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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Food: More eggs and sugar were produced in April than in the same month last year while output of milk was at approximately the same level. (Pages 3 & 4)

Mining: Coal production dropped 15% below last year's level in April but imports were up nearly 29%. (Page 8)

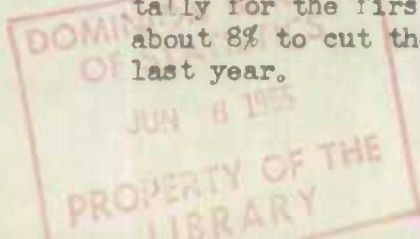
Public Utilities: Output of central electric stations increased 15.5% in the first quarter this year as production was boosted in all provinces except Nova Scotia. (Page 9)

Merchandising: Sales of department stores across Canada were over 3% above the 1954 level in the week ending May 21... 17% fewer new motor vehicles were sold in Canada in 1954 than in the record year of 1953, and retail value dropped 15%... Financing of sales of new and used vehicles by acceptance companies decreased 16% both in number and value. (Page 10)

Transportation: Nearly 17% more cars were loaded on Canadian railways in the second week of May than in the same week last year, putting the total for the year to date almost 5% above last year. Cars received from foreign connections were up 9.3% in both the week and the cumulative period... A record 52,403,000 barrels of oil flowed through Canadian pipe lines in the first quarter this year, one-quarter more than in January-March last year. (Pages 11 & 12)

Labour: Claimants on the live unemployment insurance register numbered 318,463 at the end of April, down from 406,651 at the end of March and 338,374 a year earlier... Average hourly and weekly earnings of wage-earners in manufacturing reached new peaks of 143.5 cents and \$59.12 respectively in the week ending March 1. The work week averaged 41.2 hours, 0.2 hours longer than at February 1... Canadian workers earned \$990,000,000 in February, \$6,000,000 more than in January and \$40,000,000 more than in February last year. (Pages 13 & 14)

Foreign Trade: With exports nearly 15% above last year's level in April and imports up about 10%, Canada's import balance on the month's trade was reduced to \$41,000,000 from \$50,300,000 a year earlier. The tally for the first four months shows exports up over 12% and imports about 8% to cut the import surplus to \$65,300,000 from \$109,900,000 last year. (Page 14)



Crop Conditions In Prairie Provinces Summary:- According to a report issued on Wednesday, June 1, the general crop outlook has improved considerably over most areas of the Prairie Provinces during the past week. Good progress has been made with wheat seeding, operations being practically completed in Manitoba, western Saskatchewan and in Alberta except for foothill sections. A considerable advance was made in northern central and eastern districts of Saskatchewan during the past week. The situation is still serious in flooded areas, however, and may cause a reduction in total crop area. Seeding of coarse grains has also advanced rapidly but a considerable acreage remains to be sown.

Manitoba Seeding is nearly completed in Manitoba except in scattered areas where operations have been held up because of excess moisture. Delay in seeding is also attributable to cultivation for wild oat control prior to seeding. Special crops are nearly all planted with reduced areas seeded to sunflowers and rapeseed. Grain acreages will likely fall short of intentions except for barley and flax. The Assiniboine flood is serious in the valley at the Manitoba boundary, east of Brandon, and in the Poplar Point--Oakville area. Around 150,000 acres will not be cropped in these districts. On a provincial basis, however, the crop outlook is promising, with moisture in ample supply, germination good, and growth strong. Summerfallow operations have started and also chemical weed control measures.

Saskatchewan Considerable improvement in the general crop situation has occurred in Saskatchewan during the past week, particularly in northern and eastern districts. Showers in southern districts, however, have again delayed seeding and caused further difficulty in flooded areas. Sharp reductions in wheat acreage are indicated in many districts where seeding has been unusually late but, since seeding is still in progress, it is too soon to assess the overall effect of changes in seeding plans. Indications are that some of the land intended for wheat will be sown to coarse grains and flaxseed if the season is not too late. According to the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture, an estimated 80 per cent of the wheat, 50 per cent of the coarse grains and 30 per cent of the flaxseed have been seeded. Pastures, hay and fall rye are in generally excellent condition. While the situation in those areas affected by flooding is still serious, the overall outlook is considerably more promising.

Alberta Good progress was made with seeding in Alberta during the past week. Wheat seeding is practically completed in the Peace River District and in the area east and north of a line from Edmonton to Red Deer, Drumheller and Empress. About 80 to 90 per cent has been done from Medicine Hat through to Coutts. Seeding has been very slow, however, in the Foothills and Cypress Hills areas. Coarse grain seeding is well advanced in the Peace River, Edmonton and northeast-central areas but little has been done in the Foothills. Sugar beets are nearly all planted and seeding of other special crops is well along. Wild oats is the big problem in early-seeded grains. Warm weather is bringing pasture and hay crops along rapidly after a slow start. (1)

More Eggs In April Canadian production of eggs was estimated at 39,000,000 dozen in April, up from 35,300,000 dozen in the same month last year, bringing estimated output in the first four months of 1955 to 152,200,000 dozen as compared with 142,700,000 dozen in the January-April period of 1954.

The average number of layers on farms in April was 27,242,000, up from 24,532,000 a year earlier. Average production per layer however was lower this year at 16.8 eggs versus 17.6. Egg production was higher this April in all provinces and January-April output was higher in all except Quebec, where a decrease was reported.

During the month producers sold 30,900,000 dozen eggs for market, almost 10% more than in April last year. This put the total number marketed in the first four months at 122,809,000 dozen as against 118,059,000 dozen in January-April last year. The estimated number used for food by producers during the four months increased to 18,234,000 dozen from 17,488,000 dozen last year. (2)

April Milk Production
At Last Year's Level Preliminary figures place April milk production at about 1,348,000,000 pounds, almost the same as in April last year, DBS reports. Fluid sales were estimated at 3% above last year's level, while the amount used in dairy factory products was down about 4%. The amount fed to livestock was up nearly 13% and about 2% more was consumed in farm homes.

More complete returns now place March production at an estimated 1,090,991,000 pounds, 18,000,000 or nearly 2% less than in March last year. First-quarter output is estimated at 2,890,000,000 pounds, an increase of 500,000 over the corresponding period of 1954. The reduction in the March output was the result of decreases in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, which outweighed increases in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Ontario and British Columbia. The gain in first-quarter production was the result of increases in Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia, which outweighed decreases in the other provinces.

