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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Payments Balance: Canada had a record deficit of \$345,000,000 from transactions in goods and services with other countries in the first quarter this year. Last year it amounted to \$174,000,000 in the first quarter; \$255,000,000 in the fourth. The commodity import balance was at a peak \$190,000,000 - as adjusted for balance of payments use. The deficit from other current transactions was slightly less than last year at \$155,000,000. Long and short term capital inflows were sufficient to finance most of the deficit and mitigate any tendency toward significant change in the exchange rate or gold and foreign exchange holdings. (Pages 2 & 3)

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Commodity Trade: Final figures on first-quarter imports show increases in purchases from all main areas, but with three-fourths of the total increase in goods from the United States. Increases were most pronounced in commodities related to investment, but extended also to industrial materials and finished consumers' goods. (Pages 4 & 5)

...

Provincial Finance: Direct and indirect debt of Canada's provincial governments and the Yukon Territory was close to \$4,000,000,000 at the end of March 1955, after a rise in the year of \$322,885,000 that brought the total to an average of \$254.32 per person from \$240.13 a year earlier. (Page 6)

...

Agriculture: Estimated farm cash income in the first quarter this year was about 11% higher than last year at \$517,900,000 due mainly to larger wheat participation payments ... Overseas wheat export clearances continued sharply larger than last year in the week ended June 6. (Pages 9 & 10)

...

Labour: Employment continued to expand in May, the estimated number of persons with jobs climbing 173,000 from April to 5,499,999, which is 175,000 above last year. The estimated number without jobs and seeking work was 165,000 compared to 213,000 a year earlier. (Page 15)

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Transportation: Railway car loadings rose nearly 8% over last year in the first June week ... Canadian airlines carried about 17% more passengers in 1955 than 1954 and almost double the amount of revenue freight. (Pages 16 & 17)

...

Industrial Production: As measured by the Bureau's composite index, industrial production was over 7% greater in April this year than last and for the first four months was up more than 8%. Mineral production continued to lead the advance with a rise of 18% in April and nearly 20% in the four months. (Page 18)

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Current Deficit From Transactions In Goods & Services
With Other Countries At New Peak For First Quarter.

Canada's current deficit from transactions in goods and services with

other countries rose to a new peak for the first quarter of \$345,000,000. This compares with \$174,000,000 in the first quarter last year and \$255,000,000 in the fourth quarter and is about the same size as the highest quarterly deficit which occurred in the second quarter of 1951. In relative terms the deficit is much higher than last year when it averaged almost 12% of current receipts. At 25% of current receipts it represents almost the same proportion of current receipts as in 1930.

The new factor contributing to the large deficit was the massive size of the import balance on commodity account, which amounted to \$190,000,000 (after adjustment for balance of payments use). The deficit from all other current transactions of \$155,000,000 was slightly less than in the corresponding quarter last year. Until recently the principal elements in the current deficit in the past few years have originated in these "invisible" transactions in the absence of surpluses on commodity account. But since the fourth quarter of 1955 the appearance of a large import balance on commodity account has contributed greatly to the over-all current deficit and this year has been the major element for the first time since early in 1951.

Unusually strong demands, both in Canada and abroad, continued to be the pre-dominant influence upon the shape of Canada's international accounts in the first quarter. As a result of pressures arising from these demands, new records were reached in the volume of both total transactions and some major groups of transactions. But the widening imbalance appears to be related to greater increases in some aspects of Canadian economic activity than occurred abroad and a greater flexibility of imports which made this possible. Canadian imports rose much more rapidly than Canadian exports. Growth in some major groups of exports has been limited to increases in capacity.

The high level of activity in Canada has been readily translated into generally increased demands for industrial materials and consumer goods. But the predominant increase in demand has been for machinery and equipment and other types of goods related to investment. In both cases, the pressure on domestic resources has resulted in an extraordinary diversion into imports.

Record Import Balance: The great growth in the import balance has occurred even though the increase in Canada's exports has been substantial. The rate of increase in imports of over 28% for the first quarter of 1956 has outpaced the rise of 9% in exports. The resulting import balance on commodity account of \$190,000,000 compares with an import balance of \$208,000,000 for the whole year 1955. It represents a considerably higher proportion of the value of exports in the quarter (18%) than in any year since before World War I.

Financing The Deficit: Canada's international accounts during the first quarter of 1956 were balanced without significant changes in the exchange rate or official holdings of gold and foreign exchange. Net capital inflows in such long-term forms as direct investment, portfolio security transactions, and official loan repayments, although larger than for many quarters, served to finance somewhat less than half the greatly increased current account deficit. Other capital movements were mainly short-term in character.

These were such as to mitigate any tendency towards a significant change in the value of the Canadian dollar on the world's exchange markets. Official holdings of gold and foreign exchange served to finance only \$29,000,000 or about 8% of the deficit.

Capital Movements: The net inflow of capital for direct investment in foreign-controlled enterprises in Canada is tentatively placed at \$110,000,000 during the first quarter of 1956. This level is about the same as during the final quarter of 1955, and is somewhat above the quarterly average for that year. Resource development continued to be the major area of foreign direct investment. Net outflows of capital from Canada for direct investment abroad during the quarter appear to have been of the order of \$45,000,000, setting a new quarterly record. Contributing substantially to the total was the acquisition by Canadians of interests in a number of existing enterprises in the United States. (1)

Large Capital Inflow In First 1956 Quarter Portfolio security transactions between Canada and other countries during the first quarter of 1956 led to a sales balance of \$88,000,000, the largest capital inflow since the first quarter of 1954.

Sales abroad of new issues of Canadian securities during the quarter amounted to \$105,000,000, many times larger than the figures for the preceding three quarters and only slightly smaller than the total recorded for the corresponding quarter of 1955. Direct and guaranteed issues of provincial governments, payable solely in United States funds, represented over 85% of the total. The balance was about evenly divided between municipal and corporation issues as equity securities represented only a small fraction of the total. Retirements of Canadian securities held by non-residents amounted to \$74,000,000 during the quarter, and as in the case of new issues were larger than in the three preceding quarters but smaller than for the corresponding quarter of the previous year. About half of the retirements represented redemption at maturity, and the balance calls in advance of maturity.

Trading in outstanding Canadian securities led to a sales balance of \$78,000,000 in the quarter. Capital inflows of \$57,000,000, \$4,000,000 and \$17,000,000 were recorded from transactions with the United States, United Kingdom and other countries, respectively. Net sales of \$32,000,000 outstanding Canadian stocks were larger than for either of the two preceding quarters but well below the very high level recorded in the final quarter of 1954 and through the first half of 1955. Nearly \$24,000,000 of the sales of outstanding stocks were to the United States and the remainder to overseas countries. Net sales of \$46,000,000 of outstanding Canadian bonds and debentures were more than triple the figure for the final quarter of 1955 and were in striking contrast to the substantial outflows which were characteristic of the preceding period when Canadian and United States interest rates were closer. Sales included \$30,000,000 of Government of Canada direct issues, nearly \$11,000,000 of corporation issues, and smaller amounts of issues of other debtors. United States residents acquired, on balance, \$34,000,000 and residents of other countries \$12,000,000 of the net outstanding bonds sold by Canadians during the quarter.

Transactions in foreign portfolio securities resulted in net capital outflows of \$21,000,000. Most of this represented net purchases by Canadians of outstanding stocks of United States corporations. (2)

Imports Reached New Peaks
In March & First Quarter

Continuing the expansion which has been underway since the middle of 1955, Canada's imports rose 28% in the first quarter of 1956 to a new peak for the period of \$1,272,200,000 versus \$990,700,000 a year earlier. The March value also set a new record for a month at \$463,600,000 versus \$376,200,000 in the corresponding month last year.

