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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

TOTAL COMMODITY TRADE with other countries climbed 2% to an all-time high value of $8,560,000,000 last year. A 9% increase in imports to a new record value and a 4% drop in exports from the peak 1952 value yielded the third import surplus since the war. Estimated at $214,800,000, it contrasted with a $325,500,000 export surplus in 1952. (Page 2)

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HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, swelled by a 65.5% boost in December, surged to an all-time peak last year with 96,839 new dwelling units built, nearly a third more than in 1952 and 9% more than in 1950, the previous high year. More units were completed in all provinces in 1953. (Page 6)

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INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT showed a further decline at December 1 when the preliminary index registered 113.9 against 115.9 at November 1 and 116.1 a year earlier... WEEKLY PAYROLLS fell 1.6% in the month but due to shifts in employment patterns average weekly earnings rose to a record $58.19 from $58.14. (Page 8)

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CHEQUES CASHED in 35 clearing centres across Canada climbed to a new high of $137,417,000,000 last year, a 10% increase over 1952. Totals were up in all areas, from 6.1% in British Columbia to 12% in Ontario. (Page 13)

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX remained practically unchanged between December 1 and January 2, dipping from 115.8 to 115.7, the same level as a year earlier. Six of the 10 regional indexes declined, while two advanced and two showed no change in the month. (Pages 4 & 5)

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DEPARTMENT STORE SALES, boosted by an all-time monthly high in December, passed the billion-dollar mark for the first time last year, the $1,028,621,000 total topping 1952's sales by 3.3%... Sales slipped 1.8% in the week ending January 30 as compared with last year. (Page 11)

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CHAIN STORE SALES were up for all six trades last year, hardware stores leading with a gain of 10.1% followed by food stores with 9.6%, variety stores with 5%, women's clothing stores with 4.4%, drug stores with 4% and shoe stores with 3.2%. (Page 11)

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RAILWAY CARLOADINGS totalled 84,455 revenue cars in the 10-day period ended January 31, a 25.6% drop from 113,557 last year... The January total was down to 266,351 from 314,982 cars. (Page 6)

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Exports Lower, Imports & Total Trade At Record Values In 1953 Canada's total commodity exports in 1953 were slightly below the 1952 peak value, but the value of commodity imports reached a new high, the increase exceeding the decline in exports to product a new record for the value of total trade for a year and a surplus in imports over exports, according to preliminary summary figures. Lower average prices and reduced volume both contributed to the decline in value of exports, prices averaging 2.5% below the 1952 level, and volume 1.7%. Average prices of imports were also lower, and the gain in the volume was more than 9%.

Total exports were valued at $4,172,600,000, a decrease of 4.2% from $4,356,000,000, while commodity imports rose nearly 9% to an estimated $4,387,400,000 from $4,030,400,000. Total trade for the year, the sum of exports and imports, thus climbed to $8,560,000,000 from $8,386,500,000 in 1952, and compared with $8,048,200,000 in 1951 and $4,266,400,000 in the first postwar year of 1946. The rise in imports and the drop in exports produced an estimated import surplus of $214,800,000 in contrast with an export surplus of $325,500,000 in 1952. Last year's import surplus was the third since the war, imports exceeding exports by $121,500,000 in 1951 and $17,200,000 in 1950. In the four years 1946 to 1949 there were export surpluses ranging from $237,800,000 to $473,100,000.

United States purchases and sales were both up, but the rise in imports exceeded the gain in exports. The former increased to $3,229,600,000 from $2,977,000,000, the latter to $2,463,000,000 from $2,349,100,000. The estimated import surplus thus moved up to $766,600,000 from $627,900,000 for 1952. These compare with trade deficits of $479,000,000 for 1952, the low of $80,000,000 for 1950 and the postwar peak of $918,100,000 for 1947. Sales to the United Kingdom declined to $668,800,000 from $751,000,000, but imports rose to $454,900,000 from $359,800,000, the customary export surplus falling to $213,900,000 from $391,300,000, though still above 1951's $214,700,000 and 1950's $68,300,000. Largest postwar export surplus was $564,300,000 in 1947. Total exports to all other Commonwealth countries were also lower at $234,600,000 against $264,600,000, while imports fell somewhat less to $169,500,000 from $184,700,000. Commodity sales to all foreign countries other than the United States declined to $806,200,000 from $991,300,000, but imports rose moderately to $533,400,000 from $509,000,000.

For December, the preliminary summary shows the third successive decline in imports to $338,800,000 from $345,100,000 a year earlier, mainly due to a drop in purchases from the United States. Total exports were also lower at $361,000,000 against $393,900,000.

	December		January - December	
	1952	1953	1952	1953
	- millions of dollars -			
Exports (Domestic & Foreign)				
United Kingdom	47.8	47.7	751.0	668.8
Other Commonwealth countries	17.3	13.1	264.6	234.6
United States	224.5	223.5	2,349.1	2,463.0
Other foreign countries	104.3	76.7	991.3	806.2
Totals	393.9	361.0	4,356.0	4,172.6
Imports*				
United Kingdom	28.0	37.9	359.8	454.9
Other Commonwealth countries	9.6	9.4	184.7	169.5
United States	265.2	249.1	2,977.0	3,229.6
Other foreign countries	42.3	42.4	509.0	533.4
Totals	345.1	338.8	4,030.5	4,387.4

* 1953 figures are estimates only and are subject to revision.

MORE

Final Detailed Figures On Commodity Exports In 1953

Final detailed figures on Canada's domestic exports, released together with the total trade summary, show that the decreases in commodities last year from 1952 were concentrated mainly in the agricultural and vegetable, wood and paper, iron, and non-ferrous groups and that declines in these were partly offset by gains in the animal and animal products, chemicals and miscellaneous commodities groups.

