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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Foreign Trade: Commodity exports and imports were both higher in value in April this year than in April of any other year, imports rising to the highest figure ever recorded for a month at an estimated \$532,500,000. In the four months this year exports were 10% larger than in 1955 and estimated imports over 31% larger. Commodity data for the first quarter (not available yet for April) show much of the imports increase is in commodities related to capital investment. (Pages 2 & 3)

...

Manufacturing: Canadian industries making chemicals and allied products turned out over a billion dollars' worth of products last year, with a jump of 12% over 1954. Gains were almost general among individual industries, with biggest increases in heavy chemicals, primary plastics and fertilizers. ... Further gains were recorded in April output or sales of domestic refrigerators and washing machines, paint, steel wire, hard and insulating board, floor tiles and mineral wool. (Pages 4 to 6)

...

Cheques: Value of cheques cashed in April was up 29% over last year to make a four-month rise of 19%. All economic areas shared in the rise which brought the month's total to \$16,384,000,000 and the four-month aggregate to \$60,139,000,000. (Page 7)

...

Prices: Consumer price index was unchanged at 116.6 from April to May, a fresh drop in the food index and a slight drop in the household operation index offsetting a continued upward movement in the shelter index and advances in other component indexes ... Wholesale prices in the same period showed a general advance. (Pages 8 & 9)

...

Food: Wheat flour output in April was down again from a year earlier ... Creamery butter stocks in nine cities were larger on June 1, but cheese and egg stocks smaller ... Fluid milk and cream sales rose 7% in March, 6% in first quarter, over last year ... Per capita consumption last year was down from 1954 for eggs, up for poultry meat. (Pages 11 to 13)

...

Transportation: Urban transit systems carried fewer passengers in March and the first quarter this year but had larger revenues, thanks to higher fares. ... Oil pipe-line deliveries were 23% larger in March, nearly 29% larger in the first three months this year than in 1955. (Page 13)

...

Merchandising: Department store sales in April were estimated at close to \$95,000,000, over 5% greater than a year ago ... Chain store sales, on the other hand, were down in April, declines occurring mainly in food, clothing and variety stores. Four-month sales remained larger. (Page 15)

...

Exports And Imports
At New Peaks For April

Both exports and imports were higher in April than in the same month of any earlier year, according to preliminary totals for the month released this week by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The increase in exports was concentrated in shipments to the United States and European countries other than the United Kingdom, that in imports was more widely diffused, with totals for the United States, the United Kingdom and several overseas countries reaching new peaks for the month.

Total exports rebounded from their low March level to reach \$388.2 million. The March figures were affected particularly by the Easter holiday which fell at the end of that month, and the April totals were similarly raised by the relatively large number of working days in the month. Apart from these factors, there was relatively little difference in the steady flow of exports during the first four months of 1956. For the four months they totalled \$1,440 million, an increase of more than 10% over the already high level of the same period in 1955.

The pattern of main export commodity increases in April likewise differed relatively little from the average pattern of the first four months of the year. Wheat exports were some \$20 million higher than a year earlier, crude petroleum exports also went up sharply; these two commodities also led in the four months with respective gains of \$30 million and \$21 million. Important gains were also shown by copper, newsprint, wood pulp and a variety of other commodities.

Imports reached an estimated total of \$532.3 million, the highest value ever recorded for a single month. Like exports, they showed a large increase over the March level, again reflecting the date of the Easter holiday, as well as a normal seasonal upswing. Detailed figures for April imports are not yet available, but indications are that the pattern probably resembled that for the first three months of the year.

The chief feature of the increase in imports during the latter part of 1955 and the first three months of 1956 has been the extent to which it has been concentrated on commodities related to capital investment. Primary and semi-finished steel has shown an especially sharp increase, imports in the first quarter being more than double those of the corresponding period of 1955; and imports classified under the farm implement groups (especially tractors) were 75% above their 1955 level. Imports of a wide range of business and industrial machinery have been half again as great as in the first three months of 1955. Another important gain was in imports of automobiles, which were almost three times as great as in the first quarter of 1955 (imports of automobile parts also showed some increase). Together, these categories accounted for about \$150 million of the \$284 million increase in imports in the first quarter.

The high level of imports in recent months is closely related to the rapid pace of economic development in Canada which has characterized the post-war period and has been even more accentuated since mid-1954. Imports in the first three months were 28% greater than in the same period of 1955, and the gain in imports of iron and steel products (chiefly capital goods) averaged close to 50% in the first quarter. Other imports rose about 17% in the three months. The emphasis on imports of capital goods and materials for development in recent years has contributed to growing exports of a wide variety of forest products, metals and minerals, and to new factories producing goods for domestic consumption as well. The inflow of capital in this period, especially from the United States, has been adequate not only to finance the import balances, but also to keep the Canadian dollar at a premium over its American counterpart.

MORE

The pattern of trade by countries showed relatively little change from 1955 in the first four months of 1956. There was a modest increase in the proportion of exports marketed in the United States, and considerable gains also in shipments to continental Europe. The proportion of imports drawn from the United States was almost unchanged, but other non-Commonwealth countries increased their share of the total, with increases for Germany, Japan, Mexico and Venezuela being especially in evidence in the first quarter.

The following table gives export totals and preliminary import totals for April. More detailed export figures will be published within a few days, but detailed statistics of April imports will not be available for at least a month.

	April		January-April	
	1955	1956	1955	1956
	Millions of Dollars			
<u>Exports (domestic & foreign):</u>				
United Kingdom.....	70.1	65.5	253.9	246.5
Other Commonwealth countries...	20.5	19.3	73.0	77.1
United States.....	194.4	236.6	774.1	878.2
Other foreign countries.....	<u>55.3</u>	<u>66.8</u>	<u>205.9</u>	<u>237.8</u>
Totals..	340.3	388.2	1,306.9	1,439.6
<u>Imports: *</u>				
United Kingdom.....	33.8	49.9	119.2	147.6
Other Commonwealth countries...	18.2	14.1	53.8	53.5
United States.....	284.8	399.4	1,030.5	1,362.9
Other foreign countries.....	<u>45.8</u>	<u>68.9</u>	<u>169.8</u>	<u>242.9</u>
Totals..	382.6	532.3	1,373.3	1,806.9

* Estimate only for latest month; subject to revision.