The rate of increase in the first quarter has only been exceeded in a few periods in the past. Increases have been widespread with virtually all commodities sharing in the rise. In 1955 large increases occurred in industrial machinery and equipment, industrial materials and components and finished consumers' goods. In 1956 more of the increase appears to have occurred in groups of commodities related to investment than was the case even in 1955. But imports of industrial materials and finished goods have also continued to increase, although in some cases to a lesser extent than in the latter part of last year. The rises have been related to the unusually high levels of economic activity. Most sources abroad have shared in the increases but the United States accounted for over three quarters of the total, a slightly larger ratio than last year.

Imports from the United States jumped to \$361,737,000 in March from \$284,-934,000 a year earlier and to \$961,488,000 in the quarter from \$745,674,000. Gains in commodity groups were widespread, the fibres and textiles group recording the only decline. Chief gains were in iron and products, non-ferrous metals and products, non-metallic minerals and products, and wood and paper products.

Purchases from the United Kingdom were slightly higher in value in March at \$33,774,000 versus \$32,326,000, but substantially larger in the quarter at \$97,795,000 versus \$85,433,000. Trends were mixed among main commodity groups in March with gains in five and losses in four. In the quarter, advances were shown for 7 of the 9 groups. Iron and products registered the largest increase both in March and the quarter.

Imports from the rest of the Commonwealth eased to \$13,125,000 in March from \$13,467,000 in the corresponding month last year but the first-quarter total rose to \$39,018,000 from \$35,588,000 a year earlier. Among individual countries there were larger purchases both in the month and quarter from Ceylon and Malaya and Singapore but smaller from India and New Zealand. Imports were smaller in March but larger in the quarter from Australia and Fiji.

Imports from Latin American countries climbed to \$27,869,000 in March from \$24,744,000 in the corresponding month last year and to \$91,308,000 in the quarter from \$68,222,000. Both March and first-quarter totals were larger for Mexico, Brazil and Colombia. Purchases from Venezuela were down in March but substantially higher in the quarter.

Boosted by larger imports from Belgium and Luxembourg, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy and Switzerland, purchases from European countries rose to \$15,936,000 in March from \$12,572,000 a year earlier and to \$46,379,000 in the quarter from \$32,249,000. From all other foreign countries imports jumped to \$10,473,000 in March from \$7,592,000 and to \$34,256,000 in the quarter from \$22,178,000, with Japan, the Netherlands Antilles and Arabia accounting for most of the increase. (3 & 4)

MORE

The following table shows the value of Canada's chief commodity imports in March and the quarter, ranked according to size in the quarter, with comparative data for 1955:

	March		January-March	
	1955	1956	1955	1956
	(Thousands of Dollars)			
Machinery, non-farm	36,479	50,543	91,189	136,073
Automobile parts	25,900	29,090	64,362	67,257
Automobiles	8,251	33,455	23,374	64,077
Farm implements & machinery ...	15,174	23,373	33,493	58,307
Petroleum, crude	19,281	16,936	49,614	58,293
Rolling-mill products	9,148	16,880	22,919	48,808
Engines & boilers	11,468	12,217	28,629	29,929
Cotton products	8,741	9,703	23,392	29,672
Aircraft & parts	11,065	10,589	27,276	28,070
Petroleum products	6,193	7,750	21,233	27,459
Fruits	8,516	8,314	21,801	23,994
Coal	6,274	6,641	19,877	22,233
Rubber & products	6,138	6,712	15,814	20,497
Pipes, tubes & fittings	3,501	7,993	9,159	19,523
Cotton, raw & linters	6,118	6,615	16,463	19,491
Books & printed matter	6,326	6,446	16,849	18,585
Coffee & chicory	4,341	6,576	15,646	17,974
Wool products	5,137	5,078	12,528	15,382
Paper	4,190	5,105	11,305	14,554
Wood, unmanufactured	3,354	4,755	9,433	14,406
Synthetic fibers & products ...	4,605	4,421	12,413	14,307
Vegetables	5,246	5,302	13,689	13,753
Refrigerators & parts	3,678	5,529	9,265	13,559

MINING

Production Of Leading Minerals In March & Quarter

Production of half of Canada's 16 leading minerals increased in March from a year earlier and all but two (asbestos and lead) advanced in the first quarter. Large increases were recorded both in March and the quarter for cement, clay products, copper, gypsum, natural gas, petroleum and salt.

The quarter's output of cement rose to 4,193,936 barrels from 3,137,597 a year earlier, clay products to \$6,882,625 from \$5,631,525, coal to 4,407,121 tons from 4,127,135, copper to 88,589 tons from 78,316, gold to 1,108,691 fine ounces from 1,089,090, and gypsum to 882,533 tons from 574,356.

Output of iron ore was sharply higher in the quarter at 579,199 tons versus 285,824, lime rose to 312,008 tons from 310,070, natural gas to 52,724,493 M cubic feet from 43,751,747 M, nickel to 45,486 tons from 43,306, petroleum to 41,438,095 barrels from 28,687,840, salt to 352,020 tons from 256,494, silver to 6,671,546 fine ounces from 6,556,483, and zinc to 109,160 tons from 105,230. Production of asbestos fell to 203,492 tons from 208,010 and lead to 47,203 tons from 53,090. (5)

Direct And Indirect Debt
Of Provincial Governments

Direct and indirect debt, less sinking funds, of Canada's ten provincial governments and the Yukon Territory, totalled \$3,967,576,000 at the end of March last year, an increase of \$322,885,000 over the preceding year's \$3,656,691,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The per capita figure for direct and indirect debt rose to \$254.32 from \$240.13.

Direct debt (less sinking funds) of the provinces increased to \$2,456,150,000 from \$2,412,942,000 in the preceding year but the per capita figure fell to \$157.44 from \$158.98. Total indirect debt (less sinking funds) rose to \$1,511,426,000 from \$1,243,749,000 a year earlier and the per capita figure to \$96.88 from \$81.15.

On this basis, direct and indirect debt per capita increased in eight of the ten provinces and decreased in two. Figure for Newfoundland rose to \$165.90 from \$128.44; Prince Edward Island to \$174.07 from \$166.90; Nova Scotia to \$284.41 from \$282.81; Quebec to \$175.44 from \$165.67; Ontario to \$374.14 from \$347.81; Manitoba to \$218.51 from \$201.73; Saskatchewan to \$216.09 from \$209.52; and British Columbia to \$224.97 from \$221.18. For New Brunswick the per capita fell to \$328.14 from \$332.07 and for Alberta to \$93.45 from \$99.22.

Direct debt increased in eight provinces during the 1954-55 fiscal year: to \$26,535,000 in Newfoundland from \$14,208,000; to \$18,108,000 in Prince Edward Island from \$16,989,000; to \$188,775,000 in Nova Scotia from \$188,287,000; to \$172,360,000 in New Brunswick from \$171,293,000; to \$403,122,000 in Quebec from \$394,640,000; to \$1,004,753,000 in Ontario from \$976,756,000; to \$158,183,000 in Manitoba from \$154,672,000; and to \$188,602,000 in Saskatchewan from \$180,387,000. The Alberta total fell to \$95,837,000 from \$98,389,000 and the British Columbia figure to \$194,754,000 from \$217,321,000.

Indirect debt increased in all provinces except Saskatchewan and Alberta. Total for Newfoundland rose to \$41,815,000 from \$36,912,000; Prince Edward Island to \$691,000 from \$535,000; Nova Scotia to \$5,480,000 from \$2,044,000; New Brunswick to \$10,741,000 from \$10,348,000; Quebec to \$384,857,000 from \$332,298,000; Ontario to \$934,395,000 from \$778,295,000; Manitoba to \$27,327,000 from \$12,355,000; and British Columbia to \$98,832,000 from \$62,694,000. Total for Saskatchewan fell to \$3,500,000 from \$3,571,000, and Alberta to \$3,288,000 from \$4,697,000.

Per capita direct debt was as follows by provinces: Newfoundland, \$64.41 (\$35.70 in 1954); Prince Edward Island, \$167.67 (\$161.80); Nova Scotia, \$276.39 (\$279.77); New Brunswick, \$308.89 (\$313.15); Quebec, \$90.29 (\$89.94); Ontario, \$193.86 (\$193.57); Manitoba, \$186.32 (\$186.80); Saskatchewan, \$212.15 (\$205.45); Alberta, \$89.90 (\$94.70); and British Columbia, \$149.24 (\$171.66).

