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HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

Foreign Trade: Both commodity exports and imports were up in value in August, continuing this year's marked gains over last year; but the margin between the gains in imports and exports was less than in earlier months and the month's import balance was smaller than in any of the previous six months. Over the eight months exports were up nearly 13% in value from last year and imports slightly more than 26%, the result being an overall import balance more than three times as large as for the first eight months last year. (Pages 2 & 3)

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Prices: After three successive increases, the consumer price index declined fractionally from 119.1 to 119.0 between August and September. This slight drop was due to a fall in the food component, which was mainly responsible for the earlier advances, other component indexes edging upward or remaining unchanged ... Wholesale prices of industrial materials were practically unchanged at September 21 from August 31, but prices of farm products at terminal markets were down 1.7% with most of the decline in field products ... The Bureau's investors' index of common stocks fell 3.3% in the four weeks from August 30 to cancel all gains since the last week of June. (Pages 3 & 4)

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Agriculture: Combined exports of oats, barley, rye and flaxseed were 19% smaller in the 1955-56 crop year than in 1954-55, oats exports being at their lowest level since 1929-30 and barley exports down about one-fifth from the previous year. In sharp contrast, flaxseed shipments were about double those of 1954-55 ... Overseas wheat shipments have risen over last year each week from August 1 to September 19. (Page 5)

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Manufacturing: Output of electric refrigerators and washing machines dropped off in August, but cumulative total for each remained substantially above last year ... Radio and TV-set sales climbed in July, but the seven-month total for TV-sets was well below last year ... Latest shipment figures for a variety of building products show mixed trends ... Motor vehicle shipments from Canadian plants were up slightly in August, leaving the cumulative total moderately below last year; while imports considerably exceed the difference. (Pages 6 & 7)

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Construction: Completions of new dwelling units to the end of August this year was 7.5% larger than last year, but the number of new units started has dropped below last year's total for the same period. (Page 12)

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Foreign Trade In August
Shows Smaller Gains

Canada's commodity exports and imports in August both continued the gains of earlier months over last year, according to preliminary figures released on October 5 by the Bureau, but due to the relatively high levels for each in August last year, the rates of gain were smaller than for the previous seven months. There was also less difference in dollar terms between the increases in imports and exports, and the import balance dropped to the smallest figure since January.

Total exports in August amounted to \$426,700,000, up 10.1% compared to \$387,500,000 for August last year and only slightly under the high levels of May, June and July this year. The cumulative total to the end of August this year was up 12.6% to \$3,161,200,000 from \$2,807,700,000 last year.

Commodity imports in the month rose 10.6% to an estimated \$475,300,000 from \$429,800,000 a year ago and were moderately below the values for July and June this year. In the eight months, imports were up 26.3% to an estimated \$3,805,100,000 from \$3,011,900,000 last year.

The import balance in August thus amounted to \$48,600,000 compared to \$42,300,000 a year earlier, showing the smallest increase since July 1955. For the eight months it stood at \$643,900,000 as against \$204,200,000 last year.

Total exports to the United States rose in August to \$267,500,000 from \$243,300,000, reaching the highest figure yet recorded. Imports from the United States also increased to an estimated \$332,600,000 from \$301,700,000, but were below the levels of the preceding five months this year. The result was an import balance of \$65,100,000 - the smallest this year - as compared to \$58,300,000 a year ago.

In the eight months, exports to the United States rose \$204,300,000 to \$1,878,600,000 from \$1,674,300,000 in 1955, while imports increased \$568,300,000 to an estimated \$2,793,600,000 from \$2,225,300,000. The cumulative import balance thus climbed to \$915,000,000 from \$551,000,000 a year ago.

Shipments to the United Kingdom in August repeated the advance of July with a rise to \$69,100,000 from \$63,400,000 last year, while imports from the United Kingdom were down for the first time this year to an estimated \$42,900,000 from \$45,400,000. The result was an increase in the export balance to \$26,200,000 from \$17,900,000. The month's rise in exports brought the cumulative total for shipments to the United Kingdom slightly over last year to \$516,400,000 against \$513,700,000. Cumulative imports from the United Kingdom were up to an estimated \$327,500,000 against \$261,800,000, the cumulative export balance thus dropping to \$188,900,000 compared to \$251,900,000.

Total exports to other Commonwealth countries fell off in August to \$18,200,000 from \$24,600,000, but for the eight months were up to \$167,700,000 from \$154,900,000. Estimated imports from these countries were up in August to \$21,100,000 from \$18,400,000 and in the eight months to \$141,800,000 from \$129,800,000. Shipments to the remaining (foreign) countries climbed in the month to \$71,900,000 from \$56,200,000 and in the eight months to \$598,500,000 from \$464,800,000, while estimated imports rose similarly to \$78,700,000 in August from \$64,300,000 and in the cumulative period to \$542,200,000 from \$395,000,000.

