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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Merchandising: With gains of 0.6% in Ontario to 24.7% in the Atlantic Provinces, department store sales for all Canada rose 6.2% above last year's level in the week ending February 5... Sales of grocery and combination chain food stores were 12% higher last year than in 1953. Sales of variety chains rose 2.9% and women's clothing chains 2.2%, but sales of hardware chains fell 3.7%, shoe chains 1.7% and drug chains 0.6%. (Page 2)

Agriculture: There were small increases in the numbers of cattle and sheep on Canadian farms at the beginning of December last as compared with a year earlier, but the number of horses was down almost 10%. (Page 7)

Food: Stocks of creamery butter, cheese, ice cream and eggs were larger at the start of February this year than last, but holdings of evaporated whole milk, skim milk powder, frozen cream and poultry were smaller... Cold storage stocks of meat were slightly larger on February 1 than on the same date last year. (Pages 3-5)

Prices: Consumer price indexes for four regional cities declined between December 1 and January 3; indexes in three cities increased and in three others showed no change. Group changes remained within narrow limits, foods tending to recede in most cities. (Page 11)

Labour: Average weekly wages in manufacturing rose to \$58.17 at the start of December from \$58.03 a month earlier and \$57.02 at the beginning of December 1953. Average hourly earnings increased to 141.2 cents from 140.5 cents at the start of November and 138.4 cents a year earlier. The work week averaged 41.2 hours, down slightly from 41.3 hours a month earlier but unchanged from 1953. (Page 16)

Transportation: In the last 10 days of January railway carloadings rose 3.8% over the 1954 level and receipts from connections increased 7.1%. In the first month of 1955 loadings were up 7.2% over last year and receipts from connections 10.9%. (Page 16)

Accidents: Reports from all parts of Canada except Quebec show that in the first three quarters of last year fewer people were killed and injured than in the first nine months of 1953. The number of accidents reported to police was down by 2,252 to 100,557. (Page 15)

Department Store Sales Department store sales for all Canada rose 6.2% during
Again Rose Latest Week the week ending February 5 as compared with the cor-
 responding week last year, with all areas sharing in
 the rise. Largest gain was 24.7% in the Atlantic Provinces, followed by 15.9%
 in Manitoba, 10.9% in British Columbia, 5.2% in Alberta, and the smaller gains
 of 1.4% in Quebec, 0.7% in Saskatchewan and 0.6% in Ontario.

Grocery And Combination Chain Store Grocery and combination food chain
Sales Valued 12% Higher In Year 1954 stores had a substantial sales gain of
 12% in 1954 as compared with 1953. Va-
 riety chain sales rose 2.9% and women's clothing chains 2.2%, but hardware
 chain sales fell 3.7%, shoe chains 1.7% and drug chains 0.6%.

Sales of grocery and combination stores in the year aggregated \$865,947,-
 000 versus \$773,220,000 in 1953; variety stores, \$193,871,000 versus \$188,475,-
 000; women's clothing stores, \$50,318,000 versus \$49,257,000; shoe stores,
 \$42,748,000 versus \$43,470,000; drug stores, \$34,504,000 versus \$34,805,000;
 and hardware stores, \$13,195,000 versus \$14,702,000.

December sales were higher for grocery and combination chain stores (\$86,-
 331,000 versus \$73,413,000 a year earlier); variety stores (\$34,819,000 versus
 \$33,558,000); women's clothing stores (\$7,766,000 versus \$7,527,000); shoe
 stores (\$6,203,000 versus \$6,101,000); but lower for drug stores (\$4,043,000
 versus \$4,138,000); and hardware stores (\$1,577,000 versus \$1,710,000). Decem-
 ber 1 stocks held by variety stores were valued at \$64,605,000 (\$62,580,000 a
 year ago); grocery and combination stores, \$64,006,000 (\$54,037,000); shoe
 stores, \$21,776,000 (\$22,619,000); women's clothing stores, \$12,148,000 (\$12,-
 540,000); drug stores, \$11,614,000 (\$10,156,000); and hardware stores, \$6,-
 289,000 (\$6,733,000). (1)

Operating Results Of Chain Gross profit ratio or mark-up was higher in 1953
Variety & Furniture Stores than in 1951 in chain furniture stores but lower
 in chain variety stores, according to the biennial
 survey of operating results by the Bureau.

Average mark-up in stores operated by 10 furniture chains in 1953 was
 31.78% of average net sales (31.78 cents of the sales dollar) as compared with
 an average mark-up of 30.68% for stores operated by the 13 firms surveyed in
 1951. Operating expenses took 26.45% of average net sales in 1953 as against
 27.22% in 1951, all items except advertising showing a decrease in the two
 years. The result was a net operating profit ratio of 5.33% of average net
 sales in 1953 as compared with 3.46% in 1951.

In stores operated by the 11 variety chains surveyed in 1953 the average
 mark-up was 37.77% of average net sales (37.77 cents of the sales dollar) as
 compared with an average of 37.79% for stores operated by the 13 firms sur-
 veyed in 1951. Operating expenses took 28.34% of average net sales in the
 latest year as against 27.64% in 1951, the cost of salaries, occupancy and
 supplies increasing in the interval. The result was a drop in the net opera-
 ting profit ratio to 9.43% of average net sales from 10.15% two year earlier.
 (2 & 3)

Net Operating Profits Of 25 Chain Drug Firms Averaged 3.18% Of Net Sales In 1953

Net operating profits of 25 chain drug firms in 1953 averaged 3.18% of net sales as compared with an average of 3.21% for 22 firms in 1951, according to the Bureau's biennial survey. Gross profits averaged 33.78% of net sales versus 33.74%.

Total operating expenses worked out at 30.6% of net sales versus 30.53%, salaries accounting for 18.34% (18.03% in 1951), occupancy for 4.35% (4.27%), advertising for 1.13% (1.13%), and all other expenses for 6.78% (7.10%). (4)

Revised Data on Retail Trade

Total value of retail sales in Canada, unadjusted for price change, dropped from \$2,735,740,000 in 1930 to \$1,772,927,000 in 1953 and then increased six-fold to \$10,693,097,000 by 1951, according to revised retail sales data covering the period from 1930 to 1951 contained in Reference Paper No. 56 released today by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Current or inter-censal estimates are based primarily on a sample collection of representative stores and they are revised in accordance with the check data provided by the Decennial Census of Distribution.

