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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

CANADA'S POPULATION was estimated at 15,083,000 at the start of March this year, an increase of 78,000 since last December and 391,000 since March 1 last year. (Page 10)

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX registered 115.6 at April 1, a slight increase from 115.5 at March 1 and due mainly to higher prices in clothing, household operation and other commodities and services which overbalanced lower food prices. (Page 2)

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INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT at the start of March was 0.5% below a month earlier and 3.2% lower than at the same time last year, but both weekly payrolls and average weekly earnings were higher. (Page 9)

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FIRST-QUARTER PRODUCTION of steel ingots was down 22% this year. Drops were also recorded for mineral wool and asphalt roofing... Output of rigid insulating board was up... More eggs were laid and more sea-fish were landed. FEBRUARY SHIPMENTS of new motor vehicles were at a new high for the month, and gains were also recorded over last year for Portland cement and wire nails... Decreases were reported for steel wire, wire rope, wire fencing, iron castings and cast iron pipes and fittings, sawn lumber, leather and asbestos. (Pages 5-9)

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FARM NET INCOME is estimated at \$1,656,600,000 for last year, 13% less than in 1952 and 23% less than in the peak year of 1951. An 8% drop in gross farm income more than offset a 3% decline in farm operating expenses and depreciation charges... FARM VALUE OF FRUIT CROPS is estimated at \$45,733,000 for 1953, a 5% increase over 1952. (Pages 4&5)

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DEPARTMENT STORE SALES were 2.2% below last year's level in the week ended April 24, declines in the Maritimes, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan outweighing gains in Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia. (Page 11)

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RAILWAY CARLOADINGS were off sharply in the third week of April this year to 59,245 from 78,862 cars last year. Main cause was this year's later Easter holiday weekend. Cumulative 1954 loadings totalled 1,028,850 cars, a drop from 1,131,303 last year. (Page 10)

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CANADA'S AIRLINES last year carried more passengers, freight and mail than ever before, but faster-rising costs sliced operating income 60% to \$1,504,021 from \$3,763,948 in 1952. This was less than a quarter of the \$6,990,586 operating profit of 1951 but still compared favourably with the operating losses sustained in earlier years. (Page 10)

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P R I C E S

Consumer Price Index Shows
Slight Increase At April 1

The consumer price index registered a slight gain between March 1 and April 1, moving from 115.5 to 115.6, due mainly to advances in clothing, household operation and other commodities and services which overbalanced weakness in food prices. The food index moved down from 110.7 to 110.4, reflecting sizeable decreases in eggs and smaller declines for butter, beef, fresh pork, veal, fresh tomatoes, celery and potatoes, which proved more important than increases for coffee, tea, oranges, cured pork and shortening. The shelter index remained unchanged at 125.6, a small increase in rents balancing a decline in the home-ownership section.

The remaining three indexes were influenced by increases in health care, personal care, postal rates, as well as tax adjustments in British Columbia and New Brunswick. The clothing index advanced from 109.8 to 109.9, while the household operation index moved up 0.4% to 118.1. Cleaning supplies were firmer in this group, while lower prices were noted for electric irons and lawnmowers. An advance of 0.5% to 117.2 was registered in the other commodities and services series. (1)

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities & Services
April 1, 1954	115.6	110.4	125.6	109.9	118.1	117.2
March 1, 1954	115.5	110.7	125.6	109.8	117.6	116.6
April 1, 1953	114.6	110.9	122.7	109.7	116.9	115.0

Security Price Indexes
Moved Higher In April

Common stock prices moved sharply higher in the opening week of April but fluctuated narrowly during the succeeding three weeks. Between the weeks of March 25 and April 1 the composite index for 101 issues changed from 163.8 to 171.6 which compared with the high for the month of 174.5 reached on April 15 and 172.9 for the week of the 22nd.

The three major groups were all firmer, led by an increase in the index for 80 industrials from 163.7 to 174.2 between the weeks of March 25 and April 22. The index for 13 utilities rose from 152.3 to 158.7, and that for 8 banks from 191.7 to 193.0. Among the various sub-groups increases were recorded for machinery and equipment, pulp and paper, oils, beverages, building materials, transportation, industrial mines, communication and power and traction. On the other hand, textile and clothing stocks, after a firm opening, weakened to close at 160.7 as against 165.9 for the final week of March. Parallelling industrials and utilities, mining stocks moved substantially higher in the opening week of April but thereafter registered little net change. Between the weeks of March 25 and April 22 the composite index for 27 stocks moved from 83.9 to 88.7 which compared with the month's peak of 91.5 touched for the week of the 15th. Both golds and base metals moved higher, the former series advancing from 61.3 to 64.8 and the latter from 135.7 to 143.5. (1)

Security Price Indexes

	April 29, 1954	April 22, 1954 (1935-39=100)	April 1, 1954
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
Total Common Stocks	176.5	172.9	171.6
Industrials	177.6	174.2	172.2
Utilities	163.1	158.7	158.6
Banks	197.2	193.0	196.1
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
Total Mining Stocks	90.0	88.7	87.9
Golds	65.7	64.8	63.6
Base Metals	145.6	143.5	143.4

Index Of Industrial Material
Prices Moved Higher In April

Scattered increases for 14 of the 30 representative commodities included in the composite wholesale price index of industrial materials were sufficient to move the series from 222.5 for the week of March 26 to 224.6 for the week of April 23.

