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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Foreign Trade: Canada sold more agricultural and vegetable products, wood and paper products, non-ferrous metals, non-metallic minerals, chemicals and their products, and fibres and textiles to other countries in the first quarter this year than in 1954, but less animals and animal products and iron products. Shipments were up in value to most leading customers and areas, with the largest gain in exports to the United Kingdom. (Page 2)

Housing: The number of new housing units completed in Canada during the first quarter this year was up nearly a fifth over last year, March completions jumping 31%. Starts were up nearly 10% also, and dwellings under construction at the end of March 13% higher. (Page 3)

Farm Income: Net income of Canadian farmers last year was about one-third less than in 1954, according to a preliminary DBS estimate, the decline being due largely to poor Prairie crops. (Page 12)

Manufacturing: Steel ingot and pig iron output showed further substantial gains in April over last year... March production and shipments of household electric refrigerators were moderately larger... Total production of refined petroleum products increased in January... Output of motor vehicles rose in April for the second successive month. (Pages 4, 5 & 6)

Mining: Canadian iron ore shipments rose sharply in March over last year after lower January and February shipments, and month-end stocks were nearly 29% larger... Asbestos shipments also moved up in March... Crude petroleum production set a new record in January. (Page 7)

Furs: Canadian fur production fell off in the 1953-54 season, both number of pelts taken and their total value dropping more than 17% from the preceding year. (Page 9)

Fisheries: Sea-fish catch in March was down sharply both in quantity and value from a year earlier, but first-quarter landings were only slightly smaller in quantity and higher in value. (Page 10)

Broad Commodity Gains
Shown In Export Trade

Canada sold other countries more of agricultural and vegetable products, wood and paper products, non-ferrous metals, non-metallic minerals, chemicals and their products, and fibres and textiles during March and the first three months this year than in the corresponding periods of 1954, according to detailed export trade figures for March released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Sales were moderately lower for animals and animal products and for iron and its products, while exports of the miscellaneous commodities group were up slightly in the month but down in the quarter.

Shipments were up in value in both periods to the United Kingdom, other Commonwealth countries, the United States and Europe. To Latin America sales were little changed, with a decrease in March and a small increase in the quarter, while to the remaining foreign countries they were lower in both March and the quarter.

Total value of exports in March (as reported on April 26) was up 10.5% to \$354,900,000 compared to \$321,100,000 a year earlier, and in the three months ending March rose 11.6% to \$966,400,000 compared to \$866,300,000 in the first quarter of 1954. Domestic exports amounted to \$348,708,000 in March an increase of \$33,052,000 or 10.5% from \$315,656,000 the previous year, and in the quarter to \$951,121,000, a gain of \$100,096,000 or 11.8% from \$851,025,000 last year. Foreign exports were slightly higher at \$6,146,000 in March and \$15,281,000 in the quarter.

With the major gain in wheat, exports of agricultural and vegetable products rose to \$71,443,000 in March from \$53,864,000 last year and in the three months to \$177,858,000 from \$169,109,000. Wheat shipments in March were valued at \$33,773,000 against \$20,753,000 last year and in the quarter at \$80,534,000 against \$72,793,000. There were increases also in the two periods in other grains, seeds and tobacco, while wheat flour continued lower.

Gains in planks and boards and wood pulp mainly raised the value of exports of wood and paper products to \$122,793,000 in March from \$119,342,000 the previous year, while higher figures for these commodities plus newsprint paper accounted for most of a larger increase in the quarter to \$339,322,000 from \$298,558,000.

Exports of the non-ferrous metals group rose to \$64,136,000 in the month compared to \$56,559,000 last year, bringing the cumulative total to \$186,580,000 against \$152,386,000. Aluminum, copper, lead, zinc and their products, and nickel moved up in both periods. Shipments of non-metallic minerals and products increased more moderately in March to \$13,434,000 from \$12,683,000 and in the quarter to \$35,521,000 from \$30,664,000, with small scattered commodity gains in the month and major increases in the quarter in asbestos and petroleum. Continuing recent gains, exports of chemicals and allied products jumped to \$21,233,000 in March as compared to \$14,530,000 last year and to \$56,223,000 against \$38,514,000. Commodity gains were fairly general in this group, the larger being for cellulose products, fertilizers and soda and sodium compounds. Smallest in value, the fibres and textiles group rose slightly to \$1,416,000 from \$1,193,000 in March and to \$4,141,000 from \$3,892,000 in the three months.

In contrast with these upward trends, shipments of iron and products, following a gain in February, declined in March to \$25,571,000 from \$28,249,000 a year earlier, lowering the cumulative total to \$70,094,000 from \$71,018,000. Shipments of animals and animal products also fell to \$20,607,000 in March from \$21,539,000 and in the quarter to \$62,651,000 from \$66,312,000, with a mixture of commodity gains and losses in the two periods. Exports of the miscellaneous commodities group rose in the month to \$8,074,000 against \$7,698,000, but for the quarter was below last year at \$18,731,000 compared to \$20,571,000.

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Among countries, domestic exports to the United Kingdom showed the largest gain in value, rising to \$65,145,000 in March from \$52,314,000 last year and to \$182,802,000 in the quarter from \$134,683,000. Major gains in shipments were in agricultural and vegetable products and non-ferrous metals, but all groups except animal and products and miscellaneous commodities were higher in the quarter. Domestic exports to other Commonwealth countries were up to \$18,811,000 in March from \$13,432,000 and in the three months to \$52,035,000 from \$37,255,000, with gains in both periods for the Africa, Asia and Oceania groups and a decrease for the West Indies.

Domestic exports to the United States increased moderately in March to \$209,524,000 from \$200,801,000 last year and for the three months were up to \$586,583,000 from \$526,534,000. Gains in both periods were mainly in wood and paper, non-ferrous metals, non-metallic minerals and chemicals and their products, with agricultural and vegetable products and the iron group showing continued substantial declines.