Fluid sales took 465,539,000 pounds of the March output this year as against 451,243,000 in 1954, but the amount used in dairy factory products decreased to 436,638,000 pounds from 468,668,000. The amount consumed in farm homes showed a slight increase to 84,030,000 pounds from 84,000,000 and the amount fed to livestock increased to 69,988,000 pounds from 68,045,000. Dairy butter took 34,796,000 pounds as against 36,996,000 a year earlier.

The increase in first-quarter production was absorbed by fluid sales which rose to 1,312,599,000 pounds from 1,274,288,000 last year. The amount used in factory production decreased to 1,089,350,000 pounds from 1,115,298,000, dairy butter to 95,916,000 pounds from 103,757,000, farm homes to 241,020,000 pounds from 243,090,000, and the amount fed to livestock to 150,665,000 pounds from 152,640,000. (3)

Milk & Cream Sales Larger Combined sales of fluid milk and cream were 3% larger in March and the first quarter of this year as compared with a year earlier. All provinces shared in the rise both in March and the quarter. All-Canada sales in March amounted to 465,539,000 pounds, bringing the quarter total to 1,312,599,000.

January-March sales were as follows, percentage increases over a year earlier being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 7,227,000 pounds (3%); Nova Scotia, 44,883,000 (5%); New Brunswick, 37,385,000 (3%); Quebec, 494,355,000 (2%); Ontario, 446,153,000 (3%); Manitoba, 56,710,000 (6%); Saskatchewan, 62,522,000 (3%); Alberta, 69,860,000 (5%); and British Columbia, 93,504,000 (5%). (4)

Nine-City Stocks Of Creamery Butter Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on May 26 totalled 40,560,000 pounds, up 5% from May 19 holdings of 38,528,000 pounds. Stocks were as follows by cities, May 19 figures being in brackets (in thousands): Quebec, 1,392 pounds (1,125); Montreal, 19,855 (19,093); Toronto, 7,232 (6,908); Winnipeg, 10,193 (9,729); Regina, 671 (683); Saskatoon, 213 (181); Edmonton, 251 (210); Calgary, 169 (115); and Vancouver, 584 (484).

Sugar Sales Up In April Sales of refined beet and cane sugar by Canadian manufacturers increased to 110,223,000 pounds in April from 104,764,000 pounds in the same month last year, DBS reports. Production increased to 95,385,000 pounds from 82,843,000, but total supply was slightly below last year's level at 298,250,000 pounds versus 299,561,000 as April 1 stocks were lower than a year earlier. Refinery stocks at the end of April totalled 187,990,000 pounds versus 194,591,000 on the same date last year.

During the month refineries received 94,781,000 pounds of raw cane sugar versus 98,743,000 in the same month last year, but total supply was up to 164,105,000 pounds from 159,499,000 as April 1 stocks were higher this year. Meltings and sales during the month took 98,986,000 pounds versus 87,470,000 a year earlier, leaving April-end stocks of 65,119,000 pounds versus 72,029,000 on the same date last year.

Refinery receipts of raw cane sugar in the first four months this year totalled 391,262,000 pounds as against 377,586,000 in the same period last year, and meltings and sales amounted to 326,143,000 pounds versus 305,558,000. January-April production of refined beet and cane sugar increased to 612,355,000 pounds from 590,694,000 in 1954, and sales advanced to 421,904,000 pounds from 393,316,000. (5)

Stocks & Marketings Of Wheat Visible supplies of Canadian wheat on May 18 totalled 322,742,000 bushels, 18,863,000 bushels or 5.5% less than a year earlier. Prairie farmers marketed 5,471,000 bushels of wheat during the week versus 4,336,000, and overseas export clearances totalled 3,554,000 bushels versus 5,802,000. (6)

Production Of Processed Food
Items In First 1955 Quarter

Increases and decreases in the production of principal food commodities were approximately equal in number in the first quarter of this year as compared with a year earlier, according to the Bureau's quarterly bulletin on processed foods.

Production of canned meats as a group rose to 20,725,899 pounds from 12,805,445 a year earlier. Among the chief items the production of luncheon meat rose to 5,326,122 pounds from 2,142,611, canned hams to 5,356,963 pounds from 3,620,473, ready dinners to 4,373,973 pounds from 3,671,810, and meat paste to 1,223,301 pounds from 1,053,390.

Among biscuit and confectionery items there were increases in sugar confectionery to 16,405,960 pounds from 15,235,865, chewing gum to 3,781,330 boxes from 3,726,875, cocoa powder for sale to 2,209,695 pounds from 2,190,603, but decreases in plain and fancy biscuits to 42,719,515 pounds from 43,150,123, soda biscuits to 12,032,699 pounds from 12,912,161, chocolate coatings for sale to 2,593,880 pounds from 4,156,161, chocolate bars to 11,899,922 dozen from 12,056,296, chocolate confectionery in bulk to 2,999,489 pounds from 3,522,603, boxed and packaged chocolate to 4,033,294 pounds from 4,199,469, chocolate moulded novelties to 1,365,319 pounds from 1,530,014, and marshmallows to 1,292,729 pounds from 1,337,697.

Production increases were recorded for jams to 18,416,602 pounds from 16,053,694, jellies to 1,482,285 pounds from 1,328,063, canned soups to 4,930,205 dozen cans from 4,133,465, canned infant and junior foods to 13,215,183 pounds from 7,355,491, but decreases for marmalades to 5,333,527 pounds from 5,995,998, baked beans to 22,721,990 pounds from 23,802,475, pickles to 1,091,334 gallons from 1,198,541, spirit vinegar to 1,815,089 gallons from 1,946,694, and infant cereals to 1,841,598 pounds from 1,896,648.

The quarter's output of baking powder increased to 2,565,752 pounds from 2,134,106, ready-to-serve cereals to 18,396,754 pounds from 18,033,935, dry macaroni to 21,620,067 pounds from 19,965,008, jelly powders to 3,887,985 pounds from 3,180,742, pie filling powders to 1,707,485 pounds from 1,204,743, prepared cake mixes to 11,196,148 pounds from 9,688,666, prepared pie mixes to 1,419,799 pounds from 1,193,502, salad dressing and mayonnaise to 5,586,230 pounds from 5,240,020, and fresh yeast to 6,221,974 pounds from 5,802,902.

