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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

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Labour: Employment showed an earlier Spring pick-up than usual this year, employment increasing moderately between February 18 and March 25. The number of persons without jobs and seeking work at the latter date was an estimated 106,000 less than a year earlier, while the labour force was an estimated 136,000 larger. (Page 2)

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Industrial Production: Preliminary figures for February indicate a gain close to the level of January in Canada's industrial production. The Bureau's composite index for the month was 7.4% higher than last year's February figure and for the two months averaged 7.8% above the corresponding 1955 level. Mineral production continued to show the largest gain. In manufacturing, durables maintained a somewhat larger rate of gain than non-durables. (Page 3)

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Manufacturing: Estimated value of shipments by manufacturers was over 11% higher in February and close to 13% higher in the two months this year than in the same 1955 periods. New orders in February were 14% higher in value than a year earlier and exceeded shipments to bring a rise in unfilled orders for the fourth successive month ... February reports show production and shipments gains over last year for steel wire and other main wire products, iron castings, cast iron pipes and fittings, veneers and plywoods, washing machines and refrigerators, and for sales of paint and clay products. (Pages 4 & 5)

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Securities Trade: Canada had a sales balance or capital inflow of \$17,600,000 in February and \$22,900,000 in the first two months this year in trade with other countries in outstanding securities. This compares with an outflow of \$24,600,000 in the first two months last year. (Page 9)

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Grain Stocks: Total stocks of the five major Canadian grains - in all North American positions - amounted to an estimated 1,219,900,000 bushels at the end of March against 1,029,700,000 last year. All except rye were larger, with biggest increase in wheat. (Page 12)

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Transportation: Railway car loadings in the second April week jumped nearly 28% over last year, bringing the gain in cumulative loadings to 12.7%. Receipts from connections were also sharply higher, the cumulative gain being nearly the same at 12.6%. (Page 14)

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Spring Pickup In Employment
Earlier Than Usual This Year

The Spring pickup in employment began earlier than usual this year, states the joint monthly release by the Department of Labour and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The level of employment, which usually remains unchanged between mid-February and mid-March, this year showed a modest increase.

At March 25 this year the number of persons with jobs was estimated at 5,241,000, some 25,000 higher than a month earlier and 242,000 above the year-earlier figure. The number without jobs and seeking work was estimated at 295,000, some 13,000 lower than in February and 106,000 lower than in March 1955. The civilian labour force was 5,536,000 versus 5,524,000 a month earlier and 5,400,000 a year ago. The seeking-work figure amounted to 5.3% of the labour force, the lowest ratio for March in the past three years. The number registered for employment at National Employment Service offices was 533,644 on March 2 versus 515,163 a month earlier and 632,913 a year ago.

The moderate improvement in total employment came entirely from expansion in non-farm industries, with manufacturing, trade and construction leading the way; farm employment remained virtually unchanged during the month. Employment increases were concentrated in the Ontario and Prairie and Pacific regions with Ontario expanding the most. Increases in employment in these regions more than offset the continuing seasonal declines in the Quebec and Atlantic regions.

Persons at work 35 hours or more in the week ending March 19 totalled 4,737,000 versus 4,672,000 a month earlier and 4,484,000 a year ago. The number at work less than 35 hours was 361,000 versus 369,000 in February and 391,000 at the same time in 1955. Persons with jobs but not at work for various reasons numbered 143,000 versus 175,000 a month earlier and 124,000 at the same time last year.

Industrial Employment, Payrolls
& Average Weekly Wages & Salaries

Industrial employment at the beginning of February was seasonally lower than a month earlier but substantially above a year ago. Both payrolls and average weekly wages and salaries were larger than a month and year earlier.

The Bureau's employment index for February 1, on the 1949 base, stood at 112.5 versus 114.6 a month earlier and 105.8 a year ago, and the payrolls index worked out at 164.1 versus 162.2 at the beginning of January and 148.8 last year. Weekly wages and salaries averaged \$62.38 (a new all-time high) versus \$60.54 a month earlier and \$60.15 last year.

On the whole, employment in all provinces except New Brunswick was at a lower level than a month earlier, but apart from Saskatchewan, where there was no general change, all areas reported improvement over February last year. The indexes of weekly payrolls disbursed by the larger industrial establishments were lower than a month earlier in Prince Edward Island, Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, but elsewhere showed an upward movement. In all provinces, the latest indexes exceeded those recorded a year ago. On the whole, average weekly wages and salaries in all sections of the country were seasonally higher than in the holiday week of January 1; also in all provinces they were above their level 12 months earlier.

Employment generally was reduced from its January 1 volume in forestry, construction, transportation, storage and communications, public utility operation, trade, and in the service industries. The largest losses in staffs were in trade, logging, construction and transportation. (1)

February Index Of Industrial Production Canada's composite index of industrial production for February stood at 266.4, according to preliminary figures, 7.4% above the February 1955 index of 248.0. The manufacturing component of the index rose 6.3% to 269.9 from 253.9, while the index of mineral production advanced 18% to 242.7 from 205.6. The sub-index measuring output of electricity and gas stood at 283.2 in February, fractionally above the February 1955 index of 282.4.

