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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

The People: Fewer births but more marriages and deaths were registered in Canada in February than in the same month last year. The tally for the first two months of 1953: 6.5% more births, 9% more marriages, 6.8% more deaths.
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Agriculture: Canada's farmers plan to sow fewer acres of wheat, rye and soybeans this year, but more acres of oats, barley, mixed grains, flaxseed and potatoes. The area in summerfallow will be 9.5% smaller than last year.
(Page 2)

Public Utilities: Power output from central electric stations reached 6,602,025,000 kilowatt hours in January, 17% more than a year earlier and the highest production of any month on record.
(Page 13)

Merchandising: Sales of department stores across Canada were up 10.3% in January and 2.6% in February over the corresponding month last year. In the latest week (March 12) sales were up a slight 0.7%.
(Page 10)

Construction: One-third more new housing units were started and 9% more were completed in January than in the first month last year, and the number under construction at the end of the month was up 17%.
(Page 11)

Foreign Trade: In February Canada again did more trading with other countries than in 1954, exports increasing 7.7% in value and imports 5.2%. The larger gain in sales than in purchases cut the debit balance on the month's trade by almost half.
(Pages 9 & 10)

Labour: An estimated 5,012,000 Canadians had jobs in the week of February 20, some 42,000 more than last year, and another 379,000 were unemployed and looking for work, an increase of 64,000. Reason for the dual increase: a larger labour force.
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Transportation: In the first week of March nearly 2% more cars were loaded on Canadian railways and over 10% more cars were received from foreign connections than in the same period last year. Cumulative 1955 figures show loadings up nearly 3% and receipts from connections over 9%.
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Food: Canadians ate more meat last year than ever before, the per capita figure of 146.4 pounds topping 1953's by 3% and the pre-war 1935-39 average by almost a quarter.
(Page 4)

Smaller Wheat, Summerfallow Acreages
Larger Oats, Barley Planned By Farmers

On the basis of their intentions at March 1, Canadian farmers plan a decrease from 1954 of 600,000 acres in

the area seeded this year to spring wheat, but substantial increases over last year in the acreages seeded to oats, barley and flaxseed and slight to moderate increases in spring rye, mixed grains and potatoes, the Bureau reports in the second of this year's series of crop reports. The indicated net increase in these crops will be largely balanced by a prospective decrease of 2,400,000 acres in land for summerfallow in the Prairie Provinces, with reduced acreages seeded to winter wheat and fall rye last autumn providing some of the area for the increased acreage planned for feed grains and flaxseed.

Largest individual shift indicated in use of Canadian crop land this year is the reduction in summerfallow area in the Prairie Provinces from the record level of 25,200,000 acres in 1954. The sharp increase in summerfallow acreage last year, the Bureau's report points out, resulted from farmers' inability to carry out their original seeding plans due to adverse weather conditions, and the indicated decrease this year represents in large part a return to more normal cultivation practices. The prospective summerfallow area of 22,800,000 acres for 1955 is only slightly above that of 1953 and about 1,200,000 acres above that of 1951.

The other major indicated reduction from 1954 is in the area intended to be seeded to spring wheat, which is estimated at slightly less than 23,000,000 acres as against nearly 23,600,000 acres last year. This decrease of 2.6% is due almost entirely to an indicated drop of 840,000 acres in Saskatchewan, which considerably more than offsets increases planned in Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia. Combined with the area seeded last fall to winter wheat, the indicated total for all wheat is 23,600,000 acres, a decrease of 2.8% from last year. If realized, this would be the third consecutive annual decrease, the smallest acreage since 1945 and about 10% below the five-year (1949-1953) average of 26.3 million acres.

The indicated area for oats for grain is up 10% from last year at 11,200,000 acres and virtually the same as the five-year average. The area planned for barley is a record 9,800,000 acres, an increase of almost 2,000,000 acres or 25% above 1954, the major part of the increase being in Saskatchewan. Acreages planned for flaxseed and mixed grains are slightly under 1,700,000 acres each, but that for flaxseed represents an increase of 38% and for mixed grains only 1.8%. Increases are also indicated for spring rye at 222,000 acres (25%) and for potatoes at 309,000 acres (4%), and a decrease for soybeans at 242,000 acres (5%).

Basic data for the estimates of intended acreages were obtained from the annual acreage intentions survey of the Bureau's crop correspondents, conducted in co-operation with provincial departments. It is emphasized that intended acreages are merely indicative of farmers' plans at March 1, and that acreages actually seeded may vary considerably from the intentions figures, depending upon conditions before and during seeding. The survey was formerly made at April 30 and the report issued about May 18. This year the survey date was advanced to March 1 in the hope of increasing the usefulness of the report in helping farmers and others in their plans for the 1955 season. (1)

Commercial Supplies & Exports Of Coarse
Grains In 1st Half Of Current Crop Year

Primary marketings of oats, barley, rye and flaxseed by farmers in western Canada from the beginning of the current year to February 16 amounted to 139,400,000 bushels versus 131,700,000 in the same period of 1953-54 and an average of 135,900,000 for the 10-year period 1943-44 -- 1952-53. Deliveries of each of the four grains to February 16, with last year's comparable figures in brackets were as follows: oats, 46,400,000 bushels (57,300,000); barley, 77,800,000 (61,500,000); rye, 7,500,000 (6,500,000); and flaxseed, 7,700,000 (6,400,000).

