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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

Manufacturing: Manufacturers' shipments In March were at an estimated value of \$1,820,418,000, 6% above the revised February value and 3% above the value for March last year. The month's rise brought shipments for the quarter to \$5,234,646,000 this year compared to \$5,039,155,000 in 1958. New orders in the month were 11% higher in value than in February and 5% higher than in March a year ago ... Steel ingot output in the week ended May 9 eased down to 91.3% of capacity from 94% a week earlier ... Factory shipments of washing machines were 22% larger in the first quarter this year than last, automatic clothes dryers 41% larger. (Pages 2-3)

Merchandising: Department store sales were a sharp 17% higher in the week ended May 2 than in the corresponding 1958 week ... Total sales of chain stores in 11 trades were 2% greater in dollar volume in March this year than last, nearly 7% greater in the first quarter. Grocery and combination store chains had an exceptional decline of 3.3% in the month but their sales for the quarter were 6.6% higher. All other trades had higher sales in the month. (Page 7)

Mining: Iron ore shipments climbed again in March to more than double year-earlier quantity; for the quarter were also more than twice last year's. Increases extended to both export and domestic shipments in both periods. (Page 8)

Transportation: Railway carloadings in April were more than 5% above a year earlier and the cumulative total for the first four months was 1.3% above. Biggest four-month gains were in loadings of iron ore, crude gypsum, motor vehicles and parts, lumber, timber and plywood, aluminum ore and concentrates, fuel oil, and miscellaneous carload commodities. (Page 11)

Furs: Fewer pelts were taken from wildlife and ranch-raised fur-bearing animals in Canada during the last (1957-58) season than in the preceding season, but the value was substantially higher.

Food & Agriculture: Domestic disappearance per capita was smaller in 1958 than 1957 for butter, fluid milk and cream, and concentrated whole milk products and slightly larger for cheese, ice cream and concentrated milk by-products. (Page 12)

Manufacturers' Shipments
Inventories And Orders

Manufacturers' shipments in March were valued at an estimated \$1,820,418,000, up 6% from the revised February value of \$1,723,245,000 and up 3% from the March 1958 total of \$1,770,644,000, DBS reports in an advance statement. Shipments increased in March of each of the seven preceding years with increases ranging from 4% in 1952 to 12% in 1953, 1954 and 1957. Shipments in the first quarter of this year were valued at \$5,234,646,000 versus last year's corresponding total of \$5,039,155,000.

Estimate of the value of inventory owned by manufacturers at the end of March was \$4,023,849,000, up \$21,132,000 (0.5%) from the revised February value of \$4,002,717,000. March inventories are generally higher than February and this year's increase was less than those in 1955 and 1956 (1.0% and 1.5%, respectively). Inventory owned in 1959 continues to approach that of 1958 with March 1959 only 1.5% below March 1958.

Since progress payments holdings were practically unchanged from the revised February level, total inventory held (including both inventory owned by manufacturers and inventory held under progress payments arrangements) at \$4,460,976,000 was also 0.5% above the revised February value (\$4,440,051,000). Raw materials at \$1,971,148,000 were up very slightly from the revised February figure (\$1,970,582,000) but about 2% below March 1958. Goods in process held (\$1,211,672,000) were up fractionally from the revised February level (\$1,206,034,000) but 3% below the level of March 1958.

If the assumption is made that all inventory held under progress payments arrangements is in the goods in process held category, then value of goods in process owned (i.e. less progress payments) at \$774,545,000 was almost 1% above the revised February value of \$768,700,000 and fractionally above the March 1958 level. Although over 1% above the revised February value (\$1,263,435,000) finished products inventory at \$1,278,156,000 was more than 2% below the March 1958 level.

The ratio of total inventory owned to shipments in March 1959 at 2.21 was below both February 1959 (2.32) and March 1958 (2.31). The finished products to shipments ratio of 0.70 was similarly below February 1959 (0.73) and March 1958 (0.74).

The value of new orders received during March was \$1,822,295,000, an increase of 11% from the revised February value of \$1,636,773,000 and an increase of 5% from the March 1958 value of \$1,736,906,000. Increases in the range of 1% to 11% occurred in six of the seven preceding years. The one decrease (4%) was in March 1954.

New orders exceeded shipments by \$1,877,000 during the month, with the result that unfilled orders increased by this amount. The level of unfilled orders at the end of March was \$2,098,563,000 which was marginally above the February level of \$2,096,686,000 and 13% below the level at the end of February 1958 (\$2,421,133,000).

