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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX declined fractionally from 115.7 to 115.5 between February 1 and March 1, lower food and clothing prices outweighing small advances in the cost of shelter, household operation and other commodities and services. (Page 10)

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CHEQUES CASHED in 52 clearing centres across Canada during February had a total value of \$11,282,000,000, over 14% higher than last year's corresponding total of \$9,889,000,000. All five economic areas shared in the advance, with Quebec's debits up 20%, Ontario's 15%, British Columbia's 10%, the Atlantic provinces' 9% and the Prairie provinces' 5%. (Page 12)

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFIT CLAIMANTS on the live unemployment insurance register on February 26 numbered 512,567, an increase of 17,736 or 4% over a month earlier and 149,402 or 41% over the same date last year. (Page 9)

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EXPORTS OF COARSE GRAINS totalled a record 113,100,000 bushels in the first half of the current crop year, 8% more than the 104,400,000 bushels exported in the August-January period of 1952-53. Movement of oats was up 29.5% and flaxseed 16%, while nearly four times as much rye was shipped. Only decline was for barley, exports of which were down 15%. (Page 7)

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WHEAT FLOUR PRODUCTION was nearly 5% below last year's level in February and the cumulative August-February output was off 13%. Exports showed a slight rise in the latest month, but the August-February total was one-fifth smaller than a year earlier. (Page 8)

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RAILWAY CARLOADINGS were almost 8% under the 1953 level in the week ending March 21, bringing cumulative 1954 loadings to 737,531 cars, a 10% reduction from last year's 818,267. (Page 5)

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DEPARTMENT STORE SALES declined 3.9% during the week ending March 27 as compared with the same week last year, decreases being common to all areas except British Columbia where sales were up sharply. (Page 3)

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UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE ENROLMENT in the current academic year is estimated at 64,200 students, an increase over 1952-53 and a reversal of the downward trend in evidence since the peak year of 1947-48. Enrolment was higher in 1953-54 than last year in all regions, and higher than in 1951-52 in all except Ontario. (Page 11)

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MERCHANDISING & SERVICES

Smaller Proportion Of New Car,
Truck Sales Financed Last Year

Of the 462,526 new motor vehicles sold in Canada last year, 189,052 or 41% were financed the Bureau reported this week. Both the number sold and the number financed were at all-time peaks, but the proportion of the sales financed was down from the preceding year when 172,587 or 43% of the 400,777 new cars and trucks sold were financed. However, except for 1952 the proportion was the highest since 1932 when 46% of the sales were financed. The low year was 1945 when the proportion was only 15%.

The amount of financing reached \$342,247,000 last year or 29.4% of the total retail sales value of \$1,162,471,000. In 1952 the amount of financing was \$292,454,000 or 29.2% of the retail sales value of \$1,002,616,000. Average retail value of the new vehicles sold last year was \$2,513, up from \$2,504 in 1952, while the average amount of financing was \$1,810, up from \$1,695.

Of the 359,172 new passenger cars sold last year, 146,431 or 41% were financed as against 124,879 or 43% of the 292,095 sold in 1952. The amount of financing was \$252,-160,000 or 28% of the retail value of \$899,726,000 as compared with \$194,422,000 or 27% of the retail value of \$725,168,000. Of the 103,354 new commercial vehicles sold during the year, 42,621 or 41% were financed versus 47,708 or 44% of the 108,862 sold in the preceding year. The amount of financing was \$90,087,000 or 34% of the retail value of \$262,745,000 as compared with \$98,032,000 or 35% of the retail value of \$277,448,000 in 1952. Average purchase price of new cars rose to \$2,505 from \$2,483, and the average amount of financing to \$1,722 from \$1,557. Average purchase price of new commercial vehicles declined to \$2,-542 from \$2,562, but the average amount of financing was higher at \$2,114 versus \$2,055.

The proportion of new motor vehicle sales financed showed a slight decline last year in all provinces except Alberta, where a slight increase was recorded. The latter province was the only one in which over half (52%) of the vehicles sold were financed. Elsewhere the proportion ranged from 34% in Saskatchewan to 47% in Quebec. In the Atlantic provinces 45% of the sales were financed, in British Columbia 40%, in Manitoba 38%, and in Ontario 37%. Monthly proportions last year ranged from 32% in February to 52% in August, the only month in which financed sales outnumbered cash sales. In the Atlantic provinces financed sales outnumbered cash sales from July through October, in Quebec in July and August and the last three months of the year, in Manitoba in August, October and November, in Alberta from June through November (with the peak proportion of 72% in August), and in British Columbia in August. Cash sales outnumbered financed sales in all months in 1953 in both Ontario and Saskatchewan, the proportion financed being highest in the former in August (44%) and in the latter in November (48%).

New motor cars and trucks constituted 42% of the 640,512 motor vehicles financed last year as compared with only 38.5% of the 620,354 sales financed in 1952. This was the highest proportion since the 1946 peak of 43%. The number of used vehicles financed increased to 451,460 from 447,767 in 1952, the amount of financing advancing to \$383,298,000 from \$347,234,757 and the average amount per vehicle to \$849 from \$775. The number of used cars financed rose to 382,106 from 375,325 and the amount of financing to \$320,321,000 from \$283,069,000, the average amount per vehicle increasing to \$838 from \$753. The number of used commercial vehicles financed declined to 69,354 from 71,942 and the amount of financing to \$62,977,000 from \$64,166,000, but the average amount per vehicle rose to \$908 from \$892.

The average amount of financing per vehicle increased last year for new and used cars and new commercial vehicles in all regions, while the average for used commercial vehicles rose everywhere except in Quebec, where a decline was noted. For new cars the average ranged from \$1,648 in Manitoba to \$1,858 in Quebec; for new commercial vehicles from \$1,790 in the Atlantic provinces to \$2,348 in Alberta; for used cars from \$757 in the Atlantic provinces to \$936 in British Columbia; and for used commercial vehicles to \$739 in the Atlantic provinces to \$1,042 in British Columbia. (1)

Department Store Sales Declined 3.9% In Week Department store sales declined 3.9% during the week ending March 27 as compared with the same week last year, decreased being common to all areas except British Columbia where there was a sharp rise of 31.2%. Decrease in the Maritimes was 5.2%, Quebec 14.2%, Ontario 10.3%, Manitoba 4.2%, Saskatchewan 16.2%, and Alberta 10.7%.

