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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

SPRING EMPLOYMENT PICK-UP accelerated during April but at a slower rate than usual, unemployment falling slightly less than a year ago and the number of persons at work rising moderately. Applications for employment at National Employment Service offices at mid-April were down 20,900 from mid-March but 176,500 above a year earlier. (Page 4)

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NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES were smaller in the first quarter this year than in 1953, those in March showing less decline than January and February sales. FINANCING was down for used as well as new cars. (Page 3)

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TOTAL RETAIL SALES were slightly higher in March this year than in 1953 but the aggregate for the first quarter was lower. There were gains in March in just three provinces, while quarter totals were down in all except two. Losses and gains were mixed among the trades, with more showing decreases than increases... CHAIN FOOD STORES continued to show gains... DEPARTMENT STORES had a fractional rise in the quarter and a marked gain in April. (Pages 2 & 3)

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PIG IRON OUTPUT declined in March to 200,763 tons as compared with 238,572 tons last year, the cumulative production for the quarter showing a drop of nearly 16% from the 1953 level. (Page 6)

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FOREIGN VEHICLE ENTRIES were slightly larger in April this year than a year ago, and the January-April total was slightly lower. (Page 8)

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RAILWAY CAR LOADINGS in the first week of May were down 11,431 cars from the corresponding week of 1953. (Page 7)

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VISIBLE SUPPLIES OF WHEAT were almost 31% greater on May 5 this year than a year earlier. (Page 8)

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CIGARETTES AND CIGARS were made in larger quantities in the first three months of this year than in 1953, but the output of cut tobacco, plug and twist, and snuff was smaller. (Page 7)

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STOCKS OF CANNED FRUITS at the end of March at 4,775,703 dozen containers were about 700,000 dozen containers less than at March 31, 1953, while CANNED VEGETABLE STOCKS at 17,701,773 dozen were nearly 600,000 dozen higher. (Page 10)

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MERCHANDISING

Retail Sales Off 1.2% In First 1954 Quarter Canada's retailers totalled \$2,543,473,000 in sales in the first three months of this year, but this was 1.2% less than last year's first-quarter value of \$2,574,482,000. The sales decline was common to all but two provinces and six trades.

Retail sales picked up a slight 0.4% in March to \$934,792,000 from \$931,476,000 a year earlier, but this was not enough to counteract the sales drops of 4% in January and 0.1% in February. The March gain was shared by only three areas: Quebec, with an 0.5% improvement; Manitoba, with a 4.9% increase; and British Columbia, with a 14.9% jump that was probably related to the British Columbia Government's announcement that the provincial sales tax would be boosted from 3 to 5% at April 1. Elsewhere, March declines ranged from 0.1% in the Atlantic Provinces to 3.1% in Ontario. Eleven trades reported reduced March volume this year.

In the three-month comparison sales were 1.3% higher this year in British Columbia and 0.1% higher in Manitoba. Alberta retailers reported the largest decline (4.3%), followed by retailers in the Atlantic Provinces (2.4%), Saskatchewan (1.9%), Ontario (1.2%) and Quebec (0.9%). Among the different trades gains were reported for fuel dealers (11.6%), grocery and combination stores (4.9%), garage and filling stations (4.2%), meat stores (4%), department stores (0.8%) and general stores (0.4%). Sharpest sales cuts were reported by motor vehicle dealers (9.1%), family clothing stores (8.5%), shoe stores (7.9%), furniture stores (6.6%), women's clothing stores (6.1%), and lumber and building material dealers (5.9%). (1)

Grocery & Combination Chain Store Sales Up 11% In First 1954 Quarter Boosted by an advance of 12.6% in March, grocery and combination stores increased their sales 11% in the first quarter of this year as compared with a year ago. The rise in January was 9.5% and in February 11.2%. Small sales gains were posted for chain drug stores (1.2% in March and 0.7% in the quarter), and hardware stores (0.8% in March and 0.3% in the quarter).

Sales for the remaining three types of chain stores were lower in value both in the month and quarter. Shoe store sales were down 15.1% in March and 6% in the three months, women's clothing store sales declined 6.3% in March and 1.3% in the quarter, and variety store sales fell 2.1% in March and 1.6% in the three-month period.

Inventories held by grocery and combination chains at the beginning of March were valued 21.5% higher than a year ago, hardware store stocks were up 46.7%, drug stores 4.7%, and shoe stores 2.3%. Women's clothing store inventories were down 4.8% in value, and variety store stocks fell 4.5%.

First-quarter sales for the six types of chain stores were as follows, last year's figures being in brackets: grocery and combination, \$200,686,000 (\$180,836,000); variety, \$32,777,000 (\$33,296,000); women's clothing, \$8,738,000 (\$8,856,000); drug, \$8,346,000 (\$8,284,000); shoe, \$7,379,000 (\$7,849,000); and hardware, \$2,467,000 (\$2,460,000). (2)

Department Store Sales Increased 7.9% In April Department store sales rose 7.9% in April as compared with the corresponding month last year, according to the Bureau's monthly release. Sales were up 4.1% in the Maritimes, 12.8% in Quebec, 11.6% in Ontario, 5.9% in Alberta, and 10.8% in British Columbia, but down 1.3% in Manitoba, and 7.6% in Saskatchewan.

Department Store Sales Declined 9.4% In Week Department store sales declined 9.4% during the week ending May 8, as compared with a year earlier, according to the Bureau's weekly release. There were sales declines in all provinces, the Maritimes leading with a drop of 15.9%, followed by Ontario with a decrease of 14.2%, Quebec 11.2%, Manitoba 8.8%, Saskatchewan 5%, Alberta 2.3%, and British Columbia 0.1%.

Department Store Sales Up Slightly In First Quarter Canada's department stores increased their sales slightly in the first quarter this year to \$209,170,000 from \$207,531,000 in the first three months last year, a gain of 0.8%. Increased trade in three regions outweighed declines elsewhere. Higher sales in 10 departments more than offset decreases in 19.

