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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

18% MORE HOUSING UNITS were completed in January and February than in the same two months last year, although 5% fewer were started. Number under construction at the end of February was 3% higher this year. (Page 2)

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RETAIL SALES WERE DOWN from last year in January and February, totalling \$1,608,681,000 versus \$1,643,006,000, a drop of 2%. (Page 2)

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TOTAL NUMBER EMPLOYED was unchanged at mid-March from mid-February, but slightly more were without jobs due to a larger labour force. (Page 6)

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ELECTRIC ENERGY OUTPUT was down slightly from last year in both January and February, the two-month reduction amounting to about 1%. (Page 3)

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PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON was 15% lower in the first two months this year, and output of steel ingots and castings was off 16%. (Page 3)

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MINERAL OUTPUT FIGURES for January show drops from a year earlier for gold (21%), silver (2%), lead (9%) and zinc (17%). (Page 2)

RELEASED THIS WEEK

M: Memorandum

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

- 1 - Retail Trade, Feb., 20¢
 - 2 - New Residential Construction, Feb., 25¢
 - 3 - M: Gold Production, Jan., 10¢
 - 4 - M: Silver, Lead & Zinc Production, Jan., 10¢
 - 5 - M: Production of Pig Iron & Steel, Feb., 10¢
 - 6 - M: Domestic Electric Refrigerators, Jan., 10¢
 - 7 - M: Peeler Logs, Veneers & Plywoods, Feb., 10¢
 - 8 - M: Asphalt Floor Tiles, Mar., 10¢
 - 9 - M: Central Electric Stations, Feb., 10¢
 - 10 - Stocks of Food Commodities in Cold Storage, Other Warehouses, 1953, 25¢
 - 11 - M: Stocks of Fruit & Vegetables, Apr. 1, 10¢
 - 12 - Stocks of Canadian Grain, Mar. 31, 10¢
 - 13 - The Peat Industry, 1952, 25¢
 - 14 - The Boat Building Industry, 1952, 25¢
 - 15 - The Prepared Stock & Poultry Feeds Industry, 1952, 25¢
 - 16 - General Review of Textiles Except Clothing, 1951, 25¢
 - Man Hours & Hourly Earnings, Feb., 25¢ (Summarized in Apr. 15 Bulletin)
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MERCHANDISING & SERVICES

February Retail Sales
Off Slightly In Value

Retail sales in February were valued at \$802,843,000, slightly under last year's corresponding total of \$803,608,000. Combined with January's decrease of 4% to \$805,838,000 from \$839,398,000 a year earlier, the cumulative value for the January-February period fell 2.1% to \$1,608,681,000 from \$1,643,006,000.

Regionally, the pattern of February sales changes was mixed. Sales declined 3.9% in British Columbia, 0.3% in Quebec, and 0.1% in Alberta. Increases were shown in Ontario (0.4%), Manitoba (2.2%), and Saskatchewan (5.2%).

In continuation of the trend which first became evident during the final quarter of last year and which now appears more pronounced, the durable goods trades were prominent among those whose sales fell off from last year.

Sales of appliance and radio dealers dropped 9.3% in February, lumber and building material dealers 9.2%, and motor vehicle dealers 5.4%. The trades recording the greatest proportionate increases were garages and filling stations (6.6%), grocery and combination stores (5.5%), and fuel dealers (5%). (1)

HOUSING

February Housing Starts, Completions
Little Changed From Last Year Levels

Construction of new dwelling units showed little overall change in February as compared with February last year, starts being slightly higher in number and completions virtually unchanged.

Starts were made on 3,057 units as compared with 2,789 a year earlier, and the completions numbered 6,116 compared with 6,161. In the two months, January-February, starts were down to 6,040 from 6,362, and completions were up to 14,431 from 12,262. This left 51,127 units under construction at the end of February as compared with 49,737 at the same time last year.

In Ontario, starts in February increased to 1,561 from 1,384 a year earlier, the Prairie Provinces to 520 from 210, and Newfoundland to 23 from 7. Starts in Quebec were slightly lower at 666 compared with 674, and British Columbia's total fell to 268 from 452, and that for the Maritime Provinces declined to 19 from 62.