MINING

Salt Production Up Production of dry common salt by Canadian producers amounted to 57,294 tons in April, up from 36,285 a year ago, boosting January-April production to 291,027 tons from 170,505. Shipments increased to 54,494 tons in April from 33,208 and to 279,695 tons in the four months versus 163,065. Producers' stocks at the end of April rose 36% to 28,059 tons from 20,610 a year ago. (1)

Asbestos Shipments Increased In April Shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines increased 0.9% in April to 99,558 tons as compared with 98,658 last year, but the January-April shipments fell 1.2% to 303,050 tons from 306,668 in the corresponding period a year ago. Exports of asbestos fell in March to 67,494 tons from 73,625, but the first quarter's total rose to 194,002 tons from 191,464. (2)

New Record Set By Canada's Chemical Industries In 1955 Canada's chemicals and allied products industries broke new ground in 1955 when the factory value of shipments passed the billion-dollar-mark for the first time, according to the Bureau's preliminary annual summary. The year's value was \$1,050,000,000, an increase of about 12% over the preceding year's \$936,000,000.

Within the chemicals group, nearly all industries contributed to the record total factory value of shipments by registering gains. Percentage increases over 1954 were as follows by industries: heavy chemicals, 23.5; compressed gasses, 12; fertilizers, 19; medicinals, 7.7; paints, 11.7; soaps, 8.5; toilet preparations, 13; inks, 10; polishes, 10.3; primary plastics, 28.2; miscellaneous, 8.1. Declines of 4.4% and 16.3% were recorded by the vegetable oils and adhesives industries, the decline in the latter being due for the most part to a re-classification of firms to other industries.

In 1955 the 1,112 operating establishments (1,116 in 1954) employed 51,463 persons (51,603) and paid out \$184,434,000 in salaries and wages (\$177,312,000), Cost at plants of materials and supplies used was \$481,879,000 (\$437,051,000), and fuel and electricity cost \$33,346,000 (\$32,213,000).

The rising tempo of economic activity in 1955 was accompanied by a substantial increase in imports of chemicals and allied products. As has been historically the case, the United States continued to supply the bulk of the demand for these products and in 1955 accounted for 85.4% of the \$260,500,000 versus 86.4% of the preceding year's \$220,400,000. At the same time Canada exported chemicals to the value of \$210,000,000, an increase of almost \$50,000,000 over 1954. The United States was the largest customer, taking 53.2% of the total.

Chemical producers indicated their intention to spend \$165,000,000 during 1956 for new equipment in the form of plants and machinery. This is about 2 1/2 times the total spent in 1955 and in magnitude represents an amount only slightly lower than the combined total of \$177,000,000 spent in the ten-year period ending in 1949. (3)

Value Of Paint Sales Increased In April Sales of paints, varnishes and lacquers by manufacturers which normally account for all but a small part of the all-Canada total climbed 12.6% in April to \$12,370,697 from \$10,987,428 a year ago, raising January-April sales 12.7% to \$39,403,613 from \$34,935,746. (4)

Output Of Steel Wire Increased In April Output of steel wire and specified wire products increased in April and the January-April period as compared with a year earlier. Steel wire production increased nearly 22% in April to 38,921 tons versus 31,965, raising the four-month total almost 25% to 152,919 tons as compared with 122,695. Output of wire fencing advanced to 1,910 tons in April from 1,717 (8,015 tons in the January-April period versus 6,951 a year ago), wire rope to 3,312 tons from 2,386 (13,801 versus 8,772), and nails, tacks and staples to 9,025 tons from 7,575 (34,950 versus 26,001). (5)

Production Of Mineral Wool Climbed In April Production of mineral wool increased in April and the first four months of 1956 over the same periods last year. Output of mineral wool batts rose to 18,084,610 square feet in April from 11,442,094 a year ago and to 73,867,838 square feet in the four months from 45,780,564. Production of granulated, bulk or loose wool rose to 728,216 cubic feet in April from 632,097, raising the cumulative total to 3,698,894 cubic feet from 2,933,425. (6)

Production And Shipments
Of Hard Board Up In April

Production, domestic shipments and export shipments of hard board increased in April, and in the January-April period. Production in the month rose to 20,342,001 square feet from 14,716,475 a year ago, domestic shipments to 12,858,835 square feet from 9,904,066, and export shipments to 7,158,356 square feet from 5,160,200. Totals for the four-month period, last year's totals in brackets, were: production, 81,155,269 square feet (58,476,972); domestic shipments, 48,327,454 (35,103,527; and export shipments, 31,054,448 (22,301,147). (7)

Output Of Rigid Insulating
Board Increased In April

Production of rigid insulating board increased 23% in April to 31,576,000 square feet from 25,592,000 a year ago, and the four-month total rose 34% to 128,063,000 square feet as compared with 95,441,000 in the corresponding period last year.

Domestic shipments advanced to 27,009,000 square feet in April from 20,195,000 a year earlier, comprising 8,726,000 square feet of building board panels (7,794,000 a year earlier), 7,818,000 square feet of asphalted sheathing board (4,657,000), 470,000 square feet of lath for plaster base (982,000), 6,273,000 square feet of roof insulation board (4,230,000), and 3,722,000 square feet of other rigid board (2,532,000). (8)

Production Of Asphalt And Vinyl-
Asbestos Floor Tiles Up In April

Production of asphalt and vinyl-asbestos floor tiles increased in April and in the four-month period. Output of asphalt floor tiles in April rose to 1,598,000 square feet from 1,179,000 a year ago, raising the cumulative total to 6,850,000 square feet from 5,854,000 in the corresponding period last year. Production of vinyl-asbestos floor tile increased to 1,191,000 square feet in April from 1,177,000 a year earlier and to 4,482,000 square feet in the four-month period from 3,647,000. (9)

Production and Shipments
Of Veneer And Plywood

Larger quantities of plywood were produced and shipped in March and the first quarter of this year than a year earlier. Output of veneer declined in March but rose in the quarter. Month-end stocks were larger for veneer but smaller for plywood.

In March 107,951,000 feet board measure of plywood were produced (96,874,000 a year earlier) and 107,641,000 board feet were shipped (94,174,000). Output of veneer amounted to 90,295,000 feet board measure (98,787,000) and shipments totalled 90,-868,000 board feet (98,782,000).

January-March output of plywood amounted to 318,628,000 board feet (269,452,000) and shipments totalled 312,405,000 board feet (247,162,000). The quarter's output of veneer amounted to 280,594,000 board feet (252,001,000) and shipments totalled 274,-693,000 board feet (252,326,000). Month-end stocks of plywood were 43,539,000 board feet (70,675,000) and of veneer, 29,649,000 board feet (28,149,000). (10)

Cement Manufacturing Industry in 1955

Canadian manufacturers shipped a record 25,-168,464 barrels of Portland cement in 1955, according to the Bureau's annual industry report. The value was \$65,650,025. Production in 1954 amounted to 22,437,477 barrels valued at \$59,035,644. There were 12 establishments in operation in both 1955 and 1954. These employed 2,801 persons (2,575 in 1954), paid \$10,962,895 in salaries and wages (\$9,802,707), and paid out \$11,505,305 for process supplies, materials and containers (\$10,667,304 in 1954) (11)

Roofing Paper Industry Value of factory shipments for 28 establishments comprising Canada's roofing paper industry in 1954 grossed \$38,931,-254, 9% lower than 1953's \$42,773,977. Employees rose to 2,649 from 2,477, salaries and wages to \$8,445,101 from \$7,803,402, and cost of materials used in 1954 to \$20,361,637 from \$20,315,397.

