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H I G H L I G H T S O F T H I S I S S U E

National Accounts: Canada's gross national product in the fourth quarter last year was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$31 billion, 2% above the third quarter and 3% above the average for the year. Total for the year was \$29.9 billion, up \$3 billion from 1955. (Page 2)

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Prices: The consumer price index was unchanged from February to March at 120.5. Indexes for shelter, clothing, household operation, and other commodities and services moved upward, but their increases were offset in the total index by a decline in the more heavily weighted food index ... Investors' index of common stocks showed a gain of 2.9% in the first four weeks of March and added further to this advance in the following week ... Wholesale prices of industrial materials increased fractionally in the four weeks to March 22. (Pages 3 & 4)

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Transportation: Urban transit systems and inter-city and rural bus lines continued to lose passengers in January but to gain in revenue ... Oil pipelines set another record for deliveries in January. (Pages 4 & 5)

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Merchandising: Chain stores reported a gain of nearly 11% in dollar sales in February to make a two-month rise of 11.5%, with food stores reporting gains of 14% and nearly 17%, respectively. Department stores also had increased February sales by a more modest 2.4%. (Page 6)

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Labour: Average weekly wages of hourly-rated workers in manufacturing industries reached \$64.42 at February 1 compared to \$60.69 a year earlier. Those employed in mining had the top figure among main industries at \$77.82 against \$72.80 last year ... Number of initial and renewal claims for unemployment insurance benefits in February was slightly higher than in February last year. (Pages 7 & 8)

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Manufacturing: February shipments by manufacturers had an estimated value of \$1,642,000,000, about 1% above last year's February value. Inventory owned by manufacturers was 11.7% higher at \$4,220,000,000, and unfilled orders nearly 6% higher at \$3,226,000,000 ... New records were set for output of pig iron and steel ingots in the first quarter this year ... Number of motor vehicles rolled off assembly lines was also at a new peak in the quarter. (Pages 10 & 11)

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Hospitals: Number of patients admitted to Canadian public hospitals totalled 2,085,000 in 1955, a rise of 170,000 over 1954. Capacity at the year's end in beds and bassinets was 184,872, nearly 7,000 greater than a year earlier. (Page 14)

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Gross National Product At Rate Of
\$31 Billion In Fourth 1956 Quarter

Canada's gross national product was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$31.0 billion in the fourth quarter of 1956, 2% above the third quarter rate and about 3% above the average annual rate for the year 1956 as a whole. This amounted to \$29.9 billion compared to \$26.9 billion in 1955.

Price factors accounted for a significant part of the increase in the fourth quarter, and related evidence suggests that only about one-half of the value gain represented an increase in the physical volume of production. This would constitute one of the smallest increases in the volume of output since the upswing in activity began in mid-1954. Final product prices were between 3% and 4% higher for the year as a whole, the gain in the physical volume of output in 1956 amounting to about 7%. This increase in the physical volume of production was the second largest in the post-war period, being exceeded only by the record advance of 9% in 1955.

On the expenditure side, the major factors in the fourth quarter increase were gains in consumer outlays for non-durable goods and services of 2% and 3%, respectively, a continuation of the uptrend in business capital investment outlays for non-residential construction and new machinery and equipment (up 6% and 3%, respectively) and a substantial pickup in the rate of inventory accumulation. Apart from larger holdings of farm inventories, the inventory movement represented an upswing in the rate of accumulation of business stocks at the manufacturing, retail and wholesale trade levels. The swing in retail holdings of motor vehicles was especially pronounced in the fourth quarter, and reflected the earlier timing of the model change-over in 1956.

The build-up in inventories at the manufacturing level occurred mainly in the sub-groups of iron and steel products, foods and beverages, and petroleum and chemical products. Partial offsets occurred to this build-up of stocks at the manufacturing and trade levels, with liquidations taking place in forestry, construction and some of the other industry groups. Residential construction continued to decline in the fourth quarter and government expenditures were also lower. Exports of goods and services showed little change, but imports again rose moderately, and the deficit on current account was at a rate of over \$1.5 billion.

These changes in the expenditure pattern in the fourth quarter of 1956 were accompanied by further gains in most of the major components of national income. Wages and salaries rose by 2% in the quarter, investment income by 3%, and accrued net income of farm operators by about 9%; the latter reflects almost entirely an increase in farm-held inventories of livestock. The gain in investment income is attributable to further increases in interest and rental income; while data are not yet available on corporation profits for the fourth quarter, the present estimates allow for little change in this item.

The gain in the physical volume of output in the fourth quarter appears to have been concentrated in the construction industry, durable goods manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, and mining, quarrying and oil wells. Declines occurred in non-durable goods manufacturing, forestry, and transportation, communication and storage. (1)

Canada's Consumer Price Index Was Unchanged Between February & March

Canada's consumer price index remained unchanged at 120.5 between February and March, continuing a period of steadiness dating from November 1956. A year ago the index stood at 116.4. Current decreases in the food index were sufficient to offset increases in the other four group indexes.

Foods declines from 117.2 to 116.4 as price decreases occurred for margarine, coffee, process cheese, potatoes, grapefruit and beef. Prices were slightly higher for a number of canned fruits and fresh vegetables. Pork also was somewhat higher and egg prices were up fractionally after reaching the lowest level in two years in February.

Small increases in both the rent and home-ownership components moved the shelter index from 133.8 to 134.0. The clothing index rose from 107.4 to 108.2 as a result of higher prices for men's and women's wear, footwear and piece-goods. An increase in the household operation index from 119.1 to 119.5 reflected price increases for furniture, floor coverings, textiles, utensils and equipment, laundry, dry cleaning and shoe repairs.

The "other" commodities and services index increased from 123.8 to 124.2 as higher prices were reported for automobile repairs and local transportation fares. Gasoline prices increased mainly in Ontario, and tire prices were lower in a number of cities. (2)

Consumer Price Indexes (1949=100)

		Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
March	1957	120.5	116.4	134.0	108.2	119.5	124.2
February	1957	120.5	117.2	133.8	107.4	119.1	123.8
March	1956	116.4	109.1	131.6	108.7	116.8	119.9

Security Prices Indexes

The investors' index of 95 common stocks (1935-39 = 100) rallied slightly in March to show a 2.9% gain from 261.8 to 269.3 in the four-week period from February 28 to March 28. This compared with a rise of 7.4% between the weeks ending February 23 and March 22.

