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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Foreign Trade: Canada's commodity imports and exports were each at all-time record levels in the first six months this year. Total exports were 11.6% higher in value than last year, and imports an estimated 29% higher. The result was also a record deficit - excess of imports over exports - of \$547,500,000 ... Sharply increased wheat shipments was the leading factor in the exports rise, but there were large gains also for a number of other commodities including petroleum, iron ore, nickel, copper, newsprint paper and woodpulp. Shipments rose to most main markets with the notable exception of the United Kingdom ... May trade in outstanding securities with other countries produced the second largest month's sales balance in several years. (Pages 2 to 5)

Prices: The consumer price index rose 0.6% during June to 118.5, a new all-time peak, higher food prices being mainly responsible for the increase ... The index of farm prices of agricultural products also moved upward in June. (Pages 6 & 7)

Highway Accidents: Deaths from motor vehicle traffic accidents in Canada (excluding Quebec) were up sharply in June to 203 from 160 last year, with increases in six of the nine provinces. (Page 8)

Merchandising: Chain stores sales to the end of June were nearly 10% higher this year than last, amounting to an estimated \$1,131,573,000. (Page 9)

Food and Agriculture: First Bureau estimate of fruit production indicates that yields of all main fruit crops will be much smaller this year than last, with decreases of most in all main producing areas ... Canned meat stocks were down 4% in quantity at May 31 from a year earlier. (Page 10)

Manufacturing: Pig iron production reached a new peak in July of 308,154 tons, while output of steel ingots maintained earlier gains over last year. Half-year figures show gains in production and shipments of domestic electric refrigerators, mineral wool, rigid insulating board, and in sales of storage batteries. (Pages 11 & 12)

Business: Total value of cheques cashed in Canada's 52 clearing centres was almost 16% higher in June and 20.5% higher in the half-year than in 1955. Totals were up for all five economic areas in the six months and for all except the Atlantic Provinces (down slightly) in June. (Page 13)

Half-Year Commodity Imports  
And Exports At Record Levels

Swelled by further gains in June, Canada's commodity imports and exports were at all-time record levels in the first six months this year, according to preliminary figures released by the Bureau. Imports in June rose more in value than exports, raising still further the half-year import balance.

Commodity imports in June amounted to an estimated \$492,500,000, up 22.5% from \$402,100,000 last year, raising the six-months total to \$2,851,700,000 compared to \$2,209,400,000, an increase of 29%. The previous record value for the first half-year was \$2,216,600,000 in 1953.

Total exports in the month increased 12% to \$429,300,000 - slightly below May's all-time monthly peak - from \$383,300,000 a year ago, and for the six months were up 11.6% to \$2,304,200,000 from last year's \$2,063,300,000. This total compares with the previous record value of \$2,121,700,000 for the first half of 1952.

The greatest single contribution to the growth of exports in June and in the first six months was made by wheat. Exports of wheat have been more than half again as high as in the first half of 1955, and in June were more than twice as great as in June, 1955. The high level of imports continues to reflect the demands arising out of Canada's heavy investment programmes. The import balance in June again increased over last year to \$63,200,000 against \$18,800,000, but the rise was substantially less than in the preceding three months. For the half-year the import balance was up sharply to \$547,500,000 compared to \$146,100,000 in 1955.

Purchases from the United States in June increased somewhat less than in the previous five months, rising 20% to an estimated \$360,300,000 from \$300,300,000 a year earlier. In the half-year imports climbed nearly 29% to \$2,125,200,000 from \$1,649,200,000 in 1955. Total exports in the month to the United States were up only slightly from last year at \$233,600,000 against \$232,600,000, but for the six months showed a gain of nearly 12% at \$1,373,600,000 compared to \$1,228,800,000. The import balance for the month thus rose to \$126,700,000 compared to \$67,600,000 a year ago, and for the six months to a record \$751,600,000 from \$420,400,000 last year.

June shipments to the United Kingdom were practically the same as last year at \$65,700,000, and with declines in March, April and May the half-year total was down moderately to \$371,500,000 from \$386,500,000. Estimated imports, on the other hand, continued in June the gains of previous months, rising to \$41,400,000 from \$26,600,000, and for the six months were up to \$238,600,000 from \$182,900,000 last year. The result was an export balance of \$24,300,000 in June against \$38,900,000 a year ago, and of \$132,900,000 against \$203,600,000 in the half-year.

Shipments to other Commonwealth countries rose in June to \$27,200,000 from \$18,500,000 last year, and in the six months to \$128,700,000 compared to \$112,700,000, but imports from these countries were down in the month to an estimated \$18,200,000 from \$20,500,000, reducing the half-year gain to \$96,400,000 against \$95,000,000. Shipments to all remaining (foreign) countries rose substantially in June to \$102,800,000 from \$66,700,000 and in the half-year to \$430,400,000 from \$335,300,000. Purchases from these foreign countries rose similarly to an estimated \$72,600,000 in the month from \$54,700,000, and to \$391,500,000 from \$282,300,000 in the six months.

MORE



The table following gives export totals and preliminary import totals for June and the six months ending June. Detailed export figures will be published shortly, but final statistics of imports will not be available for several weeks.

