



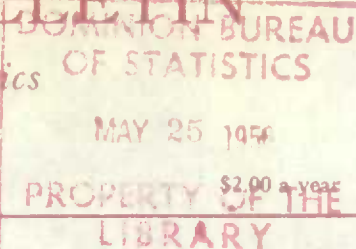
# D.B.S. WEEKLY BULLETIN

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Industrial Production: Canada's industrial production, as measured by the Bureau's index, was 10% larger in March this year than last, averaged 8.6% higher in the first quarter. Manufacturing was up nearly 9% in the month, over 7% in the quarter; mineral production showed gains of 22.5% and 20%; electricity and gas output had increases under 2%. In manufacturing, non-durables had a somewhat larger gain than durables in March, durables a somewhat larger gain in the quarter. (Page 2)

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Manufacturing: Estimated dollar value of manufacturers' shipments in March was over 7% larger than in February, 9.5% larger than in March last year. Cumulative value for the first quarter was over 11% above last year. Dollar value of new orders in March was slightly less than for February but over 9% greater than a year ago. (Page 2)

...

Merchandising: Department store sales continued to climb in the week ending May 12. Detailed report on March sales show an estimated first-quarter gain of \$25,000,000 over last year with March business accounting for nearly half the increase. All but three of 29 specified departments showed advances in March ... Retail trade as a whole had an estimated sales gain of over 9% in this year's first quarter, with March sales climbing 14% due largely to Easter trade. The quarter's advance was shared by all main classifications of business ... Wholesalers had estimated sales increases of 24% in March, nearly 16% in the first three months. (Pages 5 & 6)

...

Agriculture: Exceptionally rapid progress was made with spring seeding in the Prairie Provinces during the week preceding May 23 under nearly ideal weather conditions. Weather conditions have been adverse in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces and work on the land is generally far behind normal. In British Columbia, however, the season is earlier ... Farm land values generally increased last year over 1954. (Page 8)

...

Transportation: Railway carloadings were nearly 11% larger in the first week of May than last year; from the first of January were up a larger 12.5% ... Railway freight traffic summary for 1955 shows tonnage moved was over 15% greater than in 1954 ... Freight volume moved through Canadian canals last year showed a closely similar proportionate increase of nearly 16%. (Pages 9 & 10)

...

Labour: Total employment rose from mid-March to mid-April, bringing the estimated number of persons with jobs at April 21 to 5,326,000, an increase of 203,000 over a year earlier, and the number without jobs and seeking work to 257,000, down 70,000 from last year's April number. (Page 12)

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Index Of Industrial Production  
Up 10% In March, 8.6% In Quarter

Canada's composite index of industrial production for March stood at 277.2, according to preliminary figures, 10% above the March 1955 index of 251.9. The manufacturing component of the index rose 8.8% to 282.3 from 259.5 a year earlier and the index of mineral production advanced 22.5% to 249.7 from 203.8. The sub-index measuring output of electricity and gas stood at 286.9 in March, 1.7% above the March 1955 index of 282.2.

The index of non-durable manufactures, at 242.0, was 8.9% above the same month last year. All industrial groups for which comparisons are available recorded advances of between 5 and 10%. Output in the clothing industry was 9.7% higher than during March 1955, and production in the paper products group advanced 9.5%. Output in the foods and beverages, tobacco, rubber products, textiles, printing and publishing and chemicals industries showed smaller gains in the March comparison.

In the durable manufactures field, the composite index for March rose to 345.4, 8.6% above last March's figure of 318.0. Output of iron and steel products increased nearly 22% with production in the non-metallic minerals group rising almost 19%. The electrical apparatus and wood products group recorded gains of nearly 8% and 6%, respectively. Transportation equipment showed a fractional increase, while output of non-ferrous metals fell off about 3%.

For the first three months of 1956 the index of industrial production averaged 267.1, 8.6% above the corresponding figure of 246.0. The manufacturing index rose 7.4% to 270.5 in this comparison. The non-durables component advanced 7.2% from 217.2 to 232.9, while the durables index rose 7.6% to 329.4. The mining index in the three-month comparison increased 20.1% from 203.8 to 244.8. The sub-index for electricity and gas showed a fractional advance from 281.1 to 283.0.

## MANUFACTURING

Manufacturers' Shipments,  
Inventories And Orders

Manufacturers' shipments were valued at an estimated \$1,756,200,000 in March, 7.3% higher than in the preceding month and 9.5% above March last year, DBS reports in an advance statement. The cumulative value for the first quarter was \$4,945,129,000, up 11.3% from \$4,442,736,000 a year earlier.

Total value of inventory owned by manufacturers rose for the sixth consecutive month. At \$3,865,200,000, the March value was \$24,000,000 or 0.6% above February and \$258,500,000 or 7.2% above March last year. Inventory held under progress payments arrangements remained almost unchanged, so the increase in total inventory held was also \$24,000,000 during March.

Total value of new orders, at \$1,710,200,000, was \$9,000,000 or 0.5% lower than in February but \$147,000,000 or 9.4% above March last year. Since shipments for the month were higher than new orders, unfilled orders declined by \$46,000,000 or 1.6%. At \$2,798,500,000, the latter were 10% above March last year.