Weekly Steel Ingot Output Production of steel ingots in the week ended May 9 totalled 110,803 tons, down 2.9% from the week-earlier total of 114,149 tons and a bigger 3.5% from the two-week earlier total of 114,826 tons, DBS reports in a special statement. Canada's steel mills operated at 91.3% of the rated capacity in the week versus 94.0% a week earlier and 94.6% two weeks earlier.

Sales of Radio & Television Receiving Sets In March Producers' domestic sales of radio receiving sets were greater in March and January-March this year than last, while those of television receiving sets and record players were smaller in both periods.

March sales of radio receiving sets increased 21% to 58,446 units from 48,265 a year earlier, home sets rising to 23,872 units from 23,410, portable and auto to 29,585 units from 21,214, and combinations to 4,989 units from 3,641. January-March sales rose over 21% to 167,706 units from 138,206 a year ago, home sets advancing to 75,317 units from 63,314, portable and auto to 77,062 units from 68,214, and combinations to 15,327 units from 11,678.

Month's sales of television receiving sets fell 12.4% to 25,931 units from 29,592 a year earlier, placing the three-month total 6% under a year ago at 89,561 units versus 95,232. March sales of record players declined sharply (43%) to 10,399 units from 18,362, lowering the first-quarter total 11% to 38,627 units from 43,341. (1)

Sales of Washing Machines And Clothes Dryers In March Factory shipments of washing machines in March increased 18.5% to 26,819 units from last year's corresponding total of 22,641, making the January-March total close to 22% greater than a year ago at 77,347 units versus 63,497. Sales of all types were greater this year than last in both periods. End-of-March stocks advanced nearly 18% to 32,408 units from 27,482 a year ago, stocks being larger for automatic and conventional electric types but smaller for gasoline-powered types.

March shipments of automatic clothes dryers climbed steeply (41%) to 6,307 units from 4,470 a year earlier, making the January-March total over 41% greater than a year ago at 23,219 units versus 14,419. March 31 stocks declined almost 16% to 9,769 units from 11,594 a year earlier. (2)

First Quarter Production Of Certain Chemicals Production of most of ten specified chemicals was greater in this year's first quarter compared to last. Three-month production of hydro-chloric acid increased to 10,645,332 pounds from the like 1958 total of 10,077,364, sulphuric acid to 399,497 tons from 360,314, anhydrous ammonia to 104,002 tons from 88,681, mixed fertilizers to 270,534 tons from 190,739, and formaldehyde to 11,262,585 pounds from 10,751,959. (3)

Shipments Of Air Conditioning
And Refrigeration Equipment

Shipments of self-contained packaged air conditioners increased in this year's first quarter to \$368,275 from \$285,450 in last year's corresponding period, while deliveries of air conditioning units (not self-contained) decreased to \$511,935 from \$825,776, window-sill-type room air conditioners to \$81,661 from \$345,296, and steam, water and direct expansion air conditioning coils to \$210,503 from \$282,221.

January-March shipments of display cases rose to \$716,251 from \$607,273 a year ago, but deliveries of beverage coolers, water coolers (office type) and ice cream cabinets fell to \$283,515 from \$323,560, reach-in refrigerators to \$89,177 from \$162,323, prefabricated walk-in coolers to \$192,127 from \$291,104, and cold storage doors to \$70,229 from \$106,090. (4)

Sales Of Storage Batteries

Factory sales of electric storage batteries by firms that normally account for 95% of Canadian production increased 7.3% in March to \$2,064,600 from \$1,924,200 a year earlier, making the January-March total 10.4% larger than a year ago at \$7,277,200 versus \$6,591,400. (5)

Shipments Of Rigid
Insulating Board

Domestic shipments of natural or coated building board (panels) in March declined to 4,885,153 square feet from 6,386,531 a year earlier and decorative and "other" board to 6,723,517 square feet from 8,520,437. Shipments of asphalted sheathing board increased to 5,784,002 square feet from 5,336,695 and roof insulation board to 7,942,085 square feet from 4,735,304. (6)

Asphalt Roofing Shipments
In March And First Quarter

Shipments of asphalt shingles in March increased to 256,620 squares from 132,789 a year earlier, smooth-surfaced roll roofing to 79,983 squares from 50,577, mineral-surfaced roll roofing to 60,440 squares from 36,317, roll-type sidings to 12,449 squares from 10,011, and tar and asphalt felts to 4,993 tons from 3,436.