	June		January-June	
	1955	1956	1955	1956
	Millions of Dollars			
<u>Exports (domestic &amp; foreign):</u>				
United Kingdom .....	65.5	65.7	386.5	371.5
Other Commonwealth countries.	18.5	27.2	112.7	128.7
United States .....	232.6	233.6	1,228.8	1,373.6
Other Foreign countries .....	66.7	102.8	335.3	430.4
Totals.	383.3	429.3	2,063.3	2,304.2
<u>Imports:*</u>				
United Kingdom .....	26.6	41.4	182.9	238.6
Other Commonwealth countries.	20.5	18.2	95.0	96.4
United States .....	300.3	360.3	1,649.2	2,125.2
Other Foreign countries .....	54.7	72.6	282.3	391.5
Totals.	402.1	492.5	2,209.4	2,851.7

\*Estimate only for June and six months of 1956; subject to revision.

Domestic Exports In Half-Year  
Marked By Widespread Gains

Increases in shipments to most main markets and in a wide number of commodity items, led by wheat, contributed to a rise of 11.7% in the value of Canada's domestic exports to \$2,270,100,000 in the first six months this year from \$2,031,900,000 in the same period last year, according to the Bureau's monthly summary for June. Prices of export commodities averaged slightly more than 3% higher in the period than in 1955, most of the increase being due to a rise of about 8% in volume.

Shipments in the month of June showed closely the same advance as in the previous five months with an increase of slightly more than 12% in value to \$423,800,000 from \$377,700,000 a year earlier and with general gains by markets and geographical areas.

Exports were higher in value in the half-year and in June to the United States, Europe, Latin America, the remaining foreign countries as a whole, and to Commonwealth countries other than the United Kingdom. Sales were down to the United Kingdom in the six months, but showed a small rise in June. Biggest increase among principal commodities in the half-year, and also month, was in wheat. Large gains in the six months were recorded also for petroleum, iron ore, nickel, copper and products, asbestos, newsprint paper, woodpulp, industrial and business machinery, automobiles and parts, and aircraft and parts. Larger decreases were in planks and boards, aluminum and products, wheat flour, lead, zinc, fertilizers and furs and products.

About three-fifths of the half-year total gain was in domestic exports to the United States which rose nearly 12% to \$1,345,374,000 from \$1,203,128,000 last year. Sales to that country were higher for all the main commodity groups except animals and animal products, which was down slightly.

MORE

Largest increases were in the non-metallic minerals, wood and paper and non-ferrous metals groups. In contrast with the large earlier gains, exports in June were only slightly higher at \$228,759,000 compared to \$228,126,000 last year.

Half-year shipments to the United Kingdom declined to \$368,961,000 from \$384,625,000 a year ago, with smaller values for all main commodity groups except iron and its products, non-metallic minerals and non-ferrous metals. Generally the gains or losses were of moderate size. In June exports were up slightly at \$65,363,000 against \$65,263,000. Shipments to other Commonwealth countries rose in the month to \$27,176,000 from \$18,433,000 and in the six months to \$127,715,000 from \$111,938,000, with sharpest cumulative gains in exports to Jamaica, the Union of South Africa, India and Pakistan. Exports were down in the six months to Australia and New Zealand, but up in June to Australia.

Both half-year and June sales to European countries rose substantially, the former to \$255,840,000 from \$170,612,000 and the latter to \$68,283,000 from \$37,459,000. There were increases in both periods to most of the main markets, led by a rise to the Federal Republic of Germany to \$59,629,000 in the half-year from \$39,108,000 with half the gain in June. Contributing substantially to the June and half-year gain were shipments to Poland valued at \$19,446,000 in the six months (\$25,000 last year), U.S.S.R. at \$18,000,000 (\$1,523,000) and Czechoslovakia at \$4,534,000 (\$294,000). Sales to Latin American countries rose in June to \$15,766,000 from \$13,154,000 last year to raise the half-year total clearly above last year's to \$80,566,000 compared to \$77,785,000. Shipments to the remaining foreign countries totalled \$81,731,000 in the six months compared to \$75,913,000, with a rise in June to \$16,785,000 from \$1,830,000. (1)

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

	June		January-June	
	1955	1956	1955	1956
	(Thousands of Dollars)			
Newsprint paper .....	54,358	54,709	321,874	344,990
Wheat .....	30,582	66,484	165,554	258,250
Planks and boards .....	38,185	30,558	189,370	161,992
Wood pulp .....	26,583	26,604	145,165	152,427
Nickel .....	20,265	20,669	109,309	114,012
Copper and products .....	14,611	14,914	74,594	100,868
Aluminum and products .....	17,386	19,356	106,236	99,414
Fish and fishery products .....	11,511	11,224	57,138	57,799
Petroleum and products .....	2,435	9,171	13,530	51,702
Farm machinery and implements .....	7,477	7,218	50,340	49,457
Asbestos and products .....	9,371	9,159	44,627	48,187
Grains, other than wheat .....	17,580	14,908	51,302	44,782
Flour of wheat .....	7,468	5,595	39,585	35,932
Iron ore .....	12,265	15,378	22,109	32,281
Zinc and products .....	6,028	5,540	35,290	31,446
Seeds .....	2,903	1,666	21,097	30,028
Precious metals (except gold) .....	3,980	3,903	22,397	29,702
Alcoholic beverages .....	5,773	5,574	26,469	28,532



Capital Inflow From Securities Trade  
Amounted to \$33,900,000 In May

Trade in outstanding securities between Canada and other countries resulted in a sales balance or capital import of \$33,900,000 in May - the largest sales balance next to \$39,000,000 last March, for more than five years. Transactions in Canadian securities led to net sales of both bonds and debentures and common and preference stocks, with most of the net inflow into Canadian stocks rather than bonds. Net sales of Canadian stocks to all countries at \$26,500,000 were larger than the previous record of \$25,800,000 in April 1955.