Shipments in the order of value (1953 totals in brackets) were: asphalt shingles, \$17,635,756 (\$18,691,596); tar and asphalt saturated felts, \$4,554,562 (\$4,581,490); mineral surfaced roll roofings, \$2,652,533 (\$3,228,562); smooth surfaced roll roofings, \$2,447,707 (\$2,425,616); tar and asphalt saturated and coated sheathings, \$2,374,788 (\$1,998,320); and roll type rag and asbestos felt sidings, \$924,992 (\$1,420,848) (12)

Production & Shipments Of Electric Refrigerators Up In April, 4 Months Larger numbers of domestic electric refrigerators were produced and shipped in April and the first four months of this year than a year earlier. Both output and shipments of individual home and farm freezers were down in April but up in the four-month period.

Production of domestic electric refrigerators amounted to 35,643 units in April (28,885 a year ago) and to 111,863 units in the four months (92,393). Shipments totalled 31,398 units in April (30,179) and 104,061 units in the four months (94,604). Month-end factory stocks were down to 26,388 units from 39,565.

Production of individual electric home and farm freezers amounted to 1,108 units in April (1,183 a year ago) and to 3,592 units in the January-April period (3,441). Domestic shipments were 1,055 units in April (1,097) and 3,902 units in the four months (3,868). Factory stocks at month's end were 965 units versus 1,315. (13)

Production And Shipments Of Washing Machines Up In April and Four Months Larger numbers of domestic washing machines were produced and shipped in April and the first four months of this year than a year earlier. The month's output amounted to 22,231 units (21,820 a year ago), and shipments numbered 24,250 units (20,819). In the four months 101,644 units were made (78,865 last year) and 94,072 were shipped (78,501). Month-end factory stocks were 33,754 units versus 27,081. (14)

Producers' Sales Of Radios Up In March And Quarter But Television Sales Down Producers' sales of radio receiving sets increased in March and the first quarter of this year as compared with a year earlier, but sales of television sets declined.

Sales of radio receiving sets in March amounted to 51,838 units versus 45,371 a year ago, bringing January-March sales to 129,156 units versus 115,379 last year. Sales of television receiving sets in March numbered 37,379 units versus 53,549 last year, bringing the quarter's total to 141,958 units versus 165,166.

Sales of home radio receiving sets increased in the first quarter to 72,975 units from 56,989 a year ago, but portable and auto sets declined to 48,954 units from 49,038, and combinations to 7,227 units from 9,352. Sales of television table models fell to 69,206 units from 99,713, but sales of console models rose to 69,147 units from 63,536, and three-way combinations to 3,605 units from 1,917.

March sales were: radio home sets, 28,071 units (21,057 a year earlier); portable and auto radio sets, 21,546 units (21,524); radio combination sets, 2,221 units (2,790); table model television sets, 16,400 units (33,733); television console sets 19,896 units (19,176); and television three-way combination sets, 1,083 units (640). (15)

Rubber Consumption Decreased Consumption of rubber -- natural, synthetic and reclaim -- was slightly lower in March at 8,845 tons versus 8,872 a month earlier, but stocks at month-end rose to 14,738 tons from 14,432. Domestic production of synthetic and reclaim increased to 10,831 tons from 8,636. (16)

Leather Footwear Production Up Canadian production of leather footwear increased to 3,766,873 pairs in February from 3,102,585 in the corresponding month last year and to 7,211,492 pairs in the January-February period from 5,945,376. (17)

Bridge Building & Structural Steel Industry Value of work done by 43 establishments in the bridge building and structural steel industry in 1954 (47 in 1953) declined fractionally to \$156,102,978 from \$156,327,770 in the preceding year. Employees decreased to 10,881 from 11,243 in the preceding year and earnings to \$42,167,982 from \$42,534,324, but the cost of materials rose to \$67,131,407 from \$64,196,383.

Value of the principal products of the industry were: structural work for buildings, \$82,003,246 (\$70,001,923 in 1953); other structural work -- bridges, transmission towers, etc. -- \$24,202,786 (\$25,617,739); plate and tank work, \$12,908,495 (\$15,786,483); and mechanical work, including cranes, trolleys, boilers, machinery, etc., \$9,531,749 (\$12,650,512). Sales of plain material (channels, etc.) rose to \$13,742,614 from \$13,177,978 in 1953. (18)

Machine Shops Industry Value of work done in Canada's machine shops industry declined to \$40,943,452 in 1954 from 1953's record \$43,040,695, according to the annual report on the industry by DBS. The industry included 653 independent shops in 1954 as against 625 in 1953. Shops which operate in connection with factories, mines, paper mills and other enterprises, and shops which make a regular line of products are not included. Employees decreased to 6,325 from 6,509 and their salaries and wages to \$19,195,458 from \$19,582,628. Cost of materials at the plants dropped to \$12,935,630 from \$13,617,124, but cost of fuel and electricity rose to \$826,610 from \$769,114. (19)

BUSINESS

Bank Debits Up Sharply In April, 4 Months Value of cheques cashed in clearing centres rose 29% in April and 19% in the January-April period as compared with a year earlier. All five economic areas shared in the rise both in the month and four months. Debits in April totalled \$16,384,000,000 versus \$12,690,000,000, bringing the 4-month total to \$60,139,000,000 versus \$50,424,000,000.

In April the Prairie Provinces recorded the largest increase rate of nearly 37% to \$2,488,000,000 from \$1,820,000,000. Quebec was next with a rise of 35.3% to \$4,804,000,000 from \$3,550,000,000; the Atlantic Provinces 26.3% to \$406,800,000 from \$322,000,000; Ontario 24.7% to \$7,491,000,000 from \$6,009,000,000; and British Columbia 20.8% to \$1,194,000,000 from \$988,800,000. January-April totals follow by economic areas: Atlantic Provinces, \$1,564,000,000 (\$1,303,000,000 in 1955); Quebec, \$18,365,000,000 (\$14,789,000,000); Ontario, \$27,081,000,000 (\$23,311,000,000); Prairie Provinces, \$8,561,000,000 (\$7,187,000,000); and British Columbia, \$4,568,000,000 (\$3,834,000,000). (20)

Canada's Consumer Price Index
Unchanged Between April & May

it was 115.5. Current decreases in the food and household operation indexes were counter-balanced by slight increases in the shelter, clothing and "other" commodities and services series.

