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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT in the fourth quarter of 1953 was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$24,248 million, 1% below the third quarter level, but 1% more than in the last quarter of 1952. (Page 2)

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FOREIGN COMMODITY TRADE was higher in value in February than in January, and only slightly below last February's level. Exports and imports were both up in value from January, while exports were practically the same as a year earlier and imports moderately lower. (Page 3)

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EMPLOYMENT, which usually falls off in February, declined more sharply this year, and the number without jobs and seeking work rose 11% above the level of the preceding month. (Page 12)

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NEW HOUSING UNITS completed in January numbered 8,315, an increase of 2,214 or 36% over January last year, but starts numbered only 2,983, a decrease of 590 or 16.5%. Number under construction at month's end was slightly higher this year at 54,248 versus 53,016. (Page 13)

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CANADIAN FAMILIES numbered 3,477,000 at June 1 last year, 194,555 or 6% more than at the June 1 Census of 1951, and 67 versus 68% had unmarried children under 25 living at home. The number of children was up 8% and the average number per family was higher at 2.6 versus 2.5. (Page 14)

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IRON ORE SHIPMENTS were up 10% to 237,105 tons this January, but ASBESTOS shipments were 19% under last year's level at 56,800 tons and shipments of PORTLAND CEMENT were 14% lower at 889,000 barrels. (Pages 6,7,9)

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HIGHWAY TRAFFIC entering Canada from the United States in January was less than 1% under last year's volume, an increase in foreign vehicle entries practically offsetting a decrease in returning Canadian vehicles. (Page 7)

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CHEQUES CASHED in 35 clearing centres across Canada rose 10% in value last year to a new all-time peak of \$137,417,000,000. Gains were recorded in all five economic regions, the increases ranging from 12% in Ontario to 6% in British Columbia. (Page 8)

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RAILWAY CARLOADINGS totalled 65,708 cars in the week ended March 7, an 11% drop from the 73,761 cars loaded in the corresponding week last year. Cumulative 1954 loadings were off 10% at 604,750 versus 670,476 cars. (Page 8)

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## GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT

Gross National Product Declined  
Slightly in Fourth 1953 Quarter

Canada's gross national product in the fourth quarter of 1953 was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$24,248 million. This represents an increase of 1% over the fourth quarter of a year ago, but a decline of approximately 1% from the third quarter level of \$24,512 million.

The moderate reduction in the value of output between the third and fourth quarters of 1953 reflects primarily a cessation in the rate of business inventory accumulation. Expenditures of consumers and governments on goods and services and outlays for new construction were stable. However, there were declines in both seasonally adjusted exports and imports of goods and services and in investment in new machinery and equipment.

On the income side, gains in wages and salaries were minor in the fourth quarter, both before and after seasonal adjustment. Thus the levelling off in this component which was apparent in the third quarter continued into the fourth quarter of 1953. Among the groups affected by this development were manufacturing, construction, transportation and trade; services continued to expand. However, when comparisons are made with the fourth quarter of last year, all major groups show increases with the exception of the primary industries group, the latter reflecting lessened activity in forestry. It may be noted that the September-December seasonal rise in the composite index of employment, which has occurred in each of the past five years, did not take place in 1953; in 1953, the index declined slightly between these two months. However, average hourly earnings showed no tendency to fall off.

The major item in investment income, corporation profits before taxes, was approximately the same in the fourth quarter as in the third quarter of 1953 (seasonally adjusted); both the third and fourth quarters were below the level of the preceding two quarters. Other items of investment income were, in total, down slightly from the third quarter after seasonal adjustment.

Accrued net income of farm operators from farm production was down 18% from the fourth quarter of a year ago, as a result of both lower production and prices. The first three quarters of 1953 were also lower than a year ago. For the year 1953 as a whole the decline in accrued net income of farm operators averaged out to approximately 14%. There were no significant changes in net income of non-farm unincorporated business.

The components of gross national expenditure, as noted previously, showed mixed trends in the fourth quarter with elements of continued strength being more than offset by declines in some sectors. Consumer purchases of goods and services were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$15.1 billion, slightly higher than in the third quarter. While purchases of durables remained steady, with increases in television sets offsetting declines in some other appliances, the rate of non-durable purchases edged upward, reflecting increases in food and a slight rise in clothing expenditures. It is interesting to note that new automobile purchases were about level with the fourth quarter of 1952, although they were considerably higher in the first three quarters of 1953 than in the corresponding period of 1952. Expenditure on services continued to increase in the fourth quarter.

The expansionary impetus of the defence program was not as significant in 1953 as in the preceding two years; defence expenditures in the fourth quarter, seasonally adjusted, showed little change from preceding quarters. However, provincial and municipal government expenditures increased moderately in the last quarter of 1953.

Expenditure on new residential construction, seasonally adjusted, continued to rise between the third and fourth quarters, more than offsetting a slight decrease in the rate of non-residential construction. Compared with the fourth quarter of 1952, both residential and non-residential construction were higher by 24 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively.



Investment expenditures on new machinery and equipment showed declines from the third to the fourth quarter, and were also down by more than 10 per cent from the fourth quarter of the preceding year. Investment expenditures on agricultural equipment fell sharply.

In contrast with substantial business inventory accumulation in the second and third quarters of 1953, the book value of business inventories (seasonally adjusted) in the fourth quarter showed no further accumulation. The industries most affected by this development were manufacturing and wholesale and retail trade. There was a notable decrease in clothing inventories in the fourth quarter. It is interesting to note that the latter resulted from a combination of lower production and imports and somewhat higher consumer purchases of clothing.

Both exports and imports of goods and services declined between the third and fourth quarters of 1953, after seasonal adjustment, and were also below the fourth quarter of a year ago. Smaller shipments of grains were the principal item in the export decline. The drop in imports was accounted for in large part by smaller purchases of various types of industrial materials and equipment.

Personal income continued to rise in the fourth quarter, amounting to \$18.3 billion at annual rates. After deducting personal expenditures on consumer goods and services and direct personal taxes, the residual item of personal saving in the fourth quarter was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1.7 billion or about the same as in the second and third quarters. However, a portion of personal saving is represented by increased holdings of grain and live stock; exclusive of these inventory changes, personal saving was about \$1.3 billion at annual rates in the fourth quarter or 8 per cent of personal disposable income exclusive of farm inventory change. (1)

#### INTERNATIONAL TRADE

##### February Foreign Commodity Trade Shows Recovery From January Drop

Contrary to the usual seasonal pattern, Canada's foreign commodity trade was higher in value in February than January, and was only slightly below last year's February level, according to preliminary summary figures. Both exports and imports were up in value from January, while exports were at practically the same value as in February last year and imports down moderately.

Total exports in the month were valued at \$279,800,000 as against \$265,400,000 in January and \$279,600,000 in February last year. Commodity imports had an estimated value of \$300,300,000 compared to an estimated \$281,900,000 in the previous month and \$310,100,000 a year ago, making a decline of about 3% in the year to year comparison. The estimated import surplus was thus reduced to \$20,500,000 as against one of \$30,500,000 last year.

For the two months this year, exports totalled \$545,200,000, a drop of \$55,700,000 or about 9% from \$600,900,000 for the same 1953 months. Estimated imports in the period totalled \$582,200,000 as against \$637,800,000, an almost identical drop in dollar value. The estimated cumulative import surplus was thus practically the same as last year at \$37,000,000 compared to \$37,100,000.

Total exports to the United States in February declined slightly to \$171,900,000 from \$176,800,000 a year earlier, while imports eased down to \$224,000,000 from \$241,000,000, reducing the import surplus to \$52,100,000 as compared to \$64,200,000 last year. In the two months, exports were down to \$332,000,000 from \$368,600,000 and imports more sharply to \$428,500,000 from \$490,200,000, the cumulative import surplus declining to \$96,500,000 against \$121,600,000.

