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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Agriculture: There were an estimated 3% more cattle, 0.4% more sheep and 9% fewer horses, on Canadian farms at the start of June this year than on the same date last year. (Page 3)

Trade: Canada's commodity exports were again above last year's value in June to put the half-year total 10.2% above 1954 and also above the first six months of 1953. Commodity imports, on the other hand, were down this June but gains in the previous five months raised the half-year total 7.8% above the 1954 level to a value exceeded only in 1953. The first-half import balance was over 17% smaller than last year. (Page 6)

Travel: Canadian travellers spent \$80,000,000 more in other countries last year than foreign visitors spent in Canada, the fourth debit balance in a row and the largest on record. There were credit balances in all years prior to 1951, the largest being \$145,000,000 in 1948 . . . The volume of highway traffic entering Canada from the United States was 16% heavier than last year in June and in the half-year was up 11%. (Pages 8 & 9)

Merchandising: With gains in all regions except Alberta, sales of department stores across Canada averaged 11.8% above the 1954 level in the week ending July 23. (Page 9)

Labour: Ordinary claimants on the live unemployment insurance register at the end of June numbered 157,132, down from 209,739 a month earlier and 199,531 on June 30 last year . . . Industrial employment at the start of May showed its largest gain for the time of year since 1941 . . . With a longer average work week and higher average hourly earnings than a month and a year earlier, average weekly wages of factory wage-earners reached a new peak of \$59.90 at the start of May (Pages 10 & 11)

Prices: Wholesale prices averaged slightly higher in June than in May, and prices of farm products at terminal markets averaged slightly lower. Prices of both residential and non-residential building materials were higher. (Page 12)

The People: Canada's population reached 15,601,000 at the start of June, a gain of 2.7% since June last year, 11.4% since the 1951 Census and 29.2% since June 1945. (Page 13)

Crop Conditions Across Canada The weather in Prince Edward Island during the past two weeks has been warm and moderately dry although there have been some light rains, according to the crop report issued on August 3. All early planted crops are growing well but some late planted vegetables and grain are retarded. Haying is 75% completed. Considerable rain has fallen during the past two weeks in the Truro area of Nova Scotia and all crops are making rapid progress. Haying is still underway in the province but about 90% completed with a crop of excellent quality and yields slightly above last year. In the Annapolis Valley very dry weather has had an adverse effect upon field crops and pastures, and rain is urgently needed. Tree fruits however, are developing satisfactorily. Most of New Brunswick has had normal rain-fall recently and crops are showing improvement. Haying is completed in some sections and well underway elsewhere. Grain growth is average and the potatoe crop fairly good. Pasture conditions are good.

In Quebec haying operations were carried out under generally excellent conditions and except in a few areas storing of the crop has been completed. Quality is good and the outturn a little above normal. Hot weather and the continuing long drought are adversely affecting truck crops and causing grains to ripen too quickly. Grain cutting is already underway in central and western regions of the province and prospective yields and quality are low. However, potatoes and fodder corn could still be improved by good soaking rains. Aftermath and pastures are generally short and in a number of places cows are being fed hay and commercial feeds to prevent a serious drop in milk flow. The picking of a large crop of blueberries is in full swing in the Lake St. John district.

Extremely hot, dry weather has prevailed over practically all of Ontario during the past month. Harvesting is well advanced, with indications that it may be the earliest on record. Yields of early-sown spring grains are satisfactory but there is great variation in the yield of late oats as a result of premature ripening. Pastures have dried up in many districts and the milk flow is dropping considerably. Many farmers are giving their cattle supplementary feeds. Pastures, new seedings, root crops and late crops, especially corn and white beans, are badly in need of rain. In Northern Ontario haying is almost completed and harvesting of spring grains has commenced in most districts.

Crop prospects in the Prairie Provinces have been well maintained and above-average yields are now anticipated. Warm weather and generally adequate moisture supplies have hastened maturity of all grains. However, rain would be welcome in some areas to support the heavy stands of grain. Late-sown barely in Manitoba is a near-failure due to aphids and adverse weather but crop losses in general throughout the Provinces have been relatively light. Harvesting of fall-sown crops is under way and swathing of early-sown spring grains has started. Haying is nearly completed and yields vary from only fair in Alberta to good in the other two provinces. Summer field work is well advanced.

The last week of July was cloudy and cool in British Columbia with the exception of the Peace River District. Frequent showers occurred in the north Okanagan region. Harvesting of fall wheat began on July 16 in the Vernon area. Harvesting of early-sown grains is now general and second growth alfalfa is being cut. In the Kootenays, moisture conditions are good but more warm weather is needed. Yields of grain, field crops and peas will be excellent. In the Lower Fraser Valley and on Vancouver Island oats are heading rapidly and cutting has started on a few early stands. In the Peace River District the weather was very warm to the middle of July and crops suffered to some extent from drought and heat. The prolonged hot spell culminated in a severe and extensive hail storm followed by rains.(1)

Farmers Had More Cattle And Sheep
But Fewer Horses At Start Of June

There were an estimated 3% more cattle, 0.4% more sheep and 9% fewer horses on Canadian farms at the start of June this year than on June 1 last year, according to the Bureau's report on its annual June sample survey of farm livestock.

