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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

CHEQUES CASHED in clearing centres across Canada totalled 4% higher this April, brought the four-month figure to \$47,886,616,000 versus \$46,052,-056,000 last year. (Page 13)

MANUFACTURERS' INVENTORY INVESTMENT at the end of March aggregated \$3,599,-800,000, 1% below December last but 3% higher than a year earlier. (Page 10)

FOREIGN COMMODITY TRADE was lower in value this April, imports dropping 9% and exports 2% to reduce the import surplus to \$59,800,000 from \$87,000,-000 in the fourth month last year. (Page 2)

RAILWAY CARLOADINGS continued at a lower level than last year in the third week of May, loadings dropping to 72,963 from 73,907 cars... CANAL TRAFFIC in April was less than half last year's volume as very little wheat and other grains were shipped from the Lakehead to eastern elevators which are filled to near capacity... OIL PIPE LINE DELIVERIES were almost 32% above the 1953 level in the first quarter. (Page 6)

WHOLESALE PRICES DIPPED 0.3% from March to April, the major decrease of 1.8% occurring in the vegetable products group. Farm product prices at terminal markets slackened 0.6%. Residential building material prices were off 0.2%.

(Page 4)

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES were more than one-quarter above last year's level in the week ended May 22. Regional gains ranged from 12.4% in the Maritimes to 46.3% in British Columbia... RETAIL SALES FINANCING increased 15% to a new all-time peak last year and year-end balances outstanding aggregated 29% greater than at the end of 1952. (Page 3)

MILK PRODUCTION ROSE 4% in the first quarter this year, and SALES of fluid milk and cream were 3% higher than in the first three months last year... EGG PRODUCTION was up 16% in the first four months... WHEAT STOCKS continued to decline in the week ended May 12, but the total was still 28% above the 1953 level. (Page 7)

MINERAL PRODUCTION FIGURES show increased outputs of lead and nickel in the first quarter this year but decreases for silver, zinc and copper (Page 13)

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MORE

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Imports And Total Exports
Reduced In Value In April
than last year, according to preliminary figures. Estimated
imports were down 9% to \$358,000,000 from \$391,800,000, and total
exports a slight 2% to \$298,200,000 from \$304,800,000. The result was a reduced overall
import surplus of \$59,800,000 versus \$87,000,000. Cumulative figures for the Jamuary-April
period followed a generally similar pattern, with estimated imports from all sources down
8% to \$1,28%,100,000 from \$1,389,700,000, and total exports 4.5% lower at \$1,164,500,000
compared with \$1,218,700,000. The four-month import surplus declined to \$117,600,000 from
last year's \$171,000,000.

Commodity trade with the United States was lower in value both in April and the fourmonth period. April imports from the United States were cut to \$265,300,000 from \$297,200,-000, while total exports fell more moderately to \$181,800,000 from \$192,300,000, the import surplus being reduced to \$83,500,000 from \$104,900,000. In the four-month period, estimated imports were off to \$956,600,000 from \$1,060,300,000, total exports to \$719,000,000 from \$767,300,000, and the import surplus was \$237,600,000 against \$293,000,000.

April imports from the United Kingdom were slightly lower in value at \$36,300,000 compared with \$38,000,000, and total exports fell to \$39,600,000 from \$45,400,000, resulting in a lower export balance of \$3,300,000 in contrast to \$7,400,000. In the four-month period, imports were down to \$124,400,000 from \$133,200,000, exports were up to \$175,400,000 from \$170,000,000, and the credit balance on the period's trade moved up to \$51,000,000 from \$36,800,000.

Imports from other Commonwealth countries were a shade higher in April at \$14,700,000 as compared with \$12,500,000, and total exports were up to \$18,900,000 from \$16,300,000. In the four-month period, imports climbed to \$43,800,000 from \$41,700,000, but exports were off to \$56,500,000 from \$72,800,000. Furchases from all other countries in April were moderately lower at \$41,700,000 compared with \$44,100,000 a year earlier, but exports increased to \$57,900,000 from \$50,800,000. In the January-April period, imports from these countries rose to \$159,300,000 from \$154,500,000, and exports advanced to \$213,600,000 from \$208,600,000.

The preliminary figures for April and the January-April period are summarized in the table following. The import figures are estimates and subject to revision; final and detailed figures will not be available for several weeks. Those for exports are based on final figures which will be issued in detail shortly.

	April		Januar	January - April	
Exports: (Domestic & Foreign)	1953	1954 (Millions of	1953 Dollars)	1954	
United Kingdom	45.4 16.3 192.3 50.8 304.8	39.6 18.9 181.8 57.9 298.2	170.0 72.8 767.3 208.6 1,218.7	175.4 56.5 719.0 213.6 1,164.5	
Imports:	1953	1954	Januar 1953	y - April 1954	
United Kingdom Other Commonwealth countries United States Other foreign countries Totals **Estimate only. Subject to revision	38.0 12.5 297.2 44.1 391.8	36.3 14.7 265.3 41.7 358.0	133.2 41.7 1,060.3 154.5 1,389.7	124.4 43.8 956.6 159.3 1,236.1	

\$539,807,000.

First-Quarter Portfolio Security Transactions Portfolio security transactions between Resulted In Net Capital Inflow Of 171 Million Canada and other countries during the first three months of 1954 resulted in a net

capital inflow of \$171,000,000. This was the largest net quarterly movement into Canada since the end of fixed exchange rates in the third quarter of 1950, and reflected principally sales abroad of new Canadian issues for \$169,000,000.

Provincial direct and guaranteed securities accounted for the largest part of the total, but corporate and municipal bonds were also of importance. Sales of new issues of Canadian stocks were light. Retirements of foreign-held Canadian securities during the first quarter are estimated to have totalled \$16,000,000.

Trade in outstanding Canadian issues led to a sales balance or capital import of \$16,000,000. Net sales of Canadian stocks amounted to \$21,000,000 and were partly offset by net repurchases of other Canadian securities. This was a reversal of the direction of movements during the final quarter of 1953, when there were net repurchases by Canadians of stocks, partly offset by net sales of other outstanding Canadian securities.

