,351,000 bushels against 7,855,000 last year. This brought the crop year's first-half total to 46,045,000 bushels against 54,565,000. January exports of wheat flour amounted to 880,500 barrels, and August-January exports aggregated 5,017,000 against 6,363,000. (5)

Landings Of Sea-Fish Increased In January But Total Value Lower

Canada's sea-fishermen caught larger quantities of cod and herring in January than in the same month last year, but adverse weather conditions on the East coast hampered operations of small boats which resulted in smaller catches of most other kinds of fish. Total catch was 91,712,000 pounds, more than double last year's 44,252,000 pounds, but the value was slightly lower at \$2,544,000 against \$2,639,000.

January catch on the Atlantic was 31,257,000 pounds worth \$1,735,000 against last year's 37,228,000 valued at \$2,458,000. Landings of cod were up to 14,075,000 pounds from 13,052,000 and herring to 4,772,000 from 3,925,000, but landings of haddock were off to 4,476,000 from 6,832,000, smelts to 1,243,000 from 2,091,000, and lobsters to 1,718,000 from 1,936,000. The Pacific coast catch was 60,445,000 pounds worth \$809,000 as compared with 7,024,000 pounds valued at \$181,000 last year. Although landings of herring were much lower than normal, the month's catch of 59,095,000 pounds was up sharply from last year's strike-reduced total of 5,123,000 pounds.

Exports of fish and fish products during 1953 were valued at \$114,376,000, 2.4% below the 1952 total. Sales of canned salmon were higher, particularly to the United Kingdom, and to a lesser extent to the United States and Belgium. Exports of fresh and frozen fillets, almost wholly to the United States, were 2.3% above the 1952 level. (6)

More Invested In Sea And Inland Fisheries In 1951

Investment in capital equipment in primary operations in sea and inland fisheries in Canada (excluding Newfoundland) increased by \$12,308,500 or over 15% in 1951 to \$92,426,600. In the same year employment in primary operations rose only slightly to 65,188 from 65,037, but employment in fish processing establishments advanced to 16,107 from 14,861. During the year 1,452,945,000 pounds of fish were landed, 38,280,000 less than in 1950, but marketed value was up by \$22,674,200 or nearly 15% to \$175,893,500. (7)

T R A N S P O R T

Airline Operations Yielded \$43,956 Deficit In October

Operating revenues of Canadian airlines rose to a new high for the month last October, but failed to keep pace with operating expenses and the result was a \$43,956 deficit as compared with a surplus of \$212,107 in the same month of 1952. Operating revenues were nearly 9% above a year earlier at \$8,455,472, while operating expenses were up 13.5% at \$8,499,428. Non-scheduled airlines reported a larger deficit on the month's operations last year at \$115,389 against \$95,361, and scheduled airlines a substantially lower surplus of \$71,433 against \$307,468.

All revenue and expense accounts, except bulk transportation revenue and general tax expense, registered gains over the corresponding month of 1952. The airlines carried 198,801 passengers, 18,484 or over 10% more than a year earlier. The number of revenue unit toll transportation passengers advanced to 166,542 from 148,014, while the number of revenue passengers flown in bulk transportation service declined to 25,977 from 27,073. Total weight of revenue goods flown in unit toll transportation was 3,283,970 pounds, up from 2,885,517, and goods carried in chartered and contract flights weighed 6,249,066 pounds, a substantial drop from 9,194,101. Volume of mail increased to 1,406,219 from 1,262,319 pounds. (8)

Railway Carloadings Reduced In Fourth Week Of February Railway carloadings totalled 68,093 revenue cars in the fourth week of February, 3,335 less than in the same week last year. This brought cumulative loadings for the first two months of 1954 to 539,033 cars against 596,715 last year and 645,726 in the January-February period of 1952.

There were 46,125 cars loaded in the Eastern division during the week, 821 fewer than a year earlier. Loadings of grain, pulpwood and newsprint paper were much higher, but those of lumber and L.C.L. freight were down considerably. Western loadings totalled 21,968 cars, a slump of 2,514 compared with last year. Loadings were lower for grain, logs and L.C.L. freight. Receipts from connections totalled 30,298 cars in the last week of February, 2,027 less than in 1953 and in the first two months of the year totalled 235,671 cars, down from 258,935 a year earlier. (9)

More Oil Moved Through Pipe Lines In November Daily net average movement of oil through Canadian pipe lines climbed to 430,614 barrels last November, over 13,000 more than in October and almost 29% above the 1952 November daily average of 334,642 barrels.