Over the 20-year period all-Canada sales averaged 290% larger and the number of stores rose 18% to 153,034 from 124,608. A good share of the increase in sales is due to price changes for which adjustments have not been made. Many other changes have occurred in the structure of retail trade over the 20 years. The development of super-markets, co-operative stores and a tremendous growth since 1946 in the motor vehicle business contributed to the gain in sales.

Motor vehicle dealers increased by 84% in number from 1930 to 1951 yet their sales rose from \$251,579,000 to \$1,884,174,000 (649%). Restaurants showed the next largest percentage gain, increasing 484% over 1930 sales of \$75,007,000 to reach \$438,061,000 in 1951. Lumber dealers' sales in 1951, at \$358,986,000 were more than 400% above 1930. A significant change in food sales was apparent. Sales of grocery and combination stores, the largest single classification, amounted to almost \$2,000,000,000 in 1951, a gain of 370% over 1930. (5)

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Larger Stocks Of Butter & Cheese

Stocks of creamery butter, cheese, ice cream and eggs were larger at the start of February this year than last but holdings of evaporated whole milk, skim milk powder, frozen cream and poultry were smaller, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports.

This year's February 1 stocks of creamery butter were 80,306,000 pounds versus 61,197,000 a year ago; cheese, 40,371,000 pounds versus 29,044,000; evaporated whole milk, 26,196,000 pounds versus 31,106,000; skim milk powder, 9,411,000 pounds versus 10,109,000; ice cream, 926,000 gallons versus 837,000; frozen cream, 191,000 pounds versus 413,000; eggs, 447,000 cases versus 203,000; and poultry meat, 24,429,000 pounds versus 28,945,000. (6)

Stocks Of Creamery Butter
Up In Nine Regional Cities

Stocks of creamery butter in nine regional cities on February 10 amounted to 48,187,000 pounds, 20% above last year's corresponding total 40,943,000 pounds. Holdings were as follows by cities (in thousands): Quebec, 2,370 (3,198 a year ago); Montreal, 23,290 (19,360); Toronto, 8,499 (8,450); Winnipeg, 10,379 (6,743); Regina, 869 (424); Saskatoon, 248 (144); Edmonton, 949 (781); Calgary, 214 (417); and Vancouver, 1,369 (1,426).

January Production Of Creamery
Butter Up, Cheddar Cheese Down

More creamery butter, ice cream and concentrated milk products were manufactured in Canada in January this year than last, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Cheddar cheese production was lower.

Output of creamery butter in January amounted to 11,092,000 pounds versus 10,827,000 and domestic disappearance totalled 21,791,000 pounds versus 20,842,000. Revised figures for 1954 place the year's output at 312,854,000 pounds versus 302,783,000 in 1953. The month's output of cheddar cheese amounted to 1,818,000 pounds versus 2,001,000 and the revised total for the full year 1954 was 84,436,000 pounds versus 76,744,000.

January's output of ice cream totalled 1,377,000 gallons versus 1,093,000 a year earlier and the year's output aggregated 28,642,000 gallons versus 28,809,000.

Combined production of concentrated milk products in January amounted to 20,585,000 pounds versus 19,055,000 in the same month of 1954 and the revised total for the full year 1954 was 450,189,000 pounds versus 439,786,000. (7)

Production, Stocks Of Process Cheese

Production of process cheese in January amounted to 3,496,000 pounds, a decrease of 8.6% from the preceding month's 3,824,000 pounds and 4.4% under the 3,658,000 pounds made in January, 1954. Larger stocks were held by manufacturers at the end of January, totalling 1,775,000 pounds versus 1,278,000 at the end of December and 1,409,000 at January 31, 1954.

Production, Stocks Of Margarine

January production of margarine rose to 11,314,000 pounds from the preceding month's 9,884,000 and last year's corresponding total of 10,337,000 pounds. Stocks held by manufacturers, whole-salers and other warehouses at the beginning of February were 3,488,000 pounds, down from 3,633,000 a month earlier but up from last year's 3,221,000 pounds. (8)

Less Biscuits, More Jam

Canadian production of Biscuits decreased last year but output of jams and marmalades increased, according to preliminary figures.

Manufacturers turned out 188,601,382 pounds of plain and fancy biscuits in 1954 as compared with 198,729,525 pounds in 1953. Output of soda biscuits dropped to 45,552,809 pounds from 47,085,198. Jam production increased to 81,428,467 pounds from 80,383,888, and marmalade output to 21,068,748 pounds from 19,371,600.

Meat Stocks Up Slightly Stocks of meat in cold storage on February 1 totalled 71,809,000 pounds, slightly larger than last year's corresponding total of 71,039,000 pounds. Stocks of frozen meat were 40,404,000 pounds (41,387,000 a year ago); fresh meat, 18,837,000 (18,472,000); and cured meat, 12,568,000 pounds (11,180,000). (9)

Wheat Supplies And Exports In Four Major Exporting Countries Supplies of wheat remaining on or about January 1 this year in the four major exporting countries for export and for carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 2,056,800,000 bushels, less than 1% above the 2,038,900,000 available a year ago, according to the Bureau's January issue of the Wheat Review.

January 1 supplies of wheat in Canada were down to 616,000,000 bushels from 727,700,000 a year earlier, but were up in the United States to 1,092,200,000 bushels from 1,007,100,000, Argentina to 180,200,000 bushels from 146,600,000, and Australia to 168,400,000 bushels from 157,500,000.

Total exports of wheat and flour in terms of wheat from the four major exporting countries for the first five months of the current Canadian crop year, at 309,400,000 bushels, were some 9% larger than the 284,200,000 bushels shipped in the comparable period of 1953-54.

Exports from the United States in the August-December period rose to 101,600,000 bushels from 82,800,000 a year earlier and Australia to 37,400,000 bushels from 26,500,000. Exports from Canada fell to 117,200,000 bushels from 121,100,000 and Argentina to 53,200,000 bushels from 53,800,000.

World Import Requirements. - Total world import requirements for wheat in 1954-55 are expected to be somewhat above the previous season, largely because of the poor quality of the crop in Western Europe, the world's major importing area. Asia, the second most important outlet for the world's wheat exports, another large crop. Turkey was an important exporter in 1953-54 but will be an import basis in 1954-55. France again has a surplus available for export but the supply includes a considerable quantity of low-quality grain.

Present indications point to an increase of at least 5% in the total exports of wheat in 1954-55, thus arresting the downward trend in world exports since the record 1,066,000,000-bushel export in 1951-52. United States exports may reach about 250,000,000 bushels compared with 216,000,000 in 1953-54 and Canadian exports will probably remain near last season's level of 288,000,000 bushels.