Shipments to Europe rose sharply in March to \$26,966,000 compared to \$18,104,000 last year and in the quarter to \$72,525,000 against \$59,818,000. Exports to Latin America, however, declined in the month to \$13,072,000 from \$14,688,000, but were up slightly in the quarter to \$38,394,000 from \$38,130,000. Shipments to the remaining foreign countries as a group showed the only large decline, dropping in March to \$13,541,000 from \$15,528,000 and in the quarter to \$34,818,000 from \$51,667,000. Most of the decrease in both periods was due to a sharp drop in sales to Japan.

HOUSING

One-Fifth More New Housing Units Built In First Quarter This Year Boosted by a 31% increase in March, the number of new housing units completed in Canada jumped almost 20% in the first quarter this year to 24,313 from 20,327 in the first three months of 1954, according to preliminary figures released by the Bureau. March completions numbered 7,732 as against 5,896 last year.

The number of new dwelling units started was down 14% in March to 4,879 from 5,682 last year, but first-quarter starts were nearly 10% above the 1954 level at 12,848 versus 11,722. Under construction at the end of March were 57,960 units, 6,890 or over 13% more than on the same date last year.

First-quarter completions were up this year in all provinces except Newfoundland (down to 107 from 192), Prince Edward Island (to 13 from 31) and Manitoba (to 731 from 1,029). In Nova Scotia the number increased to 518 from 425, in New Brunswick to 303 from 289, in Quebec to 5,681 from 4,684, in Ontario to 11,387 from 8,777, in Saskatchewan to 951 from 917, in Alberta to 2,485 from 2,270, and in British Columbia to 2,137 from 1,713.

The number of units started in Newfoundland rose to 74 from 41 in the first quarter, in Nova Scotia to 168 from 120, in New Brunswick to 101 from 27, in Quebec to 3,224 from 3,051, in Ontario to 5,979 from 5,496, in Saskatchewan to 359 from 30, and in British Columbia to 2,067 from 1,303. In Alberta first-quarter starts fell to 718 from 1,383, in Manitoba to 157 from 216 and in Prince Edward Island to one from five.

The number of units under construction at the end of March was larger this year in all provinces except Nova Scotia (where the number was 1,147 versus 1,541 a year earlier) and Saskatchewan (1,678 versus 1,887). In Newfoundland the number was up to 2,853 from 2,712 last year, in Prince Edward Island to 75 from 51, in New Brunswick to 1,142 from 431, in Quebec to 14,157 from 11,731, in Ontario to 22,539 from 20,837, in Manitoba to 2,179 from 1,934, in Alberta to 4,613 from 4,442, and in British Columbia to 7,577 from 5,504.

Steel Ingot, Pig Iron Outputs of steel ingots and pig iron were again above last year's
Outputs Up This April levels in April, DBS reports. Steel ingot production increased
to 354,142 tons from 247,872 a year earlier, putting total out-
put in the first four months at 1,356,938 tons versus 1,037,639 last year. Pig iron
production rose to 272,165 tons from 194,307 to put January-April production at 962,425
tons as against 792,119 in the first four months of 1954. (2)

Shipments Of Primary Steel Shipments of primary shapes by Canadian steel mills, exclu-
Shapes Lower In January sive of producers' interchange, fell to 212,402 net tons
in January from last year's corresponding tonnage of
231,661. Producers' interchange rose to 118,927 tons from 106,012 a year earlier.

January shipments included 18,255 tons of semi-finished shapes, 9,098 tons of
structurals, 16,776 tons of plates, 9,107 tons of rails, 2,286 tons of tie plates and
track material, 29,942 tons of hot rolled bars, 14,887 tons of pipes and tubes, 21,592
tons of wire rods, 31,597 tons of black sheets, 9,078 tons of galvanized sheets, and
5,137 tons of castings. (3)

Battery Sales In March & Quarter Sales of electric storage batteries and parts by
principal Canadian producers were lower in value in
March at \$1,887,000 versus \$1,934,000 in the corresponding months last year but cum-
ulative sales for the January-March period were slightly higher at \$5,836,000 versus
\$5,817,000. (4)

Production Of Electric Refrigerators Production of household electric refrigerators
Slightly Higher In First 1955 Quarter was moderately higher in the first quarter this
year than last, increases in March and February
more than offsetting a decline in January. Month-end factory stocks were slightly
larger than a year ago.

First-quarter production totalled 63,508 units versus 60,835 a year ago. March
output amounted to 26,929 units (25,646 a year earlier); February, 20,719 units
(17,064); and January, 15,860 units (18,125). Shipped for use in Canada in the quarter
were 64,425 units versus 63,600 in the same 1954 period, while export shipments were
419 units versus 143.

The quarter's output of individual electric home and farm freezers climbed to
2,258 units from 1,821, comprising 1,002 in March (716 a year ago), 645 in February
(573), and 611 in January (532). (5)

Gypsum Products March shipments of gypsum wallboard, lath, sheathing, block and tile
totalled 45,479,278 square feet down from 46,777,651 a year earlier,
but first-quarter shipments were up to 124,887,971 square feet from 120,171,629.
March-end stocks were up to 17,873,586 square feet from 12,764,173 last year. Ship-
ments of gypsum plasters decreased to 21,586 tons from 22,571 in March but increased
to 62,657 tons from 55,572 in the first quarter, and March-end stocks were up to 1,554
tons from 1,319. (6)