Major group index movements over the past four weeks were all upward, with increases of 4.1% for utilities, 3.6% for banks, and 2.6% for industrials. Among sub-groups showing increases the gains were led by transportation, up 11.1%, pulp and paper (5.5%), and power and traction (5.4%). Losses were sustained by several groups, including milling which fell 4%, followed by minor declines for beverages, telephones, and foods and allied products.

The composite index of 27 mining issues advanced 1.2% from 121.7 to 123.2 in the period as six base metals moved up 2.6% from 242.2 to 248.5. The index for 21 gold stocks showed a 0.7% loss from 69.0 to 68.5. (2)

Security Price Indexes

	<u>April 4</u>	<u>March 28</u> 1935-39 = 100	<u>March 7</u>
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
Total common stocks	272.5	269.3	266.0
Industrials	285.9	282.2	279.6
Utilities	212.1	212.3	207.3
Banks	276.7	271.8	264.9
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
Total mining stocks	126.0	123.2	123.3
Golds	69.2	68.5	67.9
Base metals	256.0	248.5	250.2

Industrial Material Prices At Wholesale Fractionally Higher

The index of 30 industrial material prices at wholesale (1935-39 = 100) changed only fractionally between February 22 and March 22 from 248.0 to 247.7. Sharp decreases were reported for hogs, oats, sisal and steel scrap, while slightly lower prices occurred for linseed oil, wheat, raw cotton, bleached sulphite pulp and iron ore. On the other hand, substantial price increases were registered for raw wool, raw rubber and raw sugar, while lesser advances were noted for steers, beef hides and tin.

Farm product prices at terminal markets were 2.1% lower at 206.5 on March 22 compared to 211.0 four weeks earlier. The animal products index fell 3.2% from 261.3 to 253.0 as livestock showed a net decline, with decreases for hogs and western calves partially offset by gains for eastern steers, calves and lambs. Other changes in this group were fractional declines for eggs and eastern cheesemilk and increases for raw wool, eastern poultry and western fluid milk.

In the field products sector, for which the index moved down 0.4% from 160.7 to 160.1, there was a general lowering of prices for most eastern grains and western rye and flax, while potatoes were down in both the East and West. Hay registered the only increase in this group, advancing moderately in the East. (2)

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

Urban Transit Systems Carried Fewer Passengers In January

Passengers carried by urban transit systems in January numbered 101,514,541, down 0.6% from 102,139,802 a year earlier. Revenue, on the other hand, increased 6.7% to \$11,332,503 from \$10,616,596. Electric car services carried fewer passengers at 26,327,853 versus 30,541,192 and trolley bus services at 20,242,702 versus 20,620,634, but motor bus services carried more passengers at 54,235,863 versus 50,587,758 and chartered services at 708,123 versus 390,218. (3)

Fewer Passengers Carried On Inter-City & Rural Bus Lines In January

Passengers carried on regular and chartered services by intercity and rural bus systems in January numbered 5,023,499,

down slightly from the 5,041,176 carried a year earlier. Regular services carried fewer passengers at 4,826,449 versus 4,843,397 and chartered services at 197,050 versus 197,779. Revenue, however, increased over 10% to \$3,193,896 from \$2,897,440 in last year's corresponding month. (4)

Record Set For Pipe-Line Deliveries Of Oil In January

Net pipe-line deliveries of oil established a new record of 27,154,521 barrels in January, an increase of 19% over last year's corresponding

total of 22,757,198 barrels. Provincial totals were as follows (1956 data in brackets): British Columbia, 5,870,694 barrels (3,359,440); Alberta, 1,077,377 (1,833,425); Saskatchewan, 1,529,804 (1,622,781); Manitoba, 7,128,486 (5,610,642); Ontario, 4,525,108 (3,858,581); and Quebec, 7,023,052 (6,472,329). (5)

Operating Revenues & Expenditures For Canadian Air Carriers Up In September

Total operating revenues, operating expenses and operating income of air carriers were greater in September than

a year earlier. Operating revenues rose over 26% to \$18,541,000 from \$14,687,000 a year earlier, operating expenses over 19% to \$15,448,000 from \$12,950,000, and operating income 78% to \$3,093,000 from \$1,737,000.

Revenue passengers in the month numbered 335,401 compared to 279,508, comprising 272,439 being flown in unit toll services versus 233,909, and 62,962 in bulk services versus 45,599. Weight of airmail handled rose to 1,897,000 pounds from 1,829,000. (6)

MINING

Production Of Leading Minerals In 1956

Record amounts of iron ore, crude petroleum, natural gas, and cement

were produced in 1956, DBS reports in its December report on the production of leading minerals. In all, there were larger production totals for 10 of the 16 minerals listed. Declines were posted for asbestos, gold, lead, lime, silver and zinc.

Year's production totals were: iron ore, 21,996,589 tons (16,283,177 in 1955); crude petroleum, 171,980,599 barrels (129,440,247); natural gas, 169,542,504,000 cubic feet (150,772,312,000); cement, 29,051,035 barrels (25,168,464); gypsum, 4,933,939 tons (4,667,901); nickel, 178,767 tons (174,928); and salt, 1,587,771 tons (1,244,761).

The year's output of coal amounted to 14,912,534 tons (14,818,880); copper, 356,251 tons (325,994); asbestos, 1,017,848 tons (1,063,802); clay products, \$37,387,757 (\$34,271,350); gold, 4,395,770 fine ounces (4,541,962); lead, 188,969 tons (202,762); lime 1,303,357 tons (1,331,118); silver, 27,655,141 fine ounces (27,984,204); and zinc, 419,402 tons (433,357). (7)

Chain Store Sales
Greater In February

Chain stores reported larger sales in February and January-February this year than last. Stocks (at cost) at February 1 were also greater than a year earlier. All chains, except lumber and building material dealers, furniture, radio and appliance stores, and jewellery stores, recorded increased sales over last year, and all but lumber and building material dealers, and furniture, radio and appliance stores had larger stocks.