Total supplies, excluding stocks on farms, of oats, barley, rye and flaxseed at February 16 this year amounted to 118,500,000 bushels versus 114,200,000 and 135,300,000 at approximately the same date in 1954 and 1953, respectively. Most of the current crop year total consisted of barley and oats at 64,400,000 and 38,400,000 bushels, respectively, with rye, at 10,900,000 and flaxseed, at 4,800,000, accounting for the remainder.

Total exports of oats, barley, rye, and flaxseed during the first half of the 1954-55 crop year, amounting to 54,200,000 bushels, were down sharply from the comparable levels of the 1951-52 -- 1953-54 crop years but were more than double the 1950-51 half-year total of 26,200,000 bushels. Current crop year exports of the four grains to January 31 were as follows: oats, 10,000,000 bushels (43,200,000 a year earlier); barley, 39,700,000 (55,300,000); rye, 2,400,000 (11,900,000); and flaxseed, 2,100,000 (2,900,000).

The United States was the principal export market for Canadian oats in the half year, taking some 6,900,000 of the 10,000,000 bushels exported up to January 31, 1955. Belgium and the United Kingdom accounted for most of the remainder, accepting 2,100,000 and 700,000 bushels, respectively. Switzerland, Panama, Netherlands, Colombia, Hawaii, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago received relatively small shipments.

Exports of barley during the period went to nine different countries with shipments to the United Kingdom accounting for some 24,000,000 bushels or 60% of the total. Other major markets for Canadian barley were: United States, 12,200,000 bushels; Japan, 1,100,000; Belgium, 1,000,000; Federal Republic of Germany, 500,000; and Switzerland, 500,000.

Of the 2,400,000 bushels of rye exported up to the end of January the Federal Republic of Germany took 1,200,000 bushels, with smaller shipments going to Sweden, Netherlands, Switzerland, Denmark, United States, Belgium and the United Kingdom. Flaxseed exports of 2,100,000 bushels went to the United Kingdom, Japan, Belgium, France, Netherlands, Italy and Greece. (2)

Soft Drink Output
Lower In February

Canada's soft drink manufacturers turned out less carbonated beverages in February than in the same month last year, but January's sharp increase raised two-month output above the 1954 level. February production was 6,370,521 gallons versus 6,607,967 last year, and January-February output was 13,167,664 gallons versus 12,661,216. (3)

Stocks And Marketings Of Wheat And Coarse Grains Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on March 9 totalled 339,407,000 bushels, 7% below last year's corresponding total of 363,940,000 bushels. Farmers' marketings in the Prairie Provinces in the week ending March 9 fell to 1,890,000 bushels from 2,248,000 but overseas export clearances rose to 3,574,000 bushels from 2,826,000.

Deliveries of coarse grains from Prairie farms in the week ending March 9 were smaller this year than last. Marketings of oats dropped to 119,000 bushels from 1,210,000, barley to 403,000 bushels from 918,000, rye to 29,000 bushels from 78,000, and flaxseed to 16,000 bushels from 48,000. (4)

Per Capita Meat Consumption Climbed To New Peak In 1954 Canadians ate more meat last year than ever before -- a whopping 146.4 pounds for every man, woman and child in the country -- according to estimates published today by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The record per capita figure was a pound more than the previous peak of 145.4 pounds in 1947, and 4.1 pounds more than in 1953. Compared with the pre-war 1935-39 average of 118.1 pounds, the 1954 figure represents an increase of almost one-fourth.

For the second year in a row beef was the meat most often seen on Canadian tables, per capita consumption of a record 72 pounds comparing with 53.7 pounds of pork, which led all meats in popularity in the years 1949-52. For beef this was an increase of $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds over the 1953 per capita consumption, and for pork a decrease of 1.3 pounds. The sharpest drop last year, however, was in canned meats, per capita consumption of which was cut by more than half to 2.8 from 7.2 pounds. All other meats showed increases: veal to 10.1 from 8.2 pounds, mutton and lamb to 2.5 from 2.3 pounds, and offal to 5.3 from 5.2 pounds.

Sparkling the increase in consumption was a 9% boost in total meat production (less offal but including meat equivalent of animals exported alive) to 2,247,000,000 pounds from 2,059,000,000 in 1953. Meat and edible offal output from all farm and commercial slaughtering in Canada last year rose to 2,290,000,000 pounds from 2,104,000,000 in 1953, and compared with the 1944 peak of 2,729,000,000 pounds and the 1935-39 average of 1,481,000,000 pounds.

Canada's meat exports rose 31% last year to 159,000,000 pounds from 121,000,000 (dressed weight) in 1953. Exports of canned meats more than doubled to 66,800,000 pounds, and pork exports increased by 5,300,000 pounds. On the other hand, 6,300,000 pounds less of beef and veal were exported in 1954 than in 1953. (5)

Stocks Of Frozen Fish On March 1 Stocks of frozen fish on March 1 amounted to 33,822,000 pounds, down 20% from 42,131,000 a month earlier but up slightly from last year's corresponding total of 33,401,000 pounds. Holdings of cod were 5,279,000 pounds (4,437,000 a year ago); haddock, 5,018,000 (1,372,000); salmon, 5,878,000 (7,553,000); sea herring, 3,258,000 (6,991,000); other sea fish, 11,047,000 (10,273,000); and inland fish, 3,342,000 (2,775,000). (6)

Stocks Of Creamery Butter
In Nine Cities Of Canada

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on March 17 totalled 39,757,000 pounds, 22% larger than last year's corresponding total of 32,552,000 pounds. Holdings were as follows by cities, in thousands: Quebec, 1,253 pounds (2,993 a year earlier); Montreal, 19,144 (15,261); Toronto, 7,474 (6,470); Winnipeg, 9,574 (5,872); Regina, 737 (345); Saskatoon, 111 (104); Edmonton, 395 (399); Calgary, 184 (141); and Vancouver, 885 (967).