Commodity advances were led by raw rubber (14.6%), domestic raw wool (9.1%), lead (8.2%), and raw sugar (5.4%). Smaller advances occurred for zinc, steers, hogs, white lead, iron ore, bleached sulphite pulp, copper, western wheat, oats and raw cotton. Scrap steel, linseed oil, African sisal, spruce lumber and tin declined.

Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets declined again in April to reach 205.6 by the week of the 23rd as against 206.2 for the week of March 26. The field products sub-group declined from 151.4 to 150.6 as lower quotations were registered for most eastern grains and western rye. Prices for western potatoes and hay moved up slightly in this group. In the animal product series lower quotations for eggs, butterfat, eastern calves, poultry and fluid milk and western hogs were sufficient to lower the index from 261.0 to 260.6. Steers, lambs, raw wool, and eastern hogs and western milk for cheese manufacture were all higher. (1)

Wholesale Prices Index
Lower Again In March

Canada's general wholesale price index continued to decline in March, falling to 218.6 from 219.0 in the preceding month and 221.9 a year earlier. This marked the lowest point recorded since August, 1950. Five of the eight major groups showed fractional decreases as compared with February and the remaining three registered small gains.

Animal products showed the most substantial decline, moving down 0.7% to 242.1 from 243.9 in February, mainly in response to lower prices for live stock, fresh meats, butter, cheese, eggs and hides. Cured meats was the only sub-group to advance.

Vegetable products declined 0.5% to 199.6 from 200.6, as decreases in grains, vegetable oils, sugar, milled cereal foods, feeds, potatoes, onions and canned vegetables outweighed continued increases in coffee, cocoa, tea, rubber footwear and fresh and canned fruits. Lower prices for both domestic and imported raw wool and raw cotton were responsible for a drop of 0.1% to 233.1 from 233.3 in the index of fibres, textiles and textile products.

Continued weakness in scrap steel and iron prices was reflected in the iron and steel products group index which receded 0.3% to 215.2 from 215.9. Non-metallic minerals declined 0.2% to 179.0 from 179.4 as lower prices for United States anthracite and domestic bituminous coal outweighed increases in prepared stucco, crude oil and sulphur.

Chemicals and allied products rose 0.3% to 175.9 from 175.3, as increases in laundry soap and paint materials outweighed a drop in glycerine. Gains in newsprint, wood pulp and certain fir and cedar lumber descriptions more than offset declines in hardwoods to advance the index of wood and its products 0.2% to 284.1 from 283.4.

The composite index of Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets receded 1% to 206.7 from 208.8. Field products moved down 1% to 151.3 from 152.9 due mainly to lower prices for eastern potatoes and eastern grains. Animal products also declined 1% to 262.0 from 264.7 under the influence of lower quotations for live stock, eggs, eastern milk for cheese manufacture, and raw wool.

Residential building materials costs receded 0.3% to 275.9 from 276.7, reflecting decreases in hardwood flooring, copper wire, plumbing fixtures and linoleums. An advance in prepared stucco prices was responsible for an increase in the lath, plaster and insulation sub-group.

The index for non-residential building materials prices, at 122.9, was 0.2% below February's 123.1. Hardwood flooring, copper wire, and linoleum floor covering registered losses which outweighed increases in prepared stucco, linseed oil and brick. (2)

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Farm Net Income
Down 13% In 1953

Canadian farm operators (excluding Newfoundland) realized a net income from farming operations in 1953 of \$1,656,600,000, according to preliminary estimates, 13% less than the revised \$1,900,800,000 in 1952, and 23% less than the 1951 record high of \$2,154,500,000. A drop of 8% in gross farm income more than offset a decline of 3% in farm operating expenses and depreciation charges.

Gross farm income in 1953 amounted to an estimated \$3,193,300,000 as compared with \$3,477,900,000 in 1952 and the all-time high of \$3,578,500,000 in 1951. The decline from the 1952 gross was the result of lower returns from the sale of farm products and a substantial drop in the value of year-end changes in farm-held stocks of grains and livestock.

Income in kind for 1953 was down 3% from 1952; this item includes the value of that produce grown by farm operators and consumed in the farm home plus an imputed rental value of the farm dwelling.

Farm cash income from the sale of farm products and from participation payments on previous years' grain crops aggregated \$2,741,300,000, 3% below the revised and now all-time high estimate of \$2,826,600,000 in 1952. Higher income from the sale of wheat, dairy products, eggs, corn, sugar beets, hay and wool was more than offset by lower returns from other farm products.

Although the build-up of the live stock population and the stocks of grains on farms continued during 1953, it was at a much slower rate than in the past few years. As a result, the estimated value of year-end inventory changes of farm-held grains and live stock amounted to \$50,900,000 as compared with \$237,700,000 in 1952 and the record high of \$353,900,000 for 1942. The year-end inventory changes of grains held on farms in 1953 were valued at \$26,600,000, down 79% from 1952, and the value of live-stock inventory changes declined 78% to a total of \$24,300,000.

Total farm operating expenses in 1953 were estimated at \$1,538,300,000, 3% below the peak of \$1,582,200,000 in 1952, but still 7% above the 1951 estimate of \$1,434,300,000. A substantial reduction in farmers' outlays, for such things as rent, labour and feed more than offset increased expenditures for taxes, interest on indebtedness, fertilizers, repairs to machinery and buildings, and the operation of tractors, trucks and automobiles.