Completions were up in February in Ontario to 2,799 from 2,540, the Prairie Provinces to 1,195 from 892, and the Maritime Provinces to 323 from 309, but down in Quebec to 1,172 from 1,703, British Columbia to 525 from 585, and Newfoundland to 102 from 132. (2)

MINERALS

Gold Production
Fell In January

Gold production continued to decline in January as compared with a year earlier, the month's output amounting to 293,049 fine ounces against 371,265. Output in Ontario dropped to 160,916 fine ounces from 210,188, Quebec to 63,456 fine ounces from 97,388, and British Columbia to 20,504 fine ounces from 20,698. In the Northwest Territories there was a rise to 26,625 fine ounces from 22,369. Prairie Provinces to 20,719 fine ounces from 19,992, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia to 797 fine ounces from 630, and the Yukon to 32 fine ounces from nil. (3)

Output Of Silver, Lead,
& Zinc Lower In January

Canadian production of silver, lead and zinc declined in January as compared with the same month last year. The month's output of silver amounted to 2,413,990 fine ounces compared with 2,459,531; lead, 17,684 tons compared with 19,502; and zinc, 27,030 tons compared with 32,444. (4)

MANUFACTURING

Production Of Pig Iron And Steel Down In February Canadian production of pig iron in February amounted to 182,050 tons, a 20% drop from last year's corresponding total of 225,182. This followed a 12% decline in January to 214,999 tons from 244,606, and resulted in a 15% fall in the combined January-February output to 397,049 tons from 469,788.

The drop in the output of pig iron in February was accompanied by a 12% reduction in the output of steel ingots and castings to 266,911 tons from 326,063. January's production declined to 298,900 tons from 346,648, and the combined January-February production fell 16% to 565,811 tons from 672,711. (5)

Output Of Domestic Electric Refrigerators Lower In January Continuing the trend of the last half of 1953, Canadian production of domestic electric refrigerators in January declined to 18,102 units from 20,890 a year earlier. At the same time, factory shipments were cut to 12,524 from 18,929, and factory inventories climbed to 46,660 units from 37,668.

The month's production of individual domestic electric home and farm freezers fell to 532 units from 602, and the number shipped dropped to 395 units from 473. Factory stocks at the end of January were up to 1,021 units from 585.

Imports of domestic or store type electric refrigerators in January totalled 3,132, a steep drop from last year's 9,431, and the exports fell to 20 units from 106. (6)

Production Of Veneers And Plywood Lower In February Canadian production of veneers and plywoods was lower in February than in the same month last year, and mill consumption of peeler logs was reduced. Output of veneers in February amounted to 73,473,000 square feet compared with 74,128,000 a year earlier, and production of plywoods totalled 55,928,000 square feet compared with 68,068,000. The month's consumption of peeler logs amounted to 26,133,000 square feet compared with 27,681,000. (7)

Production Of Asphalt Floor Tiles Lower In March & Quarter Production of asphalt floor tiles declined both in March and the first three months of this year as compared with a year earlier. The month's output amounted to 1,457,397 square feet as compared with 1,572,501, bringing the cumulative total for the January-March period to 4,029,711 square feet as compared with 4,366,522. (8)

ELECTRIC POWER

Production Of Electric Energy Lower In February Production of electric energy by central electric stations in February totalled 5,152,524,000 kilowatt hours, moderately below last year's corresponding output of 5,255,043,000 kilowatt hours. This followed a small decline in January from a year earlier, and the cumulative production for the January-February period fell to 10,786,071,000 kilowatt hours from 10,911,585,000.

Consumption of primary power -- production, less net exports, and secondary power -- in February advanced to 4,873,840,000 kilowatt hours from 4,681,074,000, and with January's total up to 5,379,051,000 kilowatt hours from 5,106,043,000, the two-month total climbed to 10,252,891,000 kilowatt hours from 9,787,117,000.

Gross exports to the United States fell in February to 130,283,000 kilowatt hours from 196,961,000 in the same month last year, and January-February exports dropped to 268,064,000 kilowatt hours from 412,146,000. (9)

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Stocks Of Food Commodities In Cold Storage & Other Warehouses In 1953

A summary of revised data on the stocks of dairy and poultry products, meat products, fruit, and vegetables in cold storage and other warehouses on the first business day of each month last year was published this week by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The Bureau's report includes five-year 1948-52 average month-opening stocks, and provides breakdowns of the 1953 holdings of important food commodities for the provinces and nine regional cities.

Stocks of creamery butter during 1953 were consistently higher than in 1952 and considerably above the five-year average. During the April-May period when butter stocks are normally at their low point, there were approximately 27,000,000 pounds in 1953 as compared with 17,000,000 pounds in 1952. At the seasonal peak in October there were 95,000,000 pounds in storage, 18,000,000 pounds more than at the same time in 1952 and about 27,000,000 pounds above the 1948-52 average.