Cattle numbered 10,239,000, some 285,000 more than a year earlier, the number increasing in all provinces except British Columbia, where there was a decrease of 3,000 to 374,000. The sharpest increase was 75,000 to 2,085,000 in Alberta, followed by a gain of 68,000 to 2,058,000 in Quebec and 63,000 to 1,450,000 in Saskatchewan. Ontario, however, continued to be the leading cattle province with 3,066,000 head, 55,000 more than on June 1 last year. Other increases were 14,000 to 674,000 in Manitoba, 7,000 to 202,000 in New Brunswick, 5,000 to 125,000 in Prince Edward Island and 1,000 to 205,000 in Nova Scotia. The increase was sharper west of Ontario (149,000 or 3.5%) than east of Manitoba (136,000 or 2.5%), but the east continued to have more cattle than the west with 5,656,000 head versus 4,583,000.

The number of cows kept for milking purposes increased by 2.5% during the year to 3,312,300 from 3,233,000 but milk heifers decreased by 2.3% to 886,500 from 907,500. Beef cows increased by 1% to 1,547,000 from 1,530,800 and beef heifers by 1% to 672,200 from 664,000. Calves increased by 5% to 2,607,000 from 2,490,900 and steers by 10% to 982,100 from 893,900, but bulls decreased by 1% to 231,900 from 233,900.

Sheep and lambs on farms numbered 1,722,700 on June 1, up 6,300 over a year earlier, an increase to 761,000 from 739,000 in the west outweighing a decrease to 961,700 from 977,400 in the east. Most pronounced changes were a 4.7% decrease in Quebec and a 4.5% increase in Alberta. The number of horses continued to decrease in all provinces and at June 1 the total number on farms in Canada was estimated at 901,400, some 92,000 less than on the same date last year. (2)

Production Of Oils And
Fats In June, Half Year

Canadian production of margarine and spreads declined to 8,708,000 pounds in June from 9,547,000 in the same month last year but output in the January-June period rose to 64,429,000 pounds from 56,496,000, DBS reports. Production of shortening declined in June to 12,570,000 pounds from 15,587,000 and in the half-year to 75,145,000 pounds from 79,559,000.

Output of refined coconut oil rose to 1,367,000 pounds in June from 1,010,000 but fell to 6,129,000 in the six months from 6,314,000. June production of refined salad and cooking oils dropped to 1,985,000 pounds from 2,966,000 and in the half year to 11,135,000 pounds from 15,311,000.

Lard production moved up in June to 8,207,000 pounds from 7,080,000 and in the six months to 52,302,000 pounds from 43,962,000. Production of tallow rose in June to 11,692,000 pounds from 10,336,000 and in the six months to 66,401,000 pounds from 62,222,000. (3)

Milk And Cream Sales Higher Sales of fluid milk and cream were larger in May and the first five months of this year than a year earlier. The month's sales were up 3% to 439,362,000 pounds and January-May sales advanced 4% to 2,199,320,000 pounds. Provincial sales were up in May in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, while January-May sales were larger in all areas. January-May sales were as follows by provinces, percentage advances over a year earlier being in brackets: Quebec, 828,391,000 pounds (3%); Ontario, 745,568,000 (4%); British Columbia, 158,241,000 (4%); Alberta, 117,784,000 (5%); Saskatchewan, 104,427,000 (3%); Manitoba, 95,494,000 (6%); Nova Scotia, 75,298,000 (5%); New Brunswick, 62,407,000 (2%); and Prince Edward Island, 11,710,000 (1%). (4)

Sugar Stocks Smaller Refinery stocks of refined beet and cane sugar dipped to
On June 30 This Year 173,746,000 pounds at the end of June from 191,136,000 pounds on June 30 last year, but holdings of raw cane sugar rose to 107,483,000 pounds from 67,924,000, DBS reports.

Raw cane receipts increased to 158,175,000 pounds in June from 152,262,000 a year earlier, putting half-year receipts at 528,866,000 pounds versus 469,756,000. Total supply rose to 237,305,000 pounds from 200,771,000 in June and to 702,302,000 pounds from 626,950,000 in January-June. Meltings and sales decreased to 129,821,000 pounds from 132,847,000 in June, but increased to 594,818,000 pounds from 559,025,000 in the first half.