Production of roasted coffee declined to 17,993,616 pounds from 21,948,597, canned macaroni to 7,375,981 pounds from 8,796,306, salted and roasted peanuts to 4,446,672 pounds from 4,685,891, pudding powders to 3,348,619 pounds from 4,065,494, process cheese to 11,655,593 pounds from 12,368,839, and blended and packed tea to 11,887,596 pounds from 12,011,289. (?)

Tobacco Crop Larger In 1954

Canada's production of leaf tobacco in the crop year ending September 30, 1954 amounted to 184,763,000 pounds, approximately 45,000,000 larger than the preceding year's 139,763,000 pounds. Growers received \$77,788,000 for the 1954 crop, \$18,171,000 more than in 1953. Ontario producers grossed \$74,174,000 compared with \$56,328,000. The harvested area of all types in 1954 was up to 131,755 acres from 101,088 in the preceding year and the average yield per acre was larger at 1,402 pounds versus 1,377. The average price per pound worked out at 42.10 cents versus 42.82 cents. By types, the yield per acre for 1954 together with the respective 1953 yield in brackets, are as follows: flue-cured, 1,410 pounds (1,382); burley, 1,431 (1,560); dark, 1,605 (1,505); cigar, 1,280 (1,277); and pipe, 880 (1,000). (8)

Apple Pack Up Sharply Last year's commercial pack of apples and apple products was up sharply from 1953, according to a special compilation released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The pack of canned apples rose to 306,173 dozen containers from 197,465 and the net weight of contents to 18,316,991 pounds from 11,149,623. At the same time the pack of apple sauce increased to 955,709 dozen containers from 537,393 and the weight of contents to 12,633,867 pounds from 7,057,832. Pack of apple pie fillings increased to 324,722 dozen containers from 101,213 and the contents weight to 9,199,694 pounds from 4,440,092.

The year's pack of plain apple juice climbed to 2,152,068 dozen containers from 1,166,006 and the contents weight to 52,178,826 pounds from 29,420,666. Vitaminized apple juice pack rose to 758,794 dozen containers from 506,028 and the net weight of contents to 18,549,674 pounds from 10,844,692. Apple juice concentrate pack was upped to 283,048 dozen containers from 65,320 and the contents weight to 3,764,536 pounds from 868,757.

MANUFACTURING

Gypsum Products More gypsum lath, sheathing and plasters were shipped by Canadian manufacturers this April but less gypsum wallboard and block and tile than in April last year, DBS reports. January-April shipments were larger for all except wallboard.

April shipments of gypsum products included 23,685,145 square feet of wallboard (26,987,400 last year), 21,586,522 square feet of lath (19,878,411), 531,360 square feet of sheathing (342,093), 2,765 square feet of block and tile (8,787), and 20,211 tons of plasters (18,420). Four-month shipments included 82,121,336 square feet of wallboard (85,337,512), 86,993,719 square feet of lath (80,545,129), 1,540,016 square feet of sheathing (1,460,201), 38,692 square feet of block and tile (35,478), and 82,868 tons of plasters (71,867).

Stocks on hand at factories at the end of April were higher than a year earlier. Holdings of wallboard increased to 9,713,168 square feet from 8,129,347, lath to 11,506,371 square feet from 8,377,649, sheathing to 1,052,092 square feet from 612,276, block and tile to 215,692 square feet from 129,619, and plasters to 1,503 tons from 1,075. (9)

Production Of Asphalt Roofing Up Production of asphalt roofing increased in April and the January-April period as compared with a year earlier, according to the Bureau's monthly report.

The month's output of asphalt shingles amounted to 201,551 square (149,012 a year earlier); smooth surfaced roll roofing, 69,594 square (65,767); and mineral surfaced roll roofing, 59,283 squares (44,576).

January-April production totals were: asphalt shingles, 780,093 squares (631,218 a year ago); smooth surfaced roll roofing, 296,231 squares (288,537); and mineral surfaced roll roofing, 198,176 squares (187,582). (10)

Production & Shipments Of Hardboard In April Both production and shipments of hardboard were higher in April, the former amounting to 25,592,482 square feet versus 21,843,316 a year ago and the latter to 20,194,975 square feet versus 18,983,363. January-April production amounted to 95,441,221 square feet versus 94,936,625 and domestic shipments totalled 73,094,839 square feet versus 74,897,509. (11)

Castings, Pipe & Fittings Canadian production of iron castings, cast iron pipe and fittings increased to 68,223 tons in February from 63,953 tons in the same month last year, DBS reports. February shipments amounted to 44,353 tons as against 39,215 a year earlier.

Production in the first two months of 1955 was at almost the same level as a year earlier, totalling 127,025 tons as against 127,031. Shipments, however, increased to 84,009 tons in the January-February period from 79,250 last year.

During February iron foundries used 23,700 tons of pig iron versus 24,400 a year earlier, 45,700 tons of scrap iron versus 41,100 and 14,000 tons of scrap steel versus 12,400. Consumption of pig iron in the first two months decreased to 44,400 tons from 48,700, but consumption of scrap iron increased to 86,300 tons from 84,700 and scrap steel to 25,500 tons from 23,300.

April-end foundry stocks of pig iron were down to 35,500 tons from 39,100 a year earlier, but holdings of scrap iron were up to 65,400 tons from 43,000, and scrap steel to 32,900 tons from 29,300. (12)

Production Of Leather And Stocks Of Hides And Skins Production of cattle upper leather, glove and garment leather and calf and kip skin upper leather increased in March from a year earlier but the month's output of horse leather declined. Month-end stocks of raw cattle hides, goat and kid skins, sheep and lamb skins and horse hides were larger, but calf and kip skins were smaller.

March output of cattle sole leather amounted to 1,156,551 pounds (1,221,061 a year ago); upper leather, 5,103,131 square feet (4,304,702); glove and garment leather, 904,114 square feet (470,603); calf and hip skin upper, 875,430 square feet (865,080); and horse leather, 107,653 square feet (161,686).