Stocks of cheddar cheese were higher than in 1952 in all months except May, November and December and also exceeded the five-year average for each month except at December 1. Stocks at December 1 amounted to about 36,000,000 pounds as compared with 44,000,000 pounds at this date in 1952 and a five-year average of about 38,500,000 pounds. Stocks of other factory cheese (excluding process) ranged from 1,000,000 and 1,400,000 pounds and process cheese from a low of 2,300,000 pounds at August 1 to a high of 3,800,000 pounds at December 1.

Manufacturers' stocks of evaporated whole milk at 55,500,000 pounds at January 1 were 20,500,000 pounds above the 1952 level at that date and continued to be above the 1952 stocks till June. Inventories from July 1 to December 1 were lower than in 1952 and at the latter date amounted to 50,600,000 pounds as compared with 64,800,000 a year ago.

Stocks of shell eggs were lower at all inventory dates in 1953 than in 1952. The seasonal peak at June 1 reached 323,000 cases as compared with 477,000 cases in 1952 and a 1948-52 five-year average of about 551,000 cases. December 1 stocks were 38,000 cases as compared with 42,000 and 51,000 respectively for last year and the five-year average. Holdings of dressed poultry were appreciably lower than in 1952 throughout the first nine months of the year, averaging about 12,000,000 pounds less than in 1952 till July. The into-storage movement was heavier in the fall than during the previous year and December 1 stocks were 29,000,000 pounds as compared with 23,000,000 pounds in 1952.

During the first quarter of 1953 stocks of pork products were well above 1952 levels, reaching 73,500,000 pounds at March 1 as compared with a five-year average of 50,700,000 and with 61,900,000 pounds in 1952. Reduced hog slaughter resulted in a strong out-of-storage movement starting in June and stock levels averaged well below 1952 and the five-year average after July. At October 1, the seasonal low, 1953 stocks were 10,300,000 pounds as compared with 31,800,000 in 1952 and a five-year average of 25,400,000 pounds. Stocks of beef and veal on the other hand were maintained well above 1952 and average levels throughout 1953. The seasonal high showed inventories totalling 47,000,000 pounds at May 1, 1953 and December 1 stocks were 44,400,000 pounds as compared with 37,600,000 a year earlier and a 35,500,000 five-year average. Total meat stocks thus greatly exceeded those of 1952 during the first half of the year but averaged slightly lower during the last half.

Stocks of fruit, frozen and in preservatives, averaged about 7,000,000 pounds below the 1952 levels during the first six months of 1953. Fall movement into storage was considerably stronger than during the previous year with the result that October to December stocks exceeded those of 1952. December 1 inventories amounted to 32,500,000 pounds in 1953 as compared with 29,000,000 pounds in 1952. Apple inventories showed little variation from the usual seasonal pattern during 1953. (10)

MORE

Storage Stocks Of Fruit And Vegetables Higher On April 1

Larger quantities of fruit and vegetables were held in storage on April 1 this year than last. Stocks of fruit, frozen and in preservatives increased to 25,215,000 pounds from 22,713,000, and vegetables, frozen and in brine rose to 19,544,000 pounds from 10,965,000. Holdings of apples in cold and common storage increased to 1,042,000 bushels from 747,000, potatoes to 10,023,000 bushels from 9,666,000, onions to 202,000 bushels from 107,000, cabbage to 34,000 bushels from 32,000, and celery to 18,000 bushels from 17,000. Carrots were slightly lower at 114,000 bushels compared with 115,000. (11)

Stocks Of Canadian Grain Higher At Close Of March

Total stocks of the five major Canadian grains in all North American positions -- excluding Newfoundland -- at March 31 this year were estimated at 1,281,300,000 bushels, second only to the record 1,353,400,000 on hand at March 31, 1943, and well above last year's corresponding total of 1,165,400,000 bushels.

This year's March 31 stocks, with last year's totals and the ten-year 1944-53 averages, respectively, in brackets, were estimated as follows: wheat, 741,200,000 (606,300,000 and 365,300,000); oats, 281,100,000 (309,900,000 and 215,300,000); barley, 227,200,000 (217,800,000 and 109,200,000); rye, 26,000,000 (23,700,000 and 10,100,000); and flaxseed, 5,900,000 (7,600,000 and 7,000,000). Stocks of both barley and rye were the largest on record at March 31, while wheat stocks were second only to the 762,400,000 bushels on hand at that date in 1943. Stocks of oats were well below the 1943 record of 393,500,000. Stocks of flaxseed were substantially under the 1949 record of 14,300,000.