The index of non-durable manufactures, at 232.7, was 5.5% above the figure for the same month last year. All industrial groups recorded advances in this comparison with activity in the clothing industry rising nearly 10%. The paper products and tobacco products industries showed gains of almost 7%, while the foods and beverages, rubber products, textiles, printing and publishing and chemicals groups recorded smaller increases.

In the durable manufactures field the composite index for February stood at 328.1, 7.2% above last year's February figure of 306.1. Output of iron and steel products rose over 26%, and production in the non-metallic minerals industry advanced more than 17%. The wood products and electrical apparatus groups showed more moderate gains, while output of transportation equipment and non-ferrous metal products fell about 5%.

For the first two months of 1956 the index of industrial production averaged 262.1, 7.8% above the corresponding figure of 243.1. The manufacturing index rose 6.7% to 264.7 in this comparison, the non-durables component advancing 6.2% to 228.0 from 214.7, while the durables index rose 7.3% to 322.1. The mining index advanced 18.4% to 241.4 from 203.8. The sub-index for electricity and gas showed a fractional increase to 281.1 from 280.5.

MANUFACTURING

New Passenger Car Sales New passenger car sales increased 5.4% in February to 23,267 units from 22,084 in the corresponding month last year, while sales of new commercial vehicles advanced 24.5% to 5,243 units from 4,212. A 15.4% increase in the total retail value of new passenger cars brought the figure to \$66,968,000 from \$58,041,000. At the same time the total retail value of new commercial vehicles leaped 57.6% to \$18,914,000 from \$12,005,000.

The number of passenger cars financed rose 23.3% and the amount of financing increased 41.8% to bring these figures to 8,524 units from 6,911 and \$18,630,000 from \$13,140,000, respectively. A 20.8% increase in the number of commercial vehicles financed moved the total to 1,546 units from 1,280 a year ago and the amount of financing stood 53.2% higher at \$4,636,000 versus \$3,026,000.

The number of used passenger cars financed rose 18% to 22,547 units from 19,105 but the number of used commercial vehicles financed was only slightly higher at 3,328 units versus 3,288. The financed value of used passenger cars jumped 25.3% to \$20,083,000 from \$16,031,000 but the corresponding figure for used commercial vehicles showed only a small increase of 1.6% to \$2,970,000 from \$2,924,000. (2)

Manufacturers' Shipments Manufacturers' shipments were valued at an estimated
Inventories And Orders \$1,627,800,000 in February, \$57,000,000 or 3.7%
 higher than the revised January value and \$180,000,000
 or 11.2% higher than in February 1955, DBS reports in an advance statement.
 Cumulative total for the first two months of 1956 at \$3,198,155,000 was 12.6%
 higher than last year.

Increases in value of shipments were general with few industries showing declines and only four industries registering declines as large as \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000: slaughtering and meat packing, railroad rolling-stock, non-ferrous metal smelting and refining, and petroleum products. Industries showing increases of \$4,000,000 or over included women's factory clothing, men's factory clothing, shipbuilding, agricultural implements, motorcars, and primary iron and steel.

Total value of inventory owned rose for the sixth consecutive month. At \$3,836,400,000, the February value was \$67,000,000 or 1.8% over the revised January total and \$273,000,000 or 7.7% above February 1955. Inventory held under progress payments arrangements rose \$12,000,000 during February, resulting in an increase of \$79,000,000 in total inventory held. Of this latter increase, \$28,000,000 occurred in raw materials, \$33,000,000 in goods-in-process, and \$17,000,000 in finished products.

Increases in individual industries were fairly widespread. Motor vehicles and sheet metal products showed the largest value increases of \$19,000,000 and \$10,000,000, respectively. Dairy products registered a seasonal decline, dropping \$7,000,000, and the only other industry to show a large decline was primary iron and steel with a drop of \$4,000,000.

Because of increases in shipments during February, inventory-shipments ratios decreased from the revised January levels. The February ratio for total inventory owned to shipments was 2.36, slightly lower than the average for 1952, 1953 and 1954, but above the average level in 1955. The ratio for finished products to shipments was 0.78, which is slightly higher than the average in 1952 and 1955, but slightly below the averages for 1953 and 1954.

Total value of new orders, at \$1,699,400,000, was \$21,000,000 or 1.2% lower than the revised January value but \$210,000,000 or 14% above the February 1955 level. New orders were higher than shipments in February, resulting in an increase in unfilled orders for the fourth consecutive month. At \$2,858,800,000, the latter were 2.6% above the January level and 10.8% above February 1955.

Increases in unfilled orders were general, with the largest in the railroad rolling-stock industry (\$15,000,000), automobile parts (\$19,000,000), and flour mills (\$7,000,000). The ratio of unfilled orders to shipments at the end of February was 1.7; excluding the heavy transportation equipment industries, the ratio was 1.4.