January-March shipments of asphalt shingles advanced to 458,966 squares from 446,512 a year earlier, but deliveries of the other items declined. Totals for the other items were: smooth-surfaced roll roofing, 137,332 squares (165,154 a year ago); mineral-surfaced roll roofing, 99,034 squares (108,684); roll-type sidings, 16,016 squares (27,066); and tar and asphalt felts, 8,859 tons (9,108). (7)

General Review Of Manufacturing

The Bureau has released its annual "General Review of the Manufacturing Industries of Canada" for 1956. This final report of the Census of Industry series brings together a great variety of information for convenient reference purposes, including an analysis of manufacturing growth, production by groups and industries with classifications by chief component material, origin of materials and type of ownership, employment and earnings in manufacturing variously classified, provincial and local distribution of manufacturing, etc., and an alphabetical list of products manufactured in Canada. The 1956 issue runs to 202 pages. (8)

Canada's Leading Manufacturing Cities Montreal continued to be Canada's leading manufacturing city in 1957 with factory shipments valued at \$2,288,206,000 versus \$2,207,686,000 in 1956, followed by Toronto with \$1,832,081,000 versus \$1,797,706,000, Hamilton \$1,031,431,000 versus \$987,729,000, Montreal East \$692,341,000 versus \$739,194,000, and Vancouver \$540,766,000 versus \$534,658,000, according to advance figures released by DBS.

The table following contains preliminary 1957 principal statistics on manufacturing for 35 leading cities.

City	Estab- lish- ments	Employees	Salaries And Wages	Cost at Plant of Materials Used	Selling Value of Factory Shipments
Montreal, Que.	4,269	183,996	611,657,486	1,214,805,495	2,288,206,003
Toronto, Ont.	3,312	132,356	482,758,834	961,000,335	1,832,080,726
Hamilton, Ont.	562	57,095	237,883,530	502,608,132	1,031,430,829
Montreal East, Que.	41	6,808	30,793,707	448,461,379	692,340,565
Vancouver, B.C.	1,280	35,666	138,199,452	305,719,965	540,766,123
Windsor, Ont.	318	29,377	122,169,670	290,073,160	533,531,623
Sarnia, Ont.	56	7,229	35,580,384	184,259,302	355,282,252
Winnipeg, Man.	856	27,039	83,809,725	166,092,377	314,229,185
Kitchener, Ont.	211	15,731	55,031,611	119,987,758	235,155,859
Edmonton, Alta.	402	12,523	43,185,840	140,736,304	227,511,393
London, Ont.	283	15,767	54,813,415	101,731,576	219,096,120
St-Laurent, Que.	94	18,432	75,806,746	85,791,339	216,842,427
Calgary, Alta.	349	11,091	41,221,471	128,847,254	212,658,924
Quebec, Que.	445	15,747	47,200,035	103,947,986	203,815,210
Lachine, Que.	79	14,274	59,100,641	94,076,577	193,276,314
New Toronto, Ont.	43	7,599	33,087,232	93,688,537	175,804,092
Sault Ste-Marie, Ont.	52	8,977	43,869,242	91,045,048	171,453,502
Peterborough, Ont.	93	10,379	42,508,860	75,309,909	155,228,181
St. Boniface, Man.	89	4,881	17,236,521	106,355,736	144,337,906
Brantford, Ont.	169	10,474	35,981,624	67,032,465	144,091,141
Three Rivers, Que.	94	9,213	31,441,430	64,429,607	139,447,400
Shawinigan Falls, Que.	46	6,257	26,399,270	56,684,263	139,075,241
La Salle, Que.	49	5,880	22,518,066	67,732,612	136,158,492
Leaside, Ont.	46	7,930	30,833,438	56,636,631	121,897,305
Ottawa, Ont.	307	10,324	35,015,031	52,890,632	121,844,932
New Westminster, B.C.	105	6,054	22,916,986	60,815,813	107,183,783
Sherbrooke, Que.	127	7,968	22,699,447	55,415,937	106,608,695
Chatham, Ont.	71	3,759	14,422,744	77,857,355	103,217,092
Regina, Sask.	149	3,521	13,192,101	52,706,546	97,617,723
Mont Royal, Que.	43	5,457	20,666,834	58,835,180	96,995,680
Cornwall, Ont.	55	6,838	25,207,796	42,401,547	92,117,441
Guelph, Ont.	115	6,718	23,536,638	41,537,036	87,562,091
Galt, Ont.	93	7,355	23,961,616	42,801,349	83,950,806
Sydney, N.S.	46	5,720	22,654,435	48,250,686	79,078,754
Niagara Falls, Ont.	85	5,044	19,617,537	35,587,635	78,875,355

Miscellaneous Chemicals Industry Value of factory shipments from Canada's miscellaneous chemical products industry in 1957 was \$220,155,000, a decrease of about 3% from the preceding year's record \$226,428,000, according to the Bureau's annual industry report. Number of establishments rose to 267 from 259 in 1956. These employed 12,446 persons, little changed from 12,457 in 1956, while salaries and wages increased to \$50,233,000 from \$46,029,000. Cost of materials and supplies fell to \$112,633,000 from \$116,207,000.

