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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Tuberculosis: Death tolls from tuberculosis took another drop last year to a new low of 1,382, the first time it has fallen below 1,500. This figure brought the TB mortality rate down to 8.9 per 100,000 population from 10.3 for 1954 - a spectacular drop from 52.4 a dozen years earlier ... Canada's native Indians and Eskimos - just over one per cent of the population - account for an eighth of all admissions to tuberculosis sanatoria, but there have been dramatic declines in the death rates from this disease among them in recent years. (Pages 2 & 3)

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Bank Debits: Dollar total of cheques cashed in Canada's clearing centres in the first quarter this year was 16% larger than last year. Totals were up for all five economic regions, increases ranging from over 13% for both Ontario and the Prairie Provinces to nearly 21% for Quebec. (Page 3)

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Prices: In keeping with the slight upward movement for all Canada, consumer price indexes advanced during March in seven of the ten regional cities. (Page 4)

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Motor Vehicle Accidents: There were 105 persons killed and 3,110 injured in motor vehicle traffic accidents in Canada (excluding Quebec) last January. All told, there were over 12,000 accidents, 2,328 involving fatalities or injuries and nearly 9,800 property damage alone. (Page 5)

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Labour: Estimated labour income was 9.5% greater in February this year than last year, and the increase was spread through all industry groups ... Average hourly earnings of wage-earners in manufacturing reached a new peak of 148.5 cents at March 1. (Page 6)

...

Food: Creamery butter production during April was only slightly larger than a year ago, but stocks of creamery butter at May 1 were some 7,000,000 pounds greater at 63,665,000 pounds. Cheddar cheese holdings were down to 26,000,000 from 31,200,000 pounds ... May 1 storage holdings of potatoes and onions were smaller this year; other principal stored vegetables and fruits larger ... Total meat stocks were up 19% ... End-of-March stocks of both canned fruits and vegetables were bigger this year than in 1955. (Pages 7 to 10)

...

Manufacturing: Output of motor vehicles rose in April but the increase still left the four-month production slightly under last year's ... First quarter production and shipments of domestic electric refrigerators and washing machines both increased over last year ... Output of pig iron in the quarter was up nearly 23% and of steel ingots over 24%. (Pages 12 & 13)

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Further Drop In
Tuberculosis Death Rates

Canada's death toll from tuberculosis, once referred to as the great white plague, dropped still further in 1955, continuing the spectacular declines of recent years, according to advance figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The rate has dropped from 52.4 per 100,000 population in 1943 to 10.3 in 1954 and 8.9 in 1955 while the 1955 total of 1,382 deaths represented a new low and was the first year the number of deaths has fallen below 1,500.

The tuberculosis mortality rate for males was 10.8 compared with 6.9 for females and in all provinces except Newfoundland the male rate was higher than the female rate. Despite the drop for Canada as a whole the rates for the three western-most provinces moved upward in 1955, particularly for males. In Saskatchewan the male rate rose from 4.8 to 7.1 while in Alberta it moved upward from 6.3 to 9.2 over the past two years. However marked fluctuations in these particular rates are less significant because of the small number of cases involved.

Canada's figures are in line with a general international trend in the reduction of tuberculosis death rates. Over the past ten years the rate for England and Wales has declined from 62.8 per 100,000 population to 20.2 and in the United States from 41.4 to 12.6, both countries now having rates higher than Canada.

Tuberculosis⁽¹⁾ Mortality in Canada, 1954 and 1955⁽²⁾

			Deaths			Rate (3)		
			T	M	F	T	M	F
Canada	1955		1,382	854	528	8.9	10.8	6.9
	1954		1,562	993	569	10.3	12.9	7.6
Newfoundland	1955		82	41	41	19.9	19.3	20.5
	1954		105	55	50	26.4	26.8	25.9
Prince Edward Island ...	1955		6	4	2	5.6	7.3	3.8
	1954		10	5	5	9.5	9.4	9.7
Nova Scotia	1955		48	33	15	7.0	9.5	4.5
	1954		76	50	26	11.3	14.6	7.9
New Brunswick	1955		43	25	18	7.7	8.9	6.5
	1954		51	30	21	9.3	10.9	7.7
Quebec	1955		608	351	257	13.5	15.5	11.4
	1954		714	443	271	16.3	20.2	12.4
Ontario	1955		242	169	73	4.7	6.5	2.8
	1954		307	220	87	6.1	8.6	3.5
Manitoba	1955		72	46	26	8.5	10.7	6.2
	1954		71	47	24	8.6	11.2	5.9
Saskatchewan	1955		57	33	24	6.4	7.1	5.6
	1954		42	22	20	4.8	4.8	4.8
Alberta	1955		81	51	30	7.6	9.2	5.9
	1954		63	34	29	6.1	6.3	5.8
British Columbia	1955		143	101	42	11.0	15.2	6.6
	1954		123	87	36	9.7	13.5	5.8

(1) All forms

(2) Preliminary

(3) Per 100,000 population

Indians and Eskimos Account For Eighth Of Nation's Tuberculosis

Canada's native Indians and Eskimos, numbering just over one per cent of the population, account for over an eighth of all admissions into tuberculosis sanatoria and units, according to a report prepared by the DBS for the annual meeting of the Canadian Tuberculosis Association in Niagara Falls. The report disclosed that the admission rate to tuberculosis sanatoria is 12.3 times as high for Indians and Eskimos as for the rest of the population. Based on 3 years' figures centred on the 1951 Census, the report revealed that more than one in every hundred Indians and Eskimos became tuberculosis patients each year. In contrast, less than one in a thousand of the remaining population were admitted to a sanatorium.