Production of refined beet and cane sugar fell to 128,623,000 pounds in June from 131,815,000 a year earlier, but half-year output was up to 591,784,000 pounds from 545,874,000. Total supply decreased to 330,323,000 pounds from 333,524,000 in June but increased to 873,025,000 pounds from 839,906,000 in the half year. Sales advanced to 156,573,000 pounds from 142,306,000 in June and to 696,847,000 pounds from 645,957,000 in January-June. (5)

Salt Shipments Canadian producers shipped 969,887 tons of common salt or
Rose Last Year sodium chloride last year as compared with 954,928 tons in 1953, according to the annual report on the industry by DBS. Plant value rose more sharply to a new peak of \$8,340,163 from \$6,974,501 in the preceding year. The quantity shipped in 1954, however, was less than the record 971,903 tons sold in 1951. (6)

MANUFACTURING

Production Of Gypsum Products Output of gypsum products was generally
Increased In First Half Of 1955 larger in the first half of this year than in the corresponding period of 1954. The half-year output of gypsum wall board amounted to 138,313,989 square feet (129,491,343 a year earlier); lath, 160,866,388 (136,527,397); sheathing, 4,446,816 (3,098,115); block and tile, 232,740 (134,185); and gypsum plasters, 133,032 tons (114,884). (7)

Production Of Asphalt Roofing
Increased In June And Half-Year

Production of asphalt roofing materials increased in June and the first six months this year as compared with a year earlier.

June output of asphalt shingles amounted to 421,218 squares (404,174 a year ago); smooth surfaced roll roofing, 108,540 (102,690); and mineral surfaced roll roofing, 99,735 (101,296). Half-year production totals: asphalt shingles, 1,458,765 squares (1,172,463); smooth surfaced roofing in rolls, 480,059 (467,180); and mineral surfaced roofing in rolls, 368,438 (359,353). (8)

Production And Domestic Shipments
Of Rigid Insulating Board Higher

Both production and domestic shipments of rigid insulating board increased in June and the first six months of this year as

compared with a year earlier. The month's output totalled 28,438,630 square feet versus 26,776,085 and domestic shipments amounted to 29,869,305 square feet versus 27,133,532. Production in the half-year totalled 150,882,687 square feet versus 144,470,283 and domestic shipments aggregated 128,496,624 square feet versus 127,611,022. (9)

MINERALS

Production And Imports Of
Coal In June And Half Year

Production of coal was lower in June and the first six months of this year than last but the landed imports were higher. Domestic production in June

dropped to 925,000 tons from 1,068,506 and in the six months to 7,007,157 tons from 7,432,746. Landed imports in June rose to 2,319,840 tons from 2,010,649 and in the half-year period to 8,266,189 tons from 7,214,247. Six-month production totals by provinces: Nova Scotia, 2,981,434 tons (2,989,479 a year ago); Alberta, 1,923,564 (2,404,231); Saskatchewan, 1,037,778 (1,021,323); British Columbia and Yukon, 674,949 (634,577); and New Brunswick, 389,432 (383,136). (10)

More Asbestos Canadian producers shipped 924,116 tons of asbestos last year, Mined In 1954 1.4% more than in 1953 when shipments totalled 911,226 tons, according to the annual report on the industry by DBS. Mill value showed a slight increase to \$86,409,212 from \$86,052,895 in the preceding year but was appreciably below the peak 1952 value of \$89,254,913. In quantity terms the peak year was 1951 when 973,198 tons were shipped. Canada is the world's largest producer of asbestos, supplying more than 60% of the total output.

Asbestos rock mined in Canada last year totalled 14,793,760 tons and compared with 13,912,839 tons in 1953. The tonnage of rock milled increased less sharply to 11,394,571 tons from 11,189,027. Asbestos shipments were below the year earlier level in the January-March and May-July periods last year but these decreases were outweighed by strong increases in the August-December period. The value of asbestos and asbestos products exported declined slightly to \$83,868,863 in 1954 from \$84,557,404 in 1953, while imports increased to \$3,539,132 from \$3,310,175. (11)

Commodity Exports And Imports Up Substantially In Half-Year Canada's commodity export trade in June continued its gains of earlier months over 1954 to raise the half-year total 10.2% above the value for the first six months last year and also above the first half of 1953, according to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Commodity imports, on the other hand, were down slightly in June from last year, but with gains in the previous five months and a record high for May, the half-year total was up 7.8% over 1954 to a value exceeded only in 1953.

Total exports in June, with gains for all regions shown in the preliminary figures rose 10.5% to \$383,300,000 from \$346,800,000 in the same month a year earlier, bringing the six month's total to \$2,062,900,000 from \$1,871,300,000 last year. This compares with a half-year total of \$2,019,700,000 in 1953 and the all-time peak of \$2,121,700,000 in 1952.

Commodity imports in June eased off to \$402,400,000 from \$416,100,000 in June last year, which was abnormally high because of changes in the procedure in compiling imports in that month. There was only a small increase in purchases from the United States and decreases from other regions. In the half year, however, imports increased to \$2,209,700,000 from \$2,050,100,000 last year and were only slightly below the record first half-year value of \$2,216,600,000 for 1953.

With the sharper climb in exports than imports, Canada had a reduced import balance of \$19,100,000 in June as against \$69,200,000 last year and of \$146,800,000 in the six months compared to \$178,800,000.

Commodity exports to the United States increased in June to \$232,700,000 from \$212,700,000 a year ago, making a total for the half year of \$1,228,500,000 compared to \$1,144,800,000 for 1954. Imports from the United States rose slightly in the month to an estimated \$301,400,000 from \$297,000,000 last year, and for the six months were up to an estimated \$1,650,400,000 against \$1,502,800,000.