Third-quarter sales were up 7% in British Columbia to \$35,590,000 from \$33,272,000, 0.8% in Quebec to \$37,557,000 from \$37,270,000 and 0.6% in Ontario to \$69,032,000 from \$68,628,000. Sales were off 4.1% in the Atlantic Provinces to \$14,221,000 from \$14,828,000, 3.3% in Saskatchewan to \$11,454,000 from \$11,846,000, 1.1% in Manitoba to \$19,939,000 from \$20,158,000 and 0.7% in Alberta to \$21,377,000 from \$21,529,000. March sales were 2.4% higher this year at \$80,249,000 versus \$78,356,000, gains of 19.4% in British Columbia, 3.1% in Manitoba and 1.9% in the Atlantic Provinces outweighing drops of 8.4% in Saskatchewan, 2.7% in Alberta, 0.6% in Ontario and 0.3% in Quebec.

By departments, largest increases in the three months were in radio and music (including television) with a sales gain of 31.3% over last year, and major appliances, up 19.7%. Sharpest declines were in women's and misses' coats and suits departments, with a sales drop of 12.5%, and millinery departments, down 10.6%. The 10 ladies' apparel and accessories departments showed an overall third-quarter decline of 4.2% this year, the only increase (1.8%) being in lingerie and corsets. In March, 17 departments recorded sales increases and 12 made lower sales. Most outstanding increases in the month were in radio and music departments (up 45.4%) and major appliance departments (up 38.1%). Seven of the 10 ladies' apparel and accessories departments reported declines from the high levels of March last year. (3)

17% Fewer New Cars, Trucks Sold In Canada In First Three Months Canadians bought 98,044 new motor vehicles for \$252,-661,000 in the first three months of this year, a drop of 20,686 or 17% in number and \$43,700,000 or 15% in value from the first quarter last year. Sales were lower in each of the three months, but the March drop was considerably less than in January and February.

March sales were off 10% in number to 44,887 from 49,999 vehicles, while retail value was 6% lower at \$116,787,000 versus \$124,814,000. February sales were down 22% in number and 20% in value, and January sales 23% in number and 21% in value.

The number of new motor vehicles sold in March was reduced in Newfoundland (10.7%), Prince Edward Island (39.2%), New Brunswick (22.4%), Ontario (23%), Saskatchewan (12.1%), and Alberta (14.7%), but was up in Nova Scotia (1.8%), Quebec (11.8%), Manitoba (4.2%), and British Columbia (5.8%). Sales of both new passenger cars and new commercial vehicles were lower this March, car sales dropping 8% in number to 36,422 from 39,607 and 5% in value to \$94,531,000 from \$99,475,000, and commercial vehicle sales 18.5% in number to 8,465 from 10,392 and 12.2% in value to \$22,256,000 from \$25,339,000.

Financing of both new and used motor vehicles declined in March and the three months. In March 12% fewer new cars and trucks were financed for 6% less than a year ago, and 10% fewer used vehicles for 12% less. In the quarter the number of new motor vehicles financed was down 17% and the amount of financing by 12%, while the number of used cars and trucks financed was 20% lower and the amount of financing 21%. (4)

EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS

Employment Situation In April The Spring pick-up in employment accelerated during April but at a somewhat slower pace than is usual for the month, according to the monthly joint statement by the Department of Labour and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The total number of persons working during the month ending April 17 rose moderately. Unemployment fell slightly less than a year ago and the seasonal increase in the labour force was considerably less. Cold weather, which retarded expansion of outdoor activities, particularly in agriculture and construction, combined with reduced hirings in a number of manufacturing industries, contributed to the slower-than-usual rise in employment.

Total manufacturing employment changed very little during the month, and fell further below last year's rising levels. Employment continued well above year-earlier levels in the paper products, motor vehicles, tobacco products, electrical apparatus and chemicals industries and well below in the textile, clothing, primary iron and steel, leather products, railway rolling stock, aircraft and farm implement industries. Employment in the trade and service industries showed little change from the preceding month and continued above the levels of the previous year.

Due to the time lost over the Good Friday and Easter holidays the number of workers fully employed (35 hours or more) during the week ending April 17 declined to 2,890,000 from 4,459,000 a month earlier and 4,645,000 a year ago. At the same time, the number working less than 35 hours in the week rose to 1,955,000 from 346,000 in March and 296,000 last year. Persons without jobs and seeking work numbered 303,000, down from 318,000 in March, but up from last year's 165,000.

Applications for employment on file at National Employment Service offices on April 15 totalled 549,000, a decrease of 20,900 from a month earlier and an increase of 176,500 over last year's mid-April total. The decrease from a month earlier was common to all regions. The earlier advent of Spring on the west coast resulted in the largest reduction in applications for employment being in the Pacific region (7,000). Decrease in Ontario was 6,700, Quebec 5,000, the Atlantic 1,200, and the Prairie region 1,100.

A comparison with a year earlier showed that Ontario and Quebec had the largest increases (68,200 and 51,300, respectively), smaller increases being recorded in the Prairie region (26,800), Atlantic (20,200), and the Pacific region (10,000).

Weekly And Hourly Wages In
Manufacturing Up At March 1

Average weekly wages in Canadian manufacturing industries at the beginning of March rose to \$57.69 from \$56.58 a year earlier, according to an advance statement by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In mining the average rose to \$66.78 from \$64.37, electric and motor transportation to \$63.85 from \$60.38, construction to \$62.79 from \$61.08, and service to \$34.44 from \$32.85.

On average, hourly earnings in manufacturing climbed to 140.7 cents from 134.4, mining to 157.5 cents from 152.9, electric and motor transportation to 139.4 cents from 133.0, construction to 151.3 cents from 144.4, and service to 83.4 cents from 77.3.

The work-week in manufacturing averaged 41.0 hours compared with 42.1, mining 42.4 hours compared with 42.1, electric and motor transportation 45.8 hours compared with 45.4, construction 41.5 hours compared with 42.3, and service 41.3 hours compared with 42.5.

