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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

Merchandising: Chain stores continued to chalk up gains in January when total sales of the eleven trades covered in the Bureau's monthly survey were nearly 13% higher than a year earlier at an estimated \$238,415,000. Grocery and combination store chains had the biggest increase, percentage-wise as well as in dollar volume: but, except for one decrease, all others had gains above 3% ... With nearly half the gain coming from a sharp increase in December, sales of wholesalers proper were just over 2% higher in value last year at an estimated \$7,624,300,000 than in 1957. (Page 2)

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Manufacturing: Manufacturers' shipments in January were valued at \$1,716,-187,000, some 5% higher than in January last year. Value of inventory owned by manufacturers at the end of the month was slightly above a month earlier, as is usually the case, but 4.5% below the value a year earlier. New orders received during the month were down 8% in value from last year ... Steel ingot output in the second March week was practically the same as the previous week ... Output of refined petroleum products rose a sharp 12.5% in the last month of 1958. (Pages 4-5)

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Prices: Consumer price indexes eased downward for seven of ten regional cities between the beginning of January and February and increased in three, all the increases being in the Atlantic Provinces. Food indexes were lower for all but two of the cities with total increases. (Page 7)

General Business: Value of cheques cashed in January was almost 18% greater than a year ago. All main economic areas and each of the eight major clearing centres showed increases. (Page 8)

Food & Agriculture: Creamery butter stocks in nine cities were one-half larger at March 12 than a year earlier; total stocks at March 1 showed about the same proportion of increase. Make of creamery butter in the first two months this year was moderately larger than last year. Margarine production in the two months was smaller. (Pages 8-9)

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Mining: Iron ore shipments from mines in January were more than double those last year. Asbestos exports in the month were sharply higher. (Page 11)

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Transportation: Carloadings in the first week of March were a slight 1% greater than last year, leaving the cumulative total for the year down a similar degree ... Urban transit systems had fewer passengers but more revenue in January this year than last. (Page 12)

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Chain Store Sales Up Sharply In January Chain store sales in January increased 12.6% to an estimated \$238,415,000 from \$211,792,000 a year ago. January 1 stocks (at cost) rose 6.2% to \$347,103,000 from \$326,805,000.

January sales of grocery and combination store chains advanced 17.5% to \$128,359,000 from \$109,228,000 in last year's like month. Of the remaining trades, only furniture, radio and appliance chain stores registered smaller sales (3%) compared to a year earlier. Gains of the others ranged between 14.6% for both men's clothing store chains and lumber and building material dealers and 3.3% for shoe stores.

January sales for the chains registering increases were: variety stores, \$14,848,000 (\$13,987,000 a year ago); men's clothing stores, \$2,232,000 (\$1,947,000); family clothing stores, \$3,313,000 (\$2,972,000); women's clothing stores, \$5,236,000 (\$4,902,000); shoe stores, \$3,901,000 (\$3,775,000); hardware stores, \$2,673,000 (\$2,536,000); lumber and building material dealers, \$5,816,000 (\$5,076,000); drug stores, \$3,949,000 (\$3,677,000); and jewellery stores, \$2,516,000 (\$2,385,000). Sales of furniture, radio and appliance stores fell to \$8,394,000 from \$8,651,000. (1)

Wholesale Sales Up 2.1% In 1958 Sales of Canadian wholesalers proper in the year 1958 amounted to an estimated \$7,624,300,000, an increase of 2.1% over the preceding year's \$7,466,500,000, according to the Bureau's December report on wholesale sales which contains revised estimates for the years 1952-1957. December sales were valued at \$672,753,000, 15.9% larger than the year-earlier figure of \$580,231,000.

Eleven of the 17 specified trades had increased sales in 1958, ranging from 0.2% for clothing and furnishings to 16.0% for farm machinery. For the six trades with lower sales the decreases ranged from 0.2% for household electrical appliances to 15.8% for coal and coke. All but one of the 17 trades posted sales gains in December as compared with a year earlier, ranging from 4.7% for fresh fruit and vegetables to 60.6% for farm machinery. Newsprint, paper and paper products registered a small decline of 1.4%.