1952 Operating Results Of Five Kinds Of Independent Retailers Operating results and financial structure of five kinds of independent retailers in 1952, as determined by the Bureau's biennial sample survey, were published in five bulletins released this week.

Jewellery Stores From 1950 to 1952 average net sales of unincorporated jewellery stores increased to \$35,828 from \$33,707, while those of incorporated stores decreased to \$109,033 from \$111,999. Gross profit ratio or mark-up advanced to 39.31 from 38.78% of average net sales in unincorporated stores, and to 41.78 from 41.67% in incorporated stores. Operating expenses took 25.43% of average net sales of unincorporated stores in 1952 as against 24.76% in 1950, with smaller allotments for employees' salaries and advertising and larger outlays for occupancy, store supplies and other expenses. In incorporated stores operating expenses required 28.49% of average net sales as against 35.88% two years earlier, with higher expenditures for all expense items. As a result, net operating profit of unincorporated stores advanced to 14.17 from 14.02% of average net sales, while that of incorporated stores dropped to 3.29 from 5.79%. (2)

Drug Stores Average net sales of unincorporated drug stores increased to \$51,602 in 1952 from \$45,117 in 1950, while those of incorporated stores rose to \$93,162 from \$78,306. Gross profit ratio advanced to 29.08 from 28.94% of average net sales in unincorporated and to 34.11 from 33.40% in incorporated stores. Operating expenses rose to 17.06% of average net sales from 17.04% in unincorporated stores, with reduced expenditure for occupancy and advertising slightly outweighed by increases in employees' salaries, store supplies and other expenses. In incorporated stores operating expenses declined to 28.73 from 28.95% of average net sales, with decreases in costs of occupancy, store supplies and advertising more than offsetting greater outlay for other expenses. Net operating profit advanced to 12.02 from 11.90% of average net sales of unincorporated stores, and to 5.38 from 4.43% of those of incorporated stores. (3)

General Stores Average net sales of general stores increased to \$64,587 in 1952 from \$55,320 in 1950, and gross profit ratio rose slightly to 14.57 from 14.54%. Operating expenses required 8.92% of average net sales as against 9.03% two years earlier, smaller outlays from employees' salaries, occupancy, store supplies and advertising outweighing higher disbursements for other expenses. As a result, net operating profit increased to 5.65 from 5.31% of average net sales. (4)

Restaurants Between 1950 and 1952 average net sales of restaurants advanced to \$64,726 from \$57,963, and gross profit ratio rose to 38.90 from 38.71%. Operating expenses were lowered to 31.29 from 32.23% of average net sales, increases in the costs of advertising and store supplies being more than offset by decreases in employees' salaries, occupancy costs and other expenses. Net operating profit climbed to 7.61 from 6.53% of average net sales. (5)

Fuel Dealers Both incorporated and unincorporated fuel dealers had lower average net sales in 1952 than in 1950, the incorporated dealer average dipping to \$247,389 from \$257,278 and the unincorporated dealer average to \$94,719 from \$96,374. Gross profit ratio of incorporated dealers rose to 22.04 from 20.22% of average net sales, while for unincorporated dealers it dropped slightly to 20.62 from 20.40%. Operating expenses of incorporated dealers advanced to 20.43 from 17.39% of average net sales, with increases in all expense items, and of unincorporated dealers to 15.76 from 15.49%, higher delivery and advertising expenses outweighing decreases in employees' salaries, occupancy and other expenses. Net operating profit of incorporated dealers declined to 1.61 from 2.33% of average net sales, and that of unincorporated dealers to 4.64 from 5.13%. (6)

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Reduced Purchases From United States
Brought January Import Drop Of 14.6%

Mainly as a result of reduced purchases from the United States, Canada's commodity imports in January declined 14.6% in value to \$280,200,000 from \$327,800,000 a year earlier, according to final figures. The decline was mainly centred in the fibres and textiles, iron and products, and miscellaneous commodities groups. Exports, as reported earlier, amounted to \$265,400,000, resulting in an import surplus of \$14,800,000 as compared with \$6,600,000 in 1953.

Average prices of imports were slightly higher in January than in the same month of 1953, the drop in total value being due to reduced volume. Besides the declines in the fibres, iron, and miscellaneous commodities groups, there were more moderate decreases in non-ferrous metals, non-metallic minerals, and chemicals. Only two groups -- agricultural and vegetable products, and wood and paper products -- were higher in value.

Additional to the drop in imports from the United States, there were small declines in purchases from the United Kingdom, other Commonwealth countries, and foreign countries other than Latin America and Europe, those from the two latter showing increases.

Commodity imports from the United States were down to \$202,806,000 from \$249,199,000, the drop being roughly equal to the decline in grand total imports. Only the wood and paper products group rose in value, the largest decreases being in fibres and textiles, iron and products, non-metallic minerals, and miscellaneous commodities sections.

Imports from the United Kingdom were moderately lower at \$28,302,000 compared with \$30,557,000. Decreases in fibres and textiles, non-ferrous metals, agricultural products, animal products, more than offset advances in iron products, non-metallic minerals, and chemicals.

Imports from Commonwealth countries other than the United Kingdom declined to \$8,996,000 from \$9,356,000, with largest decreases in purchases from Malaya and Singapore, and the largest increases from British East Africa, and Australia.

Purchases from Latin American countries rose in overall value to \$23,471,000 from \$21,208,000, with gains from Brazil, Colombia, and Venezuela, and decreased imports from Mexico. With larger purchases from the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands, reduced imports from Belgium and Luxembourg, and practically no change in the totals for France and Switzerland, imports from European countries were slightly higher at \$10,406,000 compared with \$10,378,000.

Total value of imports from the remaining group of foreign countries fell to \$5,537,000 from \$6,330,000 a year earlier. Egypt's value was lower as were those for Japan and Lebanon, but there was a larger value for the Netherlands Antilles.

There were declines in value of the majority of the larger individual commodities in January as compared with a year earlier, exceptions being coffee and chicory which rose to \$6,213,000 from \$4,587,000, books and printed matter to \$5,114,000 from \$4,990,000, rolling-mill products to \$10,178,000 from \$9,583,000, and crude petroleum to \$19,587,000 from \$18,987,000.