Production Of Eggs In January

Production of eggs in January totalled 38,600,000 dozen versus 39,300,000 in the preceding month and 36,200,000 a year earlier, DBS reports. Average number of layers on farms in January was 30,766,000 versus 29,878,000 a year ago. (7)

LABOUR

Man-Hours & Hourly Earnings

Year-end holidays in the week of January 1 resulted in substantial declines in the average and aggregate hours worked and in the weekly earnings of wage-earners in manufacturing. These declines were, however, less pronounced than in earlier years of the record, due to the fact that the holidays fell on Saturdays. Average hourly earnings in manufacturing rose by 1.6 cents to a new high of 142.8 cents due largely to changes in industrial distribution, with the seasonal release of lower-paid workers in some industries, notably food-processing, clothing, saw and planing mills and shipyards and an increase in production in the automotive group. Scattered wage increases and labour-dispute settlements also contributed to the rise.

Average hourly earnings were higher in electric and motor transport due to wage increases and overtime rates for work done on the holidays. There were substantial decreases in both numbers of wage-earners and hours reported in the construction industry following the usual trend for this time of year. Seasonal curtailment also affected the mining industry, particularly the non-metallic component of the division. (8)

Average Hours and Earnings of Hourly-Rated Wage-Earners
Reported in Specified Industries in the Weeks Ending
Jan. 1, 1955, and Dec. 1 and Jan. 1, 1954.

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Average Hours</u>			<u>Average Hourly Earnings</u>			<u>Average Weekly Wages</u>		
	<u>Jan.1 1954</u>	<u>Dec.1 1954</u>	<u>Jan.1 1955</u>	<u>Jan.1 1954</u>	<u>Dec.1 1954</u>	<u>Jan.1 1955</u>	<u>Jan.1 1954</u>	<u>Dec.1 1954</u>	<u>Jan.1 1955</u>
	no.	no.	no.	¢	¢	¢	\$	\$	\$
Manufacturing	38.5	41.2	39.4	140.4	141.2	142.8	54.05	58.17	56.26
Durable Goods ...	39.1	41.5	39.8	150.1	152.5	153.0	58.69	63.29	60.89
Non-Durable Goods	37.8	41.0	39.1	129.1	130.0	132.3	48.80	53.30	51.73
Mining	40.5	43.8	41.4	158.3	158.6	160.6	64.11	69.47	66.49
Electric and Motor									
Transportation ..	44.4	44.8	44.9	138.0	141.1	142.5	61.27	63.21	63.98
Construction	35.1	40.6	35.3	148.2	147.5	148.9	52.02	59.89	52.56
Service	40.6	41.0	40.0	82.0	84.8	84.9	33.29	34.77	33.96

Larger Numbers With Jobs And
Without Jobs At Mid-February

Canada's labour force stood at an estimated 5,391,000 in the week of February 20, larger by 106,000 than last year's corresponding total of 5,285,000, according to the monthly joint statement by the Department of Labour and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The number of persons with jobs was estimated at 5,012,000, up 42,000 from last year's 4,970,000, and the number of persons without jobs and seeking work was an estimated 379,000, larger by 64,000 than last year's 315,000.

While the number of persons working full time was about the same as a year ago (4,485,000 versus 4,489,000), the number working less than full time was about 40,000 higher at 399,000 versus 358,000. Persons with jobs but not at work numbered 128,000 versus 123,000. There were an estimated 79,000 more persons with jobs in the non-farm industries but 37,000 fewer with jobs on farms than a year earlier.

The average monthly decline in employment this year was 71,000 during the past three months as compared with 83,000 last year. Non-farm employment has shown a smaller seasonal decline, the monthly average standing at 33,000 as compared with 73,000 last year.

On February 17 this year there were 613,400 applications for employment on file in offices of the National Employment Service, an increase of 43,900 over January 20 and a rise of 54,400 over February 18, 1954. All regions except the Pacific shared in the increase over January, the largest increase being in Quebec (25,100), followed by the Atlantic region (9,800), the Prairie region (7,000) and Ontario (4,900). The reduction in the Pacific total amounted to 2,800. Compared with a year earlier, totals for all regions except the Pacific were higher. These increases were: Ontario (30,900), Quebec (16,100), Prairie region (12,700) and the Atlantic region (2,400). The reduction in the Pacific region was 7,900.

MANUFACTURING

February Production Of
Floor Tiles Declined

Production of asphalt floor tiles declined in February, amounting to 1,417,713 square feet versus 1,747,403 in the preceding month and 1,423,607 in the corresponding month last year. (9)

Footwear Production Lower In 1954

Canadian production of leather footwear in the full year 1954 declined 5.4% from 1953 and 0.8% from 1952 but rose 12.8% from 1951 and 9.5% from 1950, DBS figures show. The year's output amounted to 37,158,696 pairs versus 39,282,786 in 1953, 37,460,091 in 1952, 32,921,092 in 1951 and 33,934,111 in 1950.

