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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Construction: The value of construction in Canada is expected to pass the \$5 billion mark for the first time this year and will top last year's value by almost 8%. (Page 2)

Provincial Finance: Net general revenue of Canada's ten provincial governments in the fiscal year ending March 31, 1956, is expected to be \$47,000,000 more than in the fiscal year ended March 31, 1955. On the other hand, net combined ordinary and capital expenditure is estimated to increase \$152,000,000. (Page 3)

Manufacturing: June output of passenger cars and commercial vehicles increased sharply this year to put production in the first half-year appreciably above last year's reduced January-June output... Half-year outputs of steel ingots and pig iron were up sharply this year. (Pages 5 & 6)

Merchandising: Sales of department stores across Canada averaged about 6% above the 1954 level in the week ending July 2... May sales of chain stores averaged over 2% higher than a year earlier... More new motor vehicles were sold in May than in any other month on record. (Pages 6 & 7)

Industrial Production: Reflecting a continuation of the rising trend of output of recent months, Canada's industrial production in April was 6.6% above a year earlier. Mineral production increased 11.5%, electricity and gas output 10% and manufacturing production 5.5%. (Page 8)

Prices: Declines of 0.1% to 0.7% were registered by the ten regional consumer price indexes between May 2 and June 1... Prices of commodities and services used by farmers increased 2.3% between January and April, and farm prices of agricultural products advanced slightly in May. (Pages 9 & 10)

Minerals: Outputs of iron ore, asbestos and nickel were substantially above last year's level in May, but copper production declined. (Pages 10 & 11)

Food: The acreage of peas contracted for by commercial canners this year is 28% larger than last year, while the acreage of tomatoes shows an increase of 20%, corn 19%, beans 12% and asparagus 8%. (Page 14)

Peak Year Forecast For Construction Industry:  
Value Of Work Will Top \$5,000,000.000 In 1955

Canada's construction industry is expected to pass the \$5 billion mark for the first time this year,

according to estimates published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The estimates, based on January intentions, place the total value of construction to be put in place in Canada in 1955 at a record \$5,059,000,000, some \$369,000,000 or almost 8% more than in 1954.

Physical volume of construction is expected to show a similar percentage increase over last year as little change is anticipated in material and labour prices. Almost all of the increase in value and volume is expected to be in new construction, the amount spent on repair construction is being expected to show only a slight advance over 1954. Contractors are expected to undertake a larger share of the total construction: 75% this year as compared with 73% in 1954, 72% in 1953 and 68% in 1952.

The value of new construction is estimated at \$4,063,000,000 for 1955, up from \$3,696,000,000 in 1954, and the value of repair construction at \$996,000,000 versus \$994,000,000. New construction undertaken by contractors is estimated at \$3,413,000,000 as against \$3,032,000,000 last year, and repair construction at \$379,000,000 as compared with \$385,000,000 in the preceding year. The larger share of repair construction is undertaken by firms or persons not primarily engaged in construction work.

The distribution of construction work between building and engineering is expected to remain almost the same in 1955 as in 1954, building construction accounting for \$3,111,000,000 or 61.5% of the total this year as against \$2,892,000,000 or 61.7% last year. Engineering construction is estimated at \$1,948,000,000 versus \$1,798,000,000.

In the building branch, residential construction is expected to show the largest increase this year, to \$1,512,000,000 from \$1,391,000,000 in 1954. Other types of building construction are also expected to show increases over last year: industrial construction to \$378,000,000 from \$352,000,000; commercial construction to \$544,000,000 from \$541,000,000; institutional construction to \$432,000,000 from \$368,000,000; and other kinds of buildings to \$246,000,000 from \$240,000,000.

In the engineering category, gas and oil facilities are expected to register the largest advance this year, to \$323,000,000 from \$263,000,000 in 1954, followed by road engineering to \$510,000,000 from \$470,000,000, and marine construction to \$114,000,000 from \$81,000,000. Other engineering construction expected to show increases this year are: waterworks and sewage systems, to \$154,000,000 from \$142,000,000; electric power construction to \$372,000,000 from \$358,000,000; and railway, telephone and telegraph construction to \$294,000,000 from \$286,000,000. Dams and irrigation construction is expected to remain at the 1954 level of \$42,000,000, while other engineering construction is expected to decrease to \$138,000,000 from \$156,000,000.



Increases in the value of construction over last year are expected in all industries or sectors except wholesale and retail trade, where the decline is estimated at 2.4%. Estimated percentage increases are: agriculture and fishing, 1.8%; forestry, 9.6%; mining, quarrying and oil wells, 27%; construction, 11.3%; manufacturing, 2%; utilities, 6%; finance, insurance and real estate, 8.4%; commercial services, 3.1%; housing, 8.6%; institutional services, 17.5%; and government departments, 7.6%.

The value of construction work is expected to be greater this year in all provinces except Manitoba and Saskatchewan. In Newfoundland the increase will be to \$74,798,000 from \$60,706,000 in 1954; in Prince Edward Island to \$16,221,000 from \$14,535,000; in Nova Scotia to \$144,206,000 from \$137,178,000; in New Brunswick to \$144,406,000 from \$110,822,000; in Quebec to \$1,183,706,000 from \$1,131,852,000; in Ontario to \$1,909,917,000 from \$1,740,030,000; in Alberta to \$586,257,000 from \$534,119,000 and in British Columbia to \$520,618,000 from \$450,931,000. In Manitoba the decrease will be to \$233,292,000 from \$235,864,000 in 1954, and in Saskatchewan to \$245,517,000 from \$273,662,000. (1)