Portland Cement Production  
Rose In March And Quarter

Output of Portland cement in March climbed 11.9% to 2,077,539 barrels from 1,856,596 a year ago, raising the first-quarter figure to 5,856,715 barrels from 5,223,312, an increase of 12.1%. Shipments to customers rose in the month to 1,776,186 barrels from 1,342,155, increasing the quarter's total 32.4% to 4,152,269 barrels from 3,135,589. (1)



Production And Shipments Of Iron Castings & Cast Pipe Up In March

Production of iron castings and cast iron pipe and fittings increased 17.2% in March to 92,891 tons from 79,269 a year earlier raising the total for the first quarter 29.7% to 267,504 tons as compared with 206,294 in the corresponding period last year. Shipments in March amounted to 60,924 tons, an increase of 14.6% over the preceding year's 53,178. January-March shipments were 26.5% higher at 173,583 tons than the 137,187 tons recorded a year earlier. (2)

Leather Production Up 7.1% In March

Output of cattle sole leather increased in March to 1,457,341 pounds from 1,56,551 a year earlier, upper leather to 5,521,333 square feet from 5,103,131, and horse leather to 153,761 square feet from 107,653. Glove and garment leather production decreased to 743,428 square feet from 904,114, and calf and kip skins upper to 846,197 square feet from 875,430.

Increased stocks of raw hides and skins held by tanners, packers and dealers were reported for calf and kip skins to 462,491 from 336,603, and goat and kid skins to 35,750 from 25,329. Stocks of cattle hides decreased to 552,965 from 556,786 as did sheep and lamb skins to 35,478 dozen from 37,156, and horse hides to 18,103 from 24,664. (3)

Production Of Brass & Copper Products Down 7.5% In 1954

Factory selling value of products in the brass and copper products industry declined for the second straight year in 1954 to \$157,908,000 from \$170,692,000 in 1953 and \$184,672,000 in 1952, according to the annual report issued by DBS. Establishments in the industry increased to 156 from 153 but the number of employees fell to 8,530 from 9,301 a year earlier and their earnings to \$30,131,000 from \$31,540,000. Cost of materials used declined to \$99,886,000 from \$108,715,000 as did cost of fuel and electricity to \$2,086,000 from \$2,110,000.

Some of the major products were: brass and bronze ingots, castings, scrap and other forms (excluding cartridge cases) valued at \$40,348,123 (\$50,729,082 in 1953); copper sheets, wire rods, tubing, etc. worth \$66,811,248 (\$65,740,094); plumbers' brass fittings worth \$10,268,546 (\$10,576,675); brass and bronze radiator valves and traps valued at \$5,737,598 (\$6,082,037); and all "other" products (including railway car fittings, kettles, brewery distillation equipment, cartridge cases, etc.,) worth \$25,318,688 (\$28,215,453). (4)

Asbestos Products Industry

Factory value of shipments in the asbestos products industry increased 7.9% in 1954 to a new high of \$23,768,768 from \$22,030,972 a year earlier, according to the Bureau's annual report on the industry. Establishments dropped to 16 versus 18 a year earlier, employees to 1,885 from 1,930 but their salaries and wages increased 3.7% to \$6,455,586 from \$6,223,024. Cost of materials rose slightly to \$10,397,068 from \$10,363,034 and fuel and electricity costs to \$620,999 from \$557,589.

The industry produced brake lining to the value of \$3,008,089 (\$3,472,888 in 1953); asbestos boiler and pipe coverings worth \$1,465,264 (\$1,506,667); asbestos clutch facings valued at \$525,039 (\$551,574); asbestos packings valued at \$636,148 (\$525,084); and asbestos gaskets worth \$153,017 (\$88,451). Other products included asbestos dryer felt, hydraulic brake hose, asbestos shingles, asbestos yarn, asbestos millboard, asbestos cement wallboard, asbestos cloth, and asbestos cement pipe. (5)

Gypsum Industry In 1954      Factory value of shipments from Canada's gypsum industry in 1954 grossed \$7,096,000 down about 4% from the previous year's \$7,400,000, according to the Bureau's annual report on the industry. At the same time shipments of gypsum increased 2.8% to 3,950,000 tons from 3,841,000 a year earlier. The number of firms engaged in the industry in 1954 remained unchanged at 9, the number of employees dropped to 932 from 954, but salaries and wages increased 1.3% to \$2,930,000 from \$2,892,000. (6)

Miscellaneous Transportation Equipment Industry In 1954      Value of factory shipments by establishments in the miscellaneous transportation equipment industry in 1954 was slightly higher at \$7,541,123 than the preceding year's \$7,017,575 but below 1950's peak of \$10,120,115. Salaries and wages increased to \$2,152,343 from \$2,120,166 a year earlier but employees fell to 830 from 854 and the number of establishments to 37 from 42. Cost of materials increased to \$3,471,520 from \$2,859,049 but fuel and electricity costs declined to \$89,807 from \$91,690. These establishments made carriages, wagons, sleighs, bodies and boxes for vehicles, wheels, wheelbarrows, baby carriages, toy vehicles, snowmobiles, and other products. (7)

Paper Box And Bag Industry In 1954      Factory value of shipments of Canada's paper box and bag industry in 1954 amounted to \$194,243,000, a small decrease of 2.2% from the preceding year's \$198,540,000, according to the Bureau's annual industry report. Employment declined 1.1% to 13,883 from 14,042 but salaries and wages increased 4.9% to \$40,632,000 from \$37,753,000. Cost of materials used rose to \$116,590,000 from \$115,599,000. The number of plants in the industry increased to 204 from 192.