Most heavily affected among these indigenous peoples were the youngest. Half the Indians and Eskimos admitted were less than 20 years old. One in five was a child of 9 years or less. This youngest group had an admission rate 50 times as high as children of comparable age in the rest of the population. Although numbering less than 2% of all such children in Canada, they accounted for nearly half (389 out of 855) of all the tuberculous admissions in that age bracket and their inclusion in the national figures had the hidden effect of increasing the rate for the group by 80%.

Dramatic declines have occurred in recent years in the death rate from tuberculosis, and the rates for Indians have been falling faster than for non-Indians. Although the importance of the disease as a public health problem has been waning, the disproportionately high admission rate among Indians and Eskimos tends to blur the picture of the actual incidence of tuberculosis in the country as a whole. Their inclusion in the national totals makes the picture look worse than it really is through inflating the national admission rate by 13.5%. Secondly, the high rates for Indians and Eskimos are concealed in the much larger numbers applying to the rest of the population. (1)

BUSINESS

Value Of Cheques Cashed Increased 10.6% In March

Cheques cashed in the 52 clearing centres in Canada in March increased 10.6% to \$15,315,000,000 from \$13,847,000,000 last year, boosting the first-quarter total 16% to \$43,755,000,000 from \$37,734,000,000 a year earlier. Increases were registered in all five economic regions both in March and the quarter.

British Columbia had the largest rise in March at 16.8% to \$1,193,000,000 from \$1,021,000,000; Quebec, 15.2%, \$4,642,000,000 (\$4,030,000,000 a year earlier); Atlantic Provinces, 13.1%, \$402,000,000 (\$355,000,000); Ontario, 7.8%, \$6,265,000,000 (\$6,461,000,000); and Prairie Provinces, 6.8%, \$2,114,000,000 (\$1,980,000,000).

The rise in Quebec in the January-March period was 20.7% to \$13,560,000,000 from \$11,239,000,000 a year earlier followed by British Columbia at 18.6% to \$3,374,000,000 (\$2,845,000,000 a year ago); Atlantic Provinces at 18% to \$1,158,000,000 (\$981,000,000); and Ontario and the Prairie Provinces both at 13.2% to \$19,590,000,000 (\$17,302,000,000) and \$6,073,000,000 (\$5,367,000,000) respectively. (2)

Consumer Price Indexes
For Regional Cities Consumer price indexes increased in seven of the ten regional cities between the beginning of March and April 1956. Increases ranged from 0.2% in both Saint John and Saskatoon-Regina to 0.9% in St. John's. Indexes were unchanged in both Montreal and Vancouver and declined 0.3% in Winnipeg.

Food indexes were up in all regional cities except Winnipeg. Higher prices were recorded in all cities for coffee, eggs, most canned and fresh vegetables, particularly potatoes, which were substantially higher in most cities. Prices moved to still lower levels in most cities for all beef and pork items, and margarine.

The shelter index remained unchanged in six of the ten regional cities and moved slightly upwards in the other four. The few changes in clothing prices resulted in slightly lower indexes in three cities, four were unchanged and three were slightly higher.

Changes in household operation indexes were small, as declines in appliance prices were sufficient to move them lower in seven cities, with one unchanged and two slightly higher. Increased doctors', dentists' and optometrists' fees and higher prices for prepaid hospital care were mainly responsible for upward movements in the other commodities and services indexes in five cities. Indexes were unchanged in two cities and down slightly in three.

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

Consumer Price Indexes for Regional Cities of Canada
at the Beginning of April 1956 (base 1949 = 100)

	Total Indexes		Group Indexes - April, 1956				
	March 1956	April 1956	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
St. John's*	105.0	105.9	102.2	109.7	100.8	104.4	113.0
Halifax	114.3	114.8	105.2	125.4	114.8	119.9	119.7
Saint John	117.4	117.6	109.8	127.6	116.7	117.4	124.5
Montreal	116.7	116.7	111.5	136.2	108.0	114.9	119.9
Ottawa	117.3	117.7	107.9	136.2	111.6	116.4	123.7
Toronto	118.2	118.7	107.6	148.3	111.3	115.5	120.2
Winnipeg	116.8	116.5	110.7	127.3	113.2	114.0	121.0
Saskatoon-Regina	114.7	114.9	110.6	118.1	114.8	116.5	116.5
Edmonton-Calgary	114.3	114.6	107.6	121.2	113.8	116.6	119.6
Vancouver	118.6	118.6	111.8	128.2	113.3	128.0	120.2

* Index on the base June 1951 = 100

Security Price IndexesInvestors' Price Index

	<u>May 10</u>	<u>May 3</u> 1935-39 = 100	<u>April 12</u>
Total Common Stocks	272.5	276.2	272.7
Industrials	287.6	291.4	285.9
Utilities	206.3	207.2	210.7
Banks	273.6	283.0	283.6

Mining Stock Price Index

Total Mining Stocks	137.7	139.5	135.0
Golds	80.0	81.0	78.0
Base Metals	269.8	273.5	265.4

T R A F F I C A C C I D E N T S

Motor Vehicle Traffic There were 12,099 motor vehicle traffic accidents reported
Accidents In January in Canada (excluding Quebec) in January, according to a
 special statement released by DBS. The record shows that
 105 persons were killed and 3,110 injured. There were 88 accidents involving fatal-
 ities, 2,240 causing non-fatal injuries and 9,771 involving property damage only.
 In nine provinces (excluding Quebec) and the Territories, \$4,477,945 worth of
 property damage was caused.

The minimum property damage (excluding Quebec) reported varies from \$50 to
 \$100 in different provinces. Each accident is classified according to the princi-
 pal result. If there is a death the accident is "fatal" even though there may
 also have been a person or persons injured and property damage caused.