Canada's consumer price index remained unchanged at 116.6 between the beginning of April and May. A year ago the index was 116.4, and in May 1954

The food index declined from 109.7 to 109.3 as sharply lower prices were reported for tomatoes, along with lesser declines for coffee and some fresh vegetables and meats. Prices were higher for eggs, fresh and canned fruits, potatoes and most cuts of beef.

Both rent and home-ownership components contributed to the upward movement of the shelter index from 131.9 to 132.1. The clothing index moved from 108.7 to 108.8 as slight increases in footwear and children's wear were partially offset by a decrease in women's spring coats.

The household operation index moved from 116.6 to 116.5 under the influence of a seasonal decrease in coal prices and lower insurance rates for household effects. Increased prices were reported for household supplies, kitchen utensils, and some items of furniture, as were higher telephone rates in some centres.

The "other" commodities and services index rose from 120.1 to 120.5. Prices of theatre admissions, haircuts and hairdressing advanced, while prices of new automobiles and automobile insurance rates declined (21)

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

		Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities & Services
May	1956	116.6	109.3	132.1	108.8	116.5	120.5
April	1956	116.6	109.7	131.9	108.7	116.6	120.1
May	1955	116.4	112.3	128.8	107.9	116.4	118.3

Wholesale Prices In April
Showed General Advance

Canada's general wholesale price index, on the 1935-39 base, advanced 0.5% from 223.3 to 224.5 between March and April, extending the upward climb begun late in 1954 and continuing through 1955 and the first four months of 1956 with only four slight interruptions. The continuous rise during the past six months is the result of increases in all the component material groups except animal products where weakness in livestock, meat, lard, tallow, eggs and raw furs outweighed strength in all other sub-groups. All groups advanced between March and April. Iron and its products showed the largest gain, moving up 1.6% to 236.1 in response to a large increase for steel scrap and lesser increases for tin plate, steel plates and pig iron. Vegetable products advanced 0.8% to 196.7. As in the past few months decreases in raw rubber and cocoa and its products dampened the effect of increases registered by other sub-groups, notably potatoes, vegetable oils and their products, livestock and poultry feeds, and grains. Increases in paint, fertilizer materials, industrial gases and inorganic chemicals moved chemicals and allied products up 0.8% to 180.9.

MORE

Wood, wood products and paper rose 0.3% to 306.6 with increases for wall-board, several kinds of lumber, wrapping paper and sulphate woodpulp. A slightly lower exchange rate for the United States dollar in Canadian funds caused a few small decreases among items in this and other groups. Animal products advanced 0.2% to 218.2 in reversal to the previous down-trend. Steers and beef carcass showed increases which along with higher prices for eggs, boots and shoes, fowl, lambs and lamb carcass, oils and fats, and hides and skins outweighed decreases in fishery products, milk and its products, raw furs, calves and hogs, veal carcass and a net decrease in cured meats.

Fibres, textiles and textile products, non-metallic minerals and non-ferrous metals each advanced 0.1% to 229.2, 180.2 and 207.5, respectively. Accounting for the change were higher prices for miscellaneous fibre products, cotton fibres, cotton yarns and imported raw wool in the first; coal, plaster and building tile in the second; and aluminum and its products in the last. Partially offsetting decreases occurred for raw cotton and domestic raw wool; crushed stone, asphalt and sulphur; and tin ingots, gold and silver.

The composite price index of Canadian farm products at terminal markets rose 1.5% between March and April from 197.5 to 200.4. In field products an increase of 2.9% from 164.0 to 168.7 reflected higher quotations for potatoes, western hay and rye, eastern corn, barley and wheat. Western flax was slightly lower. The index for animal products increased 0.4% from 231.1 to 232.0. Eggs, steers and lambs and eastern poultry registered increases which were largely offset, however, by lower prices for calves, hogs, eastern fluid milk and cheese milk, and western wool.

The index of residential building materials (1935-39=100) rose 0.5% between March and April from 291.8 to 293.4. The change was supported principally by an advance in the lumber group where scattered increases lifted the index from 419.2 to 422.0. This group has climbed gradually from the 1954 March and April low of 397.3 but is still under the peak level of 439.2 reached in May 1951. Increases were also recorded for rockwool and paint which served to offset relatively minor price decreases elsewhere in the index. The index of non-residential building materials prices, on the base 1949=100, remained unchanged from 127.2. Offsetting price movements occurred in the various groups, including increases for rockwool, paint and enamel, building tile and some lumber items, while declines were noted for crushed stone, cement blocks, roofing pitch, and linoleum. (22)

Trend Upward In May Industrial material prices at wholesale rose fractionally in the four-week period April 27 to May 25, from 248.8 to 249.1. Items registering price advances were steers and hogs at Toronto, oats, cottonseed oil, sisal, bituminous coal, raw sugar and wheat. Declines occurred in beef hides, raw rubber, raw cotton, linseed oil, iron ore, sulphite woodpulp, and tin ingots. Weakness in several commodities reflected further weakness in the United States dollar.

The index of Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets rose 5.8% from 201.0 to 212.7. Field products gained 7.2% as the index changed from 169.2 to 181.4, reflecting further sharp price increases for potatoes, particularly on eastern markets. Animal products rose 4.8% from 232.9 to 244.0, higher prices were reported for eastern spring lambs; steers and hogs; eastern poultry and western eggs. (21)

Index Of Common Stock Prices Lower The investors' index of 96 common stocks declined 3.8% from 270.8 to 260.6 in the four-week period April 26 to May 24. The week-to-week movement was again one of initial strength followed by continued weakness in the last three weeks.

Two of the three major groups showed declines of similar magnitude: 76 industrials receded 3.6% from 283.9 to 273.7, while 13 utilities fell 3% from 206.5 to 200.4. The bank group, however, which has declined for five straight weeks, fell 7.1% in the four-week comparison, from 288.1 to 267.7.

All sub-groups were lower with the exception of power and traction which rose fractionally. Declines were led by transportation, down 8.2%; building materials, 7.8%; beverages, 6.4%; textiles and clothing, 5.8%; and milling, 4.9%.

The composite index of 26 mining issues declined 2.6% in the period under review from 136.9 to 133.3. Losses occurred in both groups: 21 golds fell 3.2% from 79.0 to 76.5; and 5 base metals 2.3% from 269.5 to 263.4. (21)

Security Price Indexes

<u>Investors' Price Index</u>	<u>May 31</u>	<u>May 24</u> 1935-39 = 100	<u>May 3</u>
Total Common Stocks	263.6	260.6	276.2
Industrials	277.6	273.7	291.4
Utilities	201.9	200.4	207.2
Banks	265.0	267.7	283.0
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
Total Mining Stocks	134.0	133.3	139.5
Golds	77.1	76.5	81.0
Base Metals	264.2	263.4	273.5

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

Outlook For Fruit Crops In May The general outlook for fruit crops at the end of May was influenced by several factors. Little winter damage was reported outside of British Columbia. The season in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces was from two to three weeks later than usual. Several degrees of frost were reported in the important soft fruit producing Niagara district during the second half of May. This may have damaged fruit buds and blossoms.