Production & Shipment Of Steel
& Other Wire Products Increased

Production and shipment of steel wire and other wire products increased in February. Output of steel wire reached 29,646 tons as compared with 21,857 a year ago. Other increases in production were: wire fencing to 1,413 tons from 1,231 a year earlier; wire rope, 2,585 (1,552); and nails, tacks and staples, 8,808 (5,932). Shipments of these items also climbed with steel wire up to 9,197 tons versus 6,704 tons a year earlier; wire fencing, 1,433 (881); wire rope, 2,292 (1,700); and nails, tacks and staples, 10,096 (5,100). (3)

Production And Shipments Of Iron Castings, Pipes, Fittings

Both production and shipments of iron castings and cast iron pipes and fittings were sharply higher in February than in the corresponding month last year. DBS reports the month's output at 91,976 tons versus 68,223 and the month's shipments at 56,563 tons versus 44,353.

Consumption of pig iron in iron foundries in February rose to 32,400 tons from 23,700 and scrap iron and steel to 72,900 tons from 58,500. Pig iron on hand in iron foundries at the end of February increased to 53,600 tons from 35,500, but iron and steel scrap fell to 93,900 tons from 95,500. (4)

Paint Sales Increased

Sales of paints, varnishes and lacquers by manufacturers which normally account for all but a small part of the all-Canada total were valued at \$8,798,000 in February, substantially larger than last year's corresponding total of \$7,559,000. In the two months, January and February, sales jumped to \$17,142,000 from \$14,790,000 a year earlier. (5)

Production And Shipments Of Veneers And Plywoods Up

Production and shipments of both veneers and plywoods increased in February as compared with a year earlier. The month's output of veneers rose to 98,888,000 square feet from 76,664,000, shipments to 96,605,000 square feet from 74,279,000, and month-end stocks to 30,049,000 square feet from 29,019,000. Production of plywood increased to 104,257,000 square feet from 86,995,000 and shipments to 99,168,000 square feet from 77,329,000, but stocks fell to 43,578,000 square feet from 67,851,000. (6)

Production Of Domestic Electric Refrigerators And Home And Farm Freezers Up In February

Output of domestic electric refrigerators in February amounted to 23,484 units, an increase of 13.3% over last year's 20,719 units. The cumulative total for January - February this year rose to 39,407 units from 36,579 a year earlier. Production of individual home and farm freezers climbed slightly in the month to 695 units from 645, while the cumulative total advanced to 1,355 units from 1,256.

February stocks at month-end for the two categories dropped considerably, domestic electric refrigerators declining to 17,924 units from 43,865 and individual electric home and farm freezers to 894 units from 1,435. (7)

Larger Numbers Of Washing Machines Produced, Shipped

Larger numbers of domestic washing machines were produced and shipped in February than in the corresponding month last year. The month's output amounted to 23,300 units versus 19,159 a year earlier, 22,910 were shipped versus 21,019, and month-end factory stocks totalled 31,119 units versus 25,847. Production of conventional electric models jumped to 20,983 units from 15,291, but automatic electric models dropped to 2,061 units from 3,452, and gasoline models to 256 units from 416. (8)

Clay Product Sales Higher

Sales of products made from Canadian clays were higher in value in January, totalling \$2,195,000 as compared with \$1,747,000 in the corresponding month last year. The month's sales comprised building brick valued at \$1,304,000 (\$1,059,000 a year earlier); structural tile, \$277,000 (\$266,000); drain tile, \$91,900 (\$68,000); sewer pipe, \$326,000 (\$228,000); fireclay blocks and shapes, \$64,000 (\$27,200); pottery, \$40,300 (\$41,600); and other clay products, \$91,400 (\$57,600). (9)

New Report On Production And Shipments Of Stoves & Furnaces

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has released the first issue of a new series of monthly reports on production, shipments and value of shipments of stoves and furnaces. An earlier series was discontinued with the publication of the December 1953 issue. Following are some production totals included in the January 1956 report, shipments being shown in brackets: solid fuel cooking stoves and ranges, 1,830 units (1,141); solid fuel heating stoves and space heaters, 2,771 (2,359); gas cooking stoves and ranges, 1,562 (1,121); gas heating stoves and space heaters, 240 (350); 4-element electric cooking stoves and ranges, 16,272 (13,224); electric rangettes, 1,710 (1,323); fuel oil (distillate) heating stoves and space heaters, 3,695 (2,384); and warm air furnaces, 7,506 (5,656). (10)

Shipments Of Primary Iron & Steel Shapes Up In January

Shipments of primary iron and steel shapes by Canadian producers rose sharply in January to 323,989 tons from 212,402 in the same month last year. At the same time, producers' interchange jumped to 158,802 tons from 118,927. The month's production climbed to 486,842 tons from 341,780. (11)

Leather Footwear Production Increased 19% In January

Production of leather footwear increased 19% in January to 3,444,619 pairs from last year's corresponding total of 2,842,791. Output in sizes for men amounted to 814,706 pairs (595,190 a year earlier); boys, 108,201 (98,440); youths, 25,281 (30,791); women and growing girls, 1,644,210 (1,402,019); misses, 358,117 (266,754); children and little gents, 254,233 (232,444); and babies and infants, 239,871 (217,153). (12)

