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The People: Birth registrations set a new April record this year, but deaths were at a five-year low for the month. Marriage registrations showed a slight increase over a year earlier. (Page 6)

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Labour: Fewer seasonal layoffs in manufacturing and favourable weather for construction, farming and other outdoor work caused unemployment to drop more sharply than usual during April. The number without jobs and seeking work fell from the mid-March post-war high of 401,000 to 327,000 at mid-April, a drop of 18% as against an average decline of less than 5% during the same period in the last two years. The increase in the number with jobs was more than three times as great as a year earlier. (Page 10)

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Manufacturing: Because of increases in stocks of several consumer durable goods, mainly motor vehicles, the value of manufacturers' inventories did not show the usual decline in the first quarter this year and the March total, while 2% under a year earlier, was 1% higher than in December (Page 4)

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Food: Nine-city stocks of creamery butter were more than 19% above last year's level on May 19... At the end of March canned meat stocks were down 20% from a year earlier, mainly due to a sharp decrease in spiced pork and ham. (Page 3)

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Merchandising: Department store sales averaged over 8% higher than last year in the week ending May 14... Retail sales dropped 3% below the 1954 level in March. This followed a 1% decline in February and a 4.8% increase in January and brought first-quarter sales to virtually the same level as a year earlier... Following record increases for the past three years, financing of retail instalment sales by sales finance companies dropped nearly 16% last year. There were reductions for all commodity groupings except radio and television sets, which showed an advance of almost 14% over 1953. (Pages 8-10)

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Mining: Production of zinc, lead and gold increased in the first quarter this year, but output of silver was below last year's January-March level. (Pages 7 & 8)

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Transportation: Railway carloadings were 16% above the 1954 level in the first week of May and cumulative loadings since the start of the year were up 4%. Cars received from foreign connections increased over 11% in the week, were up more than 9% in the cumulative period. (Page 11)

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Crop Conditions Across Canada Prairie Provinces:- Good progress has been made with seeding over wide areas of the Prairie Provinces during the past week and in many districts should be completed by the end of this month, according to a telegraphic crop report released on May 25 by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Due to excessive moisture, however, spring work is being seriously delayed in parts of east-central and northeastern Saskatchewan and in the area bordering the foothills in Alberta. Where flooding has occurred along river valleys and in low-lying lands in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, considerable areas may not be seeded this year.

Ontario:- Seeding of spring grains is practically completed in Ontario, except in the northern part of the province. Dry weather has permitted rapid progress with spring work but is retarding growth of grain crops, hay and pasture. Showers have relieved the situation in some sections but all parts of the province would benefit greatly from rain. Planting of corn and potatoes is well advanced and some soybeans, sugar beets and tobacco have been planted.

Quebec:- Weather conditions throughout most of Quebec have been favourable for seeding operations, which have been progressing quite rapidly. About 75% of the grain has been sown in the Montreal district and, apart from the Gaspé peninsula, about 40% is in the ground in the remaining areas. If present weather conditions continue for the next few days, seasonal work will soon be completed. Present prospects suggest a spring grain acreage this year at least as large as in 1954. Meadows and pastures have wintered well and present growth is excellent. Gardens and orchards appear to be in excellent condition, particularly those around Montreal.

Maritime Provinces:- The season is later than normal in Prince Edward Island due to a period of cool, wet weather but, following several warm, dry days, work on the land is now in full swing. It is estimated that about 25% of the grain and 10% of the potatoes have been planted. Hay crops and pastures are promising but growth is slow. Until the last few days the weather in Nova Scotia has been showery and cool but it has since warmed up and seeding is general. About 75% of the crops have been seeded, some early-sown grain is now up, and grass is making rapid growth. Pastures are generally good, but the retarding effect of cold weather is noticeable in certain areas. In New Brunswick farm work has been advancing normally, in spite of cool weather and showers. Potato planting and grain seeding are well advanced, pastures are excellent and hay crops promising, with legume stands unusually good. It is estimated that seeding is more than half finished. Some early sown grain is growing well but potatoes, are slow in emerging.