Province	Number of Accidents				Persons Killed	Persons Injured	Property Damage
	Fatal	Injury	Property Damage Only	Total			
Nfld.	3	45	192	240	3	55	\$ 89,140
P.E.I.	-	9	53	62	-	11	18,524
N.S.	10	122	790	922	10	151	231,041
N.B.	7	83	348	438	7	97	149,900
Que.
Ont.	47	1,159	4,158	5,364	57	1,643	2,333,229
Man.	2	152	724	878	6	210	217,198
Sask.	-	73	555	628	-	87	194,317
Alta.	4	167	1,464	1,635	5	253	521,757
B.C.	14	422	1,440	1,876	16	593	697,881
Yukon & N.W.T. ...	1	8	47	56	1	10	24,958
TOTAL	88	2,240	9,771	12,099	105	3,110	4,477,945

.. Not Available; - Nil

Man-Hours And Hourly Earnings Average hourly earnings of wage-earners in manufacturing reached a new maximum of 148.5 cents at March 1, 1.2 cents above the February 1 level. The average work-week was fractionally longer and weekly wages rose by 64 cents to \$61.33.

In the durable goods branch of manufacturing an increase of 1.5 cents per hour resulted mainly from the settlement of prolonged labour-management disputes in transportation equipment and electrical apparatus and supply factories, together with increased activity in steel mills, shipyards, and plants manufacturing agricultural implements. There was no change in the length of the average work-week and the weekly wages figure rose by 62 cents to \$66.29.

Average hourly earnings in the non-durable division rose by 0.3 cents to 135.2 cents, and weekly wages by 40 cents to \$55.84. The increase in earnings was due in part to minor changes in the industrial distribution of reported wage-earners, and in part to wage-rate adjustments in some industries, notably oil refineries.

Changes recorded since last month in mining were small. In both building and highway construction the average work-week was longer at March 1, and hourly and weekly earnings rose moderately.

Average Hours and Earnings of Hourly-Rated Wage-Earners
Reported in Specified Industries in the Weeks Ending
Mar. 1 and Feb. 1, 1956 and Mar. 1, 1955

	<u>Average Hours</u>			<u>Average Hourly Earnings</u>			<u>Average Weekly Wages</u>		
	<u>Mar.1</u>	<u>Feb.1</u>	<u>Mar.1</u>	<u>Mar.1</u>	<u>Feb.1</u>	<u>Mar.1</u>	<u>Mar.1</u>	<u>Feb.1</u>	<u>Mar.1</u>
	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1956</u>
	no.	no.	no.	¢	¢	¢	\$	\$	\$
Manufacturing	41.2	41.2	41.3	143.5	147.3	148.5	59.12	60.69	61.33
Durable Goods	41.3	41.3	41.3	155.0	159.0	160.5	64.02	65.67	66.29
Non-durable Goods ...	41.0	41.1	41.3	131.2	134.9	135.2	53.79	55.44	55.84
Mining	43.3	43.8	44.1	160.6	166.2	166.4	69.54	72.80	73.38
Electric and Motor									
Transportation	45.0	44.2	44.6	142.2	148.4	149.1	63.99	65.59	66.50
Construction	40.0	40.2	40.8	153.5	161.9	163.2	61.40	65.08	66.59
Service	40.3	40.2	40.5	85.0	87.8	88.5	34.26	36.30	35.84

Canadian Labour Income Increased In February Canadian labour income in February amounted to an estimated \$1,093,000,000, up \$97,000,000 or 9.5% from a year earlier. This rate was slightly higher than the over-the-year percentage increase of about 9% prevailing since October. For the two months, January and February, labour income totalled \$2,173,000,000 versus \$1,987,000,000.

All industry groups shared in the rise in February: agriculture, forestry, fishing, trapping and mining to \$77,000,000 from \$68,000,000 a year ago; manufacturing to \$358,000,000 from \$327,000,000; construction to \$68,000,000 from \$57,000,000; utilities, transportation, communication, storage, trade to \$282,000,000 from \$257,000,000; finance, services, to \$269,000,000 from \$252,000,000; and supplementary labour income to \$39,000,000 from \$35,000,000. (3)

Federal Government Employment
And Payrolls In January Classified civil servants on the payroll of the Federal Government in January numbered 143,558, up from 142,934 a month earlier and 141,783 a year ago. Their earnings rose to \$37,438,047 from \$37,270,936 in December and \$36,582,958 in January 1955.

Prevailing rate employees numbered 23,746, down from 24,070 in December but up from 23,656 a year earlier, while their earnings rose to \$5,524,275 from \$5,188,208 in December and \$4,711,135 in January 1955. Ships' crews fell to 1,972 from 2,239 in December but rose slightly from 1,969 a year earlier, but their earnings declined to \$457,064 from \$525,268 in December and \$476,063 a year ago.

Casual and other employees declined to 12,409 from 13,079 in December and 13,266 a year ago, and their earnings declined to \$2,464,385 from \$2,511,468 in December but rose from \$2,335,890 a year earlier. (4)

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Visible Supplies
Of Wheat Larger Visible supplies of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America in the week ending May 2 were larger at 331,094,000 bushels than the preceding week's 327,005,000 and the previous year's total of 324,720,000.

Prairie farmers' marketings of wheat jumped to 12,431,000 bushels from 6,432,000 a week earlier and 3,522,000 a year earlier. Overseas export clearances climbed to 5,573,000 bushels as compared with 4,591,000 at the corresponding date last year. (5)

Creamery Butter Stocks Up 23% Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on May 10 amounted to 45,900,000 pounds, 23% larger than last year's 37,291,000. Holdings were as follows by cities (in thousands): Quebec, 4,200 pounds (910 a year earlier); Montreal, 23,097 (18,716); Toronto, 5,446 (6,812); Winnipeg, 11,468 (9,346); Regina, 269 (662); Saskatoon, 321 (78); Edmonton, 315 (214); Calgary, 149 (114); and Vancouver, 635 (439).