Year's sales for the 10 leading trades, ranked according to size (in millions): groceries and food specialties, \$1,307.5 (\$1,215.2 in 1957); construction materials and supplies, including lumber, \$779.1 (\$732.8); industrial and transportation equipment and supplies, \$653.0 (\$721.4); tobacco, confectionery and soft drinks, \$569.5 (\$544.6); automotive parts and accessories, \$363.7 (\$342.1); hardware, \$296.6 (\$303.8); newsprint, paper and paper products, \$256.5 (\$265.0); fresh fruit and vegetables, \$239.9 (\$228.2); "other" textile and clothing accessories, \$206.0 (\$197.1); drugs and drug sundries, \$202.6 (\$187.7).

Sales for the other trades in 1958 (in millions); meat and dairy products, \$168.5 (\$146.0); household electrical appliances, \$159.2 (\$159.5); coal and coke, \$136.4 (\$162.0); commercial, institutional and service equipment and supplies, \$101.4 (\$102.7); clothing and furnishings, \$81.0 (\$80.9); farm machinery, \$69.9 (\$60.3); and footwear, \$30.2 (\$27.9). (2)



Department Store Sales

Department store sales in February were 10% greater than in February last year, increases being posted for all regions except the Atlantic Provinces, according to advance DBS estimates. Regional increases: Quebec, 8.7%; Ontario, 9.1%; Manitoba, 15.0%; Saskatchewan, 7.0%; Alberta, 22.7%; and British Columbia, 6.8%. The decline in the Atlantic Provinces was 1.8%.

Sales increased 9.4% during the week ending March 7 as compared with the corresponding week last year. Sales gains were posted in all provinces except Quebec where the decrease amounted to 0.8%. Sales increases in the other provinces: Alberta, 17.5%; Saskatchewan, 15.8%; Ontario, 14.4%; Atlantic Provinces, 5.4%; and British Columbia, 3.9%.

## L A B O U R

Industrial Employment In Pay Period Preceding January 1

Industrial employment declined 2.8% from the pay period preceding December 1 to that preceding January 1, according to a special year-end issue of the Bureau's monthly report on employment and payrolls. The composite index for January 1 this year was 115.8 (1949=100) as compared with 119.2 a month earlier. The decrease was less than seasonal and the seasonally adjusted index rose fractionally. Factors moderating employment declines included the return of a number of workers who had been engaged in industrial disputes in non-ferrous metals mining and smelting which terminated late in December. Last year's January 1 index was 117.5.

Beginning with the January 1959 issue, statistics published in Employment and Payrolls will be identified by labelling the figures for the last pay periods in each month as statistics for that particular month. In the past the practice has been to identify statistics based on data for the last pay periods in each month with the first day of the following month. For example, the December 1958 issue contained statistics for the last pay periods in November. The present special issue, giving data for the last pay periods in December, was prepared to make this adjustment, and makes 13 issues for the year 1958.

In the last few months of 1957 the seasonally adjusted composite employment index declined approximately 5%. The index showed little variation through 1958, and at the end of the year (pay period preceding January 1, 1959) was down only a little more than 1% from the 1957 year-end level.

Average weekly wages and salaries dipped seasonally by 3.6% from the pay period preceding December 1 to that preceding January 1. The industrial composite earnings figure for that later period was \$69.03, up \$2.68 from a year earlier. The composite payroll index declined from December 1 to January 1. The payroll index for the later period was higher than that for the corresponding period a year earlier, as the percentage increase in average weekly wages and salaries over the year was greater than the percentage decline in employment.

Employment declined from December 1 to January 1 in all provinces, and increases in average weekly wages and salaries occurred in Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan and New Brunswick only. (3)

Manufacturers' Shipments,  
Inventories And Orders

Manufacturers' shipments in January were valued at \$1,716,187,000, down 2% from the revised December value of \$1,750,077,000, but up 5% from the January 1958 total of \$1,641,308,000, according to advance figures released by DBS. In the seven preceding years, January shipments generally decreased from December by an average of 3%.