Per capita indirect debt was as follows by provinces: Newfoundland, \$101.49 (\$92.74); Prince Edward Island, \$6.40 (\$5.10); Nova Scotia, \$8.02 (\$3.04); New Brunswick, \$19.25 (\$18.92); Quebec, \$85.15 (\$75.73); Ontario, \$180.28 (\$154.24); Manitoba, \$32.19 (\$14.93); Saskatchewan, \$3.94 (\$4.07); Alberta, \$3.55 (\$4.52); and British Columbia, \$75.73 (\$49.52).

New issues of provincial bonded debt totalled \$181,690,000 in 1955 versus \$308,314,000 a year earlier, while retirements were \$190,325,000 versus \$118,503,000. Borrowings payable in New York dropped to \$12,800,000 from \$115,000,000 in 1954, while retirements increased to \$32,948,000 from \$282,000. Retirements of bonds payable in both New York and Canada increased to \$42,812,000 from \$11,634,000. (6)

Distribution of Non-Farm Incomes In 1954

Non-farm families and unattached individuals received an average income of \$3,654 in 1954, an increase of 15% over the preceding year's average of \$3,185, according to a new DFS publication (reference paper 66) which presents data on the distribution of family and individual incomes. The data are similar in nature to statistics for the year 1951 published earlier (reference paper 52). Families are defined as a group of two or more persons living in the same household and related by blood, marriage or adoption. Unattached individuals are persons living by themselves or rooming in a household where they are not related to other household members.

The modal group (that containing the most families and unattached individuals) occurred in the interval \$3,000 to \$3,499; the median income (the income which divides the distribution in half) was \$3,174. In 1954 just over one-quarter of families and unattached individuals had incomes below \$2,000; over half had incomes of \$2,000 to \$5,000; while one-fifth had incomes of \$5,000 or more. By contrast, in 1951 the modal group was \$2,500 to \$2,999, the median was \$2,703, the lower 25% of incomes were below \$1,500, and the middle 50% ranged from \$1,500 to \$4,000.

Families and unattached individuals whose incomes largely originated in wages and salaries had an average income of approximately \$3,900, while the median income was \$3,487. Families and unattached individuals whose major source of income was net unincorporated business income (net income from self-employment or a professional practice) averaged \$4,540, while families and unattached individuals whose income came from pensions, investment income or transfer payments averaged \$1,860.

If unattached individuals whose income is usually lower are excluded, the average income of families proper was \$4,143. About one-quarter had incomes below \$2,500, half fell between \$2,500 and \$5,000, and the remaining quarter had incomes of \$5,000 or more. However, pronounced differences existed by regions.

Average family incomes in 1954 exceeded \$4,000 in three regions: Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia. Between 1951 and 1954 incomes reported rose from \$3,523 to \$4,152 in Quebec, from \$3,903 to \$4,591 in Ontario, and from \$3,669 to \$4,230 in British Columbia. Average family incomes in 1954 in the Prairie Provinces were \$3,925, while in the Atlantic Provinces they averaged \$2,874.

In the Atlantic Provinces nearly 30% of all family incomes were below \$1,500, while nearly 50% had incomes between \$1,500 and \$4,000. In Quebec approximately 27% of families had incomes below \$2,500, while 50% fell between \$2,500 and \$5,000; this also approximated the income range in which the middle half of family incomes fell in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia. In Ontario the middle income groups ranged from \$3,000 to \$5,500.

As in 1951, analysis indicated that incomes of families and unattached individuals differed substantially when units were classified by the age and sex of the head of the unit. Peak incomes were reached when heads of units were in the 40 to 64 age groups; average incomes for such family units were approximately \$4,200. For units headed by males, the highest average income, approximately \$4,600, was attained when the head was 50 to 64. Again, as in 1951, incomes dropped sharply when the head was over 65 when the average was somewhat less than \$2,500. Family units with heads in the 30 to 39 age group had the lowest ratio of low incomes, while family units with heads aged 50 to 64 had the greatest proportion of incomes above \$5,000. (7)

Crop Conditions Throughout the Maritime Provinces the weather had continued cool and wet stated the Bureau's mid-June crop report. Although seeding and planting operations had been delayed, reports indicated that throughout the area a large proportion of the crops were in the ground. Hay and pastures were doing well. During the first half of June frost in all three provinces did some damage to small fruit bloom and to vegetables.

Cold, rainy weather had delayed both seeding and plant growth in Quebec. It was estimated that about one-third of the spring grains throughout the province was still to be seeded. Meadows were growing well and promised a heavy hay crop except in a few areas. Apple blossoming was about two weeks later than usual. In summary the season was about two weeks late but a period of dry weather would stimulate growth of all crops and make up for lost time.

Cold weather and excessive precipitation over much of Ontario in April and most of May delayed seeding in all areas. By the end of the first week in June approximately 80% to 85% of the spring grain area had been seeded in southwestern Ontario and about 60% to 65% in central and eastern Ontario. Fine, warm weather during the last ten days over much of southern Ontario speeded up all farm operations and in many areas spring seeding had been completed. Although the land was still quite wet in some places in eastern Ontario, farmers were making good progress. Germination of spring grains had been fairly satisfactory but many fields in eastern Ontario were patchy due to excessive moisture.

Hot, windy weather was depleting moisture supplies over wide areas in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Rain was now urgently needed over the Prairies with the exception of Manitoba, some northerly parts of Saskatchewan and the Peace River area. Following recent rains the crop outlook was very promising in Manitoba and the Peace River area.

Following a prolonged dry period, cool showery weather had prevailed over all areas of British Columbia during the previous ten days and as a result crop prospects had improved considerably. Pasture conditions varied from relatively good in central regions to poor on Vancouver Island. Haying operations had commenced in some areas with production of grass silage also under way. The strawberry harvest had started on the mainland and was in full swing on Vancouver Island. (8)

Stocks of Creamery Butter Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada on June 14 totalled 52,393,000 pounds, slightly larger than last year's holdings of 50,781,000 pounds. Stocks were as follows by cities (in thousands): Quebec, 5,006 pounds (2,806 a year earlier); Montreal, 27,351 (24,715); Toronto, 5,682 (8,409); Winnipeg, 12,347 (11,825); Regina, 343 (840); Saskatoon, 358 (481); Edmonton, 412 (768); Calgary, 347 (248); and Vancouver, 547 (689).

Stocks Of Fruits & Vegetables Stocks of potatoes, onions, and celery were smaller on June 1 this year than last, but holdings of carrots, cabbage, pears and frozen fruit and vegetables were larger. Potato stocks totalled 1,812,000 bushels (1,883,000 a year earlier); onions, 52,000 bushels (70,000); carrots, 73,000 bushels (48,000); cabbage, 29,000 bushels (22,000); celery, 16,000 crates (21,000); apples, 227,000 bushels (248,000); pears, 3,000 bushels (2,000); fruit, frozen and in preservatives, 23,917,000 pounds (22,022,000); and vegetables, frozen and in brine, 14,683,000 pounds (10,736,000). (9)

Output Of Carbonated Beverages Up In May Production of carbonated beverages increased 0.9% in May to 10,880,395 gallons from 10,783,695 a year ago and January-May production rose 7.3% to 43,315,446 gallons from last year's 40,361,521. (10)

Meat Stocks Larger On June 1 Stocks of meat in cold storage were 17.7% larger on June 1 at 88,981,000 pounds as compared with 75,585,000 a year earlier. Holdings of frozen meat increased to 56,957,000 pounds from 44,667,000, stocks of fresh meat to 18,807,000 pounds versus 17,964,000 and stocks of cured meats to 13,217,000 pounds from 12,954,000. (11)

Farm Cash Income Higher In This Year's First Quarter Cash income of Canadian farmers in the first quarter of this year amounted to an estimated \$517,900,000, up about 11% from last year's first-quarter total of \$467,200,000 and about 1% larger than 1954's first-quarter income of \$512,800,000. The increase is mainly attributable to larger wheat participation payments and larger sales of poultry meat, and to a lesser extent to increased sales of oats, rye, flax, corn, cattle, dairy products and eggs. Increases occurred in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and Ontario.