Unemployment Insurance Benefit Claimants Increased In March Over A Year Earlier

Ordinary and supplementary benefit claimants on the live unemployment register at the end of March numbered 511,660, down slightly from February's 512,567, but up from last year's 360,110, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Initial and renewal claims for unemployment insurance benefit filed in local offices across Canada in March totalled 248,421, up from 214,932 in February and last year's March total of 179,714. New beneficiaries in March numbered 152,611 compared with 168,262 in the preceding month and 114,683 a year ago.

During March, a total of \$32,160,928 was paid in compensation for 10,127,126 days (including 100,443 disability days), as against a total of \$26,675,431 and 8,391,990 days (including 85,320 disability days) during February, and \$20,796,825 and 6,613,705 unemployed days in March, 1953.

All provinces had increased numbers of ordinary and supplementary claimants on the live unemployment register at the end of March than at the same time last year. Totals follow, those for a year earlier being in brackets: Newfoundland, 19,374 (12,880); Prince Edward Island, 3,466 (2,707); Nova Scotia, 23,722 (17,952); New Brunswick, 27,983 (22,174); Quebec, 184,874 (141,570); Ontario, 144,245 (83,445); Manitoba, 23,455 (17,203); Saskatchewan, 13,326 (9,324); Alberta, 23,597 (14,342); and British Columbia, 47,618 (38,513). (5)

Federal Employment Payrolls In February

Federal civil servants numbered 135,884 in February, up from 135,411 in the preceding month and 130,336 a year earlier, and their earnings totalled \$34,819,104 versus \$34,756,076 in January, and \$30,723,305 in February last year.

Prevailing rate and casual employees and ships' crews in federal government employment numbered 34,876 in February as against 36,697 in the preceding month and 32,856 a year earlier. Their earnings totalled \$6,850,943, down from \$6,984,971 in January, but above last year's February total of \$6,198,203. (6)

PRICES

Wholesale Price Indexes

| | April <u>1953</u> | March <u>1954</u> (1935-39=100) | April <u>1954</u> |
|--|----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| General Index | 219.5 | 218.6 | 217.9 |
| Vegetable Products | 197.3 | 199.6 | 196.0 |
| Animal Products | 234.4 | 242.1 | 240.9 |
| Textile Products | 240.0 | 233.1 | 233.3 |
| Wood Products | 289.9 | 284.1 | 285.7 |
| Iron Products | 221.5 | 215.2 | 214.2 |
| Non-ferrous Metals | 170.7 | 165.1 | 167.6 |
| Non-metallic Minerals | 175.3 | 179.0 | 178.3 |
| Chemical Products | 176.2 | 175.9 | 176.0 |
| Combined Index, Iron and Non-ferrous Metals (excluding gold) .. | 224.7 | 217.2 | 218.2 |

Security Price IndexesInvestors' Price IndexMay 13, 1954May 6, 1954
(1935-39=100)April 15, 1954

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total Common Stocks | 177.8 | 177.5 | 174.5 |
| Industrials | 179.1 | 178.7 | 176.2 |
| Utilities | 161.7 | 163.2 | 158.7 |
| Banks | 201.7 | 198.8 | 194.7 |

Mining Stock Price Index

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total Mining Stocks | 88.7 | 89.3 | 91.5 |
| Golds | 64.2 | 64.9 | 66.3 |
| Base Metals | 144.7 | 145.0 | 149.1 |

MANUFACTURING

Production of Pig Iron, Steel Ingots Declined In March And First Quarter

Canada's first quarter output of pig iron declined 15.6% from a year earlier, and steel ingots and castings fell 21.7%. January-March output of pig iron amounted to 597,812 tons as compared with 708,360, and the March production dropped to 200,763 tons from 238,572. First-quarter production of steel ingots and castings fell to 815,101 tons from 1,039,685, and the March output to 249,290 tons from 366,974. (7)

Electric Storage Battery Sales Up 20% In March, 23% In 3 Months

Factory sales of electric storage batteries and parts by principal Canadian producers in March were valued at \$1,934,000, up 20% from last year's corresponding total of \$1,608,000. This brought cumulative sales for the first three months of 1954 to \$5,817,000, 23% more than the preceding year's January-March sales of \$4,722,000. (8)

Paint, Varnish Sales Lower In Value In March, Quarter

Paint and varnish sales were lower in value in March and the first quarter of this year than a year earlier. March sales were valued at \$8,585,000 as compared with \$9,501,000, and three-month sales aggregated \$23,432,000 as compared with \$25,662,000. (9)

Leather Footwear Production Declined 9.4% In February

Canadian production of leather footwear declined in February as compared with a year earlier for the sixth successive month. February's output amounted to 3,192,228 pairs as compared with 3,522,672, bringing the January-February output to 5,993,145 pairs as compared with 6,696,622.

Production in sizes for boys, youths and misses increased in February, but output of other sizes declined. Production totals follow, a year earlier figures being in brackets: men's, 695,155 (787,330) pairs; boy's, 119,704 (112,772); youths', 28,821 (27,407); women's and growing girls', 1,577,623 (1,773,716); misses', 323,157 (309,368) children's and little gents', 237,548 (258,971); and babies' and infants', 210,220 (253,108). (10)

Shipments Of Primary Iron And Steel Shapes In February

Shipments of primary shapes by Canadian steel mills, exclusive of producers' interchange, in February totalled 213,115 net tons, down from 226,236 tons last year. Producers interchanged 94,755 tons as compared with 105,971 a year earlier. (11)

Rubber Consumption Down In March Consumption of rubber -- natural, synthetic and reclaim -- in March declined to 7,868 tons from the preceding month's 8,814 tons, and month-end stocks fell to 12,176 tons from 12,820. Domestic production of synthetic and reclaim rubber rose to 7,750 tons from 7,122.