Taking into account trading in both Canadian and foreign outstanding issues, in the three months ending March there were capital inflows of \$8,000,000 from the United States and \$12,000,000 from the United Kingdom and other overseas countries. In the preceding quarter there had been outflows of \$6,000,000 to the United States and inflows of \$20,000,-000 from other countries. (1)

MERCHANDISING

Department Store Sales Department store sales rose 25.2% during the week ended May 22

Increased 25.2% In Neek as compared with a year earlier. There were advances in all regions, largest rise of 46.3% occurring in British Columbia.

Quebec followed with an advance of 28.7%, Alberta 23.5%, Ontario 21.2%, Saskatchewan 19.3%, Manitoba 14.7%, and the Maritimes 12.4%.

Sales Financing Advanced Another record year in financing of retail instalment sales

15% To New Peak In 1953 raised the volume of business handled by sales finance and
acceptance companies to a new high of \$942,746,000 in 1953.

This was 15% above the previous peak of \$818,633,000 reached in 1952. Balances outstanding at the end of 1953 aggregated \$696,663,000, an increase of 29% over the preceding year's

Consumers' goods were financed to the extent of \$714,149,000 in 1953, 21% more than 1952's \$590,994,000. Financing of used passenger cars again formed the largest item within the section, rising 14% to \$321,225,000 from \$281,599,000 the year before. New passenger car financing climbed 29% to \$252,336,000 from \$195,185,000. Electric and gas household appliance sales were financed for a total of \$63,864,000 compared with \$49,803,-000, radio and television sets for \$37,784,000 compared with \$21,306,000, and furniture for \$14,003,000 compared with \$9,455,000.

Financing of commercial and industrial goods in 1953 showed only a fractional increase over 1952. These were financed to the extent of \$228,597,000, less than 1% above the preceding year's \$227,639,000. Financing of both new and used commercial vehicles declined in 1953, new commercial vehicles dropping to \$90,059,000 from \$98,007,000, and used commercial vehicles to \$62,980,000 from \$64,120,000.

At the end of 1953, finance companies and acceptance corporations had \$512,191,000 outstanding from consumers' goods paper purchased, an amount that was 376 higher than a year earlier. Balances outstanding on commercial goods amounted to \$184,472,000, an increase of 10% over 1952's \$167,029,000. (2)

PRICES

Wholesale Price Index Canada's general wholesale price index slipped 0.3% in April to Slipped 0.3% In April 217.9 from 218.6 in March. Four of the eight major groups declined, but the major part of the decrease occurred in the vegetable products group which dropped 1.8% to 196.0 from 199.6.

Mainly responsible for the decline in the latter group was a drop in the price of brewer's malt of 80.3%, which in turn lowered the index of milled cereal foods almost 25%. It reflected a change in the method of collecting the tax on beer in which the excise duty of 21 cents per pound on brewers' malt was repealed and an excise duty of 38 cents per gallon was imposed upon beer and malt liquor.

Small decreases occurred also in automobile tires and tubes, fresh fruits, vegetable oils and potatoes, which outweighed advances in livestock and poultry feeds, cocoa and its products, grain, raw sugar and canned fruits.

The animal products sub-group receded 0.5% to 240.9 from 242.1 as milk and its products, fowl, eggs, leather, hides and raw furs registered losses which proved of more consequence than increases in live stock, beef carcass, fishery products, bacon and lard.

Iron and its products as a group moved down 0.5% to 214.2 from 215.2, responding to continued declines in steel scrap, as well as lower prices for pig iron and steel pipe. In the non-metallic group an advance in hydrated lime and a higher cost price in Canadian currency for sulphur were more than offset by seasonal declines in crushed stone, sand and gravel and a lower price for United States anthracite coal. As a result the index declined 0.4% to 178.3 from 179.0.

Among the groups to record increases, non-ferrous metals moved up 1.5% to 167.6 from 165.1, under the impetus of higher prices for lead, zinc, copper and its products, gold, tin, solder and silver. Wood, wood products and paper advanced 0.6% to 285.7 from 284.1 as export prices of newsprint, woodpulp and cedar shingles reflected strengthening of the United States dollar; among lumber and timber items, B.C. fir timber advanced slightly while eastern spruce lumber declined.

The fibres, textile and textile products index rose 0.1% to 233.3 from 233.1, due to higher prices for raw cotton and raw wool which were only partially offset by declines in cotton fabrics, sisal rope, cotton knit goods and wool cloth. Chemical products advanced 0.1% when increases in paint materials slightly overbalanced a decline in muriate of potash.

Farm Product Prices The composite index of Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets declined 0.6% to 205.5 from 206.7 in March. Field products, at 150.6, declined 0.5%. Grains and eastern potatoes moved lower while western potatoes and hay were slightly above March levels. The animal products sub-group recorded a decline of 0.6% as decreases in butterfat, eggs, eastern milk and poultry outweighed advances in livestock, wool and western milk for cheese manufacture to move the index to 260.4 from 262.0.

<u>Building Material Prices</u> Residential building materials prices rose 0.1% to 276.1 from 275.9, reflecting increases in black steel pipe, copper pipe, copper wire and certain electrical fixtures; decreases were noted for sand, gravel and shellac.

Non-residential building materials, on the other hand, declined 0.2% to 122.6, as sand, gravel, plumbing and heating equipment, metal windows, shellac, linseed oil and spruce lumber all registered fractionally lower. In the plumbing and heating sub-group, advances in black steel pipe and copper pipe were outweighed by declines in galvanized steel pipe, oil burners and range boilers. (3)

MORE

Security Price Indexes Investors' Price Index	May 27, 1954	May 20, 1954 (1935-39=100)	April 29, 1954
Total Common Stocks Industrials Utilities Banks	182.0	180.6	176.5
	183.7	182.3	177.6
	162.4	162.4	163.1
	210.2	205.5	197.2
Mining Stock Price Index			
Total Mining Stocks Golds Base Metals	90.0	89.4	90.0
	64.2	64.2	65.7
	149.1	147.1	145.6

ANNUAL INDUSTRY REPORTS

Synthetic Textiles & Silk Gross factory value of products manufactured by Canada's synthetic Reduced 5% In 1952 thetic textiles and silk industry in 1952 totalled \$157,629,000, a 5% decline from the preceding year's \$166,550,000. There were 48 establishments in the industry -- two more than in 1951 -- with 15,700 employees as compared with 18,000 in 1951, and salary and wage payments aggregating \$42,709,000 compared with \$44,694,000.