Net Sales Of Petroleum Products

Net sales of refined petroleum products increased almost 8% in December to 22,844,978 barrels from 21,162,738 in November, DBS reports in a preliminary report. Some of the larger sales occurred in the following items: light furnace oil, 6,830,177 barrels (4,923,198 a month earlier); motor gasoline, 5,510,623 (5,963,845); heavy fuel oil, 4,824,271 (4,509,794); kerosene and stove oil, 2,416,831 (2,059,306); and diesel fuel oil, 1,295,179 (1,566,123). (13)

Consumption Of Petroleum Fuels

Total deliveries of liquid petroleum fuels for consumption in Canada, as reported to the Bureau by refiners and distributors, continued to rise in 1954, increasing to 96,847,000 barrels (35 Imperial gallons each) from 83,526,000 in 1953. Increases were recorded in the consumption of heavy and medium fuel oils; heavy and light furnace oils; diesel fuel; and stove oil, tractor fuel, and kerosene and illuminating fuel; while fuel oil for heating continued its upward trend.

Deliveries of heavy and medium fuel oils for consumption increased to 39,841,000 barrels (36,700,000 in the preceding year); heavy and light furnace oils, 32,661,000 (25,647,000); diesel fuel, 11,496,000 (10,559,000); and stove oil, tractor oil and illuminating oil, 12,849,000 (10,619,000).

Consumption of fuel, diesel and stove oils for heating jumped 22.7% to 35,715,000 barrels from 29,113,000. Railways (steam and electric) consumed 11,696,000 barrels of all types of fuel oils as compared with 10,807,000 in 1953. (14)

Adhesive Shipments Value of adhesives shipped by Canadian manufacturers in 1954
Increase In 1954 rose 9% to \$13,409,000 from \$12,317,000 in 1953. Output
of all types increased over the previous year with the
exception of casein glue, which fell to 803,000 pounds valued at \$218,000 from
866,000 pounds valued at \$260,000; flexible glue to 2,105,000 pounds valued at
\$535,000 from 2,379,000 pounds valued at \$574,000; and liquid vegetable glue
to 17,523,000 pounds worth \$1,929,000 from 17,770,000 pounds valued at
\$1,849,000. "Other" adhesives fell in value to \$554,000 from \$662,000.

Production of synthetic resin glue increased to 28,913,000 pounds worth
\$3,797,000 from 22,629,000 valued at \$2,858,000; rubber cement to 703,000
gallons worth \$1,604,000 from 699,000 gallons valued at \$1,523,000; bone and
hide glue to 6,955,000 pounds valued at \$1,858,000 from 6,918,000 pounds worth
\$2,085,000; dry vegetable glue to 2,234,000 pounds worth \$259,000 from 2,027,000
pounds valued at \$225,000. The value of linoleum cement soared to \$1,197,000
from \$710,000; "other" cement to \$147,000 from \$123,000; and mucilage and paste
to \$848,000 from \$790,000. The value of fish glue decreased to \$335,000 from
\$412,000 and "other" glue to \$128,000 from \$246,000.

The bulk of the output was produced by 28 plants comprising the adhesives
industry in 1954. The factory value of shipments from these plants was \$12,773,000
as compared to 29 plants last year with an output of \$12,082,000. The number of
employees fell to 621 from 707 and at the same time their earnings decreased to
\$1,987,000 from \$2,145,000. Material costs decreased slightly to \$6,214,000 from
\$6,491,000, while the cost of fuel and electricity fell to \$368,000 from
403,000. (15)

Polishes and Dressings Industry Canadian manufacturers shipped \$14,524,000
worth of polishes in 1953 as compared with
\$14,404,000 in the preceding year, DBS reports. Compared with the preceding year
value totals were larger for floor wax and polish, furniture polish, stove polish
and silver polish, but lower for shoe polishes and dressings, brass polish, and
automobile polish.

The bulk of the output is produced in the polishes and dressings industry,
which in 1954 comprised 50 plants, one more than in the preceding year. The
industry's shipments, including such secondary products as wax compounds, floor
mops, paints, insecticides, washing blue, etc., were worth \$17,718,000 versus
\$17,230,000 a year earlier.

Employment in the industry increased to 850 persons from 845 a year earlier
and payments in salaries and wages rose to \$2,587,000 from \$2,402,000. Material
costs increased to \$7,884,000 from \$7,705,000, and fuel and electricity costs rose
to \$103,000 from \$95,000. (16)

Wood-Using Industries In 1953 New records were set by Canada's wood-using indus-
tries in 1953, according to the Bureau's general
review of the group. Factory value of shipments grossed \$661,321,108, up 10.3%
from 1952's \$599,606,383, and net value jumped 13% to \$308,315,617 from \$272,829,694.
The number of establishments rose to 4,268 from 4,184, their employees to 73,377
from 69,537 and salary and wage payments to \$183,488,249 from \$163,890,274. Cost
of materials increased to \$345,146,413 from \$319,472,678. (17)

New Records Set By Canadian
Manufacturing Industries In 1953

Canada's manufacturing industries again established new records in both the value of products made and the value of products shipped, DBS reports in its 1953 annual general review. Shipments at \$17,785,417,000 were 4.7% higher, while products made valued at approximately \$17,894,600,000, increased 5.4% over 1952. The greater increase in production was due to an accumulation of finished products inventory by manufacturers which rose from \$987,516,000 at the end of 1952 to \$1,096,699,000 in 1953, an increase of \$109,183,000.