Gross farm rent declined 28% from the 1952 level, due to a considerable reduction in the value of share rent. Labour costs were down 6% and feed costs by about 10%. On the other hand, total expenditures on taxes and interest charges rose approximately 6 to 7%. Aggregate expenditures for operating tractors, trucks and autos increased between 4 and 9%; a result of the continuing increases in mechanization. Increased expenditures for fertilizers reflect a price increase of approximately 8% combined with a 7% increase in total quantity bought.

Farm net income in 1953 was down in all provinces except Nova Scotia and British Columbia. Although the net for British Columbia was virtually unchanged from 1952, that of Nova Scotia was up by 6%. On a percentage basis, the greatest decline occurred in Prince Edward Island; in absolute terms it occurred in Saskatchewan.

Net income totals follow by provinces, those for 1952 being in brackets (in millions): Prince Edward Island, \$12.3 (\$20.6); Nova Scotia, \$20.2 (\$18.9); New Brunswick, \$28.2 (\$36.2); Quebec, \$262.5 (\$272.4); Ontario, \$401.6 (\$429.7); Manitoba, \$110.6 (\$157.0); Saskatchewan, \$474.3 (\$564.9); Alberta, \$307.0 (\$361.3); and British Columbia, \$39.9 (\$39.8). Figures for Newfoundland are not available. (3)

MORE

Farm Value Of 1953's Farm value of fruits produced commercially in Canada in 1953 was
Fruit Crops Rose 5% \$45,733,000, 5% above the preceding year's \$43,638,000, according to estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Farm prices were higher for all fruits except pears, and total crop values were higher for all except apples and blueberries. Provincial crop values were up in Ontario, Quebec, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, but lower in British Columbia, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick.

Canada's 1953 apple crop was valued at \$16,978,000 (\$17,391,000 in 1952); strawberries, \$6,464,000 (\$6,077,000); peaches, \$5,381,000 (\$5,152,000); grapes, \$3,508,000 (\$3,052,000); blueberries, \$3,180,000 (\$3,384,000); raspberries, \$3,087,000 (\$2,565,000); cherries, \$2,724,000 (\$2,113,000); pears, \$2,576,000 (\$2,371,000); plums and prunes, \$1,198,000 (\$1,033,000); apricots, \$401,000 (\$342,000); and loganberries, \$236,000 (\$158,000).

Production values for the provinces in 1953 follow, those for 1952 being in brackets: Ontario, \$20,182,000 (\$17,733,000); British Columbia, \$14,978,000 (\$15,225,000); Quebec, \$7,240,000 (\$6,839,000); Nova Scotia, \$2,111,000 (\$2,229,000); New Brunswick, \$740,000 (\$184,000); Newfoundland, \$304,000 (\$260,000); and Prince Edward Island, \$178,000 (\$168,000). (4)

Landings Of Sea-Fish Canada's sea-fisheries yielded a catch of 96,081,000 pounds of fish
Up Sharply In March worth \$2,614,000 to the fishermen, up sharply from last year's take of 36,302,000 pounds worth \$1,721,000. This huge increase may be attributed almost wholly to the fact that last year the British Columbia herring fishery was curtailed greatly by strike action. The large gain in March raised the January-March catch to 239,056,000 pounds valued at \$6,804,000 from 115,311,000 pounds valued at \$5,800,000 a year earlier.

On the Atlantic coast, total landings of fish in March amounted to 34,350,000 pounds valued at \$1,627,000 compared with 31,123,000 pounds valued at \$1,490,000 a year earlier. This brought the January-March catch to 95,035,000 pounds as compared with 95,574,000, and the value to \$4,647,000 as compared with \$5,157,000.

In Newfoundland landings of codfish, haddock and catfish were higher both in March and the first quarter. Other fisheries appear to be running below last year's levels. With an earlier start in the sardine fishery, the catch of fish in New Brunswick was higher than in March last year.

In Nova Scotia landings and landed values -- 20,669,000 pounds valued at \$1,275,000 -- were up 23.8% and 8.7%, respectively in March. Totals for the first three months of the year were 54,648,000 pounds (up 4.4%) and \$3,484,000 (down 4.5%). To date the lobster fishery appears to be running below the 1953 level both in catch and unit price.

Fish landings in British Columbia in March totalled 61,731,000 pounds valued at \$987,000 compared with 4,179,000 pounds valued at \$231,000 in March, 1953 when herring-seining operations were affected sharply by strike action. Heavy production in the Queen Charlotte Islands area boosted this year's herring catch. Total catch of fish in Pacific waters in the January-March period increased to 144,021,000 pounds from 19,737,000, and the value climbed to \$2,157,000 from \$643,000.

Holdings of all frozen fish in Canada on April 1 amounted to 28,596,000 pounds as compared with 35,915,000 a year earlier, and the stocks of dried-salted fish totalled 3,923,000 pounds as against 3,473,000. Exports of fish and fish products in January and February totalled \$17,759,000, an increase of nearly 2% over last year's \$17,430,000. More canned salmon, fish meal and lobsters were sold abroad than in the same two months of 1953. (5)

Stocks & Marketings Of
Wheat & Coarse Grains

Visible supplies of Canadian wheat on April 21 totalled 350,-080,000 bushels, slightly under the 351,601,000-bushel total of a week earlier, but 23% larger than last year's 279,900,000

bushels. Prairie farmers cut their wheat marketings during the week to 2,512,000 bushels from 7,983,000 a year ago, oats to 648,000 bushels from 1,910,000, barley to 785,000 bushels from 2,692,000, rye to 78,000 bushels from 263,000, and flaxseed to 25,000 bushels from 53,000. Overseas export clearances of Canadian wheat during the week declined to 2,-489,000 bushels from 4,615,000 a year earlier, and cumulative clearances from August 1 to April 21 dropped to 144,339,000 bushels from 182,560,000. (6)