Transactions with the United States led to a sales balance of \$22,200,000 due mainly to the continued large net sales of Canadian common and preference stocks to United States residents. The sales balance of \$17,400,000 recorded for these transactions was the largest since mid-1955. Trading in Canadian bonds and debentures produced a sales balance of less than \$1,000,000. The net repurchases of Government of Canada direct and corporation issues were more than offset by the net sales of Government of Canada guaranteed and provincial issues. Canadians, on balance, reduced their holdings of foreign securities and as a result an inflow of \$4,000,000 was recorded, reflecting mainly sales of United States stocks.

The balance of security trading with the United Kingdom and other foreign countries led to sales balances of \$6,600,000 and \$5,000,000, respectively. As in April, residents of these countries added substantially to their holdings of Canadian common and preference stocks. Transactions in Canadian bonds and debentures, mainly Government of Canada direct issues, resulted in sales balances of \$300,000 and \$1,600,000 with residents of the United Kingdom and other foreign countries, respectively.

Trading in outstanding securities in the January-May period produced a net capital inflow of \$115,500,000, which is larger than in any five months since the concentrated inflows in the summer of 1950. This sales balance reflected the net sales of \$126,300,000 in Canadian securities and the net purchase of \$10,900,000 in foreign securities. The net import of capital from the United States from trade in all outstanding securities was \$66,700,000, while sales balances of \$17,000,000 were recorded with the United Kingdom and of \$31,800,000 with other foreign countries. In the five months, Canadians, on balance, purchased \$12,700,000 of United States stocks, but sold \$2,200,000 of United Kingdom stocks. (2)

## FORESTRY

Sawn Lumber Output In May  
Higher In British Columbia

British Columbia's production of sawn lumber and ties was nearly 2% larger in May this year than last, totalling 382,113,000 feet compared to 375,058,000 feet. The month's rise brought the aggregate for the five months to 1,902,098,000 feet, above last year's cumulative figure of 1,900,304,000 feet. Interior mills accounted for the month's gain with a rise of nearly 15% in output, while production of coast mills was down 5.5%.

May shipments showed a smaller increase over a year earlier to 401,454,000 feet from 400,430,000 but were up 17.5% from this year's April shipments of 341,758,000 feet. Total shipments for the five months lagged behind last year's at 1,854,724,000 against 1,920,342,000 feet. Stocks on hand at sawmills totalled 535,896,000 feet in May compared to 476,038,000 a year earlier. (3)

Canada's Consumer Price Index  
Rose 0.6% Between June & July

Canada's consumer price index advanced 0.6% from 117.8 to 118.5 between June and July this year, bringing it slightly above the previous post-war peak of 118.2 in January, 1952. The current increase was almost entirely attributable to a rise of 1.7% in foods, a large part of which was seasonal. Over half of the increase in the food index from 112.5 to 114.4 was due to an abnormal seasonal advance of over 25% in the price of potatoes. Higher prices were also recorded for eggs, coffee, margarine, bread, tomatoes and all cuts of meats.

The shelter index moved from 132.6 to 132.7 with both the rent and home-ownership components rising fractionally. The clothing index was unchanged at 108.6 as slight increases and decreases balanced each other. The household operation index was unchanged at 116.7, higher appliance prices being offset by scattered decreases. Other commodities and services index advanced from 120.6 to 121.1 under the influence of higher local transportation fares and newspaper rates which were partly counter-balanced by declines in new automobile prices. (4)

Consumer Price Indexes (1949 = 100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities & Services
July 1956	118.5	114.4	132.7	108.6	116.7	121.1
June 1956	117.8	112.5	132.6	108.6	116.7	120.6
July 1955	116.0	111.5	129.6	107.8	115.8	117.7

Wholesale Material Prices Slightly Lower  
Farm Product Prices Move Higher

Industrial material prices decreased 1% from 249.4 to 246.9 in the four weeks from June 29 to July 27. The change reflected declines for copper, linseed oil, raw cotton, beef hides, steel scrap, cottonseed oil, sisal, wheat and raw rubber. Prices were higher for hogs, spruce lumber, oats, steers, tin, raw sugar, iron ore and bleached sulphite pulp. Strength in some commodities reflected strength in the United States dollar.