The table following gives export totals and preliminary import totals for August and the eight months ending August. Detailed export figures will be released shortly, but final import figures will not be ready for several weeks.

	August		January-August	
	1955	1956	1955	1956
Millions of Dollars				
<u>Exports (domestic & foreign):</u>				
United Kingdom	63.4	69.1	513.7	516.4
Other Commonwealth countries ..	24.6	18.2	154.9	167.7
United States	243.3	267.5	1,674.3	1,878.6
Other Foreign Countries	56.2	71.9	464.8	598.5
Totals ..	387.5	426.7	2,807.7	3,161.2
<u>Imports*</u>				
United Kingdom	45.4	42.9	261.8	327.5
Other Commonwealth countries ..	18.4	21.1	129.8	141.8
United States	301.7	332.6	2,225.3	2,793.6
Other Foreign countries	64.3	78.7	395.0	542.2
Totals ..	429.8	475.3	3,011.9	3,805.1

*Estimate only for August and January-August, 1956; subject to revision.

PRICES

Canada's Consumer Price Index Declined Slightly Between August and September

Canada's consumer price index declined fractionally from 119.1 to 119.0 between August and September. In September last

year the index stood at 116.8.

The food index, after a series of rather sharp increases since May of this year, declined to 115.5 from 115.9 in August. Prices for most fresh vegetables were lower, with a further large decrease for potatoes and a substantial decline in tomato prices bringing these two food items close to average September levels. Apple prices decreased and eggs were down slightly. However, most cuts of meats were up and coffee moved to a slightly higher level.

Small increases in both the rent and home-ownership indexes brought the shelter index from 133.0 to 133.1. Clothing price movements were minor in character, leaving the clothing index unchanged at 108.4. The household operation index rose from 116.8 to 117.1 as higher prices affected sub-groups for dry cleaning, furniture, floor coverings and utensils and equipment. Slightly lower prices for new automobiles were more than offset by increases for car repairs, local transportation fares and magazine subscriptions, moving the "other" commodities and services index from 121.3 to 121.4. (1)

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
September 1956	119.0	115.5	133.1	108.4	117.1	121.4
August 1956	119.1	115.9	133.0	108.4	116.8	121.3
September 1955	116.8	113.7	130.0	107.8	115.9	117.9

Index Of Wholesale Prices Little Changed The price index of thirty industrial materials at wholesale (1935-39=100) was almost unchanged in the week of September 21 at 250.3 compared to 249.7 as of August 31. This reflected offsetting price changes for several commodities.

The index for Canadian farm products at terminal markets declined 1.7%, moving from 212.6 at August 31 to 209.0. Field products were 3.6% lower at 159.4 compared to 165.4 as further declines in eastern potato and oat prices more than offset price increases for rye, western hay and flax, and eastern wheat, corn and barley. The index of animal products fell 0.5% from 259.8 to 258.6 when declines for poultry, calves, steers, lambs, and western fluid milk were only partially offset by higher quotations for hogs, eggs, raw wool and eastern cheesemilk and butterfat. (1)

Index Of Common Stock Issues Lower The investors' index of 96 common stock issues (1935-39=100) dropped 3.3% from 281.3 to 271.9 in the four weeks from August 30 to September 27, thereby cancelling all gains accumulated since the final week of June.

Declines were shared by all major groups, with 7 banks falling 4% from 288.9 to 277.2, 76 industrials 3.3% from 296.6 to 286.8, and 13 utilities 2.9% from 211.2 to 205.0. With one exception, all sub-group indexes moved lower, major losses being in pulp and paper (9.1%), food and allied products (7.4%), and machinery and equipment (6.8%). The oil group showed a fractional gain.

The composite index of 26 mining issues also receded, declining 6.8% from 142.4 to 132.7 where it was at the lowest point since March 8. Both sub-group series moved down as the index for 21 gold stocks dropped 7.6% from 78.0 to 72.1 and 5 base metals 6.3% from 289.9 to 271.5. (1)

Security Price Indexes

	<u>October 4</u>	<u>September 27</u> 1935-39=100	<u>September 6</u>
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
Total common stocks	268.4	271.9	288.2
Industrials	283.0	286.8	304.9
Utilities	205.0	205.0	214.6
Banks	267.8	277.2	290.4
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
Total mining stocks	133.6	132.7	143.7
Gold's	72.6	72.1	77.8
Base Metals	273.4	271.5	294.7

Index Of Farm Prices Of Agricultural Products Fell 5.6 Points In August The upward movement in the index of farm prices of agricultural products during the January-July period this year was reversed in August when the index estimated at 232.5 was 5.6 points below July's revised figure of 238.1. A substantial decline in the price of potatoes, together with minor reductions in prices of livestock and some of the grains, more than offset increased prices for dairy products and poultry and eggs.