Argentina's 1954-55 (July-June) exports will probably reach at least 100,000,000 bushels. The 1954-55 crop of 260,000,000 bushels, would be sufficient to provide exports of this magnitude, taking into account the shipments made since July 1954 from old-crop wheat. Australia's exports probably will be somewhat higher than the 71,000,000 exported during 1953-54 (July-June), despite a smaller crop, as very large supplies of old-crop wheat are available for export. (10)

Pack Of Canned Fruits & Vegetables Commercial canners packed more of all fruits except loganberries last year than in 1953, according to preliminary figures. On the other hand, the pack of all vegetables except asparagus, baked beans, carrots, corn and peas was smaller. Among fruits, the pack (in pounds) of peaches rose to 52,339,779 from 39,199,350, Bartlett pears to 13,071,822 from 9,590,970, Keiffer pears to 18,075,352 from 13,473,681, fruit cocktail to 8,195,086 from 6,395,517 and apple juice to 71,167,727 from 39,037,973. Among vegetables, the pack (in pounds) of carrots increased to 6,923,448 from 6,121,984, corn to 63,066,056 from 57,478,046, asparagus to 4,087,074 from 3,895,790, baked beans to 95,865,588 from 84,352,210, and peas to 100,103,454 from 98,225,045, while tomatoes decreased to 43,530,722 from 87,288,398, and green or wax beans to 48,315,467 from 53,291,761. (11)

Year-End Stocks Of Canned Foods At the end of last year stocks of canned fruits totalled 8,491,626 dozen containers as against 6,684,893 dozen at the end of 1953, while stocks of canned vegetables amounted to 19,885,286 dozen containers as against 22,107,578 dozen. Among fruits, there were increased holdings of all except crabapples and loganberries. The main declines in vegetables were tomatoes, corn and green or waxed beans. December 31 stocks (in dozens of containers) follow, with corresponding 1953 figures bracketed.

Canned Fruits. - apples, 218,906 (153,085 in 1953); crabapples, 12,137 (17,623); applesauce, 715,076 (422,605); apricots, 405,537 (240,438); blueberries, 106,953 (47,784); cherries, 409,890 (266,440); fruits cocktail and fruits for salad, 785,907 (579,688); grapefruit, 18,086 (10,328); loganberries, 16,453 (38,321); peaches, 2,445,056 (2,323,727); Bartlett pears, 818,693 (633,818); Keiffer pears, 827,073 (676,608); apple pie filling, 70,240 (25,826); other pie filling, 67,397 (49,130); pineapple, 596,927 (359,684); plums and gages, 410,301 (456,321); raspberries, 260,557 (192,385); rhubarb, 3,171 (2,973); strawberries, 224,024 (114,369); all other fruits, 79,242 (73,740).

Canned Vegetables. - asparagus, 219,164 (192,218 in 1953); green or waxed beans, 2,803,147 (3,033,374); baked beans, 1,856,880 (1,370,843); beets, 637,038 (723,358); carrots, 359,019 (288,221); carrots and peas combined, 365,755 (412,454); corn, 4,868,985 (5,419,217); mixed vegetables, 561,510 (499,112); peas, 5,351,760 (4,996,870); pumpkin and squash, 453,938 (475,036); sauerkraut, 220,014 (231,900); spinach, 130,118 (143,670); tomatoes, 1,830,499 (4,135,830); all other vegetables, 227,459 (185,475).

Other Canned Foods. - apple juice, 2,070,516 (1,002,722 in 1953); other fruit juices, 738,925 (695,503); apple juice concentrate, 3,955 (1,055); infant and junior fruits, 3,319,257 (2,391,851); infant and junior soups, 517,636 (365,907); infant and junior vegetables, 1,649,025 (1,668,866); other infant and junior foods, 2,234,392 (2,433,051); jams, 454,225 (411,309); jellies, 79,360 (72,147); marmalades, 155,078 (140,346); mayonnaise and salad dressing, 54,279 (67,496); peanut butter, 111,155 (103,283); pickles, 505,285 (461,401); prepared mustard, 143,998 (161,000); relishes, 90,052 (59,721); ready dinners, 470,016 (479,322); sandwich spread, 39,735 (49,807); chili sauce, 242,398 (215,454); meat sauces, 74,213 (48,029); other sauces, 141,699 (115,136); soups 9,209,903 (8,953,662); spaghetti, 527,001 (442,785); tomato juice, 3,564,340 (5,529,969); tomato ketchup, 2,447,830 (2,511,945); tomato pulp, paste and puree, 195,973 (278,418); vinegar, 149,411 (127,162); honey, 90,768 (118,601).

Small Increases In Numbers Of Cattle
And Sheep; Horse Numbers Down 10%

There were small increases in the numbers of cattle and sheep on Canadian farms at the beginning of December last as compared with a year earlier but the number of horses dropped almost 10%, according to the Bureau's annual sample survey which is conducted in co-operation with provincial departments of agriculture.

Cattle and calves on farms at December 1, 1954 numbered 9,473,000 versus 9,371,000 a year earlier. Number in Eastern Canada was 5,359,000 versus 5,376,000 and in Western Canada, 4,114,000 versus 3,995,000. Sheep and lambs on farms totalled 1,183,500 versus 1,161,000 and horses numbered 951,000 versus 1,053,700.

Estimated numbers of cattle on farms on December 1, 1954 were as follows by provinces, 1953 figures being bracketed: Prince Edward Island, 117,000 (112,000); Nova Scotia, 199,000 (200,000); New Brunswick, 180,000 (176,000); Quebec, 1,769,000 (1,738,000); Ontario, 3,094,000 (3,150,000); Manitoba, 620,000 (617,000); Saskatchewan, 1,280,000 (1,264,000); Alberta, 1,868,000 (1,773,000); and British Columbia, 346,000 (341,000). Figures for Newfoundland are not available. (12)

MANUFACTURING

More Cement And Concrete
Products Shipped In 1954

Canadian manufacturers shipped 22,357,322 barrels of Portland cement to customers last year as compared with 22,224,314 barrels in 1953, according to the Bureau's December report on cement and cement products.

Cement production last year increased to 22,584,023 barrels from 22,419,912 in 1953. The amount used in plants increased to 84,275 barrels from 21,875. Year-end stocks at plants and warehouse totalled 1,073,579 barrels as against 931,218 barrels at the close of 1953. December production of Portland cement was down to 1,654,724 barrels from 1,784,890 in 1953 and December shipments to customers dropped to 1,066,487 barrels from 1,228,792.