The index of Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets advanced 5.1% in this period from 219.6 to 230.8. Field products rose 10% from 184.7 to 203.2 as potato prices were again sharply higher. Moderate increases were also noted for rye and Ontario corn, while prices declined for Ontario wheat (new crop) and barley, and western hay and flax. The animal products index moved up 1.5% from 254.6 to 258.3. Offsetting price movements in this sector included increases for hogs, eggs, wool, eastern steers and cheesemilk, which overbalanced declines for eastern poultry and western calves and lambs. (4)

Farm Prices Index  
At 232.5 In June

The Bureau's index of farm prices of agricultural products rose to an estimated 232.5 in June from May's estimated 225.2, continuing the upward trend begun in January this year when the index stood at 218.0. Higher prices for grains, livestock, potatoes, poultry and eggs were mainly responsible for the increase between May and June. (5)



Investor's Index Of Common Stock  
Reached New High In Four Weeks

The investor's index of 96 common stocks advanced strongly in the four-week period of June 28 to July 26, rising 6% from 270.2 to a new high of 286.4. The gains were shared by all three major groups.

The index for seven banks climbed 11.8% from 263.2 to 294.2 to regain the April 5 high level which had been followed by a seven-week slump, ending with a low of 258.4 in the first week of June. Thirteen utilities rose 6.3% from 199.6 to 212.2, the highest level since the week of September 8, 1955, when the index stood at 212.8, and slightly above the more recent peak of 211.7 in the week of March 29.

A new high was touched by the index for 76 industrials, which rose 5.4% from 287.1 to 302.7 in the four-week period. All sub-groups advanced, led by power and traction, followed by milling, foods and allied products, building materials, oils, and machinery and equipment. (4)

Security Price Indexes

	<u>August 2</u>	<u>July 26</u> 1935-39 = 100	<u>July 5</u>
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
Total common stocks .....	297.3	286.4	277.4
Industrials .....	315.4	302.7	294.4
Utilities .....	215.6	212.2	203.0
Banks .....	304.7	294.2	278.7
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
Total mining stocks .....	148.9	146.2	140.4
Gold .....	79.8	79.7	77.7
Base Metals .....	307.2	298.3	283.9

## M I N I N G

Gold Production  
Decreased In May

Gold production decreased 2.1% in May to 375,634 fine ounces from 383,369 a year ago; but, due to increased production in the first quarter, output in the January-May period was up 0.6% to 1,852,815 fine ounces from 1,842,424 in last year's corresponding period.

Production increased in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia in May to 949 fine ounces from 945 a year earlier, Ontario to 224,864 from 214,180, and the Yukon to 291 from none. Output declined in the remaining areas, falling in Quebec to 88,581 fine ounces from 98,469, Prairie Provinces to 16,999 from 17,219, British Columbia to 16,261 from 23,023, and the Northwest Territories to 27,689 from 29,533. (6)

Salt Production Up  
In June & Half-Year

Both production and shipments of dry common salt by Canadian producers were higher in June and January-June than a year earlier, DBS reports. Production of dry common salt increased 65% in the six months to 420,081 tons compared to 254,062 a year ago and shipments 63% to 408,487 tons compared to 250,539. Production advanced to 70,052 tons in June from 41,157 and shipments to 71,944 tons from 45,947. Producers' stocks at June 30 also increased 72% to 28,771 tons from 16,693. (7)

Asbestos Mining Industry Canadian producers' shipments of asbestos during 1955  
Set New Records In 1955 amounted to 1,063,802 tons valued at \$96,191,317, an increase of 15.1% in quantity and 15.7% in value over the shipments of 924,116 tons valued at \$83,157,344 in 1954, according to the Bureau's annual report on the asbestos mining industry released today. Both the quantity and value (from which value of containers is excluded) last year were above any previous year.

The average number of persons employed in the industry rose to 6,729 in 1955 from 6,563 in 1954 and salaries and wages to \$28,116,049 from \$24,850,100. Cost of fuel and electricity climbed to \$5,117,137 from \$4,130,806 and the cost of process supplies and containers to \$11,180,264 from \$9,924,166. Gross selling value of products at the works amounted to \$99,675,651 compared to \$86,441,436.

Exports of asbestos and asbestos products last year were valued at \$97,705,-882 as compared to \$83,868,863 in 1954, and imports at \$4,053,832 compared to \$3,539,132. (8)

## H I G H W A Y   A C C I D E N T S

Motor Vehicle Traffic Accidents Fatalities resulting from motor vehicle traffic  
Caused More Fatalities In June accidents in Canada (excluding Quebec) rose to 203 in June from 160 last year, DBS reports in a special statement. Fatalities rose in Nova Scotia to 16 from 10 in June last year, New Brunswick to 14 from 10, Ontario to 95 from 84, Saskatchewan to 17 from 7, Alberta to 22 from 16, and British Columbia to 28 from 17. Fewer persons were killed in Newfoundland (5 versus 6), Manitoba (6 versus 11), and Prince Edward Island, Yukon and the Northwest Territories reported no fatalities in either year.