Down in January from last year, commodity sales to the United Kingdom rose in February to \$44,900,000 as against \$36,400,000 last year, and estimated imports were slightly higher at \$28,900,000 compared to \$27,200,000. Net results was a rise in the export surplus to

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\$16,000,000 from \$9,200,000. Over the two months, exports were down slightly to \$83,100,000 against \$85,800,000 and estimated imports unchanged at \$57,700,000, yielding an estimated export surplus of \$25,400,000 compared to \$28,100,000 last year.

February exports to other Commonwealth countries declined to \$11,900,000 compared to \$22,400,000, making an aggregate for the two months of \$24,000,000 against \$39,700,000. Imports from Commonwealth countries, on the other hand, advanced in February to an estimated \$10,800,000 from \$8,900,000, raising the two-month total to \$19,800,000 against \$18,300,000. Shipments to the remaining countries in February increased in value to \$51,100,000 compared to \$44,000,000 last year, bringing the two-month total to \$106,000,000, just under the 1953 figure of \$106,800,000. Estimated imports in February also increased to \$36,600,000 from \$33,000,000, and for the two months to \$76,200,000 from \$71,600,000.

The preliminary figures for February and the January-February period are summarized in the table following. The import figures are estimates and subject to revision; final and detailed import figures will not be available for several weeks. Those for exports are based on final figures, which will be issued shortly.

|  | February |                       | January - February |       |
|--|----------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------|
|  | 1953     | 1954                  | 1953               | 1954  |
| <u>Exports: (Domestic &amp; Foreign)</u> |          | (Millions of Dollars) |                    |       |
| United Kingdom .....                     | 36.4     | 44.9                  | 85.8               | 83.1  |
| Other Commonwealth countries .....       | 22.4     | 11.9                  | 39.7               | 24.0  |
| United States .....                      | 176.8    | 171.9                 | 368.6              | 332.0 |
| Other foreign countries .....            | 44.0     | 51.1                  | 106.8              | 106.0 |
| Totals .....                             | 279.6    | 279.8                 | 600.9              | 545.2 |
| <u>Imports:</u>                          |          |                       |                    |       |
| United Kingdom .....                     | 27.2     | 28.9                  | 57.7               | 57.7  |
| Other Commonwealth countries .....       | 8.9      | 10.8                  | 18.3               | 19.8  |
| United States .....                      | 241.0    | 224.0                 | 490.2              | 428.5 |
| Other foreign countries .....            | 33.0     | 36.6                  | 71.6               | 76.2  |
| Totals .....                             | 310.1    | 300.3                 | 637.8              | 582.2 |

#### FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Stocks And Marketings Of Wheat and Coarse Grains Visible supplies of Canadian wheat on March 10 totalled 363,941,000 bushels, slightly under March 3 stocks of 366,651,000 bushels, but up from last year's corresponding total of 271,228,000 bushels. Prairie farmers marketed only 2,248,000 bushels of wheat during the week ending March 10 as compared with 3,164,000 in the preceding week and 9,612,000 a year ago.

Prairie farm deliveries of oats during the week were down to 1,210,000 bushels from 1,356,000, barley to 918,000 bushels from 1,536,000, and rye to 78,000 bushels from 201,000. Flaxseed deliveries were up slightly to 48,000 bushels from 42,000.

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week increased 2,826,000 bushels from 1,702,000 a week earlier, and 2,519,000 in the corresponding week last year. Cumulative clearances from the beginning of the crop year to March 10 were down to 125,692,000 bushels from 162,260,000. (2)

Production of Oils And Fats in February Production of shortening, refined coconut oil, soybean oil, and salad and cooking oils moved up in February as compared with a year earlier, but output of lard and flaxseed oil declined.

Shortening production in February amounted to 12,858,000 pounds (10,631,000 a year earlier); refined coconut oils, 1,173,000 pounds (1,053,000); refined salad and cooking oils, 1,982,000 pounds (1,682,000); lard, 6,934,000 pounds (8,945,000); flaxseed oil, 5,743,000 pounds (6,957,000); and soybean oil, 8,031,000 pounds (7,585,000). (3)



Stocks Of Frozen Fish  
Reduced At February 1

Stocks of frozen fish on February 1 totalled 36,400,000 pounds, down from 43,057,000 a month earlier and last year's corresponding total of 38,920,000. Cod stocks were 3,839,000 pounds (6,887,000 a year ago); haddock, 1,278,000 (2,069,000); salmon, 7,349,000 (5,910,000); sea herring, 6,961,000 (8,911,000); other sea fish, 13,374,000 (10,269,000); and inland fish, 2,608,000 (4,874,000). (4)

Creamery Butter Stocks  
Of Nine Cities Advance

Stocks of creamery butter in nine regional cities on March 18 totalled 32,552,000 pounds as compared with 19,822,000 a year earlier. Holdings were as follows by cities with last year's figures in brackets — in thousands: Quebec, 2,993 (1,039) pounds; Montreal, 15,261 (8,353); Toronto, 6,470 (4,907); Winnipeg, 5,872 (3,119); Regina, 345 (635); Saskatoon, 104 (96); Edmonton, 399 (702); Calgary, 141 (173); and Vancouver, 967 (798).

Honey Crop Smaller

Canada's 1953 honey crop amounted to 26,400,000 pounds, down 4,800,000 pounds from 1952 and the smallest since 1946. Total value was \$4,100,000, about \$600,000 less. The lower value was due to the smaller crop rather than to prices which were higher or equal to those of 1952 in all provinces.

Lower yields in Ontario, Quebec, and Alberta were responsible for most of the overall decline. Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia reported larger crops with substantial increases in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Output by provinces, totals for 1952 being in brackets (in thousands): Prince Edward Island, 68 (91) pounds; Nova Scotia, 137 (125); New Brunswick, 124 (156); Quebec, 2,972 (4,398); Ontario, 10,000 (14,900); Manitoba, 4,830 (3,360); Saskatchewan, 3,247 (2,500); Alberta, 3,856 (4,900); and British Columbia, 1,150 (800). (5)

Poultry Numbers Up 5%

Estimated total number of poultry on Canadian farms on December 1, 1953 was 42,858,000 birds, an increase of 5% over the estimates for the same date in 1952. Hens, cocks and chickens increased to 39,660,000 from 37,125,000, but turkeys declined to 2,408,000 from 2,836,000, geese to 366,000 from 372,500, and ducks to 424,000 from 492,000.

The number of hens and pullets rose to 32,896,000 from 32,494,000, cocks and cockerels to 3,959,000 from 3,350,000, and chicks to 2,805,000 from 1,281,000. The combined total of hens and pullets was 1% more than at the same date last year. The number of cocks and cockerels on farms increased by 18%, while the number of chicks up to six weeks old more than doubled, increasing from 1,281,000 to 2,805,000.

These increases may be attributable to the growing importance of the broiler industry and a levelling off in the seasonality of chick purchases for flock replacement. (6)

Wool Production Up 12%

Wool production in Canada during 1953 amounted to 8,621,000 pounds, an increase of 12% over the preceding year. Shorn wool production, at 6,659,000 pounds, was 4.4% greater than in 1952, while pulled wool production, at 1,962,000 pounds was nearly 50% greater.

Total farm value of shorn wool production was \$2,565,000 as compared with \$2,397,000 in 1952 and \$4,231,000 in 1951. Average farm price of fleece wool was 38.5 cents per pound during 1953, slightly higher than the 37.6 cents in 1952, but sharply under the 1951 average of 74 cents.