The month's consumption comprised 3,637 tons of natural (3,503 in February), 2,880 tons of synthetic (3,060), and 1,351 tons of reclaim (1,251). Month-end stocks were: natural, 4,875 (5,388); synthetic, 5,818 (5,785); and reclaim, 1,483 (1,647). Domestic production of synthetic rubber amounted to 7,382 tons (6,739); and reclaim, 368 tons (383). (12)

Production, Domestic Shipments Of Asphalt Floor Tiles Lower Both production and domestic shipments of asphalt floor tiles were lower in April and the first four month's of this year than in 1953. The month's output amounted to 1,238,837 square feet compared with 1,747,979, bringing the January-April total to 5,268,548 square feet compared with 6,114,501. April's domestic shipments were 1,251,529 square feet compared with 1,426,954, and four-month shipments aggregated 4,772,204 square feet compared with 5,622,038. (13)

Dealers' Year-End Stocks Of Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal Dealers' stocks of non-ferrous scrap metal at the end of 1953 were as follows, totals for the beginning of the year being in brackets: aluminum, 2,449,998 pounds (2,966,096); brass and bronze, 5,599,878 (6,693,744); copper, 3,984,283 (6,177,021); magnesium, 36,290 (8,258); nickel, 235,997 (147,469); tin-lead, 9,431,089 (7,085,777); zinc, 1,734,622 (1,127,727); drosses, 3,549,155 (3,140,793). (14)

Production Of Both Cigarettes & Cigars Up In First 1954 Quarter Larger quantities of both cigarettes and cigars were produced in Canada in the first quarter of this year than last, but there were production declines in cut tobacco, plug and twist, and snuff, according to the Bureau's quarterly report. Stocks of unmanufactured tobacco at the end of the quarter were down from a year earlier.

The quarter's production of cigarettes amounted to 5,079,720,000 as compared with 4,406,744,000 a year earlier; cigars, 62,059,000 compared with 55,642,000; cut tobacco, 5,897,000 pounds (7,002,000 pounds); plug and twist, 442,300 pounds (460,200 pounds); and snuff, 226,200 pounds (249,900 pounds).

Redried leaf tobacco taken for manufacturing in the first 1954 quarter amounted to 21,864,000 pounds as compared with 21,025,000 at the same time last year, and end-of-the-quarter stocks of unmanufactured tobacco totalled 212,030,000 pounds as compared with 223,333,000 pounds a year earlier.

Estimated production of leaf tobacco -- green weight -- in Canada in the crop year ending September 30 last amounted to 139,190,000 pounds, approximately 500,000 pounds less than was harvested in 1952. Canadian growers received \$59,617,000 for 1953's production, \$2,820,000 more than in the preceding year. (15)

T R A N S P O R T

Car Loadings Lower In First May Week Revenue freight loaded on Canadian railways in the first week of May totalled 68,061 cars, a decrease of 11,431 from last year's corresponding total of 79,492 cars. At the same time, receipts from foreign connections declined to 28,387 cars from 33,204 a year ago. There were lighter loadings of grain, 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. (16)

T R A V E L

Foreign Vehicle Entries
In April & Four Months

Foreign vehicle entries showed little change in April and the first four months of this year as compared with a year earlier. April's entries totalled 107,022 as compared with 106,709, bringing cumulative January-April entries to 282,593 as compared with 283,166.

Ontario's entries in April rose to 61,290 from 60,528, British Columbia's to 14,956 from 14,622, but Quebec's declined to 19,289 from 19,972. There was a decrease in New Brunswick to 7,334 from 7,492, and in Alberta to 1,206 from 1,453. Total for Manitoba rose to 1,706 from 1,437, Saskatchewan to 891 from 877, Yukon Territory to 298 from 267, and Newfoundland and Nova Scotia — by ship — to 52 from 61.

January-April entries follow by provinces, last year's figures being in brackets: Ontario, 151,054 (149,482); Quebec, 51,430 (53,627); British Columbia, 46,536 (49,367); New Brunswick, 19,659 (19,612); Manitoba, 7,023 (4,039); Alberta, 3,301 (3,860); Saskatchewan, 2,373 (2,109); Yukon Territory, 1,036 (784); Newfoundland and Nova Scotia — by ship — 181 (286). (17)

F O O D & A G R I C U L T U R E

Wheat Supplies In Four Major
Exporting Countries on April 1

Supplies of wheat remaining on or about April 1 this year in the four major exporting countries for export and carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 1,844,600,000 bushels, some 31% greater than the 1,406,000,000 bushels available a year ago. Totals follow by countries with last year's stocks in brackets: United States, 923,100,000 bushels (620,100,000); Canada, 652,300,000 (530,000,000); Argentina, 129,900,000 (148,800,000); and Australia, 139,300,000 (107,100,000). Estimates for both years include on-farm stocks as well as those in commercial positions. (18)

Stocks And Marketings Of
Wheat And Coarse Grains

Visible supplies of Canadian wheat on May 5 totalled 347,959,000 bushels, slightly under the 348,731,000 bushels held a week earlier, but up almost 31% from last year's corresponding stocks of 266,180,000 bushels.

Prairie farmers reduced their wheat deliveries in the week ending May 5 to 3,844,000 bushels from 8,255,000 a year earlier, oats to 788,000 bushels from 1,501,000, barley to 966,000 bushels from 2,640,000, and rye to 81,000 bushels from 153,000. Flaxseed deliveries were slightly higher at 23,000 bushels compared with 22,000.

Overseas export clearances of wheat in the week totalled 2,853,000 bushels, up from 1,915,000 a week earlier, but sharply below last year's 8,973,000. (19)

May 1 Stocks Of Meat
Sharply Below Year Ago

Cold storage holdings of meat at the beginning of May totalled 75,771,000 pounds, slightly above the preceding month's 74,764,000 pounds, but down sharply from last year's corresponding holdings of 122,819,000 pounds. The large drop from a year ago mainly occurred in the holdings of frozen meat which dropped to 46,054,000 pounds from 92,064,000. Stocks of fresh meat increased to 18,105,000 pounds from 17,142,000, but cured meat fell to 11,612,000 pounds from 13,613,000. (20)

Stocks Of Creamery Butter
In Nine Cities Of Canada

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on May 13 totalled 31,456,000 pounds as compared with 20,008,000 at the same time last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Holdings by cities follow, last year's totals being in brackets (in thousands): Quebec, 2,944 (914); Montreal, 15,475 (8,392); Toronto, 5,980 (5,408); Winnipeg, 5,706 (3,058); Regina, 196 (668); Saskatoon, 115 (122); Edmonton, 325 (495); Calgary, 192 (138); Vancouver, 523 (813).