In 1952 the industry produced 103,942,000 yards of woven fabrics worth \$83,908,000 compared with 116,152,000 yards valued at \$94,355,000 in 1951, a drop of 11%. Woven fabrics constituted 53% of the industry's gross value of production in 1952. Continuous filament rayon fabrics declined to 58,942,000 yards from 71,491,000, but fabrics of spun rayon increased to 20,671,000 yards from 19,544,000.

Production of fabrics of continuous filament nylon yarns rose to 9,132,000 yards from 6,964,000, but production of continuous filament synthetic yarn mixtures dropped to 5,-507,000 yards from 8,266,000, and spun rayon mixtures decreased to 4,011,000 yards from 8,-041,000.

Purchased yarn was consumed by the industry in 1952 in the following quantities, 1951 totals being in brackets: continuous filament viscose, acetate and bemburg, 11,579,000 pounds (13,851,000); spun rayon -- including spun rayon mixtures -- 4,812,000 pounds (3,-229,000); nylon, 1,851,000 pounds (1,426,000); cotton, 2,177,000 pounds (2,390,000). Purchases of rayon staple fibre totalled 14,241,000 pounds (14,424,000). (4)

Cordage, Rope & Twine
Output Cut Moderately

Tope and twine industry in 1952 totalled \$28,841,000 moderately

below the preceding year's \$29,709,000. Centred mainly in Ontario,
the industry gave employment to 1,720 persons as compared with 1,774 in 1951, and paid
\$4,931,000 in salaries and wages as against \$4,576,000 in the preceding year. Cost of
materials used in 1952 climbed to \$21,655,000 from \$19,736,000.

Binder twine continued to be the industry's chief product, the year's output amounting to 63,288,000 pounds compared with 65,934,000 in 1951. Production of baler twine totalled 28,984,000 pounds compared with 16,232,000. Shipments of rope amounted to 12,150,000 pounds compared with 14,283,000.

Manila hemp, African sisal, Mexican sisal and hard fibres from Haiti and other countries constituted the principal materials used by the industry. The quantity consumed in 1952 amounted to 77,302,000 pounds as compared with 76,705,000 the year before. (5)

TRANSPORT

Carloadings Down
Slightly In Neek

moderately below last year's corresponding total of 73,907 cars. At the same time, receipts from foreign connections fell sharply to 28,438 cars from 32,657 cars. Loadings in the Eastern division rose to 48,953 cars from 46,790, but there was a decrease in the Western division to 24,010 from 27,117. cars.

Reduced grain shipments again more than accounted for the drop in the national total. Grain loadings totalled 6,076 cars, down from 11,736 a year ago. Iron ore declined to 693 cars from 1,589, and pulpwood to 1,712 cars from 2,101.

Moving in increased volume were vegetables which rose to 1,133 cars from 459, non-ferrous ores and concentrates to 3,592 cars from 2,976, gasoline to 3,591 cars from 2,911, building materials to 3,558 cars from 3,018, newsprint paper to 2,641 cars from 2,292, and less-than-carload merchandise to 15,148 cars from 13,695. (6)

Canal Traffic Lighter This April

Freight transported through all Canadian canals in April

amounted to 1,653,812 tons, less than half last year's

corresponding total of 3,307,044 tons as very little wheat and other grains were shipped

from the lakehead to eastern elevators which are filled to near capacity. Traffic through

all three major canals was considerably lower than the average over the past 10 years.

The Canadian lock at Sault Ste. Marie opened on April 10, 12 days later than in the previous year while the United States locks began operating 21 days later, beginning April 11 as compared with March 21 in 1953, and the St. Lawrence system reported the first vessel passage on April 13, 13 days later. The Welland Ship canal, however, began operations on March 25, 3 days earlier, but as on the other canals traffic has been light.

Freight traffic through the Canadian and United States locks of the Sault Ste. Marie canal dropped to 2,360,476 tons from last year's April total of 12,464,530. Eastbound shipments were down to 1,959,956 tons from 11,295,924 as cargoes of wheat fell to 152,843 tons from 1,636,677, iron ore to 1,377,968 tons from 8,511,305, and other grain to 312,-707 tons from 666,381. Westbound shipments declined to 400,520 tons from 1,168,606, as cargoes of soft coal dropped to 254,768 tons from 818,485, and stone to 40,027 tons from 201,969.

Volume of freight transported on the Welland Ship canal in April totalled 1,151,543 tons, a drop of 858,988 or 42.7% from a year earlier. The tonnage of all commodities except petroleum, sugar and autos were lower than last year. On the St. Lawrence canals 910,686 tons of freight were carried, down 62% from a year earlier with practically all commodities moved in lighter volume. (7)

Oil Pipeline Deliveries Up One-Third In First quarter deliveries of oil through Canadian pipelines aggregated 41,851,000 barrels, an increase of almost 32% over last year's 31,802,000 barrels. Net deliveries in March amounted to 12,760,000 barrels, a decrease of 7% from February, but an increase of 17% over a year earlier.

Three-month deliveries were as follows by provinces, last year's totals being in brackets: British Columbia, 3,230,826 barrels (nil); Alberta, 3,840,964 (4,233,465); Saskatchewan, 3,243,108 (3,232,668); Manitoba, 9,236,754 (5,527,661); Ontario, 7,937,-651 (5,403,711); and Quebec, 14,361,745 (13,404,744).

March deliveries were: British Columbia, 1,223,723 barrels (nil); Alberta, 1,155,-808 (1,315,496); Saskatchewan, 887,357 (938,854); Manitoba, 2,182,524 (2,113,005); Ontario, 2,505,880 (2,187,284); and Quebec, 4,804,298 (4,350,667). (8)

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Milk Production Advanced Estimated milk output in March was 1,109,786,000 pounds, up 6% over last year's 1,043,647,000. This brought first-quarter production to 2,898,520,000 pounds, up 4% from 2,790,984,000.