All provincial indexes except that for Alberta were lower in August than in the preceding month. The index for Prince Edward Island was 279.6 (424.4 in July); Nova Scotia, 209.9 (227.1); New Brunswick, 259.9 (313.0); Quebec, 262.9 (273.7); Ontario, 259.1 (262.2); Manitoba, 217.5 (217.9); Saskatchewan, 194.2 (194.3); Alberta, 213.8 (212.6); and British Columbia, 251.9 (263.3). (2)

Crop-Year Exports Of Oats,
Barley, Rye And Flaxseed

Combined exports of oats, barley, rye and flaxseed during the 1955-56 crop year amounted to 92,400,000 bushels, about 19% smaller than the preceding year's 114,400,000 bushels but relatively unchanged from the ten-year (1944-45--1953-54) average of 93,400,000 bushels. Exports of rye and flaxseed were larger than in 1954-55 but those of oats and barley were smaller.

Canada's 1955-56 oats exports dropped to their lowest level since 1929-30 with only 3,600,000 bushels exported as compared with 21,600,000 in the preceding year. Exports to the United States dropped to 1,900,000 bushels from 14,800,000 and overseas clearances amounted to only 1,800,000 bushels as compared with 6,800,000. Canadian exports of rolled oats and oatmeal continued the decline of recent years, shipments amounting to only 500,000 bushels.

Exports of Canadian barley totalled 64,400,000 bushels, a decline of 12,800,000 bushels from the preceding crop year. The major factor in this decline was the partial loss of the United Kingdom market for Canadian feed barley. Exports to the United Kingdom dropped to 22,700,000 bushels from 48,500,000 in the preceding year. Exports to the United States (principally malting) were up to 28,900,000 bushels from 19,100,000. Shipments to Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany, at 7,000,000 bushels and 3,200,000 bushels, respectively, were also above 1954-55 levels.

Exports of Canadian rye during the past crop year amounted to 12,900,000 bushels, up from 9,300,000 a year earlier. Overseas clearances totalled 8,900,000 bushels as compared with 7,500,000 and exports to the United States advanced to 4,000,000 bushels from 1,800,000. However, since the United States market is still restricted by quota, a portion of the 1956-57 allotment moved during July and therefore fell within the 1955-56 Canadian crop year. Exports to the Federal Republic of Germany amounted to 4,000,000 bushels, Poland 1,200,000, and Norway 1,100,000.

Flaxseed exports of 11,600,000 bushels during the 1955-56 crop year were nearly double the 1954-55 total of 6,300,000 bushels. Major markets for this crop during the past crop year were: United Kingdom, 4,300,000 bushels; Netherlands, 2,400,000; Japan, 1,400,000; and Belgium, 1,200,000. (3)

August Production Of Wheat
Flour Up 5% From Last Year

Production of wheat flour in August, opening month of the new crop year, amounted to 3,448,590 cwt., slightly smaller than July's 3,497,943 cwt., but 5% larger than last year's August output of 3,282,375 cwt. Wheat flour exports in August were larger at 1,493,103 cwt. versus 1,305,856 a year ago. Wheat used for the manufacture of flour in August amounted to 7,872,881 cwt., up from last year's 7,550,023. (4)

Wheat Supplies Down Slightly
But Exports Up Substantially

Visible supplies of Canadian wheat in North American positions on September 19 amounted to 343,488,000 bushels against 344,039,000 a week earlier and 377,025,000 on the corresponding date a year ago. Overseas export clearances in the week totalled 5,111,000 bushels, up markedly from last year's 3,035,000, and in the cumulative period amounted to 40,041,000 bushels compared to 28,751,000 a year ago. (5)

Fewer Electric Refrigerators And
Washing Machines Made In August

January-August output of both appliances to higher levels.

Fewer domestic electric refrigerators and domestic washing machines were made in Canada in August but earlier increases pushed the

Production of domestic electric refrigerators in August amounted to 16,388 units versus 21,580, bringing the January-August total to 225,763 units versus 196,258. Shipments totalled 13,351 in August versus 26,817 and aggregated 210,896 in the eight months versus 215,150. Month-end factory stocks were larger at 32,382 units versus 21,379.

Output of domestic washing machines amounted to 19,674 units in August versus 23,237 and the eight-month total stood at 186,842 units versus 166,735. Shipped in August were 28,132 units (28,864 a year ago) and in the eight months 194,620 units (173,932). Factory stocks at month's end were slightly smaller at 19,021 units versus 19,520. (6 & 7)

Sales Of Electric Storage
Batteries Higher In August

to \$17,528,026 from last year's corresponding total of \$15,758,467. (8)

Value of factory sales in August of electric storage batteries increased 4.5% to \$2,505,192 from \$2,396,-688 a year ago, raising January-August sales 11.2%

Sales Of Radio And
TV-Sets Up In July

television sets.

