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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Prices: The consumer price index inched up to 116.1 from 116.0 between March 1 and April 1 as small increases in food and shelter costs outweighed fractional decreases in other group prices... Prices of farm products at terminal markets averaged 6.1% higher in April than in March, a slight decrease in animal products being outweighed by a 15.4% increase in field products, mainly due to a substantial advance in potatoes... Wholesale prices of 30 industrial materials averaged 1.4% higher in April than in March. (Page 2)

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The People: Canada's population reached 15,482,000 at the start of March, 1% more than three months earlier and 2.6% more than on the same date last year. (Page 4)

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Labour: There were 563,290 on the live unemployment insurance register at the end of March, 15,296 fewer than a month earlier but 51,630 more than at the same time last year... An increase in the length of the average work week outweighed a slight decline in average hourly earnings to boost the average weekly wage in manufacturing to a new peak of \$58.36 at the start of February, \$2.24 more than a month earlier. (Pages 5 & 6)

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Industry: Canadian industrial production averaged 3.4% above the 1954 level in February, with mineral production up nearly 12%, electricity and gas output over 13% and manufacturing production more than 1%... The value of manufacturers' inventories rose 0.3% during February but was 3.7% below a year earlier. (Pages 7 & 8)

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Merchandising: February sales of Canadian retailers averaged 1% lower this year, but a 4.8% increase in January put the total for the first two months 1.9% above last year... Department store sales were 13.6% above the 1954 level in the third week of April. (Pages 10 & 11)

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Business: Profits before taxes of Canadian corporations were more than 5% above the 1953 level in the fourth quarter last year but declines in the first nine months put the 1954 total more than 6% below the preceding year. (Page 19)

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Transportation: The number of cars loaded on Canadian railways in the third week of April was up 18.5% over last year but still below 1953. From the start of the year loadings averaged 3.4% higher than in 1954, 5.9% less than in 1953. (Page 16)

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Consumer Price Index Rose Slightly During March

The consumer price index for Canada moved up from 116.0 to 116.1 between March 1 and April 1, as small increases in foods and shelter outweighed fractional decreases in other groups. Clothing, household operation, and other commodities and services indexes each declined 0.1%, while the shelter component increased by the same amount and foods advanced 0.3%.

The food index moved from 110.7 to 111.0 as higher prices for flour, tea, eggs, fresh fruits, potatoes and chicken proved more important than lower prices for coffee, margarine, most fresh vegetables and pork items. Prices of most items of clothing were unchanged, and a decrease in men's suits largely accounted for the change in the clothing index from 108.0 to 107.9.

The household operation index moved from 117.0 to 116.9 under the influence of lower prices for electrical appliances and household supplies. The change in the index of other commodities and services from 118.3 to 118.2 resulted from declines in street car and bus fares, bicycles, and eyeglasses, which were partly offset by slight increases in gasoline and doctors' and dentists' fees. Both the rent and home-ownership components of the shelter index increased 0.1% to advance the shelter index from 128.6 to 128.7. (1)

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
April 1, 1955	116.1	111.0	128.7	107.9	116.9	118.2
March 1, 1955	116.0	110.7	128.6	108.0	117.0	118.3
April 1, 1954	115.6	110.4	125.6	109.9	118.1	117.2

Wholesale Prices Higher

The price index for thirty industrial materials at wholesale, on the 1935-39 base, rose 1.4% during April to 233.2 for the week of April 22, as compared to 230.0 for the week of March 25. Ten of the thirty price series advanced, led by copper, beef hides, steel scrap and western oats, and followed by lesser increases for raw sugar, bleached sulphite pulp, zinc, iron ore, raw rubber and rosin. Sisal, tin and raw cotton were lower over this period.

Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets registered a net increase of 6.1% during April, as the index moved from 202.9 for March 25 to 215.2 for April 22. An exceptional advance in potatoes, influenced by extensive frost damage to United States spring plantings, was the main supporting factor. This was reflected principally in the field products index, which moved from 166.1 for March 25 to 191.7 for April 22, for a gain of 15.4%. Among other commodity changes in the field products group, western flax, rye and hay, and eastern oats, rye and hay were higher, while eastern wheat, corn and barley were lower.

Animal products, on the other hand, decreased fractionally during the period under review to 238.8 from 239.7. In the animal products group decreases were recorded for calves, butterfat and fluid milk in eastern Canada, and hogs in the west, while eastern lambs, poultry, eggs, cheese milk and raw wool, and western steers and eggs showed strength. (1)

Wholesale Price Index
Unchanged In March

With increases in four of the eight major groups offsetting decreases in the other four, the general wholesale price index registered no change between February and March, remaining at 217.4, according to the Bureau's monthly report on prices and price indexes. The index is on the base of average 1935-39 prices equalling 100.

The largest group changed in the month was recorded by non-ferrous metals, which moved up 1.4% from 176.6 to 179.0 in response to increases in copper and its products, nickel, silver, tin ingots and gold. Fibres, textiles and textile products advanced 0.6% to 227.4, as upturns in cotton fabrics, worsted yarns, rayon yarns, raw wool, both domestic and imported, outweighed small decreases in raw cotton and rayon fabrics. A gain of 0.6% in iron and its products to 217.4 reflected increases in wire nails and galvanized barbed wire. In wood, wood products and paper, small increases in export prices for newsprint, wood pulp and cedar shingles more than offset a decline in fir lumber, advancing the index 0.2% to 292.5.

A drop of 1.2% to 174.5 in the non-metallic group mainly reflected user conversion from manufactured to natural gas in Toronto, coupled with a seasonal decline in crushed stone. Imported crude oil, crude sulphur and cement registered small gains in this group. Vegetable products moved down 0.7% to 196.8, influenced by decreases in cocoa beans, raw leaf tobacco, grains, milled cereal foods, raw rubber, onions and hay. Advances were noted in vegetable oils and their products, bran, shorts, rubber footwear, imported fresh and dried fruits, and coffee beans. Animal products stood at 226.1 in March, 0.3% below the February figure. Lower prices for calves, hogs and steers contributed substantially to the downturn, followed by lesser declines in milk and its products, cured meats and tallow, to outweigh increases in poultry, fresh meats, eggs, fishery products, leather and hides. Chemical products receded 0.1% to 176.9, as decreases in fertilizer materials proved more important than advances in paint materials.

Farm Product Prices at terminal markets moved down 1.5% to 203.7 from 206.7, as lower levels were recorded for both field and animal products. Declines in steers, calves, hogs and fluid milk at western centres outweighed increases in eggs, poultry, raw wool and eastern cheese milk, to move the animal products group 1.8% lower to 241.3. Field products registered a drop of 0.9% to 166.1, largely the result of declines in eastern grains, although losses were also noted for raw leaf tobacco, hay and potatoes in eastern markets.

Residential Building Material Prices in March were up 0.1% over February, the index, on the 1935-39 base, increasing 279.5. Advances were recorded for plumbing and heating equipment, wire nails, copper wire, shellac and cement. In the lumber group declines in millwork items outweighed an increase in spruce lath.

Non-Residential Building Material Prices averaged 0.3% higher in March than in February, the index, on the 1949 equals 100 base, advancing to 121.7. Increases in plumbing and heating equipment, copper wire, copper sheet, wire nails, paint and paint materials outweighed declines in crushed stone and millwork items. (2)

Security Price Indexes Common stocks were considerably stronger in April as they recovered most of the losses sustained in the previous month. Between the weeks of March 31 and April 28 the investors' index moved up from 210.2 to 217.5, both industrials and utilities advancing. An index for the former changed from 214.7 to 223.4, and for the latter from 180.7 to 185.4.