In British Columbia the season was more advanced than usual but rain was needed in the non-irrigated sections of the province. Losses from freezes in November and February throughout the province were very heavy in tree fruits and small fruit plantations except in the Saanich Peninsula of Vancouver Island. Although high temperatures during April advanced growth in British Columbia, it was not expected that the full extent of the winter damage would be apparent until somewhat later in the summer.

Blueberries in Nova Scotia sustained no winter damage. Acreage is reported to be up this year and with a normal growing season crop prospects were favourable.

(23)

Production Of Processed Foods In First Quarter

Canadian food processors manufactured more plain and fancy biscuits, soda biscuits, chocolate bars, boxed and packaged chocolates, marmalades, baked beans (including beans with pork), canned soups, ready-to-serve cereals, and canned meats, but less jams, canned infant and junior foods, jelly powders, pudding powders, prepared cake mixes and luncheon meat.

Output of some principal food items in the first quarter of 1956 (figures for the corresponding 1955 period in brackets) was as follows:

Biscuits & Confectionery: plain and fancy biscuits, 44,609,005 pounds (42,719,515); soda biscuits, 12,652,011 pounds (12,032,699); chewing gum, 3,109,909 boxes (3,781,330); cocoa powder for sale, 2,040,015 pounds (2,209,695); chocolate coatings for sale, 3,009,270 pounds (2,593,880); chocolate bars, 12,590,415 dozen (11,899,922); boxed and packaged chocolates, 4,887,402 pounds (4,033,294); sugar confectionery, 15,544,197 pounds (16,405,960); ice cream cones, 85,347,000 (92,082,000); and marshmallows, 1,414,789 pounds (1,292,729).

Fruit & Vegetable Preparations: cherries glacé, 353,180 pounds (441,537); maraschino cherries, 797,226 pounds (603,514); jams, 15,750,052 pounds (18,416,602); jellies, 1,624,620 pounds (1,482,285); marmalades, 5,885,406 pounds (5,333,527); baked beans (including beans with pork), 29,395,234 pounds (22,721,990); pickles, 1,441,395 gallons (1,091,334); canned soups, 5,483,105 dozen (4,930,205); and canned infant and junior foods, 10,835,423 pounds (13,215,183).

Miscellaneous Foods: baking powder, 2,406,514 pounds (2,565,752); ready-to-serve cereals, 21,055,879 pounds (18,396,754); roasted coffee, 20,146,120 pounds (17,993,616); food drinks, 686,493 pounds (489,844); dry macaroni, 22,755,111 pounds (21,620,067); canned macaroni, 9,906,685 pounds (7,375,981); mincemeat, 711,433 pounds (1,071,195); prepared mustard, 340,922 (286,655); salted and roasted peanuts, 4,866,753 pounds (4,446,672); peanut butter, 7,438,418 pounds (6,551,334); custard powders, 190,059 pounds (177,529); ice cream powders, 131,723 (106,153); jelly powders, 2,970,043 (3,887,985); pie filling powders, 972,707 pounds (1,707,485); pudding powders, 3,156,345 pounds (3,348,619); prepared candy and icing mixes, 352,300 pounds (241,817); prepared cake mixes, 8,305,623 pounds (11,196,148); prepared pie crust mixes, 1,832,642 pounds (1,419,799); process cheese, 12,801,287 pounds (11,655,593); salad dressing and mayonnaise, 5,160,563 pounds (5,586,230); sandwich spreads, 1,055,722 pounds (741,526); blended and packed tea, 10,925,304 pounds (11,887,596); spirit vinegar, 2,373,571 gallons (1,815,089); cider vinegar, 134,451 gallons (102,877); and malt vinegar, 147,813 gallons (148,584).

Canned Meat & Meat Products: corned beef, 244,773 pounds (107,276); spiced beef, 200,300 (130,096); luncheon meat, 5,331,286 pounds (5,826,122); canned hams, 4,987,422 pounds (5,356,963); ready dinners, 4,218,986 pounds (4,373,973); bologna, 407,666 pounds (249,477); meat paste, 1,717,140 pounds (1,223,801); chicken and turkey, 1,464,693 pounds (682,093); wieners, 109,723 pounds (226,283); wieners and beans, 705,298 pounds (763,010); and total canned meats, 21,040,730 pounds (20,725,899). (24)

Wheat Flour Production Down In April

Wheat flour production declined to 3,270,379 cwt. in April from 3,336,875 cwt. in the preceding month and 3,322,486 cwt. in the corresponding month last year. Cumulative output for the August-April period fell to 29,967,848 cwt. from 31,308,287. Wheat flour exports amounted to 1,424,398 cwt. in April, bringing August-April exports to 12,412,309 cwt. (13,852,537 a year earlier). (25)

Visible Supplies Of Wheat Larger Visible supplies of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America increased slightly to 332,071,000 bushels on May 23 as compared with 323,292,000 bushels at the corresponding date last year. Farmers' marketings of wheat in the Prairie Provinces rose to 8,408,000 bushels from 5,104,000 a year ago and overseas export clearances soared to 10,523,000 bushels versus 2,639,000. (26)

Creamery Butter Stocks Larger Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada were larger on June 1 than a year earlier but smaller for cheddar cheese and eggs. Stocks of creamery butter were 48,494,000 pounds (42,693,000 a year earlier); cheddar cheese, 12,036,000 pounds (14,754,000); and cold storage eggs, 90,000 cases (176,000).

Creamery butter stocks were as follows by cities (in thousands): Quebec, 4,770 (1,833 a year earlier); Montreal, 24,610 (20,599); Toronto, 5,458 (7,574); Winnipeg, 11,998 (10,330); Regina, 370 (705); Saskatoon, 289 (363); Edmonton, 351 (351); Calgary, 183 (215); and Vancouver, 465 (723). (27)

Production And Consumption Of Eggs And Poultry Meat Net production of eggs in Canada last year amounted to 383,200,000 dozen, a decrease of 2.4% from the preceding year's 392,400,000 dozen. Farm production declined to 372,500,000 dozen from 381,300,000. Average number of layers on farms in 1955 was estimated at 26,400,000, a decrease of 800,000 from 1954. The rate of lay for the year increased to 171 eggs from 170.

