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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Agriculture: Canadian shipments of wheat and flour in terms of wheat in the nine months ending April amounted to 191,200,000 bushels, topping last year's comparable figure for the first time in the current crop year Continuing earlier marked gains in the month, overseas export clearances of wheat in the week ending May 30 amounted to 10,269,000 bushels against 2,673,000 last year ... Seeding of spring-sown grain in the Prairie Provinces was 87% completed at May 31 and grain seedings for all Canada 84% completed, according to estimates based on a Bureau survey. (Pages 2 & 3)

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Housing: Both starts and completions of new dwelling units were larger in the first quarter this year than in 1955 and the number of units under construction at the end of May substantially above a year earlier. (Page 6)

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Transportation: Railway car loadings continued to rise through May and for the five months ending May were over 12% above last year. (Page 8)

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Labour: Income of Canadian paid workers in the first quarter this year is estimated at \$3,260,000,000, about 10% more than for the same quarter last year ... Industrial employment index for April 1 reached a new high figure for that date and average weekly wages and salaries of industrial workers were at an all-time peak at \$63.39. (Pages 10 & 11)

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Prices: Seven of the consumer price indexes for ten regional cities declined during April, one was unchanged, and two increased. Food indexes were lower in all but the two with higher total indexes. Changes in other component indexes were mixed. (Page 13)

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Manufacturing: Total output of motor vehicles to the end of May was practically the same as last year at just over 224,900 units, a rise in commercial vehicles slightly outweighing a drop in passenger cars ... Steel ingot output rose again in May to reach a new monthly peak and pig iron production was close to the record figure. Over the five months this year, ingot output was 22.5% and pig iron output 14% above last year. (Pages 13 & 14)

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Mining: Mine shipments of iron ore at the end of April were more than double last year's at 1,040,375 tons. (Page 16)

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Supplies And Exports Of Wheat
In Major Producing Countries

Supplies of wheat remaining on or about May 1 this year in the four major exporting countries for export and carryover at the end of their respective crop years totalled 2,003,000,000 bushels, about 4% more than the 1,923,000,000 available a year ago. At April 1 supplies were 6% larger at 2,091,300,000 compared to 1,982,200,000 bushels.

May 1 supplies were held as follows: United States, 1,108,900,000 bushels (1,067,700,000 a year ago); Canada, 642,600,000 (561,100,000); Australia, 174,100,000 (141,000,000); and Argentina, 77,400,000 (153,200,000). Estimates for both years include on-farm stocks as well as those in commercial positions.

Total exports of wheat and flour in terms of wheat from the four major exporting countries for the first nine months (August-April) of the current Canadian crop year declined 0.6% to 571,500,000 bushels versus 575,000,000 in the corresponding period a year earlier. Shipments from the United States and Canada increased in the August-April period, but these increases were more than counter-balanced by decreased shipments from Argentina and Australia. Exports from the four countries were: United States, 217,600,000 bushels (207,400,000 a year earlier); Canada, 191,200,000 (190,400,000); Argentina, 90,300,000 (102,600,000); and Australia, 72,400,000 (74,600,000). (1)

Visible Supplies Of Wheat Larger

Visible supplies of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America on May 30 amounted to 329,711,000 bushels as compared with 322,071,000 a week earlier and 324,434,000 on the corresponding date a year ago. Prairie farmers' marketings of wheat in the week climbed to 10,503,000 bushels from 6,348,000 a year ago and overseas export clearances to 10,269,000 bushels compared to 2,673,000 (2)

Production And Value
Of Field Crop Seeds

Production of timothy seed in Canada in 1955 amounted to 22,040,000 pounds valued at \$1,774,000, according to a special release by DBS. Production of sweet clover seed amounted to 15,840,000 pounds valued at \$905,000; alfalfa, 3,957,000 pounds (\$660,000); alsike clover, 7,575,000 pounds (\$1,058,000); red clover, 9,155,000 pounds (\$1,981,000); brome grass, 9,370,000 (\$895,000); crested wheatgrass, 1,120,000 pounds (\$201,000); creeping red fescue, 9,245,000 (\$1,184,000); Canada bluegrass, 70,000 pounds (\$42,000); Kentucky bluegrass, 667,000 pounds (\$233,000); meadow fescue, 678,000 pounds (\$41,000); slender wheatgrass, 66,000 pounds; red top, 34,000 pounds; and millet, 225,000 pounds.

Farm Prices Of Agricultural Products

Canada's index number of farm prices in April, on the 1935-39 base, was estimated at 220.2, an increase of one point over the revised March figure of 219.2. Higher average prices for grains, potatoes, and poultry and eggs more than offset lower prices for livestock and dairy products. (3)

Margarine Production Lower

Production of margarine declined in May to 9,870,000 pounds from 11,241,000 in the preceding month and 11,447,000 in the corresponding month last year. January-May output eased to 55,074,000 pounds from 55,721,000. Stocks held by manufacturers, wholesalers and other warehouses at the beginning of June were smaller at 3,995,000 pounds versus 4,187,000 a month earlier and 4,698,000 a year ago. (4)

Progress Of Seeding And Winter-killing And Condition Of Crops

An estimated 84% of the total acreage expected to be sown to spring wheat, oats, barley, flaxseed and mixed grains in Canada was seeded by

May 31.

After a slow start because of unfavourable weather, seeding of spring-sown grain in the Prairie Provinces proceeded rapidly during the last two weeks in May and 87% of the acreage expected to be sown was planted by May 31. Eastern Canadian farmers, plagued by unseasonably cool backward weather, were able to seed only 57% of the intended acreage and reported slow progress during the last two weeks of May. British Columbia experienced good spring weather and by May 31, 96% of the seeding was completed.

The percentage seeded by May 31 of the intended acreage for Canada for the five crops, with corresponding figures for 1955 in brackets, is as follows: Spring wheat 97 (87); oats 73 (74); barley 76 (57); flaxseed 72 (53); mixed grains 66 (90); and total for the five grains 84 (77).