Wheat Flour Down 7% In March

Canadian production of wheat flour declined 7% in March as compared with the corresponding month last year, and the

cumulative output for the first eight months of the crop year fell 13%. The March output amounted to 1,830,000 barrels compared with 1,967,000 a year earlier, bringing the August-March total to 13,967,000 barrels as compared with 15,915,000. Wheat flour exports in March rose to 1,030,000 barrels from 956,000 a year earlier but eight-month exports declined to 6,742,000 barrels from 8,213,000. (7)

Milk Production Higher
In February And March

Estimated quantity of milk produced in February amounted to 867,-565,000 pounds, an increase of 4% over the preceding year's 832,-563,000 pounds. Advance indications point to a rise in March of

nearly 6%. Factory products consumed 315,158,000 pounds of milk in February, up from 294,-330,000 a year earlier, and fluid sales advanced to 399,792,000 pounds from 388,415,000. Consumption in farm homes rose to 75,710,000 pounds from 72,954,000, but the amount fed to live stock declined to 42,647,000 from 44,228,000. Cash income from the sale of dairy products in February amounted to \$24,034,000, an increase of \$786,000 or 3.4% over last year's February total. (8)

Fluid Milk Sales Rose 4% This
February; Cream Sales Down 1%

Sales of fluid milk were moderately higher in February than in the corresponding month last year but fluid cream sales showed a smaller decline. Fluid milk sales amounted

to 129,607,000 quarts, a rise of 4%, and cream sales (in terms of butter-fat content) totalled 2,306,000 pounds, a decrease of 1%.

Fluid milk sales were higher in all provinces except Prince Edward Island where there was a decline of 3% to 748,000 quarts. Sales in Nova Scotia were 4,855,000 quarts (up 5%); New Brunswick, 4,062,000 (up 3%); Quebec, 49,638,000 (up 4%); Ontario, 44,480,000 (up 3%); Manitoba, 4,070,000 (up 3%); Saskatchewan, 5,978,000 (up 6%); Alberta, 6,200,000 (up 5%); and British Columbia, 8,576,000 (up 3%). (9)

Production Of Eggs
Increased In March

Canadian hens increased their egg production in March to 39,900,000 dozen from February's 34,700,000 dozen and last year's March total of 34,000,000 dozen, according to estimates by the Dominion Bureau of

Statistics. This brought the cumulative production for the January-March period to 111,-193,000 dozen, an increase of 17% over the preceding year's first-quarter total of 95,923,-000 dozen. (10)

Total Creamery Butter Stocks In
Nine Cities Higher On May First

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on May 1 totalled 31,060,000 pounds, down slightly from April 1 stocks of 31,397,000 pounds, but sharply above last year's corresponding holdings of 18,606,000 pounds. Cheddar cheese stocks were 11,574,000 pounds, down from 11,689,000 on April 1, but up from the 10,183,000 pounds held a year earlier.

Stocks by cities, totals for May 1 last year in brackets (in thousands): Quebec, 3,100 (835); Montreal, 14,780 (7,793); Toronto, 5,984 (4,851); Winnipeg, 5,932 (3,047); Regina, 200 (657); Saskatoon, 119 (141); Edmonton, 292 (458); Calgary, 133 (152); and Vancouver, 520 (672). (11)

MINERALS

Asbestos Shipments
Down In February

Canadian producers shipped 61,629 tons of asbestos in February, down from last year's corresponding total of 65,349 tons, and the exports dropped to 56,600 tons from 63,255. In the two months, January-February, the cumulative output fell to 118,429 tons from 135,425, and exports in the period were down to 107,259 tons from 126,799. (12)

Diamond Drilling Of Mineral
Deposits Increased In 1952

Contract diamond drilling of mineral deposits other than fuels in 1952 amounted to 5,180,783 feet, slightly more than 1951's 5,091,514, and income from drilling rose to \$14,667,847 from \$12,357,329. Footage drilled for fuels totalled 8,454,269, up from 6,637,230, and income from drilling soared to \$61,216,235 from \$42,988,013. The latter figures do not include drilling by oil companies with their own equipment.

The footage of deposits other than fuels drilled in Ontario rose to 5,914,306 feet from 4,862,666 in 1951, but Quebec's footage declined to 4,533,190 from 4,804,267. In British Columbia the footage increased to 1,051,662 from 875,203. Drilling of fuel deposits in Alberta increased to 6,602,902 feet from 5,221,149, and in Saskatchewan to 1,239,528 feet from 328,252. (13)

MANUFACTURING

February Motor Vehicle Shipments
At All-Time High Level For Month

Factory shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles totalled 44,268 units in February - an all-time high figure for the month - as compared with 42,904 units in February last year. Aggregate shipments for January and February this year rose to 84,578 as against 78,798 units last year.

Shipments of passenger cars increased in February to 35,241 units from 33,060 in February last year, 33,218 as against 29,299 being for the domestic market and 2,023 against 3,761 units for export. Commercial vehicle shipments declined to 9,027 from 9,844 units last year, the number for the domestic market falling to 7,665 from 8,426 and for export to 1,362 units from 1,418. In the two months of January and February, factory shipments of Canadian-made passenger cars for sale in Canada increased to 64,020 units as compared to 52,180 units last year, while the number for export fell to 3,604 from 7,363 units. Commercial vehicle shipments in the period for sale in Canada decreased to 14,609 from 16,240 and for export to 2,345 from 3,015 units.