Exports of wool during 1953 totalled 3,756,000 pounds, only slightly greater than the 3,639,000 pounds in 1952, but imports rose sharply from 49,537,000 pounds in 1952 to 63,088,000. Assuming no change in stocks, the domestic disappearance was 67,953,000 pounds during 1953 as compared with 73,238,000 in 1951, 53,589,000 in 1952, and approximately 52% of the wartime high disappearance of 130,521,000 pounds in 1942. (7)



Food Expenditures During Last Half Of 1953 In Five Metropolitan Areas

Family food expenditure in the census metropolitan areas of Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver, taken together, were only slightly higher in the second half of 1953, according to a release of results for the July-December period last year of the Bureau's continuing sample survey of urban food expenditures. Average expenditure for the five cities combined was \$6.83 per person per week for the second half as against \$6.78 reported earlier for the first half.

A breakdown of the food expenditures by groups of products shows lower five-city average outlays for eight, higher for five, and no change for two, most of the changes being small. Meat accounted for \$1.47 of the total, down from \$1.51 in the first half of the year. Dairy products took 75 against 80 cents; eggs, 29 against 27 cents; bakery products, 58 compared to 56; cereal products, 19 against 20 cents. Average expenditure for poultry and fish was unchanged at 39 cents and down for fats and oils to 39 from 41 cents. Outlay for fresh fruits rose to 40 from 32 cents, but was down for canned and dried fruits to 15 from 16 cents, for fresh vegetables to 36 from 39 cents, and for canned and dried vegetables to 16 from 17 cents. Spending for frozen foods was unchanged at three cents, down for other and miscellaneous foods (such as tea, coffee, pickles and beverages) to 90 from 96 cents, and up for food eaten in snack bars and restaurants to 62 against 59 cents, and for other food eaten away from home to 15 from two cents.

The sample survey is restricted to families of two adults, two adults and one to four children, three adults, three adults and one child, and four adults, and to families with an annual income between \$1,800 and \$6,500. The families included in the sample were selected by systematic random methods and the average size of those reporting was 3.27 persons in the second half of the year and 3.28 in the first half. (8)

## M I N E R A L S

Iron Ore Shipments Up Moderately In January

Shipments of iron ore from Canadian mines were moderately higher in January than in the corresponding month last year, according to the first issue of a new monthly release. Shipments totalled 237,105 tons compared with 215,982 a year earlier, comprising 120,366 tons shipped for export (113,328 in January, 1953), and 116,739 tons shipped to Canadian consumers (102,654). Month-end stocks were up to 592,671 tons from 316,834.

Iron ore shipments from mines in Ontario dropped to 17,884 tons from 40,239, and end-of-the-month stocks climbed sharply to 504,201 tons from 262,840. Shipments from mines in other provinces moved up to 219,221 tons from 175,743, and the stocks increased to 88,470 tons from 53,994. (9)

February Coal Production Up

Canadian coal production in February amounted to 1,381,000 tons, up nearly 8% over last year's February output of 1,280,095 tons, according to preliminary figures. This is the first increase over a year earlier recorded since December, 1952. Output was sharply lower in January than a year earlier, and the aggregate production for January and February this year showed a decline to 3,004,925 tons from 3,070,536 last year.

Landed imports of coal in February decreased to 669,773 tons from 689,439 last year, and for the two months were down to 1,268,009 tons from 1,476,637. Coal exported during February also declined to 17,533 as against 27,977 tons, the two-month total dropping to 34,158 compared to 56,813 tons.

Production in February was higher in all areas except British Columbia and Yukon. Output figures were as follows (February, 1953, figures in brackets): Nova Scotia, 503,000 tons (497,509); New Brunswick, 69,000 (61,974); Saskatchewan, 171,000 (155,480); Alberta, bituminous, 288,000 (272,000) and sub-bituminous, 239,000 (177,669); and British Columbia and Yukon, 111,000 tons (115,463). (10)

Asbestos Shipments Off 19% In January Shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines in January amounted to 56,800 tons, down 19% from last year's 70,076 tons. Exports fell 20% to 50,659 from 63,544 tons. (11)

Output Of Crude Petroleum Reached New High In 1953 Production of crude petroleum in Canada in the year 1953 reached an all-time high total of 80,902,000 barrels, topping 1952's output of 61,237,000 by 32%. There were increases in all producing areas with Alberta's output moving up to 76,818,000 barrels from 58,916,000. Saskatchewan's output rose to 2,807,000 barrels from 1,697,000, Manitoba's to 649,000 from 105,000, Ontario's to 296,000 from 192,000, Northwest Territories' to 317,400 from 314,200 and New Brunswick's to 14,700 from 14,200.

Redwater and Leduc-Woodbend fields in Alberta were the top producers in 1953, the former accounting for 23,282,000 barrels (23,976,000 in 1952) and the latter for 21,363,000 (17,839,000). Bonnie Glen output amounted to 5,551,000 barrels (743,500); Armena-Camrose, 3,258,000 (1,308,000); Wizard Lake, 3,095,000 (1,696,000); Acheson, 2,498,000 (2,017,000); Golden Spike, 2,168,000 (1,279,000); and Turner Valley, 2,405,000 (2,655,000).

Output of natural gas climbed to 101,086,216,000 cubic feet from 88,686,465,000 in 1952 and 79,460,667,000 in 1951. Sales amounted to 70,674,487,000 cubic feet valued at \$30,167,000 as compared with 66,005,785,000 sold for \$27,102,000. Sales of manufactured gas amounted to 25,878,673,000 cubic feet valued at \$32,221,000 compared with 26,304,679,000 sold for \$31,742,000. (12)

Salt Shipments Down Last Year Shipments of dry common salt by Canadian producers last year declined to 495,086 tons from 519,266 in 1952, but December shipments increased to 43,545 from 36,306. Producers' year-end stocks rose to 19,826 tons from 14,749. (13)

Production Of Leading Minerals In Year 1953 Production of 11 of Canada's 16 leading mineral products was higher last year than in 1952, with major increases in cement, clay products, iron ore, lead, natural gas, petroleum, and silver. There were declines in asbestos, coal, copper, gold, and salt.

Cement production rose to 22,246,189 barrels from 18,520,538, gypsum to 3,837,292 tons from 3,590,783, iron ore to 6,452,815 tons from 5,271,849, lead to 195,791 tons from 168,842, lime to 1,217,067 tons from 1,175,786, natural gas to 101,086,216,000 cubic feet from 88,686,465,000, nickel to 143,016 tons from 140,559, petroleum to 80,902,282 barrels from 61,237,322, silver to 28,330,251 fine ounces from 25,222,227, zinc to 400,041 tons from 371,802, and clay products to \$29,041,020 from \$23,450,390. Asbestos production dropped to 910,848 tons from 929,339, coal to 15,893,094 tons from 17,579,002, copper to 253,653 tons from 258,038, gold to 4,068,516 fine ounces from 4,471,725, and salt to 953,235 tons from 971,903. (14)

#### T R A V E L

Vehicle Entries Off Slightly In January Volume of highway traffic entering Canada from the United States was practically unchanged in January from a year earlier. Border crossings totalled 669,500 vehicles against 673,200, a drop of less than 1%, an increase in foreign entries practically offsetting a drop in returning Canadian vehicles.

Entries of foreign vehicles numbered 388,400, an increase of 3%, and consisted of 48,700 entering on traveller's vehicle permits (47,400 last year), 311,000 non-permit or local entries (298,000), and 28,700 commercial vehicles (30,800). Re-entries of Canadian vehicles totalled 281,000, a decrease of 5%, and comprised 20,400 remaining abroad more than 24 hours (20,300), 226,000 less than 24 hours (242,000), and 34,800 commercial vehicles (34,100). (15)



## T R A N S P O R T

Highway Mileage Increased Canada's highway mileage at the end of 1952 totalled 512,795 miles. This compares with a mileage of 511,878 (revised to exclude 56,896 miles of unimproved road not in use in Saskatchewan) at the end of 1951. Surfaced roads were 8,074 miles longer at 181,306 miles, while non-surfaced roads decreased by 7,157 to 331,489 miles. Among surfaced types, gravel roads were up 5,948 miles to 152,610, bituminous surfaces 1,058 to 13,784, and bituminous pavements 1,372 to 12,985, while concrete pavements were down 98 miles to 1,879. Further details will be released in a few weeks in the publication "Highway Statistics, 1952" which gives details of mileages of and expenditures on highways and urban streets in Canada.