Shipments of major products in order of value were as follows in 1954: corrugated boxed (including wrappers, etc.) \$79,346,000; folding boxes, \$44,334,000; bags, including tea and coffee bags, specialty bags, shopping bags, charcoal bags, multiwall sacks, etc., \$23,711,000; set-up boxes, \$13,568,000; self-opening square bags, \$6,563,000; special bags of glassine, waxed paper, cellophane, etc., \$2,489,000; round fibre or paperboard containers, \$1,946,000; wedge bags, including notion and novelty bags, \$1,706,000; millinery, garment and laundry bags, \$1,470,000; and waxed paper, \$1,497,000. (8)

Hardwood Flooring Industry      Factory value of shipments of the hardwood flooring industry in 1954 was \$15,645,000, an increase of 10.6% over the preceding year's \$14,142,000, but a small decline from the all-time peak of \$15,800,000 reached in 1951, according to the Bureau's annual industry report.

Factory shipments of hardwood flooring were valued at \$12,151,000, 2.5% higher than the preceding year's \$11,858,000. Shipments of other products, such as matched lumber, planed lumber, mouldings and other products, totalled \$3,495,000, an increase of 53% as compared with 1953's \$2,284,000.

Of the hardwood flooring shipped in 1953, totalling 67,133,000 board feet (65,099,000 in 1953), birch accounted for 38,565,000 (36,597,000 in 1953), plain cut red oak for 15,345,000 (15,612,000) maple for 8,828,000 (9,916,000), beech for 1,237,000 (714,000), plain cut white oak for 79,000 (229,000), and other hardwoods, for 3,079,000 (2,031,000).

There were 31 establishments in the industry in 1954 versus 27 a year earlier. Their employees numbered 1,591 versus 1,512 and salaries and wages grossed \$4,117,000 versus \$3,823,000. (9)



Veneer And Plywood Industry Products manufactured by Canada's veneer and plywood industry in 1954 were valued at \$92,849,000, a decrease of 4.5% from the preceding year's all-time high of \$97,260,000, according to the Bureau's annual industry report. Veneer and plywood accounted for \$81,436,000 versus \$83,896,000, and secondary products, consisting chiefly of veneer and plywood products, were valued at \$11,413,000 versus \$13,364,000.

Production of veneer amounted to 495,200 M square feet valued at \$14,464,000 versus 577,500 M square feet valued at \$17,640,000. Output of plywood totalled 888,500 M square feet valued at \$66,972,000 versus 779,100 M valued at \$66,256,000.

There were 56 establishments in the industry (54 in 1953), employing 9,060 persons (8,995) with salary and wage payments of \$26,384,000 (\$25,459,000). Cost at plant of materials used was \$40,918,000 (\$42,944,000) and fuel and electricity cost \$1,051,000 (\$978,000). (10)

Sash, Door And Planing Mills Industry In 1953 Value of factory shipments in the sash, door and planing mills industry in 1953 increased 5% to \$200,929,000 from \$191,451,000 in the previous year. Establishments numbered 1,775 versus 1,728, employees 20,241 against 19,525, and salaries and wages increased 9.4% to \$48,119,000 from \$43,987,000 a year earlier.

Shipment values were higher than in 1952 for the following; sash, doors and other mill-work, \$62,370,000 (\$56,611,000 a year earlier); mouldings, \$8,773,000 (\$8,106,000); furniture, wooden, \$2,055,000 (\$1,721,000); prefabricated houses, \$7,051,000 (\$5,331,000); and all other products \$13,251,000 (\$7,596,000). Shipment values lower for the following: hardwood flooring, \$104,000 (\$139,000); matched lumber, \$16,393,000 (\$17,188,000); planed lumber \$82,544,000 (\$87,391,000); boxes and containers, \$557,000 (\$610,000); and box shooks, \$451,000 (\$571,000). (11)

## MERCHANDISING

Department Store Sales Department store sales rose 15.6% in the week ending May 12 as compared with a year earlier. All provinces shared in the rise, the Atlantic Provinces leading with an increase of 25.6%, closely followed by British Columbia with 24.2%. Gain in Alberta was 19.9%, in Saskatchewan 17%, Ontario 15.1%, Manitoba 8.3% and Quebec 5.2%.

Sales in March increased to \$93,503,000 from \$81,772,000 a year earlier, boosting the cumulative total for the first quarter to \$242,704,000 from \$217,538,000 in the corresponding period a year ago. All provinces and 26 of the 29 specified departments as well as the "all other" group had sales gains in March. Alberta led the provinces with a sales increase of 22%, followed by Saskatchewan with 19.1%, British Columbia, 15.7%, Ontario 13.9%, Quebec, 13.2%, Manitoba, 11.7%, and the Atlantic Provinces, 7.9%.

Sales gains in the clothing groups were among the largest due mainly to the early Easter season. Some of the departments in the clothing category with the larger increases were: millinery, 35.5%; girls' and infants' wear, 27.2%; boys' clothing and furnishings, 22.5%; and men's furnishings, 21.1%. Only three departments reported decreased sales: smallwares, down 7.2%; radio and music, 4.8%; and linens and domestics, 0.8%. (12)

Wholesale Sales Up Sales by Canadian wholesalers in March increased 24.3% to  
In March & Quarter an estimated \$654,349,000 from \$526,474,000 a year ago,  
 raising the first-quarter total 15.6% to \$1,655,763,000  
 from \$1,432,131,000 in the corresponding period last year.