Preliminary estimate of the value of inventory owned by manufacturers at the end of January was \$3,936,137,000, fractionally (0.6%) above the revised December value of \$3,911,424,000. January inventories are normally above December levels and the increase this year was greater than that in 1958 (0.3%) though not as great as in 1956 and 1957 (1.9% and 0.9%, respectively). The January value was 4.5% (\$185,651,000) below the January 1958 value. The year-over-year decline has decreased steadily since October 1958 when inventories were 7.3% below the October 1957 level.

Total inventory held (including both inventory owned by manufacturers and inventory held under progress payments arrangements) was also fractionally (0.6%) above the December value, since inventory held under progress payments was practically unchanged. Total inventory held at the end of January was \$4,418,799,000 compared with a revised December value of \$4,394,589,000. Raw materials at \$1,960,331,000 were slightly below the December 1958 value though almost 5% below the January 1958 level. Goods in process held at \$1,236,091,000 were practically unchanged from December but fractionally above the January 1958 level.

Assuming that all inventory held under progress payments arrangements, is in the goods-in-process-held category, then goods in process owned (i.e. less progress payments inventory) at \$753,429,000 was slightly above December but 3% below January 1958. Finished products inventories at \$1,222,377,000 were over 2% above the revised December level of \$1,194,507,000 but more than 5% below the January 1958 value.

The ratio of total inventory owned to shipments in January was 2.29. This is above the December ratio (2.24) but considerably below the January 1958 ratio of 2.51. The ratio of finished products inventory (0.71) was also above the December ratio (0.68) and below January 1958 (0.79).

The value of new orders received during January was \$1,727,736,000, down 1% from the revised December value of \$1,742,123,000 and down 8% from the January 1958 value of \$1,886,173,000. Decreases occurred in January in two of the six preceding years (15% in 1953, and 5% in 1957) with the remaining four years showing December-January increases ranging from 3% to 12%.

Weekly Steel Ingot Production

Production of steel ingots in the week ended March 14 amounted to 102,423 tons, virtually unchanged from the week-earlier total of 102,374 tons but down 1.3% from the two-week earlier total of 103,812 tons, DBS reports in a special statement. Canada's steel mills operated at 84.3% of the rated capacity in the week, unchanged from the preceding week but down from two-week earlier figure of 85.5%.



More Paints Sold In January Sales of paints, varnishes and lacquers by firms that normally account for 96% of Canadian production increased 4.6% in January to \$8,623,000 from \$8,241,000 a year earlier. Month's trade sales advanced 9.2% to \$5,198,000 from \$4,760,000 a year ago, but industrial sales fell 1.6% to \$3,425,000 from \$3,481,000. (4)

Asphalt Roofing Shipments Shipments of all types of asphalt roofing were smaller in January this year than last. Shipments of asphalt shingles (210 pounds and over) declined to 71,881 squares from 151,761 a year earlier, asphalt shingles (less than 210 pounds) to 13,887 squares from 27,648, smooth-surfaced roll roofing to 24,936 squares from 63,132, mineral-surfaced roll roofing to 13,429 squares from 36,101, roll-type sidings to 1,027 squares from 7,474, and tar and asphalt felts to 1,855 tons from 3,141. (5)

Electric Storage Batteries Factory sales of electric storage batteries by firms that normally account for 95% of total Canadian production increased 12% in January this year to \$2,847,400 from \$2,546,300 in January last year. Month's sales of batteries used for starting or ignition of internal combustion engines advanced to \$2,398,700 from \$2,022,800 a year earlier and parts and supplies to \$53,200 from \$49,100, but sales of those used for farm lighting plants declined to \$15,600 from \$19,800, for railway service to \$87,000 from \$102,800, for direct motive power to \$130,800 from \$174,900, and for all other purposes to \$162,100 from \$176,800. (6)

Carbonated Beverages Production of carbonated beverages in February amounted to 7,891,241 gallons, up 5.1% from last year's like total of 7,497,443 gallons, DBS reports. January-February output increased 4.1% to 17,297,745 gallons from 16,619,513 a year ago. (7)

Production Of Refined Petroleum Products 12.5% Greater In December Output of refined petroleum products in December last increased 12.5% to 22,105,475 barrels from 19,652,642 in the corresponding month of 1957. Usage of crude by refineries also rose 12.5% to 21,926,297 barrels from 19,485,072 and receipts advanced 14.8% to 21,949,585 barrels from 19,119,709. Month's receipts comprised 12,767,607 barrels of domestic crude versus 10,378,916 a year earlier and 9,181,978 barrels of imported crude against 8,740,793.