Higher average farm prices and increased marketings provided an income from the sale of wheat in the quarter of \$69,100,000 as against \$50,000,000 for the same period a year earlier. Participation payments, including those made in connection with the interim payment on the 1954 wheat crop, amounted to \$22,300,000, steeply above the \$200,000 paid during the corresponding period a year ago. Larger marketings and higher prices also contributed to a significant increase in the income from flaxseed; larger marketings were entirely responsible for an increased income from oats and rye. Due mainly to reduced marketings, barley was the only grain to record a decrease. Estimated total income from grains, seeds and hay was up to \$119,600,000 against \$70,600,000 last year. Substantially lower prices for potatoes contributed to an estimated lower income from this source and the income from tobacco was well below last year's first quarter.

Cash income from the sale of livestock and poultry in the first quarter of this year increased about 4% to \$182,900,000 versus \$175,700,000 a year earlier. Compared with a year ago, income from cattle and calves rose to \$93,600,000 from \$91,800,000; increased marketings more than offset lower prices. The greatest gain in this sector was recorded for poultry, rising to \$18,800,000 from \$11,300,000, due to a substantial increase in marketings. Although hog marketings were higher this year than last, the estimated income declined to \$68,700,000 from \$70,800,000 because of lower prices.

Income from dairy products rose \$4,600,000 over last year, bringing the total to \$84,800,000; increased production more than counter-balanced the lower prices. Higher average prices for eggs together with virtually unchanged output increased the income from this source 12% over last year to \$32,800,000.

Provincial income totals for this year, 1955 totals in brackets, (in thousands) were: Prince Edward Island, \$5,510 (\$6,738); Nova Scotia, \$9,544 (\$8,812); New Brunswick, \$10,800 (\$10,076); Quebec, \$83,470 (\$77,210); Ontario, \$178,284 (\$184,552); Manitoba, \$34,555 (\$25,790); Saskatchewan, \$85,188 (\$56,361); Alberta, \$89,014 (\$78,275); and British Columbia, \$21,533 (\$19,360). (12)

Supplies Of Wheat Larger Visible supplies of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America amounted to 331,361,000 bushels on June 6 as compared with 329,711,000 a week earlier and 327,347,000 on the corresponding date a year earlier. Prairie farmers' marketings of wheat during the week ended June 6 totalled 13,679,000 bushels versus 10,503,000 in the previous week and 9,110,000 a year ago. Overseas export clearances soared to 9,886,000 bushels as compared with 3,774,000 last year. (13)

Exports of Oats, Barley, Rye And Flaxseed In Nine Months Total exports of oats, barley, rye and flaxseed during the first three quarters of the 1955-56 crop year amounted to 54,500,000 bushels as against 78,500,000 in the corresponding period of the preceding year, and the five-year (1950-1954) nine-month average of 86,700,000 bushels, according to the Bureau's coarse grains quarterly.

Current crop year exports of each of the four grains to the end of April, with figures for the corresponding period of last year and the five-year August-April averages, respectively, in brackets, were as follows (in millions): oats, 2.5 (17.1, 34.4); barley, 38.2 (53.9, 42.4); rye, 4.1 (31.1, 6.8); and flaxseed, 9.7 (4.4, 3.1).

In the nine-month period, exports of Canadian oats went to eight different countries. Principal importers were the United States and Belgium, these countries taking shipments which totalled 922,400 bushels and 723,000 bushels, respectively. Exports of barley went to ten different countries, with shipments of 19,000,000 to the United States, 10,600,000 to the United Kingdom, 6,600,000 to Japan and 1,700,000 to the Federal Republic of Germany accounting for most of the total.

Rye exports were distributed among eight countries, with the largest shipments (1,600,000 bushels) going to United States, 700,000 to the Federal Republic of Germany, and 600,000 to Belgium. Of the sixteen countries which imported Canadian flaxseed, the United Kingdom was the leading market, receiving some 3,000,000 bushels. Other principal markets were: the Netherlands, 2,200,000 bushels; Belgium, 1,200,000; and Japan 1,200,000. (14)

MANUFACTURING

Tax-Paid Withdrawals of Cigarettes Increased In First Quarter Of 1956 Tax-paid withdrawals of cigarettes for consumption in Canada, as indicated by the sale of excise revenue stamps, increased 11% to 5,999,135,000 in the first quarter of 1956 as compared with 5,406,798,000 a year earlier. At the same time tax-paid withdrawals of cigars rose to 60,-617,000 from 54,893,000, but cut tobacco declined to 5,489,000 pounds from 5,937,000, plug to 354,000 pounds from 435,000, raw leaf to 233,000 pounds from 234,000, and snuff to 197,000 pounds from 204,000.

Stocks of unmanufactured tobacco held at the end of March declined to 213,-359,348 pounds versus 229,015,959 a year earlier, with stocks of flue-cured dropping to 186,438,707 pounds from 203,605,164, burley to 8,857,806 pounds from 9,402,805, and "other" types to 783,090 pounds from 804,186. Stocks of dark tobacco increased to 3,042,152 pounds from 2,466,810, cigar to 12,433,198 pounds from 11,033,032, and pipe to 1,794,395 pounds from 1,703,962. (16)

Leather Production In April Wettings of all types of hides and skins with the exception of cattle hides and sheep and lamb skins decreased in April from a year earlier. Production of sole leather increased to 1,159,866 pounds in April versus 1,074,665 a year ago, upper leather to 5,125,329 square feet from 3,974,616, glove and garment leather (cattle, sheep, lamb and horse) to 1,032,193 square feet from 944,783. Output of calf and kip skin upper leather declined to 732,018 square feet from 864,094.

Stocks of raw cattle hides and skins held by tanners, packers and dealers at April 30 increased to 553,636 skins from 552,522, calf and kip skins to 536,991 from 365,054, and goat and kid to 26,221 from 10,950. Holdings of sheep and lamb skins declined to 37,418 dozen versus 39,079 and horse hides to 16,683 from 25,791. (17)

Leather Products Industries In 1954 Value of shipments in the leather products industries declined 7% in 1954 to \$206,513,000 from \$222,410,000 in 1953, according to the Bureau's general review of the group. Shipments in the leather tanning section grossed \$42,609,000, down 11% from 1953's total of \$47,996,000, and shipments in the secondary industries section declined 6% to \$163,904,000 from \$174,414,000.

Number of establishments in the group of industries fell to 673 versus 695, employees to 30,748 versus 33,068, salaries and wage payments to \$67,162,000 from \$70,965,000, cost of materials used to \$101,251,000 from \$116,416,000, but fuel and electricity costs rose to \$2,066,000 from \$2,057,000.

All industries in the secondary section reported decreased shipments. Totals for the leather footwear group declined to \$123,244,000 from \$131,307,000; leather gloves and mittens to \$7,879,000 from \$9,686,000; leather boot and shoe findings to \$5,274,000 from \$5,417,000; leather belting to \$1,287,000 from \$1,745,000; and miscellaneous leather products to \$26,219,000 from \$26,258,000. ((18)

Production And Shipments Of Portland Cement Up In April Production of Portland cement by Canadian manufacturers increased 48% in April to 2,486,433 barrels from 1,674,749 a year earlier and 21% in the January-April period to 8,343,148 barrels from 6,898,061. Shipments rose 36% in April to 2,420,281 barrels from 1,776,394 last year, raising the four-month total 34% to 6,572,550 barrels as compared with 4,911,983. (19)

Production And Shipments Of Veneer And Plywood Larger quantities of plywood were produced and shipped in April and the first four months of this year than a year earlier. Both production and shipments of veneer declined in April but rose in the January-April period. Month-end stocks were larger for veneer but smaller for plywood.