MORE

Asphalt Roofing Shipments March shipments of asphalt shingles were down this year to 139,166 squares from 141,117 last year, but first-quarter shipments were up to 474,414 squares from 419,909. March shipments of smooth-surfaced rolls decreased to 63,831 squares from 76,884, but January-March shipments increased to 209,815 squares from 203,242. Shipments of mineral-surfaced rolls decreased to 39,243 squares from 47,320 in March and to 136,821 squares from 139,309 in the first quarter. Shipments of roll-type sidings fell to 10,037 squares from 12,848 in March and to 35,470 squares from 41,415 in January-March. March shipments of tar and asphalt felts declined to 3,075 from 3,504 tons, but first-quarter shipments advanced to 8,982 tons from 8,201. (7)

Mineral Wool Production March production of mineral wool comprised 10,593,578 square feet of batts (10,802,379 a year earlier) and 760,446 cubic feet of bulk or loose wool (487,370). First-quarter shipments comprised 34,338,470 square feet of the former (32,627,894) and 2,301,328 cubic feet of the latter (1,781,420). (8)

Rigid Insulating Board Production and domestic shipments of rigid insulating board were lower this year both in March and the first three months. March production dropped to 22,963,939 square feet from 27,921,541 last year, and domestic shipments to 17,932,259 square feet from 22,796,513. First-quarter production dropped to 69,848,739 from 73,093,309 square feet, and domestic shipments to 52,899,864 from 55,913,646 square feet. (9)

Petroleum Products Canadian refineries produced 14,283,325 barrels of petroleum products in January as compared with 13,559,633 barrels in January last year. Less aviation gasoline, kerosene, naptha specialties, furnace oil, heavy fuel oil and lubricating oil was produced, but more motor gasoline, aviation turbine fuel, stove oil, diesel fuel, other light fuel oil, liquefied petroleum gases, petroleum feed stocks, asphalt, coke and grease.

Crude oil received by refineries during the month totalled 14,519,393 barrels, rising up from 13,693,704 a year earlier, receipts of domestic crude rising to 8,684,293 barrels from 7,347,572 and receipts of imported crude falling to 5,835,100 barrels from 6,346,132. (10)

More Suits But Fewer Dresses In Fourth Quarter Last Year Canadian manufacturers made more suits for men and youths but fewer dresses for women and misses in the fourth quarter last year than in the last three months of 1953, according to the Bureau's quarterly report on the production of selected garment items.

Output of one-pant all-wool suits for men and youths increased to 236,134 from 246,861, and of two-pant all-wool suits to 100,095 from 77,232. Production of all-wool pants and slacks decreased to 170,247 from 190,701, fine cotton dress shirts to 144,683 dozen from 181,802 dozen, and fine nylon shirts to 8,026 dozen from 9,767 dozen. Output of one-pant all-wool suits for boys dropped to 1,730 from 3,728.

Production of dresses for women and misses decreased to 2,489,325 from 2,650,030, but output of wool coats increased to 314,969 from 312,956. Production of nylon blouses dropped to 38,085 dozen from 59,659 dozen. (11)

MORE

Builders' Hardware Canadian manufacturers produced \$1,206,000 worth of builders' hardware in March as against \$1,056,000 in March last year, according to a special statement by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. First-quarter output was valued at \$3,190,000 as compared with \$2,934,000 last year.

Motor Vehicle Production Increased Again In April Canadian factories turned out 53,866 motor vehicles in April, 7,240 more than in April last year and the second production increase in a row, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Substantial decreases in January and February, however, put total output in the first four months below last year at 166,081 against 177,401.

Commercial vehicle production increased for the first time this year, April output totalling 11,112 trucks and buses as compared with 9,357 a year earlier. Passenger car production was above last year for the second month, totalling 42,754 versus 37,269 in April 1954. January-April production of passenger cars showed a slight increase at 141,451 versus 141,362 last year, but four-month output of commercial vehicles was lower at 24,630 versus 36,039.

Figures on factory shipments in March show another drop from a year earlier, the thirteenth in a row, the total decreasing to 32,380 from 45,634 in March last year. This put first-quarter shipments at 93,610 versus 130,212 in the first three months of 1954. Shipments of passenger cars dropped to 26,744 from 36,492 in March, and to 80,499 from 104,116 in the three months. First-quarter shipments of coupes, sedans and station-wagons were smaller this year, but there were increases in convertibles and other models. Commercial vehicle shipments fell to 5,636 from 9,142 in March, and to 13,161 from 26,096 in January-March.

Shipments of imported U.S. vehicles decreased to 2,498 from 3,332 in March, but the three-month total was slightly higher than last year at 6,548 versus 6,435. First-quarter shipments of passenger cars were down slightly to 5,404 from 5,469 and shipments of commercial vehicles were up to 1,144 from 966. (12)

The Machinery Industry In 1953 Gross factory value of the products shipped by Canada's machinery industry in 1953 was a record \$342,344,015, narrowly above the 1952 total of \$342,302,391, according to the annual report on the industry by DBS.

Total value of industrial, household and business machinery shipped by all industries in 1953 was \$532,889,458, up from \$511,879,462 in 1952. Among the principal items, output of mechanical household refrigerators increased to \$50,943,211 from \$46,046,709 in 1952, electric motors and parts to \$46,714,789 from \$37,530,497, refrigerating and ice-making equipment to \$20,529,857 from \$17,511,371, transmission machinery and parts to \$18,497,907 from \$17,918,109, electric generators and parts to \$20,589,514 from \$17,718,114, conveying and elevating machinery and parts to \$15,031,537 from \$12,518,698, hoisting machinery and parts to \$12,237,544 from \$9,652,843, and water wheels and turbines to \$12,137,734 from \$10,669,196. Production of pulp-making and paper-making machinery and parts decreased to \$19,866,373 from \$22,628,580, and freight and passenger elevators and parts to \$10,141,895 from \$10,576,598. (13)

Department Stores Sales Declined 9.8% In Week

Department store sales declined 9.8% during the week ending April 30 as compared with a year earlier. There were sales declines in all provinces. Saskatchewan led with a drop of 19.1%, followed by Manitoba at 15.9%, Ontario 12.6%, Alberta 10.4%, Atlantic Provinces 8.4%, British Columbia 5.6%, and Quebec 2.4%.