End-of-March stocks of raw hides and skins held by tanners, packers and dealers were: cattle hides, 556,786 (548,532 a year ago); calf and kip skins, 336,603 (416,732); goat and kid skins, 25,329 (10,979); horse hides, 24,664 (14,376); and sheep and lamb skins, 37,156 dozen (34,747). (13)

Aircraft & Parts Industry Output Upped 63% In 1954 Canada's aircraft and parts industry turned out \$398,744,272 worth of products in 1953 as compared with \$244,607,320 worth in 1952, an increase of 63%, according to the annual industry report by DBS. The number of plants in the industry increased to 43 from 48, employees by 14% to 38,048, the payroll by 31% to \$142,375,699, fuel and electricity costs by 20.5% to \$2,438,890 and material costs by almost 18% to \$135,756,989. M O R E

All told, \$174,847,321 worth of aircraft was completed during the year as against \$104,188,368 worth in 1952. Work done on aircraft not completed at year-end was valued at \$74,313,983 versus \$64,656,323. Work done in the preceding year on aircraft completed in 1953 was valued at \$65,270,503 versus \$32,523,554. Production of aircraft parts was valued at \$54,084,579 as compared with \$32,116,714 in 1952, and the value of repairs to aircraft was \$28,527,062 versus \$22,321,416. The value of other products manufactured and of work done on aircraft and engines was \$132,511,830 as compared with \$53,848,053.

Ontario continued to account for the largest share of the industry's output, the production of its 17 plants being valued at \$233,669,531 in 1953 as compared with \$127,871,430 worth of products made by 15 firms in 1952. Quebec plants numbered 22 in 1953 as against 18 in 1952 and output was valued at \$148,918,382 versus \$102,995,292. There were four plants in Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia in 1953 as compared with five in 1952 and total production was valued at \$16,156,359 as against \$13,740,598.

During the year Canada imported 390 aircraft valued at \$24,194,348 from five countries as compared with 461 valued at \$22,689,795 purchased from four countries in 1952. Imports of aircraft engines decreased to 1,270 worth \$21,755,507 from 2,214 worth \$54,389,310. Aircraft parts imported were valued at \$87,608,312 versus \$72,522,085, and parts for aircraft engines at \$21,645,963 versus \$13,005,340. Exports of Canadian-made aircraft and parts increased in value to \$40,246,507 from \$37,503,036, and re-exports of foreign-made aircraft and parts to \$5,138,969 from \$4,908,725. (14)

Stone Industry In 1953 Primary production in Canada's stone industry was little changed in 1953 from the preceding year but the value of secondary production rose almost 13%, according to the annual industry report by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

During 1953 the stone quarrying industry shipped 19,849,017 short tons of stone valued at \$30,613,051 compared with 18,726,196 tons valued at \$30,835,356 in 1952. Shipments of granite and other igneous rocks amounted to 1,350,917 tons valued at \$5,554,530. Shipments of sedimentary rock included 17,461,720 tons of limestone valued at \$23,783,230; marble, 59,655 tons worth \$546,991; sandstone, 974,104 tons worth \$695,965; and slate, 2,621 tons valued at \$32,335.

Output of the stone products industry was valued at \$22,695,639 versus \$20,105,980 in the preceding year. Among the chief products were: cut and polished granite valued at \$3,643,317; cut and polished marble valued at \$1,488,807; limestone at \$2,539,384; semi-finished monuments, bases and markers at \$166,780; and finished monuments (lettered only), \$457,199. (15)

MINERALS

Coal Production Down In April But Imports Higher Coal production in April dropped 15% from a year earlier but the imports rose nearly 29%. The month's output amounted to 950,000 tons versus 1,121,500 bringing the January-April total to 5,068,700 tons versus 5,391,700. April's landed imports were 1,877,900 tons versus 1,339,400 and in the four months aggregated 3,646,500 tons versus 3,142,000. (15)

Production Of Leading Minerals

Output of nine of Canada's 16 leading minerals was higher in February than in the corresponding month last year, DBS reports. Production was higher for asbestos, copper, gold, lime, natural gas, nickel, petroleum, salt and zinc, but lower for cement, clay products, coal gypsum, iron ore, lead and silver.

February production totals follow: asbestos, 63,520 tons (61,629 a year ago); cement, 889,592 barrels (1,186,065); clay products, \$1,172,123 (\$1,829,797); coal, 1,269,815 tons (1,376,087); copper, 25,088 tons (18,493); gold, 351,583 fine ounces (310,717); gypsum, 164,671 tons (191,925).

Production of iron ore amounted to 83,704 tons (115,184); lead, 15,018 tons (16,863); lime, 99,579 tons (96,237); natural gas, 14,137,508 M cubic feet (11,217,728M); nickel, 13,122 tons (11,795); petroleum, 9,103,367 barrels (7,616,939); salt, 82,601 tons (73,845); silver, 1,937,960 fine ounces (2,050,440); and zinc, 32,068 tons (25,076): (16)

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Production Of Electric Energy
Up 15.5% In First Quarter

Production of electric energy in this year's first quarter climbed 15.5% to 19,134,578,000 kilowatt hours from 16,551,597,000 in the corresponding period of 1954. There were increases in each month this year, the March output rising to 6,614,995,000 kilowatt hours from 5,765,717,000 a year ago, February to 5,972,753,000 kilowatt hours from 5,152,431,000, and January to 6,546,830,000 kilowatt hours from 5,633,449,000.

Consumption in the quarter rose to 18,059,347,000 kilowatt hours from 16,197,837,000 a year earlier. Exports to the United States increased to 1,088,109,000 kilowatt hours from 416,087,000, while the imports dropped to 12,378,000 kilowatt hours from 62,326,000.

There were production gains in all provinces except Nova Scotia in the quarter. Quebec output rose to 8,975,439,000 kilowatt hours from 8,168,561,000 a year earlier, Ontario to 6,350,264,000 from 5,019,308,000, British Columbia to 1,572,814,000 from 1,300,770,000, Manitoba to 815,684,000 from 799,340,000, Alberta to 431,441,000 from 379,944,000, Saskatchewan to 369,559,000 from 325,816,000, New Brunswick to 230,296,000 from 203,803,000, Newfoundland to 72,769,000 from 59,328,000, Prince Edward Island to 11,369,000 from 8,497,000. Nova Scotia total was down to 280,999,000 from 286,230,000. The quarter's output in the Yukon and Northwest Territories was 23,944,000 kilowatt hours.