Advance indications point to a 2% rise in April.

Factory products consumed 465,202,000 pounds of milk in March, up from 429,258,000, and fluid sales rose to 450,508,000 pounds from 428,063,000. The amount consumed in farm homes increased to 84,900,000 pounds from 82,587,000, the amount fed to live stock increased to 67,875,000 pounds from 67,119,000, and the amount used in the production of dairy butter rose to 41,301,000 pounds from 36,620,000.

First-quarter utilization of milk was as follows (1953 totals in brackets): factory products, 1,114,489,000 (1,057,458,000) pounds; dairy butter, 113,350,000 (102,914,000); farm-home consumed, 245,220,000 (238,277,000); fed to live stock, 152,320,000 (153,918,000); and fluid sales, 1,273,141,000 (1,238,417,000) (9)

More Fluid Milk & Cream Sales of fluid milk and cream, the latter expressed as milk, Sold In March & Quarter totalled 1,273,141,000 pounds in the first quarter this year, a 3% gain over the first three months of 1953. March sales were up 5% to 450,508,000 pounds.

March sales were at about the same level as a year earlier in Prince Edward Island but elsewhere increased from 3% in British Columbia to 10% in Saskatchewan. First-quarter sales were 3% lower this year in Prince Edward Island, but in the other provinces ranged from 2% higher in Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia to 6% in Saskatchewan. (10)

Egg Output Up 16% Production of eggs increased 16% in April and the first four months of this year as compared with a year earlier. The month's output amounted to 38,200,000 dozen as compared with 32,900,000, bringing the January-April total to 149,-347,000 dozen as compared with 128,863,000. (11)

Wheat Stocks Reduced Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on May 12 totalled 345,441,000 bushels, moderately below week-earlier stocks of 347,959,000 bushels, but 28% above last year's 269,848,000 bushels.

Deliveries of wheat from Prairie farmers in the week ending May 12 dropped to 4,-888,000 bushels from 12,552,000 a year earlier, barley to 1,258,000 bushels from 2,817,000, rye to 101,000 bushels from 149,000, and flaxseed to 27,000 bushels from 32,000.

Overseas export clearances of wheat declined in the week to 3,944,000 bushels from 6,392,000 a year ago, and cumulative clearances from the start of the crop year to May 14 fell to 153,051,000 bushels from 203,446,000. (12)

More Shortening, Less Lard April production of shortening was higher this year, but output of lard declined. Refined coconut oil and salad and cooking oils were produced in slightly larger quantities than last year. Production of flaxseed oil was lower but the output of soybeen oil and other kinds of oil increased.

Production of shortening in April amounted to 13,123,000 pounds (10,264,000 a year earlier); lard, 7,387,000 pounds (9,271,000); refined coconut and salad and cooking oils, 3,439,000 pounds (3,392,000); flaxseed oil, 4,095,000 pounds (5,969,000); soybean oil, 7,997,000 pounds (7,542,000); and other oils — copra, sunflower, rapeseed, and mustard seed — 2,775,000 pounds (mil). (13)

MORE

Crop Conditions Across Canada With the exception of some districts, good progress was made with seeding last week in the Prairie Provinces. The bulk of the seeding has now been completed in southern regions, but in northern Manitoba, northeastern Saskatchewan and parts of central, western and northern Alberta spring work is very retarded. Week-end rains further delayed operations in many parts of the West. Moisture supplies are generally adequate for crop growth, but the land is still too wet to work in several districts.

As a result of improved weather during the past ten days, seeding of spring grains has almost been completed in <u>Cntario</u>, except in extreme eastern countries and the northern part of the province where this work is now being rushed. Planting of late crops such as corn, tobacco, soybeans and sugar beets was started last week in western and central Ontario. Cool weather with frosts at night is delaying the growth of hay, pasture and spring grain. Where seeding is finished, warmer weather and rain would be beneficial, but elsewhere continued dry weather is needed to permit completion of seeding. The set of sweet cherries was adversely affected by wet, cloudy weather when trees were in blossom, but much better weather prevails for the blossom period of later fruit crops.

Spring weather has been generally cool and rainy throughout the province of Quebec. As a result of these unfavourable conditions, seeding and planting are progressing very slowly. However, seeding has now begun in all regions except the Saguenay, with from 10 to 60% being completed depending upon the locality. Truck gardening is in full swing, particularly in the Montreal region, although growth in that area is about two weeks later than usual. Meadows and pastures are in fine condition, having suffered little frost damage. Cattle are being put out to pasture and dairy production compares favourably with that at the same time last year. Orchards are in full bloom but fruit growers are uneasy over the prevalence of tent caterpillars. In summary, despite the late season, agricultural conditions are satisfactory and, with warmer weather, seeding should soon be completed.

The weather has remained cool throughout the <u>Maritime Provinces</u>. In Prince Edward Island the season is somewhat backward with potato planting slightly retarded. Grain seeding in the Charlottetown area is well advanced with early grain above ground. Hay clover and pasture crops have wintered better than usual and are growing rapidly. In Nova Scotia there have been abundant rains in eastern and northern counties. Seeding is completed in some Annapolis Valley and central areas. Grasses and legumes wintered well. In New Brunswick frequent rains have delayed seeding except on light land, but pastures, hay meadows and early sown grains are doing well.

In British Columbia the season is a week or two weeks later than usual in all areas. The entire Okanagan district received heavy rains on May 11 and 12, although warmer weather has been general during the last two weeks. Over the past week-end, however, unsettled conditions prevailed, with light showers on Vancouver Island and heavy rains in practically all other sections. In the North Okanagan district spring seeding of grain crops is almost completed. Fall-planted grains wintered in excellent condition and are making good growth after a slow start. Elsewhere in the province growth has been retarded and seeding operations somewhat delayed due to cool spring weather. (14)

April Fish Landings
Off In Newfoundland
\$402,768 in April as compared with 20,062,947 pounds worth \$393,568 in the same month last year.