Producers' domestic sales of radio and television sets were greater in July this year than last, while sales in the January-July period were larger for radios but smaller for

Sales of radio receiving sets rose 1.5% in July to 40,251 units from 39,649 a year earlier. Home sets rose to 19,972 units from 18,411, but portable and auto sets fell to 18,230 from 19,097 and combinations to 2,049 from 2,141. Television-set sales increased nearly 28% in the month to 35,728 units from 27,986, table models rising to 19,186 from 14,323, consoles to 16,067 from 13,282, and three-way combinations to 475 from 381.

January-July sales of radio receiving sets were: home sets, 130,135 units (164,978 units a year ago); portable and auto, 170,501 (154,533); and combinations, 16,250 (16,818). TV-set sales in the period were: table models, 119,874 units (159,575); consoles, 123,819 (108,747); and three-way combinations, 5,433 (3,132). (9)

Shipments Of Asphalt Shingles Down
9% In August And 8.7% In 8 Months

1,989,032 squares from 2,178,379 in last year's corresponding period.

Shipments of asphalt shingles decreased 9% in August to 347,352 squares from 381,821 a year ago and 8.7% in the January-August period to

Shipments of smooth-surfaced roll roofing fell to 122,272 squares in the month from 145,843 a year ago, mineral-surfaced roll roofing to 98,516 squares from 120,095, roll-type sidings to 30,927 squares from 36,314, but tar and asphalt felts rose to 6,638 tons from 6,575.

January-August shipments of smooth-surfaced roll roofing declined to 694,508 squares from 723,645 squares a year earlier, mineral-surfaced roll roofing to 514,016 squares from 583,060, and roll-type sidings to 131,833 squares from 170,357. Cumulative shipments for tar and asphalt felts increased to 38,938 tons from 37,069. (10)

Shipments Of Mineral Wool
Batts Increased In August

Shipments of mineral wool batts increased to 24,410,-427 square feet in August from 24,146,709 square feet a year ago and to 159,667,597 square feet in the January-August period from 134,863,377 square feet a year earlier. Shipments of granulated and bulk or loose wool fell to 967,163 cubic feet in the month from 1,212,749 and to 6,897,575 cubic feet in the eight months from 7,227,884 (11)

Hard Board Production
Rose 8.6% In August

Production of hard board increased 8.6% in August to 22,-886,894 square feet from 21,079,445 square feet a year earlier. Output of hard board -- not tempered or treated -- rose to 9,095,751 square feet in the month from 7,333,399 a year ago, and hard board -- tempered or treated to 4,629,276 square feet from 4,031,935, but semi-hard board fell to 9,161,867 square feet from 9,714,111. (12)

Shipments Of Plywood Up Again
In July But Veneers Down

Shipments of plywoods in July continued to register increases over a year earlier but shipments of veneers fell to lower levels. Shipments of plywoods rose to 88,303,000 square feet in July from 81,308,000 a year earlier and to 739,228,000 square feet in the January-July period from 642,164,000. Shipments of veneers were down to 64,534,000 square feet in July from 77,258,000 and to 543,548,-000 square feet in the seven months from 586,583,000. (13)

Sales Of Paints, Varnishes And
Lacquers Increased In August

Sales of paints, varnishes and lacquers by Canadian producers rose 9.2% in value in August to \$10,-804,434 from \$9,897,388 and 7% in the January-August period to \$86,254,805 from \$80,642,473 in the corresponding period a year earlier. Trade sales totalled \$6,968,587 in the month versus \$6,378,965 and industrial sales amounted to \$3,835,847 versus \$3,518,423. (14)

Motor Vehicle Shipments Up In
August But Down In Eight Months

Canadian automobile manufacturers shipped 26,040 cars and trucks to dealers across Canada and to customers in other countries in August, a small increase over the preceding year's August total of 25,014 units. In the January-August period shipments were down to 344,425 units from 351,202.

Shipments of passenger cars were little changed in August at 19,362 units versus 19,331 a year ago but January-August shipments declined to 275,100 units from 288,802. Shipments of commercial vehicles rose to 6,678 units in August from 5,683 and to 69,325 units in the eight-month period from 62,400.

Passenger cars shipped for sale in Canada were higher in August at 17,871 units versus 17,561 but lower in the eight months at 254,383 units versus 268,134. Commercial vehicles for use in Canada increased to 5,909 units in August from 4,964 and to 62,919 units in the January-August period from 54,157.

Shipments of vehicles imported from the United States were sharply lower in the month but substantially higher in the eight-month period. Number of these vehicles shipped was 839 in August (4,969 a year ago) and 37,973 in the eight months (23,369). Most of the drop in August was in passenger cars. Eight-month totals were larger for passenger cars but smaller for commercial vehicles. (15)

Output Of Pig Iron And Steel Ingots
Larger In September And Nine Months

Canadian production of pig iron and steel ingots continued to climb in September.

