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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

DOMESTIC EXPORTS WERE UP 3% in value this March, the first increase over a year earlier since last October. Main factor in the overall gain was a 36% boost in sales to the United Kingdom which overbalanced lower shipments to most other areas. (Page 2)

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DEPARTMENT STORE SALES ROSE 12% over last year's level in the week ending May 1, with all except the Prairie Provinces contributing to the upturn... WHOLESALE SALES WERE UP 1.8% over the 1953 level in March. (Page 7)

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CONSUMER PRICES INCREASED in five regional cities in March, decreased in four and made no change in one... FARM PRICES INCREASED for agricultural products in March, reversing the three-month upward trend. (Page 4)

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MINERAL OUTPUT FIGURES show more nickel was produced this February, but less gold, silver, iron ore, lead, zinc, copper and salt than last year. Production of coal was down in both March and the first quarter this year. (Page 10)

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MANUFACTURERS' INVENTORIES INCREASED in value in February and at month's end were 4% above a year earlier. SHIPMENTS WERE DOWN 1% and in the first two months averaged 3% below last year's levels. (Page 11)

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VALUE OF CHEQUES CASHED WAS UP 4% in the first quarter this year, with higher debits in all economic areas except the Prairies. (Page 10)

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10% MORE HOUSING UNITS were built in the first quarter this year and 4% more than last year were under construction at the end of March. (Page 13)

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RAILWAY CARLOADINGS DIPPED 12% in the last nine days of April, put total loadings for the first four months 9% under last year. (Page 8)

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MORE BABIES WERE BORN in the first three months of this year than in any like period in Canada's history -- some 12% more than in the first quarter last year. Nearly 15% MORE PERSONS WERE MARRIED this year, while about the SAME NUMBER DIED as in the first three months of 1953. (Page 9)

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AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION VOLUME FELL 6% from the 1952 peak last year, but was the third highest on record. (Page 6)

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE

March Domestic Exports Raised By Large Increase To United Kingdom

A large gain in shipments to the United Kingdom was the main factor in raising the value of Canada's domestic exports in March moderately above a year earlier for the first time since October last. Exports to the United States were slightly lower in value as were those to other Commonwealth countries, Latin American and European countries, but there was a rise in value to other foreign countries. Total shipments were substantially above February in value, making a progressive gain from the low level of January. There were successive advances during the quarter in sales to the United Kingdom, United States and Latin America that heavily outweighed similarly successive declines to Europe and the remaining foreign countries.

Domestic exports to all countries in March were valued at \$315,700,000 as compared with \$307,800,000 a year ago, the rise being due to larger volume, since prices averaged 3% lower. The small overall rise in March over last year was not sufficient to offset the large decline in January and the value of shipments to all countries in the first quarter of this year declined to \$851,000,000 from the preceding year's \$900,600,000. Volume in the period was about 3.4% lower as against the decrease of 5.5% in value. Most of the month's increase in exports occurred in the wood and paper group, with planks and boards, wood pulp, and newsprint paper accounting for a major share of the rise. Non-metallic minerals and chemicals both moved moderately higher and agricultural and vegetable products, animals and animal products, and fibres and textiles were steady. There were sizeable declines in iron and products, and non-ferrous metals.

Domestic exports to the United States in March declined slightly to \$200,801,000 from \$202,391,000 a year earlier, and the first-quarter total fell to \$526,534,000 from \$564,301,000. Main decreases both in March and the January-March period were in wood and paper, iron and products, non-ferrous metals, and agricultural and vegetable products groups. Chemicals and allied products were higher in value.

Mainly as a result of larger shipments of agricultural and vegetable products, wood and paper, and non-ferrous metals, exports to the United Kingdom rose in March to \$52,314,000 from \$38,525,000 a year earlier. In the quarter, agricultural and vegetable products, and wood and paper products were higher in value, but non-ferrous metals were lower, and the overall value climbed to \$134,683,000 from \$123,934,000.

March exports to other Commonwealth countries declined to \$13,432,000 from \$16,480,000, and in the quarter to \$37,255,000 from \$55,796,000. Shipments were higher in value in both periods to the Union of South Africa and New Zealand, but lower to India and Pakistan. Australia's March value was down, but the January-March total was higher.

Shipments to Latin American Countries sloped off in March to \$14,688,000 from \$16,767,000, and in the quarter to \$38,130,000 from \$47,875,000. There were reduced shipments in both periods to Argentina and Brazil, increased sales to Cuba and Venezuela. Total for Colombia was higher in March but lower in the quarter, and for Mexico down in March but up in the three months.

Shipments to European countries showed no pronounced changes with March sales at \$18,104,000 compared with \$18,256,000, and first-quarter shipments at \$59,818,000 compared with \$59,213,000. There were increased exports in both March and the first quarter to France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, and Switzerland. Shipments to Belgium and Luxembourg were up in March but down in the quarter, while sales to the Netherlands and Norway were down in March but up in the three-month period.

Mainly due to increased shipments to Japan, exports to the remaining group of foreign countries climbed in value in March to \$15,528,000 from \$13,593,000 a year earlier, and in the quarter to \$51,667,000 from \$45,254,000.

MORE

Main commodity group values for March were as follows, those for a year earlier being in brackets: agricultural and vegetable products, \$53,900,000 (\$53,900,000); animals and animal products, \$21,500,000 (\$21,300,000); fibres and textiles, \$1,200,000 (\$1,600,000); wood, wood products and paper, \$119,300,000 (\$106,800,000); iron and products, \$28,200,000 (\$32,600,000); non-ferrous metals and products, \$56,600,000 (\$61,200,000); non-metallic minerals and products, \$12,700,000 (\$11,900,000); chemicals and allied products, \$14,500,000 (\$11,500,000); and miscellaneous commodities, \$7,700,000 (\$6,900,000).

First-quarter commodity group totals: agricultural and vegetable products, \$169,100,000 (\$181,900,000); animals and animal products, \$66,300,000 (\$66,800,000); fibres and textiles, \$3,900,000 (\$4,700,000); wood, wood products and paper, \$298,600,000 (\$298,100,000); iron and products, \$71,000,000 (\$91,500,000); non-ferrous metals and products, \$152,400,000 (\$180,500,000); non-metallic minerals and products, \$30,700,000 (\$32,300,000); chemicals and allied products, \$38,500,000 (\$33,900,000); and miscellaneous commodities, \$20,600,000 (\$20,900,000).