Production Of Carbonated Beverages Production of carbonated beverages was slightly

Increased In April And Four Months
higher in April and the first four months of this year as compared with a year earlier. The month's output amounted to 7,575,194 gallons as compared with 7,504,544, bringing the January-April total to 26,827,647 gallons as compared with 26,792,504. (15)

M O R E

Spectacular Increases Since 1939 In Per Capita Consumption Of Most Canned Foods

Canada's per capita consumption of most canned foods increased spectacularly from 1939 to 1952, according to the latest edition of the Bureau's

annual Canned Foods Summary.

Canned fruits showed a 59% gain in per capita consumption in the 193 years from 9.0 lb. to 14.3 lb. In 1952 Canadians consumed 35% less apple products (other than juice) per capita than in 1939, the same quantity of raspberries, but twice as much peaches, one-third more apricots, 66% more pears, three times as much strawberries and over twice as much of other fruits.

Per capita consumption of canned vegetables rose 23% from 24.7 lb. in 1939 to 30.4 lb. in 1952. Canadians ate 31% less tomatoes per capita in 1952 and the same quantity of asparagus as in 1939, but twice as much green or wax beans, one-quarter more peas and baked beans, 24\$ more corn and 33 times as much of other vegetables.

In 1952 Canadians consumed nearly two and one-half times as much canned concentrated milk products as in 1939 (24.6 lb. versus 10.3 lb. per capita), consumption of condensed or evaporated whole milk doubling, consumption of whole milk powder tripling, and consumption of skim milk powder and other concentrated milk products quadrupling. Large gains were also made by other canned items in the 13 years. In 1952 Canadians drank nearly 10 times as much apple juice per capita as in 1939, 70% more tomato juice, ate nearly four times as much meat, six times as much infant food, over two and one-half times as much soup, and 57% more jams, jellies and marmalades. (15)

MANUFACTURING

Sawn Lumber Production Off
In March And First Quarter
of this year both in British Columbia and East of the Rockies.

Production of sawn lumber and ties in British Columbia showed
a 4% decline in March to 354,328 M feet from 368,997 M last year. First-quarter production
was reduced to 886,372 M from 1,035,186 M feet. March output was off 1% in coast mills,
which account for 66.5% of the provincial output, and over 90% in interior mills.

Production of sawn lumber East of the Rockies totalled 242,982 M feet in March, one-fifth less than the 303,449 M feet produced in the same month last year. First-quarter output was off 17.5% to 652,930 M from 791,015 M feet. Only gain in March and the quarter was in Saskatchewan, where the month's output was up 22% and the three month output 18%. Decreases elsewhere in March ranged from 4% in Quebec to 54% in Manitoba. First-quarter drops ranged from 6% in Quebec to 52.5% in Manitoba.

Revised estimates show last year's Canadian production of sawn lumber as 7,002,611 M feet, up from the final estimate of 6,746,163 M feet for 1952. Output increased last year in New Brunswick to 348,867 M from 259,906 M feet, in Quebec to 1,174,974 M from 1,093,862 M, in Manitoba to 67,019 M from 61,052 M, in Alberta to 410,486 M from 409,570 M, and in British Columbia to 3,819,304 M from 3,696,459 M. Production was reduced in Prince Edward Island to 8,889 M from 9,437 M feet, in Nova Scotia to 280,763 M from 296,915 M, in Ontario to 819,275 M from 840,484 M and in Saskatchewan to 72,834 M from 78,478 M. (17 & 18)

Hard Board Output

Declined In April

first four months of this year as compared with last. The month's output amounted to 13,134,000 square feet as compared with 15,463,000, domestic shipments totalled 10,201,000 square feet compared with 10,667,000 and export shipments amounted to 3,012,000 square feet compared with 3,882,000. January-April production aggregated 47,505,000 square feet (59,197,000 last year); domestic shipments, 35,392,000 (44,120,000); and export shipments, 11,078,000 (14,186,000).

MORE

Manufacturers' Inventory Investment At End Of March Up 3% From Year Ago Inventory investment of Canadian manufacturers at the end of March aggregated \$3,599,800,000, 1% below December last but 3% higher than a year earlier,

according to advance figures. In the consumers' non-durable and semi-durable goods industries there was almost no change from March, 1953, while the consumers' durable goods industries and the construction goods industries each increased inventory investment 8%, the capital goods industries 6%, and the producers' goods industries 3%.

Inventory held but not owned, at \$420,100,000, was 3% higher than at the end of the year and 2% higher than at the end of March, 1953. Total inventories held at the end of March were estimated at \$4,019,900,000, moderately below the year-end total of \$4,042,300,-000, but above last year's end-of-March total of \$3,898,500,000.

Total shipments for the quarter were 3% below the same 1953 period. Shipments in the non-durable consumers' goods industries were 8% above last year, but all other main industry groups showed declines. Total unfilled orders for the 950 firms reporting this item were 7.5% higher than at December 1953, but 12% below March, 1953.

	Total Inventory Investment	Progress Payments Inventory	Total Inventory Held	Raw Materials	Goods In Process	Finished Products		
	(in millions of dollars)							
All Industries Mar. 1953 Feb. 1954 Mar. 1954	3,487.9 3,624.2 3,599.8	410.6 423.4 420.1	3,898.5 4,047.6 4,019.9	1,714.7	991.4 1,041.7 (not availab	1,192.4 1,332.8		
Consumers Goods								
Mar. 1953 Feb. 1954 Mar. 1954	2,032.2 2,093.6 2,072.4	59.6 65.5 69.1	2,091.8 2,159.1 2,141.5	940.7 920.1	418.9 417.4 (not availab	732.2 821.6		
Capital Goods								
Mar. 1953 Feb. 1954 Mar. 1954	471.2 505.9 500.8	301.4 321.4 313.2	772.6 827.3 814.0	240.3	381.1 439.9 (not availab	151.2 177.8		
Producers! Goods								
Mar. 1953 Feb. 1954 Mar. 1954	675.9 705.0 693.0	1.9 2.8 2.7	677.8 707.8 695.7	349.1 355.9	123.7 125.2 (not availab	205.0 226.7		
Construction Goods								
Mar. 1953 Feb. 1954 Mar. 1954	308.6 319.7 333.6	47.7 33.7 35.1	356.3 353.4 368.7	184.6	67.7 59.2 (not availab	104.0 106.7		
	indexes Of Shipments							
	All Indu		(Dec. 19 sumers' Ca	52 = 100) pital Pro	ducers; Co Goods	nstruction Goods		
Mar. 1953 Feb. 1954 Mar. 1954	108 95 106	04	108.3 99.0 109.4	96.8 82.4 96.0	107.0 89.0 98.4	139.4		

Production Of Washing Machines Off In Canadian manufacturers reduced their production of domestic-type washing machines in the first three months of this year by 25% as compared with a year earlier, but end-of-March factory inventories were up 25%.