Net receipts of oil for shipment by pipe line amounted to 13,296,952 barrels during the month, 467,533 more than in October and over 3,000,000 more than a year earlier. Included were 6,395,983 barrels of Alberta crude oil, 45,964 of Alberta natural gasoline, 2,812 of Saskatchewan crude, 103,650 of Manitoba crude, 4,265,379 of imported crude and 1,983,164 barrels of refinery products. Total receipts in the first 11 months of last year amounted to 136,886,394 barrels, 39,374,330 or 40% more than in the same period of 1952. Compared with a year earlier all provinces except Quebec had higher net deliveries last November. Net deliveries in the first 11 months of 1953 amounted to 132,904,219 barrels as against 96,946,747 in 1952, an increase of 37%. (10)

EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS

Industrial Employment Declined at January 1 The seasonal contraction in employment in the major non-agricultural industries at January 1 was somewhat greater than average for that date in the postwar period, although it was smaller than at January 1 in either 1949 or 1950. At 110.2, the latest index on the 1949 base, was 3.4% lower than a month earlier and 2.5% lower than at January 1, 1953, the peak figure for the time of year. With this exception, it was the highest on record for the opening of January.

On the whole, the movement was decidedly downward in all major industrial groups except finance, insurance and real estate, which showed a minor gain. The largest declines in employment were in construction, manufacturing, forestry and transportation. Geographically, there was also widespread curtailment. The reductions in staffs ranged from 1.9% in Ontario, to 5% in Quebec, 5.5% in Saskatchewan, 11.2% in Newfoundland and 12.6% in Prince Edward Island. Lower levels of activity were also indicated in most metropolitan areas.

Weekly wages and salaries disbursed by the larger industrial establishments for the holiday week ending on or about January 1 fell by 5.8% as compared with a month earlier, bringing the payroll index to 145.9. The decrease was smaller than at January 1 last year when the payrolls were 3% lower than the date under review. The latest average of weekly wages and salaries in the major industrial groups stood at \$56.67 as compared with \$58.13 a month earlier, and \$53.81 at January 1, 1953.

The advance index of employment in manufacturing at January 1, at 108.3, was seasonally lower by 2.4% than at December 1, and was also 2.8% lower than at the beginning of January last year when the decline had been on a smaller scale. Weekly earnings of men and women on the staffs of the co-operating manufacturers at January 1 averaged \$58.39 as compared with \$60.29 at December 1, and \$54.93 at January 1 last year. (11)

VITAL STATISTICS

Fewer Births & Deaths But
More Marriages In January

There were fewer births and deaths but increased numbers of marriages registered in Canada in January than in the corresponding month last year. Birth registrations totalled 32,505 compared with 32,897; deaths, 11,347 compared with 11,500; and marriages, 6,255 compared with 5,722. (12)

Divorce Rate, Number Of
Decrees Both Up In 1953

Canada's divorce rate last year climbed to 41.0 from 39.1 per hundred thousand population with 6,055 decrees granted, 421 or 7% more than in 1952, according to preliminary figures. This was the second consecutive rise in six years. The revised 1952 total of 5,634 was 7% more than the 5,263 of 1951 when the rate was 37.6. However, both the number of divorces and the rate were considerably lower last year than in the peak year of 1947 when 8,199 decrees were granted for a rate of 65.5.

Actually, six of the ten provinces had fewer divorces and lower rates in 1953 than in 1952. In British Columbia the number decreased by 54 or 4% to 1,478, while the rate per hundred thousand population dropped to 120.2 from 127.9. The second largest numerical decrease was in Quebec where the number fell by 36 to 12% to 273, and the rate declined to 6.4 from 7.4. In Alberta 603 divorces were granted last year, 27 or 4% fewer than in 1952, the rate falling to 60.2 from 64.9. New Brunswick divorces numbered 181, a decrease of 19 or 10%, and the rate lowered to 33.8 from 38.0. In Saskatchewan the number declined to 218 from 223, and the rate was 25.3 against 26.5. Nova Scotia had 185 divorces against 188, the rate decreasing to 27.9 from 28.8.