Canada's import balance with the United States thus declined in June to \$68,700,000 from \$84,300,000 a year earlier, but in the six months rose to \$421,900,000 from \$358,000,000.

Exports to the United Kingdom continued to advance in June, rising in value to \$65,300,000 compared to \$52,800,000 last year, bringing the half-year increase to nearly \$100,000,000 at \$386,400,000 compared to \$287,000,000 for 1954. The month's imports from the United Kingdom were affected by large work stoppages in that country and fell to an estimated \$27,400,000 compared to last year's \$44,600,000 and the half-year total was down to an estimated \$183,700,000 from \$204,100,000.

The export balance with the United Kingdom accordingly jumped sharply in June to \$37,900,000 against \$8,200,000 a year earlier, widening the surplus to \$202,700,000 for the six months from \$82,900,000 last year.

MORE

Exports to other Commonwealth countries rose moderately in June to \$18,600,000 from \$17,400,000 last year, the half-year total rising to \$112,700,000 from \$93,700,000. Commodity imports in the month were down slightly to an estimated \$19,500,000 from \$20,100,000, but for the half year were up to an estimated \$94,600,000 against \$80,800,000. Sales to all other countries increased in June to \$66,700,000 from \$63,900,000 in June last year, but for the six months were lower at \$335,300,000 compared to \$345,800,000. In contrast, commodity imports from these countries were down slightly in the month at an estimated \$54,100,000 against \$54,400,000 last year, but up in the six months at \$281,000,000 versus \$262,400,000.

The preliminary figures for June and the six months are summarized in the table following: The import figures are estimates and subject to revision, and final and detailed import figures will not be available for several weeks. Those for exports are based on final figures, which will be released in detail shortly.

	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>
	(millions of Dollars)			
<u>Exports:</u>				
United Kingdom	52.8	65.3	287.0	386.4
Other Commonwealth countries	17.4	18.6	93.7	112.7
United States	212.7	232.7	1,144.8	1,228.5
Other Foreign Countries	63.9	66.7	345.8	335.3
Totals	<u>346.8</u>	<u>383.3</u>	<u>1,871.3</u>	<u>2,062.9</u>
	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955*</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955*</u>
	(millions of Dollars)			
<u>Imports:</u>				
United Kingdom	44.6	27.4	204.1	183.7
Other Commonwealth countries	20.1	19.5	80.8	94.6
United States	297.0	301.4	1,502.8	1,650.4
Other Foreign countries	54.4	54.1	262.4	281.0
Totals	<u>416.1</u>	<u>402.4</u>	<u>2,050.1</u>	<u>2,209.7</u>

* Estimate only. Subject to revision.

Balance Of Trade In Outstanding Securities Shifted Sharply In May

The balance of trade in outstanding securities between Canada and other countries shifted sharply in May, resulting

in net purchases of \$8,300,000 in contrast to net sales of \$18,300,000 in April and \$2,800,000 a year ago. During the first five months this year there was a net purchase balance of \$8,500,000 in contrast to net sales of \$30,600,000 a year ago.

Net sales of Canadian stocks fell in May to \$7,600,000 or to about 30% of the very high total of \$25,800,000 in April. Repatriation of Canadian bonds and debentures occurred on a somewhat larger scale than in April. Canadians were also net purchasers of long-term foreign securities for the first month this year. There continued to be a very heavy volume of trading when compared to the monthly levels of previous years. For the five months of 1955, the turnover has exceeded \$900,000,000, and is about 60% of the turnover recorded for the year 1954 as a whole.

MORE

Trade with the United States led to a purchase balance of \$13,000,000 in May in contrast to a sales balance of \$13,600,000 in April. Net sales of Canadian stocks fell in May to \$2,900,000 from \$21,900,000 in April; during the same period, stock prices in Canada continued to rise, while those in the United States fell slightly. Net repurchases of Canadian bonds and debentures totalled \$16,300,000. A small sales balance occurred from transactions in foreign securities.

There was a purchase balance of \$3,000,000 with the United Kingdom in May the first such capital export in eight months and the largest since 1950 (apart from transactions in treasury bills and similar holdings). Trading in Canadian securities was nearly in balance, sales of stocks having offset repurchases of bonds. There were, however, relatively heavy purchases by Canadians of stocks of United Kingdom corporations aggregating \$3,300,000. With other overseas countries, sales of Government of Canada bonds and of Canadian common and preference stocks contributed heavily to a sales balance of \$7,700,000. (12)

TRAVEL

Expenditures Of Visitors To Canada And Canadian Travel Abroad At Peak In 1954

Travel expenditures of visitors to Canada in 1954 remained unchanged from 1953's peak figure of \$302,000,000, but Canadian travel expenditures abroad soared to a new peak of \$282,000,000 from \$365,000,000, according to estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Canada thus had an increased debit balance on travel in 1954 of \$80,000,000, up from \$63,000,000 in 1953, \$66,000,000 in 1952 and \$6,000,000 in 1951. There were credits in all other years, 1948's \$145,000,000 being an all-time high.