Shipments of vehicles imported from the United States totalled 1,876 units this February against 2,190 last year and in the two months numbered 3,103 against 3,904 units. According to preliminary figures, sales of European-made vehicles totalled 1,418 units in February and 2,338 in the two months, both being below last year's figures. (14)

Leather Production
Down This February

Canadian production of most finished leathers was lower this February and February-end stocks of most hides and skins were higher than last year. In cattle leather, sole output was reduced to 1,171,316 from 1,555,828 pounds, upper to 4,127,697 from 4,744,341 square feet, bag, case and strap to 7,989 from 10,053 sides, and belting to 1,009 from 1,950 butt bends, while glove and garment was increased to 432,676 from 389,367 square feet and harness to 3,258 from 2,000 sides. Production of calf and kip skin upper leather was up to 807,667 from 787,107 square feet, but output of goat and kid leather was off to 10,585 from 32,581 skins and horse glove and garment leather to 139,821 from 182,839 square feet. In sheep and lamb leather, glove and garment output was reduced to 3,462 dozen from 5,100 dozen skins and shoe leather to 2,420 dozen from 3,991 dozen skins. February-end stocks of cattle hides were increased to 532,756 from 440,450 last year, calf and kip skins to 361,676 from 325,818 and sheep and lamb skins to 45,579 dozen from 55,522 dozen, while holdings of goat and kid skins were reduced to 18,277 from 40,338 and horse hides to 13,319 from 23,226. (15)

Steel Ingot Output This March
One-Third Less Than Last Year

Production of steel ingots in March continued the downward trend of the two previous months, dropping nearly one-third to 240,515 tons from 356,890 in March last year.

Three-month output was 789,767 tons, down 22% from 1,012,846 tons in 1953. The daily average output for March was 7,759 tons compared to 11,513 last year, and for the quarter was 8,775 against 11,254 tons. (16)

February Shipments Of
Wire Nails & Steel Wire

Producers shipped larger quantities of wire nails but smaller amounts of steel wire, wire rope, and wire fencing in February than in the corresponding month last year. The month's shipments of nails amounted to 4,558 tons (4,366 a year earlier); steel wire, 9,067 tons (9,142); wire rope, 1,771 tons (2,138); and wire fencing, 1,087 tons (1,170). (17)

Shipments Of Primary Steel
Shapes Declined In January

Shipments of primary steel shapes by Canadian steel mills, exclusive of producers' interchange, totalled 231,661 net tons in January, 1% under last year's corresponding total of 273,355 tons. At the same time producers' interchange dropped 24% to 106,012 tons from 140,104 tons.

January's shipments included 15,004 tons of structurals, 17,995 tons of plates, 29,172 tons of rails, 31,298 tons of hot rolled bars, 12,888 tons of pipes and tubes, 17,149 tons of wire rods, 38,961 tons of black sheets, 9,315 tons of galvanized sheets, and 8,494 tons of castings. (18)

Production, Shipments Of Iron Castings,
Pipes And Fittings Declined In February

Both production and shipments of iron castings and cast iron pipes and fittings were lower in February than in the corresponding month last year. The month's production amounted to 64,300 tons compared with 71,600 a year ago, and the shipments totalled 39,700 tons compared with 41,900.

During the month 24,400 tons of pig iron and 53,500 tons of scrap iron and steel were used in iron foundries as compared with respective totals of 30,200 and 44,000 last year. At the end of the month 39,100 tons of pig iron were on hand in iron foundries (53,400 last year), and stocks of scrap iron and steel totalled 72,300 tons (80,200). (19)

Sawn Lumber Production
Declined This February

Output of Canadian sawmills during February continued substantially below the levels of last year both in British Columbia and east of the Rockies.

In British Columbia production of sawn lumber and ties totalled 296,422 M feet, up from 222,487 M feet in January but nearly 15% below the output of 348,035 M feet in February last year. Production by Coast mills was down 2% and that of interior mills 35% from a year earlier. Production for the two months was about 20% below last year at 518,909 against 648,818 M feet. Shipments in February were slightly above a year earlier at 301,166 compared to 295,284 M feet and for the two months totalled 492,225 against 551,997 M feet.

Estimated production east of the Rockies (excluding sawn ties) increased in February to 236,034 M feet from 197,461 M feet in January, but was 18% below last year's February output of 287,910 M feet. Production in the two months this year is estimated at 433,495 M feet, down about 16% from 515,187 M feet last year. February production was higher than a year ago in Saskatchewan, but lower in all other provinces east of the Rockies, Quebec (the leading producer) showing the smallest decline at 7%. (20 & 21)

Production Of Mineral
Wool In March & Quarter

Production of mineral wool in March comprised 10,802,379 square feet of batts (11,327,928 a year earlier), and 487,370 cubic feet of granulated, bulk or loose wool (581,169). First quarter production comprised 32,627,894 square feet of batts (34,823,094), and 1,781,420 cubic feet of bulk or loose wool (2,279,741). (22)

Production And Shipments Of Rigid Insulating Board Lower This March

Both production and domestic shipments of rigid insulating board were higher in March and the first three months of this year than a year earlier. The month's output amounted to 27,590,000 square feet compared with 22,182,000 bringing the January-March total to 72,761,000 square feet as compared with 65,059,000. Domestic shipments in March were 23,074,000 square feet compared with 20,135,000, and three-month shipments aggregated 56,191,000 square feet compared with 56,067,000. (23)