Net sales of liquid petroleum fuels in December were: naphtha specialties, 118,116 barrels (114,206 in December 1957); aviation gasoline, 272,876 (261,651); motor gasoline, 7,250,161 (6,352,747); aviation turbo fuel, 309,209 (245,568); tractor fuel, kerosene and stove oil, 3,046,014 (1,968,810); diesel fuel, 1,947,321 (1,608,084); light fuel oil, 10,405,036 (7,199,473); and heavy fuel oil, 5,046,824 (4,160,021). (8)

Corset Industry In 1957 Canada's corset industry had a record year in 1957 when value of factory shipments increased 6.1% to \$29,376,000 from \$27,683,000 in 1956, according to the Bureau's annual industry report. Number of establishments was unchanged from a year earlier at 42, but employees increased to 4,041 from 3,895, salary and wage payments to \$8,719,000 from \$7,924,000, material costs to \$11,874,000 from \$11,495,000, and value added by manufacture to \$17,962,000 from \$15,837,000.

Shipments of corsets and girdles in 1957 increased to 329,374 dozen valued at \$9,923,000 from 239,274 dozen worth \$8,924,000 in 1956, combination garments (excluding children's waists) to 28,531 dozen valued at \$1,586,000 from 20,120 dozen worth \$1,149,000, and brassieres to 953,021 dozen valued at \$12,911,000 from 910,974 dozen worth \$12,253,000. (9)

### CONSTRUCTION

Value Of Building Permits Value of building permits issued by Canadian municipalities in January this year increased 8.8% to \$108,692,000 from \$99,861,000 a year earlier, according to DBS. Decreases in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba were more than offset by increases in the other provinces. Totals were: Newfoundland, \$2,215,000 (\$104,000 a year ago); Prince Edward Island, \$4,000 (\$528,000); Nova Scotia, \$683,000 (\$530,000); New Brunswick, \$176,000 (\$463,000); Quebec, \$24,951,000 (\$19,289,000); Ontario, \$42,236,000 (\$48,526,000); Manitoba, \$4,180,000 (\$5,-422,000); Saskatchewan, \$2,084,000 (\$699,000); Alberta, \$11,011,000 (\$7,600,-000); and British Columbia, \$21,152,000 (\$16,700,000). (10)

### TELEPHONES

Telephone Industry In 1957 Further impressive expansion was recorded by the telephone industry in 1957. Expenditures on new plant and equipment totalled \$309,688,000, almost 18.5% above the preceding year's \$261,395,000.

Near-record numbers of telephones were installed during the year, and both local and long distance telephone calls rose to new highs. At year's end there were 4,827,000 telephones in service in Canada or 29.10 per 100 population. Only the United States with 35.45 and Sweden with 31.50 ranked ahead of Canada in this respect.

Residential telephones in service increased 8.6% to 2,852,900 in 1957, business telephones 5.9% to 1,301,600, rural telephones to 4.3% to 609,300, and public pay telephones 5.6% to 63,300. During the year 327,800 telephones were installed, slightly under the preceding year's record of 347,600.

Total number of completed calls rose to a record 8,255,709,000 in 1957 from the preceding year's 7,764,805,000. Local calls increased to 8,077,101,000 from 7,993,525,000, and long distance calls to 178,608,000 from 171,280,000. Calls per telephone averaged 1,710 as compared with 1,726, and the average per capita was 498 against 486. (11)



Consumer Price Indexes For Regional Cities Consumer price indexes declined in seven of the ten regional cities between the beginning of January and February 1959 and increased in the other three. Changes ranged from decreases of 0.3% in four cities to an increase of 0.5% in St. John's.

Food indexes were lower in all regional cities except St. John's and Saint John. Prices were generally lower for eggs, coffee, lard and citrus fruits. Beef prices were slightly lower in five cities but pork prices were somewhat higher in some cities.