Among the decreases were: fruits to \$5,391,000 from \$5,659,000, raw cotton to \$2,671,000 from \$7,171,000, cotton products to \$6,250,000 from \$9,216,000, raw wool to \$1,887,000 from \$4,003,000, wool products to \$5,367,000 from \$6,145,000, engines and boilers to \$9,021,000 from \$10,281,000, farm implements and machinery to \$7,731,000 from \$16,132,000, non-farm machinery to \$25,803,000 from \$30,728,000, automobiles to \$4,144,000 from \$5,465,000, automobile parts to \$17,619,000 from \$18,468,000, coal to \$6,833,000 from \$7,584,000, petroleum products to \$7,333,000 from \$8,901,000, and aircraft and parts to \$6,900,000 from \$8,371,000. (7 & 8)

T R A N S P O R T

Railway Carloadings
Down 7.8% in week

Loadings of revenue freight on Canadian railways in the week ending March 21, totalled 66,192 cars, down 7.8% from last year's 71,756. This brought cumulative loadings for the year to 737,531 cars, a decrease of 10% from last year's 818,267. Receipts from connections during the week declined to 29,004 cars from 33,669, and the January 1 - March 21 aggregate to 323,111 from 358,580.

During the week eastern region loadings fell to 45,112 cars from 48,474, and receipts from connections were down to 26,152 from 30,782. Reduced loadings of grain and L.C.L. shipments accounted for most of the regional decline. Western division loadings totalled 21,080 cars, down 2,202, and receipts from connections showed a minor decline to 2,852 cars. Loadings of grain, logs, and L.C.L. merchandise were considerably lower. (9)

Railway Freight Down
3.6% In Tonnage In 1953

Canadian railways transported 156,107,000 tons of revenue freight in the year 1953, 3.6% less than in the preceding year, according to preliminary figures. In December, 11,531,000 tons were moved as compared with 12,980,000 a year earlier. (10)

Bigger Operating Deficit
For Airlines In November

Canadian airlines took a bigger operating loss in November last year than in 1952, although operating revenues reached an all-time November high. A 20% jump in operating expenses to \$8,-335,791 from \$6,965,963 more than offset a 17% gain in operating revenues to \$7,192,659 from \$6,139,456 to boost the operating deficit more than 38% to \$1,143,132 from \$826,507.

Both scheduled and non-scheduled lines reported larger losses on November operations last year. For scheduled carriers the deficit advanced to \$747,152 from \$583,463, and for non-scheduled operators to \$395,980 from \$243,044. All revenue and expense accounts except general taxes showed increases over a year earlier.

During the month airline planes logged a total of 4,153,936 miles in 24,710 hours, an increase of 365,177 miles and 963 hours over November 1952. They carried 156,246 passengers, 13,167,293 tons of freight and 1,429,470 pounds of mail, an increase of 22,869 passengers, 2,092,580 tons of cargo and 232,406 pounds of mail. (11)

A C C I D E N T S

Motor Vehicle Accidents Took 1,321
Lives In First Nine Months Of 1953

Motor vehicle accidents in Canada (excluding Quebec) took 1,321 lives in the first nine months of 1953, an 8% increase over the preceding year's 1,225. The number injured rose to 34,069 from 31,126. Accidents reported numbered 102,762, up 16% from 88,475.

Fatalities in Ontario increased to 736 from 681, in Alberta to 124 from 86, in Saskatchewan to 78 from 59, and in the Territories to 6 from 3. In British Columbia fatalities declined to 136 from 139, in Nova Scotia to 78 from 86, in New Brunswick to 66 from 86, in Manitoba to 66 from 69, and in Prince Edward Island to 10 from 14. There were 21 fatalities in Newfoundland in the first nine months of 1953, but the 1952 figure of two deaths covered only the City of St. John's.

Provincial totals of injured: Newfoundland 414 (134 in City of St. John's only in 1952); Prince Edward Island, 159 (130); Nova Scotia, 1,842 (1,601); New Brunswick, 1,072 (854); Ontario, 17,668 (16,799); Manitoba, 2,153 (2,052); Saskatchewan, 2,274 (2,182); Alberta, 2,938 (2,514); British Columbia, 5,474 (4,791); and the Territories, 75 (69).

Accident totals by provinces: Newfoundland, 1,840 (323 in St. John's only); Prince Edward Island, 608 (767); Nova Scotia, 6,304 (5,823); New Brunswick, 3,416 (3,070); Ontario, 46,636 (41,021); Manitoba, 8,854 (6,913); Saskatchewan, 7,157 (5,866); Alberta, 12,153 (10,380); British Columbia, 15,553 (14,153); and the Territories, 241 (159). (12)

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Gross Value Of Principal
Field Crops Lower In 1953

Preliminary estimates indicate that the gross value of principal field crops produced on Canadian farms in 1953 is likely to fall below the 1952 record. These estimates, based on average prices received by farmers during the August-January period, put the total at \$1,655,000,000 as against 1952's comparable preliminary figure of \$1,937,000,000.

Revised data on production and average prices received by farmers indicate that the gross value of field crops in 1952 reached a record \$2,306,000,000, some \$369,000,000 above the 1952 preliminary estimate and exceeding by almost 9% the previous record of \$2,124,000,000 set in 1951.

Direct comparison of the 1953 preliminary total of \$1,655,000,000 with the 1952 revised total of \$2,306,000,000 is misleading, since only initial payments for western wheat, oats and barley have been taken into consideration in arriving at the 1953 preliminary total, whereas interim and final payments are also included in the 1952 revised total.

The indicated drop in value of 1953 field crops is largely the result of two factors: production totals for wheat, oats and barley were below the record or near-record levels of 1952, and farm prices for most crops in the current crop year are lower than in 1952-53.

Crops contributing the largest amounts to the record 1952 total were: wheat, \$1,091,000,000; oats, \$309,000,000; barley, \$308,000,000; tame hay, \$272,000,000; and potatoes, \$101,000,000. On a provincial basis, the value of Saskatchewan's field crop production in 1952 was estimated at \$926,000,000, representing 40% of the all-Canada total. The gross values for the other provinces were: Alberta, \$527,000,000; Ontario, \$337,000,000; Manitoba, \$247,000,000; Quebec, \$155,000,000; British Columbia, \$34,000,000; New Brunswick, \$30,000,000; Prince Edward Island, \$26,000,000; and Nova Scotia, \$23,000,000.