Bank shares, on the other hand, were fractionally easier, the price index declining from 233.7 to 233.1. Sub-group indexes were all higher, increases principally being in machinery and equipment, pulp and paper, milling, building materials, industrial mines and transportation.

Mining stocks, led by strength in base metal issues, were firmer in April also. The composite index for 27 representative stocks advanced from 106.4 to 110.6 between the weeks of March 31 and April 28. Over the same period the base metal series changed from 192.1 to 199.4, and that for 22 golds from 68.9 to 71.8. (1)

<u>Security Price Indexes</u>	<u>April 28</u>	<u>April 21</u> (1935-39=100)	<u>March 31</u>
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
Total Common Stocks	217.5	216.9	210.2
Industrials	223.4	222.4	214.7
Utilities	185.4	186.5	180.7
Banks	233.1	232.0	233.7
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
Total Mining Stocks	110.6	112.1	106.4
Golds	71.8	72.5	68.9
Base Metals	199.4	202.8	192.1

T H E P E O P L E

Population 15,482,000 At March 1 The people of Canada numbered 15,482,000 at the start of March, 72,000 or one-half of 1% more than at the beginning of December and 399,000 or 2.6% more than on March 1 last year, according to the quarterly estimate by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The increase in the three months ending March 1 this year compares with 78,000 and 68,000 in the corresponding periods a year and two years ago, and works out at an annual rate of 1.9% as compared with 2.1% and 1.9% respectively. The largest quarterly increase since the 1951 Census was 118,000 in the three months ending September 1 last year. The March-May and June-August periods usually have the largest gains, due mainly to the heavier inflow of immigration in spring and summer months.

The Bureau's quarterly estimates provide no provincial figures. Population estimates by provinces are available only in the annual June 1 estimate.

March Unemployment Insurance Claims
Up From February, Below March Last Year

Initial and renewal claims for unemployment insurance benefit received in local offices across Canada

during March totalled 243,544, up from 236,847 in February but below the total of 248,421 in March last year.

Ordinary and supplementary benefit claimants on the live unemployment insurance register on March 31 numbered 563,290 (468,922 males and 94,368 females), down from 578,586 (479,902 males and 98,684 females) at the end of February but up substantially from 511,660 (431,018 males and 80,642 females) on March 31, 1954. Short-time claimants numbered 39,322 on March 31, and temporary lay-off claimants 2,568.

New beneficiaries during March numbered 154,738 compared to 159,817 during February and 152,611 during March last year. During March a total of \$33,952,877 was paid in compensation for 10,621,770 days. These figures compare with \$28,576,170 paid for 8,939,252 days during February, and \$32,160,928 for 10,127,126 days during March, 1954.

By provinces, initial and renewal claims filed in March were as follows: Newfoundland, 6,765 (7,534 a year earlier); Prince Edward Island, 1,198 (1,178); Nova Scotia, 10,637 (12,117); New Brunswick, 12,025 (12,383); Quebec, 86,512 (86,466); Ontario, 74,126 (79,410); Manitoba, 10,483 (9,490); Saskatchewan, 6,796 (5,306); Alberta, 13,585 (14,226); British Columbia, 21,417 (20,311). (3)

February 1 Proportion Of Women
In Industry Largest Since 1950

Of every thousand persons employed by Canadian industry at the start of February, 229 were women, the largest February proportion

since 1950. This year's figure compared with 227 per thousand last year, 224 in 1953, 215 in 1952, 225 in 1951, 231 in 1950, 223 in 1949 and 1948, 226 in 1947 and 241 in 1946.

As reported in the Bureau's preliminary statement on April 20, industrial employment in Canada was 1.1% below the 1954 level at the start of February. However, the decline over the 12 months was sharper for men than for women, amounting to 1.3% and 0.4% respectively. Compared with a month earlier the February level of industrial employment was down 3%, with a sharper decline for women (3.2%) than for men (2.9%). The seasonal drop, which was slightly steeper than a year earlier, was common to all provinces and to 27 of the 32 metropolitan areas. Industrially, the largest losses were in construction, logging, trade, and transportation, storage and communication. Smaller contractions were reported in mining, public utility operation and the service industries.

Employment in manufacturing showed a slight increase of 0.4%, the first advance since September 1, most of the gain occurring in durable goods plants. Male factory workers showed an insignificant increase, but the number of women in manufacturing rose 1.5%. Compared with a year earlier the number of women was down by 3% and the number of men by 4.5%. The larger percentage loss among men was partly the result of industrial disputes involving relatively few women. The proportion of women per thousand employees in manufacturing at the start of February was 224, which compared with 221 a year earlier, 223 in 1953, 217 in 1952 and 233 in 1951. (4)

Man-Hours & Hourly Earnings The resumption of more normal working hours after the year-end holidays resulted in an increase of 1.6 hours in the length of the average working week in manufacturing at the start of February as compared with a month earlier. The average weekly wage rose by \$2.24 to a new maximum of \$58.36, and, due to changes in the industrial distribution of hours worked, a slight decline was recorded in average hourly earnings.

Changes between the levels of hours and earnings in the two months were, as is normally the case, more pronounced in the non-durable goods category than in the durable goods class where the practice of paying for certain holidays is more general. The totals of hours worked were substantially greater in the leather, textile and clothing industries among the light manufacturing industries, and in wood products, iron and steel, and transportation equipment in the heavy manufacturing group.

Average hours worked and average weekly wages were higher in all branches of the mining industry, and average hourly earnings decreased slightly mainly due to lower bonus and other premium payments. Seasonal curtailment affected the levels of employment in building and highway construction but the average of hours worked and of earnings were higher in both cases. (5)

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

Industry	Average Hours			Average Hourly Earnings			Average Weekly Wages		
	Feb. 1	Jan. 1	Feb. 1	Feb. 1	Jan. 1	Feb. 1	Feb. 1	Jan. 1	Feb. 1
	1954	1955	1955	1954	1955	1955	1954	1955	1955
	no.	no.	no.	¢	¢	¢	\$	\$	\$
Manufacturing ...	40.7	39.3	40.9	140.4	142.8	142.7	57.14	56.12	58.36
Durable Goods...	40.8	39.6	41.1	151.4	153.0	153.9	61.77	60.59	63.25
Non-Durable									
Goods....	40.6	39.0	40.8	127.9	132.3	131.2	51.93	51.60	53.53
Mining	42.6	41.3	43.5	158.3	160.6	160.3	67.44	66.33	69.73
Electric & Motor									
Transportation.	46.0	44.9	45.0	139.0	142.4	141.6	63.94	63.94	63.72
Construction.....	39.7	35.1	39.7	151.5	149.1	152.9	60.15	52.33	60.70
Service	40.8	39.9	40.2	82.1	85.0	85.2	33.50	33.92	34.25

Federal Government Employment Classified civil servants numbered 141,783 in January as against 141,173 in December and 135,411 in January last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Their earnings amounted to \$36,582,958 versus \$36,389,890 in the preceding month and \$34,756,076 a year earlier.