Shelter indexes were unchanged in all but two of the ten regional cities, increasing fractionally in Winnipeg and Edmonton-Calgary. Clothing indexes reflected mixed results, increasing in five cities, decreasing in one city and remaining unchanged at January levels in the other four cities. Household operation indexes rose in seven cities, decreased in two and remained unchanged in one city. Other commodities and services indexes were down in four cities, up in five cities and unchanged in the other.

Consumer Price Indexes For Regional Cities of Canada  
At The Beginning Of February 1959 (1) (Base 1949 = 100)

	<u>Total Indexes</u>		<u>Group Indexes - February 1959</u>				
	January 1959	February 1959	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation & Services	Other Commodities
St. John's (2) ..	112.6	113.2	110.7	114.2	104.0	109.2	124.1
Halifax .....	124.8	125.2	117.6	132.3	117.8	128.0	135.0
Saint John .....	126.7	127.0	121.0	135.5	117.3	123.3	139.7
Montreal .....	126.5	126.2	126.3	143.0	104.5	118.5	133.4
Ottawa .....	126.4	126.1	119.6	146.8	112.1	121.4	133.2
Toronto .....	128.9	128.5	119.3	154.0	112.7	122.4	136.1
Winnipeg .....	123.6	123.2	120.4	131.2	114.6	117.9	130.0
Saskatoon-Regina	122.8	122.4	119.7	122.4	118.9	123.6	126.3
Edmonton-Calgary	122.5	122.2	118.7	125.5	115.5	121.3	129.6
Vancouver .....	128.1	127.7	122.8	137.9	113.4	132.4	133.6

(1) Total indexes for January and February and February group index detail are shown in the above table. These indexes show changes in retail prices of goods and services in each city. They do not indicate whether it costs more or less to live in one city than another. (2) Index on the base June 1951 = 100.

Security Price Indexes

	<u>March 12</u>	<u>March 5</u> 1935-39 = 100	<u>February 14</u>
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
Total common stocks .....	270.5	272.9	270.5
Industrials .....	278.8	281.8	279.8
Utilities .....	202.4	205.2	201.4
Banks .....	345.4	340.5	337.0
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
Total mining stocks .....	128.0	125.9	124.5
Gold .....	85.8	84.4	85.4
Base metals .....	224.6	220.9	214.1

Value Of Cheques Cashed Greater Value of cheques cashed in Canadian clearing centres in January this year amounted to \$20,-470,135,000, up almost 18% from last year's like total of \$17,364,803,000. Debits were greater in all economic areas. Totals were: Atlantic Provinces, \$498,635,000 (\$437,683,000 a year earlier); Quebec, \$5,612,407,000 (\$5,094,-334,000); Ontario, \$10,091,734,000 (\$7,957,059,000); Prairie Provinces, \$2,928,-655,000 (\$2,602,727,000); and British Columbia, \$1,338,704,000 (\$1,273,001,000).

January cashings were greater than a year ago in the eight major clearing centres. Totals were: Toronto, \$7,890,413,000 (\$5,987,142,000 a year ago); Montreal, \$4,986,852,000 (\$4,517,567,000); Winnipeg, \$1,316,237,000 (\$1,108,-728,000); Vancouver, \$1,107,962,000 (\$1,039,932,000); Calgary, \$681,560,000 (\$625,580,000); Ottawa, \$495,652,000 (\$373,778,000); Quebec, \$447,520,000 (\$398,573,000); and Edmonton, \$435,139,000 (\$401,857,000). (12)

## FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Wheat Exports & Supplies Overseas export clearances of Canadian wheat in the week ending February 25 declined 4.1% to 4,280,000 bushels from last year's like total of 4,461,000 bushels, leaving clearances in the August 1 - February 25 period 4.6% under a year ago at 137,489,000 bushels versus 144,171,000 bushels. Visible supplies in Canada at February 25 aggregated 373,519,000 bushels, little changed from the week-earlier total of 374,-705,000 bushels and the year-earlier total of 373,482,000 bushels. (13)

9-City Creamery Butter Stocks Sharply Greater At March 12 Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada at March 12 amounted to 38,857,000 pounds, substantially (51%) greater than last year's comparable total of 25,757,000 pounds, DBS reports in a special statement. Holdings were greater this year than last in all cities except Quebec and Calgary. Totals were: Quebec, 2,808,000 pounds (3,075,000 a year ago); Montreal, 18,574,000 (16,771,000); Toronto, 4,552,000 (1,003,000); Winnipeg, 9,018,000 (1,998,000); Regina, 847,000 (295,000); Saskatoon, 448,000 (344,000); Edmonton, 775,000 (687,000); Calgary, 285,000 (377,000); and Vancouver, 1,550,000 (1,-207,000).