Province	Number of Accidents In June					Persons Killed (2) 1956	Persons Injured (1) 1956	Property Damage (1) (3) 1956		
	Fatal	Injury	Property		Total					
			Damage	Only						
									(1)	(2)
Nfld. ....	4	57	140	201	117	5	75	\$ 100,501		
P.E.I. ....	-	10	27	37	37	-	13	12,015		
N.S. ....	13	161	481	655	778	16	234	223,807		
N.B. ....	12	126	259	397	319	14	180	155,079		
Que. ....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
Ont. ....	..	..	..	..	4,653	95*	..	..		
Man. ....	6	217	463	686	923	6	308	210,825		
Sask. ....	8	214	532	754	568	17	321	288,058		
Alta. ....	20	272	983	1,275	1,194	22	391	554,842		
B.C. ....	27	535	1,374	1,936	1,412	28	829	870,231		
Yukon & N.W.T.	-	6	31	37	27	-	10	20,911		
<hr/>										
TOTAL 1956 (1)	90	1,598	4,290	5,978		203(2)	2,361	2,436,269		
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TOTAL 1955 (2)	144	2,916	6,968		10,028	160	4,215	3,675,231		

(1) excluding Quebec and Ontario; (2) excluding Quebec only; (3) reportable minimum, property damage \$100; .. not available; - nil; \* subject to adjustment.



Chain Store Sales Canadian chain store sales increased 16.3% in June to \$225,-  
Up 16.3% In June 458,000 from \$193,813,000 a year ago, raising sales in the  
 half-year to \$1,131,573,000 from \$1,029,694,000, a 9.9% in-  
 crease. Stocks, at cost, at June 1 rose 7.4% to \$282,114,000 from \$262,621,000.

Grocery and combination store chains, largest of the 11 trades for which figures are available, had a 21.1% increase in sales in the month to \$97,361,000 from \$80,401,000, boosting half-year sales 12.5% to \$515,926,000 from \$458,687,-000. Each of the ten remaining trades reported sales increases in June, ranging from 0.1% for jewellery store chains to 20.2% for shoe store chains.

Sales of chains in the remaining trades in June were as follows: variety, 19% to \$20,010,000 from \$16,811,000 a year earlier; men's clothing, 19% to \$2,-589,000 from \$2,175,000; family clothing, 15.2% to \$2,939,000 from \$2,552,000; women's clothing, 11.6% to \$6,212,000 from \$5,568,000; shoe, 20.2% to \$5,555,-000 from \$4,620,000; hardware, 15.9% to \$2,132,000 from \$1,840,000; lumber and building material, 12.6% to \$9,510,000 from \$8,444,000; furniture, radio and appliance, 10.8% to \$9,563,000 from \$8,630,000; drug, 9.9% to \$3,202,000 from \$2,914,000; and jewellery, 0.1% to \$3,196,000 from \$3,193,000. (9)

New Motor Vehicle Sales In 1955 Total sales of new motor vehicles in Canada  
At Peak But Financing Down last year reached 465,678 units with a retail  
 value of \$1,255,890,000, exceeding any pre-  
 vious year both in number and value, according to revised figures in the  
 Bureau's annual report on new motor vehicle sales and motor vehicle financing  
 for 1955. On the other hand, the total number of new and used vehicles financed  
 at 599,330 was above 1954 but below 1953 and 1952 and the amount of financing  
 at \$719,328,000 was below the 1953 amount.

The record number of new motor vehicles sold in 1955 was due to a sharp rise of 24.6% over 1954 in number of new passenger cars to an all-time record of 386,962 units, which compares with the previous record of 359,172 in 1953. The retail value rose to \$1,023,351,000, compared to \$797,554,000 the previous year and the previous top figure of \$899,726,000 in 1953.

New commercial vehicles sold last year numbered 78,716, up from 72,082 in 1954 but below the preceding five years when the numbers ranged between 84,023 in 1949 and the high of 109,962 in 1951. Retail value of commercial vehicles in 1955 was \$232,539,000, up also from \$191,964,000 the previous year but under the values for the next three earlier years.

Sales of new passenger cars in Ontario numbered 180,888, accounting for nearly 47% of total Canadian sales, and sales in Quebec were 80,918 or nearly 21%. British Columbia had the next largest share at 9.8% of the total, followed by the Atlantic Provinces with 7.3%, Alberta with 7.2%, Manitoba 4.3% and Saskatchewan 3.8%. Sales were up from 1954 in all except Saskatchewan.

New vehicles financed in 1955 numbered 185,127, up from 154,104 in 1954 but below the total of 189,052 in 1953. The amount of financing, however, was at a new high of \$375,997,000 compared to the 1953 peak of \$342,247,000. The number of used vehicles financed rose to 414,203, from 384,624 in 1954 but was substantially below the total of 451,460 in 1953. (10)

Department Store Sales Rose 6.1% Canadian department stores reported an increase of 6.1% in sales in the week ending July 28 from a year earlier. All provinces, except Manitoba, shared in the sales gains which were led by the Atlantic Provinces with 14.5%, followed by Saskatchewan with 12%, Alberta, 10.9%, Ontario, 10.7%, British Columbia, 2.8%, and Quebec, 0.9%. Manitoba's decline was 10.2%.

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

Creamery Butter Stocks Smaller Stocks of creamery butter, cheddar cheese and eggs in nine cities of Canada were smaller on August 1 this year than a year earlier. Creamery butter stocks fell to 68,435,000 pounds from 69,812,000 a year ago, cheddar cheese to 16,437,000 pounds from 18,983,000, and cold storage eggs to 58,000 cases from 125,000.