Stocks Of Fruits And
Vegetables On May 1

Stocks of fruit, frozen and in preservatives, on May 1 increased to 21,594,000 pounds from 19,235,000 a year earlier, and stocks of vegetables, frozen and in brine, rose to 17,772,000 pounds from 10,644,000. Holdings of apples in cold and common storage increased to 373,000 bushels from 325,000, potatoes to 7,409,000 bushels from 6,835,000, and cabbage to 36,000 bushels from 27,000. Stocks of onions declined to 56,000 bushels from 104,000, carrots to 65,000 bushels from 107,000, and celery to 14,000 crates from 17,000. (21)

Fish Stocks Lower On May 1

Cold storage holdings of fish on May 1 declined to 26,488,000 pounds from 28,151,000 a month earlier and last year's corresponding total of 35,101,000 pounds. Cod stocks were reduced to 5,563,000 pounds from 7,860,000 last year, haddock to 3,190,000 pounds from 3,651,000, sea herring to 5,601,000 pounds from 8,735,000, and other sea fish to 4,155,000 pounds from 7,832,000, and inland fish to 1,675,000 pounds from 4,004,000. Holdings of salmon increased to 3,364,000 pounds from 3,019,000. (22)

Canned Meat Stocks Down Sharply
In March From A Year Earlier

Due mainly to a sharp drop in spiced pork and ham, stocks of canned meat held at manufacturers' and wholesalers' levels at the end of March fell sharply to 29,226,835 pounds from last year's corresponding total of 89,699,883 pounds, according to a special statement.

Holdings were as follows by kinds, last year's figures being in brackets: beef products -- beef stews and boiled dinners, 4,713,046 (3,819,955) pounds; roast beef, 162,076 (106,163); corned beef, 749,194 (990,569); and other beef products, 2,266,542 (1,997,829). Pork products -- spiced pork and ham, 16,343,739 (76,309,161); roast pork and ham, 1,499,292 (2,383,613); and other pork products, 1,336,973 (2,152,955). Miscellaneous canned meats -- canned fowl, 795,674 (514,904); meat paste, 911,468 (782,156); and other kinds, 448,831 (642,578).

Fewer Chocolate Bars Produced
In First Quarter Of This Year

Fewer chocolate bars were produced in Canada and in the first three months of this year than last, according to a special statement by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The quarter's output amounted to 12,056,296 dozen as compared with 12,595,501 dozen. Production by kinds, with 1953 totals in brackets, was as follows: chocolate bars, less than 10¢, solid, 2,139,403 dozen (2,661,183); chocolate bars, less than 10¢, coated, 2,317,515 dozen (3,608,044); chocolate bars, 10¢, solid, 2,267,649 dozen (1,854,149); chocolate bars, 10¢, coated, 4,509,379 dozen (3,611,747); chocolate bars, over 10¢, 822,350 dozen (860,378).

Production Of Ready-To-Serve
Cereals In First 1954 Quarter

Production of ready-to-serve cereals in the first quarter of 1954 declined to 18,033,935 pounds from last year's corresponding total of 18,375,288 pounds, according to a special statement by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Canned Fruit Stocks Lower At
End Of March, Vegetables Higher

Stocks of canned fruits held by canners, wholesalers and chain store warehouses at the end of March dropped to 4,775,703 dozen containers from last year's corresponding total of 5,473,257, but canned vegetable stocks rose to 17,701,773 dozen containers from 17,121,812, according to an advance statement by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Among the canned fruits there were smaller stocks of apricots, cherries, peaches, pears, plums and gages, and strawberries, and larger holdings of applesauce, fruit cocktail and fruit for salad, grapefruit, apple pie filling and pineapple. Canned vegetable stocks were larger for green and wax beans, carrots, carrots and peas combined, peas, and sauerkraut, but smaller stocks of baked beans, beets, corn and tomatoes. Apple juice stocks were higher as were marmalade, pickles, ready dinners, sandwich spread, spaghetti and honey, and lower for mayonnaise and salad dressing, chili sauce, soups, tomato juice, and tomato ketchup.

Following are the stocks of canned fruits, with corresponding 1953 totals in brackets (in dozens): apples, solid pack, 124,965 (128,121); crabapples, 13,675 (18,137); applesauce, 346,314 (210,363); apricots, 147,056 (221,763); blueberries, 31,894 (58,990); cherries, 155,248 (224,706); fruit cocktail and fruits for salad, 399,238 (391,700); grapefruit, 24,779 (15,830); loganberries, 30,229 (15,780); peaches, 1,542,646 (2,252,837); bartlett pears, 465,782 (485,052); keiffer pears, 476,743 (528,557); apple pie filling, 66,908 (24,706); other pie filling, 43,070 (41,136); pineapple, 352,317 (257,187); plums, gages, etc., 315,253 (369,253 (369,247); raspberries, 133,834 (57,149); rhubarb, 1,937 (6,310); strawberries, 56,196 (126,839); all other fruits, 47,619 (38,847).

Stocks of canned vegetables were as follows: asparagus, 98,355 (80,161); green and wax beans, 2,233,691 (1,959,226); beans, baked, 1,649,640 (1,731,173); beets, 534,665 (679,820); carrots, 241,456 (188,717); carrots and peas combined, 309,505 (206,435); corn, 4,711,711 (4,760,669); mixed vegetables, 390,713 (347,622); peas, 3,451,710 (3,103,228); pumpkin and squash, 396,768 (392,567); sauerkraut, 307,390 (199,295); spinach, 100,951 (122,650); tomatoes, 3,138,937 (3,218,832); all other vegetables, 136,281 (131,417).