The following table shows the value of Canada's major exports in March and the January-March period, together with corresponding 1953 totals. These are listed in order of size in order of size in this year's January-March period. (1)

	March		January - March	
	1953	1954	1953	1954
	(in thousands of dollars)			
Newsprint	49,534	54,943	144,395	144,340
Wheat	22,308	20,753	90,182	72,793
Wood pulp	19,873	24,088	56,319	62,155
Planks and board	25,553	28,396	63,960	60,833
Nickel	13,779	16,831	40,906	43,517
Aluminum and products	17,883	14,990	43,800	40,747
Fish and Fishery products	9,167	10,851	26,342	28,125
Farm implements and machinery	11,116	11,803	30,306	26,284
Copper and products	10,171	9,670	34,570	26,178
Flour of wheat	8,483	9,313	21,657	23,917
Grains other than wheat	5,134	5,179	18,669	18,864
Asbestos	7,068	6,704	19,207	16,054
Fertilizers	3,760	5,827	11,725	14,405
Alcoholic beverages	5,479	4,643	14,372	12,633

Trade In Outstanding Securities Increased

A somewhat heavier volume of international security trading by Canadians in February was accompanied by a marked increase in net sales to \$12,700,000, or more than double the capital import recorded in January. Most of the increase in the sales balance was from trading with residents of the United States. This balance rose from \$1,800,000 in January to \$6,600,000 in February, resulting mainly from net sales of \$6,000,000 common and preference stocks of Canadian companies. The sales balances of \$3,200,000 and \$2,900,000 recorded in February with the United Kingdom and with other overseas countries, respectively, were also larger than in January and reflected increased non-resident interest in both bonds and stocks of Canadian governments and corporations.

The net capital inflow of nearly \$19,000,000 arising from trading in outstanding securities between Canada and other countries in the first two months of this year was the largest recorded in any two months since the first quarter of 1951. In recent months there has also been a substantial participation by United States investors in new issues of Canadian bonds and debentures in the Canadian market. In early 1951 the United States dollar was selling at a premium of nearly 5% in terms of Canadian funds. In contrast, in February of this year the noon average value of the United States dollar in Canada was 96.65 cents and was lower than for any month since October, 1952. (2)

P R I C E S

Consumer Price Indexes For Regional Cities

Consumer price indexes for regional cities registered mixed fractional changes between March 1 and April 1 as five of the ten series advanced, four declined and one remained unchanged. Food indexes were lower in eight centres due mainly to decreases for eggs, beef, veal and potatoes which overbalanced higher quotations for coffee, tea, oranges and lettuce. Toronto and Winnipeg, showed no overall change in foods.

Shelter indexes reflected higher rents in five cities while they were unchanged in the remaining five. Two cities, Saint John and Vancouver, registered significant changes in clothing due principally to adjustments in provincial sales taxes. The Saint John index declined 0.9% while an increase of 1.4% was recorded for Vancouver. Clothing indexes were unchanged in three of the remaining centres, lower in three and higher in two. Scattered decreases were reported for cotton and rayon items while men's and women's topcoats were generally higher.

Increases in postal rates, adjustments in provincial sales taxes in Saint John and Vancouver and higher quotations for cleaning supplies were the predominant changes noted in the indexes for the household operation group. Other commodities and services indexes moved higher in all cities mainly as a result of increases in health care services. Gasoline prices declined in Toronto while an increase in the New Brunswick gasoline tax was reflected in the Saint John index.

Total indexes for April 1 and March 1, and April 1 group index detail, are shown below. Indexes show changes in retail prices of goods and services in each city, do not indicate whether it costs more or less to live in one city than another.

Consumer Price Indexes For Regional Cities At April 1

(Base: 1949 = 100)

	Total Indexes		Group Indexes - April 1, 1954				
	March 1 1954	April 1 1954	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities & Services
St. John's *	102.2	102.0	98.9	107.3	102.2	103.9	102.1
Halifax	113.7	113.8	105.5	122.4	116.4	119.5	116.2
Saint John	116.2	115.9	109.2	117.9	118.6	116.8	122.9
Montreal	116.3	116.3	112.6	132.0	110.7	116.6	116.4
Ottawa	115.3	115.5	109.3	126.0	113.5	116.8	118.4
Toronto	117.4	117.7	108.9	138.9	112.1	118.2	118.4
Winnipeg	114.7	114.9	110.2	122.7	115.2	113.7	117.3
Saskatoon-Regina	113.7	113.6	108.7	113.5	117.0	118.6	112.8
Edmonton-Calgary	114.4	114.3	109.0	119.3	114.2	115.7	118.3
Vancouver	116.3	116.9	110.4	124.1	113.4	126.7	118.0

* Index on the base June 1951 = 100

Index Of Farm Prices Of Agricultural Products Decreased Slightly In March

The trend of Canada's farm price index of agricultural products, which has been upward since November last, was reversed in March. From a revised figure of 233.8 in February, it declined 1.3 points to 232.5. This decline resulted from a general lowering of prices for live stock, dairy products, potatoes, and poultry and eggs. No change was recorded for grains.

Among the provinces there were declines in Nova Scotia's index to 215.8 from 218.3 in February, Quebec's to 269.9 from 273.2, Ontario's to 255.8 from 259.0, Saskatchewan's to 195.9 from 196.5, and British Columbia's to 255.4 from 260.9. The index for Prince Edward Island rose to 174.9 from 174.8, New Brunswick to 197.3 from 194.2, Manitoba to 218.7 from 217.8, and Alberta to 223.1 from 221.6. (3)

Security Price Indexes

	<u>May 6, 1954</u>	<u>April 29, 1954</u> (1935-39=100)	<u>April 8, 1954</u>
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
Total Common Stocks	177.5	176.5	172.3
Industrials	178.7	177.6	173.1
Utilities	163.2	163.1	158.5
Banks	198.8	197.2	196.0
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
Total Mining Stocks	89.3	90.0	88.6
Golds	64.9	65.7	63.6
Base Metals	145.0	145.6	146.0

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Crop Conditions Across Canada Unseasonable weather conditions hampered field operations throughout the Prairie Provinces during the latter part of April, states the Bureau of Statistics in its first 1954 report on crop conditions. Some field work was accomplished in local areas about mid-April but snow and cold weather delayed further activity. Conditions have improved during the past few days and, given warm, dry weather, seeding should be general in most areas within the next week or two.