All trades reported increased sales in the month ranging from 1.3% for fresh fruits and vegetables to 99.2% in automotive parts and accessories. The lone exception was clothing and furnishings, which slipped 0.3% to \$7,888,000 from \$7,912,000. Some of the larger increases were: automotive parts and accessories, 99.2% to \$54,322,000 from \$27,271,000; industrial and transportation equipment and supplies, 45.7% to \$69,294,000 from \$47,561,000; all "other", 30.8% to \$168,019,000 from \$128,414,000; farm machinery, 30.1% to \$5,116,000 from \$3,933,000; tobacco, confectionery and soft drinks, 29.4% to \$53,187,000 from \$41,100,000; and construction materials and supplies, including lumber, 25.9% to \$53,109,000 from \$42,199,000.

All trades registered sales gains in the first quarter from a low of 0.9% in household electrical appliances to a high of 61.8% in industrial and transportation equipment and supplies. Larger increases were: industrial and transportation equipment and supplies, 61.8% to \$169,243,000 from \$104,604,000; farm machinery, 45.2% to \$11,779,000 from \$8,111,000; automotive parts and accessories, 37.2% to \$93,883,000 from \$68,435,000; construction materials and supplies, including lumber, 24.3% to \$142,454,000 from \$114,589,000; and commercial, institutional and service equipment and supplies, 19.7% to \$25,450,000 from \$21,262,000.  
 (13)

Retail Sales Up Sales of Canadian retail establishments in the first quarter of  
9.2% In Quarter this year totalled \$2,789,604,000, up 9.2% from last year's  
 \$2,554,481,000. Due largely to the fact that Easter trade fell  
 in March this year, sales were 14.1% larger in the month at \$1,045,409,000 as  
 compared with \$915,875,000 in the same month last year.

All provinces showed increases sales in the first quarter. Quebec led with a rise of 12.9% and was well above the national average of 9.2%. British Columbia and Alberta had gains of 10.5% and 9.9%. Gains in the other provinces were: Ontario, 8.6%; Atlantic Provinces, 6.8%; Manitoba, 4.8%; and Saskatchewan 1.6%. For the month of March, Quebec also had the largest increase of 18.5%, followed by Alberta with 15.2%, Ontario 13.6%, British Columbia 13.4%, Manitoba 12%, Atlantic Provinces 10%, and Saskatchewan 7.3%.

All 18 of the kind-of-business groups, as well as the miscellaneous category, recorded sales increases in the first quarter. Variety stores, with sales greater by 19%, had the largest three-month increases. Lumber and building material dealers and family clothing stores also had substantial increases of 15.1% and 13.3%. Other types of business showing large increases were: shoe stores and fuel dealers each with 12.4%, women's clothing 11.9%, department stores 11.1%, and hardware stores 9.2%.

Largest among the March sales increases were: variety stores, 37.9%; family clothing stores, 34.3%; shoe stores, 32.2%; women's clothing, 29.8%; men's clothing, 21.3%; grocery and combination stores, 14.5%; department stores, 14.4%; jewellery stores, 13.7%; hardware stores, 12.5%; general stores, 11.9%; garages and filling stations, 11%; and fuel dealers, 10%; lumber and building material dealers, 9.9%; furniture, appliance and radio stores, 9.4%; and motor vehicle dealers, 9.2%. (14)



Operating Results Of General Stores In 1954 Gross profits of independent general stores averaged higher in 1954 than in 1952 but increased operating expenses reduced net operating profits before deduction of proprietors' salaries and income tax, DBS reports in its biennial survey. Gross profits expressed as a percentage of average net sales moved up to 14.92% from 14.34% and operating expenses to 9.24% from 8.56%; net operating profit eased to 5.68% from 5.78%. (15)

Operating Results, Garages And Filling Stations, 1954 Average gross profits of operators of filling stations rose in 1954 to 20.8% of net sales compared with 19.7% in 1952, according to the biennial report issued by DBS. At the same time operating expenses rose to 13.7% from 12.73%, comprised of employees' salaries to 6.61% from 6.28% in the previous period, occupancy, 4.64% (4.19% in 1952), store supplies, 0.32% (0.39%), advertising, 0.28% (0.22%), and all other expenses, 1.85% (1.65%). However, net operating profit (before deduction of proprietors' salaries and income tax) climbed slightly to 7.1% from 6.97%.

Average gross profits of garage operators increased to 30.59% of net sales from 29.65% and operating expenses rose to 21.14% from 20.02%. Employees' salaries rose to 11.4% from 11.09%, occupancy to 5.7% from 5.35%, advertising to 0.36% from 0.33%, and all other expenses to 3.24% from 2.67%, but store supplies decreased to 0.44% from 0.58%. Average net operating profit, before deduction of proprietors' salaries and income tax, eased down to 9.45% from 9.63%. (16)

#### F O O D & A G R I C U L T U R E

Creamery Butter Stocks Up 20% Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on May 17 totalled 46,393,000 pounds, 20% larger than last year's corresponding total of 38,528,000 pounds. Holdings were as follows by cities, in thousands: Quebec, 4,485 pounds (1,125 a year earlier); Montreal, 23,331 (19,093); Toronto, 5,391 (6,908); Winnipeg, 11,647 (9,729); Regina, 308 (683); Saskatoon, 295 (181); Edmonton, 246 (210); Calgary 148 (115); and Vancouver, 542 (484).

Supplies And Exports Of Wheat In Major Producing Countries Supplies of wheat remaining on or about April 1 this year in the four major exporting countries for export and for carryover at the end of their respective crop years amounted to 2,091,300,000 bushels, about 6% more than the 1,982,200,000 bushels available a year ago, states the Bureau's monthly wheat review.