Railway Carloadings Lower Railway carloadings during the week ended March 7 declined to 65,708 cars from last year's corresponding total of 73,761 cars, and receipts from connections dropped to 29,383 cars from 33,162. Cumulative loadings from the beginning of the year fell to 604,750 cars from 670,476, while receipts from connections were down to 265,054 cars from 292,097.

Loadings in the eastern region during the week declined to 44,258 cars from 48,176 a year earlier with grain, fuel oil, lumber, pulpwood and L.C.L. shipments all off sharply, but coal increased. In the western divisions loadings fell to 21,450 cars from 25,585, sharply reduced grain movement accounting for the drop. (16)

## B U S I N E S S   &amp;   B A N K I N G

Value Of Cheques Cashed At New Record Last Year Value of cheques cashed in 35 Canadian clearing centres rose to a new high of \$137,417,000,000 last year, up 10% from 1952's \$125,197,000,000. Debits in each of the five economic areas set new records, with advances ranging from 12% in Ontario to 6% in British Columbia. Among the centres, London, Kitchener and Medicine Hat recorded the largest relative increases. Payments in Toronto advanced by over 16% and in Montreal by nearly 8%. Winnipeg's debits rose 5% and Vancouver's 6.5%. Totals by economic areas, those for 1952 in brackets (in millions): Atlantic Provinces, \$3,398 (\$3,066); Quebec, \$38,139 (\$35,495); Ontario, \$59,074 (\$52,717); Prairie Provinces, \$25,019 (\$22,808); and British Columbia, \$11,787 (\$11,111). (17)

More Bankruptcies Last Year Nearly 10% more commercial failures were recorded under the provisions of the Bankruptcy and Winding Up Acts last year than in 1952, and defaulted liabilities rose 11%. The number of business failures was 1,657 against 1,509, and liabilities aggregated \$32,818,000 against \$29,658,000. Bankruptcies reached a very low level during the war, but have increased steadily since 1946, though they still remain well below the levels of the early 1930's. Defaulted liabilities have followed a similar trend.

As in previous years, the greatest number of failures last year occurred in the trade sector, where there were 650 against 569 in 1952. Most trades recorded increases, with the largest occurring in general stores, clothing stores, electrical appliance stores and jewellery stores. Insolvencies of manufacturing establishments rose to 359 from 305. In this group, textile firms recorded the largest increase. Defaults of service establishments rose to 286 from 279.

During 1953, 1,221 of the 1,657 Canadian insolvencies occurred in Quebec as compared with 1,167 in 1952. Failures in most other provinces also showed increases, with bankruptcies in Ontario rising from 220 in the preceding year to 255, and in British Columbia from 48 to 72. In the same comparison, failures in the Prairie Provinces advanced from 34 to 79, while those in the Atlantic region declined from 40 to 30. (18)



## MANUFACTURING

Sales of Paints, Varnishes And Lacquers Down 11% In January

from \$7,573,390 last year.

Sales of paints, varnishes and lacquers by manufacturers who normally account for 96% of the Canadian production amounted to \$6,764,583 this January, a drop of nearly 11%

Trade sales (except water paints) were down to \$3,083,937 from \$3,718,066 and accounted for 46 versus 49% of the total. Industrial sales of paints and varnishes were up to \$2,457,267 from \$2,416,445, and of lacquers to \$592,816 from \$492,045, and together accounted for 45% as against 36% in 1953. Sales of water paints were reduced to \$127,975 from \$239,151 and represented only 2 as against 5%, while sales of latex emulsion paints fell to \$307,221 from \$350,509 but accounted for 4 as against 3%. Unclassified sales amounted to \$195,367 as against \$357,174, accounting for 3 as against 5%. (19)

December Output of Refined Petroleum Products Up, Crude Receipts Down

increase of more than 11 per cent. Receipts of crude oil at refineries declined to 11,429,242 barrels against 12,481,307 barrels.

Canadian output of refined petroleum products during last December amounted to 13,190,981 barrels as compared to 11,848,146 barrels in December, 1952, an

Output of motor gasoline increased in December to 5,961,855 as compared to 5,261,136 barrels a year earlier, furnace oil to 1,789,919 against 1,374,349 barrels, and heavy fuel oil to 2,946,980 compared to 2,705,320 barrels, while diesel fuel was down to 621,677 against 716,440 barrels and stove oil slightly lower at 883,085 barrels. Other increases were in naphtha specialties, aviation gasoline, asphalt, liquefied petroleum gases and polymer feed stocks, and decreases in other light fuel oil and lubricating oil.

Receipts of imported crude petroleum were down in the month to 6,568,518 compared to 7,463,433 barrels, and of domestic crude to 4,860,724 from 5,017,874 barrels. (20)

Portland Cement Production Up 5% In January But Shipments Off 14%

at plants and warehouses at the end of the month. The month's production amounted to 1,565,000 barrels compared with 1,484,000, shipments totalled 889,000 barrels compared with 1,037,000, and month-end stocks were 1,606,000 barrels compared with 1,203,000. (21)

Production of Portland cement in January rose 5% as compared with a year earlier, but shipments to customers fell 14%, resulting in a rise of 33.5% in stocks

Production, Shipments of Rigid Insulating Board In February

output amounted to 23,514,754 square feet as compared with 21,415,795 and the shipments totalled 16,829,684 square feet compared with 17,367,454. (22)

Production of rigid insulating board rose almost 10% in February as compared with the corresponding month last year, but domestic shipments declines 3%. The month's

Production, Shipments of Asphalt Floor Tiles Lower In February

to 1,313,579 square feet compared with 1,507,149, and the domestic shipments totalled 1,044,667 square feet compared with 1,299,250. (23)

Both production and domestic shipments of asphalt floor tiles declined in February as compared with the corresponding month last year. The month's output amounted

Rubber Consumption Lower In January But Stocks Increased

climbed to 13,200 tons from 10,862. Domestic production of synthetic rubber rose to 7,287 tons from 6,700, but reclaim dropped to 360 tons from 385.

Consumption of rubber -- natural, synthetic and reclaim -- declined in January, the combined total amounting to 6,759 tons as compared with 7,049 a year earlier, but month-end stocks

The month's consumption of natural rubber fell to 3,068 tons from 3,124, synthetic to 2,574 tons from 2,709, and reclaim to 1,117 tons from 1,216. End-of-January stocks of natural rubber increased to 5,220 tons from 4,583, synthetic to 6,235 tons from 4,741, and reclaim to 1,745 tons from 1,538. (24)



Production Of Leather  
Down 10.6% In January

Production of cattle sole leather in January amounted to 1,247,000 pounds, 10.6% below a year earlier. Output of upper leather declined to 4,060,000 square feet from 4,675,000, and glove and garment leather to 369,000 from 386,000. Production of calf and kip skin upper leather increased to 1,083,000 square feet from 800,000, while glove and garment horse leather declined to 147,000 from 211,000. Wettings of all types of hides and skins with the exception of calf and kip skins were lower. Stocks of raw cattle hides increased 14%. (25)

Sales Of Stoves, Furnaces  
Up 10% In Value Last Year

Sales of stoves and furnaces by Canadian manufacturers last year were valued at \$63,013,000, up 9.7% from 1952's \$56,783,000, but December sales were down to \$4,267,000 from \$5,062,000. The year's sales of stoves of all kinds rose in value to \$46,627,000 from \$43,100,000, and of furnaces to \$16,386,000 from \$13,682,000.