In April, 109,869,000 feet board measure of plywood were produced (91,189,000 a year earlier) and 109,813,000 board feet were shipped (96,367,000). Output of veneer amounted to 81,005,000 feet board measure (84,166,000) and shipments totalled 77,698,000 board feet (83,096,000).

January-April output of plywood amounted to 428,497,000 board feet (360,641,000) and shipments totalled 422,218,000 board feet (343,529,000). The four-month output of veneer amounted to 361,599,000 board feet (336,167,000) and shipments totalled 352,591,000 board feet (335,422,000). Month-end stocks of plywood were 43,451,000 board feet (65,299,000), and of veneer, 31,746,000 board feet (29,071,000). (20)

Rubber Consumption Increased Consumption of natural, synthetic and reclaim rubber was higher in April at 9,538 tons versus 8,845 a month earlier, but stocks at month-end fell to 13,649 tons from 14,738. Domestic production of synthetic and reclaim rubber dropped slightly to 10,713 tons in April as compared with 10,831 a month earlier. (21)

Production And Shipments Of Iron Castings & Cast Pipe Up In April Production of iron castings and cast iron pipe increased 27% in April to 94,413 tons as compared with 74,269 a year ago, and January-April output was up 29% to 361,917 tons versus 280,563. Shipments in April rose nearly 24% to 61,040 tons versus 49,409 a year earlier, boosting the four-month total to 234,623 tons as compared with 186,596 in the corresponding period last year. (22)

Production Of Clay Products Rose In March And Quarter Producers' sales of products made from Canadian clays increased 5.3% in March to \$2,299,700 from \$2,183,100 a year ago and 22.2% in the first quarter to \$6,882,600 as compared with \$5,631,500 in the corresponding period last year.

Sales in the January-March period of building brick increased to \$4,450,500 from \$3,484,800 a year ago, structural tile to \$851,900 from \$794,500, drain tile to \$330,000 from \$261,200, sewer pipe to \$745,300 from \$675,300, fireclay blocks and shapes to \$139,000 from \$81,000 and "other" clay products to \$239,700 from \$208,300. Pottery sales were unchanged at \$126,300 in both periods.

Totals for March (1955 figures in brackets) were: building brick, \$1,495,200 (\$1,371,700); structural tile, \$285,400 (\$269,300); drain tile, \$115,700 (\$117,300); sewer pipe, \$255,500 (\$262,000); fireclay blocks and shapes, \$38,400 (\$30,900); pottery, \$43,200 (\$40,600); and "other" clay products, \$66,300 (\$91,100). (23)

Furniture Industry In 1954 Value of factory shipments by Canadian furniture manufacturers was at a new peak of \$232,704,000 in 1954, about 1% larger than the preceding year's \$231,557,000. Number of employees rose slightly to 29,876 from 29,768 and their earnings to \$77,606,000 from \$75,836,000. Cost of materials used increased to \$108,913,000 versus \$107,747,000 and fuel and electricity costs to \$2,775,000 from \$2,327,000. There were 1,775 establishments in the industry versus 1,640.

Shipments of upholstered and unupholstered wooden furniture increased to \$141,714,000 in 1954 versus \$141,096,000 a year earlier; metal furniture, \$38,049,000 (\$37,861,000 in 1953); springs, \$7,619,000 (\$7,335,000); "other" products, \$15,248,000 (\$15,081,000); and services and custom work, \$10,465,000 (\$9,824,000). Shipments of mattresses, pillows, cushions and comforters declined. (24)

Cotton Textile Industries Goods to the value of \$211,415,000 were shipped by Canadian textile manufacturers in 1954, a decrease of 8.6% from 1953's total of \$231,188,000. Employment fell sharply to 21,359 in 1954 from 24,808 in 1953, salaries and wages to \$53,553,000 from \$59,297,000, cost of materials used to \$128,382,000 from \$144,302,000 and costs of fuel and electricity to \$3,965,000 from \$4,216,000.

Reduced shipment values were reported for all main products with broad-woven fabrics declining to \$112,615,000 from \$123,651,000; sales yarn to \$31,839,000 from \$35,720,000; thread to \$9,208,000 from \$10,358,000; and woven tire fabrics to \$22,275,000 from \$23,060,000. (25)

Wire & Wire Goods Industry 1954 Value of factory shipments of Canada's wire and wire goods industry rose 1% in 1954 to \$105,900,500 as compared with \$104,858,000 in the preceding year, according to the Bureau's annual industry report. Number of establishments rose to 126 from 122 a year earlier, employees to 8,731 versus 8,634, salaries and wages to \$29,771,600 versus \$28,656,100, cost of materials used to \$55,200,500 from \$37,046,500, and fuel and electricity costs to \$1,646,000 from \$1,512,100.

Items produced in 1954 included: plain and galvanized wire valued at \$20,019,400; barbed wire, \$1,220,100; wire fencing, \$2,869,700; wire nails, \$12,124,600; tacks, \$601,600; staples, \$279,800; screws, \$14,402,200; wire cloth, \$10,316,000; wire rope, \$10,941,700; bale ties, \$652,800; and upholstering springs, \$8,395,500. (26)

Iron and Steel Products Industries Factory value of products made by Canada's iron and steel products industries grossed \$2,099,000,000 in 1953, a small decline of about 1% from the preceding year's \$2,135,000,000, DBS reports in its annual general review. The net value of production, or the value added by manufacture, showed a slight increase to \$1,141,000,000 from \$1,134,000,000. There were 2,699 establishments in the group (2,625 in 1952), employing 188,236 persons (189,191) with salary and wage payments aggregating \$643,474,000 (\$617,011,000).

Plants in Ontario accounted for \$1,416,611,000 of the 1953 total (1,443,-169,000 in 1952); Quebec, \$421,770,000 (\$444,843,000); British Columbia, \$86,-892,000 (\$84,953,000); Nova Scotia, \$62,684,000 (\$63,087,000); Manitoba, \$56,-966,000 (\$51,309,000); Alberta, \$32,650,000 (\$26,865,000); New Brunswick, \$9,-958,000 (\$11,427,000); Saskatchewan, \$8,438,000 (\$7,432,000); Newfoundland, \$2,406,000 (\$1,502,000); and Prince Edward Island, \$176,000 (\$444,000).

Gross values were as follows by industries (in millions); agricultural implements, \$171 (\$206 in 1952); boilers and plate work, \$98 (\$90); bridge and structural steel work, \$156 (\$140); hardware, tools and cutlery, \$127 (\$124); heating and cooking apparatus, \$97 (\$87); iron castings, \$157 (\$171); machine shops, \$43 (\$42); household, office and store machinery, \$99 (\$99); machine tools, \$17 (\$17); "other" machinery, \$226 (\$227); primary iron and steel, \$459 (\$504); sheet metal products, \$225 (\$214); wire and wire goods, \$105 (\$106); and miscellaneous iron and steel, \$117 (\$110). (27)

HEALTH & WELFARE

Fewer Births, Deaths And Marriages In May Fewer births, deaths and marriages were registered in May than a year earlier but larger numbers were recorded in the January-May period. Births fell slightly to 38,780 in May versus 38,992 a year ago, but January-May registrations were 1.6% higher at 183,312 versus 180,489. Deaths declined to 11,007 in the month from 11,354 a year ago, but increased 4.6% in the five months to 57,376 from 54,843. Marriages were lower in May at 8,847 versus 9,189, but 5.7% higher in the five months at 37,385 as compared with 35,384. (28)

Poliomyelitis Cases In 1955 Lowest In Five Years; Tuberculosis Cases Continued Decline

Cases of epidemic poliomyelitis dropped sharply to a five-year low and new cases of tuberculosis

continued to decline, according to the fourth annual report on notifiable diseases released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Number of cases of epidemic poliomyelitis in 1955 was 1,020, a drop of 57% from the preceding year's 2,390, and a steep decline from the 1953 all-time high of 8,878 cases. All provinces reported fewer cases than in 1954, except British Columbia which reported a 6% increase with a total of 230 cases. Canada's polio rate per 100,000 estimated population dropped to 6.5 from 15.8 in 1954 and 60.2 in 1953. The highest incidence rate was recorded in Alberta with 20.2, while Quebec had the lowest with 2.7.