There was also an increase of 6.8% in the physical volume of production. However, due to a drop in the price of fully and partly manufactured products, the increase in the value of production was only 5.4%. Accompanying the rise in output was an increase of 3% in the number of persons employed to 1,327,451 from 1,288,382, with an increase of 8.8% in salary and wage payments to \$3,957,018,000 from \$3,637,620,000.

The rise in physical volume of production in the durable goods industries was 9.8% and in non-durable goods, 4.1%. The electrical apparatus and supplies group with 23.8% had the greatest expansion in the volume of production, due mostly to the large-scale production of television sets. Next in order with 15.3% came non-metallic mineral products and the miscellaneous industries groups, followed by transportation equipment with 16.9%.

Tobacco and tobacco products followed with a volume increase of 11.3%, products of petroleum and coal and wood products each with 9.9%, clothing (textile and fur) 8.4%, rubber products 7.2%, leather products 6.8%, printing, publishing and allied industries 6.4%, non-ferrous metal products 4.8%, chemicals and allied products 4.4%, beverages 4%, paper products 3.9%, and textiles (except clothing) 1.9%. There were only two major groups which reported minor volume declines -- the food group 0.8%, and the iron and steel products group, 0.6%.

Factory shipments from plants in Ontario in 1953 were valued at \$8,876,505,000, accounting for 49.9% of the national total. The value for Quebec was \$5,386,785,000 (30.3% of the all-Canada figure); British Columbia, \$1,366,824,000 (7.7%); Manitoba, \$584,872,000 (3.3%); Alberta, \$555,815,000 (3.1%); Nova Scotia, \$320,012,000 (1.8%); New Brunswick, \$295,750,000 (1.7%); Saskatchewan, \$266,613,000 (1.5%); Newfoundland, \$106,525,000 (0.6%); and Prince Edward Island, \$23,199,000 (0.1%). (18)

FORESTRY

Production Of Lumber Lower

Smaller quantities of sawn lumber were produced in January than in the corresponding month last year. In British Columbia the month's output of sawn lumber and ties declined 6.3% to 380,651,000 board feet from 406,113,000 a year earlier, and East of the Rockies there was a 7.4% decrease to 204,952,000 board feet from 221,277,000.

East of the Rockies there were increases only in Quebec and Ontario. Provincial totals were: Prince Edward Island, 256,000 board feet (419,000 a year earlier); Nova Scotia, 14,468,000 (20,426,000); New Brunswick, 22,007,000 (22,090,000); Quebec, 52,181,000 (46,491,000); Ontario, 31,319,000 (26,427,000); Manitoba, 1,499,000 (2,264,000); Saskatchewan, 8,893,000 (14,190,000); and Alberta, 74,329,000 (88,970,000). (19 & 20)

Sales And Purchases Of Securities
Between Canada and Other Countries

Trade in outstanding securities between Canada and other countries in February resulted in a sales balance or capital inflow of \$17,600,000 compared with \$5,300,000 in January, when, however, there were exceptionally large purchases of United States stocks by Canadians. The net inward movement of \$22,900,000 in the first two months of the year compares with outflows of \$24,600,000 in the corresponding period of 1955 and \$1,000,000 for that year as a whole.

Transactions in outstanding Canadian securities resulted in net sales of \$22,800,000 in February, slightly more than in January. Net sales of Canadian bonds and debentures fell to \$11,300,000 or to half the figure for the preceding month. The largest part of the balance represented net sales of Government of Canada issues. In contrast to January when there was a small repurchase balance on account of trade in outstanding Canadian common and preference stocks, there were net sales of \$11,000,000 in February, the largest sales balance since July 1955.

Canadians were again net purchasers of foreign securities in February although the balance of \$5,200,000 was much smaller than in January when purchases of stock of a United States automobile company contributed to a net purchase balance of \$16,600,000. In the main, the net transactions represented the acquisition by Canadians of United States stocks. The overall sales balance for February of \$17,600,000 reflected net sales of \$9,500,000 to the United States, \$2,300,000 to the United Kingdom and \$5,700,000 to other overseas countries.

Preliminary estimates indicate that the total outstanding funded debt of Canadian governments and corporations at the end of 1955 was \$25,061,000. The largest debtor was, of course, the Government of Canada whose outstanding direct and guaranteed funded debt, excluding railways and special short-term issues, amounted to \$13,407,000,000.

Canadians are estimated to have owned \$12,867,000,000 of this total, and residents of the United States \$404,000,000 of the remainder. Five years ago, United States holdings totalled \$1,009,000,000. At the end of 1955, Canadians owned 90% of the funded debt of Canadian governments and municipalities, and 86% of all outstanding Canadian funded debt. (21)

T R A V E L

Foreign Vehicle Entries Increased
13% In March and 6% In Quarter

Entries of foreign vehicles into Canada in March set a new record high for the month at 75,794 vehicles, up 13% from 67,071 a year earlier and 6% over the previous record for March set in 1953. Cumulative entries for the first quarter increased 6% to 187,045 vehicles from 176,854 over the corresponding period last year.