First-quarter output dropped to 49,188 units from 65,657 at the same time last year. Output in March was 19,512 units (22,823 a year ago); February 16,406 units (21,303); and January, 13,270 units (21,531).

The quarter's shipments were down to 49,754 units from 61,000 a year ago, with the March total off to 19,825 units from 23,197, February to 16,607 units from 21,220, and January to 13,322 units from 16,583. Factory stocks at the end of March were up to 28,769 units from 22,910. (20)

Output Of Most Finished Leathers Lower In March

Canadian production of most finished leathers was lower in March than in the same month last year while month-end stocks of most raw hides ans skins were higher.

Among the finished cattle leathers, March production of sole was reduced to 1,221,061 from 1,313,242 pounds, of upper to 4,304,702 from 4,900,072 square feet, of glove and garment to 470,603 from 519,665 square feet, of harness to 1,931 from 4,011 sides and of belting to 501 from 2,382 butt bends, while March output of bag, case and strap leather advanced to 9,230 from 8,379 sides. Production of calf and kip skin upper leather increased to 865,080 from 740,691 square feet, but output of goat and kid leather decreased to 9,684 from 21,300 skins. Sheep and lamb glove and garment leather output declined to 3,409 from 4,008 dozen skins, and of shoe leather to 3,384 from 3,468 dozen skins. Horse glove and garment leather output was up to 161,686 from 110,480 square feet.

Stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers were up to 548,532 from 444,251 last year, and calf and kip skins to 416,732 from 299,057, and of sheep and lamb skins to 34,747 from 24,531 dozen. March-end stocks of goat and kid skins were off to 10,979 from 29,691 and of horse hides to 14,376 from 24,201. (21)

Production And Shipments Of Iron Castings Declined In March And First 1954 Quarter

Both production and shipments of iron castings and cast iron pipes and fittings were lower in March and the first quarter of this year than a

year earlier.

The month's output amounted to 72,000 tons as compared with 79,000, bringing the first-quarter total to 199,400 tons as compared with 216,600. Shipments in March amounted to 44,300 tons compared with 47,300, and January-March shipments aggregated 126,400 tons compared with 130,300.

Iron foundries used 26,300 tons of pig iron in March (34,500 tons a year earlier) and 75,100 tons in the quarter (95,500). March consumption of scrap iron and steel amounted to 59,100 tons (54,600), and the quarter's totalled 167,100 tons (143,800). (22)

Portland Cement Production Higher In March & Quarter, But Shipments Lower

Canadian manufacturers produced larger quantities of Portland cement in March and the first quarter of this year than last, but shipments to customers de-

clined. The result was a substantial rise in stocks at plants and warehouses at the end of March.

The month's output amounted to 1,868,485 barrels as compared with 1,850,491 a year earlier, bringing the first-quarter total to 5,042,471 barrels as compared with 4,965,127. March shipments to customers totalled 1,759,592 barrels compared with 1,803,187, and January-March shipments aggregated 3,834,622 barrels compared with 4,018,859. Month-end stocks were 2,136,839 barrels compared with 1,700,991. (23)

MORE

Production Of Rigid Insulating Board Production of rigid insulating board was higher in Higher In April, But Shipments Lower

April and the first four months of this year than a year earlier, but domestic shipments declined. The

month's output amounted to 22,581,036 square feet compared with 21,282,490, bringing the January-April total to 95,674,345 square feet as compared with 86,341,797. Domestic shipments in April were 19,071,872 square feet as compared with 20,577,656, and four-month shipments aggregated 74,985,518 square feet compared with 76,645,112. (24)

Manufactured Gas Sales Sales of manufactured gas by Canadian distributing companies increased to 2,524,231 M cubic feet this February from 2,418,032 Advanced This February M last year. Revenue from sales advanced to \$3,083,221 from \$2,-944,653, but the number of customers was down to 571,214 from 573,066.

In the first two months of 1954 sales totalled 5,075,279 M cubic feet versus 4,917,055 M last year, and revenue increased to \$6,193,353 from \$5,949,947. Sales were higher in February and the first two months this year for commercial and miscellaneous purposes. (25)

MINERALS

More Natural Gas Produced. Canadian production of natural gas increased to 11.369.029 Sold In February This Year M cubic feet this February from 9,245,963 M last year, while sales advanced to 10,602,415 M cubic feet from 8,492,018 M. This brought January-February production to 26,687,657 M from 21,167,849 M cubic feet and

sales to 21,403,804 M from 17,651,132 M cubic feet.

Number of natural gas customers increased in February to 286,872 from 265,494 last year with more domestic, industrial and commercial users. Quantity sold to domestic consumers rose to 5,404,582 M cubic feet worth \$2,911,575 from 4,353,488 M worth \$2,372,608; to industrial users to 2,490,724 M worth \$579,253 from 1,899,777 M worth \$473,457; and to commercial users to 2,707,109 M worth \$906,318 from 2,238,753 M worth \$722,345. Total revenue from all natural gas sales in February advanced to \$4,409,463 from \$3,577,938. (25)

Canadian production of crude petroleum climbed to 7,616,939 barrels Crude Oil Output Up this February from 4,767,695 last year. Output in the first two Sharply In February months amounted to 15,631,084 versus 10,054,946 barrels.