April 1 supplies were held as follows, with last year's figures in brackets: United States, 1,144,500,000 bushels (1,087,000,000); Canada, 676,200,000 (578,800,000); Australia, 183,400,000 (152,800,000); and Argentina, 87,200,000 (163,600,000). Estimates for both years include on-farm stocks as well as those in commercial positions.

Exports of wheat and flour in terms of wheat from the four major exporting countries for the first eight months (August-March) of the current Canadian crop year totalled 479,200,000 bushels, 7% lower than the preceding year's 515,800,000 bushels. Shipments from each of the four countries during the August-March period were smaller than in the preceding year: United States, 180,800,000 bushels (188,100,000 a year earlier); Canada, 157,600,000 (172,700,000); Argentina, 80,500,000 (92,200,000); and Australia, 60,300,000 (62,800,000). (17)

Farm Land Values Up In 1955 Value of occupied farm land in Canada in 1955 averaged \$52 per acre, compared with \$50 in 1954, \$51 in 1953, and the pre-war five-year (1935-39) average of \$24. Increases in value as compared with 1954 occurred in all provinces except Prince Edward Island which remained at \$59. Averages for the other provinces were: Nova Scotia, \$56 (\$54 in 1954); New Brunswick, \$54 (\$52); Quebec, \$82 (\$81); Ontario, \$107 (\$101); Manitoba, \$46 (\$45); Saskatchewan, \$31 (\$29); Alberta, \$42 (\$41); British Columbia, \$107 (\$102).

Crop Conditions In Canada Weather conditions have continued backward throughout the Maritime Provinces, according to the Bureau's crop report released May 23. Cold, wet weather during the past two weeks delayed work on the land and the season is considerably later than normal. However, work is now under way in most areas. Reports indicate that from about 10 to 25% of the planting and seeding have been done. Grass crops came through the winter well in all provinces but growth is slow so far.

Spring is very late in all parts of Quebec. Temperatures have been well below normal, with several inches of snow falling in the Lake St. John and Lower St. Lawrence regions on May 17. Meadows and pastures suffered very little damage during the winter months. Seeding has made little progress to date except in areas where the soil is light and well-drained. However, ploughing is nearly finished and given warm dry weather planting can be completed quickly. In the Montreal district seedlings of early corn, beans and early potatoes are well advanced. Sugar beet seeding has begun in Berthier County. Cold weather has delayed the development of fruit trees.

Throughout all Ontario cool, wet, backward weather has hampered spring farm operations. Many farmers have no crop in as yet. Meadows and winter wheat land are very wet and growth is slow. In many places the ground is too soft to pasture cattle but some farmers have been forced to turn out young cattle because of lack of feed. Many are buying hay, and supplies are going rapidly. To offset the late spring, emergency crops will be heavily planted this year. The warm weather of the past week has helped dry up the land and enabled farmers in many areas to make some progress with their spring work. Experienced farm help is difficult to obtain.

Under nearly ideal weather conditions exceptionally rapid progress was made with spring seeding during the past week throughout the Prairie Provinces. With continued good weather the bulk of seeding should be completed by the end of this month. Subsoil moisture reserves are generally adequate but surface moisture is being depleted in some areas and timely rains will be required to promote even germination. Pastures are late but are now making good growth.

The season appears to be from ten days to two weeks earlier than last year in British Columbia. Temperatures have generally been above normal and very little rain has fallen during the past two weeks. Seeding is practically completed in southern areas of the province and is now general in the Peace River and central interior sections. Soil moisture reserves are running low in many areas. In the Lower Fraser Valley the severe winter coupled with an unusually dry spring has resulted in poor pasture growth. New seedings of grass and clover seed are in need of rain. (18)



Production of Carbonated Beverages Rose In April Output of carbonated beverages by Canadian manufacturers increased 5.6% in April to 9,125,225 gallons from 8,638,565 in 1955 and 16.9% over 1954's 7,804,108. January-April production rose 9.7% to 32,435,051 gallons from last year's 29,577,826 and 18.4% over 1954's 27,638,349. (19)

Holdings Of Fish In Cold Storage In April Stocks of frozen fish in Canada on April 30 increased 39.1% to 34,050,000 pounds from 24,480,000 a year earlier. Frozen fresh fish stocks increased 40.2% to 30,976,000 pounds from 22,083,000 a year ago and frozen smoked fish 28.1% to 3,074,000 pounds from 2,397,000.

Holdings of cod, fresh and smoked, increased 2.5% to 6,170,000 pounds from 6,017,000, haddock 13% to 6,739,000 pounds from 5,957,000, sea herring 114.6% to 1,114,000 pounds from 519,000, and other seafish to 14,196,000 pounds from 2,634,000. Salmon stocks decreased 59.1% to 1,085,000 pounds from 2,650,000. (20)

Fish Processing Industry Factory selling value of products made by manufacturers in the fish processing industry increased 11.9% in 1954 to \$153,456,600 from \$137,085,700 a year earlier, but declined 5.9% from the peak total of \$163,100,200 in 1951, according to the Bureau's annual report on the industry. Number of plants decreased in 1954 to 594 from 607, but the number of employees rose to 14,202 from 13,623 and their salaries and wages to \$26,001,200 from \$23,169,600. Cost of materials increased to \$95,632,700 from \$85,773,200 and fuel and electricity costs to \$2,604,600 from \$2,426,900.