Largest numerical increase in divorces was in Ontario where the total rose by 517 or 23% to 2,719, the rate advancing to 55.5 from 46.2 per hundred thousand population. Next largest numerical increase was in Manitoba where the total rose by 36 or 11% to 374, the rate climbing to 46.2 from 42.4. Prince Edward Island had 15 divorces, six more than in 1952, and the rate jumped to 14.2 from 8.7. Newfoundland again had both the fewest decrees and the lowest divorce rate of any of the provinces, but the number tripled to nine while the rate advanced to 2.3 from 0.8. Ontario, with the greatest number of decrees in both years, accounted for 45% of the national total in 1953 as compared with 39% in the preceding year, while British Columbia, with the highest divorce rate in both years, accounted for 24% of all the divorces last year as compared with 27% in 1952.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

Motor Vehicle Accidents Took 414
Lives In Second Quarter of 1953

There were fewer motor vehicle accidents in Canada (excluding Quebec) in the second quarter of 1953 than in the first quarter, but both the number of fatalities and the number of persons injured increased. In comparison with the same 1952 period, accidents, fatalities, and injuries all were higher in number.

Accidents reported in the second quarter last year totalled 31,387, down from 33,324 in the first quarter but up from 25,806 in the first three months of 1952. Fatalities increased to 414 from 305 in January-March and 376 in April-June of 1952, and the number injured rose to 11,287 from 8,729 and 10,350. In April-June last year there were 119 drivers killed and 3,232 injured, 124 passengers killed and 4,995 injured, and 132 pedestrians killed and 2,160 injured. Thirty-three bicyclists and motorcyclists met death and 868 were injured.

Only Prince Edward Island had fewer accidents than a year earlier, but Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan had fewer deaths and Saskatchewan and the Territories reported a drop in the number injured. Accidents in Prince Edward Island were down 14% to 154, while the Nova Scotia total was up 28% to 1,979; New Brunswick, 26% to 935; Ontario, 20% to 14,741; Manitoba, 26% to 2,661; Saskatchewan, 15% to 1,951; Alberta, 22% to 3,506; British Columbia, 14% to 4,845; and the Territories, 37% to 48. (13)

MERCHANDISING & SERVICES

Department Store Sales Increased 5.3% In Week Department store sales increased 5.3% during the week ended February 27 as compared with a year earlier, with all areas except the Maritimes sharing in the advance. The rise in Quebec was 10.5%, Ontario 2.8%, Manitoba 15.4%, Saskatchewan 2.4%, Alberta 7.4%, and British Columbia 6.7%. The drop in the Maritimes was 11.3%.

Average Sales Of Filling Stations And Garages Rose 14% In Two Years Average net sales of Canada's filling stations and garages were both about 14% higher in 1952 than in 1950, according to the biennial operating results survey by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. For filling stations the increase was to \$71,994 from \$63,150, and for garages to \$49,484 from \$43,440.

For the purposes of the survey the Bureau defines filling stations as owned or rented businesses with gasoline and oil representing at least 75% of all sales. Garages are defined as owned or rented businesses with automotive parts and accessories accounting for at least half of all sales.

In the case of both filling stations and garages with annual sales of \$20,000 or more average net sales were higher in 1952 for leased businesses than for establishments operated by the owners. The rented filling stations averaged \$94,617, about 51% more than the \$62,677 average for the owned stations, while the rented garages averaged \$68,430 or over 13% more than the \$60,330 averaged by the owner-operated garages.

Gross profit ratio or mark-up of both filling stations and garages increased by close to 8% between 1950 and 1952, to 20.11 from 18.66% of average net sales for filling stations and to 29.93 from 27.80% for garages. However, garages showed a similar increase of 8% in both operating expenses (to 21.62 from 20.08% of average net sales) and net operating profit (to 8.31 from 7.72%), while filling stations showed a 12% advance in operating expenses (to 14.20 from 12.65%) but a 2% drop in net operating profit (to 5.91 from 6.01%). Operating expenses took 72% of the gross profit of garages in both years, and 71% of the gross profit of filling stations in 1952 as compared with 68% in 1950.

Employees' salaries constituted the main item of operating expenses in both years, taking 38% of the gross profit of filling stations in 1952 as against 36% in 1950, and 43% of the gross profit of garages as against 40%. For filling stations the payroll represented 7.67% of average net sales in 1952 as compared with 6.78% in 1950, an increase of more than 13%. For garages the wage bill represented 12.91 versus 11.15% of average net sales, an advance of 16%.