Among the individual commodities, the largest declines were in wheat, other grains, wheat flour, rubber and products, planks and boards, pulpwood, wood pulp, farm implements and other machinery, ferro-alloys, automobiles, zinc and asbestos. For some of these, such as planks and boards, wood pulp, and zinc the reduced values were due mainly to lower prices. On the other hand, higher values were recorded for such major items as alcoholic beverages, newsprint paper - up to first place over wheat - aluminum, copper and products, nickel, abrasives, and ships and vessels.

Domestic exports to the United States -- which accounted for nearly 59% of the total, up from less than 55% in 1952 to about the same proportion as in 1951 -- showed gains in seven of the ninemain commodity groups in contrast to gains in only four in the total trade. Major advances among the seven were in the animals and animal products, non-ferrous metals, and non-metallic minerals groups.

In the case of trade with the United Kingdom, exports were higher for three groups, the increase of significance being in agricultural and vegetable products. Shipments of wood and paper and non-ferrous metals -- the two next largest -- were substantially lower.

Besides declines to the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries, domestic exports were lower to the Latin American and European groups of countries. Those to the remaining group of foreign countries were generally lower but major exceptions were Japan, which rose to $118,568,000 from $102,603,000 in 1952, and Korea, direct exports to which rose to $14,991,000.

Exports to Latin America for the twelve months dropped sharply in value to $198,255,-000 from $272,397,000 in 1952, large decreases being recorded for shipments to Brazil, Cuba and Mexico and an outstanding increase to Colombia. Total exports to European countries fell off to $383,502,000 from $496,878,000, sales being lower to most major markets except the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland. (1)

Values of the 14 leading export commodities in 1953, together with their December values and the corresponding 1952 figures are shown below.

	December		January-December	
	1952	1953	1952	1953
	- thousands of dollars -			
Wheat	71,692	37,004	621,292	567,907
Grains other than wheat	43,096	28,424	235,230	224,687
Flour of wheat	10,541	8,570	116,055	102,160
Alcoholic beverages	7,445	7,327	56,597	66,219
Fish & fishery products	8,728	8,319	113,325	111,134
Planks & boards	20,079	21,583	295,949	282,736
Wood pulp	21,011	22,254	291,363	248,675
Newsprint paper	49,035	62,616	591,790	619,033
Farm implements & machinery	6,479	4,204	105,408	74,316
Aluminum & products	12,938	15,848	162,338	177,856
Copper & products	6,907	8,231	119,491	124,677
Nickel	9,473	12,566	150,982	162,542
Zinc & products	5,458	3,779	96,703	57,699
Asbestos & products	9,400	8,201	87,775	84,557

PRICES

Consumer Price Index Shows Little Change At January 2 The consumer price index remained practically unchanged between December 1 and January 2, moving from 115.8 to 115.7. As was the case last month, the January 2 index is at the same level as one year earlier. The food index declined 0.4% from 112.1 to 111.6 as further decreases in eggs, combined with scattered lower prices for other food items, proved more important than small advances for most meats and vegetables. Clothing prices were generally stable, but slight decreases affecting several items were sufficient to move the index down 0.1% to 110.1.

Changes in the household operation series were more pronounced with increases for furniture, cleaning supplies and household help, and decreases for washing machines, cotton sheets, and glassware, resulting in an overall advance of only 0.1% to 117.5. The shelter index moved from 125.2 to 125.4 as rents continued to rise fractionally. Among other commodities and services, increases were recorded for several items of drugs and personal care, and newspaper rates were reported higher in three cities. These changes advanced the group index from 116.3 to 116.4. (2)

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities & Services
January 2, 1954	115.7	111.6	125.4	110.1	117.5	116.4
December 1, 1953	115.8	112.1	125.2	110.2	117.4	116.3
January 2, 1953	115.7	113.5	122.3	109.7	116.5	116.7

Wholesale Prices Weakened Moderately In January Further moderate weakness was registered in basic commodities in January as indicated by a change in the composite index for 30 industrial material prices at wholesale from 225.8 for the week of December 31 to 224.1 for the week of January 22. Scrap steel dropped sharply, while lesser declines were noted for lead, zinc, steers, steel bars, raw rubber, tin, copper, iron ore, bleached sulphite pulp and western wheat. On the other hand, higher quotations were noted for beef hides, hogs, western oats, raw cotton and sisal.

Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets registered a slightly firmer tone in the opening month of 1954 as the index moved up from 208.4 for the week of December 31 to 210.4 by the week of January 22. Both sub-groups moved up, animal products shifting from 265.0 to 268.3 as higher prices occurred for calves, hogs and lambs in both the east and west, and eggs and milk for cheese manufacture in the east.

Lower prices were noted for steers and raw wool, while fowl was easier in the east and eggs in the west. Higher quotations for eastern rye, barley, hay, raw leaf tobacco, potatoes, and western flax, potatoes and hay outweighed weakness for eastern corn and western rye to advance the field products index from 151.9 to 152.5. (2)

Security Prices Firm In January Common stocks presented a progressively firmer price tone through January as the composite index for 101 representative issues moved up from 152.4 for the week of December 31 to 160.4 for the week of January 28. All three major groups were higher with the index for 80 industrials changing from 151.6 to 159.4, for 13 utilities from 144.0 to 152.2, and for eight banks from 180.4 to 189.1

Most groups were firmer, led by pulp and paper, oils, machinery and equipment, beverages, building materials and transportation issues. Textiles and clothing issues were weaker. Mining stocks advanced moderately in January due mainly to a firmer tone for golds. The composite index for 27 issues increased from 78.8 to 81.8 between December 31 and January 28, while the index for 22 golds changed from 56.7 to 61.1 in the same interval. Base metals were almost unchanged as the index moved from 129.4 to 129.2. (2)

MORE

Security Price Indexes

	February 4, 1954	January 28, 1954	January 7, 1954
		(1935-39=100)	
Investors' Price Index			
Total Common Stocks	161.4	160.4	155.7
Industrials	160.8	159.4	154.8
Utilities	152.3	152.2	147.4
Banks	188.8	189.1	184.1
Mining Stock Price Index			
Total Mining Stocks	82.3	81.8	81.7
Golds	61.3	61.1	60.0(r)
Base Metals	130.3	129.2	131.5

(r) = annual revision

Six Of Ten Regional Price Indexes Down At January 2

Six of the ten regional consumer price indexes declined between December 1 and January 2, while two advanced and two were unchanged. Total index movements did not exceed 0.2% in any city as mixed changes were recorded in the main group indexes. Among foods, decreases in eggs predominated, while small declines were also recorded for oranges, orange juice and canned tomatoes. Most meats and fresh vegetables were fractionally higher. As a result of these offsetting changes food indexes were lower in eight cities, higher in Winnipeg and unchanged in Montreal.