Other Federal Government employees (prevailing rate, casual and ships' crews) numbered 38,891 in January as compared with 40,501 in December and 36,697 in January 1954. Their earnings totalled \$7,780,636 versus \$8,272,770 a month earlier and \$6,984,971 last year. (6)

Industrial Production Index
Again Higher In February

Canada's composite index of industrial production for February, according to preliminary figures, stood at 247.6, which is 3.4% above the February 1954 index of 239.4. The manufacturing component of the index rose slightly more than 1% in this comparison, to 253.8 from 251.0. The index of mineral production, however, advanced nearly 12% from 181.8 to 203.1, and the sub-index measuring output of electricity and gas rose over 13% from 250.6 to 283.5.

The index of non-durable manufactures, at 220.3, was 3.5% above the previous February's 212.9. Output in the textiles industry rose 20%, while most other groups, including foods and beverages, tobacco products, rubber products, paper products, and printing and publishing, showed more moderate gains of 2.5% to 6% in this comparison. Small declines were recorded by the clothing and chemicals industries.

In the durable manufactures field, the composite index stood at 306.1 for February, 1.4% below the last February's figure of 310.5. Output of non-ferrous metal products and of wood products rose substantially by 13% and 11%, respectively. Electrical apparatus and non-metallic minerals recorded smaller gains of 8% and 4.5%. Production of transportation equipment, however, was still about 22% below that of last February, and iron and steel products showed a smaller decline of 1.4%.

For the first two months of 1955 the index of industrial production averaged 243.0, up 3.7% over the corresponding 1954 figure of 234.3. The manufacturing index rose about 1% to 248.0 in the same comparison, the non-durables component advancing 3.5% from 207.4 to 214.6, while the durables index dropped 1.6% to 300.3. The mining index, in the two-month comparison, advanced over 14% from 176.7 to 202.2, and the sub-index for electricity and gas rose by nearly 14% from 248.3 to 282.2.

MANUFACTURING

Fewer Electric Vacuum
Cleaners Sold In 1954

Canadian manufacturers sold \$7,320,300 worth of electric vacuum cleaners, attachments and parts last year as against \$7,922,452 worth in 1953, according to a special statement by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The drop was the third in a row from the post-war peak of \$8,917,732 worth in 1951, and put sales at the lowest level since 1948.

Fewer floor models were sold than in any other year since the war: 22,801 worth \$1,523,306 versus 37,126 worth \$2,239,354 in 1953. Sales of cylinder models increased to 88,511 valued at \$4,746,437 from 70,833 valued at \$4,334,187, but sales of hand models decreased to 5,435 worth \$119,772 from 7,705 worth \$177,497. Sales of attachments and parts were valued at \$930,785 versus \$1,211,414 in 1953.

Imports of electric vacuum cleaners were also smaller last year, decreasing to 102,672 worth \$3,135,003 from 104,068 worth \$3,456,726 in 1953. Imports of hand vacuum cleaners and attachments and parts were valued at \$1,272,682 versus \$1,478,516. Exports of electric vacuum cleaners and parts were worth slightly more at \$6,695 versus \$6,493 in 1953, but the number of machines exported decreased from 26 to 17.

Manufacturers' Inventories
3.7% Smaller This February

Total value of manufacturers' investment in inventory increased \$9,900, during February to reach \$3,552,500. In index terms, this was 102.0 (December 1952 = 100), up 0.3% from January, but 3.7% lower than in February 1954. Inventory held but not owned by reporting manufacturers (i.e. progress payments inventory) increased \$16,400,000 in February to \$537,500,000, and was \$19,800,000 higher than in February last year.

Shipments values increased 2.5% during February and were 4.1% above last year's level. The February index was 101.4 (December 1952 = 100) as against 98.9 for January and 97.4 for February last year. Cumulative shipments for the first two months of the year were 6.5% above the same period last year. Total value of unfilled orders decreased 0.5% and were also 9.6% below February 1954. New orders showed decreases of 7.2% from the previous month and 6.3% from February 1954.

	Total Inventory Investment	Progress Payments Inventory	Total Inventory Held	Raw Materials	Goods In Process	Finished Products
	(millions of dollars)					
<u>ALL INDUSTRIES</u>						
February 1954 ...	3,689.5	517.7	4,207.2	1,681.3	1,177.2	1,348.7
January 1955 ...	3,542.6	521.1	4,063.7	1,667.6	1,170.3	1,225.8
February 1955 ...	3,552.5	537.5	4,090.0	(not available)		
<u>Consumers' Goods</u>						
February 1954 ...	2,139.5	103.7	2,243.2	905.4	494.0	843.8
January 1955 ...	2,097.5	104.4	2,201.9	954.7	470.2	777.0
February 1955 ...	2,103.7	104.8	2,208.5	(not available)		
<u>Capital Goods</u>						
February 1954 ...	490.1	361.4	851.5	219.9	466.9	164.7
January 1955 ...	434.9	350.3	785.2	193.5	455.0	136.7
February 1955 ...	430.4	366.9	797.3	(not available)		
<u>Producers' Goods</u>						
February 1954 ...	752.9	3.1	756.0	381.6	133.8	240.6
January 1955 ...	727.7	3.4	731.1	367.0	148.1	216.0
February 1955 ...	717.8	3.4	721.2	(not available)		
<u>Construction Goods</u>						
February 1954 ...	307.0	49.5	356.5	174.4	82.5	99.6
January 1955 ...	282.5	63.0	345.5	152.4	97.0	96.1
February 1955 ...	300.6	62.4	363.0	(not available)		
	<u>Indexes Of Shipments</u>					Con-
	(Dec. 1952 = 100)					struc-
	All	Consumers'	Capital	Producers'	tion	
	Industries	Goods	Goods	Goods	Goods	
February 1954 ...	97.4	100.9	83.4	89.2	124.0	
January 1955 ...	98.9	103.6	67.8	97.6	127.6	
February 1955 ...	101.4	103.7	71.5	102.6	142.4	
	<u>Indexes Of Outstanding Orders</u>					
	(Dec. 1952 = 100)					
	All	Textiles	Wood & Iron &	Transportation	Electrical	
	Industries		Paper Steel	Equipment	Apparatus	
February 1954 ...	89.5	53.5	93.7	69.9	82.3	109.8
January 1955 ...	81.3	75.1	100.4	65.2	64.1	105.4
February 1955 ...	80.9	76.1	94.1	72.4	60.9	104.6

More Floor Tiles Shipped In March Canadian factories shipped 1,625,559 square feet of asphalt floor tiles and 779,095 square feet of vinyl-asbestos floor tiles to Canadian customers in March, the DBS reports. This compares with shipments of 1,462,218 square feet of asphalt floor tiles and 455,413 square feet of vinyl-asbestos floor tiles in March last year. First-quarter shipments of asphalt floor tiles increased to 4,306,072 square feet from 3,702,482 in 1954, and of vinyl-asbestos floor tiles to 2,021,055 square feet from 1,074,074.

March production of asphalt floor tiles was slightly lower this year at 1,510,608 square feet versus 1,585,620 in 1954, but first-quarter production was up to 4,675,724 from 4,322,420. March production of vinyl-asbestos floor tiles jumped to 802,061 square feet from 573,455 last year and first-quarter output rose to 2,470,257 square feet from 1,403,760. (7)

Manufacturers' Shipments Decreased 2.6% Last Year Canadian manufacturers' shipments last year had an aggregate value of \$17,305,643,000, down 2.6% from \$17,771,030,000 in 1953, according to estimates by the Bureau. After declines in each of the other quarters, fourth-quarter shipments rose in value to \$4,332,161,000 compared to \$4,324,925,000, reducing the aggregate decline for the year. The 1954 total compares with \$16,939,275,000 for 1952.