Occupancy costs (rent, business and property taxes, insurance, heat, light and power, repairs and maintenance and depreciation) took 21% of the gross profit of filling stations in both years, and 17% of the gross profit of garages in 1952 as against 19% in 1950. For filling stations, occupancy costs increased 8.5% to 4.19 from 3.86% of average net sales, while for garages there was a 4.5% drop to 5.10 from 5.34% of average net sales. (14)

Wholesale Sales Jumped 169% In 1941-51 Decade Sales of Canadian wholesalers were 169% greater in 1951 than a decade earlier but the number of establishments was up only 6%, according to the first of two reports by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on the 1951 Census of wholesale trade. Sales in the 10 provinces and two territories totalled \$14,223,198,900 in 1951 as against \$5,290,750,000 in the nine provinces and the territories in 1941. Wholesale establishments numbered 26,156 against 24,758. The 1951 totals included 281 establishments in Newfoundland with sales of \$128,509,700.

Sales rose during the decade in each of the nine older provinces and in the territories, while the number of wholesale establishments increased in all except Saskatchewan. Sales were up to \$33,433,100 from \$13,192,800 in Prince Edward Island, to \$308,392,100

from \$152,600,900 in Nova Scotia, to \$251,675,600 from \$88,190,000 in New Brunswick, to \$3,880,286,000 from \$1,726,520,500 in Quebec, to \$4,381,785,800 from \$1,744,663,700 in Ontario, to \$2,026,479,000 from \$579,612,200 in Manitoba, to \$791,572,600 from \$283,521,900 in Saskatchewan, to \$1,095,024,600 from \$323,138,100 in Alberta, to \$1,323,042,500 from \$379,126,700 in British Columbia, and to \$2,997,900 from \$183,700 in the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

The number of establishments increased to 157 from 100 in Prince Edward Island, to 740 from 681 in Nova Scotia, to 568 from 507 in New Brunswick, to 5,164 from 5,075 in Quebec, to 6,511 from 6,244 in Ontario, to 2,370 from 2,206 in Manitoba, to 3,693 from 3,336 in Alberta, to 2,134 from 1,708 in British Columbia, and to 16 from four in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. In Saskatchewan the number declined to 4,522 from 4,897.

Percentagewise, the largest increase in sales among the provinces occurred in the west. Manitoba led with a gain of 250%, followed by British Columbia with 249%, Alberta with 239%, New Brunswick with 185%, Saskatchewan with 179%, Prince Edward Island with 153%, Ontario with 151%, Quebec with 124%, and Nova Scotia with 102%. In the Yukon and Northwest Territories the 10-year sales increase amounted to 1,532%. (15)

New Car, Truck Sales Slumped This January Only 23,133 new motor vehicles were sold in Canada during January, 7,070 or more than 23% fewer than last year. Retail value was off 21% at \$59,137,000 against \$75,031,000. The slump hit both passenger cars and commercial vehicles. Car sales were 20% under the 1953 level at 18,507 versus 23,142, while truck sales were almost 35% fewer at 4,626 versus 7,061. Retail value was off 18% for cars to \$46,736,000 from \$57,124,000, 31% for trucks to \$12,401,000 from \$17,907,000.

The January sales drop was less pronounced in Ontario and Quebec than elsewhere. Percentagewise, the declines in number of new motor vehicles sold ranged from 11% in Quebec and 12% in Ontario to 53% in Manitoba and 58% in Prince Edward Island. Fewer cars were sold in all provinces this year, and fewer trucks in all except Quebec, where the number was 6% higher.

The number of new motor vehicle sales financed was down more than 25% this January at 8,583 against 11,497, and amount of financing was 21% lower at \$16,006,000 against \$20,151,000, with declines for both cars and trucks in all provinces. Financed sales of used motor vehicles numbered 17,406, a 31% drop from 25,236, and amount of financing was over 31% lower at \$15,047,000 versus \$21,825,000, all provinces reporting declines in both cars and trucks. (16)

MANUFACTURING

January Production Of Steel Ingots Lowest In 16 Months Canadian production of steel ingots dropped sharply in January to 290,487 tons, 5,858 less than in December and 48,728 less than in the first month last year. This was the lowest output for any month since September, 1952. Average daily production was down to 9,371 from 9,560 in the preceding month and 10,942 a year earlier. (17)