Creamery butter stocks were as follows by cities (in thousands): Quebec, 5,192 pounds (4,585 a year earlier); Montreal, 36,127 (33,055); Toronto, 6,662 (9,875); Winnipeg, 15,994 (16,511); Regina, 836 (1,399); Saskatoon, 955 (908); Edmonton, 1,118 (2,054); Calgary, 510 (401); and Vancouver, 1,041 (1,024). (11)

Canned Meat Stocks Smaller On May 31 Stocks of canned meats held by manufacturers and wholesalers at May 31, 1956 were smaller by 4% than a year earlier at 20,840,644 pounds versus 21,602,852, due mainly to decreased stocks of pork products, DBS reports in a special statement. Stocks of canned beef products (ready dinners, stews, roasts, corned and other) increased to 11,653,074 pounds from 9,946,333 a year ago and miscellaneous canned products (fowl, meat paste and other) to 2,910,125 pounds from 2,246,733. Pork products stocks (spiced pork and ham, roast pork and ham, and other pork products) declined to 6,277,445 pounds from 9,409,786, most of the decrease being due to a drop in spiced pork and ham to 2,782,379 from 5,937,136 pounds.

Fruit Crops Sharply Lower This Year Yields of all main fruit crops will be sharply lower this year than last, according to the first estimate of fruit production by the Bureau. Estimated yields indicate declines ranging from 9% for pears to 72% for loganberries.

Total Canadian production is estimated as follows (in thousands): apples, 12,217 bushels (19,142 in 1955); pears, 1,376 bushels (1,510); plums and prunes, 516 bushels (828); peaches, 2,255 bushels (2,883); apricots, 93 bushels (184); sweet and sour cherries, 473 bushels (763); strawberries, 17,059 quarts (22,674); raspberries, 5,313 quarts (12,099); loganberries, 344 pounds (1,237); and grapes, 79,922 pounds (94,752).

Production of apples in British Columbia is estimated at 4,764,000 bushels compared to the yield of 6,405,000 a year ago; in Ontario at 2,478,000 against 4,037,000; Quebec, 3,000,000 (5,000,000); and Nova Scotia, 1,700,000 (3,250,000). Peach production is estimated to be lower in Ontario at 1,849,000 bushels versus 2,370,000 and in British Columbia at 406,000 versus 513,000. Sweet and sour cherries in Ontario are placed at 470,000 bushels compared to 647,000 and in British Columbia at 43,000 bushels against 116,000. Grape production is expected to be down to 78,812,000 pounds from 92,760,000 in Ontario and to 1,110,000 pounds from 1,992,000 in British Columbia.



Pig Iron Output At New High Steel Ingots Gains, In July

Canadian production of pig iron continued to climb in July, rising to a new peak of 308,154 tons from the previous record output of 303,520 tons in June and showing a gain of 15.5% over last year's July output of 266,795 tons. Aggregate output in the seven months this year was up 13.8% to 2,036,240 from 1,788,375 tons.

Output of steel ingots in July amounted to 427,974 tons, slightly under the June production as well as below the record high tonnage in May, but 20.5% above last year's July output of 355,190 tons. Production in the seven months was 20.8% larger than last year at 2,979,910 against 2,465,118 tons. (12)

Shipments Of Primary Shapes Rose In May

Shipments of primary shapes by Canadian steel mills rose 14% in May to 375,008 tons from 328,462 a year ago, and 28% in the January-May period to 1,745,419 tons from 1,358,206 in last year's corresponding period. Producers' interchange increased nearly 23% in the month to 184,738 tons compared to 150,420 and 33% in the five-month period to 879,702 tons from 659,068. (13)

Domestic Electric Refrigerators Output Increased In Six Months

Production of domestic electric refrigerators increased in June, but output of individual electric home and farm freezers declined, while production of both increased in the January-June period from last year. Shipments of both declined in the month, but rose in the six months for refrigerators and fell for freezers.

Domestic refrigerator production in the six months rose to 180,743 units from 155,922 a year ago and individual home and farm freezers to 5,667 from 5,651. Shipments of refrigerators in the period for sale in Canada and for export advanced to 170,768 units compared to 164,344, but freezers dropped to 6,152 units compared to 6,375.

June production was: refrigerators, 31,504 units (29,547 units a year earlier); freezers, 918 (1,283). Shipments (for sale in Canada and for export) in the month were: refrigerators, 32,600 (32,858); and freezers, 1,090 (1,290). (14)

Electric Storage Batteries Sales Up In June & Half-Year

Factory sales of electric storage batteries increased 12.2% in June to \$2,222,000 from \$1,980,000 a year ago, and also 12.2% in January-June to \$12,939,000 from \$11,528,000 in last year's corresponding period.

Sales of storage batteries for starting or ignition of internal combustion engines increased in the first six months to \$9,775,000 from \$8,778,000 a year earlier and for all other purposes to \$2,262,000 from \$1,712,000. These increases more than offset decreased sales for farm lighting plants to \$118,000 from \$136,000, for railway service to \$448,000 from \$551,000, and for parts and supplies to \$336,000 from \$351,000.