Total sales in February amounted to \$182,078,000 compared to \$164,572,000, an increase of 10.6%. January-February sales climbed 11.5% to \$365,996,000 from \$328,287,000. Stocks at February 1 were 8.9% larger at \$285,978,000 versus \$262,670,000.

Grocery and combination store sales were up 14.1% in the month to \$89,507,000 from \$78,438,000 a year earlier, boosting January-February sales 16.6% to \$181,888,000 from \$155,938,000. Stocks at the beginning of February were up 21.2% to \$57,498,000 from \$47,440,000.

Other chains with increased sales in February were (in thousands): variety stores, \$12,922 (\$11,723 a year earlier); men's clothing stores, \$1,502 (\$1,460); family clothing stores, \$1,670 (\$1,516); women's clothing stores, \$3,617 (\$3,458); shoe stores, \$2,486 (\$2,259); hardware stores, \$1,391 (\$1,360); and drug stores, \$2,956 (\$2,902). Chains with smaller sales were: lumber and building material dealers, \$4,551 (\$4,763); furniture, radio and appliance stores, \$8,220 (\$8,421); and jewellery stores, \$2,192 (\$2,196). (8)

Department Store Sales
Rose 2.4% In February

Sales by Canada's department stores in February totalled an estimated \$76,832,000, up 2.4% from 1956's February total of \$75,061,000. All but the Atlantic Provinces and 12 of the 29 specified departments recorded gains over a year earlier. Stocks at January 31, with an estimated selling value of \$226,173,000, were 6.3% greater than the year-earlier figure of \$250,299,000.

February sales increased 1% in Quebec to \$13,813,000 from \$13,676,000 a year earlier, 2% in Ontario to \$26,014,000 from \$25,503,000, 5.1% in Manitoba to \$6,521,000 from \$6,205,000, 4.5% in Saskatchewan to \$3,828,000 from \$3,663,000, 4.4% in Alberta to \$7,857,000 from \$7,526,000, and 2.9% in British Columbia to \$13,106,000 from \$12,737,000. In the Atlantic Provinces sales declined 1% to \$5,693,000 from \$5,751,000.

Major gains among the 17 specified departments recording larger sales in February were posted for the following: photographic equipment and supplies, 10.8% to \$276,000 from \$249,000 a year earlier; women's and misses' dresses, 10.1% to \$2,250,000 from \$2,044,000; millinery, 7.9% to \$563,000 from \$522,000; toiletries, cosmetics and drugs, 7.4% to \$2,345,000 from \$2,184,000; sporting goods and luggage, 7.4% to \$1,640,000 from \$1,527,000; furniture, 5.5% to \$6,519,000 from \$6,181,000; and linens and domestics, 5.4% to \$3,078,000 from \$2,919,000. (9)

Department Store Sales Up 17.3% Sales by Canadian department stores increased 17.3% in the week ending March 30 as compared to last year's corresponding week, according to the Bureau's weekly release on department store sales. All provinces had larger sales, the Atlantic Provinces rising 11.5%, Quebec 21.8%, Ontario 7.4%, Manitoba 22.2%, Saskatchewan 37.9%, Alberta 12.6%, and British Columbia 28.8%.

LABOUR

Weekly Wages In Manufacturing Higher At Beginning Of February Hourly-rated wage-earners in Canada's manufacturing industries earned an average of \$64.42 a week at the beginning of February, up from \$59.88 a month earlier and \$60.69 a year earlier, DBS reports in an advance statement. Average hourly earnings declined to 157.5¢ from 158.0¢ a month earlier but were up from 147.3¢ a year earlier, while the work-week averaged 40.9 hours versus 37.9 and 41.2.

In the durable goods component of manufacturing, average weekly wages rose to \$69.65 (a new peak) from \$64.50 a month earlier and \$65.67 a year earlier, and average hourly rates to 170.3¢ from 169.3¢ and 159.0¢. The average work-week increased to 40.9 hours from last month's 38.1 but fell from last year's 41.3.

In the non-durable goods component average weekly wages climbed to \$58.65 from \$54.82 a month earlier and \$55.44 a year ago, while average hourly rates at 143.4¢ were lower than the month-earlier average of 145.4¢ but higher than the year-earlier rate of 134.9¢. The work-week averaged 40.9 hours compared to 37.7 and 41.1.

Weekly wages of hourly-rated wage-earners in other industrial groups at the beginning of February were as follows: mining, \$77.82 (\$73.91 a month earlier and \$72.80 a year ago); electric and motor transportation, \$69.58 (\$66.09 and \$65.59); construction, \$72.18 (\$58.51 and \$65.08); and service, \$36.50 (\$36.21 and \$35.30).

Average Hours and Earnings of Hourly-Rated Wage-Earners
Reported in Specified Industries in the Weeks Ending
Jan. 1 and Feb. 1, 1957 and Feb. 1, 1956

	Average Hours			Average Hourly Earnings			Average Weekly Wages		
	Feb.1	Jan.1	Feb.1	Feb.1	Jan.1	Feb.1	Feb.1	Jan.1	Feb.1
	1956	1957	1957	1956	1957	1957	1956	1957	1957
	no.	no.	no.	¢	¢	¢	\$	\$	\$
Manufacturing	41.2	37.9	40.9	147.3	158.0	157.5	60.69	59.88	64.42
Durable Goods	41.3	38.1	40.9	150.0	169.3	170.3	65.67	64.50	69.65
Non-Durable Goods ..	41.1	37.7	40.9	134.9	145.4	143.4	55.44	54.82	58.65
Mining	43.8	40.7	42.9	166.2	181.6	181.4	72.80	73.91	77.82
Electric and Motor									
Transportation	44.2	42.2	44.6	148.4	156.6	156.0	65.59	66.09	69.58
Construction	40.2	34.4	41.2	161.9	170.1	175.2	65.08	58.51	72.18
Service	40.2	39.1	39.5	87.8	92.6	92.4	35.30	36.21	36.50

Fewer Initial And Renewal Claims For Unemployment Insurance Benefits In February

Initial and renewal claims for unemployment insurance benefits received in local UIC offices in

February totalled 190,714, some 45% fewer than January's 359,384, but practically unchanged from 1956's February total of 185,016. January's nation-wide railway strike was probably the major contributing factor to the large volume of claims in that month.