Production And Shipments Of Iron Castings Higher Larger quantities of iron castings and cast iron pipes and fittings were produced and shipped in November and the first 11 months of 1953 than a year earlier. The month's production amounted to 69,400 tons (68,500 in November, 1952), bringing the cumulative total to 753,500 (731,300). January's shipments were 54,600 tons (46,900), and 11-month shipments aggregated 544,300 (413,100). During November 26,900 tons of pig iron were consumed in iron foundries as compared with 30,900 a year earlier, bringing the 11-month total to 312,900 as compared with 355,000. November consumption of scrap iron and steel totalled 55,800 tons compared with 46,700, and the 11-month usage aggregated 541,500 compared with 473,600. (18)

(more)

Value Of Stove & Furnace Sales
Rose 11.5% In January-November

November total was up \$6,069,405 or 11.5% to \$58,745,799.

Manufacturers sold \$5,492,506 worth of stoves and furnaces in Canada last November, \$923,499 worth or over 14% less than in the same month in 1952, but the January-

Electric cooking stoves and ranges accounted for \$26,780,511 or nearly 46% of the 11-month total last year as compared with \$21,303,084 or 40% in 1952, the number sold increasing to 151,345 from 129,417. The number of gas cooking stoves and ranges sold dropped to 29,820 from 32,463 and the number of solid fuel cooking stoves and ranges to 41,082 from 51,316.

Among the warm air furnaces, the number of oil burners sold jumped to 40,691 from 30,231, while the number of coal or wood burners dropped to 28,439 from 39,264 and the number of gas burners increased to 9,508 from 7,248. The number of fuel oil heating stoves and space heaters sold declined to 45,105 from 48,973. (19)

Heating Boilers And Radiators

Production of cast iron sectional heating boilers totalled 16,200 units in 1953, up from 10,810 in 1952, according to a special statement. Heating boilers of 240-275 square feet numbered 10,324 against 7,060 in 1953. Output of cast iron and steel heating radiators also increased to 6,439,167 from 5,384,384 square feet.

Use Of Petroleum Products For Heating,
Cooking & Lighting At New High In 1952

New high record quantities of petroleum products were used for heating residences and buildings and for cooking and lighting in Canada in 1952, according to results of the Bureau's annual survey. The year's total amounted to 1,220,200,000 gallons, 17% above 1951's 1,042,500,000, and nearly nine times as large as in 1942. Consumption has nearly doubled since 1949 when 655,600,000 gallons were used.

An additional 1,705,400,000 gallons were used in 1952 for industrial purposes, as fuel for tractors and other motor vehicles, railways, fuel for ships and boats, as compared with 1,598,000,000 in 1951. This brought the year's total usage to 2,925,600,000 gallons as compared with 2,640,500,000 in 1951.

Consumption of heavy and medium fuel oils by Canadian users in 1952 totalled 1,418,000,000 gallons, up from 1,362,000,000 in 1951. About 34% was used in industrial plants as fuel or material (37% in 1951), 16% was used under oil refinery boilers (15%), 20% by railways (19%), 17% for ships' bunkers (17%), and 12% for heating residences and commercial buildings and for lighting and cooking (11%).

Consumption of furnace oils and other light fuel oils amounted to 837,000,000 gallons, sharply above the preceding year's 668,000,000. The amount used for heating homes and buildings and for lighting and cooking climbed to 724,000,000 gallons from 583,000,000, and for industrial purposes as fuel or material to 99,600,000 gallons from 68,500,000.

Deliveries of diesel fuel in 1952 rose to 321,000,000 gallons from 257,000,000, but stove oil, tractor fuel, kerosene and illuminating oil fell to 350,000,000 gallons from 354,000,000. Gasoline consumption has not been included in this survey but, from other studies, it appears that the usage in Canada in 1952 totalled 2,343,000,000 gallons of motor gasoline and 87,000,000 gallons of aviation gasoline. (20)

ANNUAL INDUSTRY REPORTS

Shipments Of Primary Plastics
Industry At Lower Value In 1952

Factory shipments of Canada's primary plastics industry in 1952 amounted in value to \$34,638,754, a drop of 12% from \$39,370,423 in 1951 but above the value of all earlier years. The inventory value of finished products at plants at the end of 1952 was also down moderately to \$1,676,000 from \$1,785,000 a year earlier.