Shipments were lower in value last year than in 1953 for each of the four groups of industries by economic use. Consumers' goods shipments were down to \$10,724,108,000 from \$10,832,031,000, a gain in non-durables being outweighed by declines in semi-durables and durables. Shipments of non-durables were valued at \$6,860,226,000 compared to \$6,569,800,000; semi-durables at \$2,066,809,000 against \$2,226,924,000; and durables at \$1,797,073,000 against \$1,035,307,000. Shipments of producers' goods declined to \$3,325,717,000 from \$3,493,772,000; of capital goods to \$1,838,203,000 from \$2,020,471,000; and of construction goods to \$1,417,615,000 from \$1,424,756,000. In the fourth quarter, shipments of capital goods were down, but those of the other three groups higher.

Among the 17 industrial groups, as classified by the Bureau, shipments last year were higher in value for nine and lower for each of the other eight. Shipments of foods and beverages rose to \$3,619,409,000 from \$3,491,303,000, with gains in each quarter. Paper products, also higher in each quarter, increased to \$1,634,461,000 from \$1,571,736,000, and wood products, down the first half year, to \$1,253,465,000 from \$1,248,299,000. Other gains were: printing and publishing, \$583,026,000 (\$543,143,000 in 1953); electrical apparatus and supplies, \$892,510,000 (\$848,190,000); petroleum and coal products, \$844,509,000 (\$808,330,000); chemicals and allied products, \$901,151,000 (\$881,504,000); tobacco and tobacco products, \$221,370,000 (\$215,032,000); and miscellaneous industries, \$262,011,000 (\$261,283,000).

Shipments of iron and steel products, second highest in value, declined to \$1,904,565,000 from \$2,099,104,000. Next in order, those of transportation industries fell to \$1,715,839,000 from \$2,089,436,000, and of the non-ferrous metal industries to \$1,154,054,000 from \$1,240,135,000. Clothing shipments were down to \$796,231,000 from \$857,981,000; textile products (except clothing) to \$636,931,000 from \$700,690,000; rubber products to \$269,309,000 from \$283,545,000; leather products to \$210,346,000 from \$222,410,000; and non-metallic mineral products to \$406,456,000 from \$408,909,000. (8)

First Quarter Production & Shipments Of Hardboard Production of hard board in March amounted to 15,790,620 square feet compared to 13,445,058 in March last year, making a first-quarter total of 43,760,497 against 34,471,067 square feet last year. Domestic shipments in the month declined to 9,689,830 from 10,309,799 square feet, but the three-month total was up slightly at 25,199,461 against 25,191,804 square feet. Export shipments were slightly lower in the month at 4,578,405 versus 4,581,469 square feet, but up sharply in the three months to 17,140,947 from 8,066,431 square feet. (9)

Motor Vehicle Shipments 28% Lower This February Canada's automotive industry shipped 31,287 motor vehicles in February, over 28% fewer than in February last year, when the number shipped totalled 44,268. With a drop of 27% in January, total shipments in the first two months this year were down to 61,230 from 84,578.

On the other hand, shipments of imported U.S. vehicles increased to 1,905 from 1,876 in February and to 4,050 from 3,103 in the first two months. The increase was mainly the result of larger shipments of convertible cars and most types of trucks.

February shipments of Canadian-made passenger cars decreased to 27,574 this year from 35,241 in 1954, increases in convertible cars and coupes being outweighed by decreases in other models. February shipments of commercial vehicles dropped to 4,253 from 9,027 last year with decreases in all types of trucks and buses. (10)

MERCHANDISING

Retail Sales Off 1% This February Total February retail sales were estimated at \$793,587,000 this year, down 1% from \$801,420,000 last year, but a 4.8% increase in January sales put the total for the first two months at \$1,632,259,000, up 1.9% from \$1,601,825,000 in 1954.

February sales were up 4.6% at \$86,638,000 this year in British Columbia, 1.6% at \$179,441,000 in Quebec, 1.1% at \$65,655,000 in the Atlantic Provinces and 0.5% at \$322,295,000 in Ontario. These increases were outweighed by decreases of 17.3% at \$38,479,000 in Saskatchewan, 8.6% at \$59,150,000 in Alberta and 7.2% at \$41,932,000 in Manitoba. The Prairie Provinces was also the only region with smaller January-February sales this year.

Seven of the 18 trades listed in the Bureau's monthly report had higher sales this February. Sales of fuel dealers were up 15.9%, grocery and combination food stores 4.6%, department stores 2.7%, variety stores 2.5%, furniture, appliance and radio stores 0.5%, garages and filling stations 0.3%, and general stores 0.1%.

February sales of shoe stores were down 8.9% this year, motor vehicle dealers 8.7%, women's clothing stores 6.7%, restaurants 6.7%, other food and beverage stores 3.7%, family clothing stores 3.9%, drug stores 1.8%, hardware stores 1.7%, jewellery stores 1.4%, lumber and building material dealers 0.4%, and men's clothing stores 0.4%. (11)

Department Store Sales Up
13.6% In Third April Week

Sales of department stores across Canada were 13.6% above last year's level in the week ending April 23 DBS reports. Gains were reported in all regions except Saskatchewan and Alberta, where declines of 8.8% and 6.8% respectively were recorded. The sharpest boost was an increase of 23.4% in British Columbia. Sales of Ontario stores averaged 22.6% higher, Quebec stores 19.3%, Manitoba stores 0.5%, and stores in the Atlantic Provinces 0.3%.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

February Imports Gain
Was Widely Spread

Final, detailed figures on Canada's commodity imports in February show that the gain over a year earlier was widely spread among commodities, and that the major increase among countries was in larger purchases from the United States. Total value of imports in the month (as reported on March 23) was \$307,900,000, up 5.2% from \$292,600,000 a year earlier. Average import prices were slightly higher than in February, 1954, the volume of imports showing a gain of 4.3%. In the two months, January and February, the value of imports was up to \$614,500,000 from \$572,800,000 last year.

Imports from the United States increased to \$232,692,000 from \$217,449,000 last year, practically the same dollar gain as for total imports. In the two months, purchases from the United States rose to \$460,740,000 from \$420,129,000, also about the same as total imports. Both in the month and two months imports of all main commodity groups, except non-metallic minerals, were larger than in 1954, the largest gain in the month being in agricultural and vegetable products. In the two months major increases were in agricultural and vegetable products, fibres and textiles, and iron and its products. Purchases from the United Kingdom in February fell off to \$25,562,000 from \$29,026,000, reducing the two-month total to \$53,108,000 compared to \$57,329,000. Most of the decrease in both periods was in imports of iron and steel products, only minor changes being shown in other groups. Imports from other Commonwealth countries rose slightly in February to \$10,787,000 from \$10,464,000, the two-month total rising to \$22,119,000 from \$19,477,000. There were gains in both the month and two months in purchases from India, Malaya and Singapore, New Zealand, and Jamaica, and declines from Australia and Ceylon.