Asphalt Roofing Shipments Declined In First Quarter

More asphalt shingles but smaller quantities of other types of asphalt roofing were shipped by Canadian factories in the first quarter this year. Movement of asphalt shingles increased to 428,902 from 424,061 squares last year, while shipments of smooth surfaced rolls decreased to 199,859 from 218,069 squares, mineral surfaced rolls to 143,300 from 156,658 squares, roll type sidings to 43,051 from 45,281 squares, tar and asphalt felts to 8,480 from 8,593 tons, kraft base tar and asphalt sheathings to 672 from 919 tons and non-kraft base tar and asphalt sheathings to 3,162 from 3,206 tons. (24)

Portland Cement Shipments Slightly Higher In February; Production Down

Manufacturers shipments of Portland cement to customers were slightly higher in February than in the corresponding month last year, but the month's output was a shade lower. Month-end stocks at plants and warehouses were up steeply from a year earlier.

February's shipments amounted to 1,185,733 barrels as compared with 1,178,646 a year ago, and production totalled 1,609,378 barrels compared with 1,630,483. End-of-February stocks were 2,029,546 barrels compared with 1,654,580. (25)

EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS

Industrial Employment Lower At March 1: Payrolls Higher

Industrial employment at the beginning of March declined 0.5% from a month earlier and was 3.2% lower than at the same time last year, according to the Bureau's monthly advance index. The decline in the February-March comparison conformed to the movement indicated at the beginning of March in 12 of the last 15 years.

Accompanying the slackening in industrial employment at the beginning of March was an advance of 0.9% in weekly payrolls as compared with February and a small rise over a year earlier. At the same time per capita weekly wages and salaries advanced to \$59.28 from \$58.47 at the beginning of February and \$57.40 a year ago.

The advance index number of industrial employment on the 1949 base, stood at 106.5 on March 1 compared with 107.0 a month earlier and 110.0 a year ago, and the payrolls index was 147.5 compared with 146.2 at the beginning of February and 147.0 at March 1 last year.

On the whole, curtailment in industrial employment as compared with February was noted in all provinces except Prince Edward Island, Alberta and British Columbia, while the 1953 comparison showed declines in all provinces except Saskatchewan. As compared with February, the rise in Prince Edward Island was 6.7%, Alberta 0.9%, and British Columbia 0.7%. Reductions elsewhere indicated ranged from 0.1% in Nova Scotia to 1.3% in Manitoba. The loss in Quebec amounted to 0.6%, and in Ontario, 0.7%.

Employment in manufacturing throughout Canada was a little quieter at March 1 than a month earlier. The advance index number (108.1), was 0.2% lower than at February 1, and 4.1% below last year's March 1 figure of 112.7. Weekly payrolls disbursed by the co-operating manufacturers on or about March 1, however, were greater by 0.8% than in the preceding survey, although they were slightly lower than at March 1 last year. The weekly wages and salaries averaged \$61.17 -- a new high -- as compared with the February 1 per capita of \$60.60, and that of \$59.25 at March 1, 1953. (26)

TRANSPORT

Carloadings Reduced In Third April Week Mainly due to the Easter holiday weekend, railway carloadings in the third week of April dropped to 59,245 cars from last year's corresponding total of 78,862. Last year's Easter holiday occurred in the first week of April. Cumulative loadings from the start of the year to April 21 fell to 1,028,350 cars from 1,131,203 a year earlier.

Grain continued to be loaded in smaller volume, the week's total amounting to 4,584 cars as compared with 11,938. Other commodities loaded in reduced amounts were grain products, coal, iron and steel products, gasoline, building materials, non-metallic mine products, lumber, pulpwood, fertilizers, miscellaneous freight and L.C.L. merchandise.

In the cumulative period there were declines in grain, lumber, miscellaneous, and L.C.L. freight, but increases in coal, fuel oil and pulpwood. (27)

Airlines Flew More Passengers, Freight And Mail, But Operating Income Cut 60% in 1953 Canada's airlines last year carried more passengers, freight and mail than ever before, but faster-rising costs sliced operating income 60% to \$1,504,021 from \$3,763,948 in 1952. This was less than a quarter of the \$6,990,586 operating profit of 1951 but still compared favourably with the operating losses sustained in earlier years.

Operating revenues and expenses both passed the hundred-million-dollar mark for the first time last year, revenues climbing \$12,010,047 or 13% to \$102,529,342 and expenses \$14,269,974 or 16% to \$101,025,321. All revenue and expense items were higher than in the preceding year.

During 1953 scheduled and non-scheduled airlines flew 2,719,960 paying passengers and 71,352 non-revenue passengers, 421,766 more revenue passengers and 8,699 more non-paying than in 1952. Revenue goods transported totalled 176,260,634 pounds, 41,205,528 more, and non-revenue goods 5,267,296 pounds, 587,360 less. Mail weighed in at 20,310,534 pounds, 1,982,224 more than in 1952.