Applicants having a register in the "live file" at February 28 numbered 572,387 (467,532 males and 104,855 females) compared to 545,981 (444,052 males and 101,929 females) a month earlier and 510,963 (413,083 males and 97,880 females) a year earlier.

New beneficiaries in receipt of either regular or seasonal benefit during February totalled 210,270 compared to 295,461 in January and 173,759 in February 1956. Benefit payments - regular and seasonal - totalled \$38,603,408 in compensation for 1,831,424 weeks versus \$33,439,112 for 1,605,948 weeks a month earlier and \$32,188,102 for 1,733,650 weeks a year ago.

Number of initial and renewal claims filed in local offices in February, by province, was as follows: Newfoundland, 6,175 (5,646 a year earlier); Prince Edward Island, 936 (805); Nova Scotia, 7,548 (7,166); New Brunswick, 9,058 (8,526); Quebec, 65,807 (65,253); Ontario, 58,270 (59,507); Manitoba, 7,099 (7,295); Saskatchewan, 4,661 (4,573); Alberta, 9,465 (9,280); and British Columbia, 21,695 (16,965). (10)

B U S I N E S S

Value Of Cheques Cashed Up Substantially In February

Value of cheques cashed in the 52 Canadian clearing centres increased 13.8% in February to \$15,213,976,000 from \$13,370,359,000 a year earlier, raising January-February cashings 16% to \$32,987,100,000 from \$28,440,503,000 in last year's like period. The five economic areas and most of the clearing centres recorded gains in both periods over a year earlier.

February cashings by economic areas were as follows (in thousands): Atlantic Provinces, \$361,444 (\$353,045 a year earlier); Quebec, \$4,542,592 (\$4,138,283); Ontario, \$7,035,904 (\$5,931,126); Prairie Provinces, \$2,137,479 (\$1,887,906); and British Columbia, \$1,136,557 (\$1,059,999). January-February totals by economic areas were (in thousands): Atlantic Provinces, \$822,575 (\$755,813 a year earlier); Quebec, \$9,867,126 (\$8,918,262); Ontario, \$15,001,370 (\$12,625,563); Prairie Provinces, \$4,831,140 (\$3,959,670); and British Columbia, \$2,464,888 (\$2,181,196).

Cashings in some of the major centres in the month were (in thousands): Halifax, \$121,448 (\$125,159); Montreal, \$4,021,039 (\$3,651,635); Quebec, \$353,870 (\$338,210); Hamilton, \$321,621 (\$311,474); London, \$176,921 (\$155,891); Ottawa, \$312,853 (\$235,798); Toronto, \$5,324,921 (\$4,441,091); Windsor, \$188,514 (\$206,993); Calgary, \$630,314 (\$461,259); Edmonton, \$366,399 (\$307,901); Regina, \$186,780 (\$155,994); Winnipeg, \$810,924 (\$833,937); Vancouver, \$935,752 (\$889,508); and Victoria, \$148,647 (\$117,103). (11)

Production Of Electric Energy In January Total net generation of electric energy in January amounted to 8,-106,955,000 kilowatt hours, of which 6,295,746,000 was produced by utilities (5,628,391,000 a year earlier), and 1,811,209,000 by industrial firms (not available for January 1956), according to the first issue of a revised monthly series on electric power statistics.

This new report, which is based on returns received from firms which generate at least 10,000,000 kilowatt hours a year, replaces "Central Electric Stations", which was a monthly compilation of the generation and distribution of electric power by firms which sold at least part of their electric power production. It is estimated that the new series represents approximately 96% of total generation in Canada.

Total imports of electric energy from the United States equalled 63,751,-000 kilowatt hours in January, while 350,610,000 was exported, leaving 7,820,-096,000 kilowatt hours available for disposal in Canada. Of this, 120,507,000 kilowatt hours was used in electric boilers.

Net generation by utilities in January was as follows by provinces, in thousands: Newfoundland, 90,646 (83,104 in January 1956); Prince Edward Island, 5,170 (3,546); Nova Scotia, 124,988 (112,046); New Brunswick, 75,180 (57,903); Quebec, 2,448,979 (2,168,276); Ontario, 2,444,457 (2,198,686); Manitoba, 307,-887 (312,667); Saskatchewan, 157,247 (138,152); Alberta, 215,702 (186,824); British Columbia, 419,771 (361,561); and Yukon and Northwest Territories, 5,719 (5,626). (12)

FORESTRY

Lumber Production In British Columbia Down 28% In January Production of sawn lumber and ties in British Columbia in January amounted to 289,681,000 board feet, a decrease of nearly 28% from last year's corresponding total of 400,708,000. Shipments fell to 306,370,000 board feet from 374,370,000, but month-end stocks rose to 564,392,000 board feet from 514,123,000. (13)

Sawn Lumber Production East Of The Rockies Lower In January Production of sawn lumber (excluding ties) east of the Rockies in January amounted to 184,551,000 feet board measure, down 5.7% from the year-earlier total of 195,717,000 feet. Output was lower in Prince Edward Island, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta, but higher in the remaining provinces. Provincial totals were: Prince Edward Island, 240,000 feet board measure (247,-000 feet board measure a year earlier); Nova Scotia, 15,175,000 (14,566,000); New Brunswick, 24,029,000 (23,750,000); Quebec, 46,702,000 (46,589,000); Ontario, 26,667,000 (31,695,000); Manitoba, 442,000 (1,393,000); Saskatchewan, 10,899,000 (8,536,000); and Alberta, 60,397,000 (68,941,000). (14)

Manufacturers' Shipments,
Inventories And Orders

Manufacturers' Shipments in February were valued at an estimated \$1,642,000,000, some \$72,000,000 or 4% lower than January's revised total of \$1,713,000,000, and some \$21,000,000 or about 1% above last year's February figure of \$1,621,000,000, according to preliminary figures released by DBS. Cumulative shipments for the January-February period were valued at \$3,355,100,000, some 6% greater than last year's \$3,159,600,000.