Stocks Of Dairy Products On May 1 Stocks of creamery butter, evaporated milk, skim milk and poultry meat were larger on May 1 than a year earlier, but holdings of cheddar cheese and eggs were smaller. May 1 stocks were: creamery butter, 63,665,000 pounds (58,531,000 a year earlier); cheddar cheese, 26,076,000 pounds (31,209,000); evaporated whole milk, 18,110,000 pounds (14,322,000); skim milk powder, 11,192,000 pounds (4,222,000); ice cream, 1,263,000 gallons (1,248,000); eggs, 248,000 cases (495,000); and poultry meat, 15,134,000 pounds (12,307,000). (6)

Production & Stocks
Of Process Cheese Production of process cheese in April amounted to 3,126,000 pounds, a decrease of 31% from the preceding month's 4,500,000 pounds and a decline of 6% from last year's April total of 3,332,000 pounds. Cumulative production in the first four months this year totalled 15,928,000 pounds, a rise of 6% over 1955's 14,988,000 pounds. Stocks held by manufacturers at the end of April totalled 1,939,000 pounds versus 1,773,000 a month earlier and 1,519,000 a year ago.

Stocks Of Canned Fruits And
Vegetables Larger At End Of March

Stocks of canned fruits held by commercial packers, wholesalers and chain store warehouses at the end of March were 23%

larger than a year earlier and the stocks of canned vegetables were up 14%, advance figures released by the DBS show. Canned fruit stocks were 7,988,108 dozen containers versus 6,514,009 and the holdings of vegetables totalled 16,-125,230 dozen versus 14,117,012.

Among canned fruits there were larger stocks of crabapples, apricots, cherries, fruit cocktail for salad, peaches, pears, plums and gages, and strawberries, but smaller holdings of apples, applesauce, pineapple and raspberries. There were larger stocks of canned beets, carrots, carrots and peas combined, corn, mixed vegetables, peas and tomatoes, but smaller holdings of green or wax beans and baked beans. Holdings of fruit juice were smaller as were -- pickles, soups, and tomato ketchup, but stocks of jams, marmalades, ready dinners and tomato juice were larger.

End-of-March stocks of individual items in dozen cans, with 1955 figures in brackets, are detailed below:

Canned fruits: applies, solid pack, 188,282 (217,718); crabapples, 14,-145 (10,123); applesauce, 582,036 (685,023); apricots, 411,246 (281,389); blueberries, 76,774 (82,594); cherries, 429,312 (260,837); fruit cocktail for salad, 613,902 (597,644); grapefruit, 19,363 (19,169); loganberries, 16,893 (9,673); peaches, 2,315,997 (1,657,570); Bartlett pears, 691,697 (615,331); Keiffer pears, 945,985 (638,805); apple pie filling, 191,933 (149,355); other pie filling, 164,610 (74,341); pineapple, 345,312 (575,805); plums, gages, etc., 601,262 (242,185); raspberries, 147,692 (179,175); rhubarb, 2,033 (2,414); strawberries, 172,822 (162,365); all other fruits, 56,812 (52,493).

Canned vegetables: asparagus, 126,826 (117,956); green or wax beans, 1,125,632 (1,822,847); baked beans, etc., 2,166,937 (2,212,345); beets, 636,-132 (432,055); carrots, 332,487 (325,868); carrots and peas combined, 266,966 (231,263); corn, 4,072,407 (3,335,214); mixed vegetables, 478,207 (460,057); peas, 4,722,607 (3,302,118); pumpkin and squash, 326,323 (386,223); sauerkraut, 212,102 (243,604); spinach, 87,131 (78,075); tomatoes, 1,420,177 (985,230); and all other vegetables, 151,296 (184,157).

Other canned foods: apple juice, 1,669,564 (1,930,020); other fruit juice, 729,890 (760,148); apple juice concentrate, 32,382 (4,379); jams, 428,940 (391,690); jellies, 94,457 (75,913); marmalades, 178,755 (167,833); salad dressing and mayonnaise, 105,346 (94,033); peanut butter, 113,310 (124,283); pickles, 466,114 (476,898); prepared mustard, 172,412 (142,085); relishes, 60,764 (78,009); ready dinners, 780,052 (602,683); sandwich spread, 49,464 (38,719); Chili ssuces, 254,518 (167,182); soups, 7,834,312 (8,081,014); spaghetti, 500,978 (524,244); tomato juice, 3,537,261 (2,356,853); tomato ketchup, 1,440,180 (1,742,372); tomato paste, pulp and puree, 197,342 (267,011); vinegar, 140,669 (143,651); and honey, 136,536 (71,716).

End-of-March figures for a year ago are not available for the following canned foods: infant and junior foods -- fruits, puddings, custards, etc., 3,757,933; soups and dinners, 2,045,722; vegetables, 1,422,768; meat and fish sauces, 122,227; and other sauces, 68,758.

Stocks Of Fruit And Vegetables

Stocks of potatoes and onions were smaller on May 1 than a year earlier but holdings of carrots, cabbage, celery, apples, pears and frozen fruit and vegetables were larger. Potato stocks amounted to 4,705,000 bushels (4,755,000 a year earlier); onions, 69,000 (85,000); carrots, 103,000 (52,000); cabbage, 33,000 (26,000); celery, 21,000 crates (19,000); apples, 580,000 bushels (575,000); pears, 8,000 (6,000); fruit, frozen and in preservatives, 27,380,000 pounds (26,425,000); and vegetables, frozen and in brine, 18,387,000 (12,435,000). (7)

Production Of Creamery Butter
Up In April; Cheddar Cheese Down

April period than a year earlier.
rose in the four months.