March production totals follow by provinces: Quebec, 3,137,152,000 kilowatt hours (2,894,703,000 a year earlier); Ontario, 2,170,495,000 (1,739,195,000); British Columbia, 551,082,000 (427,828,000); Manitoba, 281,644,000 (274,659,000); Alberta, 147,202,000 (122,336,000); Saskatchewan, 126,739,000 (107,573,000); Nova Scotia, 82,929,000 (97,663,000); New Brunswick, 81,090,000 (78,883,000); Newfoundland, 24,747,000 (20,060,000); Prince Edward Island, 3,794,000 (2,817,000); and Yukon and Northwest Territories, 8,121,000 (not available for 1954). (17)

Sales And Financing Of Sales Of
Motor Vehicles Dropped In 1954

New motor vehicle sales in Canada last year declined 17% in number and 15% in retail value from 1953's all-time peaks, according to the Bureau's annual report on new motor vehicle sales and motor vehicle financing. At the same time financing of sales of new and used motor vehicles dropped 16% both in number and value.

The total number of new units sold in 1954 dropped to 382,628 units from 462,526 in 1953 and the retail value to \$989,518,000 from \$1,162,471,000. The figures reveal a slight increase in the average valuation per unit.

There were 310,546 new passenger cars sold in 1954, 13.5% less than the 359,172 units sold in 1953, while the retail value declined 11.4% to \$797,554,000 from \$899,726,000. The 72,082 commercial vehicles sold in 1954 represented a drop of over 30% from 1953's 103,354 units. Retail value fell 27% to \$191,964,000 from \$262,745,000. Commercial vehicles represented less than 19% of all vehicles sold in 1954 versus 22% in 1953.

A relative steadiness in the provincial distribution of both passenger cars and commercial vehicles was apparent over the last two years. In 1954 Ontario accounted for 45.5% of all passenger cars and 34.6% of commercial vehicles, while Quebec claimed 21.1% and 20%, respectively. All provinces reported decreases of both passenger cars and commercial vehicles sold as compared with 1953. These decreases ranged from 4.8% in Quebec for passenger cars to 52.2% in Saskatchewan for commercial vehicles.

In 1954 there were 538,728 new and used vehicle sales financed by acceptance companies to the extent of \$611,646,000, a drop of 16% in both number and value in comparison with the record 640,512 vehicles financed for \$725,545,000 in 1953. Both new and used passenger car sales were financed to a lesser extent in 1954 than in 1953. In 1954 there were 126,099 new passenger cars financed for \$230,900,000, 14% in number and 8% in value below 1953's 146,431 new cars financed for \$252,160,000. Used passenger cars financed in 1954 were 15% lower in number and 16% less in amount of financing than in 1953.

Financing of new commercial vehicles declined 34% in number and 32% in amount compared with 1953. Used commercial vehicle financing showed smaller but significant declines of 15% in number and 20% in amount. The average amount of financing of new passenger cars and commercial vehicles was higher in 1954 than in 1953, while in the case of used vehicles it was lower. (19)

Department Store Sales
Increased 3.3% In Week

Department store sales rose 3.3% during the week ending May 21 as compared with the corresponding week last year. Ontario led the provinces with a sales gain of 5.8%, followed by Quebec with a rise of 4.5%, Manitoba 4%, British Columbia 3.4%, and the Atlantic Provinces 2.7%. There were declines of 6.1% in Saskatchewan and 2.6% in Alberta.

Accidents, Fatalities & Injuries From
Movement Of Trains Lowest In Decade

Accidents, fatalities and injuries resulting from the movement of trains in 1953 were the lowest in more than a decade, according to Part 1 of the Bureau's annual report on railway transport. The accident count in 1953 was placed at 2,669, the fatalities at 290, and the number of person injured at 2,781.

The number of accidents was the lowest since 1941's 2,515. There were 3,128 in 1952, 3,078 in 1951, 2,738 in 1950 and 3,189 in 1949. Fatalities dropped to the smallest number since 1940 when there were 275, comparing with 375 in 1952, 362 in 1951, 299 in 1950 and 302 in 1949. Injuries reached the lowest number since 1941 when 2,756 were recorded. The injury count for other recent years shows 3,156 in 1952, 3,127 in 1951, 3,098 in 1950 and 3,325 in 1949.

Non-train accidents also took fewer lives in 1953 when fatalities totalled 15, the smallest number since 1938 when 11 fatalities occurred. In 1952 there were 18; in 1951, 28; in 1950, 18; and in 1949, 27. The injury toll dropped to 4,044, the next lowest count being recorded in 1939 when there were 4,373. The 1952 total was 4,753, 5,468 in 1951, 6,051 in 1950 and 6,609 in 1949.

During the year 450 persons were injured in rail-highway crossing accidents, the lowest since 1946 when 442 were counted. This compares with 467 in 1952, 522 in 1951, 478 in 1950, and 490 in 1949. Highway crossing accidents resulted in 157 fatalities during the year, down from 185 in 1952 and 201 in 1951, but up from 141 in 1950 and 140 in 1949.

Largest number of injuries and fatalities occurred at unprotected crossings. Injured at unprotected crossings in 1953 were 369 persons, the same as in 1952, and down from 434 in 1951, 376 in 1950 and 399 in 1949. Fatalities at unprotected crossings numbered 132, down from 133 in 1952 and 162 in 1951, but up from 111 in 1950 and 115 in 1949.

The number of highway crossings at the end of 1953 was 33,043, an increase of 89 from a year earlier. Protected crossings increased by 73 to 3,514, of which 50 were added in urban areas and 23 in rural areas. About 43% of all protected crossings at the end of 1953 were safeguarded by automatic signals -- 648 urban and 878 rural. Unprotected crossings rose by 16 to 29,529 at the end of 1953; 100 more in urban areas but 84 fewer in rural areas. (20)

Pipe-Line Deliveries Of Oil
Reached Record In Quarter

Net deliveries of oil through Canadian pipe lines reached a high record 52,403,600 barrels in the first quarter of this year, 25% larger than last year's 42,003,000 barrels. March deliveries were 18,561,758 barrels (12,816,793 a year ago); February, 16,674,232 (13,776,527); and January, 17,616,029 (15,366,806).