In 1955 the number of new cases of tuberculosis was 10,177, a slight decrease of 2.8% as compared with the preceding year. However, the Canada rate for 1955 of 65.4 per 100,000 population is the lowest since 1930. Only three provinces showed increases in the number of cases over 1954: Alberta 24%, New Brunswick 22%, and Ontario 11%.

A number of other diseases, of which new cases are reportable by law through the medical officers of health in the various provinces show important decreases, although varying in size. Newly reported cases of venereal diseases declined to 16,647 cases from 18,056 in 1954, which was also below the five-year median (average) of 18,312 cases. Although this represents only a decrease of 8% compared with 1954, it is the lowest number of cases as well as the lowest rate (106.9) recorded since the peak year 1946, when 41,556 cases were reported giving a rate of 338.7.

Infectious jaundice with 2,586 cases reported in 1955 showed a decrease of over 30% from 1954 when 3,871 cases were recorded, more than double the five-year median of 1,182 cases. Cases of scarlet fever and septic sore throat together have declined steadily since 1952. For 1955 there were 9,360 cases, 29% fewer than the 13,124 cases for 1954 and well below the five-year median of 15,433 cases. There were 33,599 cases of chickenpox reported in 1955, a decrease of 10% from last year and the lowest since 1947.

On the other hand, increases were recorded in the number of reported cases for several diseases. Influenza reached epidemic stages in several provinces with the Canada total increasing from 2,498 cases in 1954 to 38,438 in 1955 and exceeding the five-year median of 10,110 cases by almost four times. This record has been surpassed only twice, in 1937 and 1951 with 64,429 and 47,292 cases, respectively.

A number of diseases more common to children showed increases over the previous year. Measles increased over 50% from 36,850 cases to 56,922 in 1955. The majority of the provinces registered increases, with Ontario showing the highest, 21,920 cases compared with 9,728 in 1954. Rubella, or german measles, showed a sharp increase to 20,409 cases from 4,468 in 1954, doubling the five-year median of 10,116 cases. Ontario reported 79% of the total cases. Whooping cough has been increasing since 1952 when 8,520 cases were reported. The 1955 figure of 13,682 cases showed an increase of 2,082 cases, or 18% over 1954.

MORE

Shown in this report for the first time are two comparative indices of the health level of Canada with that of other countries, as well as the trend of communicable disease mortality experience which these indices show during the past decade. Although Canada does not have the lowest rate for deaths from selected communicable diseases for 1951 (the latest year for which comparative figures for other countries are available), it ranks among the lowest as shown by the following rates per 100,000: Canada 27.7, United States 21.6, United Kingdom 33.6. Mortality from selected communicable diseases (diphtheria, malaria, measles, scarlet fever, smallpox, tuberculosis, typhoid and paratyphoid fever, typhus fever and whooping cough) for Canada dropped to 12.0 in 1954 from 64.0 in 1941 and 95.1 in 1931. A corresponding drop is shown by the proportional selective communicable diseases mortality index, to 1.5% in 1954 from 6.2 in 1941 and 9.1 in 1931. (29)

LABOUR

Expansion In Employment Continued With Increasing Strength In May

The seasonal expansion of employment which began in March continued with increasing strength into May, according to the monthly joint statement by the Department of Labour and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Although the rise in employment this spring did not match the record expansion of 1955, it exceeded the increase of the two previous years by a considerable margin. In the week ended May 19 the number of persons with jobs was estimated to be 5,499,000, a gain of 173,000 from April and 175,000 from May last year.

As usual, the seasonal expansion of agriculture, construction, transportation and services accounted for most of the employment gains during the month. Job opportunities were particularly plentiful in construction as a result of expanded industrial and engineering building programs in all regions. There were some layoffs in the automobile and agricultural implements industries during the month but employment in most other manufacturing industries continued to expand.

Employment gains were distributed fairly evenly across the country. The current demand for workers, however, was heaviest in the western provinces, and there were shortages in many professional and skilled occupations, particularly in some Ontario and Prairie centres.

Unemployment declined more sharply than usual during the month and the supply of available labour in most local areas was considerably smaller than last year. Persons without jobs and seeking work fell to an estimated 165,000 from 257,000 a month earlier and 213,000 a year ago. Applications for employment on hand at National Employment Service Offices at mid-May totalled 281,948, down from 488,908 a month earlier and 332,378 a year ago.

Canada's civilian labour force totalled 5,664,000 in the week ending May 19, compared with 5,583,000 a month earlier and 5,537,000 a year ago. Persons at work 35 hours or more numbered 4,997,000 versus 4,835,000 in April and 4,763,000 last year. The number at work less than 35 hours was 390,000 versus 371,000 in April and 455,000 at the same time last year. Persons with jobs but not at work for various reasons numbered 112,000 versus 120,000 a month earlier and 106,000 last year.

Railway Car Loadings Up
7.9% In 1st Week Of June

Cars loaded on Canadian railways in the first week of June amounted to 91,703 cars, an increase of 7.9% from 84,960 a year earlier. This brought loadings for the year to date to 1,795,660 cars from 1,601,699, a rise of 12.1%. Receipts from connections rose 5.9% in the week to 32,280 cars from 30,495 and 10.9% in the cumulative period to 781,604 cars from 704,781.

Commodities carried in greater volume in the week were: grain 11,132 cars (versus 7,335 in 1955); iron ore, 6,012 (5,120); crude petroleum, 1,043 (589); fuel oil, 1,940 (1,496); "other" mine products, 3,321 (2,836); miscellaneous carload commodities, 5,937 (5,460); and merchandise, L.C.L., 14,959 (12,195). Pulpwood required fewer cars, being down to 3,178 from 3,993. (30)

Motor Transport Traffic
In Manitoba In 1955

Number of trucks registered in Manitoba at the end of 1955 was 56,896, according to the first provincial report on motor transport statistics released by the DBS. Subsequent reports will be issued for the other provinces. The demand for statistical information on motor transport arises primarily from the spectacular growth of trucking in Canada during the last ten years.

Of the total registered, 33,293 or 58.5% were farmowned trucks used mainly in the growing, servicing and market activities of the farmer; 19,690 trucks or 34.6% were urban in their operations, travelling within city and town limits; 2,503 or 4.4% were private trucks owned by business and industry in the transportation of their own raw materials and finished goods and merchandise; and 1,410 trucks or 2.5% were common or for hire carriers. Not included in the truck registrations were such vehicles as tow trucks, ambulances, snowmobiles and graders.

The total distance travelled by all trucks registered in the province during the year ending June 30, 1955 amounted to 336,227,822 miles, of which 47,288,266 miles or 14% were accumulated by common carriers and 36,494,482 miles or 11% by private intercity trucks. On the average, trucks registered in the province travelled 6,839 miles during the year, 54.7% of which were travelled with a load aboard and 45.3% empty.

Volume of goods transported by Manitoba registered trucks intraprovincially, interprovincially and internationally totalled 25,301,034 short tons, of which 5,027,640 tons or 20% were carried by farm trucks; 17,624,046 tons or 70% by town or urban delivery trucks; 1,323,026 tons or 5% by private intercity vehicles, and 1,326,322 tons or 5% by common carriers. Ton miles performed aggregated 566,591,330, an average of 11,524 ton miles per vehicle. Total revenue received by common or for hire carriers for all services performed amounted to \$18,178,665, an average of \$15,124 per vehicle.

Number of passengers carried by Manitoba registered buses in intercity services numbered 4,040,916. For the transportation of this number of passengers, bus companies received fares amounting to \$3,783,688. The total number of intercity buses registered in the province travelled 10,138,046 miles and performed 170,455,466 passenger miles. On the average each bus received gross revenue of \$20,789 during the 12-month period or 2.2¢ per passenger mile and was utilized to the extent of 46.6%. (31)

Canadian Air Travel Increases In Popularity

Number of passengers carried by
Canadian airlines in revenue

services in 1955 rose to 2,711,352 from 2,316,655, an increase of 394,697 or 17% over last year. Air carriers completed the year with an operating income of \$6,162,483, an increase of \$4,285,563 over the \$1,876,920 reported in 1954. This was the fifth successive surplus in as many years and only slightly less than the all-time high of \$6,990,586 in 1951.