Shipments of most concrete building products increased in December and the 12 months last year; in both periods the only decreases were for gravel blocks and concrete chimney blocks. The number of concrete bricks shipped in the year was 84,598,022, a substantial increase over the 63,150,015 shipped in 1953. Cinder blocks shipped numbered 17,822,046 as against 13,425,759, and haydite, slag and other concrete blocks 7,906,720 as against 5,867,541.

Shipments of ready-mixed concrete also rose sharply last year, totalling 2,310,837 cubic yards as against 1,823,071 cubic yards in 1953. Shipments of cement drain pipe, sewer pipe, water pipe and culvert tile increased to 309,237 tons from 251,361. On the other hand, the number of gravel blocks shipped to fell to 69,944,576 as compared with 72,111,655 in the preceding year, and the number of concrete chimney blocks to 1,030,025 as against 1,137,490. (13)

More Toys and Games Canada's manufacturers shipped \$18,432,144 worth of toys and games in 1952, a sharp increase over the 1951 output value of \$16,286,202. The value of imports increased to \$7,663,852 from \$6,303,-779, while exports fell in value to \$231,376 from \$367,760.

Canadian firms shipped 162,486 dozen dolls during the year as compared with 140,282 dozen in 1951, and factory value rose to \$2,911,985 from \$2,309,728. Doll carriages were valued at \$584,992 versus \$538,311, and dolls' furnishings at \$445,235 versus \$341,440.

The number of tricycles shipped increased to 149,448 dozen from 147,555 dozen in 1951, but total value decreased to \$1,587,417 from \$1,616,990. The value of other children's vehicles shipped climbed to \$667,391 from \$443,413.

More metal and plastic toys were shipped but fewer wooden toys. Metal toy shipments were valued at \$2,623,088 versus \$2,115,921 in 1951, plastic toys at \$913,384 versus \$928,127. Shipments of stuffed animals increased in value to \$987,830 from \$780,264.

The value of balloons shipped increased in 1952 to \$330,443 from \$296,773 in 1951, and rubber toys and novelties to \$615,274 from \$480,038. Other toys (including toy vehicles) declined in value to \$1,262,549 from \$1,566,822. Games and puzzles shipped were worth \$1,710,378 as against \$1,236,618.

The main item in imports was metal mechanical toys, which were worth \$1,-654,368 in 1952 as against \$1,726,951 in 1951. Dolls imported were valued at \$634,187, a sharp increase from the 1951 value of \$349,997. Metal or rubber juvenile construction sets were valued at \$297,940 versus \$320,516. The value of other imported toys increased to \$5,077,357 from \$3,906,315. Canadian exports included \$78,878 worth of dolls (\$113,452 in 1951) and \$152,598 worth of other toys (\$254,318). (14)

Refinery Receipts Of Crude Oil And Refined Products In November Crude oil received by Canadian refineries was up 19% in November last year to 14,188,-331 barrels from 11,914,348 barrels in November 1953. Receipts from domestic sources accounted for the greater part of the increase with a jump of 30% to 7,995,716 barrels from 6,147,513 a year earlier. Receipts from other countries advanced over 7% to 6,192,615 from 5,-766,835 barrels.

Net production of saleable products during the month increased about 6%, aggregating 13,520,989 barrels against 12,635,523 in November 1953. The larger increases were in motor gasoline, diesel fuel, furnace oil, asphalt and lubricating oil. Month-end inventories amounted to 22,219,441 barrels versus 23,687,094 a month earlier and 18,293,346 twelve months earlier. (15)

Rubber Consumption Lower In December But Stocks Higher Combined consumption of rubber in December -- natural, synthetic and reclaim -- was cut to 7,206 tons from 7,487 in the preceding month but month-end stocks rose to 10,303 tons from 10,056. Domestic production of synthetic and reclaim rubber was virtually unchanged at 8,288 tons versus 8,284. (16)

More Wrist Watches Shipments of Canada's clocks, watches and watch cases industry increased in value to \$11,035,592 in 1952 from \$10,591,405 in 1951 mainly as a result of a sharp increase in shipments of wrist watches to 315,294 worth \$6,008,107 from 271,848 valued at \$4,660,853.

In contrast, shipments of electric clocks dropped sharply to 160,548 worth \$735,552 from 235,523 valued at \$1,059,107. Shipments of non-electric mantel and wall clocks increased in number to 35,205 from 22,752 but the total value decreased to \$167,375 from \$272,997. There were 806,298 non-electric clocks and other types shipped in 1952 as against 1,046,948 shipped in 1951 and the total value fell to \$2,067,593 from \$2,433,221.

Shipments of watches (other than wrist watches) declined to 528,485 worth \$1,032,332 from 581,741 valued at \$1,033,229. There were 217,198 watch cases worth \$413,961 shipped in 1952 as against 227,886 valued at \$425,630 in 1951. Bracelets shipped numbered 233,407 as against 262,914 and value dropped to \$296,451 from \$404,905. Other products shipped by the industry in 1952 were worth \$314,221 as compared with \$301,463 in the preceding year.

The value of Canada's output in 1952 was topped by the value of imported clocks, watches and parts, which rose to \$12,646,722 from \$10,222,097 in 1951. Imports included finished or unfinished watch actions and movements (worth \$3,319,316 versus \$3,379,455 in 1951), watches (\$2,224,681 versus \$1,831,013), clocks (\$1,727,800 versus \$2,304,272), finished or unfinished watch cases and parts (\$956,437 versus \$1,156,994), finished or unfinished parts of watch movements (\$478,295 versus \$559,242), finished or unfinished parts of clock movements or clockwork mechanisms (\$463,415 versus \$613,466), time recorders (\$275,360 versus \$253,840), clock movements, cases and mechanisms (\$185,874 versus \$215,291), and clock springs of iron and steel (\$15,544 versus \$8,524).

Canadian exports of clocks, watches and parts also increased in 1952, but were worth less than 10% of imports at \$1,184,108 versus \$1,064,249 in 1951. The exports comprised 166,561 clocks and parts valued at \$729,589 as against 215,557 worth \$672,146 in 1951, and 162,530 watches and parts valued at \$454,519 as against 138,635 worth \$392,103. (14)

Less Coke Available In Less coke was available for consumption in Canada
First 11 Months Of 1954 in November and the first 11 months last year than in the corresponding periods of 1953, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Production and exports were down in both the month and the January-November period, while imports were higher in November but lower in the 11 months.