Imports from Latin America were practically unchanged in February at \$21,628,000 against \$21,631,000, but for the two months were down to \$43,480,000 from \$45,212,000. Purchases were down again in the month from Brazil and Colombia, but up substantially from Venezuela and slightly higher from Mexico. With generally moderate increases from the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy and the Netherlands outweighing decreases from Belgium and Luxembourg and Switzerland, imports from Europe moved up to \$9,648,000 compared to \$9,108,000 to bring the two-month total slightly higher than last year at \$19,675,000 against \$19,516,000. Further increases from Japan and the Netherlands Antilles accounted for most of the rise in the February total for all other foreign countries to \$7,182,000 from \$4,194,000, raising the two-month total to \$14,579,000 from \$9,728,000.

MORE

Changes in the imports of major commodities and in commodity groups were very similar in February and the two months, increases in February generally repeating January gains. The agricultural and vegetable products group rose in the month to \$38,582,000 from \$33,857,000, with increases fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains and products, tea, and rubber and products, and decreases for sugar, coffee, and vegetable oils. The fibres and textiles group advanced to \$29,282,000 from \$26,160,000, purchases of raw and manufactured cotton and synthetic fibres and products rising and wool products falling. The iron group was down slightly to \$102,325,000 from \$103,978,000, industrial machinery being lower, while imports of automobiles and parts were higher. The non-ferrous group rose to \$25,877,000 from \$24,576,000; non-metallic minerals was almost unchanged at \$39,249,000 against \$39,225,000; and the chemicals group higher at \$16,785,000 compared to \$15,914,000. Wood and paper increased to \$14,605,000 from \$13,164,000; animals and animal products to \$8,347,000 from \$6,918,000; and miscellaneous commodities to \$32,822,000 from \$28,821,000, the latter due mainly to an increase for aircraft and parts. (12 & 13)

Trade In Outstanding Securities: Canada's trade with other countries in out-
Purchases Outvalue Sales in Feb. standing securities was at a record high level in February, purchases amounting to \$97,200,000 as compared with \$88,100,000 in January and \$40,400,000 in February last year, and sales totalling \$85,400,000 versus \$81,800,000 in the preceding month and \$53,100,000 a year earlier. Purchases exceeded sales by \$11,800,000 as compared with \$6,300,000 in January, and contrasted to a year earlier when sales outvalued purchases by \$12,700,000. The purchase balance was the largest since June 1953.

Transactions with the United States resulted in a purchase balance for the third month in a row, and the \$17,200,000 net outflow compared with \$11,700,000 in January and a sales balance of \$6,600,000 in February last year. Trade with the United Kingdom left a sales balance for the fifth consecutive month, the \$4,300,000 inflow comparing with \$4,800,000 in January and \$3,200,000 a year earlier. Transactions with other countries yielded the third successive sales balance, the \$1,100,000 inflow comparing with \$600,000 in the preceding month and \$2,900,000 in February last year. (14)

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Sales Of Fluid Milk An estimated 345,615,000 pounds or 133,959,000 quarts of
Rose 4% In February fluid milk were sold in Canada in February, 4% more than in the same month last year, DBS reports. Sales of fluid cream (expressed in pounds of milk) rose 1% to 67,048,000 pounds, and the total for milk and cream was 412,663,000 pounds, an increase of 3%. January-February sales of milk and cream were also 3% higher than last year at 847,060,000 pounds.

Combined sales of milk and cream were higher this February in all provinces. In Prince Edward Island there was an increase of 3% to 2,302,000 pounds, in Nova Scotia 5% to 14,225,000, in New Brunswick 3% to 12,093,000, in Quebec 2% to 156,321,000, in Ontario 3% to 138,279,000, in Manitoba 8% to 17,881,000, in Saskatchewan 4% to 19,857,000, in Alberta 6% to 21,899,000, and in British Columbia 5% to 29,806,000. (15)

Creamery Butter, Cheddar Cheese
And Storage Egg Stocks On May 1

Total stocks of creamery butter and cheddar cheese held in nine cities on May 1 were down from a month earlier but substantially above those of May 1 last year, while stocks of cold storage eggs were larger in both comparisons. May 1 stocks of creamery butter totalled 36,741,000 pounds compared to the revised total of 37,680,000 pounds on April 1 and 31,073,000 pounds on May 1, 1954; cheddar cheese, 16,106,000 pounds versus 16,692,000 and 11,370,000, respectively; and cold storage eggs, 133,000 cases versus 119,000 on both other dates.

By cities, creamery butter stocks were as follows (in thousands); Quebec, 830 pounds (3,105 a year earlier); Montreal, 18,317 (14,785); Toronto, 6,738 (5,980); Winnipeg, 9,405 (5,940); Regina, 657 (200); Saskatoon, 82 (123); Edmonton, 179 (287); Calgary, 109 (132); and Vancouver, 424 (521). Cheddar cheese stocks, in thousands of pounds, were; Quebec, 111 (82); Montreal, 12,430 (7,834); Toronto, 1,900 (1,505); Winnipeg, 339 (392); Regina, 42 (36); Saskatoon, 31 (55); Edmonton, 449 (490); Calgary, 255 (389); and Vancouver, 549 (587). (16)

More Margarine, Shortening And
Lard Produced In First Quarter

More margarine, shortening and lard was produced in March and the first three months this year than in the corresponding periods of 1954. First quarter output of margarine amounted to 32,473,000 pounds versus 28,761,000 last year, packaged shortening to 18,014,000 versus 17,312,000, bulk shortening to 22,019,000 versus 20,985,000, and lard to 25,492,000 versus 21,571,000. Production of inedible tallow increased in the first quarter this year to 24,774,000 pounds from 23,242,000 and white grease to 1,183,000 from 1,047,000, but output of refined coconut oils decreased to 2,794,000 pounds from 3,372,000, salad and cooking oils to 5,008,000 from 6,786,000, edible tallow to 7,212,000 from 7,437,000, other grease to 1,344,000 from 1,394,000, and other oils and fats to 2,560,000 from 3,114,000. (17)

Egg Output Upped
In First Quarter

Canadian egg production rose to 39,425,000 dozen in March from 37,702,000 dozen a year earlier to put the first quarter output at 113,269,000 dozen versus 107,419,000 dozen in the first three months last year. During the month 30,900,000 dozen eggs went to market, 2,700,000 dozen more than in March last year, and first quarter marketings were up to 91,898,000 dozen 85,389,000 dozen a year earlier. The average number of eggs laid per layer fell to 16.2 in March from 16.8 last year, the increase in total production resulting from a rise in the average number of layers on farms to 28,712,000 from 26,416,000. There were more layers on farms in all provinces except Ontario this March, and the average number of eggs laid per layer was down in all provinces except Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Ontario.

Total egg production was lower this March in Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta, but was higher in other provinces. First quarter output was up this year in all provinces except Quebec. January-March production by provinces, in thousands of dozens; Prince Edward Island, 2,226 (2,002 last year); Nova Scotia, 4,454 (4,130); New Brunswick, 3,149 (2,591); Quebec, 15,549 (17,802); Ontario, 47,338 (43,204); Manitoba, 9,533 (9,341); Saskatchewan, 9,231 (8,593); Alberta, 13,320 (11,884); British Columbia, 8,469 (7,872). The Bureau's report does not cover Newfoundland. (18)

Coal Output, Landed Imports
Up In March, Down In Quarter

Production and landed imports of coal were larger in March than in the same month last year, but first quarter totals for both were down from a year earlier, according to the monthly report by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

March production amounted to 1,380,000 tons as against 1,267,000 in 1954, with increases in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Alberta outweighing a decline in British Columbia and the Yukon. In Alberta a decrease in bituminous was outweighed by an increase in sub-bituminous. January-March production totalled 4,098,325 tons as against 4,270,215 last year, decreases in New Brunswick and Alberta outweighing increases in Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and British Columbia and the Yukon.