Entries in March, by province, were as follows: Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, -- by ship -- 177 vehicles (73 a year earlier); New Brunswick, 5,011 (4,137); Quebec, 13,702 (10,408); Ontario, 40,269 (37,833); Manitoba, 1,606 (1,709); Saskatchewan, 385 (381); Alberta, 977 (921); British Columbia, 13,451 (11,395); and Yukon Territory, 216 (214). January-March entries were as follows: Newfoundland and Nova Scotia -- by ship -- 421 (158); New Brunswick, 12,954 (12,184); Quebec, 36,709 (32,587); Ontario, 97,759 (91,410); Manitoba, 4,458 (5,138); Saskatchewan, 983 (1,049); Alberta, 2,142 (2,196); British Columbia, 31,032 (31,478); and Yukon Territory, 587 (654). (22)

Business Failures Up in 1955 Business failures continued their post-war climb in 1955, the number recorded under the provisions of the Bankruptcy and Winding Up Acts rising to 2,446 from 2,278 in 1954 and their defaulted liabilities to \$58,597,000 from \$53,142,000. Average liability per failure was about 3% higher in 1955 than in the preceding year.

As in previous years, the greatest number of failures occurred in the trade sector, although they fell to 878 from 973. Most types of trading enterprise showed fewer insolvencies, including general stores, groceries, confectionery stores, clothing stores and automobile dealers. Insolvencies of manufacturing establishments dropped substantially to 306 from 416, with nearly all industries recording fewer failures. Bankruptcies of service establishments, on the other hand, increased to 452 from 408. Failures of "other" establishments rose to 810 from 481, more than doubling in the construction field and increasing sharply in the transportation sector.

Quebec had 1,786 of the total insolvencies during 1955 as compared with 1,645 in 1954. Bankruptcies in Ontario rose to 438 from 414. Failures in the Prairie Provinces advanced to 110 from 101, total for Saskatchewan rising to 39 from 30 and Alberta and Manitoba remaining unchanged with respective totals of 44 and 27. Insolvencies in British Columbia rose to 75 from 73, Newfoundland to 9 from 4, and Prince Edward Island to 3 from 2. There were decreases to 9 from 19 in Nova Scotia and to 16 from 20 in New Brunswick. (23)

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

Department Store Sales Increased 6.4% In Week Department store sales rose 6.4% in the week ending April 14 as compared with a year earlier. Small decreases of 1.5% in Manitoba and 0.8% in the Atlantic Provinces were more than offset by increases of 12.6% in Alberta, 9% in Quebec, 8.5% in British Columbia, 6.3% in Ontario, and 4.3% in Saskatchewan.

Department Store Sales Up 10.9% In February Department store sales rose 10.9% in February to \$75,154,000 from \$67,770,000 in the corresponding month last year. Cumulative sales in the two months, January and February, increased 9.1% to \$149,201,000.

Sales in all provinces, with the exception of Manitoba, showed gains, the Atlantic Provinces leading with an increase of 15.1% to \$5,761,000 from \$5,005,000, Ontario next at 14.4% to \$25,593,000 (\$22,371,000 a year ago); Quebec, 11.9%, \$13,676,000 (\$12,222,000); Alberta, 11.2%, \$7,519,000 (\$6,762,000); Saskatchewan 10.6%, \$3,663,000 (\$3,312,000); and British Columbia, 9.6%, \$12,737,000 (\$11,621,000). The decrease in Manitoba was 4.2% to \$6,205,000 from \$6,477,000.

Sales in 26 of the 29 specified departments, plus the "all other" category, increased substantially in February. Some of the increases were: hardware and housewares, 19.1%; furniture, 15.7%; home furnishings, 15.2%; boys' clothing and furnishings, 16.5%; girls' and infants' wear, 15.6%; and aprons, housedresses and uniforms, 13.5%. Only three departments recorded sales decreases in the month; furs were down 22.6%, smallwares 10% and radio and music 8.4%. (24)

Production Of Electric Energy
Increased Slightly In February

Total Canadian output of electric energy by central electric stations rose to 6,179,984,000 kilowatt hours in February from 5,972,753,000 in the same month last year. Production was lower in Quebec, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, but higher in all other provinces. Consumption of primary power -- imports, less exports and secondary power -- increased slightly to 5,726,110,000 kilowatt hours from 5,336,128,000. Exports to the U.S.A. fell to 262,880,000 kilowatt hours from 330,580,000, but imports soared to 27,861,000 from 4,290,000.