Production declined to 301,277 tons from 358,693 in November, and to 3,123,524 tons from 3,924,248 in the 11 months. November exports dropped to 10,519 tons from 14,263 a year earlier, and January-November exports to 98,876 tons from 151,367. Landed imports increased to 30,366 tons from 29,033 in November, and decreased to 246,570 tons from 303,949 in the 11 months. There were 321,124 tons available for consumption in Canada in November as against 373,463 a year earlier, bringing the 11-month total to 3,271,218 tons versus 4,076,830. (17)

Production Of Leather And
Stocks Of Raw Hides, Skins

Production of cattle sole leather declined in December from a year earlier but there were increases in cattle upper leather and glove and garment leather, and calf and kip skin upper leather. Stocks of raw hides were larger for all kinds except goat and kid skins.

December's output of cattle sole leather amounted to 927,938 pounds (1,342,572 a year ago); upper leather, 4,980,570 square feet (4,169,221); glove and garment leather, 785,645 square feet (558,484); calf and kip skin upper leather, 1,034,363 square feet (933,116); and horse leather, 101,553 square feet (110,320).

End-of-December stocks of raw hides held by tanners, packers and dealers were as follows: cattle hides, 545,484 (524,573 a year earlier); calf and kip skins, 470,758 (408,094); goat and kid skins, 2,788 (36,556); horse hides, 21,378 (17,736); and sheep and lamb skins, 48,633 dozen (42,006 dozen). (18)

Leather Products Industries In 1953

Industries in the leather products group shipped \$222,410,000 worth of products in 1953, a rise of 1.4% from the 1952 value of \$219,201,000. The value of shipments in the leather tanning section rose to \$47,996,000 from \$46,602,000, while shipments in the secondary industries climbed to \$174,414,000 from \$172,599,000. Leather footwear, largest of the individual industries of the group, had a shipments value of \$131,307,000 versus \$128,266,000. Total cost of materials in the industries of the group as a whole increased to \$116,416,000 from \$115,715,000, the employees to 33,068 from 32,103 and salary and wage payments to \$70,965,000 from \$66,153,000. The total number of establishments in the group was down to 695 from 701. (19)

MINING

New High Production Value
For Gypsum Industry In 1953

Value of products shipped by Canada's gypsum mining industry in 1953 climbed to a new peak total of \$7,400,000 from the preceding year's \$6,538,000. The tonnage of crude gypsum shipped rose to 3,841,000 tons from 3,591,000, mines in Nova Scotia accounting for 3,051,000 tons versus 2,969,000.

Secondary gypsum products were manufactured in 1953 to the value of \$22,666,000, also a new high annual figure, as compared with \$18,356,000 the year before. Gypsum wallboard was worth \$9,195,000 (\$7,870,000 in 1952); gypsum lath, \$8,153,000 (\$6,005,000); and gypsum hard wall plasters, \$3,579,000 (\$2,837,000). (20)

Asbestos Shipments In 1954

Shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines during December were up to 70,921 tons as compared to 63,617 a year earlier, raising total shipments for 1954 to 923,581 tons as against the revised total of 911,226 tons in 1953 and not far below the 1952 total of 929,339 tons. High figure for a year was 973,198 tons in 1951. Exports of asbestos during 1954 amounted to 887,728 tons compared to 878,530 tons the previous year. (21)

Security Price Indexes

	<u>February 10</u>	<u>February 3</u>	<u>January 13</u>
	(1935-39=100)		
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
Total Common Stocks	214.3	211.8	207.8
Industrials	218.6	216.2	211.6
Utilities	184.0	181.8	181.9
Banks	241.4	237.3	229.3
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
Total Mining Stocks	106.0	105.5	103.3
Golds	68.9	68.6	68.9
Base Metals	190.8	190.0	181.9

Consumer Price Indexes For Regional Cities Regional city consumer price indexes presented mixed movements between December 1 and January 3 as four series moved down, three were unchanged and three were higher. Group changes continued to remain within narrow limits with foods tending to recede in most cities.

Beef prices were firmer at all centres except Calgary and Edmonton, while processed pork declined at all centres except Halifax, Saint John and Montreal. Eggs were mixed, while imported fresh fruits were generally lower. Fresh vegetables on the other hand registered increases in eight of the ten cities.

Shelter indexes were higher in five centres as rents advanced, while in the remaining five they were unchanged. Clothing series indexes were unchanged. Clothing series indexes were steady, while other commodities and services registered minor index changes in three centres. Group indexes for household operation moved down in St. John's and Winnipeg due to lower quotations for coal in the former and a few items of furniture and textiles in the latter.

Total index for January 3 and December 1, and January 3 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
(Base 1949 = 100)

	<u>Total Indexes</u>		<u>Group Indexes - January 3, 1955</u>				
							Other
	Dec. 1, 1954	Jan. 3, 1955	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation & Services	Commodities
St. John's *	102.9	102.6	101.1	108.0	101.8	100.8	103.6
Halifax	114.5	114.3	107.0	123.3	114.4	119.0	116.9
Saint John	117.5	117.4	112.9	124.1	116.5	116.4	123.0
Montreal	117.0	117.1	115.1	134.4	107.2	115.8	116.9
Ottawa	117.0	117.0	111.2	131.9	111.3	116.7	119.6
Toronto	118.8	118.9	110.6	145.2	110.4	116.2	119.4
Winnipeg	115.5	115.5	110.8	125.7	112.7	113.5	118.0
Saskatoon-Regina	113.9	113.9	110.1	115.4	114.9	117.9	113.2
Edmonton-Calgary	115.0	114.6	110.0	121.0	112.6	115.7	118.4
Vancouver	118.3	118.4	111.8	126.1	112.6	125.4	122.4

* Index on the base June 1951 = 100.

Value Of Commodity Imports Up 6% In November But Down 7% In 11 Months

Value of Canada's commodity imports rose about 6% in November over the corresponding month of 1953 but the earlier declines left the cumulative total for the January-November period 7% below 1953, according to final figures on the month's imports by the Bureau. Total value for November was \$3,756,500,000 versus \$4,044,400,000.

The volume of imports rose 6.6% in November but prices were down narrowly. In the 11-month period volume averaged 7.1% below a year earlier but prices were virtually unchanged.