Sales of electric cooking stoves and ranges 35 amperes and over were up to 162,659 worth \$28,869,000 last year from 143,160 worth \$22,032,000. Among furnace sales were 30,181 for coal and wood burning worth \$4,341,000 (45,465 at \$6,385,000 in 1952); 43,838 exclusively for oil burning worth \$10,323,000 (32,512 at \$6,264,000); and 10,156 for gas burning worth \$1,723,000 (5,689 at \$1,033,000). (26)

Shipments Of Wire  
Reduced Last Year

Shipments of wire and most of the principal wire products were lower last year. Canadian producers shipped 79,942 tons of plain steel wire as compared with 85,944 in the preceding year, while movement of galvanized wire fell to 24,467 from 31,499 and barbed wire to 7,266 from 8,671. Shipments of other coated wire were practically unchanged at 1,834 against 1,812 tons, while movement of cold rolled flat wire increased to 1,421 from 1,368.

Shipments of steel wire rope dropped to 21,579 from 25,194 tons, while clothesline wire was up to 932 from 885 and other stranded wire declined to 7,028 from 7,754. Movement of woven wire farm fencing decreased to 12,286 from 15,596 tons, but woven wire lawn fencing was up to 1,448 from 1,160 and woven wire chain link fabric to 3,743 from 3,108. Shipments of iron and steel wire nails were down to 70,843 from 78,661 tons, steel wire staples to 1,570 from 1,624, steel, brass and copper tacks to 1,261 from 1,317, and aluminum nails to 120 from 149. Movement of iron and steel cut nails improved to 1,061 from 605 tons. (27)

Clay Product Sales  
Up In Value In 1953

Sales of clay products made from Canadian clays in the year 1953 were valued at \$29,041,000, 23.8% above the preceding year's \$23,450,000. The year's sales comprised the following, 1952 figures being in brackets: building brick, \$18,314,000 (\$14,632,000); structural tile, \$3,575,000 (\$3,386,000); drain tile, \$1,814,000 (\$1,405,000); sewer pipe, \$3,537,000 (\$2,264,000); fireclay blocks and shapes, \$413,000 (\$394,000); pottery, \$475,000 (\$549,000); and other clay products, \$913,000 (\$820,011). (28)

## MERCHANDISING &amp; SERVICES

Department Store Sales  
Up 4 Per Cent In Week

Department store sales rose 4% during the week ended March 13 as compared with the corresponding week last year. There were declines in the Prairie Provinces but increases in the rest of Canada. Gain in the Maritimes was 8.4%, Quebec 5.8%, Ontario 5.6%, and British Columbia 7.5%. The drop in Manitoba was 2.2%, Saskatchewan 7.1%, and Alberta 2%.

Operating Results Of  
Tobacco Stores In 1952

Average gross profit of independent tobacco stores in 1952 worked out at 16.49% of net sales, down from 17.58% in 1950, according to the Bureau's biennial survey. At the same time, net operating profit before deductions of proprietors' salaries and income tax declined to 6.8% from 7.38%. Total operating expenses declined to 9.69% of net sales from 10.2%, with employees' salaries down to 4.13% from 4.33%, occupancy to 3.91% from 4.08%, store supplies to 0.36% from 0.43%, and all other expenses to 1.29% from 1.36%. (29)



## P R I C E S

Security Price Indexes

|                               | <u>March 18, 1954</u> | <u>March 11, 1954</u><br>(1935-39=100) | <u>February 18, 1954</u> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <u>Investors' Price Index</u> |                       |  |                          |
| Total common stocks ....      | 166.3                 | 166.6                                  | 163.0                    |
| Industrials .....             | 166.4                 | 166.3                                  | 162.9                    |
| Utilities .....               | 154.2                 | 156.2                                  | 151.6                    |
| Banks .....                   | 194.1                 | 194.5                                  | 190.4                    |

Mining Stock Price Index

|                          |       |       |       |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total mining stocks .... | 84.6  | 85.6  | 83.5  |
| Golds .....              | 61.4  | 61.8  | 62.4  |
| Base metals .....        | 137.7 | 140.0 | 131.7 |

Price Index Numbers Of Commodities  
And Services Used By Farmers Lower

The all-Canada composite price index of commodities and services used by farmers, inclusive of farm family living costs, registered a decline of 3.3% to 220.6

between August, 1953 and January, 1954. This decrease was mainly attributable to the usual seasonal recession in wage rates. The January index stands 0.1% below the corresponding 1953 figure of 220.9. The composite index, exclusive of living costs, dropped 5.1% to 231.1 between August and January, and by 0.9% from a year earlier.

Wage rates showed a marked decline as the national index fell 13.9% to 409.5 between August and January. Regional differences were notable, the eastern Canada index declining 6.2% to 419.2, while the western series dropped 23.4% to 395.8.

The equipment and materials component moved down 1.1% from 206.3 to 204.0 between August and January, with identical percentage changes in both regions. Lower prices for seed and feed were primarily responsible for the decline, although minor decreases also occurred for building materials, gasoline, oil and grease and farm machinery. On the other hand, compounded fertilizer rose 0.8% to 183.5 due almost entirely to higher quotations in the western series, while binder twine was unchanged.

Farm family living costs changed from 204.9 in August to 204.8 in January. At this level the index stood 1.1% above the January, 1953 index of 202.6. A decrease of 0.8% in food overbalanced advances of 1.1% for fuel, 0.9% for health and maintenance and 0.3% for miscellaneous items. Clothing and household equipment were nominally unchanged. (30)

Wholesale Price Indexes  
(1935 - 1939 = 100)

|   | <u>February, 1953</u> | <u>January, 1954</u> | <u>February, 1954</u> |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>General Index</u> .....                                      | 220.9                 | 219.8                | 219.0                 |
| Vegetable Products .....  | 200.9                 | 201.3                | 200.6                 |
| Animal Products .....   | 239.0                 | 245.0                | 243.9                 |
| Textile Products .....  | 241.1                 | 234.5                | 233.3                 |
| Wood Products .....   | 289.7                 | 284.5                | 283.4                 |
| Iron Products .....   | 221.4                 | 216.1                | 215.9                 |
| Non-ferrous Metals .....  | 168.5                 | 165.6                | 164.3                 |
| Non-metallic Minerals .....                                     | 174.9                 | 179.3                | 179.4                 |
| Chemical Products .....   | 176.7                 | 175.4                | 175.3                 |
| Combined Index, Iron and<br>Non-ferrous Metals (excluding gold) | 223.2                 | 218.1                | 217.2                 |

## EMPLOYMENT &amp; EARNINGS

February Employment Decline Slightly Greater This Year

Employment, which usually falls off in February, declined more sharply this year, the Department of Labour and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported this week. Full-time employment was down slightly from last year, but part-time employment was up. The number with jobs but not at work was considerably lower, while the number without jobs and seeking work was appreciably higher.

The Bureau's monthly labour force survey showed 4,442,000 working full-time (35 hours or more) in the week ended February 20, some 23,000 or one-half of 1% less than in the week ended January 23 and 76,000 or 2% less than in the week ended February 21 last year. The full-time workers represented 85% of the labour force of 5,230,000, about the same proportion as in January when the labour force numbered 5,242,000 but down from a year earlier when 87% of the labour force of 5,194,000 were working full-time.

The number working part-time (less than 35 hours) was 354,000, down 5% from 358,000 in January but up 10% from 321,000 in February last year. Of these, 55% as against 52% in January and 61% last year usually worked part-time. Of those who usually worked full-time more were on short time than a year earlier and more lost time because of bad weather, while fewer were away part of survey week because of illness.