With cool, wet weather prevailing in Ontario during April, only a very small acreage of spring grains had been seeded by May 3. Unless conditions for field work improve during the next two weeks, farmers will likely alter their cropping plans to some extent. Less oats may be planted and there are indications that acreages of corn, soybeans and sugar beets may be increased. Over-wintered crops suffered little winterkilling and the outlook for fall wheat, fall rye and hay and clover crops is good. Pasture growth has been slow due to cool, backward weather and few cattle have been turned out to grass as yet. Feed supplies are quite ample and all livestock are in good condition with milk flow at a normal level.

Spring is late in the province of Quebec and weather remains cool. Some early potato planting has been done but, in general, little field work has been accomplished. Pastures, hayfields and orchards show little evidence of winterkilling.

Throughout the Maritime Provinces the weather has been cool and dry so far this spring. Farmers have made a start on field work and limited planting of early potatoes and grain is reported. In Prince Edward Island wild white clover, red clover and alfalfa have wintered well. A few farmers have planted early potatoes, turnips and grain. In Nova Scotia some seeding is reported in all sections but not over 10% in any area. The unusually dry weather has been favourable to work on the land, which is generally well under way. Pastures are only fair. In the St. John River Valley of New Brunswick very little winterkilling of legumes and fall grains is evident. The growth is above average and pastures and hay meadow lands have dried rapidly during the past week. Grain seeding began a week earlier than usual. Elsewhere in the province the season is more retarded.

In British Columbia the season is dry and very backward in practically all areas. An unusually cold April, one of the coldest on record during the past sixty years, has retarded growth and brought the danger of floods to the Fraser and Kootenay Valleys. Damaging frosts were experienced on the nights of April 28 to 30, causing heavy loss of apricot, peach, cherry and pear buds in the Okanagan Valley. Damage to apple and other fruit crops was not quite as heavy. It will be two or three weeks before full extent of the loss is determined. Early crop potatoes in the Lower Fraser Valley also suffered severely from frost injury. (4)

MORE

Creamery Butter Stocks Higher
On May 1; Cheese Stocks Lower

Creamery butter stocks on May 1 rose to 42,422,000 pounds from last year's 26,994,000, but holdings of cheddar cheese declined to 22,348,000 from 25,542,000 pounds. Evaporated whole milk stocks dropped to 18,720,000 pounds from 26,296,000, and skim milk powder to 7,419,000 pounds from 12,079,000. Holdings of poultry meat climbed to 18,800,000 pounds from 9,164,000. (5)

Creamery Butter Production
Rose in April; Cheese Down

Creamery butter production increased 7% in April as compared with a year earlier and four-month output rose 6%. Domestic disappearance increased 6% both in April and January-April. April output of creamery butter rose to 23,970,000 pounds from 22,373,000, bringing the four-month total to 59,605,000 from 56,279,000. Domestic disappearance in April rose to 23,578,000 pounds from 22,178,000, and the four-month disappearance to 88,348,000 from 83,543,000.

Cheddar cheese production in April amounted to 4,401,000 pounds (5,441,000 a year earlier), and in the January-April period aggregated 10,898,000 (11,823,000). The month's output of ice cream was 2,078,000 gallons (2,124,000), bringing the four-month total to 6,346,000 (6,418,000). April output of concentrated milk totalled 39,091,000 pounds, down 1% from 39,403,000 a year earlier, but January-April production rose 6% to 107,468,000 from 101,667,000. (6)

Margarine Output Up

Margarine production in April totalled 9,476,000 pounds, up from last year's 8,526,000. This brought the four-month output to 38,237,000 pounds, moderately above last year's 36,283,000. May 1 stocks held by manufacturers, wholesalers and other warehouses rose to 3,537,000 pounds from 3,094,000 a year earlier. (7)

Production, Stocks Of
Process Cheese Higher

Production of process cheese in April amounted to 3,810,000 pounds, an increase of 29% over last year's 2,950,000. The January-April output was 16,179,000 pounds, up 10% from 14,616,000. Stocks in the hands of manufacturers at the end of April totalled 1,749,000 pounds as against 1,541,000 last year.

Volume Of Agricultural Production
Third Highest On Record Last Year

Largely attributable to smaller grain crops and a decline in the output of live stock, Canada's 1953 index number of the physical volume of agricultural production declined to 115.0, 6% under 1952's all-time high of 165.2. At the 1953 level the index was the third highest on record. Reduced production of sugar beets, fruits, tobacco, vegetables and maple products also contributed to last Year's decline. Offsetting these losses to some extent were increases in the production of potatoes, dairy products, and poultry and eggs.

On a provincial basis, declines occurred only in the Prairie Provinces where the output of wheat and barley in 1953 was somewhat below the record-breaking production of 1952. This, together with small production of live stock in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, contributed largely to the declines which ranged from nearly 10% in Alberta to 20% in Manitoba. Virtually no change was recorded for the index of production for Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. For the remaining provinces gains ranged from about 2% in British Columbia to nearly 11% in New Brunswick. In the latter province, the gain in production was due in large part to a substantial increase in potato production.

Provincial indexes for 1953 with those for 1952 in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 142.9 (142.3); Nova Scotia, 80.0 (79.9); New Brunswick, 121.1 (109.4); Quebec, 131.6 (124.2); Ontario, 125.5 (117.6); Manitoba, 128.9 (162.7); Saskatchewan, 230.8 (266.7); Alberta, 159.6 (175.1); and British Columbia, 135.3 (132.2). (8)

Wheat Stocks Decreasing, But Still Well Above Level Of A Year Earlier

but 29% above last year's corresponding total of 269,532,000.