There were production declines in 1954 as compared with the preceding year in all sizes except those for misses which rose to 3,866,332 pairs from 3,699,112. Production of shoes for men fell to 8,110,618 pairs from 8,759,260, boys to 1,257,631 from 1,337,480, youths to 317,157 from 341,051, women and growing girls to 17,664,365 from 18,993,931, children and little gents to 3,078,526 from 3,133,537, and babies and infants to 2,864,067 from 3,018,415. (10)

More Steel Wire Sold In January Canadian manufacturers shipped 9,837 tons of steel wire this January as against 8,022 in the first month last year, increases in plain and galvanized wire outweighing decreases in other kinds. Wire fencing shipments dropped to 853 from 983 tons, decreases being reported for all kinds. Shipments of wire rope rose to 1,563 tons from 1,274, and sales of steel wire nails to 5,356 tons from 3,152. (11)

Less Scrap Iron And Steel Used In 1954 Iron and steel furnaces in Canada used 20% less scrap iron and steel in 1954 than in 1953. Consumption aggregated 2,320,051 net tons versus 2,899,800. Usage in steel furnaces totalled 1,619,429 net tons (2,210,366 in 1953); in iron foundries, 618,000 (599,300); and in iron blast furnaces, 82,622 (90,134). Total year-end stocks amounted to 413,013 net tons versus 572,467. Exports increased to 559,271 net tons from 410,009, but imports dropped to 64,212 net tons from 99,879.

Stocks Of Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal Dealers' stocks of non-ferrous scrap metal at the end of 1954 were as follows, corresponding totals for 1953 being bracketed: aluminum, 3,141,144 pounds (2,449,998; copper, 7,413,500 (9,542,289); magnesium, 4,788 (36,290); nickel, 345,467 (235,997); lead, 9,766,471 (10,650,288); and zinc, 4,270,871 (3,863,548). Consumers' year-end stocks were: aluminum, 58,063 pounds (51,806); copper, 4,463,061 (3,629,975); nickel, 3,056,517 (2,226,132); lead, 49,935 (51,718); and zinc, 54,007 (76,143). (12)

Clay Products Sales Reached Record High Value In 1954 Sales of clay products made from Canadian clays reached a new high record value of \$31,394,000 in the year 1954, 8% above the previous peak of \$29,041,000 in 1953. The year's sales comprised the following: building brick, \$20,790,000 (\$18,314,000 in 1953); structural tile, \$3,482,000 (\$3,575,000); drain tile, \$2,065,000 (\$1,814,000); sewer pipe, \$3,444,000 (\$3,537,000); fire-clay blocks and shapes, \$332,700 (\$412,500); pottery, \$436,500 (\$475,100); and other clay products, \$844,000 (\$913,000). (13)

General Review Of Non-Metallic Mineral Product Industries Gross factory selling value of products manufactured by the non-metallic mineral products group of industries in 1952 aggregated \$350,152,000, up 4% from the preceding year's \$334,875,000, the Bureau's annual industry report shows. There were 1,057 plants in the industry (1,042 in 1952), employing 31,422 persons (31,522) whose salaries and wages aggregated \$92,819,000 (\$90,764,000). Six of the industries in this group showed increased in value of output, while seven registered declines. For the first group the values were as follows, in thousands: asbestos products, \$19,639 (\$19,637 in 1951); cement, \$51,030 (\$43,024); concrete products, \$67,757 (\$52,441); glass and glass products, \$58,780 (\$54,913); products from domestic clays, \$24,962 (\$23,528); and stone products, \$20,106 (\$18,706).

For the industries showing declines the values were as follows, in thousands: abrasive products, \$36,717 (\$44,921 in 1951); gypsum products, \$18,356 (\$18,886); lime, \$14,219 (\$14,670); products from imported clays, \$15,668 (\$16,948); salt, \$9,056 (\$9,201); sand-lime brick, \$1,653 (\$1,855); and miscellaneous, \$12,111 (\$16,145). (14)

Production, Consumption
And Stocks Of Rubber

Consumption of rubber -- natural, synthetic and reclaim -- in January rose to 7,188 tons from last year's 6,759 and month-end stocks declined to 10,294 tons from 13,200, the DBS reports.

Consumption of natural rubber rose to 3,511 tons from 3,068, synthetic to 2,615 tons from 2,574 but reclaim fell to 1,062 tons from 1,117. Month-end stocks of natural rubber dropped to 3,444 tons from 5,220, synthetic to 5,267 tons from 6,235 and reclaim to 1,583 tons from 1,745.

January domestic production of synthetic rubber rose to 8,124 tons from 7,287 but reclaim fell to 309 tons from 360. (15)

Paint And Varnish Production Topped
Hundred-Million-Dollar Mark In 1953

Canadian production of paints and varnishes topped the hundred-million-dollar mark for the first time in 1953, the total of \$102,390,000 comparing with an output value of \$95,961,000 in 1952 and \$44,350,000 in 1945. Production of pigments was valued at \$15,482,000 as against \$14,216,000 in 1952, the peak of \$19,352,000 in 1951 and \$8,026,000 in 1945.

Imports of paints and varnishes climbed to \$3,410,000 in 1953 from \$2,519,000 in 1952, but exports dropped to \$547,000 from \$634,000. Pigments showed similar changes, imports increasing to \$17,742,000 from \$14,663,000, and exports declining to \$3,024,000 from \$3,084,000.

The bulk of the production was accounted for by the paints, varnishes and lacquers industry, which in 1953 included 122 plants, six more than in 1952. The annual industry report by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics places the value of the industry's shipments at \$113,247,805 in 1953, an increase of more than 5% over the 1952 output of \$107,406,164. Materials cost the industry \$55,144,047 in 1953, nearly 4% more than in 1952, and fuel and electricity costs were up about 3% at \$756,392. Employment in the industry rose nearly 2% in the year to 5,887 and the payroll almost 12% to \$19,237,809.