Shelter indexes advanced in all but three cities, reflecting continued gains in rents. Clothing prices were generally stable as indexes were unchanged in seven cities and slightly lower in three. Household operation series moved up in seven of the ten regional centres, mainly as a result of general increases in household cleaning supplies. Fuel and lighting prices were unchanged except for slight increases in coal in Ottawa and Saint John, while small scattered changes occurred in homefurnishings. Other commodities and services series were generally firmer, reflecting slight increases for drugs and personal cleaning supplies. Advances in newspaper rates were registered in St. John's and Calgary.

Total indexes for January 2 and December 1, and January 2 group index detail, are shown below. Indexes show changes in retail prices of goods and services in each city, but do not indicate whether it costs more or less to live in one city than another.

Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities
at the beginning of January 1954
(Base 1949 = 100)

	Total Indexes		Group Indexes - January 2, 1954				
	December 1, 1953	January 2, 1954	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
St. John's*	102.7	102.6	101.0	107.3	101.6	104.1	101.9
Halifax	113.2	113.2	105.5	119.6	116.9	119.0	115.6
Saint John	115.5	115.4	110.3	116.9	119.9	117.2	119.4
Montreal	116.7	116.7	115.1	131.8	111.0	116.1	115.4
Ottawa	115.5	115.3	110.3	125.0	113.5	116.4	117.4
Toronto	117.6	117.7	110.2	137.9	112.6	117.8	117.5
Winnipeg	114.7	114.9	110.9	122.4	116.1	113.2	116.3
Saskatoon-Regina	113.3	113.2	110.2	112.1	116.3	118.1	111.7
Edmonton-Calgary	114.5	114.4	109.9	119.0	114.2	115.1	117.8
Vancouver	116.3	116.2	110.8	123.7	112.6	123.7	117.5

* Index on the base June 1951 = 100

HOUSING

Housing Construction At All-Time Peak As One-Third More New Units Built Last Year

Swelled by a 65.5% boost in December completions, the number of new dwelling units built in Canada surged to an all-time peak of 96,839 last year, 23,752 or nearly a third more than in 1952 and 7,824 or 9% more than in 1950, the previous high year, according to advance figures. Counting 3,824 units added by the conversion of existing dwellings the total 1953 supply of new housing units was 100,663 as compared with 76,338 in 1952 when 3,251 units were added by conversions.

There were more new dwelling units of all types constructed last year, but a smaller proportion were one-family houses. Of the total, 68,916 or 71% were one-family houses as compared with 55,967 or almost 77% of the total in 1952. Apartments or flats numbered 19,-837 against 11,707 and accounted for 20% as against 16% a year earlier. Two-family houses numbered 7,714 against 5,314 and represented 8% as compared with 7%. The number of row or terrace units was 372 as against 99 in 1952.

The 1953 construction upsurge was common to all parts of the country, but there was wide variation in the gains in different provinces. For the first time more new units were built in Alberta than in British Columbia, Alberta's total of completed new units jumping 59% to 9,854 from 6,204, while British Columbia's rose more moderately to 7,944 from 7,028. Saskatchewan's total climbed 92% to 4,047 from 2,630, while Manitoba's showed a smaller advance to 4,794 from 3,142. Ontario's total rose 28% to 35,173 from 27,461, and Quebec's was one-third greater at 29,803 against 22,407. Totals for the Atlantic provinces were: Newfoundland, 1,480 (1,131 in 1952); Prince Edward Island, 182 (42); Nova Scotia, 2,160 (1,811); New Brunswick, 1,402 (1,231).

The number of new units completed was higher last year in all months except August when there was a slight decline from a year earlier. October was again the month with the greatest number of completions (12,109), but the jump to 11,715 from 7,076 in 1952 put December in second place for the first time, ahead of November (10,608). Totals for the earlier months were: September, 8,643; August, 7,445; July, 6,828; June, 6,675; May, 8,099; April, 6,325; March, 6,130; February, 6,161; January, 6,101.

More new dwelling units were started last year in all months, the December increase amounting to 9% to 4,092 from 3,732. The year's total was 102,409, an increase of 19,163 or 24% over 1952, gains being recorded in all provinces. Provincial totals: Newfoundland, 1,782 (1,579); Prince Edward Island, 137 (72); Nova Scotia, 2,527 (1,863); New Brunswick, 1,475 (1,206); Quebec, 30,249 (26,355); Ontario, 38,873 (30,016); Manitoba, 4,590 (4,059); Saskatchewan, 4,561 (3,570); Alberta, 9,625 (7,415); British Columbia, 8,590 (7,111).

At the close of 1953 there were 59,923 units still under construction, 4,234 or 8% more than a year earlier. The number was lower in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Quebec, but higher in the other provinces. Provincial totals: Newfoundland, 2,858 (2,570); Prince Edward Island, 77 (125); Nova Scotia, 1,836 (2,439); New Brunswick, 694 (688); Quebec, 13,418 (13,601); Ontario, 24,134 (20,513); Manitoba, 2,641 (2,421); Saskatchewan, 2,801 (2,204); Alberta, 5,613 (5,877); British Columbia, 5,851 (5,251).