Among the principal products, salmon rose in value to \$40,089,200 from \$37,881,100, pollock to \$1,611,000 from \$1,312,600, plaice to \$2,109,200 from \$2,097,100, lobster to \$7,460,900 from \$7,041,600, herring to \$9,935,800 from \$9,304,300, haddock to \$5,987,700 from \$5,805,800, and cod to \$23,742,100 from \$16,293,000. Increases were also recorded for capelin, soft-shelled clams, crabs, cusk, Irish moss, sardines, and scallops. Decreases were recorded for abalone, alewives, anchovies, catfish, clams -- bar, little neck and razor --, dogfish, flounders, hake, halibut, mackerel, oysters, and ocean perch. (21)

## TRANSPORTATION

Railway Car Loadings Increased Cars loaded on Canadian railways during the first week of May amounted to 87,241, an increase of 10.6% from last year's corresponding total of 78,853. January 1 - May 7 loadings were up 12.5% to 1,394,917 cars from 1,239,698. Receipts from connections rose 9% in the week to 34,283 cars from 31,538 and 12.2% in the cumulative period to 634,210 cars from 565,184.

Commodities carried in greater volume in the first 7 days of May included: grain, 11,291 (as against 8,510 in 1955); coal, 4,717 (4,256); iron ore, 3,491 (2,460); manufactured iron and steel products, 1,719 (1,251); fuel oil 2,226 (1,645); "other" mine products, 3,103 (2,010); and miscellaneous carload commodities, 6,232 (5,454). Carried in fewer cars were: lumber, timber and plywood, 3,885 (4,323); and automobiles, trucks and parts, 2,350 (2,810). (22)

Railway Freight Traffic Up 15.3% In 1955 Revenue freight traffic moved by railways in Canada in 1955 totalled 167,656,542

tons, an increase of 15.3% over the preceding year's 145,418,055 tons, according to advance figures released by the DBS. Of the freight carried in 1955, 131,456,869 tons were loaded at stations in Canada (112,298,467 in 1954); receipts from foreign connections destined to Canadian points increased 5.1% to 18,730,521 tons from 17,819,456; and intransit freight rose 14.2% to 17,469,152 tons from 15,300,132.

Of the 131,456,869 tons of freight loaded in Canada during 1955, 56,824,335 tons of mine products accounted for 43.2% of the total; 33,664,030 tons of manufactures and miscellaneous products for 25.6%; 22,015,310 tons of agricultural products for 16.7%; 15,950,953 tons of forest products for 12.1%; 1,230,001 tons of animals and animal products for 0.9%; and 1,772,240 tons of L.C.L. freight for 1.3%.

Loadings in Newfoundland increased to 1,334,374 tons from 1,148,093, in Prince Edward Island to 305,773 tons from 296,338, in Nova Scotia to 10,761,398 tons from 9,401,113, and in New Brunswick to 4,445,986 tons from 4,105,558. In Quebec loadings rose to 30,469,062 tons from 20,705,415, Ontario to 40,619,626 from 34,637,419, Manitoba to 7,227,710 tons from 7,043,262, Alberta to 11,347,667 tons from 11,014,527, and British Columbia to 12,802,992 tons from 11,186,882. Loadings in Saskatchewan declined to 12,142,281 tons from 12,759,920.

Canal Freight Traffic Up 16% In 1955 Volume of freight carried through the 11 Canadian canals during 1955 amounted to 34,874,198 tons, a gain of 4,803,497 tons or nearly 16% over the preceding year's 30,070,701 tons, according to advance figures released by the DBS.

Freight traffic on the St. Lawrence canals rose 19% to 11,446,620 tons from 9,637,034, and the Welland Ship canal showed a similar gain in weight of cargoes to 20,893,572 tons from 17,514,258. Increases in shipments of rye, bituminous coal, iron ore, and fuel oil were mainly responsible for the rise in traffic through the St. Lawrence canals, while larger shipments of oats, barley, bituminous coal, iron ore, crude oil and gasoline contributed to the advance in the Welland Ship canal traffic.

Cargoes shipped through the Sault Ste. Marie canal dropped nearly 16% to 2,201,075 tons from 2,607,960 in 1954. Of the smaller canals, the Rideau, Trent and Richelieu River canals had a decrease in freight traffic but this was more than offset by increases on the Ottawa River, Murray, St. Andrew's and St. Peter's canals. The Canso canal, which was only open to traffic in the latter part of the 1955 season of navigation, handled a total of 13,199 tons.

Parallel to the rise in the total amount of cargo carried through all canals, the number of vessel passages climbed to 28,172 from 25,292 in 1954, a rise of 11%. On a registered net tonnage basis, Canadian vessels constituted 85% of all ships passing through the canals in 1955.

Appearing for the first time in the canal statistics annual report, which will be released shortly, are various tables of special interest, including one on inter-lake traffic as well as three which analyze freight carried up and down the St. Lawrence, Welland Ship and Sault Ste. Marie canals by country of origin of cargo and by country of registry of vessel.



Fewer Passengers Carried By Intercity  
And Rural Motor Carriers In Year 1955

Both the number of passengers carried and revenues of intercity and rural motor carriers declined in 1955 as compared with the preceding year. DBS recorded the number of passengers at 64,-287,009 as compared with 67,442,864 and the revenues at \$40,282,661 as against \$40,420,448. Passengers carried in regular service fell to 59,890,173 from 62,-659,727 and in chartered service to 4,396,836 from 4,783,137. (23)

## LABOUR

Average Weekly Earnings  
In Manufacturing In 1954

Average weekly earnings paid by Canadian manufacturers to salaried and wage-earning personnel reached \$62.40 in October 1954, 3.3% above 1953's average of \$60.38, according to the Bureau's annual report on earnings and hours of work in manufacturing.