Among the principal products of the industry the value of ready-mixed paints (including asphalt and tar paints) shipped increased to \$42,276,027 in 1953 from \$40,013,956 in 1952; ready-mixed enamels (oil and synthetic types) to \$30,548,791 from \$27,797,114; latex emulsion paints to \$8,580,357 from \$7,140,724; and thinners to \$3,471,035 from \$3,155,209.

The value of varnishes (including japans, shellac and driers) showed little change at \$8,951,200 versus \$8,973,342, as did paste paints (not including water paste) at \$1,002,264 versus \$1,006,491. The value of pigmented lacquers shipped showed a very slight decline to \$2,849,450 from \$2,852,831, but the value of clear lacquers sold rose to \$4,686,474 from \$3,762,843. Putty shipments dropped in value to \$691,883 from \$725,385; total Canadian production fell to 11,159,000 pounds worth \$814,000 from 11,176,000 pounds worth \$817,000. (16)

Another Gain In February
In Exports And Imports

Canada's foreign commodity trade in February continued the expansion shown in recent months with increases over 1954 both in exports and in imports, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The rise in the value of exports was larger than that for imports, resulting in a smaller debit balance than last year on the month's trade.

Exports were higher in value in February than a year earlier to the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries and the United States but lower to all other foreign countries as a group. Imports from the United Kingdom were lower in value but higher from other countries, particularly the United States.

Total exports in February were up 7.7% to \$301,400,000 from \$279,800,000 in February last year, while commodity imports rose 5.2% to an estimated \$308,000,000 from \$292,600,000. The resulting import surplus was \$6,600,000 in contrast to \$12,800,000 in February 1954.

In the two months, January and February, exports to all countries climbed to \$611,500,000 from \$545,100,000 in the same period last year and commodity imports rose to \$614,600,000 from \$572,800,000. The imports surplus in the two-month period was sharply lower at \$3,100,000 in contrast to \$27,700,000 a year earlier.

February exports to the United States moved up to \$181,500,000 from \$171,900,000 in the corresponding month last year, while imports climbed to \$233,000,000 from \$217,400,000. The larger rise in imports than in exports resulted in a rise in the import balance to \$51,500,000 from \$45,500,000. In the January-February period exports rose to \$364,700,000 from \$332,000,000 and imports to \$461,100,000 from \$420,100,000, the import surplus moving up to \$96,400,000 from \$88,100,000.

Exports to the United Kingdom rose in February to \$55,300,000 from \$44,900,000 but imports fell to \$25,600,000 from \$29,000,000, resulting in an enlarged export surplus of \$29,700,000 versus \$15,900,000 a year ago. In the two months exports climbed to \$118,300,000 from \$83,100,000, while imports dropped to \$53,100,000 from \$57,300,000. The export balance thus rose to \$65,200,000 from \$25,800,000.

Exports to the rest of the Commonwealth in February rose in value to \$16,800,000 from \$11,900,000 and imports to \$10,800,000 from \$10,500,000. In the January-February period the exports were up to \$33,400,000 from \$24,000,000 and the imports to \$22,500,000 from \$19,500,000. February exports to all other foreign countries fell to \$47,800,000 from \$51,100,000 but the imports rose to \$38,600,000 from \$35,700,000. In the two months the exports declined to \$95,100,000 from \$106,000,000 but the imports were moderately higher at \$77,900,000 versus \$75,900,000.

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

MORE

	February		January-February	
	1954	1955	1954	1955
<u>Exports: (Domestic & Foreign)</u>	(millions of dollars)			
United Kingdom	44.9	55.3	83.1	118.3
Other Commonwealth countries ..	11.9	16.8	24.0	33.4
United States	171.9	181.5	332.0	364.7
Other foreign countries	57.1	47.8	106.0	95.1
Totals	<u>279.8</u>	<u>301.4</u>	<u>545.1</u>	<u>611.5</u>

	February		January-February	
	1954	1955**	1954	1955**
<u>Imports:</u>				
United Kingdom	29.0	25.6	57.3	53.1
Other Commonwealth countries ..	10.5	10.8	19.5	22.5
United States	217.4	233.0	420.1	461.1
Other foreign countries	35.7	38.6	75.9	77.9
Totals	<u>292.6</u>	<u>308.0</u>	<u>572.8</u>	<u>614.6</u>

** Estimate only. Subject to revision.

MERCHANDISING

Department Store Sales Up 10.3% In January And 2.6% In February

Canadian department store sales in January were estimated at \$68,974,000, an increase of 10.3% from last year's corresponding total of \$62,549,000, DBS figures reveal, and preliminary calculations show a 2.6% increase in February over a year earlier.

All regions shared in the increased sales in January, British Columbia leading with a rise of 19.1%. Other increases ranked in order of size were: Atlantic Provinces, 16.6%; Alberta, 9.3%; Ontario, 8.8%; Manitoba, 7.6%; Quebec, 7.4%; and Saskatchewan, 3.3%.

In February there were sales advances of 11.5% in the Atlantic Provinces, 8.4% in British Columbia, 5.5% in Manitoba, 3.4% in Quebec and 0.4% in Ontario, but decreases of 9.1% in Saskatchewan and 1.6% in Alberta.