#### PROVINCIAL FINANCE

<u>Revenue And Expenditure Of Provincial Governments</u>	Net general revenue of Canada's ten provincial governments in the fiscal year ending March 31, 1956, calculated from information derived from the estimates and budget speeches presented to the provincial legislatures last Spring, is estimated at \$1,358,000,000 compared with \$1,311,000,000 estimated for the previous fiscal year, the Bureau reports in its annual summary of estimates of revenue and expenditure of provincial governments. Net combined ordinary and capital expenditure, on the same basis, is estimated at \$1,505,000,000 compared with \$1,353,000,000 estimated for 1954-55.
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The total yield of taxes is estimated for the current year at \$553,000,000, up from \$534,000,000 estimated for the previous year. On the other hand, estimated provincial revenue under the federal tax rental agreements totals \$320,000,000 against \$327,000,000. This drop is due to the slight decline in gross national product in 1954, the tax rental payments being affected by the previous year's gross national product per capita. Privileges, licences and permits are estimated at \$300,000,000 compared with \$262,000,000 and liquor profits at \$119,000,000 against \$117,000,000 in the previous year's estimate.

On the expenditure side, transportation and communications accounts for \$432,000,000 of the estimated total as against \$370,000,000 estimated for 1954-55. Health and social welfare expenditures are placed at an aggregate \$364,000,000 against \$335,000,000, and education at \$300,000,000 compared to \$247,000,000. Estimated expenditures on natural resources and primary industries are also up to \$118,000,000 as against \$100,000,000.

MORE

Preliminary compilations of actual results in the fiscal year 1954-55, presented in the Bureau's report, show a rise in net general revenue for the ten governments to \$1,380,000,000 from \$1,335,000,000 in 1953-54 and in net general expenditure (excluding debt retirement) to \$1,409,000,000 from \$1,257,000,000. These totals compare with \$1,076,000,000 revenue and \$1,073,000,000 expenditure for the fiscal year 1951-52.

The total tax yield for the fiscal year 1954-55 is expected to amount to \$554,000,000 up from \$506,000,000 in 1953-54. Returns from sales taxes on motor fuel and oil were up to \$237,000,000, according to the preliminary figures, from \$224,000,000 the previous year and \$182,000,000 in 1951-52, while the yield of general sales taxes increased to \$127,000,000 in 1954-55 from \$108,000,000 in 1953-54 and \$91,000,000 three years earlier. Payments under federal tax rental agreements amounted to \$327,000,000 in 1954-55 against \$309,000,000, while privileges, licences and permits yielded a reduced \$315,000,000 compared to \$331,000,000 and liquor profits were down slightly to \$123,000,000 from \$125,000,000.

Expenditure on transportation and communications increased to \$382,000,000 in 1954-55 from \$353,000,000 the previous fiscal year and the previous high of \$367,000,000 for 1952-53. Total outlays on health and social welfare rose to \$351,000,000 from \$313,000,000, continuing their steady upward climb. Education expenditures showed the same continued advance with a rise to \$299,000,000 from \$234,000,000 the previous year and compared with \$196,000,000 in 1951-52. Debt retirement out of current account, on the other hand, was down to \$62,000,000 from \$81,000,000 in 1953-54.

Eight of the ten provinces are expected to have larger net general revenues in 1954-55 than in the previous year, the two exceptions being Saskatchewan and Alberta, and all without exception to have larger net general expenditures. (2)

## MANUFACTURING

More Radios, Televisions Sold In April This Year Canadian manufacturers sold 44,676 radios and 30,665 television receiving sets in April as compared with 39,282 radios and 26,349 televisions sold in the same month last year. TV dollar sales increased to \$9,350,562 from \$9,231,025 a year earlier, and the factory value of radios sold to \$3,402,961 from \$2,982,349.

April production of TV sets increased this year to 45,753 from 29,503 last year, but output of radios declined to 40,108 from 48,240. April-end inventories of TV sets rose to 103,879 this year from 85,189 last year, while stocks of radios decreased to 155,835 from 224,620.

In the first four months of 1955 TV production rose to 256,654 sets from 150,380 in the January-April period of 1954, and sales advanced to 195,831 sets from 136,723. January-April output of radios fell to 147,652 sets this year from 194,506 last year, but four month sales increased to 160,057 sets from 152,703. (3)



Production Of Motor Vehicles Up Sharply In June, 6 Months Canada's automobile factories turned out 44,173 passenger cars and 11,785 commercial vehicles in June, a sharp increase over last year's reduced June output of 24,349 passenger cars and 5,909 commercial vehicles, according to preliminary figures published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. For passenger cars it was the fourth increase over a year earlier in as many months; for commercial vehicles it was the third consecutive increase. In the first half of 1955 a total of 231,644 passenger cars and 49,068 commercial vehicles rolled off Canadian assembly lines as compared with 196,994 passenger cars and 48,874 commercial vehicles in the January-June period of 1954. Compared with the peak output in the first half of 1953, some 25,142 more passenger cars and 28,128 fewer commercial vehicles were produced in the January-June period this year. (4)

More Veneers, Plywoods In May Canadian manufacturers produced and shipped more veneers and plywoods in May and the first five months this year than in the corresponding periods of 1954, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. May-end stocks of veneers were smaller than a year earlier but stocks of plywoods were larger.

Output of veneers increased to 85,688,000 square feet from 61,702,000 in May and to 421,855,000 square feet from 344,185,000 in the five months. Shipments rose to 85,311,000 square feet from 63,704,000 in the month and to 420,733,000 square feet from 338,007,000 in the January-May period. May-end stocks decreased to 29,048,000 square feet from 52,478,000 last year.