June sales were (1955 totals in brackets): for starting or ignition of internal combustion engines, \$1,766,000 (\$1,573,000); for farm lighting plants, \$16,000 (\$30,000); for railway service, \$91,000 (\$65,000); for all other purposes, \$298,000 (\$257,000); and parts and supplies, \$50,000 (\$55,000). (15)

Production & Shipments Of Mineral Wool Larger Both production and shipments of mineral wool were larger in January-June this year, but smaller in June than a year earlier. Production of mineral wool batts increased 28% in the half-year to 113,251,670 square feet compared to 88,150,608 a year ago and granulated, bulk or loose wool, 1.9% to 5,146,963 cubic feet versus 5,052,249. Shipments of wool batts also increased 28% to 111,561,852 square feet compared to 86,982,880, and bulk, granulated or loose wool, 5.6% to 5,022,833 cubic feet compared to 4,758,142.

Production of mineral wool batts declined in June to 20,406,119 square feet from 22,944,066 a year earlier, and granulated, bulk or loose wool to 766,264 cubic feet compared to 1,185,174. Shipments also declined in the month with wool batts falling to 20,126,398 square feet from 22,242,112, and granulated, bulk or loose wool to 746,914 cubic feet from 1,100,242. (16)

Shipments Of Rigid Insulating Board Up In June & Six Months Domestic shipments of rigid insulating board were larger in June and in January-June this year than last. In the half-year, domestic shipments advanced nearly 28% to 165,706,270 square feet from 128,805,559 a year earlier, with building board panels rising to 54,945,123 square feet from 45,618,756, asphalted sheathing board to 43,589,582 from 29,479,847, roof insulation board to 40,693,356 from 32,878,599, and other rigid board to 22,264,128 from 15,127,250. Lath for plaster base recorded the only decline, falling to 4,214,081 square feet from 5,701,107. (17)

Asphalt Shingles Production Slightly Lower In Half-Year Production of asphalt shingles, mineral-surfaced roll roofing and roll-type sidings declined in the first six months this year from last, but output of smooth-surfaced roll roofing and tar and asphalt felts increased. Asphalt shingle production in the six months declined to 1,434,995 squares from 1,456,765 a year ago, mineral-surfaced roll roofing to 324,652 squares from 368,438, and roll-type sidings to 69,900 squares from 107,835. Smooth-surfaced roll roofing advanced to 480,576 squares from 480,059 and tar and asphalt felts to 25,165 tons from 22,246.

June output was: asphalt shingles, 346,268 squares (421,218 a year ago); smooth-surfaced roll roofing, 107,841 squares (108,540); mineral-surfaced roll roofing, 99,763 squares (99,735); roll-type sidings, 18,836 squares (26,778); and tar and asphalt felts, 4,285 tons (4,478). (18)

Coke Output, Imports Higher In May This Year Canadian production of coke from ovens and gas retorts increased in May to 363,390 tons from 353,931 in April and 339,188 tons in May last year. Cumulative output for the five months ending May was up to 1,765,060 tons from 1,605,645 in the same 1955 period.

Landed imports of coke climbed sharply in May to 62,255 tons compared to 37,046 last year, raising the cumulative total to 251,206 tons against 131,816. Exports increased slightly in May to 10,767 from 9,823 tons, and in the five months to 48,389 from 46,406 tons last year. The quantity available for consumption in May thus rose to 414,878 tons compared to 366,411 a year ago, and in the five months to 1,967,877 tons compared to 1,691,055. (19)



Value Of Cheques Cashed  
Up In June & Half-Year

Value of cheques cashed in Canada's 52 clearing centres increased 15.8% in June to \$16,854,909,000 from \$14,551,748,000 a year ago, and 20.5% in the January-June period to \$95,283,873,000 from \$79,044,143,000 in last year's corresponding period, according to DBS. All five economic areas shared in the increase in the six months, and all except the Atlantic Provinces, which registered a slight decline, in June.

Quebec had the biggest rate of increase in value of cheques cashed in the January-June period with a rise of nearly 23% to \$28,554,897,000 from \$23,275,-755,000 a year earlier, British Columbia was next with an increase of 21% to \$7,210,889,000 from \$5,956,000,000, followed by the Prairie Provinces nearly 21% to \$14,213,316,000 from \$11,757,076,000; Ontario, 19% to \$42,880,538,000 from \$35,916,417,000; and the Atlantic Provinces, 13% to \$2,424,232,000 from \$2,138,895,000.

June totals for the economic areas were: Atlantic Provinces, \$423,817,000 (\$435,538,000 a year earlier); Quebec, \$4,908,954,000 (\$4,351,744,000); Ontario, \$7,532,358,000 (\$6,256,821,000); Prairie Provinces, \$2,687,487,000 (\$2,412,371,000); and British Columbia, \$1,302,294,000 (\$1,095,274,000). (20)

## T R A N S P O R T A T I O N

Railway Car Loadings Up  
In Third Week Of July

Car loadings on Canadian railways increased 8.6% in the third week of July to 95,342 cars from 87,790 a year earlier, and 11% in the January 1 - July 21 period to 2,374,681 cars from 2,139,747 in last year's corresponding period. Receipts from connections were virtually unchanged from a year ago at 30,780 cars, but were 9.7% higher in the cumulative period at 985,503 cars against 898,163. (21)

## L A B O U R

Hiring & Separation Rates In Industry

The semi-annual report on hiring and separation rates in certain industries, covering the period, September 1953 to August 1955, has been released by the Bureau. This report presents in seven tables the number of hirings and separations per 100 persons on the payrolls of the establishments covered, both total figures and figures by sex being shown for Canada and each of the five economic regions. Industrially, the coverage of the survey coincides with the coverage of the Unemployment Insurance Act with a few exceptions. The basic data are obtained from the Unemployment Insurance Commission. (22)