TRANSPORT

Railway Carloadings Lower

There were 84,455 cars of revenue freight loaded on Canadian railways in the 10-day period ended January 31, a drop of 29,-102 cars or 25.6% from the 113,557 loaded in the same period of 1953. This brought the total for the month of January to 266,351 cars, down from 314,982 a year earlier. Loadings in the eastern division during the 10-day period were down from 72,821 cars to 57,619, while receipts from connections fell from 43,460 to 36,776 cars. Western loadings dropped from 40,736 to 26,836 cars, and receipts from connections were off from 4,127 to 2,863 cars. (3)

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Canadian Wheat Stocks Dipped In Latest Week Visible supplies of Canadian wheat in North American positions on January 20 totalled 378,780,000 bushels, slightly under the 379,644,000 held a week earlier, but steeply higher than last year's corresponding total of 260,386,000 bushels.

Farmers in the Prairie Provinces marketed smaller quantities of wheat and coarse grains during the week. Wheat deliveries were off to 3,836,000 bushels from 8,699,000, oats to 1,371,000 bushels from 1,742,000, barley to 1,288,000 bushels from 2,509,000, and rye to 81,000 bushels from 192,000. Flaxseed moved up to 49,000 bushels from 21,000.

Overseas export clearances of Canadian wheat dropped in the week to 2,792,000 bushels from 4,698,000 a year earlier, and cumulative clearances from the beginning of the crop year to January 20 fell to 105,705,000 bushels from 139,100,000. (4)

Wheat Supplies In Four Major Wheat-Exporting Countries Up Supplies of wheat remaining on or about January 1 this year in the four major exporting countries for export and carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 1,923,700,000 bushels, some 22 per cent greater than the 1,583,200,000 available a year earlier. Supplies in all four countries were larger than in the preceding year.

This year's January 1 supplies were held as follows, with last year's figures in brackets (in millions of bushels): United States, 923.2 (715.9); Canada, 696.1 (580.2); Argentina, 163.2 (154.6); and Australia, 141.2 (132.5). Estimates for both years include on-farm stocks as well as those in commercial positions. (5)

Lower Exports Of Wheat, Wheat Flour In December Exports of Canadian wheat and wheat flour in terms of wheat in December amounted to 17,800,000 bushels, a considerable decline from November's 24,400,000 bushels, but only six per cent below the 1943-44 - 1952-53 average of 19,000,000 bushels. This brought the August-December total to 120,600,000 bushels as against 168,100,000 a year earlier.

December's exports of wheat as grain totalled 13,700,000 bushels, a decrease of one-third from those of the preceding month, and August-December exports dropped to 101,900,000 bushels from 143,000,000. Preliminary customs returns indicate that 4,100,000 bushels of wheat flour in terms of wheat equivalent were exported in December, unchanged from November, but down from the adjusted total of 5,100,000 a year earlier. In the five months, August-December, exports totalled 18,600,000 bushels compared with 25,200,000.

The United Kingdom took some 32,500,000 bushels of Canadian wheat during the August-January period. Other major markets were as follows: Japan, 20,100,000 bushels; the Federal Republic of Germany, 8,900,000; Belgium, 7,000,000; Switzerland, 4,300,000; India, 4,300,000; the Netherlands, 3,400,000; Spain, 3,400,000; United States, 3,400,000 (of which 1,400,000 was for milling in bond); Israel, 2,200,000; Union of South Africa, 2,200,000; Ireland, 1,800,000; and Peru, 1,100,000.

The United Kingdom took 5,695,000 bushels (wheat equivalent) of Canadian wheat in the August-January period. The Philippine Islands was next in order with 2,135,000 bushels, followed by Venezuela with 1,228,000, Jamaica 996,000, Korea 953,000, Trinidad and Tobago 685,000, Japan 573,000, Hong Kong 543,000, and Gold Coast 467,000. (5)

Less Wheat Flour Milled Last Year Canadian production of wheat flour in the calendar year 1953 amounted to 22,200,000 barrels, a decline of 8% from the preceding year's 24,100,000 barrels. December's output totalled 1,815,000 barrels, down slightly from 1,867,000 in November and 1,836,000 in the corresponding month of 1952. In the August-December period of the current crop year 8,758,000 barrels were milled, a drop of 16% from the preceding year's 10,383,000 barrels. (6)

MORE

Year-End Stocks of Canned Fruits & Vegetables Lower Stocks of canned vegetables held by canners, wholesalers and chain store warehouses at the end of 1953 declined to 22,107,-578 dozen containers from 22,381,777 a year earlier, and stocks of canned fruits fell to 6,684,893 dozen from 7,632,006, according to advance figures.

Following are the stocks of canned vegetables, with corresponding 1952 totals in brackets (in dozens): asparagus, 192,218 (188,216); beans, green or wax, 3,033,374 (2,688,-259); beans, baked, 1,370,843 (1,812,848); beets, 723,358 (865,650); carrots, 288,221 (242,952); carrots and peas combined, 412,454 (290,652); corn, 5,419,217 (6,331,025); mixed vegetables, 499,112 (439,704); peas, 4,996,870 (4,599,800); pumpkin and squash, 475,036 (457,105); sauerkraut, 231,900 (97,216); spinach, 143,670 (181,221); tomatoes, 4,135,830 (4,016,085); all other vegetables, 185,475 (171,044).

Canned fruit stocks follow (in dozens); apples, solid pack, 153,085 (169,662); crab apples, 17,623 (22,486); apple sauce, 422,605 (337,459); apricots, 240,438 (316,760); blueberries, 47,784 (73,111); cherries, 266,440 (404,245); fruit cocktail, 579,688 (467,711); grapefruit, 10,328 (17,053); loganberries, 38,321 (21,829); peaches, 2,323,727 (3,035,274); keiffer pears, 676,608 (757,483); bartlett pears, 633,818 (671,170); apple pie filling, 25,826 (36,288); other pie filling, 49,130 (54,768); pineapple, 359,684 (312,947); plums, 456,321 (533,638); raspberries, 192,385 (132,801); rhubarb, 2,973 (8,892); strawberries, 114,369 (204,224); all other fruits, 73,740 (54,205).