The decline in February shipments as compared to January reversed the pattern of the preceding four years with the following industries mainly responsible: slaughtering and meat packing, motor vehicles and motor vehicle parts, smelting and refining of non-ferrous metals, and refining of petroleum. The decline in slaughtering and meat packing followed the normal seasonal pattern but smelting and refining of non-ferrous metals and refining of petroleum were considerably greater.

Value of inventory owned by manufacturers increased 1.6% in February to \$4,220,000,000 from \$4,155,000,000 in the preceding month and 11.7% from last year's February value of \$3,776,000,000. Inventory held under progress payments arrangements rose to \$500,428,000 from \$498,633,000 in the preceding month and last year's \$443,696,000. Total inventory held rose 1.4% to \$4,720,000,000 from \$4,654,000,000 a month earlier and 11.9% from \$4,220,000,000 a year earlier.

Finished products inventory rose in value in February to \$1,456,000,000 from \$1,262,000,000 in the corresponding month last year, goods in process to \$1,263,000,000 from \$1,142,000,000, and raw materials to \$2,002,000,000 from \$1,816,000,000.

The ratio of total inventory owned to shipments was 2.57 as compared with 2.43 in the preceding month and 2.33 in February last year. The ratio of finished products to shipments stood at 0.89 as compared with 0.83 in January and 0.78 in February 1956.

Unfilled orders declined slightly in February to \$3,226,000,000 from \$3,230,000,000 in the preceding month but rose 5.8% from \$3,048,000,000 a year earlier. Decreases were general in all industries except transportation equipment, with iron and steel products and non-metallic mineral products registering the largest decreases.

Record Tonnages Of Pig Iron, Steel
Ingots Produced In March, Quarter

Record tonnages of pig iron and steel ingots were produced in March and the first quarter of this year. The March output of pig iron climbed to 335,012 tons from 291,741 in the preceding month and 292,642 a year earlier, boosting the quarter's production to 931,649 tons from 846,183. Output of steel ingots rose to 459,969 tons in March from 413,435 in February and 429,720 in March last year, bringing January-March production to 1,329,844 tons versus 1,246,174. (15)

Record Numbers Of Motor Vehicles
Produced In First Quarter This Year

Record numbers of motor vehicles rolled off Canadian assembly lines in the first quarter of this year, according to pre-

liminary figures released by DBS. The quarter's total was 127,023, nearly one-fifth larger than last year's corresponding output of 106,376 units, and almost 14% larger than 1955's 112,452 units. March production fell to 44,900 units from 47,401 a year earlier, but in February the total rose to 36,365 units from 29,304, and in January to 45,758 units from 29,671.

The quarter's production of passenger cars climbed to 106,938 units from 85,506 a year earlier and 98,730 in the same 1955 period. The March output rose to 38,277 units from 37,564 a year earlier, February to 29,661 units from 23,221, and January to 39,000 units from 24,721.

Production of commercial vehicles in the quarter declined to 20,085 units from 20,870 a year earlier but rose sharply from 13,722 in the 1955 quarter. March production fell to 6,626 units from 9,837 a year earlier, but the February output rose to 6,704 units from 6,083, and the January total to 6,758 units from 4,950. (16)

Production And Shipments Of Domestic
Electric Refrigerators Lower In February

Both production and shipments (for sale in Canada and for export) of domestic electric refrigerators

were lower in February this year than last, while individual electric home and farm freezers were higher. Output of refrigerators fell to 20,675 units from 23,484 units a year ago and shipments to 20,422 units from 24,167. Production of individual electric home and farm freezers climbed to 828 units from 695 and shipments to 1,196 units from 1,011. (17)

Asphalt Shingle Shipments
Sharply Lower In February

February shipments of asphalt shingles declined to 119,802 squares from 164,768 a year earlier, smooth-surfaced roll-roofing to 68,304 squares

from 69,595, tar and asphalt felts to 2,968 tons from 3,095, and tar and asphalt sheathing (kraft and non-kraft base) to 1,299 tons from 1,323. Deliveries of mineral-surfaced roll-roofing increased to 43,776 squares from 41,643 and roll-type sidings to 10,984 squares from 10,167. (18)

Steel Wire & Specified Wire Products
Production And Shipments In January

Production of steel wire, wire fencing, wire rope, and nails, tacks and staples was lower in January this year than last.

Shipments were larger for steel wire and wire rope, but smaller for wire fencing and nails, tacks and staples.

Output totals were: steel wire, 33,159 tons (36,837 tons a year earlier); wire fencing, 1,973 (1,955); wire rope, 2,973 (3,046); and nails, tacks and staples, 5,451 (7,772). Shipments were: steel wire, 13,628 tons (13,603); wire fencing, 725 (1,171); wire rope, 2,642 (2,380); and nails, tacks and staples, 5,018 (7,444). (19)

Net Sales Of Refined Petroleum
Products Up 8% In December

Net sales of refined petroleum products in Canada in December totalled 24,661,106 barrels, up 8% from 22,844,978 barrels a year earlier. Net sales of some of the major items in the month were: motor gasoline, 6,154,102 barrels (5,510,623 barrels a year earlier); heavy fuel oil, 4,969,739 (4,824,271); kerosene and stove oil, 2,520,669 (2,416,831); and diesel fuel oil, 1,621,921 (1,295,179). (20)

Refined Petroleum Products
Output Up 18% In November

Production of refined petroleum products in November amounted to 19,734,482 barrels, up nearly 18% from last year's corresponding total of 16,781,186 barrels. Usage of crude oil rose to 19,489,242 barrels from 16,509,695 and receipts of crude to 19,506,346 barrels from 16,125,048. Receipts comprised 10,591,976 barrels of domestic crude versus 8,695,948 and 8,914,370 barrels of imported crude versus 7,429,100.

Net sales of liquid petroleum fuels in November were as follows: naphtha specialties, 109,443 barrels (104,248 barrels a year earlier); aviation gasoline, 305,146 (217,432); motor gasoline, 6,718,551 (5,963,845); tractor fuel, 2,238 (4,910); aviation turbine fuel, 263,675 (180,993); kerosene and stove oil, 1,890,843 (2,059,306); diesel fuel, 1,797,688 (1,566,123); light fuel oil, 5,206,484 (5,083,150); and heavy fuel oil, 4,841,938 (4,509,794). (21)

Aircraft & Parts Industry In 1955

Factory value of products made by Canada's aircraft and parts industry in 1955 climbed 3.3% to \$354,315,000 from \$343,011,000 in 1954, but was 17% below 1944's peak value of \$426,982,000, according to the Bureau's annual industry report. Number of establishments rose to 52 from 47 in 1954, but employees fell to 33,036 from 35,095, salaries and wages to \$130,269,000 from \$135,863,000, and cost of materials to \$140,831,000 from \$158,893,000.