Larger quantities of creamery butter, ice cream and concentrated milk products were made in Canada in April and the January-Cheddar cheese output declined in April but

Production of creamery butter increased in April to 22,700,000 pounds from 22,325,000 a year earlier and to 59,410,000 pounds in the four months from 56,498,000. Domestic disappearance rose to 23,979,000 pounds in April from 22,638,000 and to 94,286,000 pounds in the January-April period from 88,928,000.

Output of cheddar cheese fell in April to 4,680,000 pounds from 4,814,000 but rose in the four months to 11,627,000 pounds from 11,144,000. Production of ice cream advanced to 2,514,000 gallons in April from 2,444,000 and to 7,654,000 gallons in the four months from 7,101,000.

Output of concentrated milk products increased to 42,699,000 pounds in April from 39,415,000 and to 121,214,000 pounds in the four months from 108,916,000 (8)

Index Of Physical Volume Of
Agricultural Production Up 28%

Canada's 1955 index number of the physical volume of agricultural production, on the 1935-39 base, stood at 150.1, a gain of approximately 33 points or about 28% over the revised estimate of 117.4 for 1954 and compares with the all-time high of 166.0 established in 1952.

This substantial increase in production in 1955 over 1954 is attributable in large part to the much larger grain crops harvested in the Prairie Provinces. Contributing also to the increase were larger outputs of dairy products, potatoes and livestock. On the other hand, smaller production was recorded for poultry, sugar beets, tobacco and maple products.

Production increases occurred in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and ranged from less than 1% in Ontario to more than 100% in Saskatchewan. Production in Prince Edward Island was down nearly 5% in 1955 as compared with a year earlier.

Provincial indexes were: Prince Edward Island, 142.4 (149.7 in 1954); Nova Scotia, 96.8 (88.2); New Brunswick, 135.4 (113.8); Quebec, 140.5 (129.0); Ontario, 129.0 (128.0); Manitoba, 127.4 (101.8); Saskatchewan, 207.4 (101.9); Alberta, 145.6 (117.4); and British Columbia, 135.2 (131.8). (9)

Meat Stocks Larger On May 1 Stocks of meat in cold storage were 19% larger on May 1 at 90,554,000 pounds as compared with 76,093,000 a year earlier. Holdings of frozen meat were up to 59,408,000 pounds versus 46,099,000 as were stocks of fresh meat at 19,058,000 pounds versus 17,614,000. Stocks of cured meats declined to 12,088,000 pounds versus 12,380,000. (10)

Margarine Production Up In April Production of margarine rose in April to 11,241,000 pounds from 10,427,000 a year earlier, bringing the January-April output to 45,204,000 pounds against 44,274,000 in the same 1955 period. Stocks held by manufacturers, wholesalers and other warehouses at the beginning of May were slightly larger at 5,869,000 pounds versus 3,810,000 a year earlier. (11)

Crop Conditions Across Canada Throughout the Maritimes the weather has been cold and backward, the season being at least two weeks later than usual, according to the first of the year's series of seasonal telegraphic crop reports. As a result, very little work has been done on the land this season. However, in some early areas in each of the three provinces, reports indicate that some early potatoes have been planted. In all provinces, grasses and legumes have wintered well and fruit trees came through in good condition.

The season is from a week to two weeks later than normal in Quebec, with frost still remaining in the soil in many regions. Vegetation is still generally dormant, but there appears to be no extensive damage from winterkilling in meadows and pastures.

Cold, wet weather in Ontario during March, April and the first week of May has resulted in extremely slow growth of over-wintered crops and pastures. The crop season is from two to three weeks later than normal and there has been practically no seeding of spring grains yet. Moisture supplies are ample and the soil is expected to work up into a good seed bed. There has been little growth of grass due to the cold weather and most cattle are still being fed in the barns. Orchard and vegetable activities have been delayed and greenhouse men have experienced difficult weather conditions for the growth of plants.

Due to cold, backward weather on the Prairies, seeding is getting under way from one to two weeks later than normal, with the most progress to date being made in southern Alberta and southwestern Saskatchewan. With few exceptions, subsoil moisture reserves are considered satisfactory. Pasture growth has been very slow to date. Reports indicate considerable winterkilling in fall-sown crops in all three provinces.

The month of April was one of the driest on record in British Columbia with mean temperatures well above average. In the Lower Fraser Valley severe winterkilling occurred to strawberries, raspberries, hay and pastures. In the North Okanagan district nearly all the winter wheat seedings were killed by frost and hay and pasture lands were badly damaged. As a result, plantings of spring wheat, oats and barley have been heavy. In the central interior very serious damage was caused to fall wheat with lighter damage to hay and pastures. (12)

Stocks Of Food Commodities In Cold Storage & Other Warehouses In 1955

Stocks of creamery butter were approximately 20,000,000 pounds larger at the start of 1955 than at the same time in 1954, according to the Bureau's annual summary. This difference narrowed during the year to 9,600,000 pounds at the end of 1955 versus the corresponding 1954 total.

Cheddar cheese stocks were higher in the first seven months of 1955 than a year earlier, moving from an excess of 9,000,000 pounds early in the year to August 1, when the gap closed at 40,000,000 pounds held in storage for both years. Holdings at the year-end were 38,000,000 pounds, 5,000,000 pounds lower than in 1954, but 3,000,000 above the 5-year (1950-1954) average.

Manufacturers' stocks of evaporated whole milk were consistently lower in 1955 until November and were below the 5-year average during the summer. Peak holdings for the year were reached on October 1, when 62,500,000 pounds were in storage.