Holdings of other canned food products: apple juice, 1,002,722 (775,245); other fruit juices, 695,522 (551,524); apple juice concentrate, 1,055 (2,101); infant and junior foods, fruits, 2,391,851 (2,398,919); infant and junior foods, soups, 365,907 (386,101); infant and junior foods, vegetables, 1,668,866 (1,464,001); infant and junior foods, other, 2,-433,051 (1,351,396); jams, 411,309 (365,459); jellies, 72,147 (76,745); marmalades, 140,-346 (140,974); mayonnaise and salad dressing, 67,496 (85,048); peanut butter, 102,283 (93,945); pickles, 461,401 (378,612); prepared mustard, 161,000 (142,753); ready dinners, 479,322 (331,200); relishes, 59,721 (39,084); sandwich spread, 49,807 (54,613); chili sauce, 215,454 (221,686); meat sauce, 48,029 (48,050); other sauces, 115,136 (95,726); soups, all kinds, 8,953,662 (7,870,725); spaghetti, 442,785 (637,972); tomato ketchup, 2,-511,945 (2,832,868); tomato juice, 5,529,969 (7,091,934); tomato pulp, paste and puree, 278,418 (318,215); vinegar, 127,162 (101,764); honey, 155,199 (137,730).

EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS

Industrial Employment Reduced At December 1 Industrial employment showed a further decline at December 1 when the Bureau's preliminary index, on the 1949 base, registered 113.9 against 115.9 a month earlier and 116.1 at December 1, 1952. Weekly payrolls fell 1.6% in the month, but were 2.4% above a year earlier. The advance figure of average weekly wages and salaries in the major industrial groups, at $58.19, slightly exceeded the previous maximum of $58.14 at November 1 and compared with $56.12 a year earlier.

On the whole, the trend of employment was unfavourable in all provinces except Manitoba, where there was a gain amounting to 0.1%. The declines elsewhere indicated ranged from 0.6% in New Brunswick to 3.9% in Nova Scotia. Except in Saskatchewan and Alberta, the levels of industrial employment in all provinces were lower than at December 1, 1952. Industrially, there were widely-distributed reductions in the number of workers on the payrolls of the firms co-operating in the survey as compared with November 1. Only trade showed general improvement of a seasonal nature.

The advance index number of employment in manufacturing was 1.9% lower than a month earlier, and 2.3% below the December 1, 1952 figure. The weekly payrolls in that group of industries decreased by 1.3% in the month, but were 1.3% higher than a year earlier. The average weekly earnings reported in manufacturing at December 1 reached a new high of $60.38 as compared with $59.98 at November 1, and $58.46 at December 1, 1952. (7)

MANUFACTURING

Production Of Electric Refrigerators Down Again In November, But 11-Month Output Up

Canadian production of domestic electric refrigerators declined in November for the fourth successive month and reached the lowest monthly total in the year. Substantial gains in January-July overbalanced declines in subsequent months and 11-month output was well above 1952.

November production totalled 14,772 against 15,224 in October and 22,974 in 1952. The high for the year was June's 35,249. January-November output aggregated 259,328 as compared with 214,434 a year earlier. November output of electric home and farm freezers amounted to 179, bringing the January-November total to 7,622. Factory stocks of electric refrigerators at the end of November moved up to 36,650 from 28,524 in 1952. Stocks of home and farm freezers totalled 908.

Imports of domestic or store type electric refrigerators in October (latest figures available) dropped sharply to 7,248 from 16,019 a year earlier, but January-October imports were up slightly to 178,282 from 174,925. November exports of refrigerators totalled 43, up from 36, but January-November exports were off to 1,589 from 1,619. (8)

Sole Leather Production Reduced 32% In November

Canadian production of sole leather slumped 32% to 1,260,865 lbs. in November from 1,844,988 in the same month in 1952. Figures for other finished cattle leathers show substantial November gains for harness (to 3,001 from 1,943 sides) and glove and garment (to 501,124 from 394,422 sq. ft.) leathers, a slight advance for upper leather (to 4,060,267 from 4,030,291 sq. ft.), and reductions for bag, case and strap (to 9,807 from 12,267 sides) and belting (to 968 from 1,483 butt bends) leathers. November-end stocks of raw cattle hides held by tanners, packers and dealers were moderately higher in 1953 at 479,426 against 468,176.

Output of calf and kip upper leather advanced to 782,159 sq. ft. from 649,049 in 1952, while month-end stocks of raw skins were reduced to 391,000 from 462,943. Output of goat and kid leather tumbled to 5,745 from 27,159 skins and November-end stocks of raw skins were down to 33,489 from 45,148. Production of sheep and lamb leather showed smaller reductions to 4,643 from 4,649 dozen skins for glove and garment leather and to 2,370 from 3,017 dozen skins for shoe leather, and month-end stocks of raw skins were down to 37,418 from 42,050 dozen. Horse glove and garment leather output dropped sharply to 105,327 from 266,746 sq. ft., and November-end stocks of raw hides fell to 14,663 from 39,744. (9)

Smaller Shipments Of Steel Wire And Wire Products In Ten Months Of 1953

Factory shipments of steel wire dipped to 9,710 tons in October from 11,810 a year earlier and 10-month shipments showed a reduction to 97,109 from 109,461 tons. January-October shipments included less plain, galvanized and barbed wire, and more other coated and cold rolled flat wire.

Smaller quantities of wire products were moved in the first 10 months last year, although October shipments were up for wire fencing and nails, tacks and staples. Shipments of wire rope were off to 2,822 from 2,857 tons in the month and to 24,577 from 29,008 in January-October, with more clothesline wire and less steel wire rope and other stranded wire moved in the longer period.