Hay and pasture generally came through the winter in good condition, although the percentage killed in most provinces was higher than for the previous winter and especially high in Alberta. An estimated 9% of these crops were killed this past winter compared with 5% the previous year. The rate of growth this spring of hay and pasture in Eastern Canada was disappointingly slow up to May 31 and a high percentage of correspondents reported condition of these crops as below average. Fall rye suffered heavy damage, especially in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The estimate for all Canada indicates that 29% was killed compared with 4% the year previous. Average rates of seeding show the usual variations between regions in Canada, but within regions vary only slightly from the preceding year.

Estimates of the progress of seeding, as well as those of winterkilling, spring condition and rates of seeding are based on the May 31 survey of the Bureau's crop correspondents conducted in cooperation with provincial departments. This survey was formerly made at April 30 but in 1955 was moved to May 31. The new date makes it possible for crop correspondents to assess damage caused by winterkilling better and if the season is particularly late provides more valuable information on the progress of seeding. (5)

Estimated Progress of Seeding at May 31, 1955 and 1956												
	Spring		Oats		Barley		Flaxseed		Mixed		Total	
	Wheat								Grains		Five Grains	
	- percentage completed -											
	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956
P.E.I. . .	68	41	62	41	54	29	-	-	65	39	63	40
N.S. . . .	60	5	73	23	65	17	-	-	71	12	72	21
N.B. . . .	79	63	74	47	72	43	-	-	71	34	74	46
Que. . . .	74	34	83	37	77	24	-	-	80	31	82	36
Ont. . . .	100	45	99	68	99	69	88	41	99	75	99	70
Man. . . .	90	92	71	72	65	63	44	44	65	32	73	71
Sask. . .	87	97	55	78	57	77	50	79	55	63	77	89
Alta. . .	87	98	78	91	66	83	76	89	70	72	79	91
B.C. . . .	91	98	90	95	85	97	88	96	81	81	89	96
Canada .	87	97	74	73	57	76	53	72	90	66	77	84

Production Of Creamery Butter,
Cheddar Cheese Down In May

Smaller quantities of creamery butter and cheddar cheese were made in Canada in May and the first five months of this year than a year earlier.

Output of ice cream and concentrated milk products declined in May but rose in the five months.

Production of creamery butter fell to 31,567,000 pounds in May from 36,178,000 a year earlier and to 90,977,000 pounds in the January-May period from 92,676,000. Domestic disappearance declined to 25,747,000 pounds in May from 26,659,000 but was up in the five months to 120,006,000 pounds from 115,587,000.

Output of cheddar cheese declined to 7,922,000 pounds in May from 9,455,000 and to 19,549,000 pounds in the five months from 20,599,000. Production of ice cream fell to 3,382,000 gallons in May from 3,458,000 but rose in the January-May period to 11,036,000 gallons from 10,559,000. Output of concentrated milk products declined to 50,025,000 pounds in May from 55,033,000 but increased in the five months to 170,203,000 pounds from 163,949,000. (6)

Stocks Of Creamery Butter Larger
But Cheese And Eggs Smaller

Stocks of creamery butter were slightly larger on June 1 this year than a year earlier but holdings of cheddar cheese and eggs were smaller.

Stocks of evaporated whole milk, skim milk powder and ice cream were also larger.

June 1 stocks of creamery butter were 69,512,000 pounds (68,040,000 a year earlier); cheddar cheese, 26,744,000 pounds (31,744,000); evaporated whole milk, 25,028,000 pounds (24,741,000); skim milk powder, 11,729,000 pounds (6,252,000); ice cream, 1,456,000 gallons (1,389,000); eggs, 293,000 cases (581,000); and poultry meat, 12,655,000 pounds (10,261,000). (7)

Smaller Output Of Process Cheese

Production of process cheese in May amounted to 2,851,000 pounds, a decrease of 9% from the preceding month's 3,126,000 pounds and a decline of 23% from last year's 3,703,000 pounds. Cumulative output for the first five months of this year totalled 18,779,000 pounds, slightly larger than last year's 18,691,000 pounds. Stocks held by manufacturers at the end of May declined to 1,495,000 pounds from 1,939,000 a month earlier and 1,646,000 a year ago.

ELECTRIC POWER

Output Of Electric Energy
Slightly Lower In April

April output of electric energy by central electric stations eased to 6,347,883,000 kilowatt hours from 6,362,892,000 in the corresponding month last year but January-April production was slightly higher at 25,522,600,000 kilowatt hours versus 25,517,470,000.

Consumption of primary power -- production, plus imports, less exports and secondary power -- rose to 5,744,137,000 kilowatt hours in April from 5,496,513,000 and to 23,561,957,000 kilowatt hours in the January-April period from 22,543,143,000. (8)

Generating Capability Of Electric Power Industry Expected to Increase 39% By 1959

The generating capability of Canada's electric power industry in 1955 amounted to 13,905,000 kilowatts, an increase of 6.1% over the preceding year's 13,101,000 kilowatts, according to the Bureau's second annual report entitled "Electric Power Survey of Capability and Load". The generating capability is expected to be 19,339,000 kilowatts in 1959, an increase of 39.1% over 1955. The total growth, both actual and planned, over the period 1951 to 1959 is 96%. The proportion of thermal generation to the total is expected to rise from 12.6% in 1955 to 15.4% in 1959.

The report contains current and projected data compiled from returns filed by 82 major producers of electricity, which account for approximately 98% of the power for sale in Canada and approximately 90% of the total kilowatt hours produced in the country. For all practical purposes the forecast and other data can be looked upon as being representative of the whole electric power industry in Canada.

Some of the highlights brought out in the report are summarized as follows:

Firm power peak load or demand within Canada amounted to 12,291,000 kilowatts in 1955, an increase of 10.5% over the 1954 total of 11,125,000. By 1959 the load is forecast to rise 39% to 17,086,000 kilowatts. Over the period 1951 to 1959 the demand within Canada is expected to increase by 8,000,000 kilowatt hours or 87.9%.

The expected increase over the 1951-1959 period for Canada as a whole reflects a fairly steady and consistent growth from the 9,000,000 kilowatts in 1951 to 17,100,000 for 1959. The actual growth from 1951 to 1955 amounted to a rate of 7.9% per annum. The increase forecast for the next four years is equal to a rate of growth of 8.6% per annum.