Make Of Creamery Butter And Cheddar Cheese Up In February Make of creamery butter, cheddar cheese, ice cream, evaporated milk and skim milk powder was greater in February and January-February this year than last. February output of creamery butter rose 4% to 10,692,000 pounds from 10,295,000 a year earlier, cheddar cheese 15% to 2,091,000 pounds from 1,815,000, ice cream 10% to 1,872,000 gallons from 1,701,000, evaporated milk 2% to 14,168,000 pounds from 13,943,000 and skim milk powder 23% to 6,158,-000 pounds from 5,007,000.

January-February totals were: creamery butter, 23,287,000 pounds (23,138,-000 a year ago); cheddar cheese, 4,532,000 pounds (4,261,000); ice cream, 3,-723,000 gallons (3,622,000); evaporated milk, 29,166,000 pounds (27,507,000); and skim milk powder, 13,496,000 pounds (11,838,000). (14)



Stocks Of Creamery Butter And  
Cheddar Cheese At March 1

Stocks of creamery butter, skim milk powder, eggs and poultry were larger at March 1 this year than last, while holdings of cheddar cheese and evaporated whole milk were smaller. March 1 stocks were: creamery butter, 70,879,000 pounds (46,746,000 a year ago); cheddar cheese, 38,891,000 pounds (44,629,000); evaporated whole milk, 26,017,000 pounds (26,776,000); skim milk powder, 71,032,000 pounds (42,172,000); eggs, 190,000 cases (165,000); and poultry, 40,055,000 pounds (27,972,000). (15)

Margarine Output Smaller

Production of margarine (including spreads) in February this year declined to 11,901,000 pounds from last year's comparable total of 12,636,000, and, coupled with a decline in January, the two-month total fell to 23,799,000 pounds from 25,263,000 a year ago. March 1 stocks held by manufacturers, wholesalers and other warehouses aggregated 4,287,000 pounds, down from the month-earlier total of 4,380,000 pounds but up from the year-earlier total of 3,905,000 pounds. (16)

Make Of Process Cheese

Production of process cheese in February amounted to an estimated 4,672,487 pounds, up 41% from the revised January total of 3,312,562 pounds but down 1% from last year's February total of 4,717,168 pounds, DBS reports in a special statement. January-February output declined 5% to 7,985,049 pounds from 8,419,474 a year ago. End-of-February stocks held by manufacturers totalled 1,979,134 pounds, up from 1,965,479 pounds a month earlier but down from 2,255,074 pounds a year earlier.

More Meat In Cold Storage

Cold storage holdings of meat at March 1 this year amounted to 107,622,000 pounds, up from 98,762,000 a month earlier and 71,343,000 a year earlier. March 1 holdings of frozen meat totalled 76,906,000 pounds (41,386,000 on the same date last year); fresh meat, 19,376,000 pounds (20,527,000); and cured meat, 11,340,000 pounds (9,430,000). (17)

Stocks Of Fruit And  
Vegetables At March 1

More apples, fruit (frozen and in preservatives), onions, carrots, and celery, but less pears, potatoes, cabbage, and vegetables (frozen and in brine) were held in cold or common storage at March 1 this year compared to last.

March 1 holdings of apples rose to 3,195,000 bushels from 2,064,000 a year ago, fruit (frozen and in preservatives) to 41,384,000 pounds from 32,238,000, onions to 291,000 bushels from 278,000, carrots to 253,000 bushels from 160,000, and celery to 25,000 crates from 21,000. Stocks of pears declined to 25,000 bushels from 33,000, potatoes to 9,054,000 cwt. from 10,829,000 cwt., cabbage to 35,000 bushels from 36,000, and vegetables (frozen and in brine) to 26,834,000 pounds from 31,658,000. (18)

Tomato Juice Stocks

Stocks of tomato juice held by canners and wholesalers at December 31 last year amounted to 4,380,166 cases, DBS reports in a special statement. This is 36% more than the 3,219,458 cases held at the end of 1957.