Wire fencing shipments were up to 777 from 715 tons in October but were down to 16,032 from 18,516 in the 10 months, with heavier movements of woven wire lawn fencing and woven wire chain link fabric, and lighter shipments of woven wire farm fencing in the latter comparison. Shipments of nails, tacks and staples increased to 7,845 from 7,370 tons in the month but were reduced to 65,134 from 74,091 in January-October, with the 10-month total including more iron and steel cut nails but less iron and steel wire nails, steel wire staples, steel, brass and copper tacks, and aluminum nails. (10)

MORE

More Rigid Insulating Board Produced, Shipped Last Year Canadian production of rigid insulating board rose 15% in 1953, while domestic shipments climbed 18%. The year's output amounted to 278,696,000 square feet as compared with 241,440,000 in 1952, and domestic shipments aggregated 277,302,000 against 235,045,000. December production totalled 23,619,000 square feet compared with 19,577,000, and domestic shipments 21,101,000 against 16,141,000. (11)

More Gypsum Products Canadian manufacturers made and shipped more gypsum wallboard, lath, and sheathing in 1953 than in the preceding year. Combined production rose to 535,357,000 square feet from 446,090,000, while shipments totalled 531,208,000 against 445,173,000. Output of gypsum plasters was 239,000 against 203,000 tons. (12)

Production Of Mineral Wool Higher Last Year Production of mineral wool in 1953 comprised 183,840,000 square feet of batts (158,444,000 in 1952), and 10,776,000 cubic feet of bulk or loose wool (10,996,000 in 1952). December's production comprised 13,913,000 square feet of batts (16,075,000), and 943,000 cubic feet of bulk or loose wool (1,120,000 in December, 1952). (13)

More Veneers, Plywood Made Production of veneers rose sharply in November and the first 11 months of 1953 as compared with a year earlier. November output of plywood was moderately lower, but January-November production was substantially increased. November output of veneers was 71,208,000 square feet against 55,637,000, bringing the January-November total to 797,349,000 against 570,173,000. Plywood production in the month amounted to 61,078,000 square feet compared with 61,836,000, and in the 11 months aggregated 776,862,000 against 568,226,000. (14)

More Portland Cement Shipped Factory shipments of Portland cement in November totalled 2,053,000 barrels, slightly under October's 2,106,000, but up sharply from 1,599,000 in 1952. This brought January-November shipments to 20,996,000 barrels against 17,400,000 in 1952. Stocks at the end of November were up to 376,000 barrels from 257,000 a year earlier. (15)

Refined Petroleum Products Output Higher Last October Canadian production of refined petroleum products was moderately higher last October at 12,550,000 barrels against 12,301,000 a year earlier. Among major products there were increases in stove, furnace, and heavy fuel oil, but decreases in motor gasoline and diesel fuel. Output of motor gasoline was 5,531,000 barrels against 5,689,000; stove oil, 778,000 against 629,000; diesel fuel, 706,000 against 945,000; furnace oil, 1,630,000 against 1,395,000; and heavy fuel oil, 2,464,000 against 2,439,000. Receipts of crude oil at Canadian refineries fell to 13,436,000 barrels from 14,202,000 in 1952: domestic crude rose to 7,088,000 from 6,715,000, but imported crude dropped to 6,348,000 from 7,486,000. Inventories of refined products at November 1 were up to 18,735,000 barrels from 16,520,000 a year earlier. (16)

Non-Ferrous Scrap Dealers' stocks of non-ferrous scrap metal at the end of the third quarter of 1953 included (totals for the start of the period in brackets): aluminum, 2,808,097 (2,500,644) pounds; brass and bronze, 6,145,259 (6,207,487); copper, 3,692,664 (4,341,626); Magnesium, 57,303 (28,453); nickel, 194,828 (165,656); tin-lead, 9,056,012 (8,074,101); zinc, 1,482,608 (1,317,237); and drosses, 3,515,195 (3,515,346). (17)

Rubber Consumption Off Consumption of natural, synthetic, and reclaim rubber declined slightly in December to 7,451 tons from November's 7,514, while month-end stocks rose to 13,499 from 12,750. Production of synthetic rose to 7,266 tons from 7,031, and reclaim to 398 from 382. Consumption of natural rubber declined to 3,397 tons from 3,419 and of synthetic to 2,731 from 2,818, but use of reclaim increased to 1,323 tons from 1,177. End-of-December stocks of natural were up to 5,600 tons from 5,588, synthetic to 6,209 from 5,520, and reclaim to 1,690 from 1,642. (18)

MERCHANDISING & SERVICES

Department Store Sales Decreased 1.8% In Week

Department store sales fell to 1.8% in the week ending January 30 as compared with last year. There were declines of 13.9% in the Maritimes, 0.7% in Quebec, 2.2% in Saskatchewan, and 12.9% in British Columbia, but increases of 2.4% in Ontario, 3.4% in Manitoba, and 5.3% in Alberta.

Department Store Sales Topped Billion-Dollar Mark Last Year

Boosted by an all-time monthly high in December, sales of department stores passed the billion-dollar mark for the first time in 1953. The month's sales were estimated at $142,148,000, up 2% from $139,417,000. This brought the year's aggregate to $1,028,621,000, 3.3% above 1952's $996,028,000. Inventories at the end of November were valued at $256,519,000, 11.6% more than a year earlier.

In the year, the Atlantic region was the only area to record lower sales, the decline being held to 0.9%. Saskatchewan and Alberta stores recorded the highest percentage increase (both with 6.2%), and were followed by British Columbia (4.6%), Quebec (4%), Ontario (2.5%), and Manitoba (1.5%). In December, Quebec's department stores had a sales advance of 5%, while Saskatchewan's stores showed a decline of 0.1%.

Departmentally, the pattern of sales change during December conformed closely with that for the year. A feature of both comparisons was the increase shown by durable goods departments as a whole and by the radio and music department particularly. Other features were the declines for men's apparel and food and kindred products departments, and the moderate gains in the ladies' apparel departments. (19)

Chain Store Sales Boosted Last Year

All six types of chain stores boosted their dollar last year, hardware hardware chains leading with a 10.1% gain. Food stores, largest of the six, had a 9.6% increase, followed by variety stores with 5%, women's clothing stores 4.4%, drug stores 4% and shoe stores 3.2%.