An estimated 382,700,000 bushels or 52% of this year's March 31 wheat stocks were held on farms. Of the 358,500,000 bushels in off-farm positions, 197,200,000 were in country elevators. Total farm-held stocks of the five major grains at March 31 were estimated at 816,200,000 bushels as compared with 754,700,000 in 1953 and the peak of 843,100,000 in 1943. New records were established for March-end stocks of wheat, barley and rye. Farm stocks of wheat were 53,700,000 bushels above the previous high of 329,000,000 set only last year. Barley stocks on farms, placed at 169,800,000 bushels, set a record for the third consecutive year while farm-held stocks of rye, at 19,500,000, were well above the previous record of 14,900,000 set in 1943. Farm stocks of oats were estimated at 241,400,000 as against 266,700,000 in 1953 and the 1943 record of 362,100,000. Flaxseed stocks on farms were estimated at 3,000,000 bushels, compared with last year's record of 4,100,000.

With the exception of oats, at least 96% of this year's March 31 farm-held grain stocks were in the Prairie Provinces. Distribution for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, respectively, was estimated as follows: wheat, 21,000,000, 255,000,000, 98,000,000; oats, 30,000,000, 90,000,000, 75,000,000; barley, 33,000,000, 61,000,000, 70,000,000; rye, 1,400,000, 10,800,000, 7,000,000 and flaxseed, 900,000, 1,600,000, 400,000. (12)

Quarterly Pig Survey

The Bureau has commenced a quarterly sample survey of pig production to obtain information as to trends of production on a more current basis. The survey taken this March 1 indicates that there has been some modification in spring production from the forecast on the basis of intentions as reported in the survey of last December 1.

Pig production this spring is now expected to be lower than previously forecast in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and in the Maritime Provinces but greater in Quebec and Saskatchewan. The percentage comparison with last year of sows expected to farrow in the spring period are now estimated as follows (December survey forecast in brackets): Maritimes, 134 (137); Quebec, 148 (130); Ontario, 128 (141); total East, 136 (137); Manitoba, 124 (130); Saskatchewan, 145 (140); Alberta, 123 (133); total west, 129 (134); total all Canada, 132 (126). According to these estimates made from the March 1 survey, about 618,000 sows are to farrow during the spring period, December, 1953 to May, 1954. Of these, 184,000 or about 30%, farrowed before March 1, the remaining 70% are expected to have pigs in April and May.

EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS

Employment Situation in March Persons at work 35 hours or more increased slightly in March over February, indicating that the seasonal low in economic activity was probably reached late in February, according to the monthly joint statement by the Department of Labour and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Primarily due to an increase in the labour force there was a small increase in unemployment. During the month the number working part-time dropped moderately. While overall employment continued somewhat below last year's levels for the month, the year-to-year decline changed very little.

Total labour requirements in the manufacturing, trade and service industries did not change appreciably during the month while construction and other outdoor activities showed a small seasonal increase. Within manufacturing, employment levels were sustained in the electrical apparatus, chemical, food and beverage, motor vehicles and pulp and paper industries. Employment in the textile and clothing industries rose slightly by somewhat less than is usual for the month. There was a greater than usual seasonal increase in employment in the agricultural implement industry although employment was still considerably below last year's levels. Layoffs continued to occur in the iron and steel industries.

Persons who worked full-time (35 hours or more) during the week ending March 20, as indicated by the Bureau's monthly survey of the labour force, numbered 4,459,000, up slightly from 4,442,000 a month earlier, but down from 4,534,000 a year ago. The number working less than 35 hours was down to 346,000 from 354,000 in February but up from last year's 325,000. Persons with jobs but not at work totalled 113,000 (57,000 ill, 21,000 on temporary layoff), down from 122,000 in February and 161,000 a year ago. Of those who worked less than 35 hours, 193,000 were regular part-time workers. The remaining 153,000 included 61,000 on short time, 10,000 laid off for part of the week, 12,000 off work because of bad weather, and 30,000 who were ill. The number without jobs and seeking work rose to an estimated 318,000 from 312,000 a month earlier and 172,000 at the same time last year. The civilian labour force climbed to 5,236,000 from 5,230,000 in February and 5,192,000 last year.