Provincial deliveries in the quarter were as follows: British Columbia, 7,342,889 barrels (3,230,826 a year ago); Alberta, 4,665,600 (3,934,901); Saskatchewan, 3,619,767 (3,301,164); Manitoba, 11,999,092 (9,236,754); Ontario, 9,789,575 (7,937,651); and Quebec, 15,986,822 (14,361,745). (21).

Railway Car Loadings Higher Railway car loadings in the second week of May totalled 81,495 cars, up 16.8% from last year's corresponding total of 69,748 cars. This brought cumulative loadings from the beginning of the year to May 14 to 1,321,193 cars, up 4.7% from 1,261,763.

Cars received from connections in the week numbered 21,481 cars, up 9.3% from 28,803 a year earlier. From the beginning of the year receipts rose 9.3% to 596,665 cars from 545,880.

Commodities carried in larger volume in the second week of May were: grain, 7,577 cars (against 5,104 a year earlier); iron ore, 3,764 (776) non-ferrous ores and concentrates, 3,547 (3,002); sand, gravel and crushed stone, 4,591 (3,117); lumber, timber and plywood, 4,802 (3,481); automobiles, trucks and parts, 2,785 (1,930); and miscellaneous carload commodities, 5,510 (4,-876). Carried in fewer cars were: vegetables, 470 (936); and merchandise, L.C.L., 14,589 (15,336). (22)

P R I C E S

Security Price Indexes

	<u>May 26</u>	<u>May 19</u> (1935-39=100)	<u>April 28</u>
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
Total Common Stocks	226.7	223.1	217.5
Industrials	233.1	229.0	223.4
Utilities	195.2	192.0	185.4
Banks	234.6	235.4	233.1

Mining Stock Price Index

Total Mining Stocks	114.8	114.7	110.6
Golds	72.4	73.3	71.8
Base Metals	212.0	209.5	199.4

Wholesale Price Indexes

	<u>April</u> <u>1954</u>	<u>March</u> <u>1955</u> (1935-39=100)	<u>April</u> <u>1955</u>
<u>General Index</u>	218.0	217.4	218.5
Vegetable Products	196.0	196.8	199.0
Animal Products	241.5	226.1	225.0
Textile Products	233.3	227.4	226.3
Wood Products	285.7	292.5	293.8
Iron Products	214.2	217.4	218.2
Non-ferrous Metals	167.6	179.0	183.8
Non-metallic Minerals	178.3	174.5	175.2
Chemical Products	176.0	176.9	177.2
Combined Index, Iron and Non-ferrous Metals (excluding gold)	218.2	228.5	232.5

Labour Income Up In February

Canadian workers earned an estimated \$990,000,000 in February, \$6,000,000 more than in January and \$40,000,000 more than in February last year, DBS reports. The modest gain over the preceding month resulted from increases in manufacturing and the finance and services group, which outweighed decreases in construction and the primary industries. Compared with a year earlier, labour income was higher in February in all sectors of the economy.

Advances in total wages and salaries in transportation equipment, iron and steel products, and clothing and textile products in Ontario and Quebec accounted for a large share of the increase in manufacturing labour income to \$328,000,000 from \$318,000,000 in January. This compared with \$325,000,000 in February last year. The total for the finance and services group increased to \$249,000,000 in February from \$246,000,000 in January and \$225,000,000 a year earlier. While mild weather in British Columbia increased construction activity in that province, operations showed the usual seasonal decline in other parts of Canada and total labour income in this sector decreased to \$56,000,000 from \$60,000,000 in January. This compared with \$54,000,000 a year earlier.

Labour income in agriculture, forestry, fishing, trapping and mining decreased to \$70,000,000 in February from \$73,000,000 in January and compared with \$66,000,000 in February last year. The total for utilities, transportation, communication, storage and trade was unchanged from the preceding month at \$253,000,000 and compared with \$247,000,000 in February last year. Supplementary labour income remained at the January level of \$34,000,000 and was \$1,000,000 more than in February last year. (23)

Fewer Claims For Unemployment Insurance Benefits In April

Fewer initial and renewal claims for unemployment insurance benefits were received in local offices across Canada in April than in March or April last year, the total falling to 154,260 versus 243,544 in March and 158,411 in the corresponding month last year.

Ordinary claimants on the live unemployment insurance register at the end of April numbered 318,463 (260,541 males and 57,922 females), versus 406,651 (342,434) males and 64,217 females on March 31 and 338,374 (280,595 males and 57,779 females) a year earlier. Short-time claimants at the end of the month numbered 34,352 and temporary lay-off claimants totalled 1,113.

New beneficiaries during April numbered 103,110 versus 154,738 in March and 108,692 during April last year.

A total of \$24,598,076 was paid in compensation for 7,735,268 days during April versus \$33,952,877 and 10,621,770 days in March and \$25,381,926 and 7,997,163 days in April 1954.

By provinces, initial and renewal claims filed in April were as follows: Newfoundland, 5,793 (5,719 a year earlier); Prince Edward Island, 606 (529); Nova Scotia, 6,875 (6,819); New Brunswick, 9,168 (8,630); Quebec, 52,759 (54,266); Ontario, 44,462 (50,080); Manitoba, 5,858 (5,941) Saskatchewan, 3,520 (2,909); Alberta, 10,349 (8,779); and British Columbia, 14,870 (14,739). (24)

Hourly And Weekly Wages In Manufacturing At New Peaks

Average hourly and weekly earnings of wage-earners in manufacturing reached new peaks of 143.5 cents and \$59.12, respectively, in the week ending March 1, advance figures show. The length of the average work, at 41.2 hours, was 0.2 hours longer than at February 1. Hourly earnings in the durable goods division of manufacturing rose by 1.2 cents to 155 cents, largely due to the settlement of major labour-management disputes in the transportation equipment industries, together with increased activity in the same group and in agricultural implements, iron and steel and some other industries. Some wage-rate increases were reported. Changes in the averages in the nondurable category were small. Lay-offs in fruit and vegetable canneries and tobacco processing were largely offset by increased employment in clothing and footwear manufacturing.