Landed imports in March increased to 574,130 tons from 534,873 last year but decreased to 1,768,560 tons from 1,802,928 in the first quarter. March imports were higher in all areas except Quebec, and first-quarter imports were up in Newfoundland and Manitoba, but down elsewhere. (19)

February Gold
Production Up

More gold was mined this February in all producing areas except the Prairie Provinces, British Columbia and the Yukon and total Canadian output amounted to 351,096 fine ounces as compared with 310,717 in February last year. The same three areas showed declines in total output in the first two months this year but increases in other producing areas raised the national total to 717,394 fine ounces from last year's January-February production of 603,781.

By areas, January-February gold production was: Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, 1,826 fine ounces (1,608 a year earlier); Quebec, 192,107 (132,434); Ontario, 401,781 (339,074); Prairie Provinces, 35,384 (39,698); British Columbia, 37,699 (42,702); Yukon, 54 (102); Northwest Territories, 48,543 (48,163). (20)

Crude Petroleum & Natural Gas Sales
Rose More Than 5 Times In 5 Years

Gross value of sales in Canada's crude petroleum industry was at an all-time high of \$204,481,012 in 1953, up from \$139,596,851 in 1952 and more than five times the 1948 total of \$37,388,975, according to the annual report on the industry by DBS.

The number of operating wells increased to 7,056 in 1953 from 5,833 in the preceding year and were nearly two and a half times the 1948 total of 2,581. The industry's employees numbered 4,150 as against 3,702 in 1952 and 1,641 in 1948, and the payroll rose to \$16,430,201 from \$14,610,821 in the preceding year and \$4,391,929 five years earlier. The cost of process supplies increased to \$3,020,756 from \$2,502,154 in 1952 and compared with \$112,952 in 1948. Fuel and electricity costs amounted to \$2,447,173 as against \$1,911,794 in the preceding year and \$1,939,856 five years earlier.

In 1953 Alberta had 5,020 of the active wells and gross sales of \$197,686,004. Saskatchewan had 895 active wells and sales of \$3,833,127. There were 114 active wells in Manitoba and sales totalling \$1,644,709. Ontario's active wells numbered 1,423 with sales of \$994,835. The Northwest Territories had 28 active wells and sales of \$302,337. (21)

Consumer Expenditures On
Alcoholic Beverages In 1953

Consumer expenditures on alcoholic beverages in Canada rose again in 1953, amounting to an estimated \$869,000,000, up \$36,000,000 or 4.3% from a revised estimate of \$833,000,000 for 1952, according to the Bureau's annual report on the control and sale of alcoholic beverages. The 1953 increase was considerably less than in the two previous years, the estimated expenditures for 1952 being \$101,000,000 above that of \$732,000,000 for 1951 and the latter up \$50,000,000 from \$672,000,000 for 1950.

A large proportion of these expenditures on alcoholic beverages are returned to the Federal and provincial governments as duties, taxes, and other revenues. In the year ended March 31, 1954, the revenues of the Federal and provincial governments from the control and taxation of alcoholic beverages (exclusive of general sales taxes) amounted to \$345,645,000, up moderately from \$342,859,000, in the previous fiscal year. The Federal government's share of the total revenues increased in dollar terms to \$184,128,000 from \$183,279,000, but the proportion of the total declined slightly to 53.3% from 53.5%; while the share of the provincial and territorial governments was up in proportion and amount at \$161,517,000 against \$159,580,000. All of the latter except Ontario, Prince Edward Island and the Northwest Territories and larger revenues than in the previous fiscal year.

Sales of alcoholic beverages in the fiscal year ended March 31, 1954, as reported by liquor control authorities, totalled \$708,000,000, an increase of \$26,000,000 from \$682,000,000 for the previous fiscal year. This compares with a rise of about \$89,000,000 in the 1953 fiscal year from \$593,000,000 for the year ended March 31, 1952. The value of sales was higher in the 1954 than the 1953 fiscal year in all of the provinces and territories except New Brunswick and the Northwest Territories.

Sales reported by liquor control authorities, it should be noted, do not represent the final retail selling price of alcoholic beverages, since in the case of sales to holders of licences to resell only the selling price to them is known. Further, since they include sales to non-residents visiting Canada and sales to businesses, governments and foreign embassies in Canada, these sales figures and the estimated consumer expenditures which embrace them should not be construed as representing the amount spent by individual Canadian consumers. Total volume of sales of alcoholic beverages in Canada is not available, since authorities in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick do not report volume figures. However, the volume of sales of spirits, wine and beer combined for all of those reporting except British Columbia was larger in the 1954 than 1953 fiscal year.

Production of spirits in Canada in the 1954 fiscal year increased to 24,711,000 proof gallons from 22,517,000 the previous year, while beer output rose to 212,762,000 gallons from 211,185,000. Wine produced during the year but placed in storage for maturing declined to 4,135,200 gallons from 4,936,000, and fermented wine bottled or sold in bulk to 4,356,000 gallons from 4,502,000. Imports of alcoholic beverages in the year showed a slight decrease, the value of imported spirits declining \$1,038,000 to \$16,200,000 to outweigh a rise in value of wine imports to \$3,032,000 and a small increase to \$275,000 from \$259,000 in beer imports. Exports of domestic spirits rose to \$61,379,000 from \$56,373,000 and of beer to \$3,097,000 from \$2,146,000, while the small exports of domestic wine declined to \$4,508 from \$4,860. (22)

Railway Car Loadings Up
18.5% In Third April Week

In the third week of April 70,191 cars of freight were loaded on Canadian railways, an increase of 18.5% over the low 1954 total of 59,245 but less than the 78,862 loaded in the corresponding week of 1953.

Both regions showed gains over last year, loadings in the east increasing 19.7% to 47,073 cars from 39,320, and western loadings up 16% to 23,118 cars from 19,925. Cumulative loadings from the start of the year to April 21 totalled 1,064,089 cars, 3.4% more than the 1,028,850 loaded a year earlier but 5.9% less than the 1,131,303 loaded in the corresponding period of 1953.

The gains in the latest week were spread over most of the main commodity groups. Grain was carried in 5,117 cars versus 4,584 a year earlier, grain products in 2,563 versus 2,169, iron and steel products in 1,374 versus 965, sand, gravel and crushed stone in 2,928 versus 1,914, lumber, timber and plywood in 3,715 versus 2,555, automobiles, trucks and parts in 2,526 versus 1,740, miscellaneous carload commodities in 5,445 versus 4,007, and merchandise in less than carload lots in 15,223 cars versus 13,075. Coal shipments, however, fell to 3,237 cars from 3,619 last year.

Cars received from foreign connections numbered 31,086 in the week ending April 21, an increase of 14.6% over the 27,126 received in the third week of April last year. The increase was sharper in the east than the west, eastern receipts increasing 15.6% to 28,269 cars from 24,452, and western receipts 5.3% to 2,817 from 2,674 cars. Since the start of the year cars received from foreign connections have numbered 494,322, an increase of 9.6% over the 451,099 received a year earlier and 9.9% more than the 449,913 received in the corresponding period of 1953. (23)

Rail Revenues Increased
Costs Lower This January

Operating revenues of the C.N.R., the C.P.R. and 15 other railways totalled \$82,833,461 in January, nearly 6% above the \$78,283,505-total for the 16 railways reporting a year earlier, according to the Bureau's monthly report.