Holdings of other canned food products for March 31, 1954 are as follows with corresponding data for the same period in 1953 shown in brackets: apple juice, 802,483 (539,491); other fruit juices, 756,048 (593,071); apple juice concentrate, 332 (3,909); infant and junior fruits, 1,805,604 (2,141,960); infant and junior soups, 501,986 (610,151); infant and junior vegetables, 1,248,559 (1,156,005); infant and junior foods, other, 2,349,734 (1,730,052); jams, 356,159 (353,096); jellies, 72,247 (66,610); marmalades, 173,788 (154,261); mayonnaise and salad dressing, 73,103 (108,262); peanut butter, 113,820 (112,129); pickles, 482,299 (396,773); prepared mustard, 167,713 (150,279); relishes, 64,709 (46,144); ready dinners, 558,337 (335,431); sandwich spread, 106,856 (82,966); chili sauce, 150,881 (156,552); meat sauce, 55,734 (75,244); other sauces, 133,247 (125,808); soups, 7,077,987 (8,790,483); spaghetti, 542,428 (476,948); tomato juice, 3,973,364 (5,270,486); tomato ketchup, 1,621,356 (2,201,364); tomato pulp, paste and puree, 271,838 (248,366); vinegar, 169,049 (138,063); honey, 107,228 (98,935).

Seeding In Prairie Provinces

Seeding was under way by May 13 in most southern districts of the three Prairie Provinces. Throughout many central and northern sections, however, operations were not likely to become general for about another week. Weather in general had been more favourable during the previous week but an extended period of warm, dry weather was needed to permit satisfactory completion of spring work. Moisture supplies were generally adequate although subsoil reserves were reported to be low in some areas.

Area, Yield And Production
Of Commercial Vegetables

Area planted to commercial vegetables in Canada in 1953 was 163,000 acres, about 30,000 acres less than in the preceding season, the drop being due to reduced acreages of corn, peas and tomatoes which are grown to a large extent for processing. However, the acreage in beans and asparagus, two other important canning crops, increased somewhat. There was a small increase in the acreage planted to other vegetables. The largest decline in acreage of vegetables occurred in Ontario where the total fell to 91,490 acres from 120,610.

Yields per planted acre for Canada as a whole for the 13 vegetables for which estimates are compiled were as high or higher in 1953 than in 1952 for all but two crops — cabbage and lettuce. Of the canning crops, the production (as distinct from yield per acre) of asparagus, beans and peas was higher in 1953 than in 1952, while it was lower in the case of corn and tomatoes. Crops of each of the other vegetables, except cabbage and lettuce, were larger in 1953 than in the preceding year.

The year's production of vegetables was as follows, 1952 totals being in brackets (in thousands of pounds): asparagus, 6,694 (5,900); beans, 52,177 (44,509); beets, 55,010 (47,534); cabbage, 108,148 (112,951); carrots, 149,523 (130,040); cauliflower, 31,020 (23,157); celery, 55,369 (51,628); corn, 194,892 (256,709); lettuce 54,452 (64,304); onions, 114,204 (118,361); peas, 100,089 (89,563); spinach, 13,162 (12,787); and tomatoes, 634,923 (813,313). (23)

Canadians Consumed 23.4 Dozen Eggs And 27.1
Pounds Of Poultry Meat Per Capita In 1953

Canadians consumed 337,300,000 dozen eggs and 390,507,000 pounds of poultry meat last year, an estimated 23.4 dozen eggs and 27.1 pounds of poultry meat per capita, according to the Bureau's 1953 report on poultry and egg production.

Net egg production amounted to an estimated 353,200,000 dozen, of which 343,400,000 dozen were produced on farms, an increase of 11,500,000 over the preceding year. The sale of eggs for consumption was estimated at 290,100,000 dozen valued at \$134,200,000, of which 282,600,000 valued at \$130,400,000 were sold off farms. Producers retained 52,900,000 dozen for consumption.

Exports of eggs in 1953 were 7,700,000 dozen, and imports totalled 1,600,000. Storage holdings dropped during 1953 from 5,700,000 dozen at January 1, 1953 to 5,200,000 at January 1, 1954. Hence the domestic disappearance was calculated at 347,500,000 and, when allowance was made for the estimated 10,200,000 dozen used for hatching, the estimated domestic consumption was 337,300,000 dozen.

Poultry meat production amounted to 385,100,000 pounds. The greatest part of the year's output was accounted for by an estimated 321,300,000 pounds of fowl and chicken. Turkey meat totalled 54,800,000 pounds, goose meat 5,000,000, and duck meat 4,000,000 pounds.

Sale of farm produced fowl and chicken was estimated at 263,300,000 pounds valued at \$108,400,000. Farm consumption of fowl and chicken meat was estimated at 46,100,000 pounds worth \$17,700,000. Turkey meat sold by farmers was estimated at 49,500,000 pounds valued at \$23,700,000. Farm sales of goose meat totalled 3,600,000 pounds valued at \$1,300,000, and sales of duck meat amounted to 2,200,000 pounds worth \$834,000. (24)

DOMESTIC EXPORTS

Wheat & Wheat Flour Exports In March Exports of Canadian wheat in March totalled 14,200,000 bushels, up from February's 10,600,000 bushels and last year's March total of 12,134,000 bushels. Cumulative exports in the first eight months of the current crop year were down to 140,600,000 bushels from last year's 187,700,000 bushels.

The equivalent of an additional 4,600,000 bushels of wheat was exported in the form of wheat flour in March, up sharply from February's 3,100,000 bushels, but slightly under last year's March total of 4,700,000 bushels. In the August-March period the exports aggregated 30,300,000 bushels, down from 37,000,000 a year ago.

The United Kingdom took some 46,200,000 bushels of Canadian wheat in the August-March period. Other major markets were: Japan, 28,600,000 bushels; Federal Republic of Germany, 10,900,000; Belgium, 10,100,000; Switzerland, 7,000,000; the Netherlands, 5,200,000; South Africa, 4,400,000; India, 4,300,000; United States, 4,200,000 (of which 1,400,000 was for milling in bond); Spain, 3,400,000; Israel, 2,600,000; Norway, 2,000,000; Ireland, 1,800,000; Peru, 1,500,000; Malta, 1,100,000; and Cuba, 1,100,000.