The indicated reserve in Canada in 1955 was 1,486,000 kilowatts and is expected to be 2,197,000 in 1959. In 1951 it was 621,000 kilowatts. These reserves were 6.7% over demand in 1951, 11.9% in 1955 and are expected to be 12.8% in 1959.

The indicated firm energy requirement in Canada was 72,633,000,000 kilowatt hours in 1955, an increase of 10.1% over the 1954 total of 65,978,000,000. It is expected to climb to 101,508,000,000 in 1959 or by 39.8%. By 1959 the energy requirements are forecast to be almost double those in 1951. (9)

MERCHANDISING

Department Store Sales Department store sales increased 10.3% in May over the same month last year, according to preliminary figures issued by the DBS. All provinces reported increased sales, led by the Atlantic Provinces with a rise of 15.1%, Alberta next with 14.7%, British Columbia 13.6%, Saskatchewan 13.2%, Ontario 9.4%, Quebec 8.1%, and Manitoba with 2.5%.

Sales rose 9% in the week ending June 2 over the corresponding week a year ago. All provinces shared in the increased sales, led by Manitoba with 16.2%, Alberta next with 15%, Saskatchewan 14.2%, British Columbia 9.6%, Ontario 9.3%, Atlantic Provinces 7.3%, and Quebec only slightly ahead of last year with an increase of 0.4%.

Operating Results Of Independent Fuel Dealers

Gross profit, operating expenses and net operating profit for both unincorporated and incorporated independent fuel dealers rose in 1954 over 1952, according to the biennial report issued by DBS.

Unincorporated fuel dealers reported a gross profit of 22.97% of net sales in 1954 versus 20.94% in 1952 and a net operating profit (before deduction of income tax) of 5.41% versus 4.97%. Operating expenses averaged 17.56% of net sales versus 15.97%, of which employees' salaries accounted for 3.61% in 1954 (3.62% in 1952); occupancy, 2.48% (2.24%); delivery, 8.99% (7.89%); advertising, 0.52% (0.42%); and all other expenses, 1.96% (1.80%).

Gross profit of incorporated fuel dealers in 1954 averaged 22.35% of net sales versus 21.35% and net operating profit, before deduction of income tax, averaged 2.00% versus 1.84%. Operating expenses averaged 20.35% of net sales versus 19.51% in 1952, employees' salaries accounting for 6.12% in 1954 (6.15% in 1952); occupancy, 2.16% (1.82%); delivery, 9.05% (8.56%); advertising, 0.62% (0.63%); and all other expenses, 2.40% (2.35%). (10).

H O U S I N G

Starts And Completions Of New Dwelling Units Rose In First Quarter Of 1956

Both starts and completions of new dwelling units rose in the first quarter of this year as compared with the corresponding period last year, according to an advance statement released by DBS. Number of units in various stages of construction at the end of March also showed an increase over the corresponding date a year ago. Starts in the January-March period increased to 14,135 units versus 12,848 a year earlier, completions to 25,664 units from 24,313 and number of units under construction at the end of March to 66,298 units from 57,960.

The following table shows the number of starts and completions during the quarter and the number of units under construction at the end of March, for 1956 and 1955, by provinces.

	<u>Started - Jan.-Mar.</u>		<u>Completed - Jan.-Mar.</u>		<u>Under Construction</u>	
	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>at Mar. 31</u>	
					<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
Canada	12,848	14,135	24,313	25,664	57,960	66,298
Nfld.	74	147	107	289	2,853	2,872
P.E.I.	1	-	13	17	75	76
N.S.	168	236	518	407	1,147	1,413
N.B.	101	58	303	180	1,142	1,506
Que.	3,224	4,105	5,681	7,924	14,157	17,523
Ont.	5,979	6,137	11,387	10,542	22,539	24,728
Man.	157	239	731	972	2,179	2,830
Sask.	359	12	951	693	1,678	1,496
Alta.	718	997	2,485	1,975	4,613	5,255
B.C.	2,067	2,204	2,137	2,665	7,577	8,599

Note: On the basis of data obtained from the June survey in each year, the number of starts shown above are subject to upward revision. The revised 1955 figure for Canada is 13,407. This would necessitate a revision in the "under construction" figure as at March 31, 1955 to 58,519.

Domestic Exports Up 14% In April and 10% In Four Months

Canada's domestic exports rose 14% in value in April to \$382,700,000 from \$335,800,000 in the corresponding month last year, the volume of exports being nearly 11% larger and prices averaging 2.7% higher. In the January-April period exports to all countries advanced 10% to \$1,417,800,000 from \$1,287,100,000. Over the four months volume averaged 6.6% greater and prices 3.3% higher.

Among chief commodities there were larger values in April for wheat and other grains, fish and fishery products, wood pulp, newsprint paper, copper and products, precious metals (except gold), petroleum and products, and fertilizers. Wheat flour, planks and boards, farm machinery and implements, aluminum and products, nickel, zinc and products, and asbestos and products were lower in value.

Exports to the United States jumped 21.5% in value to \$231,659,000 in April from \$190,612,000 a year earlier and 13.5% in the January-April period to \$860,074,000 from \$757,423,000. Chief gains were in agricultural and vegetable products, wood and paper, non-ferrous metals and products, non-metallic minerals and products, and chemicals and products.

Shipments to the United Kingdom fell to \$65,223,000 in April from \$69,916,000 a year earlier and to \$245,014,000 in the four-month period from \$252,718,000. Apart from a substantial rise in the agricultural and vegetable products group, and a small increase in the fibres and textiles group, declines were general among the main groups in April.

Exports to the rest of the Commonwealth fell to \$19,206,000 in April from \$20,505,000 a year earlier but rose to \$76,348,000 in the January-April period from \$72,540,000. Both April and four-month values were smaller for the Union of South Africa, Australia and New Zealand but larger for India and Pakistan.

Shipments to Latin American countries rose to \$13,866,000 in April from \$12,059,000 a year earlier but amounted to \$49,565,000 in the January-April period against \$50,450,000. Among leading markets, shipments in April were larger to Mexico but smaller to Colombia, Cuba, and Venezuela. Exports to European countries jumped to \$35,437,000 in April from \$26,622,000 and to \$131,227,000 in the four-month period from \$99,127,000. Exports were larger both in April and the four months to Belgium and Luxembourg, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, and Norway.