The number with jobs but not at work during the survey week was 122,000, down 13% from 139,000 in January and 31% from 176,000 in February last year. More were absent because of illness than a year earlier, but 55% fewer were laid off for the full week.

The number without jobs and seeking work was 312,000 in the February week, 32,000 or 11% more than in January and 133,000 or 74% more than a year earlier. They represented 6% of labour force as against 5% a month earlier and 3% in February last year. Applications for employment on file at National Employment Service offices at February 18 numbered 559,000, an increase of 35,400 or 7% since January 21 and 157,200 or 39% since February 19 last year. The number increased during February in all regions, with the largest advance in Quebec.

Labour requirements continued to decline during February in the Atlantic and Quebec regions, mainly due to seasonal reductions in logging and lumbering. Employment levelled off in the Ontario and Prairie regions, largely as a result of increased activity in construction. The usual seasonal pick-up in outdoor activity occurred in the Pacific region. More than the usual decline was evident in the forestry, mining and iron and steel industries, and there was a further decline in textiles and clothing. On the other hand, there was a moderate increase in the transportation equipment manufacturing industry.

Industrial Employment Lower At Beginning Of January

The contraction in industrial employment invariably indicated in the year-end holiday season was on a larger scale in the week of January 1 than in immediately preceding years, although it was somewhat smaller than in the same period in either 1949 or 1950.

The general index number of employment fell from 114.1 at December 1 and 113.0 at the first of January last year to 110.2. With this exception, the latest index is the highest in the record for January 1. As usual, important factors contributing to the shrinkage in activity were curtailment in the outdoor and food processing industries, shutdowns for holidays and inventory purposes, and absenteeism.

Employment declined for workers of both sexes, the reported numbers of men and women dropping in the month by 3.5% and 3.2%, respectively. The number of men released by the co-operating establishments made up not quite four-fifths of the total workers laid off. In the 12-month comparison, there were losses of 2.8% among men and 1.5% among women on the staffs of the larger firms in the main industrial divisions.

MORE



Wages and salaries distributed for the week of January 1 fell by 5.8% as compared with December 1. This was a smaller seasonal loss than was recorded at January last year when the payroll index was 3% lower than this year's all-time high for January 1.

Weekly earnings averaged \$56.67 as compared with \$58.13 a month earlier, and \$53.81 at January 1, 1953. The seasonal decline of 2.5% from December 1 was smaller than in most years of the record, partly because celebration of the holiday on Friday occasions less disruption in normal working schedules than when they fall earlier in the week. There were widely-distributed reductions in the aggregate and average earnings.

Employment was higher in finance, insurance and real estate companies at January 1, but the trend in other industrial divisions was unfavourable. There was substantial curtailment in construction, manufacturing, forestry and transportation, with smaller losses in mining, public utility operation, trade and in the service industries. Within these divisions, the movement in the month was generally downward in many component classes. The noteworthy exceptions in manufacturing were the tobacco, motor vehicle and parts and accessory groups, and among the non-manufacturing categories, coal mining and communications. For the most part, the changes were seasonal in character. (31)

### HOUSING

Fewer New Dwelling Units Started In January, But Completions Higher Starts on the construction of new residential units declined 16.5% in January as compared with a year earlier, but completions rose more than 36%. Dwellings under construction at the end of the month were up slightly from last year. Starts were made on 2,983 units as compared with 3,573, and the completions numbered 8,315 against 6,101. This left 54,248 still under construction at the end of January as compared with 53,016.

Ontario's starts were down to 1,763 from 1,937 and Quebec's to 565 from 930, but British Columbia's total rose to 403 from 349. In the Prairie Provinces the total was down to 195 from 257, and in the Atlantic Provinces to 47 from 100. Completions in Ontario rose to 3,856 from 2,529, Quebec to 1,835 from 1,675, British Columbia to 754 from 560 and the Prairie Provinces to 1,582 from 943, but the total for the Atlantic Provinces declined to 288 from 394. Under construction at the end of January were 22,039 units in Ontario (19,971 a year earlier); Quebec, 12,127 (12,698); British Columbia, 5,499 (5,026); Prairie Provinces, 9,359 (9,792); and the Atlantic Provinces, 5,224 (5,529). (32)

### HOUSEHOLDS & FAMILIES

Canada Had 8% More Households, 6% More Families Last Year Than At 1951 Census Canada's ten provinces had an estimated 3,675,000 households and 3,477,000 families at the start of June last year. This was 265,705 or 8% more households and 194,555 or 6% more families than at the June 1 Census of 1951.

The 1953 June 1 estimate of households is 34,000 greater than the estimate for September last year which the Bureau published in its January report on the household equipment survey, the explanation being that the September figure does not include Indian reservations and a few inaccessible areas in the north of the provinces. Institutional households are excluded from both estimates, as are the territories.

Persons in households numbered an estimated 14,528,000 at June 1 last year, 955,535 or 7% more than on the same date in 1951, while persons in families numbered 13,051,000, an increase of 854,115 or 7%. Average size of households was unchanged at 4.0 persons, but average size of families was up to 3.8 from 3.7 persons. The Bureau defines a household as a group of persons living in the same dwelling; a family includes only husband, wife and unmarried children under 25 years of age living at home.



All provinces had more households and families last year than in 1951. Newfoundland had 73,000 households and 78,000 families (versus 70,980 households and 74,858 families two years earlier); Prince Edward Island, 23,000 and 22,000 (22,455 and 21,381); Nova Scotia, 153,000 and 147,000 (149,555 and 145,127); New Brunswick, 123,000 and 116,000 (114,010 and 111,639); Quebec, 936,000 and 901,000 (858,785 and 856,041); Ontario, 1,268,000 and 1,237,000 (1,181,125 and 1,162,772); Manitoba, 223,000 and 206,000 (202,400 and 191,268); Saskatchewan, 229,000 and 204,000 (221,455 and 196,188); Alberta, 282,000 and 243,000 (250,750 and 223,326); and British Columbia, 365,000 and 323,000 (337,780 and 299,845).

Compared with 1951 the average size of households was higher last year only in Newfoundland (at 5.2 versus 5.0 persons) and Prince Edward Island (at 4.5 versus 4.3), and was unchanged in Nova Scotia (4.2), Ontario (3.8), Saskatchewan (3.7) and British Columbia (3.3), and lower in New Brunswick (at 4.3 versus 4.4), Quebec (4.5 versus 4.6), Manitoba (at 3.6 versus 3.7) and Alberta (3.5 versus 3.6). On the other hand, the average size of families was higher in Newfoundland (at 4.6 versus 4.4 persons). Prince Edward Island (4.1 versus 4.0) Nova Scotia (4.0 versus 3.9), Quebec (4.3 versus 4.2), and Manitoba (3.7 versus 3.6), and was unchanged in New Brunswick (4.1), Ontario (3.4) and British Columbia (3.3), and lower only in Saskatchewan and Alberta (both 3.6 versus 3.7).

The proportion of households containing two persons was up to 22.5% last year from 20.9% in 1951 and the proportion with three persons to 20.3 from 20.2%. However, four-person households represented only 18.6% of all households as against 18.9% at the last census, five-person households 12.8 versus 12.9%, six-person households 7.7 versus 7.9% and households with seven or more persons 11.4 versus 11.8%. In both years the largest percentages in the smaller size groups were west of Quebec, while the greatest percentages in the larger size groups were east of Ontario. This is largely due to the fact that the average size of dwellings is greater in the eastern provinces. Three-person families represented only 23% of all families in 1953 as compared with 24% two years earlier and four-person families 19.4 versus 20%, while the proportion of two-person families was up to 31.5 from 31.2%, five-person families to 11.7 from 11%, six-person families to 6.1 from 5.8% and families of seven or more persons to 8.3 from 8%.