Operating expenses totalled \$80,247,547, a decrease of 2% from \$81,877,858 in January last year. This left a net operating revenue of \$2,585,914 as compared with a net operating loss of \$3,594,353 a year earlier. Heavy tax accruals of \$3,377,192 versus \$1,586,809 last year, however, left the railways \$826,488 in the red this January, but this compares with a \$5,644,582 deficit in January 1954.

Revenue freight carried increased over 10% to 12,489,546 pounds from 11,308,994 and freight ton miles rose to 5,064,026,000 from 4,309,340,000, freight revenues increasing by \$4,819,794 to \$66,832,250. Passengers carried decreased by 1.5% to 2,376,673 from 2,412,973 and passenger miles fell to 200,477,000 from 211,811,000, passenger revenues decreasing by \$418,884 to \$5,778,047.

The number employed dropped 4.5% to 177,049 from 185,386 and the payroll fell to \$47,188,806 from \$48,901,338. Maintenance of equipment costs were reduced by \$806,000 to \$18,952,811, and transportation costs by \$1,316,291 to \$39,754,556. (24)

Close To \$1,700,000,000 Spent On
Canada's Highways In Half Decade

About \$1,000,000,000 of this went for new construction and major re-construction work.

Close to \$1,700,000,000 was spent on highways and bridges in Canada in the five years ending March 31 last year, DBS reports.

In the same period, another \$321,000,000 was spent on roads, streets and bridges in urban municipalities, with more than \$180,000,000 going for new construction and major improvements.

As a result, the surfaced mileage of Canada's highways rose from 150,493 miles to 190,997, while paved and bituminous surfaces were 50% longer at 30,731 miles compared with 20,651 at the start of April 1949. Surfaced roads increased from 27.1% of all highways open to traffic in 1948 to 36.9% at the end of 1953, and in the same period paved highways rose from 3.71% to 5.93% of the total.

The increase, however, has failed to keep pace with the growing number of motor vehicles in Canada. In 1948 there were 13.5 motor vehicles per mile of surfaced highway in Canada and by 1953 the number had increased to 18.

Expenditures on roads and highways outside urban areas during 1953 were \$397,068,159, some 1.8% below the 1952 peak of \$404,291,421. Construction work cost \$10,000,000 less at \$234,334,340 compared with \$244,614,842 in 1952 but maintenance charges rose 1.4% to \$149,844,221 from \$147,719,040. The ten provincial governments spent \$341,501,941 in 1953, a decrease of 2.5% from the 1952 figure of \$350,248,566. Federal expenditures on highways were up from \$25,034,650 to \$26,759,571.

Total expenditures in 1953 were higher than in 1952 except in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. In Quebec the outlay fell from \$107,000,000 to \$91,900,000, in Ontario from \$132,500,000 to \$122,500,000, in Prince Edward Island from \$3,400,000 to \$3,100,000 and in British Columbia from \$40,017,068 to \$39,963,026.

Newfoundland's expenditures were up to \$6,787,143 from \$5,078,599, Nova Scotia's to \$17,940,270 from \$14,915,147, New Brunswick's to \$15,497,572 from \$15,272,058, Manitoba's to \$15,598,687 from \$14,616,859, Saskatchewan's to \$19,234,412 from \$18,213,225, and the Territories' to \$4,825,132 from \$2,582,068. In Alberta, which has a five-year construction program in progress, the total jumped from \$49,500,000 to \$58,700,000. Construction expenditures were up sharply in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Alberta but were down in Quebec and Ontario.

In Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Alberta and the Territories per capita expenditures during 1953 were higher than in 1952, in New Brunswick and Saskatchewan they were virtually unchanged while in the remaining provinces per capita outlay was lower. The rate for Canada was down from \$28 to \$27 per person.

Per capita expenditures by provinces were: Newfoundland \$18, (\$14 in 1952); Prince Edward Island \$29 (\$33); Nova Scotia \$27 (\$23); New Brunswick \$29 (\$29); Quebec \$21 (\$26); Ontario, \$25 (\$28); Manitoba \$19 (\$18); Saskatchewan \$22 (\$22); Alberta \$59 (\$51); British Columbia \$32 (\$33); and the Yukon and Northwest Territories \$193 (\$103). (25)

Fewer Passengers For Urban Transit Lines This January

Canada's urban transit systems transported 6,682,147 or 6% fewer passengers this January, the month's total dropping to 105,313,818 from 111,995,965 last year, the DBS reports. As of January this year the Bureau's transit report has been split into two publications, one dealing with urban transit systems and the other with intercity and rural motor transit systems.

Fewer passengers were carried this January in all three types of vehicles used on urban transit lines. Streetcar passengers decreased to 35,573,536 from 39,981,919 last year, trolley bus passengers to 20,940,507 from 21,306,209, and motor bus passengers to 48,697,353 from 50,624,720. Chartered passengers increased, however, to 102,422 from 83,117. Total miles run declined to 17,788,891 from 17,843,430, a decrease in streetcar miles outweighing increases in miles logged by trolley and motor buses. (26)

LIBRARIES

Public Library Circulation Increased 22% In Two Years

There were 30,779,828 books borrowed from public libraries in Canada in 1953, over 22% more than the 25,186,234 borrowed in 1951, according to preliminary figures. Over the same period the number of volumes owned by libraries increased by more than 11% to 8,413,800 from 7,565,626.

The number of borrowers increased by more than one-fifth to 1,672,774 in 1953 from 1,390,607 in 1951 as compared with a population increase of 5.6% in the same period. Current expenditures of Canada's public libraries increased to \$7,811,464 from \$6,217,725, a jump of nearly 27%.

Ontario public libraries had the most volumes (4,911,782), the biggest circulation (18,811,520), the most borrowers (991,174) and the largest expenditures (\$4,503,187) in 1953. Quebec libraries had the second-largest number of volumes (1,101,286) but placed fourth in circulation (1,830,825), fourth in borrowers (93,440) and third in expenditures (\$697,739). British Columbia was second in circulation (4,292,684), borrowers (217,393) and expenditures (\$1,138,063), and third in volumes (752,925).

The number of volumes in public libraries in the other provinces in 1953 was: Alberta, 505,427; Saskatchewan, 340,045; Nova Scotia, 204,511; Manitoba, 195,320; Newfoundland, 179,362; New Brunswick, 137,147; Prince Edward Island, 85,995. Circulation in 1953 was 2,022,310 in Alberta, 1,048,085 in Saskatchewan, 988,343 in Manitoba, 984,480 in Nova Scotia, 304,008 in Prince Edward Island, 278,999 in Newfoundland, and 218,574 in New Brunswick.

In 1953 borrowers numbered 119,493 in Alberta, 80,042 in Nova Scotia, 60,117 in Saskatchewan, 44,519 in Manitoba, 27,711 in New Brunswick, 25,385 in Newfoundland, and 13,500 in Prince Edward Island. Current expenditures in 1953 amounted to \$467,740 in Alberta, \$291,039 in Saskatchewan, \$259,979 in Manitoba, \$224,015 in Nova Scotia, \$122,353 in Newfoundland, \$59,960 in New Brunswick and \$47,389 in Prince Edward Island.