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on April 28 totalled 348,731,000 bushels, moderately below the 350,080,000 held a week earlier,

Prairie farmers reduced their deliveries of wheat during the week ending April 28 to 3,432,000 bushels from 6,664,000, oats to 763,000 bushels from 1,727,000, barley to 790,000 bushels from 2,234,000, rye to 93,000 bushels from 214,000, and flaxseed to 35,000 bushels from 51,000. Overseas export clearances of wheat were sharply lower, totalling 1,914,000 bushels as compared with 2,489,000 a week earlier and 5,521,000 at the same time last year. This brought cumulative clearances from the start of the crop year to 146,354,000 bushels, down from 188,081,000 a year ago. (9)

Smaller Tobacco Harvest In 1953; Farm Value Increased

Canadian tobacco growers harvested 139,190,000 pounds of leaf tobacco in the year ending September 30, 1953, approximately 500,000 pounds less than in the preceding year, but the farm value of the crop rose to \$59,617,000 from \$56,797,000. Factors in the larger cash return were an increase in average farm price to 42.82 cents from 40.65, and a rise in acreage to 101,088 acres from 91,639.

Ontario's 1953 tobacco crop weighed in at 129,253,000 pounds as compared with 131,236,000 the year before and the farm value was \$56,328,000 as compared with \$54,065,000. In Quebec, 9,865,000 pounds of tobacco were harvested as compared with 8,358,000, and the farm value was \$31,261,000 compared with \$2,688,000. British Columbia's crop weighed 72,000 pounds compared with 125,000 in 1952, and its value was \$28,000 compared with \$44,000.

The overall yield per acre of green-weight leaf tobacco decreased to 1,377 pounds in 1953 compared to the abnormal acreage yield in 1952 of 1,525 pounds per acre. By types, the yields per acre for 1953 were as follows with 1952 figures in brackets: flue-cured, 1,382 (1,534) pounds; burley, 1,560 (1,673); dark, 1,503 (1,727); cigar, 1,277 (1,227); and pipe, 1,045 (1,098). (10)

M E R C H A N D I S I N G & S E R V I C E S

Department Store Sales Increased 12% In Week

Department store sales rose 12% over last year's level during the week ending May 1. There were large increases of 26.2% in Ontario and 22.4% in Quebec, and moderate advances of 4.9% in the Maritimes and 3.7% in British Columbia. Sales were lower in the Prairie Provinces -- down 7.8% in Manitoba, 15.2% in Saskatchewan, and 1.1% in Alberta.

Wholesale Sales Higher In March

The unadjusted sales index for nine wholesale trades registered 352.5 for March, a sharp increase from 312.8 a month earlier and 1.8% above last year's March figure of 349.0. Higher sales in the grocery, fruit and vegetable, and drug trades outweighed reductions in the dry goods, tobacco and confectionery, auto parts and equipment, footwear, clothing and hardware lines in the 12 month comparison.

Largest gain over March last year was in the grocery trade, with a sales increase of 8.2%. Sales were up 1.5% in the fruit and vegetable trade and 1.3% in the drug trade. Sharpest drop was 9.2% for dry goods wholesalers. Tobacco and confectionery wholesalers reported a sales decline of 4.6%, while wholesale sales of auto parts and equipment were off 4.4%, footwear 3.9%, clothing 0.9% and hardware 0.7%.

Value of stocks held by wholesalers at the end of March showed a very slight decline of 0.6% this year. Inventory values were higher than at the end of March last year in the footwear (32.7%), clothing (10.1%), auto parts and equipment (7.5%), groceries (4.7%), drugs (3.3%), and tobacco and confectionery (0.8%) trades. Stocks of dry goods wholesalers were 11.9% less valuable, of hardware wholesalers 3.9%, and of fruit and vegetable wholesalers 1.8%. (11)

T R A N S P O R T

Carloadings Off 9.3%
In First Four Months

Revenue freight loaded on Canadian railways in the last nine days of April totalled 95,096 cars, 13,445 fewer than a year earlier. This brought cumulative loadings for the first four months of 1954 to 1,123,946 cars, down 9.3% from last year's 1,239,844.

In the last nine days of April grain loadings were off steeply to 6,984 cars from 18,031. Also down sharply were shipments of iron ore, iron and steel products, lumber, pulpwood, and L.C.L. freight. Coal, non-ferrous ores and concentrates and beverages were loaded in greater amounts.

In the January-April period, commodities leading the decline were: grain, off more than 60,000 cars to 91,016; logs, posts and piling, down 6,215 cars to 15,139; lumber, timber and plywood, 7,448 fewer at 52,795 cars; miscellaneous carload shipments down 5,061 cars to 70,540; and L.C.L. almost 30,000 cars less at 237,106. Among the increases were: coal, up 5,415 cars to 82,780; fuel oil up 4,228 cars to 41,402, and pulpwood with a rise of 4,437 cars to 60,497. (12)

Rail Revenues Down

Operating revenues of 16 Canadian railways totalled \$78,283,505 in January, \$11,442,425 or 12.8% less than in the first month of 1953.

Operating expenses fell somewhat less sharply to \$81,877,858 from \$92,115,030, a drop of 11.1%. However, other expense items showed net improvements over a year earlier, resulting in a reduced operating deficit of \$5,644,582 versus \$6,548,514.

Freight revenues were down sharply this January to \$62,012,456 from \$73,151,445 last year, but mail revenues were 11.5% higher. Transportation expenses were reduced 14.8% to \$41,070,847 from \$48,211,022, but traffic and general expenses were slightly higher. Tonnage of revenue freight carried was down 15.5% to 11,308,994 from 13,387,559 tons and average length of haul was off to 381 from 416 miles, resulting in a 22.7% cut in revenue ton-miles to 4,309,340,000 from 5,574,982,000 ton miles. There was a 3.8% decrease in the number of passengers carried and passenger-miles were off 4.9% with a reduction in the average passenger journey to 88 from 89 miles. (13)

Expenses Outclimbed Revenues To Reduce
Operating Income Of Railways Last Year

Both revenues and expenses of Canada's major railways increased last year, but expenses rose more than revenues and net operating revenue and operating income were both lower.