Fish Freezings & Stocks Fish freezings in February (excluding smoked fish, bait and animal feed) declined 18% to 6,457,000 pounds from 7,889,000 a year earlier, DBS reports in an advance statement. February 28 stocks climbed almost 28% to 28,985,000 pounds from 22,716,000 a year ago.

Gross Farm Value Of Principal Field Crops Revised data indicate that gross farm value of production of Canada's principal field crops in 1957 was \$1.40 billion, well below the \$1.87 billion level of 1956 and the record \$2.33 billion of 1952. The reduction in 1957 compared to 1956 was due largely to a substantial decrease in production of the major field crops in the Prairie Provinces due to drought conditions. The pre-war (1935-39) average value of field crop production was \$0.58 billion, while the 1945-49 average amounted to some \$1.52 billion.

Preliminary estimates of the value of Canada's 1958 field crops, calculated from average prices received by farmers during the August 1958-January 1959 period and based on initial payments only for western wheat, oats and barley, put the total at virtually the same as the 1957 total of \$1.40 billion. However, a direct comparison between the 1958 preliminary total and the 1957 revised total is unrealistic. Some further payments may be made by the Canadian Wheat Board on the 1957 crop. The 1958 values reflect initial payments only for wheat, oats and barley on that part of the crop marketed through the Canadian Wheat Board as well as six-month average prices for all of Canada.

Crops contributing the largest amount to the 1957 total were wheat, \$443 million; tame hay, \$295 million; oats, \$217 million; and barley, \$155 million. The gross value of the 1957 wheat, oats and barley crop and the all-Canada total will be increased further by whatever further payments may be made on that part of the wheat, oats and barley crop marketed through the Canadian Wheat Board.

On a provincial basis, Saskatchewan with \$403 million recorded the highest value of field crop production in 1957, followed by Ontario with \$296 million and Alberta with \$285 million. The gross value of field crop production in other provinces in 1957 was estimated as follows: Quebec, \$176 million; Manitoba, \$141 million; British Columbia, \$32 million; New Brunswick, \$29 million; Prince Edward Island, \$23 million; and Nova Scotia, \$18 million. (19)

## VITAL STATISTICS

More Births And Deaths,  
Fewer Marriages In February More births and deaths but fewer marriages were registered in provincial offices in Canada in February than in the corresponding month last year. February birth registrations totalled 35,822 versus 32,807, deaths 11,037 versus 10,399, and marriages 6,053 versus 7,246. January-February totals: births, 81,559 (78,896 a year earlier); deaths, 23,737 (24,080); and marriages, 14,678 (17,041). (20)



Iron Ore Shipments Up Sharply In January

Shipments of iron ore from Canadian mines in January amounted to 391,556 tons, up sharply from last year's corresponding total of 181,203. Ore shipped for export rose to 298,950 tons from 134,669, and shipments to Canadian consumers to 92,606 tons from 46,534. Stocks at month's end were cut to 2,730,650 tons from the year earlier total of 3,124,877. (21)

Shipments Of Asbestos

Shipments of asbestos from Canadian mines were smaller in January, falling to 54,668 tons from 63,120 in the preceding month and 57,450 in the corresponding month last year. Exports in January amounted to 71,174 tons, smaller than December's 81,386 tons but larger than last year's January total of 51,761 tons. (22)

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

Carloadings Greater

Cars of railway revenue freight loaded on lines in Canada rose 1% in the first seven days of March to 66,441 from 65,806 a year earlier, leaving loadings from the beginning of the year to March 7 about 1% under a year ago at 610,724 cars versus 617,168. Receipts from connections fell 8% in the seven-day period to 30,005 cars from 32,628 and 7.2% in the cumulative period to 257,467 cars from 277,382. (23)

Freight Handled At Canadian Ports Up In November, Down In 11 Months

Volume of freight handled at Canadian ports increased 7.4% in November last year to 15,422,456 tons from 14,364,106 in the same month of 1957. In the January-November period the volume decreased 10.2% to 134,574,850 tons from 149,842,244 tons in the corresponding 1957 period.