## T H E B U R E A U

DBS Annual Report Released

Pursuant to its tabling in the House of Commons by the Minister of Trade and Commerce, the annual report of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for the fiscal year ended March 31 last has been released for general distribution. Containing the prefatory report of the Dominion Statistician, Herbert Marshall, to the Minister, and reviews of the year's work of each of the fourteen divisions of the Bureau, the report as a whole reflects the wide range of the Bureau's statistical coverage of Canada's economic and social activities and development and the continual efforts of the Bureau to improve its statistical output and to meet new requirements for statistical information. Copies are obtainable at the price of 25 cents each. (23)

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

- 1-Trade of Canada - Domestic Exports, June, 20¢
  - 2-Sales & Purchases of Securities Between Canada & Other Countries, May, 10¢
  - 3-Production, Shipments & Stocks on Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, May, 25¢
  - 4-Price Movements, July, 10¢
  - 5-M: Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, June, 10¢
  - 6-M: Gold Production, May, 10¢
  - 7-M: Salt, June, 10¢
  - 8-Asbestos Mining Industry, 1955, 25¢
  - 9-Chain Store Sales & Stocks, June, 10¢
  - 10-New Motor Vehicle Sales & Motor Vehicle Financing, 1955, 25¢
  - 11-M: Stocks of Dairy & Poultry Products in 9 Cities Advance Statement, August 1,  
10¢
  - 12-Steel Ingots & Pig Iron, July, 10¢
  - 13-Primary Iron & Steel, May, 25¢
  - 14-M: Domestic Electric Refrigerators, June, 10¢
  - 15-M: Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, June, 10¢
  - 16-M: Mineral Wool, June, 10¢
  - 17-M: Rigid Insulating Board Industry, June, 10¢
  - 18-M: Asphalt Roofing, June, 10¢
  - 19-Coal & Coke Statistics, May, 25¢
  - 20-Cheques Cashed in Clearing Centres, June, 10¢
  - 21-M: Car Loadings on Canadian Railways, July 21, 10¢
  - 22-Hiring & Separation Rates in Certain Industries, September 1953 to August 1955,  
25¢
  - 23-Annual Report of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Fiscal Year Ended March 31,  
1956, 25¢
  - M: Financial Statistics of Municipal Governments, (Interim), 1954, 25¢
  - Trade of Canada - Imports - April & Four Months Ended April, 50¢
- M:Memorandum

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## NEWS NOTES

Iron Ore Canadian shipments of iron ore during the first six months of 1956 amounted to 6,354,227 tons compared to 4,089,634 tons shipped in the same period last year.

Hard Fibres Hard fibres such as Manila hemp, African sisal and Mexican sisal were the principal materials used by Canadian manufacturers of rope and twine in 1955. The quantity consumed was valued at \$5,940,000, representing 73% of the total cost of materials used.

Fourth Trading Nation Second Per Capita Canada was the world's fourth leading trading nation in 1955, surpassed in foreign trade value only by the United States, United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany, and second only to New Zealand in per capita trade.

Ontario & Quebec Make 70% Of Beer Ontario plants accounted for nearly 45% of the net value of production by Canadian breweries in 1955 and Quebec plants for 25.5%. British Columbia plants had the next largest output value, followed by Alberta, the Atlantic Provinces and Manitoba (nearly equal), and Saskatchewan.

Fewer Horses Continuing the trend in recent years the number of horses on Canadian farms decreased by 5.5% between June 1, 1955 and 1956 from 901,400 to 851,500. Biggest decreases were 8.4% in Ontario from 155,000 to 142,000, and 8% in Alberta from 176,000 to 162,000. Saskatchewan had the largest number of horses in June this year at 195,000 and Quebec the next largest at 190,000.

Express Money Orders Canadian express companies sold \$133,479,500 worth of money orders in 1955 compared to \$130,807,500 worth in 1954.

Three Times As Many New Citizens In 1955 Canadian citizenship certificates were granted to 58,711 persons in 1955, three times the 19,545 granted in 1954 and over four times as many as in 1953.

More Cattle The number of cattle on Canadian farms (excluding Newfoundland) at June 1 this year is estimated at 10,465,000 head, an increase of 2.2% over the estimated 10,239,000 at the same date last year. Numbers were larger this year in all provinces except Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Former Allegiance Of New Canadians Just over one-sixth, or 10,661 of the 58,711 persons naturalized in 1955, had formerly been citizens of Poland, 4,532 of Italy, 3,766 of other British Commonwealth countries, 3,564 of the Netherlands, 2,434 of the U.S.S.R., 2,366 of China, 2,275 of Lithuania, and 2,063 of Latvia.

Ontario Biggest Buyer Of Farm Implements Ontario farmers in 1955 bought \$43,819,900 worth of farm implements and equipment, over 28% of the total sold in the year and more than was sold in any other province. Sales were next highest in Saskatchewan at \$33,113,000, followed by Alberta at \$28,801,000, Quebec at \$21,714,000 and Manitoba at \$15,652,800. These five accounted for over 92% of the total.

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