An average of 684 aircraft were in operation last year, 30 more than in 1952, and they flew 63,583,183 revenue miles (4,807,843 more) in 495,557 hours (25,880 more). Non-revenue hours logged totalled 25,758, an increase of 3,713. It took 10,903 employees, 51,660,760 gallons of gas and 648,413 gallons of oil to keep the planes flying last year, 157 more employees, 6,118,275 more gallons of gas and 100,912 more gallons of oil than in the preceding year. (28)

VITAL STATISTICS

Canada's Population Estimated At 15,083,000 For March 1 This Year Canada's population had reached 15,083,000 by March 1 this year, an increase of 78,000 since last December, according to the Bureau's quarterly estimate. In the 12 months since March 1 last year the population has risen by 391,000 or 2.7% from an estimated 14,692,000. This compares with an increase of 376,000 or 2.6% in the March 1952 - March 1953 period. Since the June 1 Census of 1951 the population has increased by an estimated 1,074,000. The Bureau's quarterly estimates do not contain any breakdown of population changes by provinces; this is presented only in the annual estimate for the June 1 Census date.

Vital Statistics, 1951 The Bureau has released its final report on vital statistics for 1951. The 454-page report contains comprehensive statistics of births, deaths and marriages for provinces, counties, cities, towns and villages. Detailed tables include numerous breakdowns of these data according to sex, age, birthplace, origin and similar particulars. (29)

MERCHANDISING & SERVICES

Department Store Sales Declined 2.2% In Week

Department store sales declined 2.2% during the week ended April 24 as compared with the corresponding week last year. Provincial sales trends were mixed. Sales in Quebec were up 2.6%, Alberta 4%, and British Columbia 0.1%, but there were decreases of 8.3% in the Maritimes, 5.3% in Ontario, 3.2% in Manitoba, and 8.9% in Saskatchewan.

Retail Statistics

The Bureau has released its general review of retail trade statistics for 1952. It contains summaries of retail trade, department store sales, chain stores, retail consumer credit, and operating results and financial structure of independent retail stores. (30)

ANNUAL INDUSTRY REPORTS

Gross Value Of Products Of The Dairy Factory Industry At New High In 1952

Factory value of shipments of the dairy factory industry of Canada in 1952 was \$451,025,000, and the value of production was estimated at \$459,446,000, an increase of 4% over the \$440,798,000 recorded in 1951, and an all-time high point in the history of the industry. The number of factories in operation continued to decline, totalling 1,633 as compared with 1,721 the year before. The industry gave employment to 22,025 persons as compared with 22,395, and their salaries and wages aggregated \$53,103,000 as compared with 22,395, and their salaries and wages aggregated \$53,103,000 as compared with \$50,534,000.

Creamery butter, cheese other than cheddar, concentrated milk products and ice cream all registered increases in both volume and value, but both volume and value of cheddar cheese declined. Sales of fluid milk by dairy factories were on a larger scale than in 1951 but there was a slight decrease in the volume of cream sold.

The year's production of creamery butter amounted to 280,746,000 pounds and the estimated value was \$169,644,000, an increase of 9% in volume and 5% in value. Cheddar cheese production totalled 67,818,000 pounds valued at \$21,426,000, down 24% in volume and 33% in value. Production of concentrated milk products increased to 464,863,000 pounds from 430,834,000, and the value rose to \$61,651,000 from \$61,213,000. Ice cream production rose to 19,825,000 gallons from 17,809,000, and the value advanced to \$32,931,000 from \$28,900,000. Sales of fluid milk by the reporting plants totalled 165,245,000 gallons valued at \$114,709,000 as compared with 161,173,000 gallons valued at \$108,303,000, an increase of 2.5% in volume and 6% in value. Cream sales were lower by about 3% in both volume and value. (31)

Miscellaneous Food Preparations Industry Set New Record in 1952

Gross factory value of products of Canada's miscellaneous food preparations industries in 1952 reached an all-time high of \$266,030,000. This was about 2% above the 1951 total of \$260,431,000, and 14% above 1950's value of \$233,040,000. The industry gave employment to 9,563 persons and paid them \$23,203,000 in salaries and wages as against 9,194 persons paid \$20,965,000 the year before.

Coffee and tea together accounted for close to 40% of the total value of production in 1952. The quantity of coffee roasted in Canada has risen almost without interruption during the last 25 years, amounting in 1952 to 75,619,000 pounds -- five times the 1926 quantity. At the same time, tea has doubled, the 1952 pack amounting to 42,925,000 pounds.

Before 1938 more tea than coffee was packed in Canada, but in 1943 coffee took the lead and increased steadily until 1949 when 70% more coffee than tea was produced. Other important foods produced in the industry included roasted and salted nuts, margarine, corn-starch, yeast, rice, peanut butter, dehydrated soups, potato chips and jelly powders. (32)

MORE

Silver-Lead-Zinc Mining Industry
Output Value Reduced 11% In 1952

Gross value of shipments by firms engaged in mining, exploring and developing silver-lead-zinc ores in 1952 amounted to \$165,127,000, an 11% drop from the preceding year's \$185,693,000. The net value of shipments -- after deductions for the cost of fuel, electricity, process supplies, freight and ore treatment charges -- totaled \$104,937,000, down from \$131,909,000.

The industry gave employment to 10,330 persons in 1952 as against 9,324 the year before, and the wage and salary bill aggregated \$37,644,000 compared with \$30,381,000. Cost of process supplies was \$10,193,000 compared with \$10,382,000, and a further \$45,580,000 was expended on freight and smelter charges as compared with \$40,311,000.