Revenues of the 16 railways with annual operating revenues of \$500,000 or more increased 2.8% to \$1,194,711,156 from \$1,161,662,978 in 1952. However, expenses rose 4.1% to \$1,091,798,976 from \$1,049,183,622, bringing a reduction of \$9,567,136 to \$102,919,180 in net operating revenue.

Taxes last year were down \$1,010,624 to \$36,039,656 and the debit balance on hire of equipment declined \$4,106,748 to \$8,944,314, more than offsetting a small rise in the debit on joint facilities rents to \$2,076,627 from \$2,021,204. The net result was that operating income was reduced \$4,505,207 to \$55,851,583.

Due to higher freight rates, freight revenues last year were up 3.1% to \$962,118,086, in spite of reductions of 4.7% in revenue tons carried to 169,239,163 and to just over 65 billion revenue ton miles. Passenger receipts were down 5.1% to \$85,814,836. On the other hand, mail revenues were up 13.9%, express 4.6%, water line 11.7%, and miscellaneous revenues 8.2%.

All expense accounts took larger amounts in 1953 than 1952. Average operating expenses per train mile rose to \$8.15 from \$7.54, while the ratio of operating expenses to revenues climbed to 91.39 from 90.32%. (14)

Fewer Passengers Carried By
Transit Systems In January

Both urban and interurban transit systems carried fewer revenue passengers this January. Urban passengers dropped to 111,044,859 from 118,306,028 last year, and interurban fares were reduced to 7,333,511 from 8,014,821. Total passengers carried in January declined 7,942,479 to 118,378,370. Urban revenues declined to \$10,048,662 from \$10,494,174, and interurban revenues fell to \$3,279,889 from \$3,442,821. (15)

Oil Pipe-Line Deliveries
Up Sharply This February

Net deliveries of oil through Canadian pipe-lines in February rose to 13,725,000 barrels, 3,550,000 more than in the same month last year. This boosted the January-February total 39% to 29,091,000 barrels from 20,897,000.

Increased deliveries were recorded in all provinces except Alberta in February. Totals were as follows: British Columbia, 1,067,000 barrels (nil in 1953); Alberta, 1,267,000 (1,329,000); Saskatchewan, 1,134,000 (1,072,000); Manitoba, 3,142,000 (1,733,000); Ontario, 2,595,000 (1,701,000); and Quebec, 4,519,000 (4,337,000). January-February deliveries were: British Columbia, 2,007,000 (nil); Alberta, 2,685,000 (2,918,000); Saskatchewan, 2,356,000 (2,294,000); Manitoba, 7,054,000 (3,415,000); Ontario, 5,432,000 (3,216,000); and Quebec, 9,557,000 (9,054,000). (16)

T R A V E L

Vehicle Border Crossings
Off In March And Quarter

Volume of highway traffic crossing the border into Canada from the United States declined 4% in March compared with a year earlier, and first-quarter crossings fell about 1%. Foreign vehicle entries declined 7% in March and 4% in January-March, while Canadian vehicles returning decreased 1% in both periods. Border crossings of foreign vehicles in March numbered 415,394 against 445,245, bringing the first-quarter total to 1,183,767 against 1,196,219. Returning Canadian vehicles in March numbered 337,785 against 342,609, and in the three months totalled 914,754 against 926,992. (17)

V I T A L S T A T I S T I C S

Record Number Of Births
In First Quarter Of 1954

More babies were born in Canada in the first three months of this year than in any like period in Canada's history and 12% more than a year earlier. Marriages increased nearly 15% over last year, while about the same number died.

First-quarter births increased to 105,016 from 93,459, with the number up 20% in March to 39,668 from 32,684 and followed an increase in February to 32,843 from 27,878. In January there was a small decline to 32,505 from 32,897. There were increased births in the quarter in all provinces except Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and British Columbia. Largest increase was in Quebec, where registrations rose almost one-third to 30,934 from 23,321. Births in Ontario increased 7.5% to 33,715 from 31,357, Alberta 7.1% to 8,681 from 8,103, Manitoba 15.6% to 51,421 from 4,688, and Saskatchewan 12.1% to 5,941 from 5,300. Larger decreases were 5.4% in British Columbia to 7,132 from 7,539 and 6.4% in Nova Scotia to 4,382 from 4,683.

Marriages rose in the three-month period to 19,882 from 17,331 a year earlier. In March the number rose to 6,981 from 5,284, February to 6,646 from 6,325, and January to 6,255 from 5,722. Quebec led all provinces in the quarter with a rise to 5,039 from 3,055. Deaths occurring in January-March this year numbered 33,135 as compared with 33,076 last year. In March there were 12,167 as compared with 11,188 a year ago; February 9,621 compared with 10,388; and January 11,347 compared with 11,500. (18)

M I N E R A L S

Production And Imports Of Coal
Lower In March & First Quarter

Both domestic production and imports of coal declined in March and the first three months as compared with a year earlier. The month's output amounted to 1,272,000 tons as compared with 1,297,000 a year earlier, bringing the three-month total to 4,271,000 tons compared with 4,367,000. Landed imports in March totalled 535,000 tons compared with 783,000, and January-March imports aggregated 1,803,000 tons compared with 2,259,000. (19)

Production Of Zinc, Lead,
Silver Down This February

Canadian production of zinc, lead and silver declined in February as compared with a year earlier. Output of zinc declined sharply to 24,926 tons from 33,261, and lead was slightly lower at 6,814 tons against 16,888. Silver output dropped to 1,895,857 fine ounces from 2,255,113. Combined January-February production totals followed the same trend with zinc down to 51,956 tons from 65,735, lead to 34,498 tons from 36,390, and silver to 4,309,847 fine ounces from 4,714,644. (20)

Iron Ore Shipments Drop

Shipments of iron ore from Canadian mines were sharply lower this February, at 115,184 tons versus 221,523 last year. This followed a moderate rise in January to 237,105 tons from 215,982, but January-February shipments were down to 352,289 tons from 437,505. Month-end stocks were up steeply to 1,107,893 tons from 436,984. (21)