The United Kingdom was also the largest purchaser of Canadian wheat flour in the eight-month period, taking 9,672,000 bushels (wheat equivalent). The Phillipine Islands followed with 3,442,000 bushels, Venezuela, 2,535,000, Trinidad and Tobago, 1,443,000, Jamaica 1,427,000, Korea 953,000, Japan 891,000, Hong Kong 765,000, Gold Coast 640,000, and Cuba 510,000. (18)

MINERALS

Production And Exports Of Asbestos Lower In March And First Quarter Shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines were slightly lower in March than in the corresponding month last year and dropped 8% in the first three months of the year.

The month's output amounted to 74,775 tons as compared with 75,233, bringing the three-month total to 193,204 tons compared with 210,658. Exports in March moved down to 71,882 tons from 74,069 a year earlier, and three-month exports were reduced to 179,141 tons from 200,648. (25)

Iron Ore Shipments Cut 32% In First Quarter This Year Canadian mines shipped 416,334 tons of iron ore in the first quarter of this year, 192,700 tons or 32% less than in the first three months of 1953. The slump hit both domestic and export shipments and March-end stocks were nearly two and one-half times greater this year at 1,578,997 versus 649,591 tons.

First quarter shipments to Canadian consumers were reduced to 151,917 from 270,363 tons last year, and exports were off to 264,417 from 338,671 tons. Shipments from Ontario mines totalled 53,354 tons, less than half the 117,474 moved in the first three months of 1953, and shipments from other provinces were down to 362,980 from 491,560 tons. March shipments amounted to 64,045 tons this year, little more than one-third the 171,529 shipped last year. (26)

Shipments Of Common Salt In March Shipments of dry common salt in March amounted to 37,158 tons as compared with 37,776 in the preceding month and 32,196 in the corresponding month last year. This brought the cumulative output for the first quarter of 1954 to 112,815 tons as compared with 109,222 tons a year earlier. (27)

ANNUAL INDUSTRY REPORTS

Slaughtering & Meat Packing
Sales Declined 3.2% In 1952

Sales of Canada's slaughtering and meat packing industry were valued at \$863,776,155 in 1952, a decline of 3.2% from the all-time peak of \$892,090,641 in 1951, according to the annual report by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The drop was attributable to considerably lower prices for every product except salted pork and certain canned meats which showed slight increases.

Fresh and frozen meat, including poultry, accounted for \$487,816,184 or 56.5% of the total sales in 1952 as compared with \$508,979,428 or 57.1% of the total in 1951. Cured meats, including cooked meats and fresh sausage, accounted for \$270,009,930 or 31.3% as compared with \$243,319,870 or 27.3%; lard and shortening for \$41,966,786 or 4.9% as compared with \$58,401,032 or 6.5%; hides and skins for \$12,706,571 or 1.4% as compared with \$25,177,434 or 2.8%; and miscellaneous products for \$51,377,684 or 5.9% as compared with \$56,212,877 or 6.3%.

Most important single item was fresh and frozen beef, sales of which totalled 622,948,600 pounds worth \$273,284,291, an increase of 8.6% in volume but a decrease of 8.7% in value. Next largest item was fresh and frozen pork, sales totalling 404,475,780 pounds worth \$145,181,575, a 30.1% jump in quantity and an 11.5% advance in value. Third largest item was bacon and sides, sales amounting to 83,406,478 worth \$37,224,535, an increase of 10% in volume but a decrease of 12.1% in value. Bologna and weiners were fourth in value terms, sales totalling 90,186,253 pounds worth \$30,463,376, a gain of 3.9% in quantity but a drop of 17.2% in value (28)

Glass & Glass Products Industry
Boosted Shipments By 7% In 1952

Canada's glass and glass products industry shipped \$58,779,800 worth of products in 1952, a 7% increase over the 1951 output value of \$54,913,292, according to the annual report by the Bureau. Number of plants rose by one to 114, but employment was slightly lower at 6,516 versus 6,527. The payroll was 8% greater at \$19,102,882, fuel and electricity costs were up 10% to \$3,892,431, and material costs increased 8% to \$22,192,757.

Value of pressed, blown and drawn glass, including bottles, sealers, ovenware and window glass, increased to \$37,501,459 from \$36,009,205 in 1951, while production in the cut and bevelled glass division of the industry was valued at \$21,278,341 as against \$18,904,087, with more plate glass mirrors, bevelled or polished edge plate, and cut glass produced, but less sheet glass mirrors, bevelled or polished edge sheet glass, memorial windows and other leaded glass, decorated glassware, and druggists', physicians' and laboratory glassware made. (29)

Asbestos Products
Industry In 1952

Factory shipments by manufacturers of asbestos goods in Canada in 1952 were valued at \$19,639,000, virtually unchanged from the preceding year's \$19,637,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Among the principal products made were brake linings worth \$3,348,531 (\$2,941,567 in 1951); boiler and pipe coverings, \$1,668,890 (\$1,368,116); asbestos packings, \$1,009,451 (\$511,048); and clutch facings, \$597,019 (\$605,600).

Seventeen factories were included in this industry in 1952, one more than in 1951. Their employees numbered 1,826 (1,948 in 1951), and salary and wage payments totalled \$5,448,895 (\$5,386,693). Cost of materials at the works aggregated \$9,306,930 (\$9,157,249), and \$535,910 was expended on fuel and electricity \$580,066). (30)

Canada's Stone Industry In 1952 Primary production in Canada's stone industry was 7.6% higher in value in 1952 than in the preceding year and the value of secondary production rose 7.5%, according to the annual industry report by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The stone quarrying industry shipped 18,726,000 tons valued at \$30,835,000 compared with 18,677,000 tons valued at \$28,650,000. Shipments of granite and other igneous rocks amounted to 2,490,000 tons valued at \$7,327,000 as against 1,951,000 tons valued at \$6,014,000 in 1951; limestone, 15,958,000 tons valued at \$22,319,000 against 15,532,000 tons valued at \$20,902,000; marble, 57,600 tons valued at \$525,000 against 64,000 tons at \$493,000; sandstone, 219,000 tons at \$649,000 against 1,125,000 tons at \$1,174,000; and slate, 1,250 tons at \$15,000 against 5,700 tons at \$67,000.