Preliminary figures place the value of the 1953 wheat crop at \$727,000,000; oats, \$235,000,000; barley, \$200,000,000; mixed grains, \$52,400,000; potatoes, \$52,000,000; tame hay, \$262,000,000; shelled corn, \$28,200,000; rye, \$24,800,000; and flaxseed, \$24,200,000. Provincial totals for 1953: Saskatchewan, \$596,000,000; Alberta, \$376,000,000; Ontario, \$305,000,000; Manitoba, \$161,000,000; Quebec, \$142,000,000; British Columbia, \$30,000,000; New Brunswick, \$22,000,000; Nova Scotia, \$17,000,000; and Prince Edward Island, \$16,000,000.

It is again emphasized that value estimates for 1953 reflect only initial payments on western Canadian wheat, oats and barley. The effect of additional payments on these crops as well as other adjustments through changes in price and/or production for all crops will be taken into account in later revisions when the extent of these becomes known. (13)

Average Farm Land
Values Up In 1953

Average value of occupied farm land in Canada in 1953 amounted to \$51.00 per acre, an increase of 6.2% over the 1952 average of \$48.00, and more than double the 1935-39 average of \$24.00, according to a special compilation by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Increases over 1952 were recorded in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia where no change occurred. Provincial averages follow, those for 1952 being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, \$61 (\$61); Nova Scotia, \$54 (\$54); New Brunswick, \$54 (\$51); Quebec, \$77 (\$76); Ontario, \$98 (\$92); Manitoba, \$49 (\$43); Saskatchewan, \$30 (\$29); Alberta, \$43 (\$37); and British Columbia, \$99 (\$93).

Packaging Of Dry Skim
Milk For Retail Sale

Packaging of skim milk powder in consumer-size packages for retail sale amounted to 5,936,000 pounds in 1953, according to a special survey conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Thirteen firms reported packaging the product in 1953 as compared with 12 in 1952 and eight in 1951. Quantity packaged was 4,841,000 pounds in 1952 and 2,656,000 in 1951.

Canned Meat Stocks Down
At The End Of February

Due mainly to a sharp drop in holdings of spiced pork and ham, stocks of canned meats held at manufacturers' and wholesalers' levels at the end of February dropped to 29,726,963 pounds from last year's corresponding total of 89,280,265, according to a special statement.

Holdings were as follows by kinds with last year's figures in brackets: Beef products: beef stews and boiled dinners, 3,901,574 (3,571,181) pounds; roast beef, 155,211 (106,111); corned beef, 697,765 (891,186); and other beef products, 2,041,609 (1,786,499). Pork products: spiced pork and ham, 17,860,817 (77,888,952) pounds; roast pork and ham, 1,444,187 (1,320,549); other pork products, 1,610,548 (1,595,729). Miscellaneous: canned fowl, 659,953 (561,944) pounds; meat paste, 802,336 (770,473); and other, 552,963 (787,641).

Stocks Of Butter And
Cheese In Nine Cities

Stocks of creamery butter in nine regional cities on April 1 amounted to 31,362,000 pounds as compared with 18,690,000 last year, and holdings of cheddar cheese totalled 11,804,000 pounds versus 11,124,000. Stocks of cold storage eggs amounted to 99,000 cases as against 67,000. Creamery butter stocks by cities, last year's figures in brackets (in thousands): Quebec, 3,067 (801) pounds; Montreal, 14,860 (7,918); Toronto, 6,125 (4,724); Winnipeg, 5,594 (3,057); Regina, 199 (623); Saskatoon, 98 (100); Edmonton, 324 (525); Calgary, 154 (158); and Vancouver, 941 (784). (14)

Sales Of Fluid Milk
And Cream In January

Combined sales of fluid milk and cream, the latter expressed as milk, amounted to an estimated 422,841,000 pounds in January, little changed from a year earlier. Sales in Prince Edward Island totalled 2,199,000 pounds; Nova Scotia, 13,198,000; New Brunswick, 12,379,000; Quebec, 164,885,000; Ontario, 143,926,000; Manitoba, 17,400,000; Saskatchewan, 19,515,000; Alberta, 21,195,000; and British Columbia, 28,144,000. (15)

August-January Exports Of
Coarse Grains At High Level

For the second successive year total exports of Canadian oats, barley, rye and flaxseed moved in record volume during the first half of the current crop year. The 113,100,000 bushels of the four grains exported during the August-January period of 1953-54 exceeded by some 8% the comparable 1952-53 total of 104,400,000 bushels.

Barley was the only one of the four moving in smaller volume than last year, when export shipments of this crop were moving in particularly heavy volume. Current crop year exports of these grains to the end of January, with last year's figures in brackets, were as follows: oats, 43,000,000 (33,200,000) bushels; barley, 55,300,000 (65,400,000); rye, 11,900,000 (3,200,000); and flaxseed, 2,900,000 (2,500,000).

The United States was the principal export market for Canadian oats during the half-year period, taking some 40,500,000 bushels out of a total of 43,000,000. The United Kingdom and Belgium accounted for most of the remainder with respective totals of 1,500,000 and 900,000 bushels. Switzerland, the Netherlands, Panama, Hawaii, Cuba and Costa Rica received relatively small shipments. Exports of barley totalled 55,300,000 bushels and, although somewhat below shipments of 65,400,000 in the same period of 1952-53, are still well in excess of the comparable 1951-52 total of 33,400,000 bushels. The United States took 36% of the total, or 20,200,000 bushels. Other major markets: Japan, 13,800,000 bushels; United Kingdom, 11,100,000; Federal Republic of Germany, 6,800,000; and Belgium, 1,800,000.

Exports of rye were relatively heavy and exceeded the previous record of 11,300,000 exported during the entire crop year 1927-28. Of the 11,900,000 bushels exported during the first half of the current crop year, the United States took 11,600,000, small shipments going to the Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium and Cuba. Exports of flaxseed amounted to 2,900,000 bushels, with Belgium taking 1,300,000. Shipments to the United Kingdom, Japan, France, Finland, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway and Israel accounted for the remainder. (16)

Wheat Flour Production Lower
In February: Exports Higher

Canadian production of wheat flour in February amounted to 1,718,000 barrels, 4.6% below last year's corresponding total of 1,800,000, and the cumulative output for the August-February period dropped 13% to 12,137,000 barrels from 13,948,000.