Exports to all other foreign countries were moderately higher in value in April at \$15,005,000 versus \$14,659,000 a year earlier and virtually unchanged in the four-month period at \$49,226,000 versus \$49,476,000. Exports to Japan, main market in the group, were up in value in both periods.

Commodity-group values for April were as follows (in millions): agricultural and vegetable products, \$77.2 (\$57.6 a year earlier); animals and animal products, \$17.8 (\$18.0); fibres, textiles and products, \$1.5 (\$1.4); wood, wood products and paper, \$125.2 (\$123.1); iron and products, \$26.9 (\$22.9); non-ferrous metals and products, \$77.1 (\$71.6); non-metallic minerals and products, \$26.6 (\$16.0); chemicals and allied products, \$20.9 (\$18.1); and miscellaneous commodities, \$9.4 (\$7.1). (11)

MORE

The following table shows the value of Canada's leading commodity exports in April and the January-April period, ranked according to size in the four months, with comparative data for 1955:

	April		January - April	
	1955	1956	1955	1956
	Thousands of Dollars			
Newsprint paper	55,934	59,698	207,608	225,258
Wheat	24,170	43,646	104,703	134,090
Planks & boards	32,401	27,975	117,943	105,944
Wood pulp	23,271	26,071	89,193	98,544
Nickel	19,660	17,625	70,798	74,424
Copper & products	11,609	18,499	47,388	68,602
Aluminum & products	21,476	18,498	68,435	62,189
Fish & fishery products	7,729	8,467	35,989	37,241
Petroleum & products	3,037	13,550	8,273	35,457
Farm machinery & implements.	8,806	7,650	34,024	31,565
Asbestos & products	7,506	7,022	24,640	26,795
Seeds	3,646	3,863	15,924	25,608
Flour of wheat	7,473	6,095	25,207	23,851
Grains other than wheat	6,308	9,868	25,513	21,320
Precious metals(except gold)	3,995	5,390	14,881	21,275
Zinc & products	5,946	5,851	24,232	21,144
Fertilizers	5,863	6,052	25,224	20,734
Alcoholic beverages	4,703	4,780	16,322	17,772

TRANSPORTATION

Railway Car Loadings Increased Car loadings of railway freight in the last 10 days of May amounted to 145,008 cars, an increase of 32.3% over last year's total of 109,686 cars which was reduced by the Victoria day holiday. Loadings rose 11.2% in May to 395,776 cars from 355,894 and 12.3% in the January-May period to 1,703,563 cars from 1,516,739.

Receipts from connections climbed 12.3% in the 10-day period to 51,242 cars from 45,637, 6.3% in the month to 149,481 cars from 140,640, and 11.1% in the five-month period to 749,308 cars from 674,286.

Carried in larger volume in May were: grain, 48,336 cars (as against 37,467 in 1955); coal, 20,786 (17,664); iron ore, 22,212 (16,758); crude petroleum, 4,442 (2,400); fuel oil, 9,388 (6,839); "other" mine products, 13,875 (10,199); newsprint paper, 12,468 (11,224); miscellaneous carload commodities, 26,950 (23,401); and merchandise, L.C.L., 65,220 (61,688).

In the January-May period the following were among the larger increases: grain, 181,890 cars (134,176 a year earlier); coal, 109,549 (94,501); iron ore, 32,997 (20,355); manufactured iron and steel products, 34,066 (25,005); fuel oil, 59,145 (49,720); "other" mine products, 49,212 (39,979); pulpwood, 74,537 (64,391); miscellaneous carload commodities, 118,145 (101,123); and merchandise, L.C.L., 299,627 (289,856). (12)

Canal Traffic Heavier In April Tonnage of freight transported through all Canadian canals in April amounted to 2,729,921 tons, a gain of 30,849 tons over the preceding year's 2,699,072 tons. Increased shipments of iron ore through the St. Lawrence and grain through the Sault Ste. Marie canals were mainly responsible for the advance. The number of vessel passages rose to 1,936 from 1,796, but registered net tonnage dropped to 2,718,541 tons from 2,745,060.

A total of 228 vessels aggregating 373,414 net tons transported 175,877 tons of freight through the Canadian lock at Sault Ste. Marie in April. Freight traffic through the combined Canada-U.S. system increased to 8,229,920 tons from 4,695,665, due to a heavier volume of wheat, iron ore and bituminous coal.

Volume of freight carried through the Welland Ship canal amounted to 1,808,111 tons, a decrease of 148,873 tons or 7.5% from the April 1955 tonnage of 1,956,984. Freight passing through the St. Lawrence canals in April totalled 725,458 tons, an increase of 90,320 tons or 14.2% over last year's April total of 635,138 tons. Iron ore advanced to 107,832 tons from 8,360, while bituminous coal dropped to 78,422 tons from 108,557. (13)

Civil Aviation Revenues, Expenses Up In December Operating revenues advanced 31.5% in December to \$10,514,000 from \$7,998,000 in the same month of 1954, but operating expenses increased 36.6% to \$12,178,000 versus \$8,916,000, resulting in an increased operating deficit of \$1,664,000 as compared with \$918,000 a year ago.

All individual revenue and expense accounts were larger than in 1954 with the exception of mail revenue, which dropped to \$1,068,000 from \$1,144,000. Passenger traffic revenue, the main item of income, rose 23.6% to \$6,225,000 from \$5,036,000, while income from goods carried rose nearly 57% to \$1,059,000 from \$675,000, and excess baggage revenue to \$72,000 from \$55,000. Income from bulk transportation also climbed steeply to \$1,681,000 from \$730,000.

Aircraft operation and maintenance expenses rose to \$7,054,000 from \$4,664,000, ground operation and maintenance to \$3,200,000 from \$2,469,000 and general administration and traffic expenses were somewhat higher. (14)

F I S H E R I E S

Landings Of Sea-Fish Smaller In April, Larger In 4 Months Landings of sea-fish were smaller in April but substantially larger in the January-April period as compared with a year earlier. Landings in April amounted to 60,569,000 pounds valued at \$3,725,000 as compared with 83,297,000 pounds worth \$3,943,000. In the four-month period the landings totalled 519,529,000 pounds worth \$14,677,000 versus 318,020,000 pounds valued at \$10,998,000.