British Columbia:- Warmer temperatures have prevailed throughout most of the province during the past two weeks but the season is about two weeks later than normal. In the Kootenay area seeding is general throughout Creston and Duck Lake Flats. Approximately 50% of the peas and 25% of the grain crops have been sown. In the north Okanagan, pasture and range lands are improving but rain would be beneficial. Most of the pea acreage in the Armstrong area has been planted. Farther south in the Okanagan the fruit crop is later than usual with apples now in full bloom. Forage crops are M O R E

slow with the first cut of hay delayed up to two weeks. In the Peace River district seeding is general. At Prince George the weather was warm and dry all last week and seeding is about 75% completed, but the growth of pastures and hay is quite slow. In the Fraser Valley the weather has been cool and growth slow. Grain seeding is almost completed but potato planting is late. Pastures are fair and hay crops promising. Strawberries are now in full bloom two weeks later than last year. (1)

Stocks Of Creamery Butter
In Nine Cities Of Canada

Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on May 19 totalled 38,528,000 pounds, up from last year's 32,501,000 pounds. Holdings were as follows by cities, totals for a year earlier being in brackets (in thousands): Quebec, 1,125 pounds (3,014); Montreal, 19,093 (16,106); Toronto, 6,908 (6,096); Winnipeg, 9,729 (5,899); Regina 683 (172); Saskatoon, 181 (161); Edmonton, 210 (336); Calgary, 115 (203); Vancouver, 484 (514).

Canned Meat Stocks 20%
Lower At End Of Month

Due mainly to a sharp decrease in the stocks of spiced pork and ham, holdings of canned meats held by manufacturers and wholesalers at the end of March dropped 20% to 23,594,364 pounds from 29,226,835 a year ago. Stocks were as follows by kinds; beef products -- ready dinners, stews, etc., 7,204,381 pounds (4,713,046 a year ago); roast beef, 399,068 (162,076); corned beef, 778,926 (749,194); other beef products, 2,001,537 (2,266,542); pork products -- spiced pork and ham, 6,407,968 (16,343,739); roast pork and ham, 2,444,054 (1,499,292); other pork products, 1,839,124 (1,336,973); miscellaneous -- canned fowl, 856,832 (795,674); meat paste, 813,130 (911,468); and all others, 849,344 (448,831).

Production Of Chewing Gum

Production of chewing gum in the first three months of this year amounted to 3,781,330 boxes, according to advance figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This compares with 3,726,875 boxes in 1954.

MISCELLANEOUS

Museums & Art Galleries

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has released reference paper No. 57 entitled "Museums and Art Galleries, 1951-1952." It contains information on 191 institutions, of which 20 were controlled by the Federal Government, 21 by provincial governments and 18 by municipal governments.

Total attendance in 1951-52 is estimated at over 3,000,000, while total expenditures amounted to more than \$2,000,000. Estimated staff for all institutions was 500 full-time and 300 part-time employees. Of 113 institutions reporting on admission policies, 90 made no charge for admission, and 44 reported film or slide projection facilities. Institutions included in the reference paper range from those with small local collections to the National Gallery and the National Museum. Contents and services vary greatly and as a result the information presented is limited in coverage and detail, being intended to indicate what is available throughout Canada as a whole rather than to record the activities and holdings of particular museums. (2)

Manufacturers' Inventories Down
2% In Value In March From Year Ago

Total value of manufacturers' investment in inventory rose \$28,-600,000 in March to reach \$3,572,-

100,000, \$30,000,000 or slightly less than 1% above December 1954 and 2% lower than in March 1954. Inventory values normally decline slightly during the first quarter of the year. The increase in total this year was due to a substantial rise in inventories of motor vehicles and to smaller increases in other consumers' durable goods industries -- motor vehicle parts, radios and parts, and refrigerators and appliances.

Inventory held under progress payments arrangements rose slightly during January and February but declined in March to reach \$538,400,000, \$10,100,000 higher than in December 1954, and \$25,200,000 higher than at the end of March 1954.

Shipments in March rose 9% over February and were fractionally higher than in March 1954. Total shipments for the quarter were 4% higher than for the first quarter of 1954. Unfilled orders at the end of the month were fractionally below February and 6% under March last year.