Stocks of cold storage and fresh shell eggs amounted to 230,000 cases at the opening of the year and totalled 363,000 cases on June 1, the season's peak. Stocks during the last half of 1955 were well below the 1954 and 5-year average at each reporting date and holdings dropped to 49,000 cases at the year-end.

Poultry meat holdings were considerably below both the 1954 totals and the 5-year average until October, but the carry-over at the year-end was approximately 26,000,000 pounds in both 1955 and 1954. Eviscerated birds accounted for about one-fifth to one-third of reported stocks.

Inventories of all meats were, as in 1954, appreciably below the 5-year average during the first half of the year but rose above average holdings from September onward and at the year-end were 10,000,000 pounds greater than at the corresponding date in 1954.

Stocks of fruit, frozen and in preservatives, were well above the 5-year average throughout the year and were higher at each reporting date than 1954 until November. Holdings of apples in cold and common storage at November 1, amounted to 8,500,000 bushels versus 7,600,000 in 1954 and 6,500,000 at their peak storage in 1953. Potato stocks, also at their peak in November, rose to 29,600,000 bushels from 23,400,000 in 1954. (13)

Department Store Sales

Department store sales rose 6.2% in April as compared with the corresponding month last year. All provinces shared in the rise in sales: Alberta, 13%; British Columbia, 9.3%; Saskatchewan, 8.8%; Manitoba, 6.7%; Atlantic Provinces, 6.2%; Ontario, 5.2%; and Quebec, 0.4%.

Sales increased 4.4% during the week ending May 5 as compared with a year earlier. All provinces shared in the rise except Manitoba where the decrease amounted to 1.5%. Provincial sales increases were: Atlantic Provinces, 9.9%; Quebec, 3.1%; Ontario, 2.2%; Saskatchewan, 9.2%; Alberta, 9.5%; and British Columbia, 6.4%.

Production Of Motor Vehicles
Increased 10 Per Cent In April

Production of motor vehicles rose 10% in April to 59,506 units from 54,023 in the corresponding month last year. This followed declines of 6% in March and 12% in February and a small rise in January. The overall result was a moderate decline in the January-April period to 165,964 units from 166,475 a year earlier.

Reversing the trend of the first quarter, passenger car output rose to 48,095 units in April from 42,392 a year earlier. In the January-April period production fell to 133,601 units from 141,122. April's output of commercial vehicles eased to 11,411 units from 11,631, but increases in the first three months of the year boosted the cumulative output to 32,363 units from 25,353. (14)

Motor Vehicle Shipments
Up In March & Quarter

Passenger car shipments by Canadian manufacturers in March increased to 37,602 units from 26,744 a year ago. Units made for sale in Canada rose to 35,487 units from 23,457 but export vehicles fell to 2,115 from 3,287. Commercial vehicle shipments for sale in Canada increased to 8,094 units in the month from 5,238 a year earlier and export units advanced to 968 from 398, boosting the total shipments to 9,062 units from 5,636.

Shipments in the first quarter of Canadian-made passenger vehicles increased to 81,280 units from 80,449 in the corresponding period last year. A decrease in vehicles for the domestic market to 74,467 units from 76,070, was more than counter-balanced by increased exports to 6,813 units from 4,379. Commercial vehicle shipments for sale in Canada increased to 17,082 units from 11,312 and export vehicles rose to 2,082 units from 1,849, bringing total commercial vehicle shipments to 19,164 units from 13,161. (15)

Paint Sales Up In Value

Sales of paints, varnishes and lacquers by manufacturers which normally account for all but a small part of the all-Canada total rose 8% in value in March to \$9,890,772 from \$9,158,199 in the corresponding month last year and 13% in the first quarter of the year to \$27,032,916 from \$23,948,318. (16)

Shipments Of Asbestos
Up In March & Quarter

Shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines eased to 76,768 tons in March from 78,524 a year earlier and to 203,492 tons in the January-March period from 208,010. Exports were slightly lower in February at 60,847 tons versus 61,664 but moderately higher in the two months at 126,508 tons versus 117,839. (17)

Radio Sales Up In February
But Television Set Sales Down

Producers' sales of radio receiving sets increased to 46,931 units in February from 39,911 in the corresponding month last year but the sales of television sets declined to 52,640 units from 56,829. February sales of radios comprised 27,777 home sets (19,466 a year earlier), 16,633 portable and auto sets (17,160), and 2,521 combinations (3,285). TV-set sales comprised 25,410 table models (34,317), 26,090 consoles (22,023), and 1,140 three-way combinations (489). (18)

Battery Sales Up In Value

Factory sales of electric storage batteries and parts rose in value in March to \$2,100,965 from \$1,887,483 in the corresponding month last year and to \$6,154,099 in the first quarter from \$5,835,706. (19)

Increased Production Of Domestic Electric Refrigerators In March

Production of domestic electric refrigerators rose to 36,813 units in March as compared with 26,929 a year ago, raising the first-quarter total to 76,220 units from 63,508 in the same period last year. Shipments in March increased to 33,322 units from 29,069 a year ago and to 72,663 in the quarter from 64,425.

Production of individual electric home and farm freezers advanced to 1,129 units in March from 1,002 a year earlier and to 2,484 units in the quarter from 2,258. Shipments declined slightly in the month to 1,101 units from 1,197 but the January-March total rose to 2,847 units from 2,771 in the same period a year earlier. (20)

Production Of Domestic Washing Machines Up In March & Quarter

Production of domestic washing machines increased to 25,312 units in March from 21,062 in the corresponding month last year, bringing the first-quarter output to 75,914 units as compared with 57,045 a year ago. Factory shipments rose to 21,851 units in March from 20,829 and to 66,845 units in the quarter from 57,682. Month-end factory stocks were larger at 34,580 units versus 26,080.