Food chain store sales rose to $770,953,000 from $703,257,000 in 1952; variety stores to $188,537,000 from $179,618,000; women's clothing stores to $46,383,000 from $44,411,000; shoe stores to $42,876,000 from $41,550,000; drug stores to $34,851,000 from $33,504,000; and hardware stores to $13,953,000 from $12,672,000.

Dollar sales in December were higher than a year earlier for all trades except shoe stores which fell 3.5% from $6,170,000 to $5,954,000. Food chain sales were up to $73,201,000 from $63,454,000 a year earlier; variety stores to $33,579,000 from $32,392,000; women's clothing stores to $7,106,000 from $6,917,000; drug stores to $4,145,000 from $3,961,000; and hardware stores to $1,650,000 from $1,462,000.

Stocks on hand at the beginning of December were higher for all six types of chains, with the largest rise of 45.2% from $4,636,000 to $6,733,000 for hardware stores. Variety chain inventories were up to $62,580,000 from $57,167,000; food chains to $54,037,000 from $47,598,000; shoe stores to $22,401,000 from $20,754,000; women's clothing stores to $12,540,000 from $12,424,000; and drug stores to $10,156,000 from $9,680,000. (20)

ANNUAL INDUSTRY REPORTS

Soft Drink Output Doubled Since War

Canadian production of soft drinks more than doubled in seven postwar years to 103,472,607 gallons in 1952 from 51,335,353 in 1945, according to the latest edition of The Carbonated Beverages Industry. The record 1952 output topped the preceding year's 94,803,207 gallons by 9% but only narrowly exceeded the 1950 high of 102,709,068. It was nearly two and a half times the 1939 production of 43,955,683. Factory value, excluding excise and sales tax, climbed 17.5% to $89,809,805 from $77,285,550 in 1951. The sixth all-time high value in as many years, it compared with $34,597,553 in 1945 and $26,262,498 in 1939.

Although soft drinks are made in every province and the territories, about three-fourths of the 1952 output came from Quebec and Ontario. Factories in Quebec produced 40,001,583 gallons, while the Ontario output was 34,706,323 gallons. Breweries made 2,-077,116 gallons of the 1952 total, but the bulk (101,395,491 gallons) was produced in the carbonated beverages industry.

The industry included 514 establishments in 1952, four more than in 1951, 61 more than in 1945 and 67 more than in 1939, and employed 7,602 persons, 213 more than in the preceding year, 2,129 more than at the end of the war and 2,687 more than in 1939. Gross value of products, including syrups, concentrates and extracts, natural mineral waters and other secondary products, was $105,050,188 in 1952, a 16% boost from 1951's $90,513,627, two and a half times 1945's $41,017,850 and three and a half times 1939's $28,743,811.

The post-war expansion was reflected in the industry's costs. Material costs rose to $35,844,705 from $33,195,192 in the latest year and were three times 1945's $13,643,081 and four times 1939's $8,751,757. The cost of fuel and electricity advanced to $2,269,643 in 1952 from $2,186,126 in 1951 and were triple 1945's $744,267, seven times 1939's $320,154. The industry's payroll totalled $18,391,235 against $16,048,878 in 1951 and was double 1945's $8,672,097, more than three times 1939's $5,528,200. (21)

Value Of Fur Goods Production Reached All-Time High In 1952 Canadian production of fur goods reached an all-time peak value of $66,745,000 in 1952, about 9% above 1951's $61,-209,546 and slightly more than the previous record of $66,-384,085 set in 1948. The latest issue of The Fur Goods & Fur Dressing Industries also reveals that in 1952 the number of skins dressed or dyed in Canada increased by 2,316,450 or 23% to 12,085,066, the amount received for treatment advancing over 14% to $6,061,850 from $5,302,761 in 1951.

Ladies' fur coats accounted for 76% of the total production value of the fur goods industry in 1952, and were worth $50,771,213 as compared with $45,350,711 in 1951. The number manufactured increased 11% to 221,977 from 201,626 in the preceding year, and average factory selling value advanced to $229 from 225.

More fur-lined women's coats and jackets, fur and fur-lined children's coats, fur capes and fur cuffs were also made in 1952, but fewer fur collars, fur scarves, fur muffs, fur hats and caps and fur coats for men. The latter numbered only 232 as compared with 632 in 1951.

Despite the increase in total production the number of establishments in the fur goods industry decreased by 16 to 596 in 1952 and the number employed by 115 to 5,969. The industry's payroll, however, rose 7% to $15,421,752 from $14,412,453, while material costs climbed 10% to $41,909,453 from $38,100,218.

The dur dressing industry included 17 establishments in 1952, three less than in 1951, and employed 1,280, a decrease of 25. The payroll was up to $3,326,532 from $3,139,376, and material costs to $1,177,345 from $1,076,825.

The industry treater over three dozen different kinds of domestic and imports skins ranging from badger to wolf and house cat to mink in 1952, but muskrat, rabbit, squirrel and Persian lamb accounted for almost 90% of the total. During the year 4,529,028 muskrat skins were processed, 1,603,880 or 55% more than in 1951; 2,620,410 rabbit skins, a decrease of 528,684 or 17%. 1,894,381 squirrel skins, 515,894 or 37% more; and 1,220,788 Persian lamb skins, nearly three times as many as in the preceding year when only 410,748 were dressed or dyed.

Exports of Canadian furs, mostly undressed skins, showed a substantial drop in value in 1952 to $24,405,531 from $29,864,201 in 1951, while imports of furs for domestic consumption, also undressed skins for the most part, increased in value to $23,513,823 from $21,526,369 in the preceding year. (22)

BUSINESS & BANKING

Cheques Cashed In Clearing Centres Set Record In 1953

Topping all previous annual totals, the value of cheques cashed in 35 Canadian clearing centres in 1953 climbed to $137,417,000, a gain of 10% over the 1952 peak of $125,197,000,000. December's total was up to $12,468,000,000 from $12,386,000,000 in 1952.