Production of plywoods increased to 96,046,000 square feet from 73,138,000 in May and to 456,687,000 square feet from 342,401,000 in the five months. Shipments rose to 102,948,000 square feet from 77,221,000 in the month and to 446,477,000 square feet from 347,777,000 in the January-May period. May-end stocks increased to 57,815,000 square feet from 42,510,000 last year. (5)

Output Of Coke And Gas Plants Up 7.7% In 1953 Production from coke and gas plants in Canada was valued at \$122,721,045 in 1953, an increase of 7.7% over the \$113,990,070 output of 1952, according to the Bureau's annual report on the coke and gas industry.

Production of coke increased to 4,252,833 tons from 4,056,655 in the preceding year, and the factory value to \$64,171,749 from \$58,701,110. Output of gas rose to 81,423,682,000 cubic feet from 78,302,031,000, and the factory value to \$43,972,433 from \$42,812,442.

Apparent consumption of coke in Canada increased to 4,896,722 tons in 1953 from 4,677,036 in 1952, while sales of manufactured gas decreased to 25,878,673,000 cubic feet from 26,304,679,000. Revenue from sales of manufactured gas, however, increased to \$32,220,770 from \$31,742,360. (5)

More Steel Ingots, Pig Iron Produced In First Half Year Canadian production of steel ingots jumped to 2,113,900 tons in the first half of this year from 1,555,097 tons in the first six months of 1954, DBS reports. Half-year output of pig iron climbed to 1,521,229 tons from 1,138,072 last year. June production of steel ingots increased to 381,898 tons from 264,470, and of pig iron to 284,311 tons from 178,742. (7)

Rubber Footwear Output Down Last Year From 1953 Total production of rubber footwear by Canadian manufacturers declined last year to 12,482,461 pairs of all kinds from 14,092,486 pairs in 1953 and the factory selling value to \$30,388,817 from \$35,916,401, according to an advance compilation by the Bureau from the regular annual reports by manufacturers of rubber products. In 1952 the output was slightly lower than in 1953 at 14,040,272 pairs but the factory value was higher at \$39,108,674.

Output of all-rubber boots was higher in 1954 than in 1953, both in quantity and value, with knee, stormking and hip boots rising to 1,440,028 pairs valued at \$4,735,568 from 1,317,702 pairs at \$4,402,361 and lumbermen's and other all-rubber boots to 677,567 pairs worth \$2,526,038 from 569,605 pairs valued at \$2,346,477. Production of light and heavy rubbers also increased to 3,599,641 pairs with a factory value of \$4,359,023 from 3,407,248 pairs with selling value of \$4,074,745.

Production of other specified kinds of rubber footwear was lower. Utility footwear with canvas or other fabric tops fell to 1,923,691 pairs at \$3,847,525 from 2,855,439 pairs at \$5,242,689; overshoes and goloshes with cloth uppers to 902,881 pairs at \$3,967,513 from 1,291,957 pairs at \$5,963,172; all-rubber overshoes and goloshes to 2,987,881 pairs at \$8,849,813 from 4,029,612 pairs at \$11,613,564; boots with rubber bottoms and leather tops to 85,577 pairs at \$660,263 from 132,402 pairs at \$965,274; and bottoms for leather tops to 189,837 pairs at \$512,621 from 226,283 pairs at \$567,697. Other (unspecified) footwear, increased to 675,358 pairs with factory value of \$930,453 from 262,238 pairs valued at \$558,422.

More Coke Available In April Coke available for consumption in Canada increased to 342,750 tons in April from 287,846 in the same month last year, the total for the first four months increasing to 1,324,644 tons from 1,228,185 last year. Production rose to 329,779 tons in April from 274,535 a year earlier, landed imports to 21,457 tons from 21,346, and exports to 8,486 tons from 8,035. (8)

## MERCHANDISING

Department Store Sales Up Sales of department stores across Canada averaged 6.1% higher than a year earlier in the week ending July 2, DBS reports. Sales in Quebec increased 15.5%, Ontario 12.5%, Alberta 8.6% and Saskatchewan 1.9%, but there were decreases of 8.1% in the Atlantic Provinces, 6.8% in Manitoba and 2.7% in British Columbia.



Chain Store Sales Advanced In May May sales of chain stores across Canada averaged 2.2% higher this year at \$190,528,000 versus \$186,395,000 last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. This brought the total for the first five months of 1955 to \$854,926,000, up 4.9% from \$815,225,000 in the January-May period of 1954. At the start of May the cost price of chain store stocks totalled \$253,232,000, an increase of 5.1% over last year's May 1 holdings of \$241,043,000.

Sales of chain stores in seven of 11 trades averaged higher this May, the sharpest increases over last year being 9.5% (to \$1,326,000 from \$1,211,000) in hardware and 8% (to \$7,902,000 from \$7,320,000) in lumber and building materials. Grocery and combination food chain stores, which handle the largest volume, had May sales of \$77,833,000 this year, up 3.9% from \$74,931,000 last year. There were also increases of 4.6% (to \$4,682,000 from \$4,478,000) in women's clothing, 4.2% (to \$2,816,000 from \$2,702,000) in jewellery, 1.6% (to \$15,858,000 from \$15,615,000) in the variety trade, and 1.1% (to \$3,776,000 from \$3,736,000) in the shoe trade.

The sharpest decrease in May sales this year was 4.2% (to \$1,965,000 from \$2,051,000) in men's clothing chain stores. Other declines were 3.9% (to \$2,945,000 from \$3,065,000) in family clothing chains, 3.9% (to \$2,719,000 from \$2,828,000) in drug chains, and 2.5% (to \$8,230,000 from \$8,542,000) in furniture, radio and appliance chains.