March production comprised 19,401 conventional electric models (17,745 a year earlier), 5,398 automatic electric models (3,029), and 513 gasoline models (288). First-quarter production comprised 62,148 conventional models (47,080), 12,609 automatic electric models (8,906), and 1,157 gasoline models (1,059). (21)

Production Of Pig Iron And Steel Ingots Up Sharply In First Quarter

Canadian production of both pig iron and steel ingots increased sharply in the first quarter of this year as compared with a year earlier. The quarter's output of pig iron rose 22.6% to 846,183 tons from 690,268 and steel ingots 24.3% to 1,246,174 tons from 1,002,376. In March the output of pig iron advanced 6.1% to 292,642 tons from 275,729 and steel ingots 14% to 429,720 tons from 376,866. (22)

Shipments Of Primary Steel Shapes Up

Shipments of primary shapes by Canadian steel mills in February rose to 340,133 tons from 239,302 a year ago and producers' interchange advanced to 176,044 tons from 119,996. In the two months, January and February, producers' shipments rose to 664,122 tons from 451,704 and interchange to 334,846 tons from 238,923. (23)

Railway Rolling-Stock Industry

Production by the 36 establishments in the railway rolling-stock industry in 1954 decreased 16.2% in value to \$283,399,000 from 1953's peak of \$338,321,000, according to the Bureau's annual industry report. The number of employees fell to 29,214 from 35,447, reducing their earnings to \$96,862,000 from \$118,026,000 a year earlier. Costs of materials declined to \$162,220,000 from \$179,892,000 and fuel and electricity costs to \$4,443,000 from \$4,751,000.

Output of new diesel-electric locomotives (no steam locomotives were made in either year) eased off to 244 units valued at \$41,105,000 from 260 worth \$42,259,000, while passenger car production rose to 253 units worth \$28,780,000 from 206 valued at \$14,821,000. Freight car production declined to 8,034 units of all types worth \$59,614,000 from 8,258 worth \$71,058,000 in the preceding year. (24)

Boilers & Plate Work Industry Shipments of boilers and plate work by Canadian manufacturers in 1954 decreased 10.3% to \$87,624,000 from \$97,649,000 in 1953. Although the number of plants engaged in this industry rose by 7 to 89 in 1954 over the preceding year, the number of employees dropped to 8,127 from 8,958, lowering their salaries and wages to \$30,548,000 from \$32,481,000. Cost of materials dropped to \$35,858,000 from \$37,291,000 but fuel and electricity costs rose slightly to \$1,161,000 from \$1,132,000 a year earlier.

Production of heating radiators fell to 14,744,131 square feet from 15,006,506 a year earlier but was worth more at \$9,209,000 versus \$9,079,000; cast iron sectional heating boilers of all sizes to 12,550 units (worth \$3,175,000) from 13,959 (\$3,919,000); and power boilers of all types to 283 units (\$8,689,000) from 329 (\$10,396,000). Steel heating boilers of all sizes increased to 6,579 units (\$3,766,000) from 5,051 (\$3,550,000). (25)

Less Jewellery & Silverware Canadian manufacturers of jewellery and silverware
Produced In Canada In 1954 shipped products to the value of \$46,793,000 in 1954, 9% below the preceding year's \$51,426,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' annual report on the industry.

Value of shipments of jewellery declined to \$18,503,000 from \$20,053,000 in 1953 and electro-plated flatware and cutlery to \$6,159,000 from \$6,668,000, sterling silver hollow-ware, flatware and cutlery to \$2,512,000 from \$2,748,000, sterling toilet-ware and dresserware to \$279,000 from \$353,000. Shipments of electro-plated hollow-ware on Britannia metal, nickel-silver, and other metals declined to \$1,600,000 from \$2,022,000.

More establishments, 217 versus 207 a year earlier were in operation; but a drop in employees, 5,074 against 5,703, brought salaries and wages down to \$13,487,000 from \$14,416,000. Cost of fuel and electricity was down to \$386,000 from \$396,000, and cost of materials to \$23,986,000 from \$27,150,000. (26)

Operating Results Of Gross profits of jewellery stores averaged higher in 1954
Jewellery Stores In 1954 than in 1952, but increased operating expenses reduced net operating profits before deduction of income tax, according to the Bureau's biennial survey.

Expressed as a percentage of net sales, gross profits of unincorporated jewellery stores increased to 40.19% in 1954 from 39.99% for 1952. A greater increase in net operating expenses to 25.53% from 25.04 resulted in a decrease in net operating profit to 14.66% from 14.95%. The increase in the gross profit of incorporated stores from 42.38% in 1952 to 43.52% in 1954 was also more than offset by the increase in net operating expenses from 39.11% in 1952 to 40.38% and net operating profit decreased from 3.27% in 1952 to 3.14%. (27)

TRANSPORTATION

Fewer Passengers Carried On Passengers carried on intercity and rural bus lines
Intercity & Rural Bus Lines declined in November to 4,999,743 from 5,435,127 a year ago and revenues eased to \$2,827,375 from \$2,896,520. January-November totals showed fewer number of passengers carried to 58,958,242 persons from 61,784,885 and revenues to \$37,137,113 from \$37,205,823. (28)

Railway Car Loadings Increased Railway car loadings in the last 9 days of April rose 7.8% to 104,143 cars from 96,650 a year earlier, boosting the month's total 14.3% to 342,934 cars from 300,064 and the January 1 - April 30 total 12.6% to 1,307,634 cars from 1,160,845.

Receipts from connections climbed 11.8% in the 9-day period to 43,940 cars from 39,305, 12.2% in the month to 149,644 cars from 133,371, and 12.4% for the year to date to 599,766 cars from 533,646.