Passenger fare revenues continued to show a large increase, soaring to a new high of \$77,622,017 as compared with \$66,748,505 in 1954, an increase of 16.3%. Freight earnings rose to \$7,975,443 from \$5,979,693, mail revenues to \$10,885,726 from \$10,873,163, and excess baggage receipts were \$867,042 as compared with \$726,037 a year ago. Bulk transportation services nearly trebled, rising to \$41,540,747 from \$15,149,492 a year ago, revenue from other flying services dropped slightly from \$5,984,893 to \$5,970,950, and non-flying services rose to \$4,048,097 from \$3,402,506 bringing the total operating revenues up to \$148,910,022 as against \$108,864,289.

Total operating expenses rose to \$142,747,539 from \$106,987,369 in 1954, an increase of 33 per cent. Aircraft operation and maintenance rose to \$87,-640,058 from \$59,984,323, while ground operations and maintenance required \$32,-380,389 as against \$27,840,216. Traffic expenses were \$13,860,317 compared with \$11,806,206, general administration costs rose to \$8,239,625 from \$6,824,333, and general taxes to \$627,150 from \$532,291. The amount of revenue freight carried totalled 222,224,900 lb., almost double the freight reported in 1954. Freight carried in unit toll transportation rose from 40,033,708 lb. in 1954 to 49,496,667 lb.

MOTOR VEHICLES

Motor Vehicle Registrations
At New Peak In Year 1955

Registrations of motor vehicles continued their steady climb in 1955, reaching an all-time peak total of 3,948,787 units, 304,198 or 8% more than in the preceding year, according to advance figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Licensed passenger automobiles (including taxis) jumped 9% to 2,935,412 from 2,688,465.

Number of motor vehicles registered increased last year in all parts of the country, Ontario showing the largest numerical increase to 1,617,853 from 1,489,-980. Registrations in Quebec rose to 743,682 from 674,114, British Columbia to 409,343 from 371,711, Alberta to 356,839 from 338,541, Saskatchewan to 274,950 from 267,373, Manitoba to 222,474 from 210,471, Nova Scotia to 149,841 from 133,087, New Brunswick to 106,648 from 99,058, Newfoundland to 39,766 from 34,423, Prince Edward Island to 22,145 from 20,848, and the Yukon and Northwest Territories to 5,246 from 4,983.

Passenger car registrations were larger in all provinces: Ontario to 1,-292,133 from 1,187,725, Quebec to 549,129 from 490,819, British Columbia to 303,481 from 276,161, Alberta to 236,395 from 222,305, Saskatchewan to 166,864 from 162,980, Manitoba to 162,362 from 151,915, Nova Scotia to 106,763 from 90,068, New Brunswick to 74,602 from 67,624, Newfoundland to 27,474 from 24,000, Prince Edward Island to 13,436 from 12,551, and Yukon and Northwest Territories to 2,773 from 2,317.

Index Of Industrial Production
Higher In April And Four Months

Canada's composite index of industrial production for April stood at 278.5, according to preliminary figures released by the DBS. This was 7.4% above last year's April index of 259.2. The manufacturing component of the index rose 6.7% from 268.8 to 286.9 and the index of mineral production advanced 18.4% from 202.6 to 239.9. The sub-index measuring output of electricity and gas stood at 279.8, down 3.1% from the April 1955 index of 288.8.

The index of non-durable manufactures, at 246.1, was 6.2% above the figure for the same month last year. Seven of the eight industrial groups for which figures are available recorded advances in the April comparison. Output in the tobacco products and rubber industries rose nearly 19% and almost 13%, respectively. In the printing and publishing group, production increased 10%, with the foods and beverages, clothing, and chemicals industries showing gains of 5 and 6%. Output of paper products rose fractionally, while textiles showed a small decline.

In the durable manufactures field the composite index for April rose to 350.7, up 7.3% from last year's April figure of 326.8. Output of non-metallic minerals increased over 19% with production of iron and steel products advancing nearly 16%. The electrical apparatus and transportation equipment groups showed gains of over 9% and more than 7% respectively. Output of wood products rose nearly 2%, while non-ferrous metal products fell almost 9%.

For the first four months of 1956 the index of industrial production averaged 270.1, up 8.3% from last year's corresponding figure of 249.3. The manufacturing index rose 7.3% to 274.8. The non-durables component advanced 6.9% from 220.8 to 236.0, while the durables index rose 7.7% to 335.4. The mining index in the four-month comparison increased 19.8% from 203.5 to 243.8. The sub-index for electricity and gas showed a fractional decline from 283.0 to 282.2.

MERCHANDISING

Retail Sales Up Slightly In April

Sales of Canadian retailers in April amounted to \$1,106,866,000, slightly above (0.5%) last year's corresponding total of \$1,101,038,000. With substantial gains in the three previous months January-April sales were up 6.6% to \$3,896,470,000, from \$3,655,519,000 in the like 1955 period.

Only four of the seven regions of the country showed greater sales in April than a year ago, but cumulative sales were higher for all areas. April sales were up 2.2% in Quebec, 4.3% in Saskatchewan, 5.7% in Alberta and 6.8% in British Columbia, but down 2.4% in the Atlantic Provinces, 1.8% in Ontario, and 9.2% in Manitoba. In the four months, area increases were: Atlantic Provinces, 4%; Quebec, 9.6%; Ontario, 5.5%; Manitoba, 0.4%; Saskatchewan, 2.5%; Alberta, 8.6%; and British Columbia, 9.5%.

Eight of the 18 specified trades, along with the miscellaneous category, registered sales increases in April but all trades participated in the gain in the four-month period. Largest among the sales gains were 30.9% for fuel dealers in April (15% in the four months) and 21.1% for lumber and building materials (16.8% in the four months). The sharp rise in fuel dealer sales in April was no doubt due to the cold weather in most parts of the country during the month. (32)

Department Store Sales Increased 9.4% In Week Department store sales rose 9.4% during the week ending June 9 as compared with a year earlier. All provinces shared in the increase, sales in the Atlantic Provinces rising 10.6%, Quebec 7.4%, Ontario 6.9%, Manitoba 16%, Saskatchewan 10.7%, Alberta 17.9%, and British Columbia 6.7%.

Wholesale Sales Up 16.9% In April Wholesale sales in April climbed 16.9% in value to \$637,935,000 from \$545,708,000 a year ago, raising January-April sales 16% to \$2,293,698,000 from \$1,977,839,000 in the corresponding period a year earlier, according to preliminary DBS estimates.

Fifteen of the eighteen trades had increases ranging from 2.2% for tobacco, confectionery and soft drinks to 161.4% for automotive parts and accessories. Three of the major increases in the month were: automotive parts and accessories, 161.4% to \$75,796,000 from \$28,991,000; industrial and transportation equipment and supplies, 59.8% to \$69,206,000 from \$43,295,000; farm machinery, 35.1% to \$9,364,000 from \$6,930,000. The three trades which reported decreased sales in April were: fresh fruits and vegetables, 9.4% to \$17,657,000 from \$19,496,000; meat and dairy products, 8% to \$11,314,000 from \$12,304,000; and all "other", 5.9% to \$152,111,000 from \$161,720,000.