The value of May 1 stocks at cost price was higher this year in seven trades: by 10.9% in grocery and combination food chains, 7.6% in variety chains, 13.5% in men's clothing chains, 7.9% in family clothing chains, 5.9% in women's clothing chains, 2.4% in lumber and building materials chains, and 4.5% in drug chains. Stocks were unchanged from a year earlier in furniture, radio and appliance chains, but were down 0.2% in shoe chains, 0.6% in hardware chains and 11.8% in jewellery chains. (9)

New Motor Vehicle Sales At New Peaks In May Sales of new motor vehicles in May continued the sharp upswing of April to reach new peaks for a month both in number of vehicles sold and their retail value, according to the Bureau's monthly report. All told, 61,049 new vehicles were sold, up from 53,910 in April and 4,788 more than the previous record of 56,621 units in April 1953, while the retail value of sales climbed to \$159,987,000, over 11% above the previous record value of \$143,713,000 in April this year.

Most of the month's gain was in passenger car sales. The number of new cars sold rose to 52,279 from April's previous record-shattering 46,002 and was up approximately 45% from 36,098 units in May last year. The retail value of passenger car sales rose up \$135,745,000 from \$121,042,000 in April, also showing a gain of approximately 45% over \$93,155,000 in May last year.

Sales of commercial vehicles, which in previous months lagged behind 1954 sales, rose 9.5% in number in May to 8,770 from 8,010 units a year earlier, while the value increased 19% to \$24,242,000 from \$20,379,000.

With the gains in April and May, five-month sales of passenger cars rose to 169,117 units this year compared to 154,093 in 1954 but were still below the 1953 total of 177,333 units. Cumulative sales of commercial vehicles were still below last year at 29,137 units against 35,470. Combined sales at 198,254 units were up from 189,563 last year but down substantially from 227,969 units in the first five months of 1953.

As in previous months, the financing of sales of new motor vehicles showed a smaller gain in May than sales. The number of new passenger car sales financed rose about 30% to 18,107 from 13,970 a year earlier, and the amount of financing 35% to \$34,522,000 from \$25,571,000. For commercial vehicles, the number of units financed increased 6% to 3,190 from 3,006 and the amount of financing 15.5% to \$7,798,000 from \$6,752,000.

There were moderate gains in May in the financing of used motor vehicle sales, the total number of units financed rising 7.5% to 44,168 from 41,100 last year and the amount of financing 5.6% to \$36,495,000 from \$34,553,000. Passenger car financing accounted for most of the gains with increases of 8% in number and 6.6% in amount of financing. (10)

## I N D U S T R I A L P R O D U C T I O N

Industrial Production Reflecting a continuation of the rising trend of output  
Upped 6.6% This April of recent months, Canada's composite index of industrial production for April, according to preliminary figures, stood at 258.4, or 6.6% above the April 1954 index of 242.4. The manufacturing component of the index rose by 5.5% from 253.5 to 267.4 and the index of mineral output advanced 11.5% from 182.9 to 203.9. The sub-index measuring production of electricity and gas registered 288.8, 10% higher than a year earlier.

The index of non-durable manufactures, at 231.1, was nearly 6% above the previous April's 218.9. Output in the textiles and rubber products groups increased by 21% and 16% respectively. Smaller gains were recorded in the output of the foods and beverages, tobacco products, paper products, printing and publishing and chemicals groups.

In the durable manufactures field, the composite index stood at 324.3 this April, 5.4% above last April's 307.6. Output of non-ferrous metals rose by 18%, while production of wood products advanced by 10%. Gains of 5% over April 1954 were recorded by the iron and steel and electrical apparatus groups. Volume of non-metallic mineral output advanced slightly, while transportation equipment showed a small decline despite a considerable advance in the production of motor vehicles.

For the first four months of 1955 the index of industrial production averaged 249.0, some 5.1% above the corresponding 1954 level. The manufacturing index rose 2.9% to 255.7, the non-durables component advancing 4% from 212.1 to 220.6 and the durables index 1.6% from 305.7 to 310.6. The mining index, in the four-month comparison, advanced nearly 15% this year from 176.9 to 203.3.



Farm Prices Of Agricultural Products Up Slightly In May

The index of farm prices of agricultural products registered 229.5 for May, a slight increase from the revised April index of 228.8, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Advances in the prices of livestock and some grains more than offset reductions in the prices of dairy products and potatoes.

Provincial indexes increased in May in all except Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick. The index in Nova Scotia rose to 286.6 from 281.7 in April, in Quebec to 268.7 from 265.8, in Ontario to 253.4 from 253.0, in Manitoba to 211.3 from 209.0, in Saskatchewan to 180.5 from 177.4, in Alberta to 205.9 from 204.8 and in British Columbia to 260.4 from 254.8. The Prince Edward Island index fell to 302.2 from 363.9 and the New Brunswick index to 290.8 from 315.4. The indexes are on the base of average 1935-39 prices equalling 100. (11)

Prices Of Commodities And Services Used By Farmers Increased In April

The composite index of prices of commodities and services used by farmers, including farm living costs, registered 225.7 (average 1935-39 prices equal 100) in April, up 2.3% from 220.6 in January and 0.2% from 225.3 in April last year. Exclusive of the farm family living component, the index showed 240.3, up 3.7% over January and 0.4% over April last year.

January-April increases mostly reflected seasonal changes in farm wage rates, the index for this series jumping 13.7%. Eastern wage rates showed a gain of 5.2%, and western wage rates an advance of 26.9%.

The farm price of farm operating equipment and materials decreased 0.5% between January and April, reflecting declines of 9.5% for binder twine, 2.7% for seed, and minor decreases for machinery, building materials and hardware. Feed registered an increase of 0.9%, but prices of gasoline, oil and grease, and compounded fertilizer remained steady.