Major appliances had the largest percentage increase in sales over January last year of 43.5%. Other notable increases were in the durable goods group and the ladies' apparel and accessories group with advances of 35.7% in radio and music, 13.2% in home furnishings, 17.2% in furs, 16.1% in women's and misses' dresses and 13.4% in millinery.

Listed among the departments with decreases were a 23.1% decline for aprons, housedresses and uniforms departments, 10.2% for men's and boys' shoes, 2.5% for photographic equipment and supplies, 1.7% for linens and domestics, 1.1% for men's clothing and 0.5% for jewellery. (17)

Department Store Sales Increased 0.7% In Week

Department stores sales increased 0.7% during the week ending March 12 as compared with a year earlier. There were sales gains of 6.9% in the Atlantic Provinces, 6.1% in Quebec and 0.3% in British Columbia, but declines of 11.6% in Saskatchewan, 1.8% in Manitoba and 1.7% in Alberta. There was no change in Ontario.

Operating Results Of Household Appliance
And Electrical Supply Wholesalers In 1953

Household appliance and electrical supply wholesale merchants obtained an average gross profit of 19.67%

of average net sales on their 1953 operations, data received from 36 establishments show. Operating expenses averaged 15.92% of net sales, selling expenses averaging 5.97%, warehouse and delivery expenses 2.36% and total administrative and general expenses 7.59%. Net profit before income tax deduction averaged out at 4.02% of net sales.

Gross profit ratios or mark-ups in the three principal regions in Canada showed no significant differences from the national average. Wholesalers in the Prairies and British Columbia obtained the relatively highest ratio of 20.74% and the Maritime and Quebec wholesalers averaged the lowest ratio of 17.08%. Ontario wholesalers most closely approximated the Canada average at 20.01%.

The ratios of total operating expenses for the three regions showed a slightly greater range from the Canada average than did the gross profit ratios, with the Prairie and British Columbia wholesalers reporting the highest ratio of 18.45% and Ontario the lowest of 14.51%. Consequently, Ontario wholesalers obtained the highest net operating ratio of 5.50% and the Maritime and Quebec wholesalers the lowest ratio of 1.76%. Prairie and British Columbia wholesalers netted an operating profit ratio of 2.29%. (18)

CONSTRUCTION

One-Third More Dwelling Units Started
In January And Completions Rose 9%

Construction was started on one-third more residential units in January than in the corresponding month last year,

DBS figures show. At the same time 9% more were completed than a year earlier, leaving 17% more in various stages of construction at the end of the month. Starts were made on 3,963 units in January versus 2,983 a year earlier and completions stood at 9,037 units versus 8,315. At the end of the month there were 63,525 units under construction versus 54,248.

All provinces shared in the rise in number of starts in January. In Ontario the total rose to 1,801 from 1,763, in Quebec to 966 from 565, in British Columbia to 544 from 403, in the Prairie Provinces to 510 from 205, in the Maritime Provinces to 135 from 44 and in Newfoundland to 7 from 3.

Completions increased in all provinces except British Columbia where there was a small decline to 738 from 754. Ontario completions were up to 4,276 from 3,855, Quebec to 2,044 from 1,835, Prairie Provinces to 1,628 from 1,582, Maritime Provinces to 294 from 268, and Newfoundland to 57 from 20.

Numbers under construction at the end of January were as follows by provinces: Ontario, 25,524 (22,039 a year ago); Quebec, 15,544 (12,127); Prairie Provinces, 10,588 (9,359); British Columbia, 6,217 (5,499); Maritime Provinces, 2,796 (2,383); and Newfoundland, 2,856 (2,841). (19)

Railway Car Loadings Increased 1.9% In First Week Of March

Railway car loadings in the first week of March rose 1.9% to 66,997 cars from last year's corresponding total of 65,717, bringing cumulative loadings for the year to date to 620,735 cars, 2.6% above 1954's 604,759 cars. Cars received from connections during the week rose 10.1% to 32,212 from 29,264, and cumulative receipts climbed 9.2% to 289,270 cars from 264,935.

Loadings of major commodities in the week ending March 7 were as follows: grain, 4,289 cars (4,294 a year ago); grain products, 2,408 (2,602); coal, 5,198 (4,480); non-ferrous ores and concentrates, 2,527 (2,403); manufactured iron and steel products, 1,267 (1,230); gasoline, 2,000 (1,983); fuel oil, 2,592 (2,022); building sand, gravel and crushed stone, 1,640 (1,402); lumber, timber and plywood, 3,638 (3,404); pulpwood, 3,800 (4,226); newsprint paper, 3,433 (3,302); automobiles, trucks and parts, 2,074 (1,791); and fertilizers, 1,303 (1,113). (20)

Railway Traffic Lighter In 1953

Railway traffic was lighter in 1953 than in the preceding year, according to part four of the Bureau's annual railway transport report. During the year 28,736,159 passengers were carried, down 4.7% from 30,167,145 in 1952, and passenger miles at 2,985,943,809 fell 5.2% from 3,151,261,385. The average journey per passenger was 103.9 miles for 1953 versus 104.5 in 1952.

Revenue freight carried (including interchange traffic) amounted to 176,-751,636 tons for 1953 versus 185,056,454 a year earlier, a drop of 4.5%. Revenue freight ton miles fell 4.6% to 65,267,015,500 from 68,430,417,037. Freight originated, which fell to 156,249,259 from 162,175,381 tons, was moved an average of 417.7 miles in 1953 versus 422.0 in 1952. (21)

Passenger Traffic & Revenues Of Transit Companies Down In 1954

Fewer revenue passengers were carried by urban and interurban transit systems in 1954 than in the preceding year. The Bureau's annual summary places the passenger traffic at 1,338,708,673 versus 1,401,924,392 in 1953 and revenues at \$162,817,067 versus \$165,550,322.