Based on nation-wide surveys taken in the last week of October, the report places 1954's increase in average weekly earnings in the durable goods industries at 3.1% to \$67.32 from \$65.30 in 1953, and in the non-durable industries at 4.1% to \$57.80 from \$55.50.

Weekly earnings in manufacturing rose to new record levels in all provinces except Nova Scotia in 1954, the increases ranging from 1.3% for Newfoundland to 4.6% for Alberta. The decrease in Nova Scotia was 0.9% to \$50.63 from \$51.07. Highest among the provinces, British Columbia's average rose to \$69.41 from \$67.09, followed by Ontario with a rise to \$65.52 from \$63.13, Alberta to \$63.77 from \$60.94, Newfoundland to \$60.25 from \$59.49, Saskatchewan to \$59.99 from \$57.57, Quebec to \$57.89 from \$56.43, Manitoba to \$57.50 from \$55.96, and New Brunswick to \$53.29 from \$51.69.

Other changes in manufacturing as a whole in October 1954 as compared with a year earlier were:

Advances ranging from 2% and 2.4% in the average weekly wages. The average for both sexes, at \$57.99, was \$1.24 higher than in the 1953 survey week. Men's wages rose \$1.27 to \$63.98, and women's wages by 83¢ to an average of \$35.90 a week.

More substantial advances in average weekly salaries than in wages. Average salaries increased in the year by \$3.94 (5.3%) to \$77.81 a week for both sexes, by \$4.56 (5.3%) to \$90.00 a week for men, and by \$1.87 (4.3%) to \$45.00 a week for women.

Small decreases in the proportions of women among the wage-earners and salaried employees. They comprised 21.3% of the former category and 28.7% of the latter in the 1954 survey week as compared with 21.6% and 29% in 1953.

In the three years from 1951 average earnings of office and clerical workers advanced from \$51.14 to \$59.29 a week, while average weekly earnings of salaried employees as a whole rose from \$65.98 to \$77.81. Men classified as office workers were paid, on the average, \$70.94 in the 1954 week, \$10.26 above the 1951 figure. Women in the same category received \$44.16 in 1954, an increase of \$6.39 in the three years. Women made up 41.7% of the office workers in 1951 and 43.5% in 1954. (24)

Employment Higher      Total employm it continued to expand from mid-March to mid-  
At Mid-April      April, according to the monthly joint statement by the Depart-  
                                  ment of Labour and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This  
 expansion occurred more slowly than last year but more quickly than in 1954 or  
 1953. At April 21 this year the estimated number of persons with jobs was 5,-  
 326,000, some 85,000 more than in March and 203,000 more than last year. The  
 number without jobs and seeking work was estimated to be 257,000, a decrease of  
 38,000 during the month and of 70,000 from last year. At April 19 there were  
 488,900 persons registered at the National Employment Service, a decline of 44,-  
 700 from mid-March and a drop of 66,963 from a year earlier.

Spring hirings were delayed in many parts of Canada by unusually cold and  
 wet weather. This was particularly noticeable in the Atlantic region where heavy  
 snow brought all woods work to a virtual standstill. The weather also caused  
 some lay-offs in the Prairie region but a large expansion in farm employment re-  
 sulted in some increase in total employment. Employment increased during the  
 month more rapidly than last year in Quebec and British Columbia and somewhat  
 less rapidly in Ontario.

Canada's civilian labour force totalled 5,583,000 in the week ending April  
 21, compared with 5,536,000 a month earlier and 5,450,000 a year ago. Persons  
 at work 35 hours or more in the survey week numbered 4,835,000 versus 4,737,000  
 in March and 4,636,000 last year. The number at work less than 35 hours was  
 371,000 versus 361,000 in March and 370,000 at the same time last year. Persons  
 with jobs but not at work for various reasons numbered 120,000 versus 143,000 in  
 March and 117,000 a year ago.

#### R A I L W A Y   A C C I D E N T S

Fewer Railway Accidents      Accidents, fatalities and injuries resulting from  
and Fatalities in 1954      the movement of trains on Canadian railways were  
                                  fewer in number in 1954 than in the preceding year,  
 according to part 1 of the Bureau's annual report on railway transport. The  
 accident count in 1954 was placed at 2,287 (2,669 in 1953), the fatalities at  
 281 (290), and the number of persons injured at 2,359 (2,781).

Fatalities resulting from non-train accidents totalled 16 in 1954 as com-  
 pared with 15 in 1953. Injuries dropped to 3,132 from 4,044, with the reduction  
 accounted for mainly by fewer injuries to shopmen, down 326 to 1,102, and to  
 trackmen, down 402 to 980.

Accidents at highway crossings brought death to 152 persons (157 in 1953),  
 of whom 42 were killed in urban areas (51 in 1953) and 110 in rural areas (106).  
 A total of 413 persons were injured at highway crossings (450 in 1953), of whom  
 201 were injured at urban crossings (171 in 1953) and 212 at rural crossings  
 (279).