Imports were higher in value from the United States in November but lower in the cumulative period and purchases from the United Kingdom were lower in both periods. Imports were down in value in the month and 11 months from the Latin America group but up from the rest of the Commonwealth, European countries.

In November there were increased values for all main commodity groups except iron and products and non-metallic minerals, the largest dollar gain occurring in agricultural and vegetable products. In the 11-month period only two groups were higher in value -- agricultural and vegetable products and wood and paper. Largest decreases occurred in fibres and textiles, iron and products, and non-metallic minerals.

November imports from the United States rose to \$273,459,000 from \$244,519,000 in the corresponding month of 1953, gains being recorded in all groups except iron and products and non-metallic minerals. In the 11 months the cumulative value dropped to \$2,718,317,000 from \$2,974,468,000, decreases being common to all groups except agricultural and vegetable products and wood and paper.

General declines among the main groups reduced the value of imports from the United Kingdom in November to \$26,475,000 from \$38,857,000 a year earlier. In the 11-month period increases in the agricultural and vegetable and wood and paper groups were more than counterbalanced by declines in the remaining groups, resulting in a cut in total imports to \$358,638,000 from \$415,045,000 a year ago.

Imports from the rest of the Commonwealth rose in November to \$20,256,000 from \$16,818,000 and in the 11 months to \$172,823,000 from \$161,165,000. There were larger purchases both in November and the 11 months from the America, Africa and Oceania groups but smaller imports from the Asia group.

Imports from Latin American countries as a group were down in November to \$22,178,000 from \$24,793,000 and in the 11 months to \$258,398,000 from \$267,485,000. Purchases from Venezuela -- largest area source of supply -- were slightly lower in November but higher in the cumulative period. Imports were lower in both periods from Bolivia and lower in the month but higher in the 11 months from Colombia.

November imports from European countries increased to \$19,756,000 from \$19,038,000 a year earlier and in the 11 months to \$165,609,000 from \$160,998,000. Imports from the Federal Republic of Germany were higher in both periods, higher in the month but lower in the 11 months from Belgium and Luxembourg, France and Switzerland, but lower in the month and higher in the cumulative period from Italy and the Netherlands.

MORE

Purchases from the remaining group of foreign countries were valued at \$9,194,000 in November versus \$6,677,000, bringing the cumulative total to \$69,650,000 versus \$57,400,000. There were larger imports from Japan and the Netherlands Antilles but smaller purchases from Lebanon. (22 & 23)

The following table shows the value of Canada's leading imports. These are listed in order of value for 1954's January-November period.

	November		January-November	
	1953	1954	1953	1954
(thousands of dollars)				
Machinery, non-farm	31,427	30,274	365,366	351,094
Petroleum, crude	15,497	17,005	192,101	194,056
Automobile parts	13,528	12,532	203,877	165,906
Farm implements & machinery	6,835	6,593	200,750	136,176
Petroleum products	15,905	16,399	133,059	119,292
Fruits	9,734	10,905	97,802	108,882
Coal	13,005	11,446	128,899	96,591
Aircraft & parts	10,337	8,249	103,361	91,450
Rolling-mill products	12,326	8,130	114,627	90,465
Engines & boilers	9,518	6,636	107,809	84,177
Cotton products	6,472	6,598	84,763	70,383
Automobiles	3,883	7,680	93,242	70,154
Canadian tourists' purchases	5,626	5,314	69,330	64,200
Books & printed matter	5,537	6,357	62,472	62,541
Coffee & chicory	5,593	5,302	54,218	61,364
Sugar & products	6,449	8,267	56,562	60,076

HEALTH & WELFARE

Bed Capacity Of Canadian Hospitals Reached All-Time High In Year 1953

The combined capacity of hospitals of all types in Canada, including mental hospitals and sanatoria, amounted at the end of 1953

to 151,000 beds, enough to accommodate slightly more than 1% of the Canadian population at that time, according to the Bureau's annual report on hospital statistics for 1953, released today. While the continuing addition of new beds brought total bed capacity to the highest figure of any year on record, the increase in 1953 failed to keep pace with Canada's rapid growth in population and the ratio of beds to population declined for the second successive year.

There has been steady and continuous growth in Canadian hospital bed capacity in the 21 years from 1932 to 1953 for which the report presents comparative figures. In this period general hospitals added about 28,000 beds, rising 83% to 62,102; mental hospitals added over 17,000 for an increase of 54% to 49,290; and tuberculosis sanatoria more than doubled in capacity from 7,150 to 15,150 beds.

Public hospitals in 1953 had a ratio of 4.75 beds per 1,000 population, an increase from 3.95 in 1932. Alberta led all other provinces in 1953 with a ratio of 6.49, followed by Prince Edward Island with 5.97, Saskatchewan with 5.96, British Columbia with 5.75, Nova Scotia with 5.17 and Manitoba with 5.12 beds. Below the national average were Ontario with 4.59, Newfoundland with 4.51, New Brunswick with 4.10 and Quebec with 3.85 beds per 1,000 population.

MORE

Admissions per bed to public hospitals doubled from 1932 to 1953 from 13.1 to 26.3, with the greatest increases in Saskatchewan and New Brunswick in both of which the number almost tripled, reaching 34.3 in the former and 32.6 in the latter. The percentage occupancy figures also showed notable increases in this period, the all-Canada figure rising from 59.3 to 81.2, with the greatest increases in New Brunswick from 40.2 to 78.6, Ontario from 55.0 to 86.1, and Saskatchewan from 49.8 to 94.9.

Personnel of public hospitals was larger in 1953 than in any previous year with a total of 95,051, a rise of 10% over 1952, double the 1943 total, and triple the 1932 figure. Almost every occupational group among the personnel and every province showed an increase. The shortage of nurses in public hospitals continued in 1953. Fewer schools of nursing reported, the number dropping to 148 from 153 the previous year when there was also a decline. Enrolment in nursing schools, however, rose by almost 2% to 15,383, but the number graduating fell by just over 2% to 4,534. Only Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia graduated more nurses in 1953 than the previous year.

Graduate nurses spent 70% of their paid working hours in direct nursing care of patients. In this respect, they were exceeded by all other classes of nursing personnel; graduate nursing assistants spending nearly 90% of paid working hours in direct nursing care, trainee nursing assistants 87%, student nurses 80%, and orderlies 81%.