There was a small increase in average hourly earnings in mining due to higher bonuses in Ontario, and longer hours in Quebec in the metal group. Alberta coal mines reported lessened employment for wage-earners. Hourly and weekly earnings rose slightly in the construction industry, although the number of wage-earners reported and the aggregate hours continued to fall. Changes in the service group were insignificant.

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

<u>Industry</u>	<u>Average Hours</u>			<u>Average Hourly Earnings</u>			<u>Average Weekly Wages</u>		
	Mar. 1 1954	Feb. 1 1955	Mar. 1 1955	Mar. 1 1954	Feb. 1 1955	Mar. 1 1955	Mar. 1 1954	Feb. 1 1955	Mar. 1 1955
	no.	no.	no.	¢	¢	¢	\$	\$	\$
Manufacturing	41.1	41.0	41.2	140.6	142.7	143.5	57.79	58.51	59.12
Durable Goods	41.3	41.1	41.3	151.6	153.8	155.0	62.61	63.21	64.02
Non-Durable Goods...	40.8	40.8	41.0	128.2	131.2	131.3	52.31	53.53	53.83
Mining	42.4	43.5	43.3	157.5	160.3	160.8	66.78	69.73	69.63
Electric & Motor									
Transportation	45.7	45.0	45.2	139.8	141.5	142.0	63.89	63.68	64.18
Construction	41.6	39.7	39.9	151.6	152.8	153.5	63.07	60.66	61.25
Service	41.0	40.2	40.3	83.2	85.2	85.0	34.11	34.25	34.26

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Exports Lead Imports
In April Trade Gain

Canada's foreign commodity trade again moved upward in April, with exports showing a bigger advance over last year than imports, according to preliminary figure for the month released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Both exports and imports were also above corresponding 1954 levels in each of the previous three months, the gains in exports exceeding those in imports.

MORE

Total exports rose 14.6% in April to \$341,900,000 from \$298,200,000 in April last year to reach the highest level for the month since 1932. Most of the gain in value was in shipments to the United Kingdom and the United States, exports to other Commonwealth countries showing a slight rise and those to other foreign countries a small decline. Commodity imports in the month increased 9.9% to \$382,900,000 from \$348,500,000, larger purchases from the United States accounting for most of the gain. Imports were down slightly from the United Kingdom and up moderately in totals from other Commonwealth and other foreign countries. Net result on the month's total trade was an import balance of \$41,000,000 compared to \$50,300,000 for April last year.

In the four months ending April, exports totalled \$1,308,300,000, up 12.4% over \$1,164,400,000 last year, and imports aggregated \$1,373,600,000 for a gain of 7.8% over \$1,274,300,000. The bigger jump in exports than imports reduced the import surplus for the period to \$65,300,000 from \$109,900,000 last year. Total exports were higher in the four months to the United Kingdom, other Commonwealth countries and the United States, but lower to the remaining foreign countries as a whole, while imports were up in value from all except the United Kingdom.

April shipments to the United Kingdom jumped sharply in value to \$71,800,000 compared to \$39,400,000 a year earlier, bringing the four-month total to \$255,600,000 against \$175,400,000. Purchases from the United Kingdom in the month were down slightly to \$33,800,000 from \$35,300,000, lowering the January-April total to \$119,200,000 from \$123,500,000. For the month the export surplus rose to \$38,000 from \$4,200,000 last year, and for the four months climbed to \$136,400,000 from \$51,900,000.

Exports to other Commonwealth countries advanced in April to \$20,500,000 from \$18,900,000 a year ago, raising the four-month aggregate to \$73,000,000 compared to \$56,500,000. Imports from these countries moved upward in the month to \$18,300,000 from \$14,800,000 and in the four months amounted to \$54,600,000 against \$43,700,000.

Commodity shipments to the United States increased to \$194,300,000 from \$181,900,000, while imports from the United States rose more sharply to \$285,500,000 from \$255,700,000, the month's import surplus thus rising to \$91,200,000 against \$74,100,000 last year. In the four months ending April, exports to the United States totalled \$773,800,000 against \$719,000,000 last year, and the total for imports was \$1,031,200,000 compared to \$945,300,000, making a cumulative import surplus at the end of April of \$257,400,000 compared to \$226,300,000.

Exports to all foreign countries other than the United States declined in April to \$55,300,000 from \$58,000,000 a year earlier, the four-month aggregate falling slightly more to \$205,900,000 against \$213,500,000. Imports from these countries, on the other hand, moved up in the month to \$45,300,000 from \$42,700,000, and in the four months amounted to \$168,600,000 against \$161,300,000.

M O R E

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

	April		January-April	
	1954	1955	1954	1955
(millions of dollars)				
<u>Exports: (Domestic & Foreign)</u>				
United Kingdom	39.4	71.8	175.4	255.6
Other Commonwealth countries.	18.9	20.5	56.5	73.0
United States	181.9	194.3	719.0	773.8
Other foreign countries	58.0	55.3	213.5	205.9
Totals ...	298.2	341.9	1,164.4	1,308.3
<u>Imports:</u>				
	April		January-April	
	1954	1955 **	1954	1955 **
United Kingdom	35.3	33.8	123.5	119.2
Other Commonwealth countries.	14.8	18.3	43.7	54.6
United States	255.7	285.5	945.8	1,031.2
Other foreign countries	42.7	45.3	161.3	168.6
Totals ...	348.5	382.9	1,274.3	1,373.6

** Estimate only. Subject to revision.

Broad Commodity Gains Final, detailed figures on Canada's commodity im-
In March Imports ports in March, just released by the Bureau, show
gains over a year earlier for each of the nine main
commodity groups, and increases in purchases from all main supplying coun-
tries or groups of countries except Latin America.

Imports of the iron and its products group had the largest dollar in-
crease at \$134,489,000 against \$129,701,000 a year earlier, with major gains
in automobile parts and engines and boilers but lower figures for farm im-
plements and machinery and motor vehicles and minor changes in other leading
items. The miscellaneous commodities group was next with an increase to
\$42,749,000 from \$38,628,000, followed by the fibres and textiles group at
\$35,507,000 compared to \$31,677,000.