Total sales of eggs for consumption was estimated at 319,800,000 dozen valued at \$130,400,000 versus 329,800,000 valued at \$123,400,000 in the preceding year. Farm producers retained 50,800,000 dozen versus 50,600,000. Farm cash income from egg sales, including hatching eggs, was \$132,600,000 versus \$125,300,000 a year earlier.

Egg exports during 1955 amounted to the equivalent of 4,000,000 dozen versus 7,300,000 a year earlier, while imports were 2,100,000 dozen versus 2,200,000. Storage holdings declined during 1955 from 10,500,000 dozen at January 1 to 6,200,000 at January 1, 1956. Estimated domestic consumption was 374,200,000 dozen, or a per capita consumption of 24 dozen as compared with 24.4 a year earlier.

Poultry meat production amounted to 443,200,000 pounds in 1955 versus 421,500,000 in the preceding year. The greater part of this production was accounted for by an estimated total of 359,600,000 pounds of fowl and chicken (332,600,000 in 1954). Turkey meat production amounted to 76,300,000 pounds (81,400,000); goose meat, 3,500,000 (3,500,000); and duck meat, 3,700,000 (4,000,000).

Sales of farm-produced fowl and chicken were estimated at 300,800,000 pounds valued at \$116,100,000 versus 267,300,000 pounds valued at \$103,100,000 in the preceding year. Turkey meat sold by farmers was estimated at 71,000,000 pounds valued at \$32,600,000 versus 75,900,000 pounds valued at \$31,800,000 a year earlier.

Per capita consumption of poultry meat during 1955 amounted to 29.7 pounds, up from 28.7 a year earlier. Per capita consumption of fowl and chicken amounted to 23.5 pounds (22.6 in 1954) of turkey, 5.7 (5.6). (28)

Shipments Of Prepared Stock And Poultry Feeds Up In March, Quarter

Shipments of prepared stock and poultry feeds were larger in March and the first quarter of this year than a year earlier. The month's shipments comprised 28,855 tons of concentrated feeds (23,857 a year earlier); 176,126 tons of complete feeds (149,824); and 52,215 tons of all other animal feeds (43,993). The quarter's shipments were: concentrates, 80,041 tons (69,651); complete feeds, 481,356 (419,770); and all other animal feeds, 151,279 (122,852). (29)

Fluid Milk Sales Increased In March And In Quarter

Combined sales of fluid milk and cream, the latter expressed as milk, amounted to 1,398,198,000 pounds in the first quarter, a 6% increase over the same period last year. March sales rose 7% to 499,342,000 pounds.

In the quarter all provinces except Prince Edward Island shared in the sales increase with Nova Scotia at 47,303,000 pounds (a 5% increase over a year earlier), New Brunswick, 38,889,000 (4%), Quebec, 528,179,000 (7%), Ontario, 475,110,000 (6%), Manitoba, 60,570,000 (7%), Saskatchewan, 66,488,000 (6%), Alberta, 75,187,000 (8%), and British Columbia, 99,302,000 (7%). Prince Edward Island sales fell 1% to 7,170,000 pounds.

March totals (with change from last year in brackets) were: Nova Scotia, 16,807,000 pounds (4%); New Brunswick, 13,578,000 (6%); Quebec, 184,981,000 (8%); Ontario, 172,297,000 (7%); Manitoba, 21,580,000 (6%); Saskatchewan, 24,104,000 (6%); Alberta, 27,324,000 (9%); and British Columbia, 36,171,000 (7%). Prince Edward Island with sales of 2,500,000 pounds was unchanged from last year. (30)

TRANSPORTATION

Fewer Passengers Carried by Urban Transit Systems In March & Quarter

Number of passengers carried by urban transit systems decreased in March and in the first quarter of 1956, but due to increased fares in several large cities revenues increased in the two periods. Passengers carried in March declined 5% to 105,925,044 from 111,485,860 a year ago, lowering the January-March total 3.2% to 307,459,829 from 317,756,536. Revenues in March increased 3.4% to \$11,053,222 from \$10,686,214, boosting the quarter's total 4.3% to \$32,081,116 from \$30,780,577. (31)

Pipe Line Deliveries Of Oil Increased In March, Quarter

Net deliveries of oil through Canadian pipe-lines increased 23% in March to 22,838,012 barrels versus 18,561,758 a year ago, bringing the January-March total to 67,432,575 barrels up nearly 29% as compared with 52,403,634 in last year's corresponding period.

Net deliveries in the first quarter rose in British Columbia to 11,189,261 barrels from 6,342,778, Alberta to 4,992,349 barrels from 4,665,600, Saskatchewan to 4,437,831 barrels from 3,619,767, Manitoba to 16,920,079 barrels from 11,999,092, Ontario to 11,217,553 barrels from 9,789,575, and Quebec to 18,675,502 barrels from 15,986,822.

Totals for March were: British Columbia, 4,064,761 barrels (3,765,060 a year earlier); Alberta, 1,586,298 barrels (1,461,329); Saskatchewan, 1,409,604 barrels (1,330,349); Manitoba, 5,834,147 barrels (5,475,290); Ontario, 3,863,882 barrels (3,478,475); and Quebec, 6,079,320 (5,694,716). (32)

Travel Between Canada And The United States Increased In April

More than one million vehicles crossed the Canada-United States border into Canada from the United States in April, an increase of nearly 7% over the corresponding month a year ago. Aggregate crossings totalled 1,184,200 (564,500 foreign vehicles and 619,700 units registered in Canada) as compared with 1,107,900 last year. Foreign vehicles entering Canada increased 6% and Canadian vehicles re-entering increased between 7% and 8%.

Volume of traffic entering Canada on travellers' vehicle permits declined 11% from last year, due no doubt to the changed date of the Easter week-end, lowering the January-April total 1%. The volume of long-term Canadian traffic abroad over 24 hours increased about 5% in April and 29% in the four-month period.

Traffic by rail, through bus, boat and plane advanced over 3% in March as compared with a year earlier. The number of foreign travellers entering Canada by these means of transportation increased over 1% and the number of Canadian travellers returning from the United States rose nearly 5%. (33)

E D U C A T I O N

Teacher-Training Institutions In 1953

In 1953 there were 142 institutions in Canada for the training of teachers (144 in 1955), according to the DBS. One hundred and eighteen of these were teachers' colleges (normal schools) primarily for the training of elementary teachers and 24 were colleges and university faculties of education primarily for the training of secondary teachers. One hundred and one or 85% of the normal schools and 7 (35%) of the colleges of education are in Quebec province.

In 1953-54 enrolment in the teacher-training schools was 76% of capacity --57% in the Atlantic provinces, 75% in the Catholic schools of Quebec, 87% in the Quebec Protestant institutions, 76% in Ontario, 95% in the Prairie Provinces, and 70% in British Columbia. Enrolment for the year was 10,159 in the normal schools, and 2,265 in the colleges of education, a total of 12,424. The reported enrolment capacity was 16,260.