MINERALS AND MINING

Iron Ore Shipments Lower In First Quarter Of 1955

Canadian mines shipped 286,238 tons of iron ore in the first quarter of this year, 31% less than in the first three months of 1954. There were decreases both in domestic and foreign shipments. Total shipments in March, however, increased to 93,099 tons from 64,045 in the corresponding month last year, and month-end stocks were nearly 29% larger than at the same time in 1954 at 2,030,169 tons versus 1,578,997.

First-quarter shipments to Canadian consumers dropped to 74,889 tons from 151,917 last year and export shipments were down to 211,349 tons from 264,417. Shipments from Ontario mines were moderately higher at 74,475 tons versus 53,354 but shipments from other provinces fell to 211,763 tons from 362,980. (14)

Shipments Of Asbestos Higher In First Quarter

Shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines in this year's first quarter amounted to 208,010 tons, moderately above last year's corresponding total of 193,204 tons. In March shipments rose to 78,524 tons from 74,775. Exports followed a similar trend with the quarter's total up to 191,464 tons from 179,131 and the month's figure up to 73,625 tons from 71,882. (15)

Salt Shipments Up In Quarter

Shipments of dry common salt by Canadian producers in the first quarter this year rose 15% to 129,857 tons from the preceding year's 112,815. March shipments were up to 40,141 tons from 37,158 and month-end producer stocks fell to 17,532 tons from 23,365. (16)

Production Of Crude Petroleum Reached New Peak In January

Canadian production of crude petroleum set another new record in January when the month's output aggregated 9,956,076 barrels versus 9,643,861 in the preceding month and 8,014,161 in the corresponding month last year. Most of the increase over a year earlier occurred in the Prairie Provinces.

January output of natural gas amounted to 15,024,593 M cubic feet, up from 13,656,185 M in the preceding month but down from last year's 15,186,240 M. Sales of natural gas in January climbed to 12,526,622 from 10,836,530 M cubic feet but the sales of manufactured gas fell to 1,785,614 from 2,551,123 M cubic feet. (17)

Contract Drilling In 1953

There was more contract drilling in the mining industry in 1953 than in the preceding year, according to the annual report by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Footage drilled for petroleum and natural gas increased to 10,765,042 feet from 8,454,269 in 1952, but the income from this drilling decreased to \$59,633,492 from \$61,216,235. Contract diamond drilling of deposits other than fuels increased to 5,258,370 feet from 5,180,783 and the income from this drilling to \$15,779,420 from \$14,667,847 (18)

P R I C E S

<u>Security Price Indexes</u>	<u>May 5</u>	<u>April 28</u>	<u>April 7</u>
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>		(1935-39=100)	
Total Common Stocks	219.3	217.5	215.1
Industrials	224.8	223.4	220.3
Utilities	190.7	185.4	184.7
Banks	230.5	233.1	233.2
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
Total Mining Stocks	114.6	110.6	109.3
Golds	73.4	71.8	69.7
Base Metals	208.8	199.4	199.8

T R A N S P O R T A T I O N

Operating Income Of Major Railways Down 39% In 1954 A sharper drop in revenues than in expenses cut the net operating revenues of Canada's 17 largest railways by over 29% last year and operating income by more than 39%, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports.

Net operating revenues fell 9% to \$1,087,062,332 from \$1,194,711,157 in 1953, mainly as a result of a \$100,000,000 decrease in freight revenues to \$865,570,274. Operating expenses were reduced by about 7% to \$1,013,914,299 from \$1,091,518,257, with decreases of \$39,000,000 to \$473,530,776 in transportation expenses and \$26,000,000 to \$225,765,970 in maintenance of equipment. This left a net operating revenue of \$73,148,033 versus \$103,192,900 in 1953. Operating income amounted to \$34,150,474 versus \$56,132,302.

Revenue freight carried dropped over 7% to 156,739,694 tons last year, and freight tons miles fell nearly 11% to 58,053,053,000. The number of passengers decreased by slightly more than 1% to 28,188,777 and passenger miles by over 4% to 2,857,872,000. The average freight haul was 14 miles shorter than in 1953 at 370 miles, and the average passenger journey decreased to 101 from 105 miles. The railways employed 184,469 versus 199,937 in the preceding year, and the payroll amounted to \$630,964,767 versus \$691,519,990. (19)

Operating Revenues, Expenses Of Air Carriers Up In December Canadian air carriers reported total operating revenues of \$7,997,839 in December, a new high for the month, and \$327,066 or 4.3% above the \$7,670,773 for December, 1953. At the same time operating expenses advanced 1.1% to \$8,915,957 from \$8,821,564. The resulting operating loss of \$918,118 compares with a deficit of \$1,150,791 a year earlier.

Most revenue and expense accounts increased in varying degree with passenger traffic remaining the most important income source, totalling \$5,035,667 versus \$4,671,836 last year. Mail revenues rose to \$1,144,336 from \$1,012,053, goods to \$675,309 from \$556,747 and excess baggage to \$55,479 from \$42,652.

Aircraft operating and maintenance charges rose slightly to \$4,663,910 from \$4,608,642, ground operation and maintenance to \$2,469,446 from \$2,376,620, while traffic and general administration charges were lower. (20)

MORE

Fewer Passengers For Intercity And Rural Motor Carriers This January

Canada's intercity and rural motor carriers transported 5,503,561 passengers in January, a decrease of over 5% from the 5,801,226

carried in January last year. Vehicle miles were down to 7,216,131 from 7,523,318. The average passenger fare rose to 53.6¢ from 51.6¢, but total revenues decreased to \$2,950,593 (230 firms) from \$2,993,481 (260 firms). (21)

F U R S

Fur Production Off By More Than 17% In 1953-54 Season

Canada's fur production continued to decline in the 1953-54 season with both the number of pelts taken and the total value reduced more than 17% from the preceding year, according to the annual report by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Output amounted to 6,275,000 pelts worth \$19,288,000 versus 7,569,000 worth \$23,350,000 in 1952-53 and 7,932,000 worth \$24,215,000 in 1951-52. In 1950-51 production (excluding Newfoundland) amounted to 7,479,000 pelts worth \$31,134,000.