The number of plants in operation during the year was unchanged from 1951 at 16, but the number of employees increased to 1,850 from 1,648 and aggregate salaries and wages to \$6,505,167 from \$5,402,853. Cost of materials, on the other hand, declined nearly 9% to \$18,774,923 from \$20,571,434. Eight of the 16 plants were in Ontario, six in Quebec and the other two in British Columbia.

The industry, as covered in the Bureau's report, embraces the operations of establishments engaged chiefly in the manufacture of synthetic resins in the form of sheets, rods, tubes, granules or liquids for use in further manufacture. All producers of synthetic resins are not included, as some concerns make synthetic resins as secondary or minor products or as intermediates for the further use of the producers.

Total production of synthetic resins for sale by all industries amounted to \$19,100,000 in 1952 compared to \$23,097,000 in 1951. Since many of the individual items are made by only one or two firms, separate figures are not published on their production. (21)

Tobacco Products Value Set New Record In 1952 Gross value of Canadian tobacco products reached an all-time peak of \$389,773,381 in 1952, some \$43,129,758 or 12.5% more than in 1951, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports in its latest issue of The Tobacco & Tobacco Products Industries.

Excise duties and taxes accounted for \$251,349,432 or 64% of the total as compared with \$230,155,822 or 66% in the preceding year, and net output value increased by \$21,935,148 or 19% to a record \$138,423,959. In both years over 93% of the production came from Quebec.

Output of cigarettes, the principal product, climbed to 18,037,368,000 with a gross factory selling value of \$290,947,786 in 1952 from 15,816,166,000 worth \$261,909,840 in 1951. Production of smoking tobacco also increased to 31,635,023 pounds worth \$77,789,494 from 28,095,415 worth \$65,327,040.

Output of cigars advanced to 201,517,000 worth \$15,487,025 from 169,408,000 worth \$13,896,713, while chewing tobacco declined to 1,445,139 pounds worth \$3,231,906 from 1,598,922 worth \$3,267,632, and snuff to 869,863 pounds worth \$2,299,246 from 873,652 worth \$2,217,542.

Expenditure on materials in the tobacco products industry increased by \$10,281,805 in 1952 to \$73,168,064, of which \$55,300,801 was spent for domestic raw leaf tobacco. All told, the industry consumed 87,872,671 pounds of raw leaf tobacco during 1952, of which 86,198,902 were grown in Canada.

Imports of tobacco and tobacco products were valued at \$4,623,941 against \$3,668,036 in 1951, while exports (mainly unmanufactured tobacco) were worth \$22,610,276 against \$16,620,119. (22)

14% Decrease In Output Value Of Vegetable Oils Industry In 1952

total of \$60,202,000.

Gross factory value of products manufactured by establishments comprising the vegetable oils industry in 1952 amounted to \$51,932,000 a decrease of 14% from the 1951

Thirteen plants were in operation during the year, giving employment to 723 persons with salary and wage payments totalling \$2,428,000 as compared with 751 employees paid a total of \$2,317,000 in 1951. Cost of materials used dropped to \$44,479,000 in 1952 from \$48,729,000 in 1951.

Among the chief products of the industry, sales values were higher than in 1951 for raw or crude linseed oil, linseed oilcake, and soya bean oilcake, but lower for crude soya bean oil, and boiled linseed oil. The year's sales included oils to the value of \$29,779,000 (\$40,711,000 in 1951), and oilcake valued at \$21,238,000 (\$18,700,000). (23)

RELEASED THIS WEEK

(Publications are numbered similarly to news items to indicate source of latter)