There were 1,257 on the staffs of the normal schools, of whom 82% were full-time instructors (67% women). University degrees were held by 51% and 89% of these were earned in Canada: 78% had basic teaching certificates, 4% with special certificates; 123 out of the remaining 146 instructors had other training appropriate to their work; 86% had taught in other schools.

There were 224 on the staffs of the colleges of education; 58% of these were full-time instructors and 77% were men; 91% held university degrees. The majority of the degrees both academic and professional reported by the instructors in the French language institutions were earned in Canada, while 60% of those reported by instructors in the English language institutions were earned in U.S. 86% of the instructors in the colleges of education had had experience teaching in other types of schools.

Of the total of 1,481 instructors in all types of teacher-training institutions, 77% were in the Roman Catholic institutions in Quebec. (34)

Department Store Sales Department store sales rose 8.2% in the week ending May 26 as compared with a year earlier. There were sales gains in all provinces except Manitoba where the decrease was 1.1%. Largest rise (14.3%) occurred in Alberta, Quebec was next with a gain of 11.6%, then Saskatchewan 10.7%, Ontario 8.8%, British Columbia 6.1%, and the Atlantic Provinces 3.5%.

Sales in April increased 5.2% to an estimated \$94,869,000 from \$90,203,000 a year ago. Twenty of the 29 specified departments as well as the "all other" category recorded increases in April this year over the corresponding period last year.

Some of the major increases were: hardware and housewares, 19.6% to \$7,785,000 from \$6,511,000; major appliances, 19.6% to \$5,668,000 from \$4,738,000; furniture, 18.2% to \$5,965,000 from \$5,046,000; home furnishings, 15.7% to \$6,839,000 from \$5,909,000; sporting goods and luggage, 13.7% to \$3,315,000 from \$2,915,000; linens and domestics, 13.3% to \$2,431,000 from \$2,145,000; piece goods, 12.5% to \$2,283,000 from \$2,029,000; and china and glassware, 10.4% to \$924,000 from \$837,000.

Larger sales decreases reported were: millinery, 15.8% to \$1,129,000 from \$1,353,000; boys' clothing and furnishings, 9.2% to \$2,475,000 from \$2,725,000; hosiery and apparel accessories, 8.0% to \$3,231,000 from \$3,512,000; women's and misses' coats and suits, 5.7% to \$3,949,000 from \$4,186,000; girls' and infants' wear, 4.4% to \$4,833,000 from \$5,058,000. (35)

Chain Store Sales Down 5.2% In April Chain store sales declined 5.2% in April to \$180,314,000 from \$190,290,000 a year ago but January-April sales rose 7.3% to \$699,937,000 from \$652,020,000, DBS reports. Stocks at cost, at the beginning of April, were valued at \$272,235,000, up 5.4% from \$258,213,000 a year earlier.

Only four of the 11 types of chains for which figures are available showed sales increases in April. The grocery and combination store group, largest of the 11, had a sales decline of 1.2% in April to \$82,197,000 from \$83,183,000, but a 9.3% increase in the four months to \$329,536,000 from \$301,455,000. Chains with sales increases in April were: hardware, 14% to \$1,679,000 from \$1,473,000 last year; lumber and building materials, 19.1% to \$4,937,000 from \$4,145,000; jewellery, 5.4% to \$2,513,000 from \$2,384,000; and furniture, radio and appliance, 1.2% to \$7,953,000 from \$7,859,000.

Decreased sales were recorded in the remaining chains: men's clothing, 21.8% to \$1,825,000 from \$2,335,000; shoe, 15.6% to \$3,852,000 from \$4,563,000; women's clothing, 13.5% to \$4,348,000 from \$5,025,000; variety, 13% to \$15,394,000 from \$17,697,000; family clothing, 9.4% to \$2,586,000 from \$2,855,000; and drug, 0.9% to \$3,048,000 from \$3,077,000. (36)

E L E C T R I C P O W E R

Central Electric Stations In 1954 Production of electric energy by Canada's central electric stations in 1954 totalled 65,936,440,000 kilowatt hours, an increase of almost 5% over the preceding year's 62,860,927,000, and more than doubling 1939's output of 28,338,030,000 kilowatt hours, according to the Bureau's annual report on central electric stations.

Pole line mileage continued to advance, aggregating 228,158 miles as compared with 213,176 in 1953 and 72,132 in 1939. Customers numbered 4,001,626, an increase of 184,171 or 4.8% over 1953 and 106.1% over the 1939 figure. In the same span, the population of Canada rose almost 35%. Domestic customers (including farm customers) represented 86% of the national total in 1954.

Net revenues received by central electric stations totalled \$505,526,254 in 1954, well above 1953's \$469,047,351, and nearly three and one-half times as large as 1939's \$151,880,969. At the same time expenses (wages, fuel, taxes and cost of power purchased) rose to \$322,439,240 from \$317,669,816 in 1953 and \$91,982,372 in 1939.

Revenues reported by all distributors from domestic service totalled \$190,692,703 in 1954 as against \$168,271,169 in 1953 and \$43,793,482 in 1939. Commercial lighting produced \$88,910,945 or \$8,225,191 more than in 1953, while large power users, such as paper mills, smelters and factories, paid \$189,066,685 compared with \$185,299,581 in the preceding year. Revenues of public stations amounted to \$311,182,494 in 1954 as compared with \$194,343,760 for private stations and the public group had over twice as many customers as the private. Salaries and wages totalled \$120,322,349 against \$115,652,039. The cost of purchased power (interchanged between stations) decreased from \$134,853,180 in 1953 to \$134,464,176. Fuel costs declined from \$19,797,354 to \$16,969,850, a drop of 14%.

The growing use of electricity is illustrated by the considerable advance in the average kilowatt hours purchased per domestic customer with the Canada total at 3,271 kilowatt hours for 1954 compared with 1,423 in 1939, a rise of nearly 130%. The 1954 average bill stood at \$55.29 against \$26.97 in 1939, an increase of 105%.

Comparison with other countries shows that Canadians enjoy one of the lowest rates per kilowatt hour in the world. In the United States the average revenue per kilowatt hour sold to residential or domestic customers averaged 2.7¢ in 1954 against 1.7¢ per kilowatt hour in Canada. Commercial and industrial sales in the United States averaged 1.4¢ per kilowatt hour compared with 0.7¢ for Canada. (37)

LABOUR

Fewer Claims For Unemployment Insurance Benefits In April

Fewer initial and renewal claims for unemployment insurance benefit were received in local offices of the UIC in April. The number was down 21% to 135,369 from 170,687 in the preceding month and 12% below last year's April total of 154,260.