Wild pelts continued to account for over half the total value in 1953-54, but the proportion accounted for by pelts from fur farms increased to a record 49% from 43% in 1952-53. In the 1945-46 season ranch-raised pelts represented only 30% of the total value. Mink accounts for all but a relatively small proportion of the fur farms output, while the leading wild species are muskrat, beaver, mink and squirrel.

Mink accounted for 58% of the total Canadian output in 1953-54, and 85% of the pelts were from fur farms. Other leading furs were muskrat (16% of the total), beaver (13%), squirrel (4%), white fox (2%), otter (1.6%), ermine (1.5%), marten (0.6%) and silver and mutation fox (0.5%).

Average values were down for most pelts in 1953-54. One exception to this trend was white bear, which increased from \$18.98 in 1952-53 to \$23.12, making it the most valuable pelt in 1953-54 (it ranked fourth in the preceding year). The average value of otter pelts fell to \$21.97 from \$22.62; mutation mink to \$19.29 from \$20.55; fisher to \$17.63 from \$20.30; standard mink to \$14.74 from \$15.18; beaver to \$10.57 from \$13.90; platinum fox to \$8.59 from \$8.69; marten to \$7.25 from \$11.66; and ermine to 95¢ from \$1.32. Average value of wolverine pelts rose to \$11.85 from \$11.30; squirrel to 55¢ from 45¢; white fox to \$11.10 from \$8.86; and silver fox to \$7.77 from \$7.43.

The value of pelts produced declined in 1953-54 in all parts of Canada except Newfoundland (up to \$142,518 from \$72,297), Prince Edward Island (to \$113,910 from \$111,759), New Brunswick (to \$285,300 from \$214,900) and British Columbia (to \$2,099,362 from \$2,056,406). In Ontario the drop was to \$4,596,590 from \$6,040,596, in Manitoba to \$3,569,030 from \$4,215,639, in Alberta to \$3,423,923 from \$4,199,326, in Quebec to \$1,868,251 from \$2,157,388, in Saskatchewan to \$1,826,460 from \$2,667,532, in the Northwest Territories to \$757,079 from \$877,345, in Nova Scotia to \$422,861 from \$489,491, and in the Yukon to \$182,238 from \$247,001.

Canadian exports of raw fur were valued at \$20,733,000 in 1953-54, down from 21,915,000 in 1952-53, decreases for mink, beaver, ermine, fisher, fox, lynx, rabbit, raccoon, seal, skunk and wolf outweighing increases for otter, marten, squirrel and other pelts. The value of imported raw furs dropped to \$13,221,000 from \$21,566,000, decreases for China and Jap mink, kolinsky, mink, muskrat, opossum, Persian lamb, rabbit, raccoon, sheep and lamb outweighing increases for squirrel, fox, marine animals and other pelts. (22)

Sea-Fish Catch Lower In March And Quarter A sharp drop in the catch of herring on the Pacific was the chief factor in reducing Canada's total landings of sea-fish in March to 46,622,000 pounds from 96,485,000 a year earlier and the value to \$1,832,000 from \$2,636,000. First-quarter landings of all species weighed slightly less than a year ago at 236,626,000 pounds versus 240,369,000 but the value was higher at \$7,027,000 versus \$6,895,000.

Landings of fish in British Columbia in March amounted to only 5,716,000 pounds versus 61,798,000 in 1954 and were worth only \$256,000 versus \$999,000. Herring seining operations were stopped early in February and the only herring landed in March were those taken for bait. January-March landings were 128,435,000 pounds valued at \$2,050,000 versus 144,329,000 pounds valued at \$2,270,000.

Atlantic landings in March rose to 40,906,000 pounds from 34,687,000 a year earlier but the value was slightly lower at \$1,626,000 versus \$1,637,000. There were increases in landings of cod and lobsters but a decrease in haddock. First-quarter landings of all species were up to 108,191,000 pounds from 96,040,000 and the value to \$4,977,000 from \$4,625,000.

Newfoundland fishermen landed 14,265,000 pounds of fish in March, an increase of 20% over the 11,901,000 taken in the same month last year and the value was up 33% to \$394,000 from \$297,000. January-March landings were up to 40,187,000 pounds from 34,240,000 and the value to \$976,000 from \$777,000.

Catch of fish in Manitoba in March rose to 1,979,000 pounds from 1,393,000 but the value fell to \$205,000 from \$219,000. In the January-March period the catch increased to 9,348,000 pounds from 7,947,000 and the value to \$876,000 from \$852,000.

In the Northwest Territories March landings increased to 541,000 pounds from 523,000 and in the quarter to 2,670,000 pounds from 2,277,000. The March value was placed at \$69,000 versus \$79,000 and for the quarter at \$335,000 versus \$336,000.

Landings in Ontario in February (latest available) fell to 232,000 pounds from 257,000 and the value to \$33,000 from \$51,000. In the two months the catch was up to 534,000 pounds from 501,000 but the value fell to \$77,000 from \$89,000. (23)

Wheat Flour Production Shows Gain In March Canadian output of wheat flour during March amounted to 1,892,556 barrels, up from 1,831,583 barrels in March last year and the highest monthly production since last October. Production for the August-March period of the crop year was up to 14,271,236 barrels compared to 13,969,692 for the same period of the 1953-54 year.