Applications for employment on file at National Employment Service offices on March 18 totalled 569,900, an increase of 10,800 over the total for February 18, and 161,900 above last year's March 19 number. The increase over the preceding month was due mainly to a rise of 14,400 in the Quebec region. Smaller increases of 4,700 and 3,400 were recorded in the Ontario and Atlantic regions, respectively, but these were more than offset by declines of 10,000 and 1,600 in the Pacific and Prairie regions. As compared with a year ago, Ontario and Quebec had the largest increases (61,100 and 49,300, respectively), smaller increases being recorded in the Prairie region (21,200), Atlantic region (20,400), and the Pacific region (10,000).

ANNUAL INDUSTRY REPORTS

Less Peat Moss, Peat Fuel Shipped In 1952 Shipments of peat moss were reduced to 74,899 tons in 1952 from 76,809 in 1951, but total value was up to \$2,443,765 from \$2,433,008. This was the smallest output since 1943 when 64,360 tons were shipped. Peak year in the decade was 1946 when shipments reached 96,839 tons. Production of peat fuel was also reduced in 1952, to 32 tons worth \$320 from 50 tons worth \$1,100 in 1951. In 1943 peat fuel output was 782 tons worth \$7,000. Shipments of peat moss for horticulture increased in the latest year to 59,681 tons worth \$1,906,326 from 53,259 worth \$1,685,520 in 1951, but shipments for poultry and stable litter decreased to 15,166 tons worth \$533,205 from 23,524 worth \$745,188. Shipments for other uses rose to 52 tons worth \$4,234 from 26 worth \$2,300. British Columbia and Ontario producers accounted for 89% of the peat moss shipments, while production of peat fuel was confined to Ontario. (13)

MORE

Fewer Boat Builders But Industry's
Production Worth More In 1952

Although fewer concerns manufactured small wooden vessels and pleasure craft in 1952, the production of Canada's boat building industry was valued at \$8,103,016, up nearly 14% from \$7,130,624 in 1951 and 44% above the 1950 output value of \$5,628,858. There were 221 establishments in the industry in 1952, seven less than in 1951 and eight less than in 1950.

Value increases over the preceding year were reported for motor-boats (to \$2,406,771 from \$1,510,579), outboard boats (to \$2,172,501 from \$1,699,517), oars and paddles (to \$62,114 from \$53,687), and custom work, repairs and boat livery and storage (to \$1,453,177 from \$1,206,870). The number of motor-boats made increased to 784 from 726, and outboard boats to 11,018 from 9,618. The number of sailboats produced rose to 164 from 119, but total value was lower at \$76,871 versus \$79,603. Output of canoes declined to 2,770 worth \$268,354 from 3,066 worth \$296,689, rowboats, skiffs and dories to 5,021 worth \$304,594 from 5,104 worth \$366,755, and life boats and whale boats to 113 worth \$183,059 from 189 worth \$220,818. Output of other types of boats increased to 576 from 304, but total value was lower at \$748,911 against \$1,028,441. Value of marine and fishermen's supplies produced was reduced at \$165,929 from \$247,322, while all other products were valued at \$260,735 versus \$420,343.

Although the industry embraces establishments in all 10 provinces, Ontario, British Columbia and Nova Scotia together account for close to 85% of the national output. The industry employed 1,514 in 1952, a 1% drop from 1,531 in 1951, but the payroll was 6% greater at \$3,320,082 versus \$3,132,876. Fuel and electricity costs were reduced over 1% to \$112,241 from \$113,797, but material costs soared 19% to \$3,142,453 from \$2,643,394. Less was spent on hardwood lumber, softwood logs and bolts and plywood, but more on softwood lumber, hardwood logs and bolts, veneer, blocks, blanks, squares and other wood, and other materials and process supplies. (14)

Record Production Of Prepared
Stock & Poultry Feeds In 1952

Canadian production of prepared stock and poultry feeds increased 6% in 1952 to an all-time high of 2,909,037 tons from 2,755,592 tons in the preceding year, according to the annual report on the prepared stock and poultry feeds industry, which produced 90% of the total. Value rose to \$251,230,595 from \$240,916,515 in 1951.