Advances were general throughout Canada in the year, Ontario showing the largest regional gain of 12%. Debits in the Atlantic provinces advanced nearly 11%, and the Prairie region by almost 10%. Quebec's increase was 7.5%, and British Columbia's, 6.1%.

Among the clearing centres, London and Kitchener showed the largest relative increases over 1952 with gains of 26% and 24%, respectively. Payments in Toronto rose more than 16%, Montreal by nearly 8%, Vancouver 6.5% and Winnipeg, 4.9%.

The year's totals follow by economic areas, those for 1952 being in brackets (in thousands): Atlantic provinces, $3,397,537 ($3,066,365); Quebec, $38,139,426 ($35,494,559); Ontario, $59,073,780 ($52,717,444); Prairie Provinces, $26,019,281 ($22,807,515); and British Columbia, $11,786,823 ($11,111,011). (23)

RELEASED THIS WEEK

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

1- Trade of Canada: Domestic Exports, Summary, Dec., 20¢
-- Trade of Canada: Imports, Detailed, Oct., 50¢
2- Price Movements, Jan., 10¢
3- M: Railway Carloadings, Weekly, 10¢
4- M: Grain Statistics Weekly, 10¢
5- The Wheat Review, Jan., 1954, 20¢
6- M: Grain Milling Statistics, Dec., 10¢
7- Advance Statement on Employment & Weekly Earnings, Dec., 10¢
8- M: Domestic Electric Refrigerators, Nov., 10¢
9- M: Steel Wire & Specified Wire Products, Oct., 10¢
10- M: Hides, Skins & Leather, Nov., 10¢
11- M: Rigid Insulating Board Industry, Dec., 10¢
12- M: Gypsum Products, Dec., 10¢
13- M: Mineral Wool, Dec., 10¢
14- M: Peeler Logs, Veneers & Plywoods, Nov., 20¢
15- M: Cement & Cement Products, Nov., 10¢
16- Refined Petroleum Products, Oct., 25¢
17- M: Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal & Secondary Non-Ferrous Ingot, Third Quarter, 1953, 25¢
18- Consumption, Production & Inventories of Rubber, Dec., 20¢
19- Department Store Sales & Stocks, Dec., 10¢
20- Chain Store Sales & Stocks, Dec., 10¢
21- Carbonated Beverages Industry, 1952, 25¢
22- Fur Goods & Fur Dressing Industries, 1952, 25¢
23- Cheques Cashed In Clearing Centres, Dec., 10¢
--- Canadian Statistical Review, Jan., 35¢
--- Financial Statistics of Municipal Governments, 1951, 25¢

M = Memorandum

D. B. B. NEWS NOTES

Soft drinks are made in all provinces, but Quebec and Ontario plants produce about three-fourths of the national output.

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Eggs: 349,948,000 dozen were laid last year, 8,346,000 dozen more than in 1952 and about two dozen per person per week.

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New Cars: Average purchase price was $2,505 last year, $22 more than in 1952, $957 more than in 1946, $1,426 more than in 1939.

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Public hospitals operated at nearly 4% above rated capacity in 1952, averaging 103.6 beds set up per 100 capacity.

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Breweries: More bottled and draught, but less canned beer, ale, stout and porter was sold in 1952 than in 1951.

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Food chain stores sold $770,953,000 worth of products last year, $67,696,000 or nearly 10% more than in 1952.

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Wheat Flour: 22,200,000 barrels were milled last year, 1,900,000 or 8% less than in 1952.

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Rigid insulating board production rose 15% last year to 278,696,000 sq. ft. and domestic shipments climbed 18% to 277,302,000.

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Bakeries: There were 2,585 at the close of 1952, a drop of 23 during the year and 646 since the 1938 peak, and the smallest number since 1929.

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Foreign vehicle entries on traveller's vehicle permits reached a new peak of 2,506,011 last year, up 10% from the 1952 high of 2,278,165.

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Railways transported 117,523,000 tons of revenue freight in the first three quarters of 1953, equivalent to about 43 lbs. per Canadian per day.

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Farm cash income from the sale of farm products and from grain adjustment payments on earlier crops totalled an estimated $2,674,679,000 in 1953, about 4% less than in 1952 and 5% under the 1951 record of $2,811,949,000.

. . .

Fur dressing industry treated over three dozen different kinds of domestic and imported skins ranging from badger to wolf and house cat to mink in 1952, but muskrat, rabbit, squirrel and Persian lamb accounted for almost 90% of the total.

. . .

Nurseries: With a 51% jump in ornamental stock sales more than offsetting a 12% decline for fruit stock, total sales value climbed over 34% to $2,217,974 in the year ending June 1952 from $1,650,772 in the preceding 12 months.

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Shortening production climbed over 12% to 135,709,000 lbs. last year from 120,702,000 in 1952, but lard output slimped 43% to 93,731,000 from 134,247,000 lbs. In 1953 nearly 45% more shortening than lard was made, while in the preceding year lard exceeded shortening by over 11%.

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Mental Institutions: 3% of the patients admitted for the first time are university graduates, 21% have high school education, 47% have completed public school, and another 12% can read and write. About 16%, as compared with only 2.2% of the general population, have no schooling.

. . .

Juice: Stocks of tomato juice totalled 5,529,969 cans at the close of last year, 1,561,965 or 22% less than at the end of 1952. On the other hand, supplies of apple juice were up 227,477 cans or 29% to 1,002,722, while stocks of other fruit juices were 143,998 cans or 26% higher at 695,522.

. . .

Housing: Slightly more than 71% of the new dwelling units built last year were one family houses as compared with almost 77% in 1952. The proportion of apartments or flats was up to 20 from 16%, and of two-family houses to 8 from 7%. Row and terrace units accounted for less than 1% of the total in both years.