		Total Inventory Investment	Progress Payment Inventory	Total Inventory Held	Raw Materials	Goods In Process	Finished Products
(in millions of dollars)							
<u>All Industries</u>							
March	1954	3,648.3	513.2	4,161.5	1,653.6	1,164.1	1,343.8
February	1955	3,543.5	547.2	4,096.7	1,674.6	1,206.3	1,209.8
March	1955	3,572.1	538.4	4,110.5		(not available)	
<u>Consumers' Goods</u>							
March	1954	2,107.9	107.9	2,215.8	891.5	494.3	830.0
February	1955	2,100.5	113.2	2,213.7	964.0	496.6	753.1
March	1955	2,106.6	114.5	2,221.1		(not available)	
<u>Capital Goods</u>							
March	1954	478.1	358.9	837.0	215.5	257.0	164.5
February	1955	422.7	368.0	790.7	193.8	458.1	138.8
March	1955	426.8	361.0	787.8		(not available)	
<u>Producers' Goods</u>							
March	1954	742.8	3.4	746.2	364.2	134.2	247.8
February	1955	719.0	3.4	722.4	354.6	152.9	214.9
March	1955	718.1	3.4	721.5		(not available)	
<u>Construction Goods</u>							
March	1954	319.5	43.0	362.5	182.4	78.6	101.5
February	1955	301.3	62.6	363.9	162.2	98.7	103.0
March	1955	320.6	59.5	380.1		(not available)	

Indexes Of Shipments
(Dec. 1952 = 100)

		All Industries	Consumers' Goods	Capital Goods	Producers' Goods	Construction Goods
March	1954	110.2	113.6	99.7	98.8	140.5
February	1955	101.6	104.5	75.7	101.5	132.1
March	1955	110.5	113.0	85.9	108.0	151.8

Indexes Of Unfilled Orders
(Dec. 1952 = 100)

		All Industries	Textiles	Wood & Paper	Iron & Steel	Transportation Equipment	Electrical Apparatus
March	1954	85.7	54.8	92.4	69.2	77.6	106.8
February	1955	80.9	76.8	94.6	76.2	61.0	99.3
March	1955	80.7	71.9	94.2	78.9	60.2	102.3

Motor Vehicle Parts Industry Production in Canada of motor vehicle parts and accessories in all industries in 1953 was valued at \$525,793,000, an increase of almost 8% from the preceding year's \$487,909,000, according to the Bureau's annual report on the motor vehicle parts industry.

Among the larger items of production there were increased values for axles and shafts, truck bodies and cabs, brakes and parts, heaters and defrosters, oil filters and elements, pistons and rings, headlights and parts, drive shafts, radiators and cores, radios, shock absorbers, springs, chassis, tires and tubes and service parts. Lower output values were recorded for batteries, clutch facings, fan belts, and auto hardware.

The motor vehicle parts industry included 179 establishments (172 in 1952) and employed 23,335 persons versus 21,791. The year's payroll amounted to \$81,186,799 versus \$72,607,789 and the factory value of shipments was \$307,676,670 versus \$276,785,167. (3)

Glass & Glass Products Industry Canada's glass and glass products industry shipped a record \$72,910,166 worth of products in 1953, an increase of 24.2% over the preceding year's \$58,779,800, according to the annual industry report released by the Bureau. The number of plants rose to 118 from 114, employees to 7,830 from 6,516 and salary and wage payments to \$24,978,847 from \$19,102,882.

Value of pressed, blown and drawn glass, including bottles, sealers, ovenware and window glass, increased to \$44,348,405 from \$37,501,459 the year before, while production in the cut and bevelled glass division of the industry was valued at \$28,561,761 versus \$21,278,341.

The industry is centred mainly in Ontario and Quebec. Ontario plants shipped glass and glass products in 1953 to the value of \$42,313,975 versus \$33,309,831 in the preceding year. Quebec plants accounted for \$24,141,152 versus \$20,072,421. (4)

Sheet Metal Products Industry In 1953 Factory value of shipments of products manufactured by the sheet metal products industry, which consisted of 316 plants occupied chiefly in the manufacture of articles from steel, tinplate, or terne plate, of articles ranging from tin cans, galvanized sheets and metal caps to sheet metal building materials, enamelled kitchenware, and steel barrels and drums -- rose to a new high total of \$225,423,000 from the previous peak of \$213,585,000 in 1952, according to the Bureau's annual report on the industry. The number of plants was up from 304 in 1952, their employees to 18,275 from 17,341 and salary and wage payments to \$58,831,831 from \$52,566,840.