February production increased in all producing areas this year. Alberta output advanced to 7,079,008 from 4,470,171 barrels, the biggest producers being Redwater (1,947,196 versus 1,398,231 barrels) and the Leduc-Woodbend (1,748,709 versus 1,354,516 barrels) fields. Saskatchewan production increased to 344,662 from 220,459 barrels and output in Manitoba rose to 115,952 from 36,932 barrels. Output increased in the Northwest Territories to 45,349 from 23,621 barrels, in Ontario to 30,788 from 15,340 barrels and in New Brunswick to 1,180 from 1,172 barrels. (25)

Less Coal Mined And Imported Canadian production of coal was 1% lower this April at In April & First Four Months 1,117,000 tons versus 1,128,964 last year. Landed imports were down over 2% at 1,339,374 tons versus 1,839,641 tons. This put production at 5,387,852 versus 5,496,452 tons in the first four months, and landed imports at 3.142.302 tons versus 4.098.942.

Less coal was produced in Nova Scotia, Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon in both April and the first four months, but there were increases in all other producing areas. Landed imports were lower in April in Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia and the Yukon but were higher elsewhere, and in the four months were down in all except Newfoundland, British Columbia and the Yukon. (26)

More Lead, Less Silver & Zinc More lead but less silver and zinc was produced in Canada in In First Quarter Of This Year March and the first quarter this year. Production of primary lead increased to 51,454 tons in the first quarter from 50,573 last year, a sharp increase in March output to 16,884 from 14,183 tons outweighing drops in January and February.

First-quarter output of primary silver was off appreciably to 6,841,613 fine ounces from 7,172,666 in the first three months last year. The reduced March production of 2,274,189 versus 2,458,022 fine ounces followed a drop in February and a gain in January.

Output of primary zinc fell to 80,783 tons in the first three months from 102,461 last year, with drops in all months. Production of refined zinc was down to 48,904 from 57,740 tons in the first quarter, with decreases in all months. March output of primary zinc was off to 28,827 from 36,726 tons, and of refined zinc to 16,550 from 20,693 tons. (27)

More Nickel, Less Copper Production of nickel in the first three months of this year was moderately higher than in the corresponding period last year but copper production declined. The quarter's output of nickel totalled 37,967 tons compared with 35,296, and production of copper amounted to 62,584 tons compared with 68,760. (28)

BANKING

Cheques Cashed 4% Higher

In April And Four Months

four months of this year as compared with a year earlier. The

month's total was \$12,179,271,000 as compared with \$11,709,838,000,

bringing the January-April figure to \$47,886,616,000 as compared with \$46,052,056,000.

Debits were lower in the Prairies both in April and the four-month period, but there were advances in the other four economic areas. The drop in the Prairie Provinces was 8.2% in April and 3.2% in the January-April period. The rise in the Atlantic Provinces was 9.8% in April (8.4% in the four months); Quebec, 4.7% (6.6%); Ontario, 5.2% (3.8%); and British Columbia, 21.4% (9.4%).

January-April totals follow by economic regions, last year's figures being in brackets (in thousands): Atlantic Provinces, \$1,417,943 (\$1,308,326); Quebec, \$13,615,287 (\$12,772,-356); Ontario, \$21,848,487 (\$21,057,510); Prairie Provinces, \$7,186,745 (\$7,425,561); and British Columbia, \$3,818,155 (\$3,489,303). (29)

ACCIDENTS

More Motor Vehicle Accidents

In Last Three Months Of 1953

months of 1952. Compared with a year earlier, more persons were killed (668 versus 614), but fewer were injured (13,562 versus 13,811).

Fewer accidents were reported in the last quarter of 1953 in Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and British Columbia but the number increased in other provinces, particularly in Ontario and Manitoba. The death toll was reduced in Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and fewer were injured in Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Last year's fourth quarter fatalities included 423 drivers and passengers, 216 pedestrians and 29 bicyclists, Motorcyclists and others. Injured were 4,207 drivers, 5,137 passengers, 2,497 pedestrians and 721 bibyclists, motorcyclists and others. (30)

EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS

Industrial Employment At
Reduced Level At April 1
beginning of April. The Bureau's advance industrial composite
index, on the 1949 base, stood at 105.5 as compared with 106.6
a month earlier, and 110.0 at April 1, 1953. Weekly wages and salaries disbursed by the
larger industrial establishments throughout Canada showed a reduction of 1.3% in the month
and were 1.7% lower than at April 1 a year ago. In manufacturing, the decrease in the
month amounted to 0.4%, and in the year to 1.2%. The advance general figure of per capita
weekly wages and salaries was \$59.06, slightly below the March 1 average of \$59.22, but
3% higher than at April 1, 1953. Per capita earnings in manufacturing stood at \$61.21, a
new maximum, as compared with \$61.13 a month ago, and \$59.43 a year ago.

Industrial activity was moderately higher than at the beginning of March in Newfoundland, Manitoba and British Columbia. The declines in staffs elsewhere indicated ranged from 1.1% in Alberta to 4.2% in New Brunswick and 9.7% in Prince Edward Island, where snow removal operations had occasioned a considerable increase in employment in the preceding survey week. Industrially, the most pronounced reductions took place in logging, transportation and manufacturing. The advance index of employment in manufacturing fell 0.5% as compared with March 1, and was 4.5% lower than at April 1, 1953. Mining was also quieter than at March 1, notably in Nova Scotia and Alberta. (31)

1954 Editions Of Canada Year Book And Canada Handbook Out This Week The Bureau this week published the 1954 editions of the Canada Year Book, and its smaller companion, the illustrated Canada Handbook.

The Canada Year Book, the official statistical annual record of the resources, institutions and social and economic conditions, presents extensive statistical and analytical commentary designed to describe the essential elements in the progress of Canada. This year's issue contains 1,328 pages and 28 chapters. In it are summarized and co-ordinated statistics of physiography, demography, health, welfare, education, labour, national income, resources, production, trade, transportation, communication and finance. Included are numerous maps and charts which being into focus developments indicated by the figures.

The regular chapter material of the Canada Year Book has been augmented by a number of special features of current interest. These include articles on international activities, the national health grant program, scientific and industrial research, administration of Crown forests in Canada, developments in Canada's mineral industry, Canadian crude petroleum situation, review of Canadian manufacturing, canals of the St. Lawrence waterways, history of pipeline construction in Canada, and a review of foreign trade.