Wheat milled for flour in March amounted to 8,485,397 bushels against 8,108,088 in March last year, making a cumulative total of 63,517,329 bushels for the August-March period of the current crop year as against 61,724,450 bushels in the previous crop year. (24)

Visible Wheat Supplies Visible supplies of Canadian wheat on April 27 totalled 328,052,000 bushels, 6% below last year's 348,731,000 bushels. Marketings of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week fell to 3,127,000 bushels from 3,432,000 but overseas export clearances rose sharply to 4,007,000 bushels from 1,915,000. (25)

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Consumption Of Eggs And Poultry Meat Up In 1954

Consumption of eggs and poultry meat in Canada increased last year, according to the Bureau's 1954 report on poultry and egg production. During the year 371,252,000 dozen eggs and 437,175,000 pounds of poultry meat were consumed as compared with the preceding year's respective totals of 337,290,000 dozen and 339,491,000 pounds. Per capita consumption of eggs in 1954 rose to 24.4 dozen from 22.8 dozen in 1953 and poultry meat to 28.8 pounds from 26.4.

Net egg production amounted to an estimated 392,400,000 dozen, an increase of 39,000,000 dozen over the preceding year. Total sales of eggs for consumption were estimated at 329,800,000 dozen valued at \$123,400,000, of which 320,400,000 dozen valued at \$119,700,000 were sold off farms. Farm producers retained 50,600,000 dozen and other producers 1,300,000 dozen for consumption. Farm cash income egg sales, including hatching eggs, was \$125,300,000.

Poultry meat production in 1954 amounted to 421,500,000 pounds. The greater part was accounted for by the estimated total of 332,600,000 pounds of fowl and chicken. Turkey meat production amounted to 81,400,000 pounds; goose meat, 3,500,000 pounds; and duck meat, 4,000,000 pounds. Of these amounts, 320,300,000 pounds of fowl and chicken, 79,100,000 pounds of turkey, 3,400,000 pounds of goose, and 3,900,000 pounds of duck were produced on farms.

Sale of farm-produced fowl and chicken was estimated at 267,300,000 pounds valued at \$103,100,000. Farm consumption of fowl and chicken meat was estimated at 53,000,000 pounds worth \$18,600,000. Turkey meat sold by farmers was estimated at 75,900,000 pounds valued at \$31,800,000. Farm sale of goose meat was 2,400,000 pounds worth \$825,000; and duck meat was 2,300,000 pounds valued at \$794,000. (26)

Area, Yield And Production Of Commercial Vegetables

Area planted to commercial vegetables in Canada in 1954 was 174,000 acres, an increase of about 5% from 166,000 in 1953. Among the 13 individual vegetable crops for which estimates are prepared there were varying changes in acreage from 1953. However, much of the increase was accounted for by the considerably larger areas planted to peas and lettuce.

Although the total vegetable acreage was greater in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario, Quebec showed the greatest increase with the 1954 acreage estimate of 46,000 acres exceeding that of 1953 by almost 10,000 acres. In Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia, vegetable acreage was down in 1954 from 1953. Estimates are not available for Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan.

Due to the generally unfavourable season in 1954, yields per planted acre of most crops were reduced from the 1953 levels. Total production of eight of 13 crops was lower than in 1953. The year's production of vegetables was as follows, 1953 totals being in brackets (in thousands of pounds): asparagus, 6,441 (6,671); beans, 37,947 (51,578); beets, 51,381 (53,113); cabbage, 109,954 (107,069); carrots, 140,244 (146,153); cauliflower, 26,465 (31,085); celery, 56,960 (53,750); corn 211,966 (193,894); lettuce 76,544 (56,186); onions, 116,493 (137,576); peas, 85,537 (95,256); spinach, 13,637 (12,661); and tomatoes, 552,074 (653,516). (27)

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Farm Net Income 33%
Lower In Year 1954

The year 1954 witnessed a sharp decline in farm net income largely as a result of poor crops in western Canada. Preliminary estimates by the DBS place the year's total at \$1,125,500,000, down about one-third from the preceding year's \$1,699,600,000. The record high of \$2,154,500,000 was reached in 1951 and the average for the post-war years (1946-1953) was \$1,611,600,000.

The reduction in the 1954 net income was the result of a drop of about 19% in gross farm income far more than offsetting a decline of about 2% in farm operating expenses and depreciation charges. Gross farm income in 1954 at \$2,624,700,000 compares with the all-time high of \$3,578,500,000 in 1951 and the 1953 estimate of \$3,226,700,000. The drop from 1953 was the result of very substantial declines in cash income from the sale of farm products and the value of year-end changes in farm-held inventories of grains. Income in kind for 1954 was down about 2% from 1953.

During 1954, Canadian farmers realized \$2,377,800,000 from the sale of farm products and from participation payments on previous years' grain crops. This compares with the revised estimate for 1953 of \$2,776,000,000 and the record high of \$2,849,300,000 in 1952. The decline in cash income during 1954 is attributable in large part to lower total returns from field crops and eggs more than counterbalancing increased income from the sale of live stock and dairy products. The greatest decline in cash returns for any single commodity occurred in the case of wheat.

A substantial reduction in the total value of year-end changes in farm inventories also contributed significantly to the decline in gross farm income and, consequently, farm net income. Although the build-up of the live stock population continued during the year, it was far more than offset by the substantial decline in year-end stocks of grains on farms resulting from the very much smaller grain crops produced in 1954 as compared with 1953.

Farm operating expenses in 1954 are estimated at \$1,501,500,000, about 2% less than the revised 1953 estimate of \$1,528,700,000 and 5% below the peak of \$1,582,200,000 in 1952. Contributing largely to the reduction in farm operating costs were substantially smaller outlays for rent and hired labour, and somewhat lower expenditures for fertilizers, combine-harvesting, interest on indebtedness and some of the miscellaneous items.