Expenditures by Canadians in overseas countries reached an unprecedented high of \$69,000,000 in 1954, an increase of \$11,000,000 or 19% over the preceding year. The increased spending in overseas countries contributed heavily to the aggregate debit balance in travel account with all countries.

Receipts from overseas countries jumped 10% to \$22,000,000 from \$20,000,000. The debit balance rose to \$47,000,000 from \$38,000,000 in 1953. During the past year there was an increase of nearly 20% in the number of Canadians visiting overseas countries and a rise of approximately 10% in the number of visits by residents of overseas countries.

Expenditures in Canada by residents of the United States were \$280,000,000 in 1954, slightly under the preceding year's \$282,000,000. At the same time Canadian travel expenditures in the United States rose to \$313,000,000 from \$307,000,000, resulting in a rise in the debit balance on travel to \$33,000,000 from \$25,000,000.

The number of visits to Canada by residents of the United States declined nearly 6%, while visits of Canadians to that country were practically unchanged in number.

Most of the expenditures of Canadians in overseas countries are in the United Kingdom and Europe. Expenditures in the United Kingdom increased to \$35,000,000 from \$31,000,000. Expenditures in the O.E.E.C. countries of Europe rose \$5,000,000 to \$23,000,000. Expenditures in other Commonwealth countries are chiefly in Bermuda and the British West Indies and were \$1,000,000 higher at \$7,000,000. Expenditures in the remaining countries are mainly in Latin America and accounted for \$4,000,000, an increase of \$1,000,000.

United States visitors who entered Canada by automobile spent a grand total of \$150,300,000 in 1954, down from \$156,900,000 the year before. Expenditures of rail travellers aggregated \$46,200,000 (\$43,900,000 in 1953); plane, \$25,100,000 (\$24,900,000); through bus, \$23,200,000 (\$23,000,000); boat, \$16,800,000 (\$14,200,000); and others -- pedestrians, local bus, etc. -- \$18,100,000 (\$19,300,000).

Canadians who visited the United States by automobile spent \$136,300,000 (\$133,000,000 in 1953); train, \$65,400,000 (\$16,600,000); bus, \$44,100,000 (\$45,200,000); plane, \$39,200,000 (unchanged from 1953); boat, \$5,800,000 (\$5,100,000); and all others, \$21,800,000 (unchanged). (13)

Border Crossings Up 16% In June and 11% In Half-Year Volume of highway traffic crossing the border between Canada and the United States was 16% heavier in June than in the corresponding month last year. In the half-year period the increase was 11%. Total number of border crossings in June was 1,578,700 versus 1,359,833, bringing the cumulative total to 6,229,258 versus 5,613,423.

Foreign vehicles entering Canada increased to 905,171 in June from 825,765 a year ago and to 3,370,570 in the half-year from 3,132,181. Re-entries of vehicles registered in Canada rose to 673,529 in June from 534,068 and to 2,858,688 in the six months from 2,431,242.

Traffic between Canada and the United States by rail, through bus, boat and plane in May showed little change when compared with a year earlier, the increase amounting to less than 1%. The number of foreign travellers entering Canada by these means of transportation increased 3% and the number of Canadians returning from visits to the United States declined over 1%. Cumulative data for the first five months show an increase of between 1 and 2%. (14)

M E C H A N D I S I N G

Department Store Sales Increased 11.8% In Week Department store sales rose 11.8% during the week ending July 23 as compared with the corresponding week last year. All regions shared in the sales gain except Alberta where there was a drop of 1.3%. Quebec led with a sales increase of 44.7%, followed by the Atlantic Provinces with 16.5%, Manitoba 11.9%, Ontario 3.9%, Saskatchewan 2.4%, and British Columbia 0.6%.

Fewer Claims For Unemployment Insurance Benefits Filed This June

totalling 90,380 versus 97,623 in May and 114,797 in the corresponding month last year.

Fewer initial and renewal claims for unemployment insurance benefit were received in local offices of the UIC in June,

Ordinary claimants on the live unemployment insurance register at the end of June numbered 157,132 (106,805 males and 50,327 females), compared to 209,739 (156,899 males and 52,840 females) on May 31 and 199,531 (147,113 males and 52,418 females) on June 30, 1954. There were 24,288 short-time and 4,901 temporary lay-off claimants registered.

New beneficiaries during June numbered 64,865 versus 89,249 in May and 81,942 in the corresponding month last year. Benefit payments amounting to \$12,645,439 were paid during June in compensation for 4,113,157 days, as against \$19,642,906 and 6,302,107 days in May and \$15,702,229 and 5,050,833 days during June 1954.

By provinces, initial and renewal claims filed in June were as follows: Newfoundland, 1,334 (1,332 in June last year); Prince Edward Island, 266 (277); Nova Scotia, 9,112 (3,980); New Brunswick, 2,803 (3,024); Quebec, 26,950 (35,657); Ontario, 33,524 (49,724); Manitoba, 3,071 (3,589); Saskatchewan, 1,396 (1,182); Alberta 3,019 (5,522); and British Columbia, 8,905 (10,510). (15)

Industrial Employment At Higher Level At May 1

Industrial employment at the beginning of May showed its largest gain for the time of year since 1941.