Claimants having an unemployment register in the "live file" at the end of April numbered 292,063 (228,257 males and 63,806 females) versus 353,928 a year earlier (284,328 males and 69,600 females). New beneficiaries for regular and seasonal benefit during April numbered 126,654 compared with 149,259 a year earlier. Total payments during April in respect of regular and seasonal benefit amounted to \$33,201,609 in compensation for 1,743,909 weeks as compared with \$38,167,352 and 2,008,060 weeks during March. In April last year \$33,775,066 was paid in compensation for 10,747,880 days.

Numbers of initial and renewal claims filed in local offices in the provinces in April were: Newfoundland, 5,207 (5,793 a year earlier); Prince Edward Island, 719 (606); Nova Scotia, 7,318 (6,875); New Brunswick, 9,431 (9,168); Quebec, 47,962 (52,759); Ontario, 33,767 (44,462); Manitoba, 6,098 (5,858); Saskatchewan, 4,097 (3,520); Alberta, 8,457 (10,349); and British Columbia, 12,313 (14,870). (38)

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

- 1-M: Salt, April, 10¢
- 2-M: Asbestos, April, 10¢
- 3-M: Chemicals & Allied Products - Preliminary Summary Statistics, 1955, 15¢
- 4-M: Sales of Paints, Varnishes & Lacquers, April, 10¢
- 5-M: Steel Wire & Specified Wire Products, April, 10¢
- 6-M: Mineral Wool, April, 10¢
- 7-M: Hard Board, April, 10¢
- 8-M: Rigid Insulating Board Industry, April, 10¢
- 9-M: Asphalt & Vinyl-Asbestos Floor Tiles, April, 10¢
- 10-M: Peeler Logs, Veneers & Plywoods, March, 20¢
- 11-Cement Manufacturing Industry, 1955, 25¢
- 12-Roofing Paper Industry, 1954, 25¢
- 13-M: Domestic Electric Refrigerators, April, 10¢
- 14-M: Domestic Washing Machines, April, 10¢
- 15-Radio & Television Receiving Sets, March, 10¢
- 16-Consumption, Production & Inventories of Rubber, March, 20¢
- 17-M: Production of Leather Footwear, February, 10¢
- 18-Bridge Building & Structural Steel Industry, 1954, 35¢
- 19-Machine Shops Industry, 1954, 25¢
- 20-Cheques Cashed in Clearing Centres, April, 10¢
- 21-Price Movements, May, 10¢
- 22-Prices & Price Indexes, April, 20¢
- 23-M: Condition of Fruit Crops - Summary, May, 10¢
- 24-Quarterly Report on Processed Foods, March, 25¢
- 25-M: Grain Milling Statistics, April, 10¢
- 26-M: Grain Statistics Weekly, May 23, 20¢
- 27-M: Stocks of Dairy & Poultry Products in 9 Cities, Advance Statement, June 1, 10¢
- 28-Production of Poultry & Eggs, 1955, 25¢
- 29-Shipments of Prepared Stock & Poultry Feeds, March, 25¢
- 30-M: Fluid Milk Sales, March, 10¢
- 31-M: Urban Transit Statistics, March, 10¢
- 32-M: Pipe Lines (Oil) Statistics, March, 10¢
- 33-Travel Between Canada & The United States, April, 20¢
- 34-R: Teacher Training Institutions, 1953, (Reference Paper No. 62), 25¢
- 35-Department Store Sales & Stocks, April, 10¢
- 36-Chain Store Sales & Stocks, April, 10¢
- 37-Central Electric Stations, 1954, 25¢
- 38-Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, April, 25¢
- Trade of Canada - Imports, February, 50¢
- M: Highway Statistics, 1954, 25¢ - (Summarized in Weekly Bulletin of June 1).
- Inventories, Shipments & Orders in Manufacturing Industries, March, 25¢
(Summarized in Weekly Bulletin of May 25)
- Quarterly Stocks of Canned Fruits & Vegetables on Hand, March 31, 25¢
(Summarized in Weekly Bulletin of May 18)

M: Memorandum

R: Reference Paper

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NEWS NOTES

Domestic Electric Service Customers Number of domestic electricity customers in Canada totalled 3,448,980 in 1954 and their average year's bill was \$55.29.

288 Eggs Apiece Domestic consumption of eggs in Canada last year is estimated at 288 (24 dozen) per person, down four from 292 in 1954.

Chemical Exports Four-fifth Imports Canadian exports of chemicals in 1955 amounted to \$210,000,000 and imports of chemicals to \$260,000,000, exports rising almost \$50,000,000 over 1954 and imports nearly \$40,000,000.

Poultry Meat Canadians consumed in 1955 an estimated total of 29.7 pounds of poultry meat per capita, made up of 23.5 pounds of fowl and chicken, 5.7 of turkey, 0.2 of goose, and 0.3 pounds of duck meat.

Cement Plant Capacity Total capacity of Canadian cement plants rose in the ten years 1946 to 1955 from 33,550 to 70,900 barrels per 24 hours. Capacity used in 1946 was 31,640 barrels but in 1955 was at the 70,900 maximum.

Chemicals Over Billion Dollars Climb Factory value of Canadian industries making chemicals and allied products was \$1,050,000,000 in 1955, a jump of 12% over the 1954 value. Biggest increases were in heavy chemicals, up over 23% at \$175,300,000; primary plastics, up 28% at \$75,500,000; and fertilizers, 19% at \$92,700,000.

Mainly Water Power Ninety-five per cent of Canada's 1954 output of electricity was generated from water power.

More Women Taking Census Eighteen of the commissioners for the 1956 Census are women compared to five for the 1951 Census, and more women are also employed as enumerators this year than five years ago.

Electric Power Customers Total number of customers of Canada's central electric stations in 1954 was 4,001,626, nearly 5% more than in 1953 and over twice as many as in 1939.

Motor Vehicles To Highway Mileage There were 19 motor vehicles in use in Canada for every mile of surfaced highway in 1954, an increase from 18 per mile the previous year and 11.4 per mile in 1945. Over the nine years from 1945 to 1954, the total mileage of surfaced highway rose 46%.

Highway Expenditures Public outlays on roads and highways (including highway bridges, ferries and footpaths) outside urban areas amounted in 1954 to \$28 per capita for all Canada, up from \$27 the previous year. Highest per capita figure was \$208 for the sparsely populated Yukon and Northwest Territories. Among the ten provinces, Alberta had the top figure at \$62 and Manitoba the lowest at \$20. Expenditures per person were lower in 1954 than 1953 in Nova Scotia and British Columbia, unchanged in Ontario and higher in the other seven provinces with the biggest increase to \$34 from \$22 in Saskatchewan.

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