The number of highway crossings in Canada amounted to 33,031 at the end of  
 1954, an increase of 171 during the year. Protected crossings increased by 85  
 during 1954 to 3,535, of which 47 were added in urban areas and 38 in rural areas.  
 About 44% of all protected crossings at the end of 1954 were safeguarded by auto-  
 matic signals, 675 urban and 891 rural. Unprotected crossings rose by 86 to  
 29,496 at the end of the year. There were 61 more in urban areas and 25 more  
 in rural areas.      (25)



Production Of Silver, Lead And Zinc In March And First Quarter

Smaller quantities of silver, lead and zinc were produced in March than in the corresponding month last year. In the first quarter, production totals were larger for silver and zinc but smaller for lead. March production was as follows: silver, 2,296,504 fine ounces (2,413,591 a year ago); lead, 16,589 tons (19,113); and zinc, 36,591 tons (36,674). Three-month totals: silver, 6,671,414 fine ounces (6,556,483); lead, 46,721 tons (53,090); and zinc, 109,105 tons (105,230). (26)

Copper Production Up, Nickel Down In March

Production of primary copper increased in March to 31,658 tons from 26,786 a year ago but nickel eased off to 15,505 tons from 15,544 last year. Output of both primary copper and nickel rose in the first quarter with copper increasing 25.9% to 88,588 tons from 78,316 and nickel 5% to 45,487 tons from 43,306 a year earlier. (27)

## P R I C E S

Security Price IndexesInvestors' Price IndexMay 17May 10  
1935-39 = 100April 19

Total Common Stocks.....	269.5	272.5	272.6
Industrials.....	284.4	287.6	285.6
Utilities.....	205.1	206.3	209.3
Banks.....	269.1	273.6	288.8

Mining Stock Price Index

Total Mining Stocks.....	137.8	137.7	137.2
Gold.....	79.3	80.0	78.3
Base Metals.....	271.6	269.8	272.2

Wholesale Price IndexesApril  
1955March  
1956  
(1935-39 = 100)April  
1956

General Index.....	218.5	223.3	224.5
Vegetable Products.....	198.9	195.2	196.7
Animal Products.....	225.0	217.7	218.2
Textile Products.....	226.3	228.9	229.2
Wood Products.....	293.8	305.6	306.6
Iron Products.....	218.2	232.4	236.1
Non-ferrous metals.....	184.0	207.3	207.5
Non-metallic Minerals.....	175.2	180.0	180.2
Chemical Products.....	177.3	179.5	180.9
Combined Index, Iron and Non-ferrous Metals (excluding gold).	232.6	257.9	260.2

Highway Traffic Entering Canada Declined In April Number of foreign vehicles entering Canada on travellers' vehicle permits declined 11.1% in April to 105,632 units from 118,786 a year earlier. The majority of foreign vehicles entering Canada for the Easter week-end were recorded in March this year whereas in 1955 the Easter traffic was all recorded in April. Entries in the January-April period totalled 292,706 units, a decrease of 1% from a year earlier.

Entries into Newfoundland and Nova Scotia (by ship) increased to 232 units in April from 53 a year ago and Yukon Territory to 224 from 215. The remaining provinces registered decreases with New Brunswick to 8,368 units from 8,598; Quebec, 19,538 (20,418 a year earlier); Ontario, 59,227 (69,745); Manitoba, 1,324 (1,876); Saskatchewan, 644 (724); Alberta, 1,199 (1,272); and British Columbia, 224 (215). (28)

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

- 1-M: Cement & Cement Products, March, 10¢
  - 2-M: Iron Castings & Cast Iron Pipes & Fittings, March, 10¢
  - 3-M: Statistics of Hides, Skins & Leather, March, 10¢
  - 4-Brass & Copper Products Industry, 1954, 25¢
  - 5-Asbestos Products Industry, 1954, 25¢ - 6-Gypsum Industry, 1954, 25¢
  - 7-Miscellaneous Transportation Equipment Industry, 1954, 25¢
  - 8-Paper Box & Bag Industry, 1954, 25¢ - 9-Hardwood Flooring Industry, 1954, 25¢
  - 10-Veneer & Plywood Industry, 1954, 25¢
  - 11-Sash, Door & Planing Mills Industry, 1953, 25¢
  - 12-Department Store Sales & Stocks, March, 10¢
  - 13-Wholesale Trade, March, 10¢ - 14-Retail Trade, March, 25¢
  - 15-Operating Results & Financial Structure of Independent General Stores, 1954, 25¢
  - 16-Operating Results & Financial Structure of Filling Stations & Garages, 1954, 25¢
  - 17-Wheat Review, April, 25¢ - 18-Telegraphic Crop Report - Canada, 10¢
  - 19-M: Monthly Production of Carbonated Beverages, April, 10¢
  - 20-M: Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, April, 25¢ - 21-Fish Processing Industry, 1954, 25¢
  - 22-M: Car Loadings on Canadian Railways, May 7, 10¢
  - 23-M: Motor Carrier - Passenger, December, 10¢
  - 24-Earnings & Hours of Work in Manufacturing, 1954, 40¢
  - 25-Railway Transport - Part 1, 1954, 25¢
  - 26-M: Silver, Lead & Zinc Production, March, 10¢
  - 27-M: Copper & Nickel Production, March, 10¢
  - 28-M: Volume of Highway Traffic Entering Canada on Travellers' Vehicle Permits, April, 10¢
  - Man-Hours & Hourly Earnings With Average Weekly Wages, March, 25¢
- (Summarized in Weekly Bulletin of May 18)

M: Memorandum

Prepared in Press & Publicity Section, Information Services Division

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