The number of unmarried children under 25 years of age living at home increased by 460,628 or 8% to 5,995,000 in the two years, but the average number per family was unchanged at 1.7. However, 1,139,000 or 33% of all families in 1953 and 1,059,430 or 32% in 1951 had no children living at home. The number of families with children living at home increased by 114,985 or 5% to 2,338,000 and these families averaged 2.6 children each last year as compared with 2.5 in 1951.

The number of families with children living at home increased everywhere but in the Maritimes between 1951 and 1953. The largest increase, both in number and per cent was in Ontario, where the total rose by 58,289 or 8% to 801,000. In British Columbia the number increased by 12,177 or 6.5% to 199,000, in Quebec by 26,571 or 4% to 641,000, in the Prairies by 18,056 or 4% to 440,000 and in Newfoundland by 1,369 or 2% to 59,000. In the Maritimes the number of families with children living at home declined by 1,477 or less than 1% to 198,000. The average number of children per family with children at home was up in Newfoundland to 3.4 from 3.1 at the last census, in the Maritimes to 2.9 from 2.7 and in Quebec to 3.1 from 3.0, but was unchanged in Ontario at 2.2, in the Prairies at 2.4 and in British Columbia 2.1.

A breakdown of the Bureau's estimate of families by number of children living at home shows that the largest numerical increase between 1951 and 1953 was in three-children families, which increased by 45,357 or 13% to 403,000. However, percentagewise the largest gain was in families with seven or more children, which increased by 13,882 or more than 15% to 104,000. Smallest rise was in the number of families with one child, which increased by only 2,064 to 773,000, although accounting for 33% of all families. Two-children families increased by 20,138 to 670,000, four-children families by 23,284 to 213,000, five-children families by 3,637 to 107,000, and six-children families by 6,893 to 68,000.



Of the children living at home last year, 4,357,000 or 73% were under 14 years of age as compared with 3,983,211 or 72% in 1951, an increase of 373,789 or 9% in the two years. Of the 1,638,000 of 14-24 years of age, 783,000 were in the labour force, 43,977 or 6% more than in 1951, while 696,000 were at school, an increase of 80,343 or 13%. The number of children of 14-24 years of age living at home but neither working nor attending school decreased by 37,481 or 19% to 159,000.

Between 1951 and 1953 there were increases in all areas in the number of children under 14 living at home. Percentagewise the largest increase was in Newfoundland where the total rose by 22,166 or 17% to 156,000. Ontario followed with an increase of 147,544 or 13% to 1,305,000, British Columbia with a gain of 30,105 or 10% to 318,000, the Prairies with a rise of 52,757 or 7% to 774,000, the Maritimes with an increase of 27,160 or 7% to 427,000, and Quebec with a gain of 94,057 or 7% to 1,377,000. (33)

## ANNUAL INDUSTRY REPORTS

### Slight Gain In Output Value Of Mineral Industry In 1952

Net value of products shipped by Canada's mineral industry in 1952 was \$1,112,454,319, an increase of \$16,365,576 or somewhat less than 2% over the preceding year. Gains in fuels, non-metal mining and structural materials outweighed a drop in metal mining.

Net value of products shipped by metal mining industries fell to \$643,848,728 from \$669,801,701 in 1951, with decreases for the alluvial gold, copper-gold-silver, silver-cobalt and silver-lead-zinc industries more than offsetting increases for auriferous quartz, nickel-copper, miscellaneous metal and smelting and refining industries. In fuels, increased shipments of petroleum outweighed decreases for coal and natural gas, the total advancing to \$232,767,209 from \$212,162,943. The non-metal mining total rose to \$98,919,971 from \$91,493,071 with declines for feldspar, quartz and nepheline syenite, iron oxides, mica, salt, and talc and soapstone more than offset by increases for asbestos, gypsum, peat and the miscellaneous group. In structural materials, a decrease for lime was outweighed by increases for clay products, cement, sand and gravel, and stone, the total advancing to \$136,918,411 from \$121,631,028.

Net value of products shipped by the mineral industry declined in 1952 in Newfoundland (to \$20,900,527 from \$25,331,153), Ontario (to \$360,214,198 from \$365,526,388), Manitoba (to \$16,986,904 from \$23,181,449), Saskatchewan (to \$40,505,709 from \$42,577,100) and British Columbia (to \$121,282,853 from \$140,575,198). More than offsetting these were increases in Nova Scotia (to \$51,711,623 from \$49,170,075), New Brunswick (to \$9,165,221 from \$8,086,267), Quebec (to \$299,378,307 from \$270,477,503), Alberta (to \$177,256,475 from \$156,633,663), the Northwest Territories (to \$6,736,867 from \$6,466,033) and the Yukon (to \$8,315,635 from \$7,063,914).

Canada's mineral industry employed 134,116 persons in 1952 as compared with 128,871 in 1951, and the payroll amounted to \$452,976,151 against \$397,161,533. Cost of process supplies, fuel, electricity, freight and smelter charges dropped to \$810,451,048 from \$815,032,901, but the number of mines, wells, quarries and pits in operation rose to 19,958 from 18,157. (34)

### More Talc and Soapstone Shipped but Value Lower

Canadian producers shipped 25,032 tons of talc and soapstone in 1952, 186 more than in 1951, but the value was \$3,012 lower at \$280,612. Quebec shipments, mostly soapstone, were up to 12,578 tons worth \$130,901 from 11,148 worth \$123,084, but shipments from Ontario and British Columbia, mostly talc, were off to 12,454 tons valued at \$149,711 from 13,698 valued at \$160,540.

There were only three concerns in the industry in 1952, one less than in 1951 and two less than in 1950. Gross factory value of all products declined to \$103,118 in 1952 from \$305,338 in 1951. (35)



### Oil Pipe Line Mileage Rose 75% In Two Years

Canada had 2,500 miles of oil pipe lines at the end of 1952, 923 miles or 58% more than a year earlier and 1,077 miles or 75% more than at the close of 1950, according to the Bureau's first annual report on the country's fastest growing transportation industry. Trunk lines increased in length over the two years from 1,158 to 2,120 miles and gathering systems from 265 to 380 miles. Pipe-line capacity at the end of 1952 was 2,205,809 barrels of oil as against 1,609,264 one year and 1,582,459 two years earlier.

During 1952 a total of 108,818,688 barrels moved through the pipe lines as compared with 88,685,980 in 1951 and only 52,461,421 in 1950. Operating revenue of the oil-pipe-line companies climbed to \$20,064,187 in 1952 from \$15,875,711 in 1951 and \$4,005,616 in 1950, while net operating income advanced to \$9,780,720 from \$9,745,211 and \$1,043,035. Net income after taxes was \$3,403,949 versus \$3,980,711 in 1951 and \$687,130 in 1950. Employees numbered 697 versus 536 in 1951 and 429 in 1950, and average earnings were up to \$4,208 from \$3,851 and \$3,461. (36)

### Crude Petroleum And Natural Gas Industry

Postwar growth of Canada's crude petroleum and natural gas industry is shown in a variety of statistics presented in the Bureau's annual industry report for 1952. Production of crude petroleum over the seven years from 1946 to 1952 increased over eight times from 7,585,555 barrels (lowest in the ten years 1943 to 1952) to 61,237,322 while the value rose between nine and ten times from \$14,989,052 to \$143,038,212. Over the five years from 1948, which saw the first sharp rise in the recent great expansion, the output rose about five times from 12,286,660 barrels and the value somewhat less than four times from \$37,418,895.

From 1943 to 1952 the number of operating wells increased from 2,197 to 5,833 with successive annual increases in each year except 1947. Number of employees, however, declined from 2,399 in 1943 to 1,296 in 1947, then increased to 3,702 in 1952. In the latter year there were 271 producing firms, and these paid out \$14,610,821 in wages and salaries compared to \$3,055,108 paid by the producing firms in 1947, and spent \$1,911,794 against \$759,635 for fuel and electricity, and \$2,502,154 against \$116,957 for process supplies.