Value of aircraft completed in the year amounted to \$108,408,000 compared to \$186,934,000 in the preceding year; aircraft not finished, \$46,074,000 (\$35,724,000); parts made, including value of work done on developing aircraft and engines, \$194,878,000 (\$167,353,000). (22)

Miscellaneous Non-Ferrous Metal
Products Industry In 1955

Value of factory shipments in 1955 from the 26 establishments (23 in 1954) comprising the non-ferrous metal products industry climbed nearly 37% to \$8,403,000 from \$6,149,000 in the preceding year, but was 0.8% below 1951's peak value of \$8,470,000, according to the Bureau's annual industry report. Employees increased to 729 from 536, salaries and wages to \$2,444,000 from \$1,718,000, cost of materials to \$3,863,000 from \$2,835,000, and value added by manufacture to \$4,489,000 from \$3,166,000.

Production of weatherstrip increased to \$391,000 from \$266,000 in 1954. Other items produced included: electroplating supplies, railway and marine lamps and lanterns, window screens, name plates, metallic packing and stellite. Figures for these other commodities cannot be published as there were only one or two producers in each case. (23)

Slaughtering And Meat
Packing Industry In 1955

Value of factory shipments in the slaughtering and meat packing industry in 1955 was \$809,468,000, according to the annual DBS report. Due to changes in the methods of compiling the figures, there was an apparent decrease of 3.3% from a year earlier. On the former basis the value of shipments would have amounted to \$853,320,000, an increase of 1.9%. Number of establishments at 153 was one less than in the preceding year. Employees increased to 23,655 from 22,999 and salaries and wages to \$83,007,000 from \$78,699,000.

Major sales in 1955 included the following: fresh and frozen meats, \$431,501,000 -- \$475,353,000 on the former basis (\$457,065,000 in 1955); cured and smoked meats, \$119,790,000 (\$123,749,000); sausage and cooked meats, \$84,350,000 (\$84,304,000); poultry, fresh and fresh-frozen, \$21,260,000 (\$17,215,000); canned meats, \$31,643,000 (\$28,018,000); and sausage casings, \$3,984,000 (\$3,585,000). (24)

Leather Footwear And Leather
Boot & Shoe Findings Industries

Shipments from establishments comprising Canada's leather footwear industry in 1955 increased 1.9% in value to \$125,553,000 from \$123,244,000 in 1954, but were 4.4% lower than 1953's peak value of \$131,307,000, according to the Bureau's annual industry report. Number of establishments declined to 257 from 279 in 1954 and employees to 19,829 from 20,289, but salary and wage payments rose to \$42,840,000 from \$42,177,000. Materials cost more at \$59,510,000 versus \$58,625,000 and more was added by manufacture at \$66,129,000 versus \$63,840,000.

Value of factory shipments from establishments comprising the leather boot and shoe findings industry in 1955 increased 5.5% to \$5,562,000 from 1954's \$5,274,000. Establishments rose to 31 from 29, employees to 600 from 585, but salaries and wages fell to \$1,439,000 from \$1,449,000. Cost of materials climbed to \$3,276,000 from \$2,958,000 and value added by manufacture to \$2,191,000 from \$2,128,000. (25)

Decline Of About 5% In Value Of Shipments
By Canadian Manufacturers In Year 1954

Canada's manufacturing industries experienced a downward adjustment during 1954, DBS reports in its annual general review for that year. Shipments were valued at \$17,554,528,000, some 5% below the preceding year's all-time peak of \$17,785,417,000. This was accompanied by an increase of 3% in finished goods inventory which rose to \$1,011,107,000 from \$959,555,000 in 1953, indicating a smaller decrease in production than in shipments.

Number of persons employed in manufacturing fell 4.5% to 1,268,000 from the preceding year's 1,327,000. However, due to increases in hourly earnings, the amount paid in salaries and wages, amounting to \$3,896,688,000, was only 1.5% lower. Plants reporting in 1954 numbered 38,028, only slightly below 1953's record total of 38,107, of which 13,178 were located in Ontario (13,144 in 1953) and 12,191 in Quebec (12,132). They spend \$9,241,858,000 on materials and supplies (\$9,380,559,000), and added \$7,902,124,000 by manufacture (\$7,993,069,000). (26)

Record Number Of Hospitals
And Patients In Year 1955

Number of hospitals of all types known to be operating in Canada increased again in 1955 to a record total of 1,360, and their gross capacity rose to 170,639 beds and cribs and 14,233 bassinets, sufficient to accommodate one in every 85 Canadians, the year-end total of 184,872 being 6,839 more than the figure one year earlier, DBS reports in Volume I of its 1955 report on hospitals.

More patients were admitted to public hospitals in 1955 than ever before. The 1955 total was 2,085,000, or 170,000 more than the year before and about four times the number admitted in 1932, the first year for which figures are available. Some 363,000 infants were born in hospitals. Hospital beds and cribs had a turnover rate in 1955 of one new patient each 14.4 days; in 1933, an average 29.9 days elapsed between each admission to the average bed. Translated into terms applicable to a typical hospital of, say, 250 beds, this would mean that the hospital could handle 3,050 admissions in 1933 but 6,350 in 1955.

In a hospital, the ratio between the number of beds actually set up and the standard bed capacity is one convenient measure of overcrowding. This ratio, which had declined from 1.05 in 1953 to 1.04 in 1954, fell to 1.03 in 1955.

A larger proportion of the population was in Canada's public hospitals in 1955 than ever before. On a typical day in that year, 4.15 adults and children out of every 1,000 occupied hospital beds; in 1932, the proportion had been 2.28. And these proportions do not include newborn infants in the hospital.