Less Copper, More Nickel

Copper production in February declined to 18,370 tons from last year's corresponding 20,897, and January-February production dropped to 36,161 tons from 44,721. February output of nickel rose to 11,795 tons from 10,612 last year, January-February output increased to 24,465 tons from 23,078. (22)

Salt Shipments Off

Shipments of dry common salt by Canadian producers in February amounted to 37,776 tons compared with 33,989 last year. This brought January-February shipments to 75,657 tons compared with 77,026. Producers' stocks at the end of February were 21,580 tons compared with 21,839. (23)

Gold Output Cut

Canadian production of gold in February amounted to 310,657 fine ounces, down from last year's 352,895. January-February output dropped to 603,706 fine ounces from 724,160. February output in Ontario declined to 178,140 fine ounces from 199,604, Quebec to 68,978 from 92,324 and Newfoundland and Nova Scotia to 811 from 861. Total for British Columbia rose to 22,189 fine ounces from 20,220, Northwest Territories to 21,538 from 21,468, Prairie Provinces to 18,931 from 18,409 and the Yukon to 70 from 9. (24)

B U S I N E S S & B A N K I N G

Rise Of 6% In Value Of Cheques
Cashed In March, 4% In Quarter

Value of cheques cashed in clearing centres in March climbed 6% to \$13,107,000,000 from last year's corresponding \$12,331,000,000, and cumulative debits for the first three months rose 4% to \$35,707,345,000 from \$34,342,218,000. Debits were higher in all economic areas except the Prairie Provinces. In March, payments in the Atlantic Provinces rose 9% (8% in the first quarter); Quebec, 12% (7%); Ontario, 4% (3%); and British Columbia, 17% (7%). The decline in the Prairie Provinces was 2% in March and 1% in January-March. First-quarter debits by areas, 1953 totals in brackets: Atlantic Provinces, \$1,069,498,000 (\$991,108,000); Quebec, \$10,178,745,000 (\$9,491,512,000); Ontario, \$16,381,993,000 (\$15,863,582,000); Prairie Provinces, \$5,282,688,000 (\$5,320,102,000); and British Columbia, \$2,794,420,000 (\$2,645,914,000). (25)

MANUFACTURING

Manufacturers' Inventories Higher
In Value At The Close Of February

Total value of inventories held by Canadian manufacturers at the end of February was \$4,047,000,000, slightly above the preceding month's \$4,041,500,000, and up 4% from last year's \$3,889,000,000. Inventories actually owned by manufacturers advanced to \$3,617,100,000 from \$3,605,500,000 the month before and \$3,488,100,000 last year, and inventories held but not owned, at \$429,900,000, declined from January's \$436,000,000, but climbed from last year's \$400,900,000.

Manufacturers' shipments in February were 6% higher in value than in January but were 1% below the level of February last year. Cumulative shipments for the first two months of the year were 3% lower than for the same period last year. Value of unfilled orders for the group of 950 firms reporting this item increased 7% during February and were 9% below February last year. Total unfilled orders for the group averaged 5.6 times current month's sales value.

In the consumers' goods industries, total inventory held declined to \$2,151,900,000 from January's \$2,156,100,000, but rose 3% from last year's \$2,098,500,000. Shipments for the group increased 5% over January and rose 2% in the January-February period. Capital goods inventories were up in value to \$834,000,000 from January's \$820,400,000, and last year's \$765,700,000. Shipments rose 10% in February as compared with January, but two-month shipments were 12% below those of a year earlier.

Producers' goods inventories were valued at \$709,600,000, down from \$717,700,000 a month earlier, but up from \$688,400,000 last year. Total shipments rose 3% in February, but the two-month shipments were off 10%. In the construction goods industries, inventories were valued at \$351,500,000, up from the preceding month's \$347,300,000 and last year's corresponding total of \$336,400,000. The group's shipments were up 26% in February, but dropped 4% in the two-month period. (26)

Electric Refrigerator Output
Continued To Drop In February

Production of domestic electric refrigerators continued to decline in February, output falling to 17,004 from 22,862 last year. January-February output was off to 35,106 from 43,752. Factory shipments fell to 17,637 from 24,914, bringing the two-month shipments to 30,161 as compared with 43,843. Factory stocks at the end of February climbed to 46,017 from 34,899.

Output of domestic electric home and farm freezers declined to 573 from 757, and the two-month output dropped to 1,105 from 1,359. Shipments were slightly in February at 530 compared with 514, but two-month shipments were a shade lower at 925 compared with 987. Imports of domestic and store type electric refrigerators totalled 7,080, up from 4,367, and two-month imports climbed to 10,212 from 5,471. Exports fell to 36 from 111, and in January-February were reduced to 56 from 195. (27)

Coke Supplies Lower

Supplies of coke available for consumption in February totalled 293,000 tons, 14% less than last year's 341,000. Domestic production dropped to 283,000 tons from 331,000, landed imports to 20,900 from 29,000, and exports to 11,000 from 19,000. (28).

Shipments Of Gypsum Products Up

Producers shipped larger quantities of gypsum wall-board, lath, and sheathing in March and the first three months of this year than a year earlier. The month's total amounted to 46,777,651 square feet (41,983,134 a year earlier), and three-month shipments aggregated 120,171,629 square feet (118,660,414). Shipments of gypsum plaster in March totalled 22,571 tons (19,156), and in the quarter amounted to 55,572 tons (53,422). (29)

H E A L T H & W E L F A R E

Maternity Cases And Care Of The Aged
Account For Most Home Nursing Services

of a new report. The report contains statistical data on the characteristics of persons and illnesses treated in 1952 and is based on the experience of the 111 branches of the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada. The Order has branches in all provinces except Prince Edward Island. Services of the V.O.N. are made available to about 36% of the population.