Of all the items of expenses in 1954 the greatest reduction occurred in the case of gross farm rent when it dropped nearly 21% below 1953, largely as a result of the much smaller Prairie grain crops and the consequent reduced share-rent payments. Expenditures for hired labour were down 8% in 1954; contributing to this decline were lower wages during the year. Fertilizer outlays, down by 3%, reflect a slight reduction in quantities used.

The total cost of feed and seed purchased by farmers through commercial channels in 1954 was more than 3% above that of 1953; although feed prices were lower, shipments of prepared stock and poultry feeds and the movement of western grain under the Federal Freight Assistance plan were well above the previous year's. A continued rise in expenditures for tractors, trucks and automobiles is attributable in part to increases in the 1954 prices of gasoline and lubricants.

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A reduction in net income occurred in all provinces except New Brunswick where an increase of only 3% over 1953 was recorded. The declines ranged all the way from approximately 1% in Prince Edward Island to 73% in Saskatchewan. In absolute terms the greatest decrease also occurred in Saskatchewan.

Net income totals follow by provinces, those for 1953 being in brackets (in millions): Prince Edward Island, \$12.8 (\$12.9); Nova Scotia, \$19.9 (\$21.5); New Brunswick, \$29.5 (\$28.7); Quebec, \$270.8 (\$275.1); Ontario, \$381.1 (\$434.1); Manitoba, \$72.5 (\$115.4); Saskatchewan, \$126.5 (\$467.6); Alberta, \$177.0 (300.8); and British Columbia, \$35.5 (\$43.5) (28)

Farm Production Index Lower In 1954 Canada's index of the physical volume of agricultural production for 1954, on the 1935-39 base, is estimated at 114.3, down sharply from the revised 1953 index of 156.2 and the all-time high of 166.0 set in 1952. Declines occurred in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.

The drop in the national index of approximately 42 points, or about 27%, between 1953 and 1954 was largely attributable to the much smaller western grain crops, particularly wheat. To a lesser degree, a reduced potato crop also contributed to the decline. Offsetting these reductions in output to some extent were gains in production recorded for most of the remaining agricultural products, especially live stock, dairy products, and poultry and eggs.

The most significant reduction in over-all production occurred in the Prairie Provinces, almost entirely as a result of the substantially smaller grain crops in 1954 as compared with 1953. A smaller output of potatoes and grains accounted for lesser declines in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. A reduced potato crop more than offset increased production of other commodities in New Brunswick. On the other hand, the smaller crops of potatoes in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia were more than counterbalanced by increased outputs of live stock, dairy products, and poultry and eggs in the former and by dairy products and poultry and eggs in the latter.

Provincial indexes follow: Prince Edward Island, 144.6 (142.8 in 1953); Nova Scotia, 86.0 (80.6); New Brunswick, 114.4 (121.6); Quebec, 127.9 (132.9); Ontario, 128.0 (129.5); Manitoba, 101.9 (132.1); Saskatchewan, 94.7 (230.2); Alberta, 108.9 (157.5); and British Columbia, 137.2 (137.6). (29)

Farm Prices Of Agricultural Products Decreased In March Canada's index of farm prices of agricultural products on the base of the average 1935-39 prices equalling 100, receded to an estimated 220.7 in March from 222.3 in February as decreases for grains, live stock and dairy products more than offset increases for potatoes, poultry and eggs.

Provincial indexes declined in all except Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and British Columbia, where increases were registered. The March figures (with February figures in brackets) were: Prince Edward Island, 219.9 (227.0); Nova Scotia, 254.0 (252.0); New Brunswick, 225.5 (221.6); Quebec, 261.1 (263.0); Ontario, 245.1 (246.2); Manitoba, 205.1 (207.1); Saskatchewan, 176.1 (177.5); Alberta, 200.7 (204.3); British Columbia, 258.3 (256.6). (30)

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Crop Conditions Across Canada

Maritimes:- In Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia

cool, dull weather had prevailed and spring farming operations were not yet general, stated the Bureau's telegraphic crop report of May 4. However, in Prince Edward Island some early potatoes and turnips had been planted in the more favoured districts. Clovers had generally wintered well, although some killing of alfalfa was reported, and pastures were promising. In Nova Scotia warm drying weather was needed before work on the land could become general, but in the Annapolis Valley the land dried out early in April and early potatoes had been planted. Throughout the province winter-killing of forage crops and small fruits was negligible and grass was making a rapid start. In New Brunswick the abundant winter snow cover prevented deep penetration of frost. As a result legumes wintered well. The snow was off the ground early and the land dried quickly. Grass crops were developing rapidly, a fair acreage of early potatoes had been planted, and, with favourable weather conditions, seeding should soon become general.

Quebec:- Pastures and meadows throughout Quebec had come through the winter with little or no damage. Field work was getting under way in southwestern sections of the province with seeding begun in scattered districts. The season was later in the Lake St. John and Gaspé areas, where work on the land had not yet started. Orchards appeared to be in good condition.

Ontario:- Fall-sown crops, hay and pasture in Ontario suffered very little winter-killing and were making excellent growth, with present prospects indicating a good hay crop. Many sheep and young cattle were on pasture and it was expected that most cattle would be out on grass within the next few days. Considerable acreages of spring grains were seeded in several counties of southwestern Ontario during April. In most parts of both southern and northern Ontario seeding was expected to proceed rapidly during the first two weeks of May if the current excellent weather continued. In northern Ontario soils had dried out very rapidly, a small amount of seeding had already been done, and the season was about three weeks ahead of last year. Some seeding of sugar beets and soybeans was already under way in southwestern Ontario.