The farm living index receded a slight 0.5% between January and April this year from 203.9 to 203.8, and was 0.2% lower than in April last year, when the index registered 204.2. An 0.7% reduction in food prices and an 0.3% decline in household equipment prices outweighed increases of 1.1% in health maintenance costs, 0.4% in clothing prices, 0.5% in fuel prices and 0.2% in miscellaneous costs in the January-April period. (12)

Security Price Indexes

	<u>July 7</u>	<u>June 30</u> (1935-39=100)	<u>June 9</u>
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
Total Common Stocks .....	243.5	239.8	236.2
Industrials .....	250.3	247.0	243.5
Utilities .....	205.5	204.2	202.2
Banks .....	263.5	250.3	241.0
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
Total Mining Stocks .....	125.0	122.7	120.6
Golds .....	75.5	75.9	76.1
Base Metals .....	238.3	229.7	222.6

Consumer Price Indexes  
For 10 Regional Cities

Declines occurred in the ten regional consumer price indexes between May 2 and June 1, ranging from 0.1% for Saskatoon-Regina to 0.7% for St. John's, Newfoundland, Halifax and Saint John. In the food group price decreases for tea, coffee, butter, eggs, and fresh vegetables, particularly potatoes, were general in most cities. Increases were recorded, however, for most fruits and meats.

Changes in clothing took place only in three cities, where slight declines were reported. The June indexes of household operation were affected in some cities by the price of coal, which rose in St. John's but fell seasonally in Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto. In Vancouver both coal and wood prices showed declines.

Lower prices for automobiles and toilet soap were reflected in moderate downward movements in nine city indexes for other commodities and services. Higher inter-city bus fares in Ontario and British Columbia were reflected in sub-group indexes for Ottawa, Toronto and Vancouver. Four city shelter indexes were unchanged, one advanced 0.1% and increases in other cities ranged from 0.3% to 0.7%.

Total indexes for June 1 and May 2, and June 1 group index detail are shown in the following table. These indexes show changes in retail prices of goods and services in each city. They do not indicate whether it costs more or less to live in one city than another.

Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities of Canada  
at the beginning of June 1955 (base 1949=100)

	Total Indexes		Group Indexes - June 1, 1955				
	May 2 1955	June 1 1955	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities & Services
St. John's*	105.0	104.3	103.9	108.6	100.7	101.4	106.5
Halifax	115.4	114.6	106.2	123.7	114.6	118.9	119.1
Saint John	118.1	117.3	111.0	125.1	116.1	116.5	124.0
Montreal	117.0	116.3	112.7	135.8	107.1	114.8	116.8
Ottawa	117.3	116.9	110.2	133.3	111.1	116.8	119.6
Toronto	118.9	118.3	109.9	146.4	109.9	114.3	118.6
Winnipeg	115.6	115.0	109.9	126.0	112.6	113.4	117.5
Saskatoon-Regina	114.4	114.3	109.6	117.8	114.6	117.8	114.2
Edmonton-Calgary	114.2	113.8	108.0	121.1	112.5	115.8	117.4
Vancouver	117.2	116.8	108.6	127.3	112.2	124.9	119.8

\* Index on the base June 1951 = 100.

## M I N E R A L S

More Asbestos This May

Canadian mines shipped 107,181 tons of asbestos this May as compared with 79,709 tons a year earlier. This brought shipments in the first five months of 1955 to 413,849 tons versus 355,863 tons in the January-May period last year. May exports of asbestos increased to 102,143 tons this year from 87,241 tons last year, and January-May exports advanced to 371,516 tons from 330,907 tons. (13)



Iron Ore Shipments Up Sharply In May Shipments of Canadian iron ore in May totalled 1,474,369 tons up nearly 167% over the shipments of 552,589 tons in May last year, DBS reports. The month's sharp rise brought cumulative shipments - previously lagging behind 1954 - to 1,960,085 tons as against 1,101,873 tons for the first five months last year. Total stocks at the end of May were also above a year earlier at 2,093,915 compared to 1,843,352 tons

The gain in May shipments was in ore for export, which rose to 1,393,998 tons from 420,337 last year, bringing the five-month total to 1,743,033 from 802,313 tons. Ore shipped to Canadian consumers was down in the month to 80,371 from 132,252 tons and in the five months to 217,052 from 299,560 tons.

Ontario ore shipments were up in May to 522,077 from 228,368 tons last year, making a five-month total of 717,868 against 347,603 tons. Ontario ore shipped to Canadian consumers increased in the month to 46,190 tons from 15,857 tons last year and in the January-May period to 182,457 from 84,310 tons. Total shipments from other provinces nearly tripled in the month to 952,292 tons from 324,221 a year ago and in the five months aggregated 1,242,217 against 754,270 tons, export shipments climbing to 918,111 from 207,826 tons in May and to 1,207,622 from 539,020 tons in the five months. (14)

Less Copper More Nickel Produced In May This Year Canadian production of new primary copper declined for the second month in a row in May to 25,605 tons from 27,832 tons in May last year, but increases in the first quarter put the total output in the first five months of 1955 at 128,824 tons, appreciably above last year's January-May production of 118,806 tons. Output of refined copper was again over the 1954 level in May at 23,922 tons versus 23,012, and January-May production totalled 117,535 tons versus 93,455 last year.

Nickel production in May maintained its long-continued gains over a year earlier, totalling 15,250 tons versus 11,364. Output in the first five months amounted to 72,123 tons as against 64,262 tons in the January-May period of 1954. (15)

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

February Deficit Of Airlines Decreased Slightly This Year February operating revenues of Canada's airlines increased more sharply than operating expenses this year, but the latter still exceeded the former by \$1,082,617 as compared with last year's February deficit of \$1,182,540. The loss was all chalked up against scheduled carriers, who operated \$1,083,633 in the red this February as compared with \$1,073,380 in the red a year earlier. Non-scheduled operators showed a surplus of \$1,016 as compared with a loss of \$109,160 last year.