- 1- Price Movements, Feb., 10¢
 - 2- Trade of Canada: Domestic Exports, Summary, Jan., 20¢
 - Trade of Canada: Imports, Detailed, Nov., 50¢
 - 3- Quarterly Report on Processed Foods, Dec., 25¢
 - 4- M: Grain Statistics Weekly, 10¢
 - 5- M: Grain Milling Statistics, Jan., 10¢
 - 6- Monthly Review of Canadian Fisheries Statistics, Jan., 30¢
 - 7- Fisheries Statistics of Canada, 1951, \$1
 - 8- Civil Aviation, Oct., 20¢
 - 9- M: Railway Carloadings, Weekly, 10¢
 - 10- M: Oil Pipe Lines, Nov., 10¢
 - 11- Advance Statement on Employment & Weekly Earnings, Jan., 10¢
 - The Labour Force, Jan., 25¢ (Summarized in Bulletin of Feb. 26)
 - 12- Vital Statistics, Jan., 10¢
 - 13- M: Motor Vehicle Accidents, Second Quarter, 1953, 25¢
 - 14- Operating Results & Financial Structure of Filling Stations & Garages, 1952, 25¢
 - 15- 1951 Census Bulletin 8-2: Distribution, Wholesale Trade, 25¢
 - 16- New Motor Vehicle Sales & Motor Vehicle Financing, Jan., 20¢
 - 17- Steel Ingots, Jan., 10¢
 - 18- M: Iron Castings & Cast Iron Pipes & Fittings, Nov., 10¢
 - 19- M: Stoves & Furnaces, Nov., 10¢
 - 20- Consumption of Petroleum Fuels, 1952, 25¢
 - 21- Primary Plastics Industry, 1952, 25¢
 - 22- Tobacco & Tobacco Products Industries, 1952, 25¢
 - 23- Vegetable Oils Industry, 1952, 25¢
 - Canadian Statistical Review, Feb., 35¢
- M = Memorandum

D.B.S. NEWS NOTES

Tobacco Products: Over 93% of the national output is produced in Quebec.

Telephone employees earned an average of \$2,725 each in 1952, \$242 or 10% more than in 1951.

Sauerkraut: 5,148,588 cans were packed last year, 1,811,400 or 55% more than in 1952.

Juvenile Delinquency: Worst month is April, then May and October. Months with the fewest court appearances are February, August and December.

Primary plastics industry shipped \$34,638,754 worth of products in 1952, a drop of 12% from the 1951 output of \$39,370,423 but above the production of all earlier years.

Veneers: 855,238,000 sq. ft. were produced last year, 220,472,000 or 35% more than in 1952.

Petroleum products used for heating, cooking and lighting totalled 1,220,200,000 gallons in 1952, about 17% more than in 1951 and nearly nine times as much as a decade earlier.

Leather Wallets: Production fell by 332,199 or 19% to 1,387,020 in 1952, while average factory price was up 1¢ to \$1.08.

Wholesale sales increased more than two and a half times from \$5,290,750,000 to \$14,223,198,900 in the 1941-51 decade, but the number of wholesale establishments rose only 6% to 26,156 from 24,758.

Jam production reached 80,383,888 lbs. last year, 10,864,387 or 17% more than in 1952, while output of jellies was 5,835,469 lbs., up 851,357 or 17%. On the other hand, marmalade production was 18,466,600 lbs., a drop of 667,067 or 3%.

Wheat flour output in the first half of the current crop year was 10,419,000 barrels, 1,700,000 or 14% less than in the August-January period of 1952-53.

Chocolate bar output rose 7% last year to 591,988,668 or more than 39 bars per capita.

Shipyards did \$82,573,815 worth of work on new vessels in 1952, more than in any year since the war and \$39,588,347 or nearly 90% more than in 1951.

Heating Boilers: Output of cast iron sectional units totalled 16,200 last year, 5,390 or nearly 50% more than in 1951.

Jewellery & Silverware: 97% of the industry's output comes from Ontario and Quebec. With 53% of the plants Ontario produces 71%, while Quebec with 37% produces 26%.

Vegetable oils industry manufactured \$51,932,000 worth of products in 1952, a 14% drop from the 1951 value of \$60,202,000.

Tobacco products were valued at an all-time peak of \$389,773,391 in 1952, up \$43,129,758 or 12.5% over 1951. Excise duties and taxes accounted for 64% of the total as against 66% in the preceding year.

Telephone Systems: Amalgamations reduced the number by 16 to 2,888 in 1952, of which 78% were co-operatively owned systems, principally rural lines in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Nova Scotia.

Leather Shoe Laces: Output was reduced by 2,360 pairs to 53,584 in 1952 and average factory price rose from 7¢ to 9¢ a pair.

Divorces numbered 6,055 last year, 421 or 7% more than in 1952, the rate per hundred thousand Canadians advancing to 41.0 from 39.1. However, both number and rate were considerably lower than in the peak year of 1947 when 8,199 decrees were granted for a rate of 65.5.



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