Catch on the Atlantic coast dropped to 53,651,000 pounds in April from 79,388,000 but in the January-April period the landings were steady at 186,342,000 pounds versus 186,212,000. Pacific-coast landings in April rose to 6,918,000 pounds from last year's 3,909,000 pounds. Mainly due to a sharp increase in the landings of herring, the four-month catch of all species rose to 333,187,000 from 131,808,000 pounds. (15)

Motor Vehicle Traffic Accidents In February Motor vehicle traffic accidents reported in Canada (excluding Quebec) in February were 12,841, according to a special statement released by DBS. The record shows that 138 persons were killed and 3,252 were injured. There were 109 accidents involving fatalities, 2,266 causing non-fatal injuries and 10,466 involving property only damage which was put at \$4,561,174.

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

Province	Number of Accidents				Persons		
	Fatal	Injury	Property Damage Only	Total	Killed	Injured	Property Damage
Nfld.....	4	30	249	283	4	36	105,670
P.E.I.....	2	9	41	52	2	19	20,473
N.S.....	5	83	913	1,001	6	117	220,812
N.B.....	6	89	376	471	9	108	144,672
Que.....
Ont.....	66	1,238	4,568	5,872	81	1,802	2,348,969
Man.....	2	132	700	834	8	185	218,402
Sask.....	4	107	638	749	5	149	233,657
Alta.....	9	166	1,306	1,481	9	250	453,971
B.C.....	11	405	1,647	2,063	14	575	800,832
Yukon & N.W.T.....	-	7	28	35	-	11	13,716
TOTAL	109	2,266	10,466	12,841	138	3,252	4,561,174

..Not available; -Nil

LABOUR

Labour Income Up In March & First Quarter Labour income received by Canadian paid workers in March was estimated at \$1,093,000,000, up \$3,000,000 from the preceding month and up \$101,000,000 or 10% from last year's March total of \$992,000,000. In the January-March period labour income aggregated \$3,260,000,000, about 10% larger than last year's first-quarter total of \$2,969,000,000.

During March, total wages and salaries increased \$2,000,000 each in the distributive industries and in the finance and services group and \$7,000,000 in manufacturing. The total for construction remained unchanged from February, and that for the primary industries declined \$9,000,000, the largest part of the loss being attributable to logging.

In the quarter, increases for the component industries ranged from 7% for the finance and services group to 20% for construction. Industry-group totals for the period were (in millions): agriculture, forestry, fishing, trapping and mining, \$224 (\$205); manufacturing, \$1,072 (\$969); construction, \$209 (\$174); utilities, transportation, communication, storage, trade, \$846 (\$776); finance, services, including government, \$793 (\$740); and supplementary labour income, \$116 (\$105). (16)

Industrial Employment, Weekly Wages
And Salaries At New Peaks At April 1

statement. The rise in employment was accompanied by a further increase to a new all-time peak in weekly wages and salaries.

Canada's index of industrial employment for April 1 reached a new high for the time of year, DBS reports in an advance

The employment index, on the 1949 base, advanced to 113.4 from 113.2 a month earlier and 105.7 at the same time last year. The payrolls index, on the same base, rose to 168.2 from 167.3 in March and 150.0 last year, and weekly wages and salaries advanced to an average of \$63.39 from \$63.21 at the beginning of March and \$60.68 a year ago.

Forestry operations showed marked curtailment, largely seasonal in character, and mainly in Quebec and Ontario. Employment eased in mining and in public utility operation. The trends were moderately upward in the other industries surveyed. Manufacturing showed a rise of 0.8%, bringing the employment index to 113.2 at April 1 when it was 6.3% higher than at the same date in 1955, and slightly exceeded the previous April 1 peak figure of 112.9 in 1953.

Greater activity on the whole was indicated in Ontario and the four Western Provinces. Establishments in British Columbia reported the largest increase in staffs (1.4%). Curtailment was indicated in the Atlantic area and in Quebec. Employment in the latter declined 0.7% as compared with March 1. The general indexes in all provinces were higher than at April 1, 1955.

Manufacturers reported an increase of 1.5% in weekly payrolls as compared with March 1, raising the index to 171.2. This was 11% above its position 12 months ago. Per capita weekly wages and salaries in manufacturing stood at \$66.06 as compared with \$65.58 a month earlier and \$63.28 a year ago. (17)

Weekly Wages In Manufacturing

Weekly wages paid to hourly-rated workers in manufacturing averaged \$61.81 at the beginning of April, up from \$61.33 a month earlier, according to advance figures released by DBS. Average hourly earnings rose to 150.4¢ from 148.5¢, but the average work-week was shorter at 41.1 hours versus 41.3.

In the durable goods division weekly wages rose to an average of \$67.15 from \$66.49, hourly earnings to 162.2¢ from 160.6¢, but average hours remained at 41.4. The increase in earnings resulted from a variety of causes: wage increases in automobile parts and accessories, electrical apparatus and supplies and brass products; premium payments for work done on Good Friday in several industries, and increased activity in some of the more highly paid components of the transportation equipment, iron and steel, and electrical apparatus industries.

Average weekly wages in the light manufacturing industries advanced to \$55.94 from \$55.84, hourly earnings to 137.1¢ from 135.2¢, but the work-week was shorter at 40.8 hours versus 41.3. These changes were largely due to a shorter work-week in textiles, clothing, and leather goods, industries which employ many women at rates of pay below the industry average, and in which payment for statutory holidays is less widely reported. Overtime work at premium rates in meat products, oil refineries, and printing and publishing was also a contributing factor to the rise in earnings.

Federal Government Employment And Payrolls In February Classified civil servants on the payroll of the Federal Government increased in February to 144,058 from 143,558 a month earlier and 142,480 a year ago. Their earnings also increased in the month to \$37,561,078 from the preceding month's \$37,438,047 and last year's \$36,787,074.