With increased revenues from passengers, goods, excess baggage and bulk transportation services outweighing decreased mail revenue, total operating revenues rose to \$7,411,141 from \$6,551,865 in February last year. All expenses accounts showed increases over a year earlier, the total advancing to \$8,493,758 from \$7,734,405. (16)

Canal Traffic Up in May Tonnage of freight cleared through Canada's ten canals in May increased by more than 23% this year to 4,610,561 tons from 3,736,311 tons last year. Traffic on the Welland and St. Lawrence systems was considerably heavier than a year earlier, particularly for wheat, barley, rye and pulpwood.

The number of vessels increased to 3,641 from 3,115 in May last year and total registered net tonnage rose to 4,520,704 tons from 3,767,392. The number of passengers carried through canals increased to 1,321 from 1,265 a year earlier, and the number of pleasure craft cleared to 2,523 from 2,156. (17)

Railway Operating Income Above Last Year In March Operating revenues of 17 Canadian railways with annual operating revenues over \$500,000 amounted to \$94,915,705 in March, up less than 1% from the \$94,241,516 total for 16 railways in March last year. Operating expenses increased slightly to \$84,795,292 from \$84,450,983 leaving a net operating of \$10,120,413 versus \$9,825,533 a year earlier. Net operating income rose to \$6,992,193 from \$5,891,212.

Revenue freight carried increased 1.4% to 12,947,458 tons from 12,768,310 in March last year and revenue freight ton miles to 5,043,246,000 from 4,525,841,000. Revenue passengers carried during March numbered 2,362,230, up 1.3% from 2,330,924 carried in March last year. Revenue passenger miles fell to 189,810,000 from 196,554,000. (18)

Less Freight Carried By Railways Last Year Revenue freight moved by railways in Canada during 1954 totalled 145,418,055 tons, down 6.8% from 156,107,052 tons in 1953, according to the Bureau's annual summary of monthly railway traffic reports.

Wheat shipments accounted for most of the decline and fell by 6,981,975 tons to 11,492,819 in 1954. Other decreases occurred in oats, down 720,896 tons to 2,469,094; barley, down 736,282 tons to 3,401,583; anthracite coal, down 135,792 tons to 2,774,688; bituminous coal, down 155,167 tons to 15,386,205; logs, piling, poles, posts and ties, down 237,153 tons to 1,852,656; gasoline, down 246,789 tons to 3,742,848; iron and steel (bar, pipe, etc.), down 1,098,395 tons to 2,308,927; cement, down 124,914 tons to 2,330,930; and freight in less than carload lots, down 511,255 tons to 2,201,960. Most important increases were pulpwood, up 240,887 tons to 6,097,257; wood-pulp, up 134,858 tons to 2,209,816; newsprint paper, up 118,205 tons to 3,981,211; and paperboard, pulpboard and wall-board, up 183,791 tons to 952,652.

Of the total freight carried in 1954, 112,298,467 tons were loaded at stations in Canada, down 6.5% from 120,059,931 in 1953; receipts from foreign connections to Canadian points declined 7.9% to 17,819,456 tons from 19,356,885; and intransit freight fell 8.3% to 15,300,132 tons from 16,690,236.

MORE



Mine products accounted for 36.8% of the freight loaded in Canada during 1954, manufactures and miscellaneous freight for 26.8%, agricultural products for 20.9%, forest products for 12.9%, animals and animal products for 1.1% and freight in less than carload lots for 1.5%. Wheat loadings were down by 7,-200,000 tons to account for most of the drop in loadings. Oats fell 800,000 tons to 2,375,813 and barley declined 600,000 tons to 3,352,390 but bituminous coal increased 600,000 tons to 11,583,090.

Newfoundland loadings fell 4.5% to 1,148,093 tons from 1,202,044. Loadings in Prince Edward Island increased slightly to 296,338 tons from 294,676. Data for Nova Scotia shows 9,401,113 tons loaded in 1954 as against 9,434,283 one year earlier, down 0.4%. Loadings in New Brunswick increased 15.3% to 4,105,-558 tons from 3,559,222, while Quebec loadings rose 14.7% to 20,705,415 tons from 18,045,029. In Ontario 34,637,419 tons were loaded, 12.8% below the 39,718,173 in 1953. Loadings in Manitoba fell 3.3% to 7,043,262 tons from 7,283,576. In Saskatchewan 12,759,920 tons of freight were loaded, down 21.6% from 16,278,641 with wheat reduced to 5,942,121 tons from 9,515,664. Data for Alberta shows 11,014,527 tons loaded, down 18.6% from 13,532,072. Wheat loadings in Alberta fell to 2,533,868 tons from 3,440,947. In British Columbia loadings increased 4.4% to 11,186,822 tons from 10,712,215. (19)

#### FOOD & AGRICULTURE

##### Strawberry, Raspberry And Cherry Crops

Reports on crop conditions during the latter part of June received by the Bureau indicate strawberry crop for all Canada about the same size as last year and somewhat larger crops of raspberries and cherries.

Increases were expected in strawberry production for each of the Maritime Provinces, with a total of about 2,500,000 quarts, up 285,000 quarts from 1954. Production in Ontario was forecast at 7,815,000 quarts, down from 7,992,000 quarts last year, and in British Columbia at 8,949,000 against 9,209,000 quarts. With these decreases outweighing the Maritimes gain, the anticipated aggregate production for the three regions was moderately under last year at 19,300,000 against 19,500,000 quarts. Forecasts were not available for Quebec, where the crop was not sufficiently far advanced for an estimate at date of reporting.