Of the 316 plants, 12 were engaged mainly in the production of tin cans, which was the industry's leading item in value at \$74,308,945 (\$78,942,979 in 1952). Next were bottle caps and seals at \$11,141,800 (\$9,830,406), roofing and siding of steel and aluminum \$6,813,024 (\$6,174,170), culvert pipe \$9,707,314 (\$9,159,253), and kitchen equipment for hotels, cafeterias, hospitals, etc. \$4,853,247 (\$4,444,389). (5)

Production Of Floor Tiles In April

Production of asphalt floor tiles in April fell to 1,178,598 square feet from 1,282,807 in the corresponding month last year but January-April output rose to 5,854,322 square feet from 5,605,047. Production of vinyl-asbestos floor tiles rose in the month to 1,176,917 square feet from 357,709 and in the four months to 3,647,174 square feet from 1,761,469. (6)

Paint Sales Up In Value In March And First Quarter

Sales of paints, varnishes and lacquers by manufacturers which normally account for the bulk of the total Canadian production in March amounted to \$9,158,199, up from last year's corresponding total of \$8,585,319. This brought cumulative sales for the January-March period to \$23,948,318, slightly above last year's \$23,431,970. (7)

Production & Shipments Of Hard Board,

April production of hard board rose to 14,716,475 square feet from 13,133,998 in the corresponding month last year, while domestic shipments dropped to 9,904,066 square feet from 10,200,533. Export shipments climbed to 5,160,200 square feet from 3,011,556.

In the January-April period production increased to 58,476,972 square feet from 47,605,065, but domestic shipments declined to 35,103,527 square feet from 35,392,337. Export shipments were sharply higher at 22,301,147 square feet versus 11,077,987. (8)

General Review Of Manufacturing the Manufacturing Industries of Canada for 1952.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has released its annual General Review of

This 174-page report contains a general analysis of manufacturing development with detailed treatment of current production by individual industries and such principal factors as physical volume of production, employment, salaries and wages, size of establishment and power and fuel.

The report also deals with the provincial and local distribution of manufacturing production and provides an alphabetical list of products manufactured in Canada. (9)

THE PEOPLE

Birth Registrations Reach All-Time High For April

A new high total for the month was recorded in April in the number of births registered in Canada. At the same time deaths reached a five-year low for the month.

Registrations of births in April numbered 34,458 versus 34,358 a year earlier, bringing the January-April total to 141,497 versus 139,374. Deaths in April were 9,838 versus 10,238 and in the four months totalled 43,489 versus 43,373.

Marriages in April rose to 6,763 from 6,649 a year ago but four-month registrations fell to 26,195 from 26,531. (10)

Gold Production Up In March & Quarter Gold production was higher in March and the first quarter of this year than a year earlier. The month's output amounted to 372,038 fine ounces versus 369,432, bringing the January-March total to 1,089,951 fine ounces versus 973,213.

There were increases in the January-March period in Ontario to 610,-104 fine ounces from 543,021, in Quebec to 284,727 from 228,974, Northwest Territories to 78,328 from 74,241, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia to 2,537 from 2,161, and Yukon to 674 from 134. British Columbia output declined to 57,783 fine ounces from 64,828 and in the Prairie Provinces to 54,898 from 60,104.

March production, with last year's totals in brackets, was as follows by provinces: Ontario, 208,266 fine ounces (203,997); Quebec, 93,058 (96,-540); Northwest Territories, 29,785 (26,078); British Columbia, 20,084 (21,826); Prairie Provinces, 19,514 (20,406); Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, 711 (553); and Yukon, 620 (32). (11)

Net Value Of Products Shipped By Mining Industry Up 6.2% In 1953 Net value of products shipped by Canada's mineral industry in 1953 was \$1,181,547,-000, up 6.2% from the preceding year's \$1,112,454,000, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Gains in fuels and structural materials more than counterbalanced declines in metals and non-metals.

Net value of products shipped by metal mining industries fell to \$643,-621,000 from \$643,849,000, with decreases for alluvial gold, auriferous quartz, copper-gold-silver, silver-cobalt, and silver-lead-zinc, but increases for nickel-copper, miscellaneous metals, and smelting and refining.

The non-metal mining total fell to \$96,772,000 from \$98,920,000, decreases being recorded for asbestos and salt but increases for gypsum and peat. The fuels total climbed to \$290,108,000 from \$232,767,000, increases in petroleum and natural gas more than offsetting a drop in coal. Advances were general for structural materials and the group total rose to \$151,047,-000 from \$136,918,000.