Corporation Profits Before
Taxes 6% Smaller Last Year

Profits before taxes of Canadian corporations were more than 5% above the 1953 level in the fourth quarter last year but declines in the first three quarters put the 1954 total at an estimated \$2,414,000,000, some \$156,000,000 or slightly more than 6% less than in the preceding year, according to the quarterly report by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

By quarters, profits before taxes were estimated at \$540,000,000 for the first quarter (versus \$601,000,000 in 1953), \$657,000,000 for the second (\$748,000,000), \$638,000,000 for the third (\$671,000,000), and \$579,000,000 for the fourth (\$550,000,000).

Net earnings of Canadian corporations totalled \$3,469,000,000 last year, \$101,000,000 or nearly 3% less than in 1953. Deductions for depreciation amounted to \$1,055,000,000, an increase of \$55,000,000 or 5.5%, and deductions for income tax (estimated at 47% of profits before taxes in both years) totalled \$1,152,000,000, a decrease of \$64,000,000 or more than 5%. This left profits after taxes of \$1,262,000,000 some \$92,000,000 or nearly 7% less than in 1953.

There was considerable variation between industries in changes in corporation profits last year. Profits before taxes in the mining, quarrying and oil wells group jumped nearly 16% to \$243,000,000 from \$210,000,000 in 1953, with the sharpest increase (nearly 67%) in the fourth quarter. The finance, insurance and real estate total rose nearly 9% to \$245,000,000 from \$225,000,000, with gains registered in all quarters.

In the trade sector profits before taxes were appreciably lower last year, the wholesale trade total dropping over 17% to \$161,000,000 from \$194,000,000 and the retail trade total nearly 16% to \$127,000,000 from \$151,000,000.

In the service industries there was a decline to \$44,000,000 from \$50,000,000, and in transportation, storage, communication and public utilities a slight decrease to \$258,000,000 from \$259,000,000. The total for other non-manufacturing industries declined to \$64,000,000 from \$67,000,000 in 1953.

Profits before taxes in manufacturing totalled \$1,216,000,000 in 1954, some \$154,000,000 or over 11% less than in the preceding year. Chemical products showed a gain of more than 5% to \$102,000,000 from \$97,000,000, wood and paper products 1.5% to \$338,000,000 from \$333,000,000 and non-metallic mineral products over 1% to \$167,000,000 from \$165,000,000.

The sharpest drop was in textile products, where profits before taxes were down almost 43% to \$16,000,000 from \$28,000,000. Decreases of nearly 25% were registered in iron and steel products (to \$267,000,000 from \$354,000,000) and non-ferrous metal products (to \$95,000,000 from \$126,000,000).

Other decreases were: foods and beverages, to \$172,000,000 from \$196,000,000 and other manufacturing industries, to \$59,000,000 from \$71,000,000. (27)

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

- 1- Price Movements, March, 10¢
- 2- Prices & Price Indexes, March, 20¢
- 3- Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, March, 25¢
- 4- Employment & Payrolls, February, 20¢
- 5- Man-Hours & Hourly Earnings with Average Weekly Wages, February, 25¢
- 6- M: Federal Government Employment, January, 10¢
- 7- M: Asphalt & Vinyl-Asbestos Floor Tiles, March, 10¢
- 8- Estimated Value of Manufacturers' Shipments, Fourth Quarter, 1954, 25¢
- 9- M: Hard Board, March, 10¢
- 10- M: Motor Vehicle Shipments, February, 10¢
- 11- Retail Trade, February, 25¢
- 12- Monthly Summary of Foreign Trade, February, 10¢
- 13- Imports For Consumption, February, 20¢
- 14- Sales & Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, February, 10¢
- 15- Fluid Milk Sales, February, 10¢
- 16- M: Stocks of Dairy & Poultry Products in 9 Cities, Advance Statement, May 1, 10¢
- 17- M: Oils & Fats, March, 10¢
- 18- M: Production of Eggs, March, 10¢
- 19- M: Preliminary Report on Coal Production, March, 10¢
- 20- M: Gold Production, February, 10¢
- 21- Crude Petroleum & Natural Gas Industry, 1953, 25¢
- 22- The Control & Sale of Alcoholic Beverages in Canada, Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 1954, 50¢
- 23- M: Car Loadings on Canadian Railways, Week Ending April 21, 10¢
- 24- M: Railway Operating Statistics, January, 10¢
- 25- M: Highway Statistics, 1953, 25¢
- 26- M: Urban Transit Systems, January, 10¢
- 27- Quarterly Corporation Profits, Fourth Quarter, 1954, 25¢
- The Labour Force, March, 25¢ -- Summarized in Bulletin of April 22
- M - Memorandum

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

More Books Than People In Ontario Ontario was the only province with more public library books than people in 1953. At the other extreme, public libraries in Quebec and Manitoba had about one volume for every four citizens.

Brass Band Instruments Last year Canadians purchased \$493,032 worth of brass band instruments from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Czechoslovakia, Italy, West Germany, the Netherlands, Turkey, Belgium, Pakistan, Hong Kong and East Germany.

Factories Ship Less Canadian manufacturers shipped \$17,305,643,000 worth of products last year, \$465,387,000 worth or nearly 3% less than in 1953.

Printed Music Canadians purchased \$304,653 worth of printed music from the United States, the United Kingdom, France and Italy in 1954.

Highways: 3 Miles Out Of Every 50 Are Paved Of the 517,809 miles of highway open to traffic in Canada at the end of 1953, about 37 out of every 100 miles were surfaced and 3 out of every 50 miles were paved. Of the 556,266 miles of highways open to traffic five years earlier, 27 out of every 100 miles were surfaced and 2 out of every 50 miles were paved.

Vending Machines 2,276 automatic vending machines were made in Canada in 1953 as compared with only 194 in 1952.

Pineapples Canada imported 180,002 cases of fresh pineapples valued at \$686,977 last year. Cuba supplied 150,735 cases, Australia 13,316, Puerto Rico 8,979, Hawaii 2,920, the United States 2,156, and Mexico 1,490.

800 More Each Day During the three months ended March 1 this year the population of Canada increased by 72,000, an average of 800 a day.

Typewriters Canadian production of portable typewriters increased to 62,570 in 1953 from 40,199 in 1952, but output of standard models dropped to 32,390 from 41,006.

Corporation Profits Off Canadian corporations had profits before taxes of \$2,414,000,000 last year, \$156,000,000 or 6% less than in 1953.

Vacuum Cleaners Production of cylinder model electric vacuum cleaners increased by nearly one-fourth in 1953 to 88,511 from 70,833 in 1952, but output of floor models dropped by more than 38% to 22,801 from 37,126.

Dates Last year Canada purchased 11,594,836 pounds of dates for \$1,154,494 from six countries. Main suppliers were Iran and Iraq.

Lawn Mowers Production of power lawn movers jumped to 25,505 in 1953 from 8,629 in 1952, and output of hand models fell to 28,619 from 34,625.

Imported Books: \$1.60 Worth Each Last year Canada imported nearly \$24,000,000 worth of books, about \$1.60 worth per capita. Included were \$4,733,050 worth of scientific books for libraries, \$3,637,750 worth of text books, \$3,325,622 worth of bibles and hymn books, \$1,734,430 worth of foreign language books, \$401,546 worth of government and association books, \$149,506 worth of fiction novels, \$30,239 worth of books over 12 years old, and \$9,879,009 worth of other printed books and periodicals.