Prevailing rate employees numbered 24,751 in February as compared with 23,746 in January and 24,188 a year ago. Their earnings in February at \$5,421,992 were lower than January's \$5,524,275, but higher than the preceding year's \$4,859,668. Ships' crews dropped to 1,838 from the preceding month's 1,972 and last year's 1,919, and their earnings declined to \$429,789 from \$457,064 a month earlier and \$443,791 a year ago. Casual and other employees totalled 12,615 in February, up from 12,409 in January but down from 12,709 a year earlier; their earnings at \$2,463,807 were smaller than January's \$2,464,385 but larger than the previous February's total of \$2,309,850. (18)

FORESTRY

Sawn Lumber Production Production of sawn lumber and ties in British Columbia increased 1% in March to 417,388,000 board feet from 413,242,000 a year ago, but declined 1% in the quarter to 1,184,985,000 board feet versus 1,196,716,000 board feet last year. Output East of the Rockies declined 12.6% in March to 277,114,000 board feet from 317,130,000 a year earlier and 6.2% in the first quarter to 741,589,000 board feet versus 790,149,000.

Only three provinces registered increased production in the first quarter: New Brunswick, 17.7% to 82,474,000 board feet from 70,101,000; Quebec, 8.2% to 204,530,000 board feet from 189,039,000; and Ontario, 13.6% to 103,655,000 board feet from 91,281,000. Totals for the other provinces were: Prince Edward Island, 709,000 board feet (1,947,000); Nova Scotia, 58,497,000 (70,553,000); Manitoba, 7,373,000 (12,709,000); Saskatchewan, 26,524,000 (42,753,000); and Alberta, 257,827,000 (311,766,000). (19 & 20)

PRICES

Security Price Indexes

<u>Investors' Price Index</u>	<u>June 7</u>	<u>May 31</u> 1935-39 = 100	<u>May 10</u>
Total Common Stocks	265.3	263.6	272.5
Industrials	281.0	277.6	287.6
Utilities	200.1	201.9	206.3
Banks	258.4	265.0	273.6

Mining Stock Price Index

Total Mining Stocks	134.5	134.0	137.7
Gold	77.3	77.1	80.0
Base Metals	265.5	264.2	269.8

Consumer Price Indexes For Regional Cities Seven of the ten regional consumer price indexes declined between the beginning of April and May 1956. The decreases ranged from 0.9% in Vancouver to 0.1% in Halifax, Saint John and Montreal. The index was unchanged in Ottawa and increased 0.7 and 0.4% in St. John's and Toronto, respectively.

Food indexes were lower in all but these latter two cities. Decreases were reported for coffee and tomatoes, while prices were higher for eggs, potatoes and some beef cuts. The shelter indexes were unchanged in five cities and up slightly in the other five. Little movement occurred in the clothing indexes as five were unchanged, two increased fractionally and three moved to lower levels. Household operation indexes had varied movements as three increased, three were unchanged and four declined. The "other" commodities and services indexes were higher in seven of the ten cities as increases were fairly general for theatre admissions and women's hairdressing. The index was unchanged in one city and slightly lower in the other two.

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

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

	Total Indexes		Group Indexes - May 1956				
	April 1956	May 1956	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
St. Johns*	105.9	106.6	103.1	109.8	100.8	104.5	114.5
Halifax	114.8	114.7	104.3	125.6	114.2	119.9	120.3
Saint John	117.6	117.5	108.6	128.5	116.7	117.4	124.8
Montreal	116.7	116.6	111.0	136.2	108.0	114.7	120.5
Ottawa	117.7	117.7	107.2	136.8	111.4	116.4	124.2
Toronto	118.7	119.1	107.7	148.3	111.2	116.5	120.9
Winnipeg	116.5	116.1	109.4	127.6	113.2	113.9	120.8
Saskatoon-Regina	114.9	114.6	109.5	118.1	114.8	116.4	116.5
Edmonton-Calgary	114.6	114.3	106.5	121.2	113.9	116.8	119.7
Vancouver	118.6	117.7	111.1	128.2	113.5	124.1	120.1

*Index on the base June 1951 = 100.

MANUFACTURING

Production Of Motor Vehicles Down In May Production of motor vehicles eased to 58,103 units in May from 58,354 a year earlier, but was still far ahead of 1954's 38,213 units. Output in the January-May period was virtually unchanged at 224,935 units versus 224,829 in the corresponding period last year.

Passenger car output in May advanced to 46,577 units versus 46,017 a year ago, but commercial vehicles declined to 11,526 units from 12,337. In the five-month period production of passenger cars dropped to 179,858 units from 187,139, but production of commercial vehicles rose to 45,077 units from 37,690. (21)

Motor Vehicle Shipments Factory shipments of Canadian-made motor vehicles declined in April to 60,380 units from 66,944 a year ago, but January-April shipments were up slightly to 160,824 units versus 160,554 in the corresponding period last year. April shipments comprised 49,073 passenger cars (56,276 a year ago) and 11,307 commercial vehicles (10,668). January-April shipments were made up of 130,353 passenger cars (136,725) and 30,471 commercial vehicles (23,829).

Shipments of passenger cars for sale in Canada amounted to 45,851 units in April as compared with 52,732 a year ago and export vehicles totalled 3,222 units versus 3,544; commercial vehicles for sale in Canada rose to 10,349 units versus 9,161 last year and for export numbered 958 units versus 1,507.

Four-month sales of passenger cars in Canada amounted to 120,318 units as compared with 128,802 in the same period last year and export passenger cars to 10,035 versus 7,923. Sales of commercial vehicles in Canada in the period totalled 27,431 against 20,473 and exports amounted to 3,040 units against 3,356. (22)

Output Of Steel Ingots And Pig Iron Rise Canadian production of steel ingots reached a new monthly peak in May and output of pig iron was maintained at near-record levels. The month's output of steel ingots amounted to 446,684 tons, up sharply from last year's 371,808, and the previous peak of 429,720 in March. Output of pig iron totalled 291,522 tons, moderately above the May 1955 total of 284,076. In the January-May period, steel ingot production rose 22.5% to 2,116,472 tons from 1,727,561, and pig iron advanced 14.3% to 1,424,788 tons from 1,246,531. (23)

Output of pig iron increased 5.5% in April to 287,083 tons versus 272,187 a year earlier, and for January-April was up 17.7% to 1,133,266 tons as compared with 962,455 in the corresponding period last year. Steel ingot production rose nearly 20% to 423,614 tons in April from 353,377 a year ago, boosting the five-month total 23% to 1,669,788 tons versus 1,355,753 in the same period last year. (24)