The general index, on the 1949 base, rose to 107.3 from 105.7 a month earlier and 106.2 at the same date in 1954. The increase in the year though small, is particularly interesting because employment since October 1, 1953, has been continuously below its level 12 months earlier. The latest index was 3.2% lower than at May 1, 1953, but was higher than at that date in preceding years.

Rising levels of employment at May 1 were accompanied by higher disbursements in weekly wages and salaries which rose on average to \$61.00 from \$60.68 a month earlier and 59.15 at the same time last year. The payrolls index rose to 153.1 from 150.0 in April and 146.8 a year ago. The improvement in employment over April 1 took place to a considerable extent among men, whose numbers were higher by 1.8%; the co-operating establishments increased their staffs of women by only 0.5%. In the last 12 months, non-agricultural industrial employment for men has risen by 1% and for women by 1.3%.

The spring upsurge in industrial activity extended to most areas, and to a large proportion of the industries. Geographically, the exceptions were Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Alberta, where seasonal influences were responsible for curtailment in employment. There were declines in logging and mining, but increases in construction, transportation, storage and communication, manufacturing and trade. The trend was upward in plants producing durable and non-durable goods, with most of the general increase in manufacturing taking place in the former group. (16)

Weekly Wages in Manufacturing Reached New High at May First

earlier and \$57.57 a year ago, according to advance figures.

Average weekly wages of factory wage-earners at the beginning of May reached a new high figure of \$59.90 as compared with \$59.31 a month

Hourly earnings averaged 145.4¢ versus 144.3¢ in April and 141.8¢ last year. The work-week averaged 41.2 hours versus 41.1 and 40.6

Earnings were higher in both the durable and non-durable branches of manufacturing. Overtime in automotive plants and increased activity in iron and steel manufacturing, together with reduced employment of lower-paid workers in some industries, contributed to an advance over April of 0.9 cents in the heavy manufactured goods division.

An increase of 1.1 cents in non-durable goods manufacturing was largely due to changes in the industrial distribution of wage-earners; employment and hours of work showed some gain in pulp and paper mills and oil refineries, while there was seasonal curtailment in the clothing and leather footwear industries.

Changes since last month in the average of hours and earnings in mining were small. Employment in non-metal mines increased and the work week was somewhat longer; fewer wage-earners and reduced hours were reported by Alberta oil wells.

Both components of the construction group reported seasonally heightened activity. With seasonally increased employment for men hired at lower rates of pay, however, the average hourly earnings were somewhat lower.

Only small changes were recorded in the service industries. (17)

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

Industry	Average Hours			Average Hourly Earnings			Average Weekly Wages		
	May 1 1954	Apr. 1 1955	May 1 1955	May 1 1954	Apr. 1 1955	May 1 1955	May 1 1954	Apr. 1 1955	May 1 1955
	no.	no.	no.	¢	¢	¢	\$	\$	\$
Manufacturing	40.6	41.1	41.2	141.8	144.3	145.4	57.57	59.31	59.90
Durable goods ...	40.9	41.3	41.5	152.3	155.8	156.7	62.29	64.35	65.03
Non-durable goods	40.3	40.9	41.0	129.9	131.8	132.9	52.35	53.91	54.49
Mining	42.1	42.3	42.3	158.0	160.4	160.3	66.52	67.85	67.81
Electric and Motor									
Transportation	45.2	45.0	44.7	139.3	142.7	144.1	62.96	64.22	64.41
Construction	39.5	39.4	38.7	151.3	152.6	151.2	59.76	60.12	58.51
Service.....	41.2	40.5	40.6	83.4	84.9	85.8	34.36	34.38	34.83

Wholesale Price Index Up In June Canada's general wholesale price index advanced in June to 218.7 from 217.8 in the preceding month and 217.6 in the corresponding month last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Five of the eight sub-group indexes advanced over May and four were higher than in June a year ago.

The animal product sub-group index rose to 230.5 from 224.8 in May. In this group firmer quotations were noted for hogs and lambs which, in turn, were reflected in advances in fresh pork and lamb and processed pork products. Eggs were substantially higher also, while raw furs, dairy products and lard receded slightly.

Due to increases in spruce and fir lumber and paperboard, which outweighed minor decreases in newsprint and wood pulp, the wood, wood products and paper index rose to 294.5 from 293.6. An easier tone for the United States dollar in terms of Canadian funds contributed to lower export prices for the latter items.

An increase in the index for fibres, textiles and textile products to 226.9 from 226.6 was due mainly to higher quotations for raw cotton and imported raw wool. Non-ferrous metals moved to 184.5 from 184.2 when advances for zinc, tin and silver over-balanced a fractional decrease in the price of gold, while slight gains in coal and petroleum products were responsible for a change in the non-metallic series to 173.4 from 173.3.