Wheat used for the processing of flour in February amounted to 7,567,000 bushels, against 7,964,000 a year earlier, bringing the August-February total to 53,612,000 bushels as compared with 62,529,000 in the same period of the preceding crop year.

Wheat flour exports in February amounted to 695,000 barrels slightly above last year's 660,000 barrels, but cumulative exports for the August-February period were down to 5,712,000 barrels from 7,164,000. (17)

Stocks And Marketing Of
Wheat And Coarse Grains

Visible supplies of Canadian wheat on March 24 totalled 359,188,000 bushels, slightly below the 362,778,000-bushel total of a week earlier, but 30% above last year's supplies of 276,019,000 bushels.

Prairie farmers marketed 2,308,000 bushels of wheat during the week, down from 5,393,000 a year earlier. Deliveries of oats declined to 1,037,000 bushels from 1,294,000, barley to 1,134,000 bushels from 1,603,000, rye to 73,000 bushels from 239,000, but flaxseed rose to 58,000 bushels from 43,000.

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week rose to 3,278,000 bushels from 1,755,000, but cumulative clearances from the start of the crop year to March 24 dropped to 130,774,000 bushels from 167,858,000. (18)

Landings Of Sea-Fish In
Newfoundland In February

Landings of sea-fish in Newfoundland in February amounted to 10,583,517 pounds valued at \$259,135 compared with 8,254,652 pounds worth \$197,205 in the same month of 1953, according to a special statement by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

M A N U F A C T U R I N G

More Domestic Washing Machines
Made But Fewer Shipped In 1953

Canadian production of domestic-type washing machines during 1953 increased slightly to 253,748 units from 247,975 in 1952, but the year's shipments from Canadian plants declined to 243,396 from 254,405 units. Factory stocks at the end of the year amounted to 28,605 units, up from 18,483 at the close of 1952, but slightly below the stocks of 29,933 units at the start of 1952.

Last year's production also exceeded the output of 1951, which amounted to 240,161 units, but was below the totals for the three years 1948 to 1950, comparing with the peak figure of 350,884 for 1949 and 322,963 for 1948 and 281,643 for 1950. Exports of domestic electric washing machines last year amounted to 5,705 units, down from 10,794 in the previous twelve months, while imports rose to 29,233 from 13,355 units.

During December, production of washing machines fell to 14,485 as compared to 24,382 a year earlier and shipments to 14,564 as against 21,358 units. Exports of electric models were up slightly in the month at 583 compared to 485 units, and imports at 2,099 against 2,062 units. (19)

Production And Shipments Of
Primary Steel Shapes In 1953

Production of primary iron and steel shapes in 1953 amounted to 4,738,000 tons, a decrease of 2.5% from the preceding year's 4,858,000 tons. Shipments for sale climbed to 3,236,000, but producers' interchange declined to 1,431,000 tons from 1,694,000. Imports of primary forms of iron and steel comprised 1,343,000 tons of carbon (1,594,000 in 1952); 47,300 tons of alloy (45,400); and 9,800 tons of stainless (7,500). The year's exports of primary iron and steel totalled 613,000 tons compared with 535,000 in 1952. (20)

Production And Shipments Of
Cast Iron Pipes & Fittings

Production of iron castings and cast iron pipes and fittings was moderately lower in January than in the corresponding month last year, but the tonnage shipped for use in Canada or for export was slightly higher. The month's output amounted to 63,200 tons compared with 66,100, and the shipments totalled 42,200 tons compared with 41,200.

During the month, 24,400 tons of pig iron were used in iron foundries in January, down from 30,700 a year earlier, and month-end stocks declined to 43,500 tons from 50,200. Usage of scrap iron and steel amounted to 54,400 tons, up from 45,200, and end-of-January stocks were moderately lower at 80,600 tons compared with 82,500. (21)

Storage Battery Sales Up
30.5% In Value In January

Sales of electric storage batteries and parts by principal Canadian producers in January were valued at \$2,104,000, up 30.5% from last year's corresponding total of \$1,611,000.

This year's January sales included 162,830 batteries at \$1,622,000 for the ignition of internal combustion engines for passenger cars and light trucks (127,167 at \$1,304,000 a year earlier). (22)

Production And Shipments
Of Hardboard In February

Production and both domestic and export shipments of hardboard were lower in February than in the corresponding month last year. The month's output amounted to 11,517,000 square feet as compared with 14,232,000, domestic shipments totalled 8,104,000 square feet compared with 10,771,000, and export shipments amounted to 1,739,000 square feet compared with 3,480,000. (23)

Shipments Of Asphalt
Roofing Materials

Shipments of asphalt shingles increased in February but there were declines in both smooth and mineral surfaced roll roofing. Asphalt roofing shipments amounted to 147,526 squares (145,360 a year earlier); smooth surfaced roofing in rolls, 69,088 squares (74,084); mineral surfaced roofing in rolls, 50,913 squares (53,955); roll type sidings, 15,729 squares (15,320); and tar and asphalt felts, 2,745 tons (2,728). (24)

Production And Shipments Of
Mineral Wool Up In February

Both production and domestic shipments of mineral wool (in batts) increased in February as compared with the corresponding month last year, the former rising to 10,161,000 square feet from 9,992,000, and the latter to 10,833,000 square feet from 9,746,000. Production of granulated or loose wool dropped to 547,000 cubic feet from 646,000, but shipments rose to 607,000 cubic feet from 575,000. (25)

EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS

Rise In Unemployment Insurance
Benefit Claimants In February

Ordinary and supplementary benefit claimants on the live unemployment insurance register on February 28 numbered 512,567, up from 494,831 a month earlier, and 365,165 at the same time last year. Initial and renewal claims for unemployment insurance benefit filed in local offices across Canada in February totalled 214,932, a decline of 77,691 from the 292,623 claims recorded in January, but an increase of 43,274 over last year's February total of 171,658. New beneficiaries in February totalled 168,262 compared with 197,702 in January and 121,507 a year earlier. Total benefit payments in February climbed to \$26,675,431 from \$23,947,213 in the preceding month and \$18,505,590 a year ago. Payments covered 8,391,990 days in February compared with 7,563,898 in January and 5,918,651 in February, 1953.