This year's edition of the Canada Handbook contains 300 pages of text and 200 illustrations. Initiated in 1930 to supplement the field of the Canada Year Book, it is especially designed for ready use by businessmen, teachers, students, lecturers and all those interested in the progress of Canada. This convenient pocket-sized annual contains up-to-date official information on all phases of Canada's economic organization. The textual and statistical coverage of the 1954 edition of the Handbook follows somewhat the same pattern as that of previous years, with emphasis this year directed to Canada's growth in the field of manufacturing. The Federal system of democratic government is also described in a specially contributed article.

Price of the Canada Year Book is \$3.00, and of the Canada Handbook 50¢. Both are available from the Queen's Printer, Ottawa. By a special concession, a limited number of paper-bound copies of the Canada Year Book have been set aside for ministers of religion, students and school teachers, who may obtain such copies at \$1.50. Applications for these should be sent to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. (32 & 33)

RELEASED THIS WEEK

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

1- Sales & Purchases of Securities Between Canada & Other Countries, Mar., 10¢

2- Sales Financing, 1953, 25¢

3- Prices & Price Indexes, Apr., 20¢

4- Synthetic Textiles & Silk Industry, 1952, 25¢

5- Cordage, Rope & Twine Industry, 1952, 25¢

6- M: Railway Carloadings, Weekly, 10g

- 7- M: Summary of Canal Statistics, Apr., 10¢ 8- M: Pipe Lines (Oil) Statistics, Mar., 10¢
- 9- The Dairy Review, Apr., 25¢ 10- M: Fluid Milk Sales, Mar., 10¢ 11- M: Production of Eggs, Apr., 10¢
- 12- Grain Statistics Weekly, 10¢

13- M: Oils & Fats, Apr., 10¢

14- Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada, 10¢

15- M: Production of Carbonated Beverages, Apr., 10¢

16- Canned Foods Summary, 1952, 25¢

- --- Guarterly Stocks of Canned Fruits & Vegetables, Mar. 31, 25¢ (Summarized in Bulletin of May 21)
- 17- Production, Shipments & Stocks of Sawmills East of the Rockies, Mar., 25¢
- 18- Production, Shipments & Stocks of Sawmills in British Columbia, Mar., 25¢

19- M: Hard Board, Apr., 10¢ 20- M: Domestic Washing Machines, Mar., Feb., Jan., 10¢ each 21- M: Statistics of Hides, Skins & Leather, Mar., 10¢

22- Ms Iron Castings & Cast Iron Pipes & Fittings, Mar., 10¢

23- M: Cement & Cement Products, Mar., 10¢

24- M: Rigid Insulating Board Industry, Apr., 10¢

25- M: Crude Petroleum, Natural Gas & Manufactured Gas, Feb., 15¢

26- M: Preliminary Report on Coal Production, Apr., 10¢

27- M: Silver, Lead & Zinc Production, Mar., 10¢

28- Ms Copper & Nickel Production, Mar., 10g

29- Cheques Cashed in Clearing Centres, Apr., 10¢

30- M: Motor Vehicle Accidents, 4th Quarter, 1953, 25¢

31- Advance Statement on Employment & Weekly Payrolls, Apr. 1, 10¢ --- The Labour Force, Apr., 25¢ (Summarized in Bulletin of May 21)

32- 1954 Edition of Canada Year Book; Cloth-Bound, \$3; Paper-Bound, \$1.50

33- Canada Handbook, 1954, 50¢

M - Memorandum

Productive forests extend over some 764,000 squere miles or 22% of the total land area of Canada. About two-thirds of this is accessible for economic exploitation.

Indian Reserves: There are more than 2,000 in Canada and they var, in size from a few acres to 500 square miles. Most of this land is community property but an Indian may be allotted possession of land within a reserve by the Council of the Band.

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

Co-operatives marketed close to 36% of the farm products sold during the crop year ended July 31, 1952. Total sales value was \$927,600,000, some \$158,000,000 or more than one-fifth greater than in the preceding year. Co-operative sales per farm averaged \$1,340, over four and one-half times the 1941 average of \$293 per farm.

Sugar Bests are grown commercially in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta, and seven beet-sugar factories are located in these provinces.

Retail store sales climbed 4% last year to a record \$12,027,600,000 from \$11,575,600,-000 in 1952. Largest proportional increase of 7% was in Saskatchewan, smallest gain of 2.4% in British Columbia.

Prince Edward Island is Canada's smallest province. Only about 120 miles long, it varies in width from two to 34 miles, has an area of 2,184 square miles. Its surface is rolling lowland and its soil is rich and sandy and of a dark red colour. About 85% of the area is cultivable and is particularly suited for growing potatoes thich has become an Island specialty along with dairying and lobster fishing and canning.

Canada's Eskimos mainly dwell north of the tree-line on the northern fringe of the mainland, around the coast of Hudson Bay and on some of the islands of the Arctic Archipelago. The 1951 Consus recorded an Eskimo population of 9,493, of which 6,687 were in the Northwest Territories, 1,789 in Quebec and 847 in Newfoundland (Labrador).

Credit Unions There were 3,335 in Canada in 1951-52 with a membership of 1,250,000 and total assets of \$425,000,000. Lorns made during the year to members amounted to \$155,000,000.

Trees: There are 150 species in Canada, 31 of which are conifers.

Commercial fisheries represent a great natural resource which has been yielding annually an ever-increasing harvest of protein food since the time of John Cabot. Currently the annual catch of fish is close to two billion pounds and is valued in the neighborhood of \$180 million.

Education: There were 235 institutions of higher education in Canada in 1951-52, including universities, junior colleges, technical and professional institutions and independent theological colleges.

Sawmill production east of the Rockies was down 17.5% in the first quarter this year, while output in British Columbia was 4% below the January-March level of 1953.

Garbage & Ash Gans: \$924,872 worth were manufactured in 1952 as against \$817,290 worth in the preceding year.

Marital Status: 65% of all females and 64% of all males of 15 years of age and over in the 10 provinces were married in 1952, an increase from a decade earlier when 59% of the females and 57% of the males of 15 years and over were married.