Of the two groups which declined, vegetable products receded to 196.5 from 197.1, when sharp declines in potatoes and lesser decreases in grains, livestock and poultry feeds and bakery products, outweighed advances in raw rubber, coffee beans, flour, vegetable oils, and raw leaf tobacco. Iron and products fell from 217.3 to 217.2 when tin plate, galvanized steel sheet, and castings and forgings declined slightly. No change was registered for chemicals and allied products which remained at 176.5

The index of Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets fell to 212.2 from 213.3 in May. Accounting for the relatively small change were diverse movements for field and animal products. The index for the former series dropped to 174.3 from 183.2 when a sharp seasonal decline in potatoes, coupled with lesser changes in eastern grains and hay, outweighed advances in western grains and hay. Increases in livestock, notably hogs and lambs, in addition to eggs and fowl over-balanced lower prices for eastern dairy products to advance the animal products series to 250.0 from 243.3.

The index of residential building material prices rose to 124.3 from 123.2 as prices advanced for a number of lumber and millwork descriptions, cedar and asphalt shingles, building paper and some electrical equipment. Hot water heaters were lower. The price index for non-residential building materials advanced to 122.1 from 121.8 when increases in lumber, millwork, electrical equipment and roofing materials outweighed a decline in plumbing and heating equipment. (18)

MORE

Security Price Indexes

<u>Investors' Price Index</u>	<u>July 23</u>	<u>July 21</u> (1935-39=100)	<u>June 30</u>
Total Common Stocks.....	250.8	247.0	239.8
Industrials.....	257.0	253.4	247.0
Utilities.....	214.1	209.0	204.2
Banks.....	273.4	270.4	250.3

Mining Stock Price Index

Total Mining Stocks.....	127.6	124.8	122.7
Golds.....	75.7	74.3	75.9
Base Metals.....	246.3	240.3	229.7

T H E P E O P L E

Population Of Canada Estimated
At 15,601,000 At Start Of June

Canada's population reached 15,601,000 at the start of June, up 119,000 since March 1 and 406,000 or 2.7% since June 1 last year, according to the annual estimates published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This put the increase since the last census -- taken in June 1951 -- at 1,592,000 or 11.4%, the growth since June last year comparing with gains of 414,000, 351,000 and 421,000 in the three previous years.

Sparked by a rising birth rate, a falling death rate and a large flow of immigrants, Canada's population has jumped by 3,529,000 or 29.2% since June 1945. The rapid growth since the war is graphically illustrated by the Bureau's figures. It took eight years (1929 to 1937) for the population to climb from 10 to 11 million, and another eight years for it to reach 12 million. However, it took only the first four post-war years for it to go from 12 to 13 million and only five years more for it to reach 15 million.

In the latest year the population increased in all parts of the country except in the Yukon, where the estimated total was unchanged from June last year at 10,000. The largest increase during the 12 months was 137,000 to 5,183,000 in Ontario, Quebec showing a gain of 132,000 to 4,520,000. The population of British Columbia rose by 39,000 to 1,305,000, Alberta by 27,000 to 1,066,000, Manitoba by 21,000 to 849,000, Newfoundland by 14,000 to 412,000, Saskatchewan by 11,000 to 889,000, New Brunswick by 11,000 to 558,000, Nova Scotia by 10,000 to 683,000, Prince Edward Island by 3,000 to 108,000 and the Northwest Territories by 1,000 to 18,000.

The Bureau's population estimates for intercensal years are obtained by adding births and immigrants to the census total and deducting deaths and an estimate of emigration. In the case of the provinces, migration figures are less complete and the principal data are labour force survey indications of net interprovincial movement. (19)

Carloadings Heavier In Railway carloadings in the third week of July amounted
Third Week Of July to 87,861 cars, up 12.4% from 78,183 in the corresponding
 week last year, boosting cumulative loadings for the
 year to date 8.8% to 2,140,107 cars from 1,966,689.

Cars received from connections rose 19.4% in the week to 30,777 from 25,785, and 11.3% in the cumulative period to 898,163 cars from 806,750.

Commodities carried in increased volume in the week were: iron ore, 6,952 (1,393 in 1954); sand, gravel and crushed stone, 6,385 (4,701); "other" mine products, 3,095 (2,110); automobiles, trucks and parts, 2,521 (1,264); and miscellaneous carload commodities, 5,269 (4,797).

Shipped in fewer cars were: grain, 8,239 (8,945); and, merchandise, L.C.L., 13,661 (14,064). (20)

Less Freight Loaded, Unloaded The total tonnage of cargoes loaded at Canadian
At Canadian Ports During 1954 customs ports for foreign countries during 1954
 amounted to 30,730,355 short tons, a decrease of
 1,471,850 tons or 4.8% from the 1953 total and 6% less than the record of 32,564,-
 915 tons established in 1952.

The weight of cargoes unloaded from foreign countries was also below the totals for 1953 and the record year 1952. The total amounted to 32,274,166 tons as compared with 38,691,877 tons in 1953, a decline of 16.6%.

As in previous years the bulk of Canada's waterborne commerce was with the United States and the United Kingdom which, together, accounted for 70.1% of total cargoes loaded and 74% of total unloadings.