Net value of products shipped by the mineral industry rose in 1953 in Newfoundland to \$22,003,000 from \$20,901,000 in 1952, in Nova Scotia to \$53,076,000 from \$51,712,000, in New Brunswick to \$9,277,000 from \$9,-165,000, in Ontario to \$380,609,000 from \$360,214,000, in Manitoba to \$17,-757,000 from \$16,987,000, in Alberta to \$236,187,000 from \$177,256,000, and in the Northwest Territories to \$8,675,000 from \$6,737,000. There were decreases in Quebec to \$298,137,000 from \$299,378,000, in Saskatchewan to \$36,417,000 from \$40,506,000, in British Columbia to \$111,130,000 from \$121,283,000, and in the Yukon to \$8,280,000 from \$8,316,000.

Canada's mineral industry employed 130,038 persons in 1953 as compared with 134,116 in 1952 and the payroll amounted to \$453,066,000 against \$452,976,000. Cost of process supplies, fuel, electricity, freight and smelter charges aggregated \$800,772,000 against \$810,451,000, and the number of mines, wells, quarries and pits in operation was 20,508 versus 19,958. (12)

Zinc Production Up
Sharply In Quarter

Zinc production was substantially higher in the first quarter of this year than last. At the same time lead output advanced slightly but silver declined. The quarter's output of zinc amounted to 105,230 tons versus 80,982; lead, 53,042 tons versus 51,633; and silver, 5,456,459 fine ounces versus 6,918,125. (13)

Coal Production Declined Again In 1953

Canadian production of coal continued to decline in 1954, dropping to 14,913,579 tons from 15,896,194 in 1953 and in value to \$96,600,266 from \$102,685,793, according to the preliminary annual report. Landed imports, including briquettes, fell to 18,551,002 tons from 22,521,787, and exports dropped to 219,346 tons from 255,274.

The year's output in Alberta was cut to 4,859,049 tons from 5,917,474 in 1953, and in British Columbia and the Yukon to 1,313,623 tons from 1,453,617. In Nova Scotia production rose to 5,842,896 tons from 5,787,026, Saskatchewan to 2,116,740 tons from 2,021,296, and New Brunswick to 781,271 tons from 716,781.

The year's production comprised 10,340,616 tons of bituminous (11,474,924 in 1953), 2,456,223 tons of sub-bituminous (2,399,974), and 2,116,740 tons of lignite (2,021,296). (14)

MERCHANDISING

Retail Sales Little Changed In
First Quarter; Down 3% In March

Sales of Canadian retail establishments in the first quarter this year totalled \$2,533,241,000, virtually unchanged from last year's corresponding total of \$2,530,772,000. March sales were down 3% to \$900,982,000 from \$928,947,000 and followed a decrease of 1% in February to \$793,587,000 from \$801,420,000 and a rise of 4.8% in January to \$838,672,000 from \$800,405,000.

In the three-month period there were sales gains in the Atlantic Provinces, Ontario and British Columbia but decreases in the rest of Canada. Of the 19 categories of trade there were increased sales for 10 and decreases for 9. March sales were higher than last year only in the Atlantic Provinces and Ontario and were up for 5 trades and down for 14. First-quarter sales increased 3.4% in the Atlantic Provinces, 2% in Ontario and 3.8% in British Columbia, but decreased 13.7% in Saskatchewan, 6.1% in Manitoba, 2.3% in Alberta and 0.4% in Quebec.

Among the individual trades there were first-quarter increases of 13% for lumber and building material dealers, 10.6% for garages and filling stations, 8.5% for fuel dealers, 7.6% for grocery and combination stores, 6.5% for department stores, 5.4% for motor vehicle dealers, 3.5% for drug stores, 3.4% for variety stores, 2.2% for general stores, and 3.1% for the miscellaneous group. Decreases of 9.4% were registered for shoe retailers, 6.4% for women's clothing, 4.4% for both men's clothing and hardware, 4.2% for other food and beverage outlets, 3.7% for jewellery, 3.6% for furniture, appliance and radio, 1.8% for family clothing, and 1.6% for restaurants. (15)

Sales Financing Lower In 1954 Following record increases for the past three years there was a drop in the financing of retail instalment sales in 1954 by sales finance companies when the value of paper purchased dropped 15.8% to \$793,624,000 from \$942,746,000 in 1953. There was a reduction in all commodity groupings with the exception of radio and television sets where an increase of 13.6% occurred.

At the end of 1954 sales financing and acceptance companies had \$646,-865,000 outstanding on their books, a decrease of 7.1% from the outstanding balance of \$696,663,000 reported at the end of 1953.