In the case of raspberries, indications placed the crop in the Maritimes, Ontario and British Columbia together at 13,100,000 quarts as against 12,-500,000 quarts last year. By far the major portion of this crop is grown in Ontario and British Columbia, with the latter the larger producer. Both in Western Ontario and the Fraser Valley conditions in the latter part of June were favourable. It was too early for a forecast for Quebec. The June outlook for cherries in Ontario and British Columbia was for a crop of some 538,000 bushels, up 8% from 498,000 bushels in 1954. The Ontario crop was expected to be slightly smaller and the British Columbia crop substantially larger. (20)

Canners Contracted For  
Larger Acreages This Year

Canada's commercial canners have contracted for larger acreages of asparagus, beans, corn, peas and tomatoes this year than in 1954, according to the annual survey by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

With increases in all growing provinces the asparagus acreage contracted for rose 8% to 1,670 acres from 1,540 last year, the third advance in a row.

Contracted bean acreages were smaller this year in Alberta and British Columbia but increases in other growing provinces put the total 12% above the 1954 acreage at 9,160 acres versus 8,160.

The acreage of corn contracted for rose for the second year running, the total of 39,800 acres surpassing last year's 33,560 acres by 19%. All growing provinces showed increases.

With gains in all growing provinces the contracted acreage of peas rose to an all-time record of 60,960 acres this year, 28% above last year's 47,800 acres.

The contracted acreage of tomatoes was smaller this year in British Columbia but increases in other growing provinces brought the national total to 35,590 acres, 20% above the 1954 acreage of 29,580 acres and the largest since 1952. (21)

Visible Supply Of Canadian Wheat

Visible supply of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America was 349,028,000 bushels on June 29, up from 341,341,000 a week earlier but slightly under last year's 349,450,000 bushels.

Overseas exports of wheat during the week ended June 29 totalled 3,594,000 bushels versus 2,747,000 in the corresponding week last year, bringing cumulative exports in the current crop year to 188,377,000 bushels versus 182,664,000 a year earlier.

Prairie farmers marketed 13,022,000 bushels of wheat in the week ended June 29, down from 13,802,000 in the preceding week but up from 11,074,000 in the corresponding week last year.

Cumulative crop year marketings were off to 245,322,000 bushels from 336,629,000 a year earlier. Marketings of oats were down in the latest week and the cumulative period this year, but marketings of barley, rye and flaxseed were up in both comparisons. (22)

The Feeds Industry In 1953

Shipments of the feeds industry were valued at \$195,784,881 in 1953, down from the peak output of \$206,117,118 in 1952 and the first decrease since 1938.

Production of concentrated feeds increased to 229,956 tons from 217,689 in 1952, but output of complete livestock feeds decreased to 1,572,822 tons from 1,622,679. The number of establishments in the industry decreased by 20 during 1953 to 1,297. (23)



Crop Conditions Across Canada    Maritimes.- Throughout the Maritime provinces the weather during the past two weeks has been hot and dry.

In Prince Edward Island crops are growing very well. Haying is well under way but rain is needed for potatoes.

About one-half of the Nova Scotia hay crop has been harvested with very good yields reported, potato and vegetable crops are showing good stands but require moisture, while pastures are making little growth because of the dry weather.

In New Brunswick the continuous dry weather has adversely affected pastures, grains and other crops in the southern part of the province. Farther north showers have kept the soil moist and crops are thriving. Haying operations are well under way with above-average yields and excellent quality reported.

Quebec.- The hot, dry weather which has persisted over the greater part of the province during the past few weeks has been favourable to the harvesting of a larger than normal hay crop of good quality. On the other hand, the almost general lack of rain has reduced grain harvest prospects, which were very promising in June. Second growth in meadows has been slow and pasture yields have decreased causing a reduction in the milk flow.

An exception to these conditions is the Abitibi-Temiscamingue district, where weather and crop conditions are ideal. Truck crops still present a fine appearance but would benefit greatly from a good rain.

Early vegetables are yielding well in the Montreal district and the Richelieu valley but in Missiquoi the green pea crop, harvest of which is about completed, is below normal. Apple growers are anticipating a bumper crop of excellent quality, spraying having been done at the right time.

The strawberry crop is finished in the Montreal district and coming to an end around Quebec where the yield is estimated at about one-third of the usual harvest. Unless there is prolonged rainfall soon there will be a small raspberry crop in the Three Rivers-Joliette district. Flue-cured tobacco is showing excellent growth.

Ontario.- With the exception of a few local areas, most of southern Ontario is suffering from a prolonged hot, dry period. Pastures are drying up badly, milk flow has dropped considerably, and many farmers are now feeding hay and ensilage to cattle. Haying operations vary from completed in the most southern counties to just started in northern Ontario. Although dry weather has reduced hay yields, the crop has been saved in generally excellent condition.

Harvesting of fall wheat is under way in southern districts, with above-average yields and good quality reported. Prospects for spring grains, however, have deteriorated and the crop is heading rapidly, with the straw very short on many fields. Row crops are not suffering as much as cereals from drought. Rain is needed immediately in many areas to halt further serious deterioration.

MORE

Prairie Provinces.- Recent rains have maintained good crop prospects over the greater part of the Prairie Provinces. With the major exception of the Peace River District, moisture supplies are now generally adequate. Crop development has been rapid and is generally in advance of last year, with early-seeded crops coming into head in most areas. However, in a number of districts, particularly where surface flooding occurred earlier this season, crops are considerably later than normal for this time of the year. Hail damage has been fairly widespread in Saskatchewan but relatively light in Manitoba and Alberta.