The same three trades had the largest increases in the January-April period: automotive supplies and accessories, 74.2% to \$169,679,000 from \$97,426,000; industrial and transportation equipment and supplies, 61.2% to \$238,449,000 from \$147,899,000; and farm machinery, 40.6% to \$21,143,000 from \$15,041,000. All but one of the remaining trades had increases ranging from 2.6% for meat and dairy products to 23.6% for construction materials and supplies, including lumber. Fresh fruit and vegetable wholesalers had a sales decline of 1.3%. (33)

Sales & Financing Of Sales Of Motor Vehicles Up In April Sales of new motor vehicles increased 8.3% in number in April to 53,397 units as compared with 53,911 a year ago and 17.7% in value to \$169,100,000 versus \$143,719,000. In the January-April period unit sales were up 10.4% to 151,547 from 137,217 a year earlier and the value 22.9% to \$446,865,000 from \$363,709,000.

New passenger car sales increased 8% in number in April to 49,700 from 46,002 and 13.5% in value to \$137,346,000 from \$121,042,000. Number of commercial vehicles sold in the month increased 10% to 8,697 from 7,909 and the value climbed 40% to \$31,754,000 from \$22,677,000.

In the four-month period new passenger car sales rose 8.2% to 126,377 units from 116,833 and the value advanced 16.4% to \$355,018,000 from \$305,015,000. Sales of commercial vehicles rose 23.5% in the four months to 25,170 units from 20,384 and the value soared 56.5% to \$91,847,000 from \$58,694,000.

In April the sales of 21,661 new motor vehicles were financed for \$49,098,000 versus 16,489 units financed for \$32,020,000 a year earlier. In the four-month period the sales of 55,046 new vehicles were financed for \$126,116,000 versus 45,282 financed for \$88,461,000. April financing of used vehicles amounted to 42,530 units involving \$37,709,000 versus 39,629 units involving \$32,844,000 a year earlier. In the January-April period the sales of 122,059 units were financed for \$107,874,000 versus 114,592 units financed for \$95,131,000 a year ago. (34)

Security Price Indexes

	<u>June 14</u>	<u>June 7</u>	<u>May 17</u>
	1935-39 = 100		
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
Total Common Stocks	264.6	265.3	269.5
Industrials	279.9	281.0	284.4
Utilities	199.9	200.1	205.1
Banks	259.9	258.4	269.1

<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
Total Mining Stocks	135.9	134.5	137.8
Gold	76.7	77.3	79.3
Base Metals	271.5	265.5	271.6

<u>Wholesale Price Indexes</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>
	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1956</u>
	1935-39 = 100		
<u>General Index</u>	217.8	224.5	225.3
Vegetable Products	197.1	196.7	198.4
Animal Products	224.8	218.2	221.4
Textile Products	226.6	229.2	228.9
Wood Products	293.6	306.6	306.0
Iron Products	217.3	236.1	237.0
Non-ferrous Metals	184.2	207.5	207.2
Non-metallic Minerals	173.3	180.2	178.8
Chemical Products	176.5	180.9	180.9
Combined Index, Iron and			
Non-ferrous Metals (excluding gold)	232.3	260.3	260.8

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

- 1-Canadian Balance of International Payments, First Quarter 1956, 25¢
- 2-Sales & Purchases of Securities Between Canada & Other Countries, March, 10¢
- 3-Trade of Canada - Monthly Summary of Foreign Trade, March, 10¢
- 4-Trade of Canada - Imports for Consumption, March, 20¢
- 5-Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, March, 10¢
- 6-Financial Statistics of Provincial Governments - Direct & Indirect Debt -
(Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 1955), 25¢
- 7-R: Distribution of Non-Farm Incomes in Canada by Size, 1954, 50¢
(Reference Paper No. 66)
- 8-Telegraphic Crop Report - Canada, June 13, 10¢
- 9-M: Stocks of Fruit & Vegetables, June 1, 10¢
- 10-M: Monthly Production of Carbonated Beverages, May, 10¢
- 11-M: Stocks of Meat & Lard, June 1, 20¢
- 12-M: Farm Cash Income, First Quarter, 1956, 25¢
- 13-M: Grain Statistics Weekly, June 6, 10¢
- 14-Coarse Grains Quarterly, May 1956, 25¢
- 15- -----
- 16-Quarterly Stocks & Consumption of Unmanufactured Tobacco, First Quarter 1956, 25¢
- 17-M: Statistics of Hides, Skins and Leather, April, 10¢
- 18-Leather Products - General Review, 1954, 25¢
- 19-M: Cement & Cement Products, April, 10¢
- 20-M: Peeler Logs, Veneers & Plywoods, April, 20¢
- 21-Consumption, Production & Inventories of Rubber, April, 20¢
- 22-M: Iron Castings & Cast Iron Pipes & Fittings, April, 10¢
- 23-M: Products Made From Canadian Clays, March, 10¢
- 24-Furniture Industry, 1954, 25¢
- 25-Cotton Textile Industries, 1954, 25¢
- 26-Wire & Wire Goods Industry, 1954, 25¢
- 27-Iron & Steel Products, General Review 1953, 25¢
- 28-Vital Statistics, May, 10¢
- 29-Annual Report of Notifiable Diseases, 1955, 50¢
- 30-M: Car Loadings on Canadian Railways, June 7, 10¢
- 31-Motor Transport Traffic Statistics - Province of Manitoba - Year Ended June 30,
1955, 25¢
- 32-Retail Trade, April, 20¢
- 33-Wholesale Trade, April, 10¢
- 34-New Motor Vehicle Sales & Motor Vehicle Financing, April, 20¢
- Trade of Canada, Exports (detailed), April & 4 Months Ended April, 50¢
- M: Railway Operating Statistics, January, 10¢

M: Memorandum

R: Reference Paper

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NEWS NOTES

One-Third Women Out of 18,645 production workers in Canada's cotton textile plants in 1954, women numbered 6,560 and men 12,085.

Carbonated Beverages Output of carbonated beverages to the end of May this year amounted to 43,315,500 gallons, up from 40,361,500 last year and 36,964,800 gallons in 1954.

Towels Canada's cotton textile plants in 1954 shipped 101,545 dozen plain towels, 169,336 dozen huck towels, 933,746 dozen terry towels, and 768,633 dozen terry face cloths.

Cotton Textile Plants Cotton textile mills in operation in Canada in 1954 numbered 79, of which 38 were in Quebec, 35 in Ontario, four in British Columbia and one each in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Value Of Leather Footwear In 1954 The gross value of shipments of leather footwear from Canadian factories in 1954 was down to \$123,244,402 from \$131,307,119 in 1953, a decrease of 6%. The number of establishments also decreased from 60 in 1953 to 55 in 1954.

Sales Of Wire And Wire Goods Factory sales or shipments of wire and wire goods increased in Canada in 1954 to \$105,900,500 compared to \$104,858,014 in 1953, with two more factories operating in British Columbia and one more each in Ontario and Quebec making a total of 126 as against 122 in 1953.

Bed Spreads And Quilts Canada's cotton textile industry in 1954 produced 15,274 dozen bed spreads and quilts valued at \$587,000; down from 19,567 valued at \$622,900 in 1953.

Deaths From There were 1,562 Notifiable Diseases deaths resulting from tuberculosis in Canada in 1954, 518 from influenza, 157 from poliomyelitis, 118 from measles, 96 from whooping cough and 61 from meningitis.

Wire Fencing Canadian factory sales of farm wire fence declined to 12,430 tons in 1954 from 16,040 in 1950, and of lawn fence to 1,313 from 1,504 tons, while chain link fabric sales rose to 4,147 from 3,232 tons.

Motor Vehicles Rise 164% In Ten Years Motor vehicle registrations last year reached 3,948,787, making a ten-year post-war rise of 164% from 1,497,081 in 1945. Average increase for the ten years was 245,170, with biggest rise 309,883 in 1950 and second largest 304,198 last year.

Reported Cases Of Medical health Notifiable Diseases officers in Canada in 1955 reported 56,922 cases of measles (36,850 in 1954); 38,438 of influenza (2,498); 33,599 of chickenpox (37,745); 27,193 of mumps (26,908); 20,409 of German measles (4,468); 13,682 of whooping cough (11,600); 10,177 of tuberculosis (10,474); 9,360 of scarlet fever and septic sore throat (13,124); 1,020 of poliomyelitis (2,390); and 310 of meningitis (285).

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