November loadings in coastal trade advanced 18% to 4,076,191 tons from 3,453,065 a year earlier and unloadings 10.5% to 4,000,875 tons from 3,619,840, while loadings in foreign trade fell 3.6% to 3,914,581 tons from 4,061,497 but unloadings rose 6.5% to 3,430,809 tons from 3,221,704.

Vessel arrivals and departures in November numbered 22,515 with a registered net tonnage of 27,371,603 compared to 24,178 of 23,631,954 tons a year earlier. January-November arrivals and departures aggregated 233,834 vessels of 241,523,682 registered net tons versus 249,520 of 256,521,608 net tonnage.

November loadings were up 3.2% at Atlantic and lower St. Lawrence River ports from a year earlier at 3,439,791 tons and 14% at Great Lakes and upper St. Lawrence River ports at 3,189,865 tons, but were down 2.1% at Pacific coast ports at 1,361,116 tons. Month's unloadings were up 6.6% at Atlantic and lower St. Lawrence River ports at 3,173,697 tons, 11.3% at Great Lakes ports at 3,535,398 tons and 4.9% at Pacific coast ports at 722,589 tons.

Ports handling the greatest volume of cargo in November were: Montreal, 2,622,199 tons (2,247,064 in November 1957); Port Arthur, 1,139,646 tons (839,755); Vancouver, 882,893 tons (1,032,456); and Prescott, 656,818 tons (442,422). (24)

Urban Transit In January Class I urban transit systems (companies or individuals whose annual gross revenue exceeds \$100,000) carried 3.5% fewer passengers in January this year than last at 91,617,942 versus 94,949,934, but their total revenue advanced 5.7% to \$11,703,604 from \$11,069,856. Passengers carried by motor bus increased to 53,628,269 from 51,898,275 a year earlier, but those transported by electric car decreased to 19,239,866 from 23,043,395, by trolley coach to 18,113,098 from 19,362,096, and by chartered service to 636,709 from 646,168. (25)

Truck Registrations By Model And Province The average number of trucks licensed in Canada during the year 1957 was 832,055, according to a special tabulation of data collected in the Bureau's motor traffic survey. The basic data collected in this survey have been previously published in a report entitled "Motor Transport Traffic Statistics, National Estimates, 1957", which also included a description of the methods used in the survey.

Almost 327,000 or 39% were pickup or express trucks and 114,000 or 14% were panel or sedan delivery trucks. Platform stake or flatdeck trucks numbered 84,000 and box-type trucks amounted to 78,000, each comprising about 10% of total registrations. All other types accounted for 229,000 or 27%, including 122,000 vehicles that could not be identified by model.

Since these estimates were obtained from a random sample of vehicles, representing a small percentage of total vehicles registered, the results are subject to sampling variability. It should also be noted that the estimates relate to the average trucking population during 1957 and not to the number of registrations in existence at the end of the licence year.

Where available, the description of model as provided on motor vehicle registration forms was used for this tabulation. However, where model was not sufficiently described, information as indicated in the survey questionnaires was utilized. Although model statistics relating to tractor-trailer types, such as auto carriers, indicate the number of trailers or semi-trailers in operation on the road at any one time, they do not provide a measurement of total trailer registrations since the sample is based on the power units (road tractors) for each of which there may be more than one trailer.

## AGRICULTURE (See also page 8)

Crop Planting Intentions 1959 Canadian farmers plan this year to seed 22.7 millions of acre to wheat, an increase of 1.8 million acres or 9% more than last year, according to estimates based on the Bureau's annual survey of acreage intentions at March 1. Acreages are expected to be up 8% in Manitoba, 10% in Saskatchewan and 6% in Alberta. Intended acreage of oats is 11.4 million acres, also up by 3%, and barley acreage 9.0 million acres, down 6%. The estimates also show larger acreages for flaxseed, rye, and mixed grains, smaller for rapeseed, corn for grain, soybeans, and potatoes, and a substantial reduction in the area under summerfallow. (26)



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