There were more admissions, discharges and deaths in public hospitals in 1953 than in any other year. Admissions, excluding newborn (which numbered 322,554) totalled 1,849,802, up from 1,760,052 in 1952; while discharges, excluding newborn, rose to 1,799,800 from 1,714,304. Deaths totalled 47,021, making a ratio of 24.8 per 1,000 patients under care, as against 44,674 and a ratio of 24.7 in 1952, these rates comparing with 40.8 in 1932.

The average daily patient population in public hospitals was 57,022 in 1953, up from 55,154 the previous year and nearly two and a half times the 1932 figure of 23,997. The average stay of adults and children was 10 days, unchanged from 1952 and two-thirds the average stay of approximately 15 days in 1934, the earliest year for which comparable figures are available. For newborn infants, the average stay declined to 6.8 days from 7.1 in 1952 and slightly over 11 days in 1934. (24)

Mental Hospitals Largest Canada's largest hospitals are those that care for the mentally ill, according to the 1954 list of hospitals. The 54-page publication -- 19th of its kind issued by DBS -- lists all hospitals, tuberculosis sanatoria and mental institutions operating in Canada last year. Besides name and location, type, ownership, nature of service and bed capacity are shown.

Canada's biggest hospital is the 5500-bed Hopital St. Jean-de-Dieu at Gamelin, Quebec, which is devoted exclusively to mental patients. The second largest is the 4000-bed Hopital St. Michel-Archange (also a mental institution) at Mastai, Quebec. The Provincial Mental Hospital at Essendale, British Columbia, with a rated capacity of 2,022 beds (there are 3,601 set up), is the country's third largest.

MORE

Of the ten biggest hospitals only one is not a mental institution: DVA's Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto, which has 1,650 beds and is eighth largest. Others in the top ten: the Saskatchewan Hospital at North Battleford (1,841 beds); the Ontario Hospital at St. Thomas (1,822); the Ontario Hospitals at Orillia and Smith's Falls (each 1800); the Provincial Mental Hospital at Ponoka, Alberta (1,734); and the Ontario Hospital at Whitby (1500).

The largest general hospitals are the Toronto General (1,393 beds), the Vancouver General (1,302) and the Hamilton General (1,024)

Trailing the list are a number of 1-bed hospitals, including the Mrs. Amy Nickerson Hospital at Doctor's Cove, Nova Scotia, the Hopital Mondou-Nadeau at Yamaska, Quebec, and the Gladmar Maternity Hospital at Gladmar, Saskatchewan. (25)

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

Fewer Killed, Injured In Motor Vehicle Accidents In First 3 Quarters Of 1954

Reports from all parts of Canada except Quebec show that in the first three quarters of last year fewer people were killed and injured in motor vehicle accidents than in the first nine months of 1953. There were 100,557 accidents reported to police in the nine provinces and two territories in the January-September period last year, 2,252 less than a year earlier.

The number killed fell to 1,288 from 1,316, only Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Manitoba reporting increases over 1953. In Newfoundland deaths fell to 13 from 21, in Prince Edward Island to 4 from 10, in Ontario to 713 from 736, in Saskatchewan to 33 from 77, in Alberta to 121 from 124, in British Columbia to 134 from 136, and in the Yukon and Northwest Territories to 3 from 6. In Nova Scotia deaths climbed to 110 from 77, in New Brunswick to 76 from 72 and in Manitoba to 81 from 57.

The number injured in motor vehicle accidents dropped to 32,585 in the first three quarters of 1954 from 34,058 in the January-September period of 1953, increases being recorded only in New Brunswick, Manitoba and the Territories. In Newfoundland the number injured declined to 402 from 414, in Prince Edward Island to 103 from 165, in Nova Scotia to 1,801 from 1,842, in Ontario to 17,380 from 17,668, in Saskatchewan to 1,828 from 2,275, in Alberta to 2,627 from 2,938, and in British Columbia to 4,937 from 5,454. In New Brunswick the number injured increased to 1,251 from 1,074, in Manitoba to 2,165 from 2,153, and in the Yukon and Northwest Territories to 91 from 75.

The drop in the number of motor vehicle accidents reported was due to decreases in Ontario (to 44,961 from 46,636), in Saskatchewan (to 5,942 from 7,157), in Alberta (to 11,091 from 12,085), and in British Columbia (to 14,784 from 15,553). In Newfoundland the number of accidents increased to 2,215 from 1,840, in Prince Edward Island to 879 from 608, in Nova Scotia to 6,980 from 6,304, in New Brunswick to 4,313 from 3,431, in Manitoba to 9,136 from 8,854, and in the Yukon and Northwest Territories to 262 from 241. (26)

Railway Carloadings Increased Railway carloadings in the last 10 days of January totalled 87,705 cars, up 3.8% from 84,455 a year earlier and receipts from connections increased 7.1% to 42,454 cars from 39,639. In the month of January, 285,613 cars were loaded, up 7.2% from 266,351 in the same month of 1953 and receipts from connections were up 10.9% to 129,402 cars from 116,633.

Commodities carried in increased volume in the last 10 days of January were: grain, 7,048 cars (5,630 a year ago); sand, gravel and crushed stone, 2,119 (1,420); logs etc., 1,620 (1,166); and lumber, timber and plywood, 4,967 (3,246). Carried in fewer cars were: grain products, 2,869 (3,287); and coal, 6,285 (8,520).

Carried in larger volume in January were: grain, 29,242 cars (22,857 in January, 1954); non-ferrous ores and concentrates, 10,902 (8,947); logs, posts, poles and piling, 4,832 (2,955); and lumber, timber and plywood, 14,610 (9,894). Loadings of coal dropped to 22,331 cars from 26,036. (27)

LABOUR

Weekly Wages In Manufacturing Reached New Peak At December 1 Average weekly wages in Canadian manufacturing industries at the beginning of December climbed to an all-time high figure of \$58.17 from \$58.03 a month earlier and \$57.02 a year ago, according to advance figures. Average hourly earnings rose to 141.2 cents from 140.5 cents at the beginning of November and 138.4 cents at the same time last year. The work-week averaged 41.2 hours, slightly shorter than the 41.3 of a month earlier but unchanged from 1953.

Longer hours in aircraft plants and the release of the lower-paid workers in shipyards and sawmills helped to raise the levels of earnings in the durable manufactured goods category which continued to be affected by industrial disputes. In the non-durable division, wage-rate increases in meat packing and the release of seasonal help in fruit and vegetable canneries and the clothing industry contributed to a small rise in the averages of hourly and weekly earnings. Changes in the average working time were insignificant in both divisions of manufacturing.