Of a total of 129,467 cases, 68,900 or 53.2% were maternity and newborn while 52,153 or 40.3% were medical and surgical. The remaining 6.5% concerned other health instruction. The corresponding number and per cent of visits for these cases were: maternity and newborn, 225,920 (25.1); medical and surgical, 585,719 (65.1); all other visits, 87,660 (9.8). Although maternity and newborn cases predominated, it will be seen that most of the visits were accounted for by medical and surgical cases. This is due to the fact that maternity cases in general, have fewer visits than medical cases, the former averaging 2.9 and the latter 11.1 visits per case. Maternity cases accounted for 112,528 visits, and newborn (during the first four weeks of life) accounted for 113,392 visits, and 12.6% respectively of the total.

Most of the home nursing services in the medical and surgical group are provided to the aged: 21,175, or 39.7% of all cases were in the age group 65 years and over. This same age group accounted for 57.6%, or more than half, of the total visits. The average number of visits during the year for this age group was 16, compared with 3 for children up to 14 years. Females accounted for 37,005, or 69.4% of the total of 52,153 medical and surgical cases discharged, i.e. more than twice as many as males. In terms of visits this difference is still more pronounced, with females accounting for 449,902 or 75.8% of all visits. For both sexes over 96% of the visits were nursing care; the remainder being health instruction. By diagnosis, the largest percentage of medical and surgical cases were in the diseases of the respiratory system and diseases of the digestive system groups. Anaemias accounted for the largest percentage of visits, closely followed by diabetes. Visits for each of these causes were concentrated in the age group 65 years and over.

Almost 75% of the cases received nursing care for periods of one month and less, and the majority of these were for one week's duration or less. In the length of nursing service group 1 to 7 days, females accounted for twice as many cases as males. Of all medical and surgical cases, 10,915, or 20.5%, were admitted for service following discharge from hospital, which group received 172,070 or 29.0% of all visits. The cause group which accounted for the largest percentage of post-hospital cases, in relation to the total cases for that particular cause group, were: benign and malignant neoplasms, and complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium. (30)

A N N U A L I N D U S T R Y R E P O R T S

Concrete Products

Factory shipments of manufactured concrete products in 1952 were valued at \$67,757,000, up 29% from the preceding year's \$52,441,000. There were 451 plants in operation, 24 more than in 1951, their employees totalled 6,030 compared with 5,169, and salary and wage payments aggregated \$16,413,000 compared with \$12,449,000. Products included ready-mixed concrete worth \$23,415,000 (\$17,290,000 in 1951); concrete pipe, \$10,036,000 (\$8,345,000); gravel blocks, \$15,063,000 (\$13,882,000); cinder blocks, \$3,241,000 (\$2,585,000); other light weight aggregate blocks, \$1,309,000 (\$997,000); artificial stone, \$2,085,000 (\$1,549,000); concrete brick, \$2,557,000 (\$1,689,000). (31)

Hats & Caps Factory value of shipments of Canada's hat and cap industry in 1952 totalled \$29,606,000, 8% above the preceding year's \$27,292,000. Output of men's fur felt hats amounted to 103,989 dozen valued at \$5,274,903 compared with 107,437 dozen worth \$5,258,857; women's straw hats, 135,871 dozen worth \$5,013,694 compared with 122,642 dozen valued at \$5,435,064; women's fur felt and wool felt hats, 134,887 dozen valued at \$4,607,562 compared with 141,336 dozen valued at \$4,888,017; and cloth caps, 231,707 dozen worth \$2,715,001 compared with 192,340 dozen valued at \$2,327,624. (32)

HOUSING

More Dwelling Units Completed, Fewer Started In First Quarter

New dwelling units completed in first quarter numbered 20,327, up from 18,392 last year, but the number started was down slightly at 11,722 against 11,930. At the end of March 51,070 were under construction compared to 49,232 a year earlier.

Ontario accounted for the greater part of the total gain in completions with 8,777 completed against 7,507 in 1953. Other gains were in Manitoba, 1,029 (643 last year); Saskatchewan, 917 (538); Alberta, 2,270 (1,742); British Columbia, 1,713 (1,697); and New Brunswick, 289 (128). Completions were down in Quebec to 4,684 from 5,169; Nova Scotia, 425 (659); Prince Edward Island, 31 (33); and Newfoundland, 192 (276). Starts were higher in Ontario (5,496 against 5,284), Manitoba (216 against 75), Alberta (1,383 against 748), and Prince Edward Island (5 against 2), and down in Quebec (3,051 against 3,440), British Columbia (1,303 against 1,708), Nova Scotia (120 against 370), New Brunswick (27 against 124), Saskatchewan (80 against 112) and Newfoundland (41 against 67). The number under construction at the end of March was higher than last year in Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia. (33)

EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS

Man-Hours & Hourly Earnings In 1953

Average hourly earnings in Canadian manufacturing industries in 1953 increased 5.1% as compared with 1952, weekly wages rose 4.6%, while average hours worked per week were slightly lower. Although average hourly earnings increased during 1953, the rise over 1952 was below the post-war average, and was also less than in either 1952 or 1951. The percentage gain was the same as in 1950, but was otherwise the smallest since 1946. Except during the late summer, there were successive though slight advances in the monthly average during 1953.

The payment of higher wage rates was mainly responsible for the rise in factory earnings generally in 1953, but changes in industrial distribution as compared with a year earlier also contributed. Factories producing durable manufactured goods, in which hourly earnings rose 5.2%, reported an increase of more than 7% in their aggregate hours. In the non-durable industries, the total of hours was higher by over 4%, while the average hourly earnings mounted by 4.7% from 1952.

The rise of 4.6% in average weekly wages in manufacturing was the smallest advance in any year since 1946, and the annual average of hours worked per week as the lowest in the record. Since 1945, the weekly hours have shortened by 6.8%, partly as a result of lessened amounts of overtime work as compared with the war years, and partly reflecting a reduction in standard hours in many industries and establishment.