September's output of pig iron rose 7.2% to 296,669 tons from 276,795 a year ago and January-September production rose 12.6% to 2,649,520 tons from 2,354,034. Production of steel ingots increased 14.4% in September to 419,966 tons from 367,005 and 19.8% in the 9-month period to 3,847,361 tons from 3,210,801. (16)

Coke Production Greater
In July & Seven Months

Production of coke was larger in July and the January-July period this year than last as were landed imports, exports and supplies available for consumption. Output

in July rose to 369,664 tons from 340,288 a year earlier, landed imports to 48,348 tons from 30,268, exports to 10,618 tons from 5,093 and supplies available for consumption to 407,394 tons from 365,463. January-July totals were as follows: production, 2,493,775 tons (2,276,186 tons a year ago); landed imports, 346,117 (195,575); exports, 71,294 (61,047); and supplies available for consumption, 2,768,598 (2,410,714). (17)

Dealers' Stocks Of Non-Ferrous Scrap Metals

Dealers' stocks of non-ferrous scrap metal at the end of June were larger than at the end of March for copper but smaller for aluminum, magnesium, nickel, lead and

zinc. June-end stocks of the various metals were: copper, 10,126,023 pounds (8,868,931 at the end of March); aluminum, 2,519,980 (2,994,923); magnesium, 7,120 (13,587); nickel, 154,584 (197,502); lead, 7,868,763 (9,885,610); and zinc, 3,924,888 (4,488,567). (18)

MERCHANDISING

Department Store Sales Up 12.4%
In August And 10.1% In 8 Months

Sales of Canadian department stores rose 12.4% to an estimated \$91,397,000 in August from last year's \$81,280,000. This raised cumulative

sales for the January-August period 10.1% to \$710,200,000 from \$644,760,000. Stocks on hand at selling value were worth \$275,785,000 at the end of July, 8.8% more than last year's \$253,588,000.

In the week ending September 29 sales were 10.1% higher than a year earlier. Sales were up 26.5% in British Columbia, 14.6% in Ontario, 8.9% in the Atlantic Provinces and 8.7% in Quebec, and down 8.5% in Saskatchewan, 6.2% in Manitoba and 4% in Alberta.

All provinces shared in the rise in sales in August. Alberta and Saskatchewan with respective increases of 17.5% and 17.2% were the leaders in rate of sales gain. Manitoba followed with 13.7%, British Columbia with 13.1%, Ontario 11.8%, Quebec 9.9%, and the Atlantic Provinces 8.4%.

Sales increased in August in 26 of the 29 specified departments as well as the "all other" category. Largest percentage increases were: millinery, 38.2%; stationery, books and magazines, 24%; women's and misses' sportswear, 22.5%; boys' clothing and furnishings, 21.0%; girls' and infants' wear, 20.2%; women's and misses' coats and suits, 18.2%; hosiery and apparel accessories, 16.5%; men's and boys' shoes, 15.9%; men's clothing, 15.8%. The declines were: jewellery, 16.0%; aprons, housedresses and uniforms, 13.0%; and radio and music, 5.6%. (19)

Chain Store Sales Up 13.6% In August And 9.4% In Eight Months

Sales gains were general in August for all eleven types of chain stores for which monthly figures are compiled by DBS, resulting in an overall rise of 13.6% to \$209,953,000 from \$184,837,000 a year ago. In the January-August period total sales were up 9.4% to \$1,540,114,000 from \$1,407,217,000 a year earlier.

Grocery and combination store sales rose 17.7% in August to \$87,135,000 from \$74,006,000 and 12.1% in the January-August period to \$687,183,000 from \$613,046,000. August sales for the other chains were as follows, ranked according to size: variety, \$17,517,000 (\$14,946,000 in August 1955); lumber and building materials, \$12,087,000 (\$10,628,000); furniture, radio and appliance, \$9,159,000 (\$8,854,000); women's clothing, \$4,356,000 (\$3,863,000); shoe, \$4,036,000 (\$3,261,000); jewellery, \$3,160,000 (\$2,966,000); drug, \$3,126,000 (\$2,863,000); family clothing \$2,611,000 (\$2,420,000); hardware, \$1,876,000 (\$1,545,000); and men's clothing, \$1,550,000 (\$1,452,000). (20)

Farm Machinery And Equipment Sales Higher In Value In 1955

Reversing the trend of the two previous years, Canadian farmers spent more on new farm implements and equipment last year than in 1954. The wholesale value of sales rose about 6% to \$155,115,000 from \$146,703,000, but was sharply below earlier years, comparing with \$238,050,000 in 1953, \$250,277,000 in 1952, \$235,620,000 in 1951, and \$218,187,000 in 1950. Sales of repair parts, rose 4% to \$28,452,000 from \$27,336,000 in 1954. The average retail mark-up is 22.3% for new farm implements and equipment and 33.3% for repair parts.