All provinces had increased numbers of ordinary and supplementary claimants on the live unemployment register at the end of February than at the same time last year. Totals follow, those for a year earlier being in brackets: Newfoundland, 19,225 (12,762); Prince Edward Island, 3,645 (2,812); Nova Scotia, 23,377 (18,569); New Brunswick, 26,394 (21,368); Quebec, 177,501 (130,039); Ontario, 139,657 (87,879); Manitoba, 25,000 (18,104); Saskatchewan, 14,422 (10,704); Alberta, 24,334 (14,933); and British Columbia, 58,992 (45,005). (26)

P R I C E S

Slight Decline In Consumer Price Index Between February And March

Canada's consumer price index declined fractionally from 115.7 to 115.5 between February and March. The latest index is at the same level as both the February, 1953 and the 1953 annual average indexes. The movement between February and March resulted from a decrease in food and a slight decline in clothing, which were partially offset by small advances in shelter, household operation and other commodities and services.

The food index moved from 111.7 to 110.7 as lower prices for all cuts of beef and most fresh vegetables outweighed increases in cured pork, apples, oranges, and a sharp advance in the price of coffee. The clothing component moved down 0.2 points to 109.8, reflecting small decreases in 4 of the 5 sub-group indexes. A change in the household operation index from 117.5 to 117.6 was largely due to higher prices for soaps, and laundry and dry-cleaning services. A change in other commodities and services from 116.5 to 116.6 followed fractional advances in the automobile operation component as well as street car and bus fares. The shelter index advanced 0.2 points to 125.6 due to an increase in rents. (27)

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities & Services
March 1, 1954 ...	115.5	110.7	125.6	109.8	117.6	116.6
February 1, 1953 ...	115.7	111.7	125.4	110.0	117.5	116.5
March 2, 1953 ...	114.8	111.6	122.5	109.7	116.1	115.2

Wholesale Prices Fell Slightly During March

Industrial material prices at wholesale moved slightly lower during March, the composite index for 30 price series receding from 233.6 to 222.5 between the weeks of February 26 and March 26. This compared with the March 1953 average of 237.0. Among commodity changes over the past month were declines for raw wool, African sisal, steel scrap, hogs, beef hides and western oats. Firmer quotations were noted for 11 items among which were tin, linseed oil, steers, zinc, lead, copper, raw cotton, and raw rubber.

Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets also declined fractionally, the composite index changing from 207.7 to 206.2. Both sub-groups were lower, the index for field products receding from 152.2 to 151.4 due to lower quotations for potatoes, most eastern grains and western rye and flax. Eastern corn and western hay were up slightly. In the animal products section an index decline from 263.2 to 261.0 reflected weakness in eggs, raw wool, calves and eastern hogs and milk for cheese manufacture. Higher quotations were noted for eastern steers and western hogs and lambs. (27)

Security Price Movements In March

The pattern of security price movements established in February was again evident in March when the investors' composite weekly index moved from 162.3 for the week of February 25 to 166.6 for March 11 but reacted to 163.8 by the 25th. Similar movements were recorded by the three major components. The index for 80 industrials rose to a peak of 166.4 for the week of March 18 but subsequently reacted to 163.7 by the 25th for a net gain of 0.6 over the week of February 25. The utilities series moved up to 156.2 by March 11 but receded to 152.3 by the 25th for an advance of 1.6 points, while the series for 8 banks touched 194.5 by the 11th but declined to 191.7 by the 25th for a net increase of 3.2 points.

Among group changes greatest net advances during March occurred for machinery and equipment, industrial mines and power and traction, while losses were noted for oils and beverages. Mining stock movements were similar to industrials and utilities and the composite index for 27 issues climbed from 82.9 for the week of February 25 to 85.6 by March 11 but reacted to 83.9 by the 25th. Over the month the index for 5 base metals advanced 3.2 points to 135.7, while golds recorded no net change at 111.3. (27)

Security Price Indexes

	<u>April 1, 1954</u>	<u>March 25, 1954</u> (1935-39=100)	<u>March 4, 1954</u>
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
Total Common Stocks	171.6	163.8	163.5
Industrials	172.2	163.7	163.9
Utilities	158.6	152.3	150.5
Banks	196.1	191.7	189.8
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
Total Mining Stocks	87.9	83.9	83.0
Golds	63.6	61.3	61.4
Base Metals	143.4	135.7	132.6

E D U C A T I O N

University And College Enrolment Higher For Current Academic Year Preliminary returns from Canadian institutions of higher education show 61,018 students in attendance for the current academic year, 1,216 or 2% more than in 1952-53 and a reversal of the downward trend in university and college enrolment in evidence since the peak year of 1947-48. The preliminary report covers an estimated 95% of full-time university grade enrolment, which means a total enrolment of about 64,200 for 1953-54.

Enrolment of men in the current academic year in the reporting institutions increased 2% to 47,412 from 46,390, while enrolment of women was up 1% to 13,606 from 13,412 in 1952-53. Both totals are also higher this year than in 1951-52 when 46,946 men and 13,435 women were enrolled. The number of veterans in receipt of allowances from the Department of Veterans' Affairs dropped by 995 or 63% to 580 in 1953-54.

University and college enrolment was higher this year than in 1952-53 in all regions, and higher than in 1951-52 in all except Ontario. In the Atlantic provinces enrolment was up to 6,435 from 5,977 in 1952-53 and 6,119 in 1951-52; in Quebec to 20,272 from 20,202 and 19,635; and in the four Western provinces to 15,394 from 14,783 and 14,878. In Ontario enrolment moved up to 18,917 in 1953-54 from 18,840 in 1952-53, but was below the 1951-52 total of 19,749.