Prairie Provinces:- With the exception of southern Manitoba, where spring operations were general, very little field work had been done in the Prairie Provinces. Excessive precipitation since April 1 had waterlogged the soil and caused surface flooding in many areas. Over the greater part of the Prairies one to three weeks of warm drying weather was required before seeding could become general. With the major exceptions of the Peace River area and southern Manitoba, the seeding season in the greater part of the Prairie Provinces unusually late for the third consecutive year.

British Columbia:- Temperatures throughout British Columbia were below normal during April and as a result the season was generally about two weeks later than last year when spring was also retarded. Very little growth had taken place and seeding operations were just getting under way, but would not be general until the middle of May. Moisture supplies were generally satisfactory in all areas. Early potatoes from the Fraser Valley would be about a month later than usual reaching market. (31)

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

- 1- Trade of Canada: Domestic Exports (Summary), March, 20¢
- 2- Steel Ingots & Pig Iron, April, 10¢
- 3- Primary Iron & Steel, January, 25¢
- 4- M: Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, March, 10¢
- 5- M: Domestic Electric Refrigerators, March, 10¢
- 6- M: Gypsum Products, March, 10¢
- 7- M: Asphalt Roofing, March, 10¢
- 8- M: Mineral Wool, March, 10¢
- 9- M: Rigid Insulating Board Industry, March, 10¢
- 10- Refined Petroleum Products, January, 25¢
- 11- Quarterly Production of Garments: Fourth Quarter, 1954, 25¢
- 12- Preliminary Report on the Production of Motor Vehicles, April, 10¢
- 12- Motor Vehicle Shipments, March, 10¢
- 13- Machinery Industry, 1953, 25¢
- 14- M: Iron Ore, March, 10¢
- 15- M: Asbestos, March, 10¢
- 16- M: Salt, March, 10¢
- 17- M: Crude Petroleum, Natural Gas & Manufactured Gas, January, 10¢
- 18- Contract Drilling in the Mining Industry, 1953, 25¢
- 19- M: Railway Operating Statistics, Year 1954, 10¢
- 20- Civil Aviation, December, 25¢
- 21- M: Motor Carriers - Passenger, January, 10¢
- 22- M: Fur Production, Season 1953-1954, 25¢
- 23- Monthly Review of Canadian Fisheries Statistics, March 25¢
- 24- M: Grain Milling Statistics, March, 10¢
- 25- M: Grain Statistics Weekly, April 27, 10¢
- 26- Production of Poultry & Eggs, 1954, 25¢
- 27- M: Acreage & Production of Vegetables, 1954, 10¢
- 28- M: Farm Net Income, 1954, 25¢
- 29- M: Index of Farm Production, 1954, 10¢
- 30- M: Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, March, 10¢
- 31- Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada - Released at 3 p.m. May 4.
- Canadian Statistical Review, April, 35¢
- Inventories, Shipments & Orders in Manufacturing Industries, February, 25¢
 - Summarized in Bulletin of May 6, 1955
- Trade of Canada: Imports, (Detailed), February, 50¢
- Miscellaneous Iron & Steel Products Industry, 1953, 25¢
- Telegraphic Crop Report, Prairie Provinces, 3 p.m. Released, May 11.
- M - Memorandum

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

Fans Canada's imports from Japan in 1954 included \$4,944 worth of fans.

Clothes Dryers Production of automatic electric clothes dryers more than doubled to 15,851 in 1953 from 7,931 in 1952.

Laces Last year Canada imported boot, shoe, shirt and stay laces to the value of \$24,527 from the United Kingdom, Japan Israel and the United States.

Furs Ranch-raised pelts accounted for 49% of the total value of Canadian fur output in the last (1953-54) fur season, an increase from about 43% in the previous season.

Net Farm Income Down Largely as a result of poor crops in western Canada, last year's farm net income dropped about one-third to \$1,125,600,000 from \$1,699,600,000 in 1953. It compares with the all-time high figure of \$2,154,500,000 for 1951 and the post-war (1946-1953) average of \$1,611,600,000.

Surfaced Roads Out of 190,997 miles of surfaced roads in Canada in 1953, there were 1,841 with concrete pavement, 14,820 with bituminous pavement, 14,070 with bituminous surface, and 160,265 surfaced with crushed stone or gravel.

Storage Space Canadian warehouses had 40,370,640 cubic feet of storage space for merchandise, 21,383,609 cubic feet for cold storage and 16,602,137 cubic feet for household goods in 1953. At the start of December 89.1% of the merchandise space, 83.5% of the cold storage space and 82.3% of the household goods space was occupied.

Adding Machines Output of adding machines in Canada increased to 17,044 in 1953 compared to 13,783 in 1952.

Eggs Domestic consumption of eggs in Canada during 1954 is estimated at 371,300,000 dozen, which is equal to 292 eggs for every man, woman and child.

More Heels Over 52% more wooden heels were made in Canada in 1953 than in 1952, production increasing by 3,903,150 pairs to 11,367,187 pairs.

Fewer Furnaces Canada's boilers and plate work industry shipped only 2,897 warm-air furnaces in 1953, less than one-fifth as many as in 1952 when 15,575 were shipped. Total factory value dropped to \$282,476 from \$2,338,253.

Blowers and Burners Blowers for domestic furnaces made in Canada increased to 32,878 in 1953 from 28,594 the previous year, while power-type oil burners for house heating rose to 100,288 from 85,215.

Onions Canada bought 68,329,860 pounds of fresh onions for \$1,782,754 from nine countries in 1954. Principal suppliers were the United States, Mexico, Spain and Egypt.

Ontario First In Furs Ontario is the leading province in fur production, accounting in the 1953-54 fur season for \$4,597,000 of Canada's output value of \$19,288,000. Manitoba was second with \$3,569,000 and Alberta third with \$3,424,000. Next in order were British Columbia, Quebec, Saskatchewan, the four Atlantic Provinces together, the Northwest Territory and the Yukon Territory.

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