Natural gas production rose uninterruptedly from 47,900,484 M cubic feet in 1946 to 88,686,465 M cubic feet in 1952. On the other hand, the value of the output was down from \$12,165,050 in 1946 (after increases in 1947 and 1948) to \$9,517,638. There were 4,119 productive gas wells at the end of 1952, of which 3,858 were in Ontario, 217 in Alberta, 39 in New Brunswick and five in Saskatchewan. (37)

### Rubber Products Industry

With decreases in production of tires, tubes and footwear considerably outweighing a gain in the aggregate output value of other products, the gross value of production of Canada's rubber products industry declined in 1952 to \$286,654,620 from the record high value of \$311,678,489 the previous year. The 1952 gross value, however, was still substantially above the previous highest year's value of \$239,184,510 for 1950.

Output of tires of all kinds in 1952 was down to 5,582,275 from 6,050,065 in 1951 and the value to \$143,019,868 from \$162,297,454, while inner tube production declined to 4,425,318 from 4,700,184 and the value to \$11,610,238 from \$14,050,182. Rubber footwear production fell to 14,040,272 from 15,835,778 pairs and their value to \$39,108,674 from \$43,526,934. In contrast, the aggregate value of other products — ranging from rubber belting and hose through rubberized clothing, rubber heels and soles, bathing and shower caps, druggists' and medical supplies, foamed latex, and moulded plastics — rose to \$92,915,849 from \$91,803,919 continuing an uninterrupted advance since 1947.

The rubber products industry, which comprised 70 establishments in 1952, is practically confined to Ontario and Quebec. In 1952 the plants in Ontario, numbering 39, produced over 81% of the entire output and employed over 71% of the 21,582 persons employed in the industry. Quebec had 26 plants in operation and these accounted for over 13% of the production and 28% of the total employment. (38)



## RELEASED THIS WEEK

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

- 1- National Accounts, Income & Expenditure, Fourth Quarter, 1953, 25¢
- 2- M: Grain Statistics, Weekly, 10¢
- 3- M: Oils & Fats, 10¢
- 4- M: Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, March, 25¢
- 5- M: Honey Production 1953, Final Estimates, 10¢
- 6- M: Report on the Poultry Survey of Dec. 1, 1953, 10¢
- 7- M: Wool Production & Supply, 1953, 10¢
- 8- M: Urban Food Expenditures, July - Dec. 1953, 10¢
- 9- M: Iron Ore, Jan. 10¢
- 10- M: Preliminary Report on Coal Production, Feb. 10¢
- 11- M: Asbestos, Jan., 10¢
- 12- M: Crude Petroleum, Natural Gas & Manufactured Gas, Dec., 15¢
- 13- M: Salt, Dec., 10¢
- 14- Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, Dec. 10¢
- 15- Travel Between Canada & the United States, Jan. 20¢
- 16- Railway Carloadings, Weekly, 10¢
- 17- Cheques Cashed in Clearing Centres, 1953, 25¢
- 18- Commercial Failures Under the Provisions of the Bankruptcy & Winding Up Acts, Fourth Quarter & Year, 1953, 10¢
- 19- M: Sales of Paints, Varnishes & Lacquers, Jan. 10¢
- 20- Refined Petroleum Products, Dec. 25¢
- 21- M: Cement & Cement Products, Jan. 10¢
- 22- M: Rigid Insulating Board Industry, Feb. 10¢
- 23- M: Asphalt Floor Tiles, Feb. 10¢
- 24- Consumption, Production & Inventories of Rubber, Jan. 10¢
- 25- M: Statistics of Hides, Skins & Leather, Jan. 10¢
- 26- M: Stoves & Furnaces, Dec. 10¢
- 27- M: Steel Wire & Specified Wire Products, Dec. 10¢
- 28- M: Products Made from Canadian Clays, Dec. 10¢
- 29- Operating Results & Financial Structure Of Independent Tobacco Stores, 1952, 25¢
- 30- Price Index Numbers of Commodities & Services Used by Farmers, July, 10¢
- 31- Employment & Payrolls, Jan. 25¢
- 32- New Residential Construction, Jan. 25¢
- 33- Estimates of Households & Families, 1953, 10¢
- 34- M: Principal Statistics of the Mineral Industry, 1952, 10¢
- 35- Talc & Soapstone Industry, 1952, 25¢
- 36- Pipe Line (Oil) Statistics, 1950-1952, 25¢
- 37- Crude Petroleum & Natural Gas Industry, 1952, 25¢
- 38- The Rubber Products Industry, 1952, 25¢

M- Memorandum

Gold: 4,068,516 fine ounces were mined last year, 403,209 or 9% less than in 1952.

Paint & Varnish: \$109,644,000 worth was sold by producers last year, \$6,418,000 worth or 6% more than in 1952.

Crude Oil: Canada was the world's 13th largest producer in 1950 and by 1952 ranked ninth, production more than doubling in the two years.

Travel: A record 13,786,500 cars and trucks crossed the border into Canada from the United States last year, 1,167,000 or 9% more than the 1952 peak.

Fleece Wool: Average farm price was 38.5¢ a lb. last year, up from 37.6¢ in 1952 but well under the 1951 average of 74¢ per lb.

Independent tobacco stores had average net sales of \$46,082 in 1952, an increase of \$8,765 or 23.5% since 1950.

Fencing: Output of woven wire farm fencing slumped by 3,845 tons or 31% to 12,475 last year, but production of woven wire lawn fencing rose by 298 tons or 25% to 1,493.

Poultry: Farm birds numbered 42,858,000 at December 1 last year, 2,032,500 or 5% more than a year earlier. There were 7% more hens, cocks and chickens but 15% fewer turkeys, 2% less geese, 14% fewer ducks.

Families with unmarried children under 25 living at home numbered 2,338,000 at June 1 last year, 114,985 or 5% more than at the time of the 1951 Census. The children numbered 5,995,000, up 460,628 or 8% in the two years, the average number per family increasing to 2.6 from 2.5.

Clothesline Wire: 1,032 tons were made last year, 198 or 24% more than in 1952.

Coke: 4,430,942 tons were available for consumption last year, 165,663 tons or about 4% more than in 1952.

Oil pipe lines measured 2,500 miles at the end of 1952, some 923 miles or 58.5% longer than a year earlier and 1,077 miles or 75% longer than at the close of 1950.

Inventories of manufacturers were valued at an estimated \$3,607,300,000 at the close of last year, a 4% rise from \$3,479,000,000 at the end of 1952.

Honey: Last year's crop of 26,400,000 lb. was 4,800,000 or 15% smaller than in 1952 and the smallest since 1946. Value was down \$600,000 or 13% to \$4,100,000.

Tires: 5,582,275 of all kinds were made in 1952, some 467,790 or 8% fewer than in the preceding year. Average factory selling price fell to \$25.62 from \$26.82.

Leather Footwear: 39,272,786 pairs were made last year, 1,822,695 or 5% more than in 1952 and second only to the peak 1946 output of 42,926,088 pairs.

Highways measured 512,795 miles at the end of 1952, a net gain of 917 miles during the year. Surfaced roads increased by 8,074 miles to 181,306, while non-surfaced roads decreased by 7,157 miles to 331,489.

Milk: Average daily yield per cow at the start of the year ranged from 16.7 lb. in New Brunswick to 25.1 in Ontario. Alberta cows had the second-highest average yield (25 lb.), then British Columbia's (23.1), Manitoba's (21.8), Saskatchewan's (21.2), Nova Scotia's (19.8), Prince Edward Island's (18.3) and Quebec's (17.8 lb.).



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