Earnings and hours worked in mining and the service industries showed little change since last month. Employment of wage-earners declined, as did the length of the average working week, in both branches of the construction industry, chiefly due to the seasonal curtailment of outside operations.

Average Weekly Hours, Hourly Earnings & Weekly Wages of
Hourly-Rated Wage-Earners

Industry	Hours			Hourly Earnings			Weekly Wages		
	Dec.1	Nov.1	Dec.1	Dec.1	Nov.1	Dec.1	Dec.1	Nov.1	Dec.1
	1953	1954	1954	1953	1954	1954	1953	1954	1954
	no.	no.	no.	¢	¢	¢	\$	\$	\$
Manufacturing	41.2	41.3	41.2	138.4	140.5	141.2	57.02	58.03	58.17
Durable Goods ...	41.7	41.6	41.5	149.5	151.6	152.5	62.34	63.07	63.29
Non-durable Goods	40.7	41.0	41.0	126.1	129.6	129.9	51.32	53.14	53.26
Mining	43.9	43.8	43.8	157.3	158.4	158.5	69.05	69.38	69.42
Electric and Motor									
Transportation ..	45.0	45.0	44.9	136.2	141.3	141.1	61.29	63.59	63.35
Construction	41.6	41.6	40.6	147.3	145.7	147.4	61.28	60.61	59.84
Service	41.6	40.7	41.1	81.4	84.9	84.9	33.86	34.55	34.89

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

- 1- Chain Store Sales & Stocks, December, 10¢
- 2- Operating Results Of Chain Furniture Stores, 1953, 25¢
- 3- Operating Results Of Chain Variety Stores, 1953, 25¢
- 4- Operating Results Of Chain Drug Stores, 1953, 25¢
- 5- R: Retail Trade, 1930-1951 (Revisions to Intercensal Estimates),
Reference Paper No. 56, 25¢
- 6- M: Stocks of Dairy & Poultry Products, February 1, 10¢
- 7- Dairy Factory Production, January, 10¢
- 8- M: Margarine Statistics, January, 10¢
- 9- M: Stocks of Meat & Lard, February 1, 10¢
- 10- The Wheat Review, January, 25¢
- 11- Pack of Canned Fruits & Vegetables, Preliminary Report, 1954, 25¢
- 12- M: Report on the Live Stock Survey of December 1, 1954 --
Cattle, Horses, Sheep, 10¢
- 13- M: Cement & Cement Products, December, 10¢
- 14- Miscellaneous Industries, 1951-52, 25¢
- 15- Refined Petroleum Products, November, 25¢
- 16- Consumption, Production & Inventories of Rubber, December, 25¢
- 17- Coal & Coke Statistics, November, 25¢
- 18- M: Statistics of Hides, Skins & Leather, December, 10¢
- 19- Leather Products, General Review, 1953, 25¢
- 20- Gypsum Industry, 1953, 25¢
- 21- M: Asbestos, December, 10¢
- 22- Monthly Summary of Foreign Trade, November, 10¢
- 23- Imports for Consumption (Summary), November, 20¢
- 24- Hospital Statistics, 1953 (Volume I), 50¢
- 25- M: List of Hospitals, 1954, 50¢
- 26- M: Motor Vehicle Accidents, Third Quarter, 1954, 25¢
- 27- M: Carloadings on Canadian Railways, Last 10 Days of January, 10¢
- Exports, December & 12 Months Ended December, 1954 (detailed), 50¢
- Employment & Payrolls, December, 25¢
- New Residential Construction, December, 25¢ -- Summarized in
Bulletin of February 11.
- Man-Hours & Hourly Earnings with Average Weekly Wages, December, 25¢
-- Summarized in Bulletin of February 18.

M - Memorandum

R - Reference Paper

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

Fewer Horses On Farms Now At the start of December last there were an estimated 951,000 horses on Canadian farms, 2,501,000 less than the 1921 peak.

Railway Police Canada's railways had a police force of 1,080 in 1953. Average salary of the 197 inspectors and sergeants was \$4,367, and of the 883 constables \$3,455.

More Gum The confectionery industry shipped 13,358,390 boxes of gum in 1953 as compared with 12,880,232 boxes in 1952.

Fewer Smokestacks Canada's boilers and plate work industry shipped \$163,536 worth of smokestacks in 1953 as compared with \$218,411 in 1952.

Drawbridge Operators Canada's railways employed 99 drawbridge operators in 1953 and paid them an average salary of \$3,367.

Pay Telephones There were 50,913 public pay telephones in Canada in 1953 as compared with 33,266 in 1945 and 27,220 in 1939.

More Radiators Factory shipments of heating radiators increased to 15,006,506 square feet worth \$9,079,028 in 1953 from 13,253,513 square feet valued at \$8,015,332 in 1952.

Organic Chemicals Canadian production of organic chemicals was valued at \$61,539,000 in 1953, an increase of \$9,643,000 or nearly 19% over 1952.

Railway News Agents There were 185 agents employed by Canadian railways in 1953 and their average salary was \$2,713.

More Married In 15-24 Age Group 24.2% of all Canadians of 15 to 24 years of age were married persons in 1953 as compared with 21.9% of the population in this age group in 1951.

Use Phones More Canadians made 6,084,655,328 telephone calls or 412 per capita in 1953 as compared with 5,609,694,294 or 389 per capita in 1952. In 1939 calls totalled 2,774,350,439 or 245 per capita.

Flowers & Feathers The artificial flowers and feathers industry has grown from four firms with a gross production value of \$117,671 in 1932 to 42 concerns with an output valued at \$2,675,340 in 1952.

Largest Hospitals Canada's largest hospitals are the 5500-bed Hopital St. Jean-de-Dien at Gamelin, Quebec, and the 4000-bed Hopital St. Michel-Archange at Mastoi, Quebec. Both are devoted to the care and treatment of mental patients.

Smallest Hospitals There are several 1-bed hospitals in Canada, including the Mrs. Amy Nickerson Hospital at Doctor's Cove, Nova Scotia, the Hopital Mondon-Nadeau at Yamaska, Quebec, and the Gladmar Maternity Hospital at Gladmar, Saskatchewan.

Hospital Beds: Enough For 1% Canada had 151,000 hospital beds at the end of 1953, enough to accomodate only slightly more than 1% of the population. While bed capacity was at an all-time peak (the number has been steadily increasing for more than two decades), the increase in 1953 failing to keep pace with the rapid growth in population for the second year in a row.



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