To date, rust does not appear to be a serious threat, except possibly to late-sown crops. An excellent hay crop is being harvested in most sections of Manitoba but haying has been hampered in many parts of Saskatchewan by excessive moisture. Hay crop prospects vary from fair to good in Alberta.

British Columbia.- Moderate temperatures have prevailed throughout British Columbia during the past two weeks. Rain is reported in most areas and has interfered considerably with haying. In general, all crops are about two to three weeks later than normal.

Crop prospects are variable according to local conditions. The outlook for cereals is fairly good but hay crops are light in many areas. Weather conditions have retarded the Fraser Valley berry crops and on Vancouver Island the movement is mostly to processors. To date, only three carloads of strawberries have been moved to prairie markets from this area compared with a normal movement of about thirty cars. (24)

## MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

More Motor Vehicles Registered Last Year There were 3,644,589 motor vehicles registered in Canada last year, 213,917 or 6.2% more than in 1953, according to the Bureau's preliminary report. The increase compared with one of 274,848 or 8.7% in 1953. Licenced passenger automobiles numbered 2,682,430 in 1954 versus 2,513,754 in 1953, average population per passenger car decreasing to 5.7 from 5.9. Average population per motor vehicle declined to 4.2 from 4.3 in 1953.

The number of motor vehicle registrations increased last year in all parts of the country. Numerically, the largest gain was in Ontario, where the number rose by 83,861 or 6% to 1,489,980. Percentagewise, the sharpest increase was in Newfoundland, where the total rose by 4,847 or 16.4% to 34,423.

Increases in the other provinces and the territories were: Prince Edward Island, 562 or 2.8% to 20,848; Nova Scotia, 3,523 or 2.7% to 133,087; New Brunswick, 5,144 or 5.5% to 99,058; Quebec, 56,259 or 9.1% to 674,114; Manitoba, 6,819 or 3.3% to 210,471; Saskatchewan, 9,869 or 3.8% to 267,373; Alberta, 19,729 or 6.2% to 338,541; British Columbia, 22,881 or 6.5% to 371,711; and the Yukon and Northwest Territories, 423 or 9.3% to 4,983. (25)



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

- 1 - Construction in Canada, 1953-1955, 40¢
- 2 - M: Summary of Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of Provincial Governments, 1955, 25¢
- 3 - M: Radio & Television Receiving Sets, April, 10¢
- 4 - Preliminary Report on the Production of Motor Vehicles, June, 10¢
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- 15- M: Copper & Nickel Production, May, 10¢
- 16- M: Civil Aviation, February, 15¢
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- 18- Railway Operating Statistics, March, 10¢
- 19- Summary of Monthly Railway Traffic Reports, 1954, 25¢
- 20- M: Report on Condition of Fruit Crops in June 1955 and Forecast of Commercial Production of Strawberries, Raspberries and Cherries in Maritimes, Ontario and British Columbia, 1955, 15¢
- 21- M: F.V.R. No. 5: Contracted Acreage of Canning Crops, 1955, 10¢
- 22- M: Grain Statistics Weekly, June 29, 10¢
- 23- The Feeds Industry, 1955, 25¢
- 24- Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada, 10¢ - Released July 13
- 25- M: Preliminary Report on Registrations of Motor Vehicles, 1954, 10¢
- Canadian Statistical Review, June, 35¢ a copy, \$3 a year.

M: Memorandum

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More Cars The number of passenger cars registered in Canada increased to 2,682,430 last year from 2,513,754 in 1953.

Fewer Motorcycles The number of motorcycles registered in Canada decreased to 37,665 last year from 40,177 in 1953.

New Citizens Certificates of Canadian citizenship were granted to 783 persons who formerly owed allegiance to the Netherlands in 1954, more than twice as many as in 1953, when 352 persons from the Netherlands were made citizens.

Provincial Debt Total net direct and indirect debt of Canada's ten provinces averaged \$240.13 per capita at the end of March last year, and ranged from a low of \$99.22 per capita in Alberta to a high of \$347.81 per capita in Ontario.

Lower Wages For Male Farm Help Wages of male farm help averaged \$1,015 per year with board at mid-May this year, \$50 less than a year earlier and \$75 less than in 1953. Annual wages without board averaged \$1,460, some \$15 less than last year but \$10 more than in 1953.

Clothing There were 999 concerns in the women's and children's factory clothing industries in 1953, and of these 927 were located in Quebec and Ontario, mainly in the cities of Montreal and Toronto. The two cities together accounted for 81% of the employment and 84% of the factory shipments.

Construction Record Expected This Year The total value of new and repair construction to be put in place this year is estimated at \$5,059,000,000, some \$369,000,000 or 8% more than the 1954 record.

More Trucks There were 838,163 motor trucks registered in Canada in 1954 as compared with 810,452 in 1953.

More Trailers Licences were issued for 180,790 trailers in 1954 versus 161,915 in 1953.

Men's Clothing The men's factory clothing industry is largely centered in the cities of Montreal and Toronto. Montreal accounts for about 33% the number employed in the industry and 39% of the products shipped, while Toronto accounts for about 21% of the employment and 20% of the shipments.

Bonded Debt Of Provinces The proportion of the bonded debt of the ten provinces payable only in Canada fell to 63.4% in 1953, the smallest proportion since 1946 (the post-war peak was 73.1% in 1950). The proportion payable in New York only increased to 18.5% in 1953 from 15.1% in 1952 (in both 1948 and 1949 it was nil). The proportion payable only in London, England, has declined steadily since the war from 2.2% in 1946 to 0.4% in 1953. The proportion payable in London and Canada was unchanged in 1953 (0.1%) but the proportions payable in New York and Canada (11.2%) and in London, New York and Canada (6.4%) were lower than in any other year since the war.



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