The increase in farm implement and equipment sales was common to all provinces except Saskatchewan. Sales in Ontario, which accounted for more than one-quarter of the national total, rose to \$43,820,000 from \$39,360,000. Sales in Alberta climbed to \$28,801,000 from \$28,018,000, Quebec to \$21,714,000 from \$16,943,000, Manitoba to \$15,653,000 from \$15,538,000, Maritime Provinces to \$6,486,000 from \$4,987,000, British Columbia to \$5,186,000 from \$4,215,000, and Newfoundland to \$343,900 from \$269,200. Saskatchewan's total was down to \$33,113,000 from \$37,372,000.

Repair part sales were higher in value in all provinces except Saskatchewan and Newfoundland. Sales by provinces were as follows, ranked according to size: Saskatchewan, \$7,893,000 (\$7,900,000 in 1954); Alberta, \$6,314,000 (\$6,026,000); Ontario, \$6,233,000 (\$6,008,000); Manitoba, \$3,535,000 (\$3,316,000); Quebec, \$2,741,000 (\$2,513,000); Maritime Provinces, \$977,000 (\$925,000); British Columbia, \$722,000 (\$600,000); and Newfoundland, \$36,200 (\$47,500).

Among the chief types of implements and equipment, the largest proportionate sales increases were registered for haying machinery, water systems and pumps, and dairy machinery and equipment. Sales were smaller for ploughs; planting, seeding and fertilizing equipment; tilling, cultivating and weeding machinery; farm wagons, trucks and sleighs; and poultry farm equipment.

Sales values for some of the main types of machinery and equipment in 1955 were as follows, 1954 figures being in brackets: tractors and engines, \$58,760,000 (\$55,168,000); harvesting machinery, \$27,687,000 (\$26,195,000); haying machinery, \$21,756,000 (\$17,730,000); ploughs, \$8,225,000 (\$10,201,000); water systems and pumps, \$7,860,000 (\$6,726,000); tilling, cultivating and weeding machinery, \$7,016,000 (\$7,644,000); planting, seeding and fertilizing machinery, \$5,355,000 (\$5,707,000). (21)

Farm Wages Higher At Mid-August Farm wages averaged higher at mid-August this year than last. Average annual wages for all Canada with board provided rose to \$1,155 from \$1,080 in 1955 and without board to \$1,560 from \$1,510. Monthly wages with board averaged \$115 versus \$103 and without board \$149 versus \$136.

For eastern Canada annual wages with board provided rose to an average of \$1,140 from \$1,015, and for western Canada to \$1,185 from \$1,165. Without board the eastern average advanced to \$1,535 from \$1,465, and the western average rose to \$1,590 from \$1,565.

The daily rate with board for all Canada advanced to \$5.80 from \$5.40 and without board to \$7.00 from \$6.60. Hourly rates with board rose to 75¢ from 71¢ and without board to 90¢ from 85¢. (22)

TRANSPORTATION

Motor Transport Traffic In Ontario And British Columbia Numbers of trucks registered in Ontario in the 12-month period from July 1955 to June this year averaged 251,679, according to a special summary of the results of quarterly surveys conducted during the past year by DBS. Registrations in British Columbia in the September 1955 - August 1956 period averaged 80,721.

Of Ontario's registrations, excluding trailers, 12,016 were for-hire vehicles, which travelled a total of 301,088,167 miles in the period or an average of 25,057 miles per vehicle and carried 37,647,454 tons of goods. The average load weighed 6.8 tons and the percentage of capacity utilized was 53.4%. Estimated revenues over the period worked out at \$144,191,614, an average of about \$12,000 per truck or a rate of 7.0¢ per ton mile.

For hire vehicles in British Columbia, excluding trailers, numbered 4,308. These travelled a total of 92,707,952 miles in the period or an average of 21,520 per vehicle and carried 11,772,415 tons of goods. The average load weighed 6.4 tons and the percentage of capacity utilized was 55.3%. Revenues amounted to an estimated \$45,487,423, an average of \$10,558 per vehicle or a rate of 7.6¢ per ton mile.

Registrations in Ontario of private trucks owned by business and industry for the transportation of their own raw materials and finished goods and merchandise numbered 66,185. These travelled a total of 800,392,554 miles for an average of 12,093 miles per truck. Goods carried weighed 41,107,605 tons and the average load weighed 2.3 tons. Percentage of capacity utilized was 45.6.

Registrations of such private trucks in British Columbia numbered 34,496. These travelled 282,126,544 miles or an average of 8,178 per vehicle. Goods carried weighed 24,110,767 tons and the average load weighed 1.7 tons. Percentage of capacity utilized was 43.0.

Passenger Traffic On Urban Transit Systems Passenger traffic on urban transit systems declined in July to 86,292,395 from 88,214,316 a year ago and to 689,071,401 in the first seven months of this year from 709,597,306. Revenues were larger at \$10,083,597 in July versus \$9,066,720 and at \$73,416,447 in the January-July period versus \$69,510,845. (23)

Volume Of Highway Traffic Entering
Canada Increased 7.9% In August

Volume of highway traffic entering Canada from the United States increased 7.9% in August to 2,387,800 vehicles from 2,212,500 a year ago.