Provincial totals for February follow: Newfoundland, 87,201,000 kilowatt hours (22,517,000 a year ago); Prince Edward Island, 3,398,000 (3,539,000); Nova Scotia, 105,286,000 (96,215,000); New Brunswick, 60,991,000 (68,260,000); Quebec, 2,634,504,000 (2,810,955,000); Ontario, 2,121,829,000 (1,975,181,000); Manitoba, 300,118,000 (251,795,000); Saskatchewan, 128,607,000 (115,813,000); Alberta, 170,613,000 (135,431,000); British Columbia, 550,454,000 (485,547,000); and Yukon - N.W.T., 7,983,000 (7,500,000). (25)

P R I C E S

Security Price Indexes

<u>Investors' Price Index</u>	<u>April 19</u>	<u>April 12</u> 1935-39 = 100	<u>March 22</u>
Total Common Stocks	272.6	272.7	271.2
Industrials	285.6	285.9	284.3
Utilities	209.3	210.7	211.3
Banks	288.8	283.6	278.5

Mining Stock Price Index

Total Mining Stocks	137.2	135.0	138.3
Gold	78.3	78.0	80.3
Base Metals	272.2	265.4	271.1

Wholesale Price Indexes

	<u>March*</u> <u>1955</u>	<u>February</u> <u>1956</u> (1935 - 1939 = 100)	<u>March</u> <u>1956</u>
<u>General Index</u>	217.3	222.2	223.3
Vegetable Products	196.6	193.3	195.2
Animal Products	226.1	217.4	217.7
Textile Products	226.7	228.9	228.9
Wood Products	292.5	305.8	305.6
Iron Products	217.4	231.1	232.4
Non-ferrous Metals	179.0	203.6	207.3
Non-metallic Minerals	174.9	178.9	180.0
Chemical Products	177.0	178.6	179.5
Combined Index, Iron and Non-ferrous Metals (excluding gold)	228.5	254.4	257.9

* 1955 Indexes are revised.

Visible Supplies of Wheat Larger Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on April 11 rose slightly to 335,-640,000 bushels from 329,802,000 bushels a year ago. Farmers in the Prairie Provinces marketed 3,774,000 bushels as compared with 2,787,000 a year earlier and at the same time overseas export clearances soared to 6,169,000 bushels from 1,963,000. (26)

Stocks Of Canadian Grain At March 31 Total stocks of the five major Canadian grains in all North American positions at the end of March this year are estimated at 1,219,900,000 bushels as compared with 1,029,700,000 a year earlier, 1,280,900,000 in 1954 and the record 1,353,400,000 bushels on hand in 1943. The ten-year (1946-55) average March 31 stocks for the five grains was 759,200,000 bushels.

This year's estimated March 31 stocks in millions of bushels, with last year's totals and the ten-year (1946-55) averages, respectively, in brackets, are as follows: wheat, 751.6 (621.2, 396.5); oats, 238.1 (200.9, 213.6); barley, 197.3 (175.7, 129.0); rye, 24.7 (25.4, 13.4); and flaxseed, 8.1 (6.5, 6.6).

Data for these estimates were obtained from the Bureau's annual March 31 survey of grain held on farms, from mill returns, and from information supplied by the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada relative to grain in commercial positions at the close of business on March 28. (27)

Supplies And Exports Of Wheat In Major Producing Countries Supplies of wheat remaining on or about March 1 this year in the four major exporting countries for export and for carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 2,148,900,000 bushels, about 4% more than the 2,058,700,000 available a year ago, states the Bureau's monthly wheat review.

March 1 supplies were held as follows, with last year's figures in brackets: United States, 1,165,900,000 bushels (1,120,000,000); Canada, 697,100,000 (599,200,000); Australia, 196,300,000 (161,900,000); and Argentina, 89,600,000 (177,600,000). Estimates for both years include on-farm stocks as well as those in commercial positions.

Total exports of wheat and flour in terms of wheat from the four major exporting countries for the first seven months (August-February) of the current Canadian crop year, at 405,400,000 bushels, were 8% lower than the preceding year's 439,200,000 bushels.

Shipments from each of the four countries during the August-February period were smaller than in the preceding year: United States, 147,300,000 bushels (154,800,000 a year earlier); Canada, 136,700,000 (152,300,000); Argentina, 72,800,000 (78,200,000); and Australia, 48,600,000 (53,900,000). (28)

Stocks of Creamery Butter In 9 Cities 23% Larger Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on April 19 amounted to 45,304,000 pounds, 23% larger than last year's corresponding total of 36,763,000 pounds. Holdings were as follows by cities, in thousands: Quebec, 4,001 pounds (712 a year earlier); Montreal, 22,390 (18,161); Toronto, 5,650 (6,773); Winnipeg, 11,452 (9,547); Regina, 408 (677); Saskatoon, 364 (56); Edmonton, 383 (238); Calgary, 144 (101); and Vancouver, 512 (498).

Railway Car Loadings Up Nearly
29% In Second Week Of April

Car loadings on Canadian railways in the second week of April rose 28.7% to 79,142 cars from last year's corresponding total of 61,512, boosting cumulative loadings for the year to date 12.7% to 1,120,307 cars from 993,898. Receipts from connections increased 18.5% in the week to 35,570 cars from 30,019, and 12.6% in the January 1 - April 14 period to 521,708 cars from 463,236.