A near-record number of hospitals had radiology facilities (718), and an all-time record number reported laboratories (743). In 574 hospitals, also a record, patients were being given routine chest X-rays on admission. More X-ray machines than ever before (2,105) were in use in hospitals in 1955, the total having risen sharply from 1954 (1,878). Autopsies were performed on 29.2% of hospital deaths in 1955, a rise from 26.9% the year before.

Canada's public hospitals continued to increase the size of their labour force in 1955, reaching a new overall total of 114,600, or 11.8% more than in 1954. For every 100 beds and cribs in 1955 there were 139.4 employees. The ratio of hours worked by all employees to days of care given rose again to 9.59 hours from 1954's 9.31.

More schools of nursing reported in 1955 than in 1954 (165 instead of 156), but fewer student nurses became graduate nurses (only 4,743 instead of 4,818). Thus 1.6 per cent fewer nurses became available for potential employment in hospitals which had 9.2 per cent more overall bed capacity - and by no means all graduating nurses go into hospitals. Whereas the 1954 graduating classes represented almost 25% of the graduate nurses then employed full-time in hospitals, the 1955 classes could replace only 22% of the 1955 staff.

MORE

Primarily concerned with public general and special hospitals, the report also gives a brief examination of private and federal hospitals and contains two summary tables covering all health institutions. Excluded, except from the summary tables, are mental institutions and tuberculosis institutions, which are discussed in separate publications. Also excluded are the 142 institutions with 2,853 beds and cribs and 316 bassinets which did not submit reports; almost three-quarters of these missing institutions were private hospitals. The report thus deals at least briefly with data covering 167,786 beds and cribs and 13,917 bassinets, located in 1,218 reporting institutions. It gives extensive discussion of data from the 858 reporting public general and special hospitals - the layman's "hospital" - which reported a combined capacity of 82,330 beds and cribs and 13,101 bassinets. (27)

POPULATION

Final 1956 Census Of Population Totals For Province Of Ontario

Final tabulations of 1956 Census returns place the population of Ontario at 5,404,933, an increase of 807,391 or 17.6% over 1951's

count of 4,597,542, according to a report released by DBS which contains population totals classified by sex, for counties and census divisions as well as for such subdivisions as incorporated cities, towns and villages, organized municipalities, parishes and townships. The male population increased 407,349 in the five-year period to 2,721,519 from 2,314,170, and the female population by 400,042 to 2,683,414 from 2,283,372. The excess of males over females was relatively small, amounting to 38,105 versus 30,798 in 1951.

Increases in population in the five years were recorded for all but one of the 54 counties in the province (Manitoulin decreasing by 154) and for all but one city (Toronto city proper showing a decrease of 8,048). Large increases were shown for Toronto's neighboring Scarborough Township (83,452 or 148%), and York North Township (84,213 or 98%). All municipalities in York County showed substantial gains, with those forming the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto rising to 1,358,028 from 1,117,470, an increase of 240,558 or 21.5%.

The counties showing the greatest numerical increases in the 1951-1956 period were York, with a gain of 263,979, and Wentworth, with a gain of 50,155. Halton and Peel, the counties between York and Wentworth, recorded the largest rates of growth -- 55.2% and 49.3%, respectively. In the northern part of the province, the county of Sudbury recorded the largest gain both numerically and proportionately, increasing by 32,385 or 29.6%.

The city showing the largest numerical increase was Hamilton, with a gain of 31,304. The largest rate of growth was recorded for Cornwall (97.7%) where part of Cornwall township was annexed between 1951 and 1956. Sudbury had the largest majority of males (2,122) among the cities of the province, and Toronto and Ottawa, the largest majorities of females (12,076 and 11,355, respectively).

Males outnumbered females in all but 13 counties, the largest majorities of males being shown for Thunder Bay (10,026), Sudbury (8,505), and Algoma (8,443). York and Carleton counties showed the largest majorities of females, with 17,347 and 9,070 more females, respectively. (28)

Production Of Milk
Down 4.5% In February

Milk production in February is tentatively estimated at 890,000,000 pounds, a decline of 4.5% from a year earlier. January output declined 3% to 954,131,000 pounds from the year-earlier total of 980,410,000 pounds. Output in the month was lower in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta but larger in the remaining provinces. Provincial totals were (in thousands): Prince Edward Island, 10,768 pounds (10,315 pounds a year earlier); Nova Scotia, 30,705 (30,393); New Brunswick, 27,006 (26,965); Quebec, 293,952 (293,594); Ontario, 316,984 (333,376); Manitoba, 56,886 (62,181); Saskatchewan, 74,459 (78,331); Alberta, 85,227 (85,984); and British Columbia, 46,615 (45,996). (29)

Supplies Of Coarse Grains And
Half-Year Exports Sharply Higher

Total supplies (excluding on-farm stocks) of oats, barley, rye and flaxseed at February 13 amounted to 134,200,000 bushels, sharply above 1956's like total of 93,400,000 bushels and 1955's 118,500,000, according to the Bureau's quarterly report on coarse grains.

Total exports of oats, barley, rye and flaxseed during the first half of the current crop year totalled 60,900,000 bushels, substantially above the 38,900,000 bushels exported in last year's corresponding period, but slightly below the five-year (1950-51 - 1954-55) August-January average of 72,600,000 bushels.

Exports of the four grains in the half-year to January 31 were as follows: oats, 5,200,000 bushels (2,000,000 bushels a year earlier and 24,700,000 bushels as the five-year average); barley, 44,300,000 (25,500,000, 40,900,000); rye, 1,200,000 (3,600,000, 4,600,000); and flaxseed, 10,200,000 (7,800,000, 2,400,000).

During the first six months of the current crop year the United States was the leading market for Canadian oats, accounting for shipments totalling 5,000,000 bushels. Smaller shipments went to the United Kingdom, Panama, Columbia and Venezuela. Barley exports were shipped to nine countries, with shipments to the United Kingdom at 20,600,000 bushels accounting for nearly half. Other major markets were: United States, 11,800,000 bushels; Japan, 7,100,000; and the Federal Republic of Germany, 3,600,000. Smaller shipments were sent to Belgium, Switzerland, Netherlands, Ireland, and Italy.