Production Of Stoves and Furnaces In April Production of most types of stoves and furnaces was lower in April than in the preceding month, according to the DBS. Output in April for some of the main types follows: solid fuel cooking stoves and ranges, 2,142 units (2,390 units in March); solid fuel heating stoves and space heaters, 1,881 units (2,405); gas cooking stoves and ranges (all sizes), 2,714 units (2,119); gas cooking plates - no oven, 781 units (67); electric rangettes, 4,550 units (3,135); fuel oil (distillate) cooking stoves and ranges, 525 units (1,063); fuel oil (distillate) heating stoves and space heaters, 6,337 units (4,015); and warm air furnaces - designed to burn coal, wood, oil or gas, 8,044 units (8,885). (25)

Production Of Asphalt Roofing Production of asphalt shingles, smooth-surfaced and mineral-surfaced roll roofing decreased in April but output of roll-type sidings and tar and asphalt felts increased. Production of asphalt shingles fell to 198,154 squares from 201,551 last year, smooth-surfaced rolls to 59,215 squares from 69,594, and mineral-surfaced rolls to 45,885 squares from 59,283. Roll-type sidings advanced to 10,687 squares from 5,710 and tar and asphalt felts to 4,308 tons from 3,566. (26)

Shipments Of Primary Shapes
Up Sharply In March, Quarter

Shipments of primary shapes by Canadian steel mills rose in March to 380,994 tons from 290,440 in the corresponding month last year and to 1,045,116 tons in the January-March period from 742,144. Producer's interchange jumped to 208,889 tons in March from 137,969 and to 543,735 tons in the quarter from 376,892. (27)

Slaughtering & Meat
Packing Industries

Value of factory shipments in the slaughtering and meat packing industries increased slightly in 1954 to \$837,508,000 as compared with \$829,468,000 in 1953 but was about 6% below 1951's record \$892,091,000. Number of establishments at 154, was 2 more than in the preceding year. Employees increased to 22,999 from 22,887 and salaries and wages to \$78,699,000 from \$74,432,000. Material costs rose to \$674,152,000 from \$672,764,000, but fuel and electricity costs fell to \$4,660,000 from \$4,681,000.

Some of the major sales were: fresh and frozen meats (including poultry), (\$474,279,000 in 1954 (\$482,510,000 in 1953); cured and smoked meats, \$123,749,000 (\$133,874,000); sausage and cooked meats, \$84,304,000 (\$64,070,000); canned meats, all kinds, \$28,018,000 (\$35,479,000); lard, \$17,181,000 (\$14,440,000); shortening, all types, \$37,308,000 (\$31,031,000); margarine, \$17,782,000 (\$17,634,000); cattle hides, \$9,484,000 (\$10,114,000); and calf skins, \$2,466,000 (\$2,960,000). (28)

MINING

Canada's Mineral Production
Broke All Records In 1955

Canada's mineral production broke all previous high records by a wide margin in 1955 when the value climbed 19.5% to \$1,778,400,000 from the preceding year's \$1,488,000,000, according to the Bureau's annual preliminary report.

Production in Ontario rose 16.3% in value to \$577,900,000 from \$496,700,000 in 1954 but the percentage of the Canada-total declined to 32.5% from 33.4%. Quebec's output rose over 26% to \$352,100,000 from \$278,800,000, and accounted for 19.8% of the total versus 18.7%. Alberta's production increased 16% to \$323,700,000 from \$279,000,000 but the percentage declined to 18.2% from 18.7%. In British Columbia the value rose 18.5% to \$188,100,000 from \$158,600,000, the proportion of the total being virtually unchanged at 10.6% versus 10.7%.

Value of production in Saskatchewan increased 23% to \$83,800,000 from \$68,200,000 and the percentage of the total was practically the same at 4.7% as compared with 4.6%. Manitoba's production value at \$63,000,000 increased almost 80% over 1954's \$35,100,000, raising its share of the national total to 3.5% from 2.4%. Production value in Newfoundland jumped 64% to \$70,300,000 from \$42,900,000 and the proportion to 4% from 2.9%.

For Nova Scotia the value dropped to \$67,400,000 from \$73,500,000 and the proportion to 3.8% from 4.9%. New Brunswick's total advanced to \$14,300,000 from \$12,500,000 and the proportion remained unchanged at 0.8%.

The Yukon and Northwest Territories with respective totals of \$23,500,000 versus \$26,400,000 and \$14,400,000 versus \$16,600,000, were down from a year earlier as was their share of the all Canada total to 1.3% from 1.8% for the former and to 0.8% from 1.1% for the latter. (29)

Iron Ore Shipments Up Sharply Shipments of iron ore from Canadian mines jumped to 461,176 tons in April from 199,478 in the corresponding month last year, boosting January-April shipments to 1,040,375 tons from 485,302. End-of-April stocks were larger than a year earlier at 2,516,869 tons versus 2,272,085.

Ore shipped for export rose to 417,359 tons in April from 137,686 a year earlier and to 676,837 tons in the four-month period from 349,035. Shipments to Canadian consumers dropped to 43,817 tons in April from 61,792 but was up to 363,538 tons in the January-April period from 136,267. (30)

Stone Industry Value of shipments made by Canada's stone quarrying industry reached a new high record of \$39,857,000 in 1954, up 30% from the preceding year's \$30,613,000. Number of quarries increased to 557 from 488, employees to 4,146 from 3,803 and salaries and wages to \$12,381,000 from \$10,139,000. Cost of process supplies and materials at works rose to \$3,354,000 from \$2,897,000 and costs of fuel and electricity to \$2,308,000 from \$1,792,000.

In the stone products industry value of factory shipments rose 9.6% to \$24,870,000 in 1954 from \$22,696,000 in the previous year. Number of establishments was unchanged at 159, but number of employees rose to 2,356 from 2,217 and their earnings to \$7,262,000 versus \$6,720,000. Cost of materials used increased to \$8,293,000 from \$7,816,000, but costs of fuel and electricity declined to \$854,000 from \$923,000. (31)

C A N A D A 1 9 5 6

The 1956 edition of the Canada Handbook has been released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The 27th in the Handbook series, the present edition provides an up-to-date and authentic account of the economic, social and cultural life of the Canadian people. Numerous illustrations accompany the text.