Passengers travelling over urban routes totalled 1,254,644,318 in 1954 versus 1,309,207,264 in 1953 and interurban passengers numbered 84,064,355 versus 92,717,128. All provinces shared in the drop in passenger traffic.

Urban revenues fell to \$118,679,370 from \$119,277,563 in the preceding year, while interurban revenues dropped to \$44,137,697 from \$46,272,759. Urban carriers received an average fare of 9.45 cents per passenger versus 9.11 in 1953 and interurban travellers paid an average fare of 52.5 cents per passenger versus 49.9 cents.

Fare increases in 1954 occurred in Ottawa, Toronto, St. Thomas and Nanaimo and on one line of the Montreal and Southern Counties Railway Company. Strikes in Oshawa and St. John, N.B. disrupted services in these cities during the year. (22)

Electric Energy Output
At New High In January

Production of electric energy by Canada's central electric stations in January totalled 6,602,025,000 kilowatt hours, slightly more than 17% above last year's January output of 5,633,449,000 kilowatt hours, and the highest monthly figure yet recorded.

All provinces contributed to the increase over a year earlier, with the increase in Ontario accounting for nearly half the aggregate gain.

Domestic consumption in the month rose to 6,229,491,000 kilowatt hours compared to 5,529,610,000 a year ago, and exports to the United States to 375,907,000 against 137,780,000 kilowatt hours, while imports from the United States dropped to 3,373,000 from 33,941,000 kilowatt hours.

Production by provinces in January was as follows: Newfoundland, 40,-844,000 kilowatt hours (20,572,000 in January, 1954); Prince Edward Island, 3,235,000 (3,060,000); Nova Scotia, 112,766,000 (99,778,000); New Brunswick, 80,946,000 (67,664,000); Quebec, 3,027,332,000 (2,708,247,000); Ontario, 2,-204,588,000 (1,729,401,000); Manitoba, 282,245,000 (274,280,000); Saskatchewan, 127,007,000 (117,265,000); Alberta, 148,808,000 (142,268,000); and British Columbia, 566,742,000 (470,914,000). Output in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, included for the first time in the Bureau's monthly report, was 7,-512,000 kilowatt hours. (23)

THE PEOPLE

Fewer Births, More Deaths
And Marriages In February

Fewer births but larger numbers of deaths and marriages were registered in provincial vital statistics offices in February than in the corresponding month last year, the DBS reports. Birth registrations totalled 32,785 versus 32,843; deaths, 11,122 versus 9,621; and marriages, 7,133 versus 6,646.

Registrations of births in Ontario increased to 10,559 from 10,033, British Columbia to 2,484 from 2,458, Alberta to 2,472 from 2,330, Saskatchewan to 1,882 from 1,797, Newfoundland to 1,806 from 1,544 and New Brunswick to 1,209 from 1,192. There were decreases in Quebec to 9,258 from 10,122, Manitoba to 1,499 from 1,676, Nova Scotia to 1,409 from 1,480 and Prince Edward Island to 207 from 211.

Death registrations in February follow by provinces: Ontario, 3,762 (3,698 a year ago); Quebec, 3,188 (2,165); British Columbia, 1,122 (1,079); Alberta, 817 (529); Manitoba, 496 (510); Saskatchewan, 495 (479); Nova Scotia, 491 (535); New Brunswick, 407 (350); Newfoundland, 271 (184); and Prince Edward Island, 73 (92).

Registrations of marriages were: Ontario, 2,568 (1,998); Quebec, 1,925 (2,197); British Columbia, 621 (545); Alberta, 539 (448); Newfoundland, 387 (428); Saskatchewan, 281 (264); Nova Scotia, 279 (287); Manitoba, 252 (274); New Brunswick, 229 (173); and Prince Edward Island, 32 (32). (24)

Shipments, Exports Of
Asbestos Up In January

Shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines in January amounted to 60,332 tons, 8% larger than last year's corresponding total of 56,800 tons. The month's exports climbed to 56,175 tons from 50,659. (25)

Salt Shipments, Stocks In January

Shipments of dry common salt by Canadian producers in January this year totalled 47,356 tons versus 56,816 in the preceding month and 37,881 in the corresponding month last year. Producer's stocks at the end of the month were 14,973 tons versus 20,050. (26)

P R I C E S

Security Price Indexes

	<u>March 17</u>	<u>March 10</u> (1935-39=100)	<u>February 17</u>
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
Total Common Stocks	212.8	213.9	216.5
Industrials	217.1	217.6	221.0
Utilities	184.2	187.1	185.4
Banks	235.6	239.3	243.8

Mining Stock Price Index

Total Mining Stocks	104.4	104.7	107.4
Golds	68.3	68.9	69.2
Base Metals	187.0	186.6	194.7

Wholesale Price Indexes

	<u>February</u> <u>1954</u>	<u>January</u> <u>1955</u>	<u>February</u> <u>1955</u>
	(1935 - 1939 = 100)		
<u>General Index</u>	219.0	215.7	217.4
Vegetable Products	200.6	197.2	198.2
Animal Products	243.9	226.5	226.7
Textile Products	233.3	224.0	226.0
Wood Products	283.4	289.7	292.0
Iron Products	215.9	214.5	216.0
Non-Ferrous Metals	164.3	170.6	176.6
Non-Metallic Minerals	179.4	176.4	176.6
Chemical Products	175.3	176.6	177.1
Combined Index, Iron and			
Non-Ferrous Metals (excluding gold) ..	217.2	221.0	226.2