The agricultural and vegetable products group increased to \$41,576,000
from \$40,225,000, the animals and animal products group to \$9,695,000 from
\$7,606,000, and the wood and paper group to \$16,151,000 from \$15,282,000.
Imports of non-ferrous metals and products rose to \$30,909,000 from \$28,126,-
000 and of non-metallic minerals and products to \$44,170,000 from \$42,280,000,
while those of chemical and allied products moved up to \$20,955,000 from
\$19,511,000. (25 & 26)

The following table shows the values of 17 leading commodity imports in
March and the first quarter of 1955, together with comparative figures for 1954,
ranked according to value for the 1955 quarter:-

M O R E

	<u>March</u> 1954	1955	<u>January-March</u> 1954	1955
		(in thousands)		
Machinery, non-farm	\$36,768	\$36,479	\$92,119	\$91,189
Automobile parts	22,287	25,900	58,969	64,362
Petroleum, crude	18,214	19,281	52,478	49,614
Farm implements & machinery	16,341	15,174	34,515	33,493
Engines & boilers	8,962	11,468	26,360	28,629
Aircraft & parts	9,004	11,065	21,873	27,276
Cotton products	8,275	8,741	21,119	23,382
Automobiles	9,774	8,251	19,445	23,374
Rolling-mill products	9,638	9,148	29,007	22,919
Fruits	8,018	8,516	19,846	21,801
Coal	6,341	6,274	20,517	19,877
Cotton, raw	5,408	6,118	12,038	16,463
Rubber & products	3,990	6,138	10,631	15,814
Coffee & chicory	6,646	4,341	18,781	15,646
Vegetables	3,948	5,246	9,929	13,689
Wool products	5,785	5,137	16,238	12,528
Synthetic fibres & products	3,691	4,605	9,668	12,413

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

- 1- Telegraphic Crop Report, Prairie Provinces, 10¢
- 2- M: Production of Eggs, April, 10¢
- 3- The Dairy Review, April, 25¢
- 4- M: Fluid Milk Sales, March, 10¢
- 5- M: Sugar Situation, April, 10¢
- 6- M: Grain Statistics Weekly, May 18, 10¢
- 7- Quarterly Report on Processed Foods, March, 25¢
- 8- M: Tobacco Production & Value, 1954, 10¢
- 9- M: Gypsum Products, April, 10¢
- 10- M: Asphalt Roofing, April, 10¢
- 11- M: Hardboard, April, 10¢
- 12- M: Iron Castings & Cast Iron Pipes & Fittings, February, 10¢
- 13- M: Statistics of Hides, Skins & Leather, March, 10¢
- 14- Aircraft & Parts Industry, 1953, 25¢
- 15- Stone Industry, 1953, 25¢
- 16- M: Preliminary Report on Coal Production, April, 10¢
- 17- Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, February, 10¢
- 18- M: Central Electric Stations, March, 10¢
- 19- New Motor Vehicle Sales & Motor Vehicle Financing, 1954, 25¢
- 20- Railway Transport (Part I -- comparative summary statistics, 1949 to 1953), 25¢
- 21- M: Pipe Lines (Oil) Statistics, March, 10¢
- 22- M: Car Loadings on Canadian Railways, May 14, 10¢
- 23- Estimates of Labour Income, February, 10¢
- 24- Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, April, 25¢
- 25- Monthly Summary of Foreign Trade, March 10¢
- 26- Imports for Consumption (summary), March, 20¢
- Inventories, Shipments & Orders In Manufacturing Industries, March, 25¢ --
Summarized in Bulletin of May 25.
- Quarterly Stocks of Canned Fruits & Vegetables on Hand,
March 31, 1955 (Summarized in Bulletin of May 12), 25¢

M - Memorandum

R - Reference Paper

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

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Aircraft Plants There were 43 plants in Canada's aircraft and parts industry in 1953, five more than in 1952 and 29 more than in 1949. Employees numbered 38,048 in 1953 versus 33,356 in 1952 and 10,725 in 1949.

Asbestos Products Over \$22,000,000 worth of asbestos products were manufactured in Canada in 1953. Chief among these were \$3,473,000 worth of brake linings and \$1,507,000 worth of boiler and pipe coverings.

Fewer Train Accidents Accidents resulting from the movement of trains decreased from 3,218 in 1952 to 2,669 in 1953, the smallest number in five years. The number killed fell to 290 from 375 and the number injured to 2,781 from 3,156.

More Flagstones Canada's stone industry shipped 6,448 tons of flagstone worth \$85,375 in 1953 as compared with 5,513 tons worth \$59,630 in 1952.

Apple Juice The pack of plain apple juice in the fall of 1954 and the spring of this year from last year's crop totalled nearly 2,153,000 dozen containers with a net weight of 52,179,000 pounds. In addition, 759,000 dozen containers of vitaminized apple juice with a net weight of 18,550,000 pounds and 283,000 dozen containers of apple juice concentrate with a net weight of 3,765,000 pounds were packed.

Fewer TB Cases Only 10,474 cases of tuberculosis were reported in Canada last year, the smallest number since 1940.

Stone: 83% From Ontario & Quebec 44% of the stone shipped by the industry in 1953 came from Ontario and 39% from Quebec. Quarries in British Columbia supplied 7%, the balance coming from Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba and Alberta.

Lifeboats Canada's boatbuilding industry shipped 111 lifeboats and whaleboats in 1953 as against 113 in 1952, but total factory value increased to \$199,318 from \$183,059.

Mumps 26,908 cases of mumps were reported in Canada last year, the smallest number since 1949.

More Diesel Locomotives The number of diesel electric locomotives in service on Canadian railway lines almost quadrupled in four years, increasing to 956 in 1953 from 246 in 1949. At the same time, the number of steam locomotives decreased to 3,829 from 4,351.

Air-Conditioning 182 complete air-conditioning systems were shipped in 1953 by Canadian manufacturers, 75 more than in 1952. Shipments of room conditioners increased to 51,314 from 4,728.

Stone Quarries There were 488 stone quarries operated in Canada by 429 firms in 1953 as against 493 operated by 419 firms in 1952.

More Freight Cars In Use There were 187,980 freight cars in service on Canadian railway lines at the end of 1953 as against 186,557 a year earlier, the fourth increase in a row.

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