The number of male students enrolled was higher this year in all regions, and only the Ontario total was below that of 1951-52. Male enrolment in the Atlantic provinces was 4,961 against 4,585 in 1952-53 and 4,728 in 1951-52; in Quebec, 16,547 against 16,521 and 16,192; in Ontario, 14,389 against 14,266 and 14,968; and in the Western provinces, 11,515 against 11,018 and 11,058. Female enrolment was higher than in the two previous years in all regions except Ontario, where the number declined to 4,528 from 4,574 in 1952-53 and 4,781 in 1951-52. In the Atlantic provinces there were 1,474 women this year versus 1,392 in 1952-53 and 1,391 in 1951-52; in Quebec, 3,725 versus 3,681 and 3,443; and in the Western provinces, 3,879 versus 3,765 and 3,820.

Enrolment in the current academic year was higher than in 1952-53 in the faculties of science (4,711 versus 4,037), architecture (495 versus 488), commerce (3,384 versus 3,150), dentistry (822 versus 821), education (2,501 versus 2,094), engineering and applied science (8,789 versus 7,823), journalism (80 versus 71), law (2,550 versus 2,157), library science (124 versus 115), medicine (4,568 versus 4,499), nursing (1,085 versus 907), physio and occupational therapy (389 versus 370), theology (1,288 versus 1,261), and veterinary science (405 versus 363). Percentagewise, the largest increase in enrolment (18%) was in law, followed by pure science (17%) and engineering (12%). Enrolment was lower in the faculties of arts (21,217 versus 22,355), agriculture (1,161 versus 1,207), forestry (448 versus 489), household science (1,165 versus 1,300), music (251 versus 290), pharmacy (1,256 versus 1,367), physical and health education (441 versus 496), and social service (521 versus 531). The number of post-graduate students was also lower at 3,057 versus 3,213. (28)

BUSINESS & BANKING

Bank Debits Up 14% In February

Value of cheques cashed in 52 Canadian clearing centres during February was \$11,282,000,000, over 14% higher than last year's corresponding total of \$9,889,000,000. All five economic areas shared in the advance, with Quebec's debits rising 20%, and Ontario's 15%. Payments in British Columbia increased 10%, Atlantic Provinces 9%, and the Prairie Provinces 5%.

Since January's debits had declined 7% to \$11,309,000,000 from \$12,123,000,000 a year earlier, the cumulative total for the January-February period rose only 3% to \$22,590,061,000 from \$22,011,612,000. Cheques cashed in the Atlantic Provinces rose 7%, while more moderate increases were recorded in Quebec (4.5%), and Ontario (2.9%). Payments in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia showed slight declines. February totals by economic areas, last year's figures in brackets: Atlantic Provinces, \$330,811,000 (\$302,623,000); Quebec, \$3,249,748,000 (\$2,714,424,000); Ontario, \$5,206,847,000 (\$4,535,587,000); Prairie Provinces, \$1,635,215,000 (\$1,555,848,000); and British Columbia, \$858,899,000 (\$780,346,000). (29)

ANNUAL INDUSTRY REPORTS

More Stoves But Fewer Furnaces Made In 1952

Canadian production in 1952 of stoves of all kinds was valued at \$44,154,996 versus \$43,300,615 in 1951, with more electric and gas but fewer coal and wood models produced. Power type oil burners numbered 85,215 worth \$9,337,512 versus 74,277 worth \$9,160,568. Unit heaters were valued at \$4,266,268 versus \$3,858,253, and heating and power boilers at \$18,942,207 versus \$18,588,035. Warm air furnaces numbered 83,665 worth \$13,682,324 as compared with 88,804 valued at \$14,295,130 in 1951, furnace blowers 28,594 worth \$761,465 as against 28,812 worth \$873,364, and home water tank heaters 246,474 worth \$4,742,573 versus 291,580 valued at \$5,117,430. Mechanical stokers numbered 1,650 versus 1,900, but the value was up to \$1,422,477 from \$1,366,999, and the value of parts to \$357,514 from \$339,417. Output of heating radiators was 13,253,513 square feet worth \$8,015,332 as against 16,992,827 sq. ft. worth \$9,591,916. Air registers and grills were valued at \$1,059,827 versus \$1,873,151. (30)

Chemical Output Value Dropped By 4% In 1952

Canadian production of chemicals was valued at \$230,050,000 in 1952, a 4% drop from \$238,925,000 in the preceding year. Factory selling value of calcium compounds increased to \$16,640,000 from \$14,462,000 in 1951, compressed and liquefied gases to \$28,896,000 from \$25,003,000, and fertilizer chemicals to \$47,993,000 from \$44,933,000. The value of acids declined to \$12,926,000 from \$15,550,000, sodium compounds to \$29,795,000 from \$32,356,000, organic chemicals to \$51,896,000 from \$55,759,000, synthetic resins to \$19,100,000 from \$23,097,000, and other chemicals to \$22,804,000 from \$27,765,000. (31)

Factory Sales of Steel Pipe And Tubing In 1952

Factory sales of iron and steel pipe and tubing rose 8% in value in 1952 to \$99,530,000 from \$92,200,000 in 1951. Sales of steel pipe and tubing increased to \$56,040,000 from \$47,925,000, cast iron soil pipe and fittings to \$9,724,000 from \$8,799,000, culvert pipe formed from steel sheets to \$9,492,000 from \$7,176,000, and rivetted or welded steel pipe to \$2,005,000 from \$1,820,000. Cast iron water pipe and fittings declined to \$9,244,000 from \$12,008,000, malleable iron pipe fittings to \$6,380,000 from \$6,845,000, and steel pipe fittings to \$2,697,000 from \$3,249,000. (32)

Paper Box & Bag Industry

Factory shipments of the paper box and bag industry in 1952 were valued at \$172,151,000, slightly under the preceding year's \$172,230,000. Cost of materials used increased 0.4% to \$102,605,000 and salaries and wages \$34,441,000, but employment decreased to 13,074 from 13,384. Paper boxes of all descriptions were shipped to the value of \$121,501,000 as compared with \$120,848,000, and shipments of paper bags totalled \$32,851,000 compared with \$34,609,000. (33)

MORE

More Of Most Types Of
Clothing Made In 1951

Except for corsets, fur goods and fur dressings and dyeing, all of Canada's clothing industries boosted production in 1951, total production value increasing more than 6% to \$780,012,025 from \$734,-214,334 in 1950, according to the Bureau's general review of the group. Quebec factories produced 57.9% of the total versus 56.9% in the preceding year, and Ontario factories 33.2 versus 33.7%. Clothing for men, women and children constituted 61.8% of the 1951 output as compared with 62.7% in 1950, while hosiery and other knitted groups made up 21.7 versus 19.9% and corsets, fur goods, gloves, hats and other miscellaneous clothing 16.4 versus 17.4%. (34)