The provincial pattern of distribution of paper purchases and balances outstanding was similar to that of the preceding year. Ontario handled 41.2% of all retail financing in 1954 and accounted for 39.8% of balances outstanding at the end of the year, while the comparative figures for Quebec were 22.9% and 22.4%. Alberta again let the western provinces in terms of paper purchased, accounting for 10.6% of the Canadian total followed by British Columbia with 8.3%, Saskatchewan 4.5% and Manitoba 4%. The Atlantic provinces obtained 8.5% of retail financing during 1954 and accounted for 8.4% of balances outstanding.

Consumers' goods accounted for 78.1% of total financing in 1954 compared with 75.8% in 1953 and 72.2% in 1952. Consumers' goods were financed to the extent of \$619,437,000 in 1954, 13.3% lower than the 1953 total of \$714,149,000.

Used passenger cars were financed to the extent of \$269,194,000 in 1954, representing 33.9% of the total paper purchased and a reduction of 16.2% in comparison with the 1953 volume of \$321,225,000. New passenger car financing amounted to \$230,960,000 in 1954, accounting for 29.1% of all financing and a drop of 8.5% from the 1953 volume of \$252,336,000.

Radio and television set sales financing rose to \$42,933,000 from \$37,-784,000 in the preceding year, but electric and gas household appliance financing fell to \$43,932,000 from \$63,864,000, furniture to \$10,739,000 from \$14,003,000, and other consumer goods, including clothing and jewellery to \$21,679,000 from \$24,937,000.

Financing of commercial and industrial goods in 1954 at \$174,187,000, represented a 23.8% decrease in comparison with the 1953 volume of \$228,-597,000. In 1954 the financing of commercial and industrial goods represented 21.9% of all financing compared with 24.2% in 1953.

Financing of both new and used commercial vehicles registered declines in 1954, new commercial vehicles dropping to \$61,301,000 in 1954 from \$90,-059,000 or by 31.9%. Used commercial vehicle financing amounted to \$50,286,-000, a drop of 20.2% from \$62,980,000 in 1953. All other commercial and industrial goods, including farm implements, tractors, factory and commercial equipment were financed to the extent of \$62,600,000, a decrease of 17.1% from \$75,558,000 in 1953. (16)

Department Store Sales Increased 8.1% In Week Department store sales increased 8.1% during the week ending May 14 as compared with the corresponding week last year. Sales in Quebec were up 21.5%, Ontario 11.8%, Atlantic Provinces 8.3%, and British Columbia 1.5%, but down 4% in Saskatchewan, 2.4% in Alberta and 1.2% in Manitoba.

LABOUR

Unemployment Dropped More Sharply Than Usual In April Unemployment dropped more sharply than usual during April as favourable weather in most parts of Canada helped to stimulate employment, according to the monthly joint statement by the Department of Labour and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Good weather in early April helped construction, farming and other outdoor industries to begin spring work earlier than a year ago. There were also fewer seasonal layoffs in manufacturing than in April last year.

The number of persons without jobs and seeking work, according to the Bureau's monthly labour force survey, declined from a postwar high of 401,000 at mid-March to an estimated 327,000 at mid-April, a drop of 18%. This compares with an average drop of less than 5% during the same period in the last two years. The number of persons with jobs increased by an estimated 124,000 during the month compared with 36,000 during the same period last year and was about 117,000 above that of the same time last year.

The Bureau's survey placed Canada's civilian labour force in the week ended April 23 at 5,450,000 versus 5,400,000 on March 19 and 5,312,000 a year ago. The number of persons with jobs was 5,123,000 versus 4,999,000 a month earlier and 5,006,000 at the same time last year. The number at work 35 hours or more increased to 4,636,000 in April from 4,484,000 in March while those at work less than 35 hours declined to 370,000 from 391,000, and the number with jobs but not at work to 117,000 from 124,000.

On April 21 this year there were 556,300 applications for employment on file in National Employment and Selective Service Offices across Canada, a decline of 76,600 from the 632,900 applications on file on March 17 but slightly above last year's April 15 total of 549,000. The decrease from March was general in all regions, the largest occurring in Ontario (29,500) and Quebec (15,600). Compared with a year ago, a decrease was shown in the Atlantic (3,500) and Pacific Regions (3,600), but this was more than offset by the increases occurring in Quebec (7,900) and Prairie Regions (7,400); practically no change occurred in the count of employment applications for Ontario at these two dates (146,800 and 145,900).