Commodities carried in increased volume in the week were: grain, 8,835 cars (versus 4,599 in 1955); coal, 4,293 (2,708); iron ore, 656 (157); manufactured iron and steel products, 1,518 (1,001); sand, gravel and crushed stone, 3,188 (2,184); cement, 1,320 (851); lumber, timber and plywood, 3,797 (3,159); pulpwood, 1,875 (1,107); miscellaneous carload commodities, 6,086 (4,246); and merchandise, L.C.L., 15,409 (12,704). Most significant increases in the cumulative period occurred in grain, 107,674 cars (81,588); coal, 78,891 (68,509); iron ore, 8,132 (1,845); manufactured iron and steel products, 23,302 (16,319); pulpwood, 62,759 (53,571); and miscellaneous carload commodities, 77,011 (65,165). (34)

Revenues And Expenses Of
Railways Up In December

Railway operating revenues increased 4.1% in December to \$98,819,441 from the preceding year's corresponding total of \$94,940,390, and operating expenses climbed 5.3% to \$91,563,383 from \$86,944,422. Since expenses increased at a higher rate than revenues, net operating revenues declined 9.3% to \$7,256,058 from \$7,995,968, and operating income dropped 12.5% to \$3,748,092 from \$4,283,375.

Revenue freight in December amounted to 14,242,077 tons, up 5.6% from 13,484,940 a year earlier, and revenue freight ton miles rose to 5,364,718,000 from 5,247,867,000. During the month 2,553,660 revenue passengers were carried, a decrease of 0.4% from 2,565,133, but revenue passenger miles rose 1.9% to 259,039,000 from 254,244,000. Employees on payrolls numbered 182,835 as compared with 179,497 and their earnings increased to \$55,486,819 from \$52,264,605. (35)

E D U C A T I O N

List Of Institutions Of
Higher Education In Canada

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has released a bilingual list of some 278 institutions of higher education in Canada. It brings up-to-date an earlier list published by the Bureau in June 1954. Arranged by provinces, the list contains for each institution, the name, address, control, courses offered, and affiliation. A general introduction gives information on matriculation requirements in the various provinces, fees charged by degree-granting institutions, on certain particulars of student activities and on the main characteristics of Canadian higher education. (36)

T H E P E O P L E

Increase In Births, Deaths &
Marriages In First Quarter

Larger numbers of births, deaths and marriages were registered in provincial vital statistics offices across Canada in the first quarter of this year than last. March registrations show larger numbers of marriages but fewer births and deaths. In the first quarter births numbered 108,923 (107,039 a year earlier); deaths, 35,300 (33,651); and marriages, 21,131 (19,432). March totals were: births, 34,843 (37,470 a year ago); deaths, 10,422 (11,265); and marriages, 5,497 (5,370). (37)

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

- 1-Advance Statement on Employment & Weekly Payrolls, February, 10¢
- 2-New Motor Vehicle Sales & Motor Vehicle Financing, February, 25¢
- 3-M: Steel Wire & Specified Wire Products, February, 10¢
- 4-M: Iron Castings & Cast Iron Pipes & Fittings, February, 10¢
- 5-M: Sales of Paints, Varnishes & Lacquers, February, 10¢
- 6-M: Peeler Logs, Veneers & Plywoods, February, 20¢
- 7-M: Domestic Electric Refrigerators, February, 10¢
- 8-M: Domestic Washing Machines, February, 10¢
- 9-M: Products Made from Canadian Clays, January, 10¢
- 10-M: Stoves & Furnaces, January, 10¢
- 11-Primary Iron & Steel, January, 25¢
- 12-M: Production of Leather Footwear, January, 10¢
- 13-M: Refined Petroleum Products, December 1955, 10¢ (Preliminary Report)
- 14-Consumption of Petroleum Fuels, 1954, 25¢
- 15-The Adhesives Industry, 1954, 25¢
- 16-The Polishes & Dressings Industry, 1954, 25¢
- 17-General Review of the Wood-Using Industries, 1953, 25¢
- 18-General Review of the Manufacturing Industries of Canada, 1953, \$1.50
- 19-Production, Shipments & Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies, January, 25¢
- 20-Production, Shipments & Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, January, 25¢
- 21-Sales & Purchases of Securities Between Canada & Other Countries, February, 10¢
- 22-M: Volume of Highway Traffic Entering Canada on Travellers' Vehicle Permits, March, 10¢
- 23-Commercial Failures Under the Provisions of the Bankruptcy & Winding Up Acts,
Fourth Quarter & 1955, 25¢
- 24-Department Store Sales & Stocks, February, 10¢
- 25-M: Central Electric Stations, February, 10¢
- 26-M: Grain Statistics Weekly, April 11, 10¢
- 27-Stocks of Grain at March 31, 10¢
- 28-The Wheat Review, March, 25¢
- 29-M: Oils & Fats, March, 10¢
- 30-M: Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, March, 25¢
- 31-Shipments of Prepared Stock & Poultry Feeds, January, 25¢
- 32-Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, January, 10¢
- 33-M: Crude Petroleum, Natural Gas & Manufactured Gas, January, 15¢
- 34-M: Car Loadings on Canadian Railways, April 14, 10¢
- 35-M: Railway Operating Statistics, December 1955, 10¢
- 36-R: Canadian Institutions of Higher Education (Reference Paper No. 48), 1955 - 56, 25¢
- 37-Vital Statistics, March, 10¢
- Man-Hours & Hourly Earnings with Average Weekly Wages, February, 25¢ --
Summarized in Weekly Bulletin of April 13.

M: Memorandum

R: Reference Paper

Prepared in Press & Publicity Section, Information Services Division

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