Carried in greater volume in April were: grain, 42,883 cars (26,899); coal, 18,569 (14,527); iron ore, 3,867 (2,087); manufactured iron and steel products, 6,721 (5,165); crude petroleum, 3,066 (1,715); fuel oil, 10,084 (7,698); sand, gravel and crushed stone, 13,638 (11,543); cement, 5,336 (4,195); "other" mine products, 10,004 (8,518); pulpwood, 7,183 (5,042); miscellaneous carload commodities, 25,984 (21,933); and merchandise L.C.L., 65,473 (61,617). Commodities carried in fewer cars were: lumber, timber and plywood, 15,445 (16,945); and automobiles, auto trucks and parts, 10,215 (11,295).

In the January-April period the following were among the larger increases: grain, 133,554 cars (96,709 a year earlier); coal, 88,759 (76,837); iron ore, 10,785 (3,597); manufactured iron and steel products, 27,097 (19,288); crude petroleum, 15,226 (8,310); fuel oil, 49,757 (42,881); sand, gravel and crushed stone, 39,073 (31,590); pulpwood, 65,858 (55,855); miscellaneous carload commodities, 91,175 (77,722); and merchandise L.C.L., 234,392 (228,168). (29)

Operating Revenues & Expenses Of Air Carriers Increased In November Canadian air carrier operations in November produced new high operating revenues of \$9,040,711 versus \$7,313,650 a year earlier.

Operating expenses climbed to \$10,129,677 from \$8,323,329 a year ago, producing a seasonal operating loss of \$1,088,966 versus \$1,009,679. All individual revenue accounts, with the exception of mail, and all expense accounts, with the exception of general administration accounts, increased in November.

In the month, 179,386 revenue passengers were carried as compared with 151,807 a year earlier, an increase of 18.2%. Revenue goods increased 17.4% in weight to 4,066,538 pounds from 3,462,421, while bulk transportation goods more than trebled, rising to 8,454,176 pounds from 2,155,180. The amount of mail carried totaled 2,005,666 pounds versus 1,837,780 a year earlier. (30)

MINING

Shipments Of Iron Ore Down In March But Up In Quarter Shipments of iron ore from Canadian mines dropped to 63,718 tons in March from 93,099 in the corresponding month last year but first-quarter shipments jumped to 579,199 tons from 285,824. Stocks at the end of March rose to 2,581,398 tons from 2,030,169.

Ore shipped for export fell to 19,600 tons in March from 54,491 a year earlier but the quarter's shipments rose to 259,478 tons from 211,349. Shipments of ore to Canadian consumers rose to 44,118 tons in March from 38,608 and to 319,721 tons in the quarter from 74,475. (31)

Sawn Lumber Production
East Of The Rockies

Production of sawn lumber by sawmills east of the Rockies in February increased 3.1% to 259,523,000 feet board measure from 251,742,000 a year ago. Provincial totals were: Prince Edward Island, 128,000 board feet (224,000 a year earlier); Nova Scotia, 26,784,000 (26,712,000); New Brunswick, 30,872,000 (19,995,000); Quebec, 62,238,000 (61,994,000); Ontario, 26,533,000 (25,282,000); Manitoba, 2,274,000 (4,887,000); Saskatchewan, 8,849,000 (12,491,000); and Alberta, 101,845,000 (100,157,000). (32)

R E L E A S E D T H I S W E E K

- 1-M: Tuberculosis Among Indians & Eskimos, 1950-1952, 25¢
 - 2-Cheques Cashed In Clearing Centres, March, 10¢
 - 3-Estimates Of Labour Income, February, 10¢
 - 4-M: Federal Government Employment, January, 10¢ - 5-M: Grain Statistics Weekly, May 2, 10¢
 - 6-M: Stocks of Dairy & Poultry Products, May, 10¢
 - 7-M: Stocks of Fruit & Vegetables, May 1, 10¢
 - 8-Dairy Factory Production, April, 10¢ - 9-M: Index of Farm Production, 1955, 10¢
 - 10-M: Cold Storage Holdings of Meat & Lard, May 1, 10¢
 - 11-M: Margarine Statistics, April, 10¢
 - 12-Telegraphic Crop Report - Canada, May 9, 10¢
 - 13-Stocks of Food Commodities in Cold Storage & Other Warehouses, 1955, 25¢
 - 14-Preliminary Report on the Production of Motor Vehicles, April, 10¢
 - 15-Motor Vehicle Shipments, March, 10¢
 - 16-M: Sales of Paints, Varnishes & Lacquers, March, 10¢
 - 17-M: Asbestos, March, 10¢ - 18-Radio & Television Receiving Sets, February, 10¢
 - 19-M: Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, March, 10¢
 - 20-M: Domestic Electric Refrigerators, March, 10¢
 - 21-M: Domestic Washing Machines, March, 10¢
 - 22-M: Production of Pig Iron & Steel, March, 10¢
 - 23-Primary Iron & Steel, February, 25¢ - 24-Railway Rolling Stock Industry, 1954, 25¢
 - 25-Boilers & Plate Work Industry, 1954, 25¢
 - 26-Jewellery & Silverware Industry, 1954, 25¢
 - 27-Operating Results & Financial Structure Independent Jewellery Stores, 1954, 25¢
 - 28-M: Motor Carrier - Passenger, November, 10¢
 - 29-M: Car Loadings on Canadian Railways, April 30, 10¢
 - 30-Civil Aviation, November 1955, 10¢ - 31-M: Iron Ore, March, 10¢
 - 32-Production, Shipments & Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies, February, 25¢
 - Statistics of Criminal & Other Offences, 1953, 50¢
 - Motor Vehicle Traffic Accidents, 1955, 25¢ (Summarized in Weekly Bulletin of May 4)
 - Trade of Canada - Imports, January, 50¢
 - Trade of Canada - Exports, February, 50¢
- M: Memorandum

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