Number of foreign vehicles entering Canada rose 4.9% in the month to 1,411,162 from 1,345,511 and returning Canadian vehicles increased 12.7% to 976,758 from 867,020.

Traffic by rail, through bus, boat and plane was down in July but up in the January-July period. Number of foreign entries by these means of transportation fell in July to 282,695 from 298,994 but rose in the January-July period to 795,315 from 794,140. Returning Canadians decreased in the month to 153,675 from 164,267 but increased in the seven months to 755,953 from 747,315. (24)

M I N I N G

Asbestos Shipments Down
In August And 8 Months

Producers' shipments of asbestos (including any for own use) dropped to 98,316 tons in August from 98,779 a year ago and to 669,634 tons in the January-August period from 674,802 a year earlier. Shipments from Quebec mines fell to 93,681 tons in the month from 94,096 and to 638,461 tons in the eight months from 648,306. (25)

Gold Production Lower
In July & Seven Months

Gold production declined to 345,249 fine ounces in July from 384,536 a year ago and to 2,575,333 fine ounces in the January-July period from 2,599,702 a year earlier. Production was higher both in the month and cumulative period in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia and the Northwest Territories but lower in Quebec, Prairie Provinces, British Columbia and the Yukon. Ontario's output was lower in the month but higher in the seven months.

July production by provinces was as follows: Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, 961 fine ounces (536 fine ounces a year ago); Quebec, 87,687 (99,228); Ontario, 194,100 (209,066); Prairie Provinces, 17,062 (18,736); British Columbia, 16,261 (19,412); Yukon, 45 (9,534); and the Northwest Territories, 29,133 (28,024).

January-July output was: Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, 6,477 fine ounces (5,712 fine ounces a year earlier); Quebec, 643,526 (677,231); Ontario, 1,490,746 (1,450,263); Prairie Provinces, 118,352 (125,575); British Columbia, 115,481 (141,736); Yukon, 684 (14,207); and the Northwest Territories, 200,067 (184,979). (26)

Copper, Nickel & Zinc Production Up,
Silver & Lead Down In July & 7 Months

Production of copper, zinc and nickel was greater in July and the January-July period this year than last but output of primary silver and primary lead was smaller in both periods.

Output of primary copper rose to 31,098 tons in July from 26,481 tons a year ago, nickel to 15,125 tons from 14,530 and primary zinc to 36,987 tons from 33,468, but silver fell to 2,265,536 fine ounces from 2,385,654 and primary lead to 15,841 tons from 16,650.

Production of primary copper increased to 205,979 tons in the January-July period from 183,202 tons in the corresponding period a year ago, nickel to 104,737 tons from 103,032 and zinc to 252,627 tons from 244,338, but silver fell to 15,653,574 fine ounces from 15,943,719 and primary lead to 108,208 tons from 122,137. (27 & 28)

New Dwelling Completions Rose
But Starts Declined In August

Completions of new dwelling units in August were slightly larger than a year earlier, rising to 10,732 from 10,685, according to an advance release of preliminary figures by DBS. This was the seventh monthly increase this year and brought the total number of units completed in the eight months to 78,407, up 7.5% from 72,896 last year.

In contrast, starts were down in August for the fourth consecutive month, dropping sharply to 13,097 according to the preliminary count from 16,219 last year and making a preliminary total of 87,628 for the eight months compared to last year's final total of 90,849 units. The latter figure was revised upward by 2,059 from the 1955 preliminary total, however, and this year's figures are subject to similar revision.

As a result of the rise in completions and fall in starts, the number of units under construction at the end of August fell below the figure for a year earlier for the first time in many months, totalling 86,887 compared to 87,620.

Over the eight months, completions have been larger this year than last in all provinces except Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, with the largest increases in Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia. Starts have been fewer in all except Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Alberta.

The following table shows, by provinces, starts and completions during the eight months and the number of units under construction at August 31, both for 1955 and 1956.

	<u>Started - Jan. - Aug.</u>		<u>Completed - Jan. - Aug.</u>		<u>Under Construction At August 31</u>	
	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956
Canada	90,849	87,628	72,896	78,407	87,620	86,887
Nfld.....	952	1,208	766	729	2,916	3,490
P.E.I....	97	58	40	97	135	89
N.S.....	2,031	1,953	1,575	1,449	1,969	2,099
N.B.....	1,896	2,021	1,054	929	2,136	2,757
Que.....	25,940	24,629	20,584	24,370	22,575	21,515
Ont.....	34,927	33,911	29,786	30,384	33,069	32,580
Man.....	3,876	3,545	2,788	3,054	3,794	4,091
Sask.....	3,092	2,555	2,247	1,683	3,090	3,002
Alta.....	6,886	7,132	6,461	7,108	6,774	6,118
B.C.....	11,152	10,616	7,595	8,604	11,162	11,146

Note: On the basis of data obtained from the October 1955 survey, the 1955 figures for starts have been revised. The revision for Canada was an upward one of 2,059 units. The 1956 figures are subject to a similar revision after the October survey is carried out.