For the manufacturing industries as a whole, annual average of hourly earnings of hourly-rated wage-earners rose in 1953 to 135.8 cents from 129.2 in 1952, weekly wages to \$56.09 from \$53.62, while hours per week declined slightly to 41.3 from 41.5. In 1945, hourly earnings in manufacturing worked out at an average of 69.4 cents, weekly wages at \$30.74, and hours per week at 44.3 (34)

Labour Income Up February labour income was estimated at \$947,000,000, up \$6,000,000 from January and \$27,000,000 or nearly 3% higher than last year. This raised the two-month total to \$1,888,000 from \$1,848,000,000. All major industrial groups with the exception of construction, contributed to the small rise over January. The total for manufacturing advanced \$3,000,000, each of the totals for the distributive group of industries and for finance and services increased \$2,000,000, and that for primary industries rose \$1,000,000. A decline of \$2,000,000 in construction followed the seasonal pattern of recent years. The total for the commodity producing sector, comprising the primary industries, manufacturing and construction, showed a decline of \$7,000,000 to \$440,000,000. The total for the distributive group and finance and services rose \$33,000,000 to \$475,000,000. Average weekly earnings for the main non-agricultural industries reached a new record of \$59.30 at the beginning of March as compared with \$57.40 a year ago. (35)

RELEASED THIS WEEK

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

- 1- Trade of Canada: Domestic Exports, Summary, Mar., 20¢
 - Trade of Canada: Imports, Detailed, Feb., 50¢
 - 2- Sales & Purchases of Securities Between Canada & Other Countries, Feb., 10¢
 - 3- M: Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, Mar., 10¢
 - 4- Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada, 10¢
 - 5- M: Stocks of Dairy & Poultry Products, May 1, 10¢
 - 6- Dairy Factory Production, Apr., 10¢
 - 7- M: Margarine Statistics, Apr., 10¢
 - 8- M: Index of Farm Production, 1953, 10¢
 - 9- M: Grain Statistics, Weekly, 10¢
 - 10- M: Tobacco Production & Value, 1953, 10¢
 - 11- Wholesale Trade, Mar., 10¢
 - 12- Railway Carloadings, Weekly, 10¢
 - 13- Railway Operating Statistics, Jan., 10¢
 - 14- M: Operating Revenues, Expenses & Statistics of Railways, Dec. & Year 1953, 10¢
 - 15- M: Transit Report, Jan., 10¢
 - 16- M: Pipe Lines (Oil) Statistics, Feb., 10¢
 - 17- Travel Between Canada & the United States, Mar., 20¢
 - 18- Vital Statistics, Mar., 10¢
 - 19- M: Preliminary Report on Coal Production, Mar., 10¢
 - 20- M: Silver, Lead & Zinc Production, Feb., 10¢
 - 21- M: Iron Ore, Feb., 10¢
 - 22- M: Copper & Nickel Production, Feb., 10¢
 - 23- M: Salt, Feb., 10¢
 - 24- M: Gold Production, Feb., 10¢
 - 25- Cheques Cashed in Clearing Centres, Mar., 10¢
 - 26- Inventories, Shipments & Orders in Manufacturing Industries, Feb., 20¢
 - 27- M: Domestic Electric Refrigerators, Feb., 10¢
 - 28- Coal & Coke Statistics, Feb., 25¢
 - 29- M: Gypsum Products, Mar., 10¢
 - 30- Statistics of Home Nursing Services, 1952, 50¢
 - 31- The Concrete Products Industry, 1952, 25¢
 - 32- The Hat & Cap Industry, 1952, 25¢
 - The Miscellaneous Metal Mining Industry, 1952, 25¢
 - 33- New Residential Construction, Mar., 25¢
 - 34- Annual Review of Man-Hours & Hourly Earnings, 1945-53, 25¢
 - 35- Estimates of Labour Income, Feb., 10¢
 - Canadian Statistical Review, Apr., 35¢
- M - Memorandum

D.B.S. NEWS NOTES

Electric Vacuum Cleaners: 115,164 were made last year, 14,574 or 11% less than in 1952.

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Marriages: 19,882 were performed in the first quarter this year, 2,551 or 15% more than in the first three months of 1953.

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Animals: 8,797,000 beeves, calves, sheep, lambs and hogs were slaughtered in 1952, over a quarter more than in the preceding year.

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Glass: Over 56% of the national output is produced in Ontario, 34% in Quebec and less than 10% in other provinces.

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Travel: 1,184,000 foreign vehicles crossed the border into Canada in the first quarter this year, 4% fewer than a year earlier.

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Home nursing services of the Victorian Order of Nurses are available to about 36% of the population. The Order has branches in all provinces except Prince Edward Island.

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Cheques: \$35,707,345,000 worth were cashed in the first quarter this year, a 4% increase over the first three months of 1953.

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Tobacco: 139,190,000 lb. were harvested in 1953, some 500,000 less than in 1952, but an increase in the average farm price to about 43¢ from 41¢ raised the total crop value 5% to \$59,617,000.

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Hours & Earnings: Since the war the average work week in manufacturing has been cut by 3 hours to 41 hours and 18 minutes, while average hourly earnings have almost doubled from 69.4¢ in 1945 to 135.8¢ in 1953. Average weekly wages jumped from \$30.74 to \$56.09 in the 8 years.

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Babies: More were born in the first three months of this year than in any like period in Canada's history -- 105,016, some 12% more than in the first quarter of 1953.

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Motor vehicles account for about 7% of all wholesale sales as compared with only 3% a decade ago.

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Housing: 20,327 new dwelling units were built in the first quarter this year, 1,935 or 10% more than in 1953.

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Railways: Average operating expenses per train mile increased to \$8.15 last year from \$7.54 in 1952.

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Domestic Exports: Volume was down 3.4% and value 5.5% in the first quarter this year.

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Hooves & Horns: The slaughtering and meat packing industry sold 1,160,000 lb. for an average 2¢ a lb. in 1952 versus 1,210,000 at 3¢ a lb. in the preceding year.

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Agricultural production volume was 6% under the 1952 peak last year, but was the third highest on record.

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Antimony is used principally as an alloying element with lead to which it adds hardness and mechanical strength such as in the manufacture of storage batteries and cable covering. It is alloyed with tin in the manufacture of ball-bearing bearings and with lead and tin in solders, foil, collapsible tubes and type metal. Its property of expansion on cooling when alloyed makes it particularly useful in the manufacture of type metal. During the war it was used to harden the lead used in ammunition and to flame-proof canvas goods used by the armed forces. Most of the national output of well over 2,000,000 lb. a year is produced in British Columbia. Average price per pound is about 38¢.

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