Of the 1,200,000 bushels of rye exported, the United States received nearly 1,000,000 bushels, with the United Kingdom, Belgium, and the Federal Republic of Germany taking relatively small amounts. Leading markets for flaxseed exports were as follows: United Kingdom, 3,400,000 bushels; Netherlands, 2,200,000; Belgium, 1,600,000; and France, 1,100,000. Exports of flaxseed in quantities less than one million bushels were shipped in the period to Japan, Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden, Ireland, and Greece. (30)

Wheat Flour Production Declined In February

Wheat flour production dropped to 2,992,154 cwt. in February from 3,124,822 in the corresponding month last year and to 23,028,551 cwt. in the August-February period of the current crop year from 23,350,734 a year earlier. Wheat flour exports in the 7-month period declined to 9,486,272 cwt. from 9,726,935 in the same period of the preceding crop year. (31)

Area And Production Of Vegetables In 1956

Area planted to commercial vegetables in Canada in 1956 was 197,640 acres, a small decrease from the preceding year's 198,480. Of the 13 individual crops for which figures are available only 5 showed larger production totals in 1956 than in the preceding year. Totals were as follows (in thousands): asparagus, 7,187 pounds (7,228 in 1955); beans, 38,485 (34,810); beets, 54,282 (48,442); cabbage, 123,707 (97,757); carrots, 166,116 (152,578); cauliflower, 24,311 (25,157); celery, 45,036 (55,785); corn, 216,074 (252,820); lettuce, 48,565 (54,535); onions, 99,701 (117,904); peas, 101,945 (116,985); spinach, 13,056 (13,347); and tomatoes, 594,629 (698,385). (32)

Honey Crop 3% Smaller In 1956

Canada's 1956 honey crop amounted to 24,272,000 pounds, down 3% from 1955's output of 25,031,000 pounds and 23% below the ten-year (1945-54) average yield of 31,663,000 pounds, according to revised estimates by DBS. The decrease in production was brought about by a drop in yields. The honey crop was valued at \$4,419,000 in 1956 compared to \$4,399,000 in 1955 and an average of \$5,520,000 over the 10 years, 1945-54.

Average production per colony was lower in Quebec and the Prairie Provinces, larger in the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia but unchanged in Ontario. The all-Canada average yield per colony in 1956 at 74 pounds was 7% greater than the 1945-54 average of 69 pounds per colony.

Production of honey in the Prairie Provinces accounted for 53.9% of the total crop in 1956, 51.7% in 1955 and 48.1% during the ten-year period, 1945-54. Provincial production totals were as follows: Prince Edward Island, 92,000 pounds (66,000 in 1955); Nova Scotia, 161,000 (134,000); New Brunswick, 101,000 (86,000); Quebec, 2,941,000 (3,717,000); Ontario, 6,372,000 (7,119,000); Manitoba, 5,000,000 (5,057,000); Saskatchewan, 3,348,000 (3,271,000); Alberta, 4,724,000 (4,611,000); and British Columbia, 1,533,000 (970,000). (33)

Shipments Of Prepared Stock And Poultry Feeds In January

Shipments of primary or concentrated feeds and secondary or complete feeds were larger in January this year than last, but smaller for all "other" animal feeds. Totals were: primary feeds, 33,499 tons (26,255 tons a year earlier); secondary feeds, 179,582 tons (154,210); and all "other" animal feeds, 41,281 tons (50,616). (34)

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

- 1 - National Accounts: Income & Expenditure, Fourth Quarter & Preliminary Annual 1956, 25¢
 - 2 - Price Movements, March, 10¢
 - 3 - M: Urban Transit Statistics, January, 10¢
 - 4 - M: Passenger Bus Statistics (Intercity & Rural), January, 10¢
 - 5 - M: Pipe Lines (Oil) Statistics, January, 10¢
 - 6 - Civil Aviation, September, 15¢
 - 7 - Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, December, 10¢
 - 8 - Chain Store Sales & Stocks, February, 10¢
 - 9 - Department Store Sales & Stocks, February, 10¢
 - 10 - Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance Act, February, 25¢
 - 11 - Cheques Cashed in Clearing Centres, February, 10¢
 - 12 - M: Electric Power Statistics (Central Electric Stations), January, 10¢
 - 13 - Production, Shipments & Stocks On Hand of Sawmills in British Columbia, January, 25¢
 - 14 - Production, Shipments & Stocks On Hand of Sawmills East of the Rockies, January, 10¢
 - 15 - Steel Ingots & Pig Iron, March, 10¢
 - 16 - Preliminary Report on the Production of Motor Vehicles, March, 10¢
 - 17 - M: Domestic Electric Refrigerators, February, 10¢
 - 18 - M: Asphalt Roofing, February, 10¢
 - 19 - M: Steel Wire & Specified Wire Products, January, 10¢
 - 20 - M: Refined Petroleum Products (Preliminary Report), December, 10¢
 - 21 - Refined Petroleum Products, November, 25¢
 - 22 - Aircraft & Parts Industry, 1955, 25¢
 - 23 - Miscellaneous Non-Ferrous Metal Products Industry, 1955, 25¢
 - 24 - Slaughtering & Meat Packing Industries, 1955, 25¢
 - 25 - Leather Footwear & Leather Boot & Shoe Findings Industry, 1955, 25¢
 - 26 - General Review of the Manufacturing Industries of Canada, 1954, \$1.50
 - 27 - Hospital Statistics: Volume I, 1955, 50¢
 - 28 - Population 1956 Census: Ontario, Bulletin 1-4, 25¢
 - 29 - Dairy Review, February, 25¢
 - 30 - Coarse Grains Quarterly, February, 25¢
 - 31 - M: Grain Milling Statistics, February, 10¢
 - 32 - M: Acreage & Production of Commercial Vegetables, 1956, 10¢
 - 33 - M: Latest Estimates of Production & Value of Honey, 1956, 10¢
 - 34 - Shipments of Prepared Stock & Poultry Feeds, January, 25¢
 - - M: Non-Ferrous Scrap Metal & Secondary Non-Ferrous Ingot, Year 1956, 10¢
 - - Trade of Canada: Imports, December & 12 Months Ended December 1956, 50¢
 - - M: Railway Freight Traffic, December, 10¢
 - - M: Federal Government Employment, May and June, 1956, 10¢ each
- M: Memorandum

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