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

- 1-Price Movements, September, 10¢
- 2-M: Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, August, 10¢
- 3-Coarse Grains Quarterly, August, 25¢
- 4-M: Grain Milling Statistics, August, 10¢
- 5-M: Grain Statistics Weekly, September 19, 10¢
- 6-M: Domestic Washing Machines, August, 10¢
- 7-M: Domestic Electric Refrigerators, August, 10¢
- 8-M: Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, August, 10¢
- 9-Radio & Television Receiving Sets, July, 10¢
- 10-M: Asphalt Roofing, August, 10¢
- 11-M: Mineral Wool, August, 10¢
- 12-M: Hard Board, August, 10¢
- 13-M: Peeler Logs, Veneers & Plywoods, July, 20¢
- 14-M: Sales of Paints, Varnishes & Lacquers, August, 10¢
- 15-Motor Vehicle Shipments, August, 10¢
- 16-Steel Ingots & Pig Iron, September, 10¢
- 17-Coal & Coke Statistics, July, 25¢
- 18-M: Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal & Secondary Non-Ferrous Ingot, Second Quarter, 1956, 25¢
- 19-Department Store Sales & Stocks, August, 10¢
- 20-Chain Store Sales & Stocks, August, 10¢
- 21-Farm Implement & Equipment Sales, 1955, 25¢
- 22-M: Farm Wages In Canada, August, 10¢
- 23-M: Urban Transit Statistics, July, 10¢
- 24-Travel Between Canada & the United States, August, 20¢
- 25-M: Asbestos, August, 10¢
- 26-M: Gold Production, July, 10¢
- 27-M: Copper & Nickel Production, July, 10¢
- 28-M: Silver, Lead & Zinc Production, July, 10¢
- Quarterly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics, April - June, 25¢
- Canadian Statistical Review, September, 35¢
- Canada 1956 - French Edition - 75¢
- New Residential Construction, July, 25¢ -- Summarized in Weekly Bulletin of September 21.

M: Memorandum

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NEWS NOTES

Snow Ploughs 650 snow ploughs were shipped by Canadian manufacturers in 1954, 234 more than in the preceding year.

Power Chain Saws Nearly 15,000 power chain saws were shipped in 1954, about one-third less than 1953's 21,900 units.

Fewer Butter Churns Fewer butter churns for farm use were sold in Canada last year, numbering 1,771 versus 2,079 in 1954, 1,950 in 1953, and 4,267 in 1949.

Lumber, Paper In British Columbia Sawmills and pulp and paper products together accounted for \$505,666,000 of the \$1,474,156,000 worth of goods shipped from factories in British Columbia in 1954.

Manufacturing In British Columbia In 1954 British Columbia ranked third among the provinces in manufacturing with a total value of factory shipments amounting to \$1,474,156,000, up from \$1,366,824,000 the previous year.

Nepheline Syenite Chief users in Canada of nepheline syenite, a quartz-free rock, are the manufacturers of glass and glass wool. They used all but some 2,100 tons of total consumption of 15,700 tons in 1954.

More Floor Polishers More electric floor polishers were shipped from Canadian factories in 1955 than in any year. At 189,300 the year's shipments compared with 130,200 in 1954 and 86,100 in 1950.

Milk Coolers Sales of farm milk coolers of the electrical refrigeration type increased to 1,686 in 1955 from 1,593 in the preceding year.

Sales Of Insecticides Sales of household and industrial insecticides were valued at \$4,104,000 in 1955, down 1% from the preceding year's \$4,133,000.

Less Lanolin Used In 1955 Canadian manufacturers of soaps, washing compounds and cleaning preparations used 18,923 pounds of lanolin in 1955 against 23,421 pounds in 1954.

More "Pop-Ups" Producers shipped close to 187,000 domestic automatic toasters last year, 27,000 more than in the preceding year. Shipments of non-automatics fell to 105,000 from 110,500.

Leading Industries In The Prairies Slaughtering and meat packing was the leading manufacturing industry in Manitoba and Alberta in 1954 with factory shipments totalling \$114,008,868 and \$121,955,389, respectively, while in Saskatchewan petroleum products was first with shipments valued at \$76,494,298.

Bridge, Tunnel & Ferry Companies' Expenses Operating expenses of bridge, tunnel and ferry companies and commissions operating toll facilities for vehicles and pedestrians between Canada and the United States amounted in 1955 to \$3,994,084, more than double the \$1,882,299 in 1939 and up from \$3,788,286 in 1954.

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