Cargoes loaded for United States ports during 1954 totalled 13,652,067 tons, an advance of 373,691 tons or 2.8% over the 1953 total, while unloadings declined to 22,618,270 tons from 29,715,411, a decrease of 23.9%.

Shipments to the United Kingdom fell to 7,900,482 tons from 8,167,085 and unloadings decreased to 1,268,801 tons from 1,478,969. (21)

Pipe-Line Deliveries Of Oil A record volume of oil was carried through
At Record Level In May Canadian pipe lines in May, the month's total
 amounting to 17,328,184 barrels versus 15,818,889
 in April and 14,805,752 in May last year.

This brought January-May deliveries to 85,505,707 barrels, an increase of 24% over last year's 69,029,410. (22)

RELEASED THIS WEEK

(Publications are numbered similarly to news items to indicate source of latter)

- 1 - Telegraphic Crop Report, Canada, 10¢ -- Released August 3
- 2 - M: Report on Livestock Surveys: Cattle, Sheep and Horses, June 1, 10¢
- 3 - M: Oils & Fats, June, 10¢
- 4 - M: Fluid Milk Sales, May, 10¢
- 5 - M: The Sugar Situation, June, 10¢
- 6 - Salt Industry, 1954, 25¢
- 7 - M: Gypsum Products, June, 10¢
- 8 - M: Asphalt Roofing, June, 10¢
- 9 - M: Rigid Insulating Board Industry, June, 10¢
- 10- M: Preliminary Report on Coal Production, June, 10¢
- 11- Asbestos Mining Industry, 1954, 25¢
- 12- Sales & Purchases of Securities Between Canada & Other Countries, May, 10¢
- 13- Travel Between Canada & Other Countries, 1954, 40¢
- 14- Travel Between Canada & the United States, June, 20¢
- 15- Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, June, 25¢
- 16- Employment & Payrolls, May, 25¢
- 17- Man-Hours & Hourly Earnings with Average Weekly Wages, May, 25¢
- 18- Prices & Price Indexes, June, 25¢
- 19- M: Estimated Population of Canada by Provinces at June 1, 1955, 10¢
- 20- M: Carloadings on Canadian Railways, July 21, 1955, 10¢
- 21- Shipping Report, 1954 (Section 1), 50¢
- 22- M: Pipe Lines (Oil) Statistics, May, 10¢
- Inventories, Shipments & Orders in Manufacturing Industries, May, 25¢---
- Summarized in Bulletin of July 22
- The Labour Force, June, 25¢ -- Summarized in Bulletin of July 22

M: Memorandum

Edmond Cloutier, C.M.G., O.A., D.S.P., Queen's Printer and Controller of Stationery,
4502-503-85 OTTAWA, 1955

More Big Agencies The number of Canadian advertising agencies handling an annual volume of more than \$5,000,000 doubled in three years from four in 1951 to eight in 1954.

More Glycol, Less Alcohol Factory sales of glycol type **anti-freeze** preparations increased by 324,000 gallons to 4,698,000 last year, while sales of alcohol type preparations decreased by 213,000 gallons to 289,000.

TV Films 335 motion pictures of 5 minutes duration or longer were produced in Canada for television last year, 215 by private industry and 120 by government agencies. Of the total, four were in colour and 271 had sound.

TV Commercials 691 television commercials were filmed in Canada last year, three and a half times as many as in 1953 when 196 were made.

TV Newsreels 347 newsreel stories were produced for motion picture theatres in Canada last year, the same number as in 1953. On the other hand, the number filmed for television rose to 903 from 249.

Motion Pictures Private industry and government agencies produced 44,347,948 feet of **motion pictures** last year, of which 39,637,565 feet were in black and white and 4,710,383 feet in colour. Film in 16MM width included 14,847,631 feet in black and white and 4,592,208 feet in colour, and film in 35 MM width **24,789,934 feet in black and white** and 118,175 in colour.

Rhubarb Pack Up The 1955 pack of rhubarb by commercial canners weighed 375,303 pounds, 146,111 pounds or nearly 64% more than last year's pack.

Spend More For Health Health expenditures of Canada's provincial governments totalled \$235,000,000 last year, \$26,000,000 or over 12% more than in 1953.

Candle Makers At last count there **were 14 Canadian concerns** primarily engaged in the manufacture of candles and 12 of these were located in Quebec, one in Ontario and one in Saskatchewan.

Less Lubricating Oil Factory sales of lubricating oils for all purposes totalled **80,430,000 imperial gallons** last year, 2,500,000 gallons less than in 1953.

Hospital Costs Have More Than Doubled Since 1946 The cost per patient per day in public hospitals across Canada averaged \$11.29 in 1953, \$1.05 more than in 1952 and more than double the 1946 average of \$5.16. In 1932 the average cost was \$2.98 per patient per day, and in 1942 \$4.06.

Synthetic Textiles And Silk Industry Output of the 47 establishments in Canada's synthetic textiles and silk industry in 1953 was valued at \$146,418,307. In 1945 some 33 firms produced \$55,118,613 worth of goods; in 1939 plants numbered 26 and output was worth \$25,440,527; in 1923 there were 7 plants with a production worth \$5,044,968.



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