Cost of prospecting by Canadian silver-lead-zinc mining companies in 1952 was \$2,268,000, up sharply from 1951's \$968,000. Ores mined in 1952 rose to 6,759,000 tons from 6,138,000, and ores milled advanced to 6,599,000 tons from 6,164,000. (33)

RELEASED THIS WEEK

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

- 1- Price Movements, Apr., 10¢
 - 2- Prices & Price Indexes, Mar., 20¢
 - 3- M: Farm Net Income, 1953, 25¢
 - 4- M: Value of Fruit Production, 1953, 10¢
 - 5- Monthly Review of Canadian Fisheries Statistics, Mar., 25¢
 - 6- M: Grain Statistics, Weekly, 10¢
 - 7- M: Grain Milling Statistics, Mar., 10¢
 - 8- The Dairy Review, Mar., 20¢
 - 9- M: Fluid Milk Sales, Feb., 10¢
 - 10- M: Production of Eggs, Mar., 10¢
 - 11- M: Stocks of Dairy & Poultry Products in 9 Cities, May 1, 10¢
 - 12- M: Asbestos, Feb., 10¢
 - 13- Contract Drilling in the Mining Industry, 1952, 25¢
 - 14- Motor Vehicle Shipments, Feb., 10¢
 - 15- M: Statistics of Hides, Skins & Leather, Feb., 10¢
 - 16- Steel Ingots, Mar., 10¢
 - 17- M: Steel Wire & Specified Wire Products, Feb., 10¢
 - 18- Primary Iron & Steel, Jan., 20¢
 - 19- M: Iron Castings & Cast Iron Pipes & Fittings, Feb., 10¢
 - 20- Production, Shipments & Stocks of Sawmills East of the Rockies, Feb., 25¢
 - 21- Production, Shipments & Stocks of Sawmills In British Columbia, Feb., 25¢
 - 22- M: Mineral Wool, Mar., 10¢
 - 23- M: Rigid Insulating Board Industry, Mar., 10¢
 - 24- M: Asphalt Roofing, Mar., 10¢
 - 25- M: Cement & Cement Products, Feb., 10¢
 - 26- Advance Statement on Employment & Weekly Payrolls, Mar., 10¢
 - 27- M: Railway Carloadings, Weekly, 10¢
 - 28- Civil Aviation, Dec., 15¢
 - 29- Vital Statistics, 1951, Final Report, \$1
 - 30- General Review of Retail Statistics, 1952, 25¢
 - 31- The Dairy Products Industries, 1952, 25¢
 - 32- Miscellaneous Food Preparations Industry, 1952, 25¢
 - 33- The Silver-Lead-Zinc Mining Industry, 1952, 25¢
- M - Memorandum

D.B.S. NEWS NOTES

Airline planes flew a record 63,583,000 revenue miles in 1953, equivalent to 2,553 times around the world at the equator. In 1947 they flew only 35,573,000 miles, the equal of 1,428 times around the globe.

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Chain restaurants accounted for only 6.5% of total restaurant sales in 1952 as compared with 17.9% in 1930.

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Drunk driving convictions numbered 1,507 in 1952, 440 or 23% fewer than in 1951. This was also less than in the years 1950-47-46, but was more than in 1949-48-45. Included in 1952 were 25 women, five fewer than in 1951 but more than in any earlier year.

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Cake mixes and other prepared mixes produced in 1952 totalled 48,226,000 lb., more than three times as much as in 1950.

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Contract drilling for fuels and other minerals cost \$75,884,000 in 1952, 37% more than in 1951, and footage drilled was one-fifth greater at 13,635,000 feet. Average cost per foot was 14% higher at \$5.56.

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Golf Clubs: 169,000 were made in 1952, 11% fewer than in 1951. Average factory price increased to \$6.50 from \$5.95.

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Coffee & Tea: Over the past quarter-century packaging of coffee has increased fivefold in Canada, while the output of tea has only doubled. Before 1938 considerably more tea than coffee was produced, but since 1943 coffee has been well in the lead.

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Paper Boxes & Bags: Canadian exports were valued at only \$552,139 last year, 43% less than in 1952, 70% less than in 1951 and 36% less than in 1950. On the other hand, imports were worth \$3,969,121, some 38% more than in 1952, 29% more than in 1951 and two and one-quarter times the 1950 value.

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Clay Products: About 60% of Canada's output is made from domestic clays, which are used mainly in producing building brick, structural tile, roofing tile, drain tile, sewer pipe, stoneware, pottery and refractories. Imported clays are used principally in the manufacture of electrical porcelains, sanitaryware, sewer pipe, tableware, artware, floor and wall tile, and fireclay blocks and shapes. More than \$40,600,000 worth of clay products are made in Canada annually.

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Fruit crops had a total farm value of \$45,-733,000 last year, 5% more than in 1952.

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Baseballs: 204,000 were made in 1952, 30% fewer than in 1951. Average factory price was \$1.30 lower at \$16.54 a dozen.

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Eggs: 1,334,316,000 were laid in the first quarter this year, 182,520,000 or 16% more than in the first three months of 1953.

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Chain stores accounted for one-fifth of all retail sales in Ontario in 1952, 16% in British Columbia, 15% in Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces, 14% in Alberta, 13% in Manitoba and 12.5% in Saskatchewan.

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Rabbit Foods: Close to 3,300 tons were made in 1952, 62% more than in 1951 and almost three times as much as in 1946.

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Airlines carried a record 2,720,000 paying passengers last year, 13% more than in 1952 and three times as many as in 1947.

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Farmers netted \$1,656,600,000 last year, 13% less than in 1952 and 23% less than in the peak year of 1951.

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Illicit Stills: The number convicted of operating illicit stills dropped from 278 in 1945 to 172 in 1946, 85 in 1947, 82 in 1948, 40 in 1949 and 13 in 1950, rose to 20 in 1950, then declined to 17 in 1952. The 8-year total included 680 men and 30 women.

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