(Publications numbered similarly to reviews to indicate source of latter)

- 1- Intended Acreage of Principal Field Crops, 10¢
 - 2- Coarse Grains Quarterly, February, 25¢
 - 3- M: Production of Carbonated Beverages, February, 10¢
 - 4- M: Grain Statistics Weekly, March 9, 10¢
 - 5- M: Estimates of Production & Consumption of Meats, 1954, 10¢
 - 6- M: Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, March 1, 10¢
 - 7- M: Production of Eggs, January, 10¢
 - 8- Man-Hours & Hourly Earnings with Average Weekly Wages, January 1, 25¢
 - 9- M: Asphalt & Vinyl-Asbestos Floor Tiles, February, 10¢
 - 10- M: Production of Leather Footwear, December, 10¢
 - 11- M: Steel Wire & Specified Wire Products, January, 10¢
 - 12- M: Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal & Secondary Non-Ferrous Ingot, Fourth Quarter, 1954, 10¢
 - 13- M: Products Made From Canadian Clays, December, 10¢
 - 14- Non-Metallic Mineral Products, General Review, 1952, 25¢
 - 15- Consumption, Production & Inventories of Rubber, January, 25¢
 - 16- Paints, Varnishes & Lacquers Industry, 1953, 25¢
 - 17- Department Store Sales & Stocks, January, 10¢
 - 18- Operating Results of Household Appliance & Electrical Supply Wholesalers, 1953, 25¢
 - 19- New Residential Construction, January, 25¢
 - 20- M: Car Loadings on Canadian Railways, March 7, 1955, 10¢
 - 21- Railway Transport, 1953, Part IV, 25¢ -- Operating & Traffic Statistics
 - 22- M: Transit Report, Summary of Monthly Reports, 1954, 10¢
 - 23- M: Central Electric Stations, January, 10¢
 - 24- Vital Statistics, February, 10¢
 - 25- M: Asbestos, January, 10¢
 - 26- M: Salt, January, 10¢
 - M: Fruit & Ornamental Nursery Stock Sales, 1952, \$1.
 - Trade of Canada: Articles Imported From Each Country, 12 Months Ended December, 1954, 50¢
 - Quarterly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, October-December, 1954, 25¢
 - M - Memorandum
-

Edmond Cloutier, C.M.G., O.A., D.S.Pl,
Queen's Printer and Controller of Stationery,
Ottawa, 1955

2 Out Of 3 Ride A Bus Since the war, motor buses and trolley busses have steadily replaced streetcars on the nation's transit lines. In 1946 four out of every five transit passengers rode streetcars. Last year two out of every three went by bus.

Footwear: 3 Of Every 5 Have Composition Soles About 3 out of every 5 pairs of leather footwear made in Canada have soles of other materials than leather.

Anchovies Output of canned anchovies dropped sharply in 1953 to 286 cases worth \$5,700 from 1,293 cases worth \$25,900 in 1952.

Less Study Journalism There are 66 students working for degrees in journalism in Canadian universities and colleges in the current academic year, 64 in Ontario and 2 in the Atlantic Provinces. In the 1953-54 academic year journalism students numbered 80, of whom 70 were in Ontario and 10 in the Atlantic Provinces.

Umbrellas According to the latest figures, Canadian-made umbrellas cost an average of \$2.58 each at the factory.

Sell More Panama Hats For Women Canada's hat and cap industry sold 905 dozen panama hats for women in 1953 as against 606 dozen in 1952.

38% Increase In Flaxseed Acreage Canadian farmers intend to seed 1,665,000 acres to flaxseed this year, 459,000 or 38% more than in 1954. A 5% decrease in area in Ontario will be more than offset by increases of 16% in Manitoba, 64% in Saskatchewan, 26% in Alberta and 10% in British Columbia.

Price Of Bricks Upped Last Year The average price of clay building bricks at Canadian factories was \$45.19 a thousand last year, \$1.33 more than in 1953.

Canned Meats Canadians ate an average of 2.8 pounds of canned meats each last year, considerably less than in any other year since the war. Peak consumption was 8.8 pounds per capita in 1952.

More Moccasins 915,077 pairs of mocassins and shoe-packs were made in Canada last year, 131,209 or 17% more than in 1953.

Banking Last year Toronto recorded the largest increase of any clearing centre in the value of cheques cashed, debits climbing almost 19% above the 1953 level. Compared with 1938, Edmonton had the sharpest rise, 1954 debits being more than 8 times those of 16 years earlier. Compared with 1929, Sudbury showed the largest percentage increase, last year's debits being over a dozen times as high as a quarter century earlier.

Diamonds Canada's jewellery and silverware industry used \$2,125,246 worth of diamonds in 1953, over twice the \$940,253 worth of other precious and semi-precious stones used.

Candle Industry Canada's candle industry shipped a record \$2,230,000 worth of religious candles, household candles and other products in 1952. In 1945 the industry's output was worth \$1,517,000 and in 1939 only \$665,000.

Barbed Wire Sales Lower Factory sales of barbed wire fell to 7,278 tons in 1953 from 8,673 in 1952, the third drop in a row from the 1950 total of 12,032 tons.



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