Output of calf meals, dairy and cattle feeds, dairy and cattle concentrates, horse feeds, sheep feeds and swine feeds increased in 1952, but production of swine concentrates was lower. Output of chick starter, laying and hatching mash, scratch feeds and turkey feeds was up, but production of growing mash and other mash was down. More poultry concentrates, other mixed feeds, other mixed concentrates and mineral mixtures were produced. Production of dog biscuits, canned foods for dogs and cats, other dog foods, rabbit foods and goat foods increased, but decreases were recorded for fox biscuits, other fox foods, mink foods and other animal foods.

Gross value of production of the prepared stock and poultry feeds industry rose to \$181,080,732 in 1952 from \$174,509,795 in the preceding year. Cost of grain and other materials used advanced to \$148,801,788 from \$144,617,180. The number of firms in the industry increased to 671 from 648, employees to 5,938 from 5,505 and the payroll to \$13,352 from \$12,179,857. (15)

General Review Of Textiles
Except Clothing For 1951

The gross value of output of 892 establishments in the textiles group of industries, exclusive of clothing, amounted to \$346,477,000 in 1951, an increase of \$105,215,000 or 14% over the group production value of \$741,263,000 of the 846 establishments in 1950.

All industries in the group recorded increases in production value in 1951 over the preceding year, except oilcloth, linoleum and other coated fabrics. Cotton textiles accounted for 35% of the total output, wool textiles for 23% and synthetic textiles and silk for 20%. About 54% of the total was produced in Quebec, and 40% in Ontario. (16)

D.B.S. NEWS NOTES

Fishing Tackle: Nearly \$2 million worth is made in Canada each year.

Earnings of railway employees averaged \$3,126 in 1952, up 2% from \$3,062 in 1951.

Provincial governments spent \$392,587,000 on health and social welfare in 1952, almost \$10,000,000 more than in 1951.

Emblems, Badges & Medals: Output was valued at \$760,205 in 1952, some \$122,581 or almost one-fifth more than in 1951.

Potatoes: As a result of the substantial reduction in prices from the unusually high levels of 1952, farm cash income from potatoes dropped over 50% last year to \$31,707,000 from \$69,140,000.

Fox Biscuits: Only 70 tons were produced in 1952, less than in any other year since the war. The 1946 output of 1,963 tons was over 28 times as great.

Telephones: There were 38 per hundred population in cities of 15,000 and over at the end of 1952 as compared with 24 in 1942, 21 in 1932, 18 in 1922, 10 in 1912.

Ships: The 2,050 operated by Canadians in 1952 included 95 passenger vessels, 95 that carried both passengers and freight, 723 freighters, 79 tankers, 405 tugs, 548 tow barges and scows and 105 of other types.

Crime: 41,591 were convicted of indictable offences in 1952, 1,302 more than in 1951 but less than in all other years since 1938 except 1942, 1948 and 1949. Peak year was 1939 with 48,107 convictions. The rate per hundred thousand Canadians was 288 in 1952, unchanged from 1951 but lower than in any other year since 1932.

Veterans: Only 580 university students received DVA allowances in the current academic year, 995 or 63% fewer than in 1952-53.

Hard board output jumped 27% in the first quarter of 1954 to 43,735,000 sq. ft. from 34,471,000 in January-March last year.

Telephone calls from Canada to Asia numbered 404 in 1952, some 160 or 66% more than in the preceding year.

Scales for home use produced in 1952 numbered 24,618, a 64% increase over the 1951 output of 14,996. Average price was \$6.62, a cut of \$1.19 or 15%.

Canned Dog & Cat Food: Output has increased steadily since the war. The 1952 production of 35,705 tons was more than 12 times the 1946 output of 2,855 tons.

Death sentences were meted out to 17 murderers in 1952, two more than in 1951 but less than in any other year since the war. Peak year in the 1928-52 quarter century was 1946 when 32 were sentenced to die.

Canadian ships lost at sea, burnt or otherwise destroyed totalled 87 valued at almost \$5,000,000 in the seven postwar years 1946-52. In all, 356 lives were lost and 13,544 persons were injured.

Dairy products brought farmers \$413,127,000 last year, \$14,131,000 or 4% more than in 1952. Gain resulted from output boost, which more than offset lower prices.

Prisoners in penitentiaries, gaols, reformatories and training schools had increased to an all-time peak of 16,383 by the end of 1953, a 3% rise from 15,847 a year earlier and 2% above the 1950 high of 16,012. Last year 109,356 were admitted and 108,819 were discharged, an 8% increase from 101,368 admissions and 100,907 discharges in 1952.

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