In its 313 pages the reader will find specially prepared surveys of Canada's rich natural resources of land, forest, mines and waters; the nation's strategic position in the present-day world; its democratic system of government; its people and national culture enriched by the blending of cultural groups from other lands and its educational program fashioned to meet the needs of each of the provinces with distinctive variety; Canada's growing cultural maturity -- in theatre, ballet, music, literature, and art; and the marked advances made in recent years in the health of the Canadian people.

Canada 1956 contains succinct analyses of Canada's 5 1/2 million labour force, forest industries, mineral development, manufacturing and industrial development, the role that capital expenditure has played in Canada's postwar growth, the significance of Canada's vast water power resources, the nation's scientific development and Canada's transcontinental systems of transportation and communications.

Copies of Canada 1956 are obtainable from the Queen's Printer, Ottawa, at 75¢ a copy. A special discount of 25% on quantity orders (100 copies or more) is given to school boards. Orders should be accompanied by remittance payable at par to the Receiver General of Canada. (32)

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

- 1-Wheat Review, May, 20¢
 - 2-M: Grain Statistics Weekly, May 30, 10¢
 - 3-Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, April, 10¢
 - 4-M: Margarine Statistics, May, 10¢
 - 5-Progress of Seeding; Winterkilling & Spring Condition of Winter Wheat, Fall Rye, Tame Hay & Pasture; Rates of Seeding, 10¢
 - 6-Dairy Factory Production, May, 10¢
 - 7-M: Stocks of Dairy & Poultry Products, June 1, 10¢
 - 8-M: Central Electric Stations, April, 10¢
 - 9-Second Annual Electric Power Survey of Capability & Load, March 1956, 50¢
 - 10-Operating Results & Financial Structure Independent Fuel Dealers, 1954, 25¢
 - 11-Trade of Canada, Domestic Exports, April, 20¢
 - 12-M: Car Loadings on Canadian Railways, May 31, 10¢
 - 13-M: Summary of Canal Statistics, April, 10¢
 - 14-Civil Aviation, December, 15¢
 - 15-Monthly Review of Canadian Fisheries Statistics, April, 25¢
 - 16-Estimates of Labour Income, March, 10¢
 - 17-Advance Statement on Employment & Weekly Payrolls, April, 10¢
 - 18-M: Federal Government Employment, February, 10¢
 - 19-Production, Shipments & Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, March, 25¢
 - 20-Production, Shipments & Stocks on Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies, March, 25¢
 - 21-Preliminary Report on the Production of Motor Vehicles, May, 10¢
 - 22-Motor Vehicle Shipments, April, 10¢
 - 23-Steel Ingots & Pig Iron, May, 10¢
 - 24-M: Production of Pig Iron & Steel, April, 10¢
 - 25-M: Stoves & Furnaces, April, 10¢
 - 26-M: Asphalt Roofing, April, 10¢
 - 27-Primary Iron & Steel, March, 25¢
 - 28-Slaughtering & Meat Packing Industries, 1954, 25¢
 - 29-Preliminary Report on Mineral Production, 1955, 35¢
 - 30-M: Iron Ore, April, 10¢
 - 31-Stone Industry, 1954, 25¢
 - 32-Canada Handbook, 1956, 75¢
 - Coal & Coke Statistics, March, 25¢
 - New Residential Construction, January, 20¢ (Summarized in Weekly Bulletin on May 11)
 - M: Railway Freight Traffic, January, 10¢
 - Canadian Statistical Review, May, 35¢
- M: Memorandum

Prepared in Press & Publicity Section, Information Services Division

Edmond Cloutier, C.M.G., O.A., D.S.P.,
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NEWS NOTES

Stone Products Products of Canadian stone dressing plants had a record gross selling value of \$24,870,000 in 1954, a ten-year jump from \$5,200,000 in 1945.

Mineral Wool Booms In the ten years from 1945 to 1954, the selling value at the works of mineral wool produced in Canada climbed from \$1,839,000 to nearly \$9,100,000.

Sausage, Bologna And Frankfurters Canadian meat-packing plants sold 43,620,000 pounds of fresh sausage, 54,683,000 pounds of bologna and 50,820,000 pounds of wieners and frankfurters in 1954.

Power Demand In Canada Firm power peak demand was 3.2 million kilowatts or 35% greater in 1955 than 1951, and in four years more is expected to rise 4.8 million kilowatts or 39% over the 1955 total, making an eight-year increase of 88%.

Wheat Exports Jump Exports of Canadian wheat and wheat flour (in terms of grain equivalent) during April jumped to 33,600,000 bushels compared to 17,700,000 bushels a year earlier and the 1945-1954 April average of 20,200,000 bushels.

Cement Consumption Doubled In 8 Years Apparent Canadian consumption of cement in 1955 amounted to 27,162,649 barrels, a rise of 50% in five years from 18,104,136 barrels in 1950 and over double the 1947 consumption of 13,096,840 barrels.

Stone Used In Pulp And Paper Mills Canadian pulp and paper mills used 452,036 tons of limestone and 9,945 tons of marble in 1954.

Stone For Road Metal Production of stone for road metal in Canada amounted to over 10,000,000 tons in 1954, over six times the output of 1,553,000 tons in 1945.

Fresh & Frozen Meats Canada's meat-packing industry sold 1,400,221,000 pounds of fresh and frozen meats in 1954, beef accounting for 814,750,000 and pork for 367,204,000 pounds.

Granite Quantity of granite quarried in Canada reached a record figure of 12,834,727 short tons in 1954, due to inclusion of the stone used in the Canso causeway construction. Previous recent peak was 2,490,086 tons in 1952.

Beeves Doubled In 25 Years Nearly 1,693,000 beeves were slaughtered for Canada's meat-packing industry in 1954, or more than double the total of 719,520 in 1929. Cost was over four times as great at \$238,048,000 compared to \$53,768,500.

Growth Of Power Generating Capability Canada's electric power industry had a net generating capability in 1955 of 13,905 thousand kilowatts, an increase of 6.1% from 13,101 thousand kilowatts the previous year. In 1959 the generating capability is expected to reach 19,339 thousand kilowatts, 39% above 1955.