RELEASED THIS WEEK

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

- 1- New Motor Vehicle Sales & Motor Vehicle Financing, 1953, 25¢
- 2- Operating Results & Financial Structure of Independent Jewellery Stores, 1952, 25¢
- 3- Operating Results & Financial Structure of Independent Drug Stores, 1952, 25¢
- 4- Operating Results & Financial Structure of Independent General Stores, 1952, 25¢
- 5- Operating Results & Financial Structure of Independent Restaurants, 1952, 25¢
- 6- Operating Results & Financial Structure of Independent Fuel Dealers, 1952, 25¢
- 7- Monthly Summary of Foreign Trade, Jan., 10¢
- Trade of Canada: Articles Imported from Each Country, 12 Months Ended Dec., 1953, 25¢
- Trade of Canada: Exports, Feb., detailed, 50¢
- 8- Imports for Consumption, Summary Bulletin, Jan., 20¢
- 9- M: Railway Carloadings, Weekly, 10¢
- 10- M: Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, Dec., 10¢
- 11- Civil Aviation, Nov., 15¢
- 12- M: Motor Vehicle Accidents, Quarterly Report for Period Ended Sept., 1953, 25¢
- 13- Revised Estimate of Value of 1952 Field Crops; Revised Estimate of Production
& Preliminary Estimate of Value of 1953 Field Crops, 10¢
- 14- M: Stocks of Dairy & Poultry Products in 9 Cities, Advance Statement, Apr., 1, 10¢
- 15- M: Fluid Milk Sales, Jan., 10¢
- 16- Coarse Grains Quarterly, Feb., 25¢
- 17- M: Grain Milling Statistics, Feb., 10¢
- 18- M: Grain Statistics, Weekly, 10¢
- Quarterly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, Oct., - Dec., 25¢
- 19- M: Domestic Washing Machines, Dec., 10¢
- 20- Primary Iron & Steel, Dec., 25¢
- 21- M: Iron Castings & Cast Iron Pipes & Fittings, Jan., 10¢
- 22- M: Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, Jan., 10¢
- 23- M: Hard Board, Feb., 10¢
- 24- M: Asphalt Roofing, Feb., 10¢
- 25- M: Mineral Wool, Feb., 10¢
- 26- Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, Feb., 25¢
- 27- Price Movements, Mar., 10¢
- 28- M: University & College Enrolment Reported in Current Year, 1953-54, 25¢
- 29- Cheques Cashed In Clearing Centres, Feb., 10¢
- 30- Heating & Cooking Apparatus Industry, 1952, 25¢
- 31- Acids, Alkalies & Salts Industry, 1952, 25¢
- 32- Iron Castings Industry, 1952, 25¢
- 33- Paper Box & Bag Industry, 1952, 25¢
- 34- General Review of the Clothing Industries, 1951, 25¢

M - Memorandum

D.B.S. NEWS NOTES

Urban transit systems carried 113,899,956 passengers last year, 5,808,981 fewer than in the preceding year.

. . .

Buses: 533 were sold last year, 49 less than in 1952. Average purchase price was \$16,203, a drop of \$3,227 or 17%.

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Hockey Pucks: 266,080 were made in 1952, 185,996 or 41% fewer than in 1951. Average factory price was up 3¢ to 12¢ per puck.

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Crude Oil: 5,228 productive wells were in operation at the end of 1952, some 1,590 or 44% more than two years earlier.

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Book Matches: 398,698,000 were manufactured in 1952, 81,468,000 or 26% more than in the preceding year.

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Earnings of employees of oil pipe line companies averaged \$4,208 in 1952, up 9% from \$3,851 in 1951, 22% from \$3,461 in 1950.

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Wire: Exports of iron and steel wire were valued at \$496,115 last year, more than ten times 1952's \$4,434.

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Roller Skates: 73,194 pairs were made in 1952, 32,443 or four-fifths more than in 1951. Average factory price per pair was reduced to \$1.99 from \$2.41.

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Skim milk powder packaged in consumer-size containers for retail sale weighed 5,936,000 lb. last year, 1,095,000 lb. or 23% more than in 1952 and more than double the 2,656,000 lb. packaged in 1951.

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Motor vehicle accidents in all parts of the country except Quebec numbered 102,762 in the first three quarters of last year, 14,287 or 16% more than in the first nine months of 1952.

. . .

Graduate Nurses: The number emigrating to the United States has increased more than fourfold since the war, according to figures supplied by the U.S. Immigration Service. The number climbed from 246 in the year ended June 30, 1946 to 822 in 1950, declined to 739 in 1951, then rose to 935 in 1952 and 1,042 in 1953. All told, 5,784 emigrated in the eight years, 1,977 or 34% of them since June of 1951. There were 35,138 graduate nurses in Canada on the Census date of June 1, 1951.

. . .

Used Cars: 382,106 sales were financed for an average \$838 each last year as compared with 375,825 for an average \$753 each in 1952, an increase of 2% in number and 11% in average financed value.

. . .

Golf Balls: 1,026,456 were made in 1952, 652,140 or 39% fewer than in the preceding year. Average factory price per ball was up to 58¢ from 50¢.

. . .

Motor vehicle accidents claimed 1,321 lives in all parts of Canada except Quebec in the first nine months of last year, 96 or 8% more than in the first three quarters of 1952. Injured numbered 34,069, an increase of 2,943 or 9%.

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Feldspar is mined in only two provinces, Quebec supplying about four-fifths of the national output and Ontario the balance. The greater part is used in the pottery, glass, enamelware and other ceramic trades, and the remainder mainly in scouring soaps and cleansers, and for bonding of fired abrasive wheels and other shapes. Some coarsely crushed spar, usually made from impure waste or quarry fines, is sold for stucco dash, artificial stone and chicken grit, and small tonnages of specially selected crude (called dental spar) are used in the manufacture of artificial teeth. Most of the feldspar used is of the high-potash type, though some high-soda spar is used for blending purposes and in low-fired enamels and glazes. Practically all colours are equally acceptable for ceramic uses, but for cleanser purposes the pale shades of white to buff are demanded.

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