Federal Government Employment Classified civil servants on the payroll of the Federal Government in February numbered 142,472 as against 141,783 in January and 135,884 in the corresponding month last year. Their earnings aggregated \$36,787,074 versus \$36,582,958 in the preceding month and \$34,819,104 a year earlier. Other Federal Government employees (prevailing rate, casual and ships' crews) numbered 38,812 as compared with 38,891 a month earlier and 34,876 a year ago. Their earnings totalled \$7,645,509 versus \$7,780,636 in January and \$6,850,943 last year. (17)

Industrial Employment Index Down Slightly At March First

Canada's index number of industrial employment declined slightly at the beginning of March in a seasonal movement which continued the trend shown in the last four surveys, according to the Bureau's monthly advance statement. At 105.6 the index was 0.2% lower than at February 1 and 0.9% lower than at March 1, 1954. In spite of the easing in employment, weekly payrolls rose 1% in the month and 1.8% in the 12 months. The per capita weekly wages and salaries, standing at \$60.89, established a new high.

On the whole, industrial activity was moderately less in all provinces except Prince Edward Island, Ontario and British Columbia, in which the reported staffs increased by 5%, 0.8% and 0.9%, respectively, as compared with February 1. Settlement of prolonged labour-management disputes in the automotive industry was an important factor in the gain in Ontario, but other branches of manufacturing also afforded substantially more employment. Virtually no general change was reported in New Brunswick. Elsewhere the losses on the whole ranged from 0.4% in Nova Scotia to 1.9% in both Manitoba and Alberta. The reduction in Quebec was 1.1%, largely due to seasonal curtailment in forestry operations. The non-manufacturing industries surveyed released workers in most areas, while there was widespread improvement in manufacturing.

Weekly payrolls were higher than a month earlier in six of the provinces and in all but two also exceeded those reported for the week of March 1, 1954. The per capita earnings declined from February 1, 1955 in Prince Edward Island and Alberta, but advanced in the other provinces. Only in Newfoundland was the latest average of wages and salaries below its level a year ago, due in part to completion of certain large engineering projects which had involved much overtime work.

Employment in manufacturing showed considerable expansion at March 1. The advance index number, at 105.5, was 1.8% higher than at February 1 but was 2.6% below the March 1, 1954 figure of 108.3. Weekly wages and salaries averaged \$63.20 -- a new high -- as compared with \$62.53 a month earlier and \$61.13 a year ago. (18)

TRANSPORTATION

Railway Carloadings Higher

Railway carloadings in the first week of May totalled 78,932 cars, up 16% from 68,061 in the corresponding week last year. This brought cumulative loadings from the start of the year to May 7 to 1,239,777 cars, 4% above the preceding year's 1,192,015. Receipts from connections up 11.1% in the week to 31,542 cars from 28,387 and rose 9.3% in the cumulative period to 565,188 cars from 517,077.

Commodities carried in larger volume in the week were: grain, 8,510 cars (versus 4,735 in 1954); iron ore, 2,460 (544); sand, gravel and crushed stone, 4,113 (2,818); lumber, timber and plywood, 4,389 (3,414); automobiles, trucks and parts, 2,814 (1,942); and miscellaneous carload commodities, 5,462 (4,888) (19)

Railway Freight Loadings Up In January Railway freight loaded at stations in Canada rose to 8,573,976 tons from 7,679,308 a year earlier but receipts from connections fell slightly to 1,234,771. Intransit freight increased to 1,465,678 tons from 1,204,503. This brought the month's total of freight originated to 11,274,290 tons, up 11.1% from 10,151,582. (20)

RELEASED THIS WEEK

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

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- 2- R: Museums & Art Galleries, 1951-1952, 25¢ (Reference Paper No. 57)
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- 9- General Review of the Manufacturing Industries of Canada, 1952, \$1.50
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- 14- Preliminary Report on Coal & Coke Statistics, 1954, 25¢
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- 17- M: Federal Government Employment, February, 10¢
- 18- Advance Statement on Employment & Weekly Payrolls, March, 10¢
- 19- M: Carloadings on Canadian Railways, May 7, 10¢
- 20- M: Railway Freight Traffic, January, 10¢
- Trade of Canada: Articles Exported to Each Country, 3 Months Ended March, 50¢

M - Memorandum

R - Reference Paper

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