Output of the stone products industry was valued at \$20,106,000 as compared with \$18,706,000 the year before. Among the chief products were: cut and polished granite for monuments valued at \$2,653,000 against \$2,614,000 in 1951, and for building purposes at \$503,000 against \$621,000; cut and polished marble for monuments, \$682,000 against \$619,000, and for building purposes at \$444,000 against \$563,000; limestone for building purposes, \$2,434,000 against \$2,275,000; and for monuments and bases at \$51,000 against \$54,000. (31)

RELEASED THIS WEEK

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

- 1- Retail Trade, Mar., 20¢
- 2- Chain Store Sales & Stocks, Mar., 10¢
- 3- Department Store Sales & Stocks, Mar., 10¢
- 4- New Motor Vehicle Sales & Motor Vehicle Financing, Mar., 20¢
- 5- Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, Mar., 25¢
- 6- M: Federal Government Employment & Payrolls, Feb., 10¢
- 7- M: Production of Pig Iron & Steel, Mar., 10¢
- 8- M: Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, Mar., 10¢
- 9- M: Sales of Paints, Varnishes & Lacquers, Mar., 10¢
- 10- M: Production of Leather Footwear, Feb., 10¢
- 11- Primary Iron & Steel, Feb., 25¢
- 12- Consumption, Production & Inventories of Rubber, Mar., 25¢
- 13- M: Asphalt Floor Tiles, Apr., 10¢
- 14- M: Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal & Secondary Non-Ferrous Ingot, 1953, 10¢
- 15- Quarterly Stocks & Consumption of Unmanufactured Tobacco, Mar., 25¢
- 16- M: Car Loadings on Canadian Railways, 15¢
- 17- M: Volume of Highway Traffic Entering Canada on Traveller's Vehicle Permits, Apr., 10¢
- 18- The Wheat Review, Apr., 20¢
- 19- M: Grain Statistics, Weekly, 10¢
- 20- M: Stocks of Meat & Lard, May 1, 20¢
- 21- M: Stocks of Fruit & Vegetables, May 1, 10¢
- 22- M: Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, May, 20¢
- 23- M: Acreage & Production of Vegetables, 1953, 10¢
- 24- Production of Poultry & Eggs, 1953, 25¢
- 25- M: Asbestos, Mar., 10¢
- 26- M: Iron Ore, Mar., 10¢
- 27- M: Salt, Mar., 10¢
- 28- Slaughtering & Meat Packing Industry, 1952, 25¢
- 29- Glass & Glass Products Industry, 1952, 25¢
- 30- Asbestos Products Industry, 1952, 25¢
- 31- Stone Industry, 1952, 25¢
- Trade of Canada: Exports, March & Three Months Ended March (detailed), 50¢
- Employment & Payrolls, Mar., 25¢
- Telegraphic Crop Report --- Intentions to Plant Field Crops. Winterkilling and Spring Condition of Winter Wheat, Fall Rye and Tame Hay. Progress of Spring Seeding, 10¢

D.B.S. NEWS NOTES

Zipper Fasteners were produced in 1952 to the value of \$6,155,000, and constituted the largest single item of production in the button, buckle and fastener industry.

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Waxed Paper: Close to 76,000,000 pounds of waxed paper were made in 1952, 11% more than in 1951.

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Paper Plates: 62,375,000 paper plates valued at \$318,000 were produced in 1952.

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Bottle Caps & Seals made in 1952 were valued at \$9,830,000.

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Metal Cans: Close to \$80,000,000 worth was manufactured in Canada in 1952, 6% more than in the preceding year.

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Curtain Rods & Fixtures: More than \$1,826,000 worth of these products was turned out in 1952, a 23% increase over 1951.

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Phonograph Records: Fewer phonograph records were shipped in Canada in 1952, the number dropping 1,000,000 during the year to 12,000,000. The value was off \$600,000 to \$5,900,000.

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Record Players: Almost 76,000 record players were shipped from Canadian factories in 1952, 16,000 more than in 1951. The value rose more than \$300,000 to \$1,700,000.

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Sugar Refineries purchased close to 9,000 tons of limestone in 1952. It is used as an agent to eliminate impurities in the manufacture of sugar.

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Tooth Brushes: Manufacturers turned out almost 8,376,000 tooth brushes in 1952 -- one for every two Canadians.

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Egg Consumption: Canadians consumed 337,300,000 dozen eggs and 390,507,000 pounds of poultry meat last year, an estimated 23.4 dozen eggs and 27.1 pounds of poultry meat per capita.

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Cigarettes & Cigars: 673,000,000 more cigarettes and 6,417,000 more cigars were produced in the first quarter of 1954 than in 1953.

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Marble Production in Canada in 1952 amounted to 58,000 tons, two-thirds of which came from quarries in Ontario, and the balance from Quebec and British Columbia. Most of the marble is crushed or ground for use as terazzo chips, poultry grit, stucco dash, whiting substitute, and as an aggregate in artificial stone.

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Stone of all kinds was produced in Canada in 1952 to the value of \$31,000,000. Quarries in Quebec accounted for about one-half of the total, and those in Ontario for about one-third.

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Field Crop Acreages: Canadian farmers at the end of April intended to reduce their seeded acreages of wheat, rye, and potatoes this year from last year's levels, to increase their acreages of oats, mixed grains and flaxseed, and to seed virtually the same barley acreage. The intended acreages follow: spring wheat, 23,906,100; oats for grain, 10,696,500; barley, 8,900,000; spring rye, 201,100; mixed grains, 1,479,200; flaxseed, 1,483,800; and potatoes, 200,200.

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Canadian Sandstone has been utilized extensively in the construction of many important public buildings in Canada. The rock occurs in a variety of colours -- white, reddish brown, yellow and grey. Production in 1952 amounted to 219,000 tons.

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Roofing Granules: 121,000 tons were produced in Canada in 1952, almost wholly from Ontario deposits.

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