Some of the leading products shipped by plants in the miscellaneous chemical products industry in 1957: synthetic rubber, \$65,988,000 (\$63,325,000 in 1956); dry colours and pigments, \$5,445,000 (\$5,725,000); automobile chemicals, \$3,378,000 (\$2,818,000); boiler compounds, \$3,061,000 (\$3,220,000); agricultural dusts and spray, \$2,985,000 (\$2,929,000); herbicides, \$2,615,000 (\$1,835,000); and book matches, \$1,907,000 (\$2,183,000). (9)

Narrow Fabrics Industry Factory shipments by the 49 establishments classified to the narrow fabrics industry in 1957 were valued at an all-time high of \$19,500,000 as compared to the 50-establishment total of \$18,889,000 in 1956, according to the Bureau's annual industry report. Employees numbered 2,227 in 1957 versus 2,198 in the preceding year, salaries and wages totalled \$6,010,000 versus \$5,614,000, and material costs aggregated \$9,498,000 versus \$9,424,000.

Shipments of webbing -- the most important product of the industry in 1957 -- were valued at \$3,495,626 (including elastic webbing at \$2,507,475). Shipments of ribbons were worth \$2,766,200 and tapes \$2,110,566. Other products included bindings, braids, cords, fringes, lace, tassels and trimming. (10)

Women's And Children's Factory Clothing Industries Value of products shipped from the factories of women's and children's clothing manufacturers in 1957 was \$306,534,000, up 3.8% from the 1956 total of \$295,256,000, according to the Bureau's annual industry report. Employment for the two industries combined rose slightly to 33,802 in 1957 from 33,351 in the preceding year, both industries reporting gains. Salary and wage payments increased to \$82,677,000 from \$77,713,000 and material costs to \$167,342,000 from \$164,891,000.

The value of factory shipments in 1957 for the six divisions of the industries were (comparable 1956 totals in brackets): women's dresses, \$85,638,000 (\$83,931,000); children's clothing, \$61,140,000 (\$57,644,000); women's coats and suits, \$55,998,000 (\$54,189,000); skirts, blouses, slacks and jackets, \$46,631,000 (\$43,400,000) lingerie, \$36,849,000 (\$35,920,000); and "other" outerwear, \$20,279,000 (\$20,172,000).

The most important single commodity in 1957 proved to be women's and misses' rayon and rayon mixture dresses, of which 4,916,000 valued at \$41,584,000 were shipped. Shipments of other main commodities in order of importance were: women's and misses' wool coats, 1,372,000 valued at \$34,497,000; women's and misses' fine cotton dresses, 3,056,000 at \$18,688,000; women's and misses' wool skirts, 2,052,000 at \$13,066,000; women's and misses' wool suits, 352,000 at \$10,600,000; children's wool coats, 907,000 at \$8,791,000. (11)

Wool Textile Industries In 1957 Factory shipments by Canada's wool textile industries in 1957 had a plant value of \$118,984,000, a decrease of \$7,992,000 or 6.3% from the preceding year's \$126,976,000, DBS reports. The number of employees decreased 7.5% from 12,135 in 1956 to 11,230 in 1957, and salary and wage payments 4.1% from \$32,146,000 to \$30,822,000. Materials costing \$67,967,000 were used in 1957 compared with \$72,391,000 in 1956, a decrease of 6.1%.

Apparel fabrics are the wool industry's most important line of production. Shipments of these were lower in both volume and value in 1957 than in 1956, the figures for the two years being, respectively, 27,380,000 square yards valued at \$45,063,000 and 29,704,000 square yards valued at \$47,240,000. Practically the same poundage of woollen and worsted sales yarns were shipped in the two years -- 13,485,000 pounds in 1956 as against 13,277,000 in 1957 -- but the selling value for 1957 at \$26,287,000 was slightly above 1956's \$26,070,000. Deliveries of felts of all kinds decreased to \$16,732,000 from \$17,102,000. (12)

M E R C H A N D I S I N G

Department Store Sales Department store sales in the week ended May 2 were 16.7% greater than sales in last year's comparable week, DBS reports in a special statement. Increases were common to all regions, with gains in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia exceeding the national rise. Gains were: Atlantic Provinces, 8.5%; Quebec, 12.7%; Ontario, 13.2%; Manitoba, 30.9%; Saskatchewan, 20.9%; Alberta, 19.6%; and British Columbia, 21.3%.

Chain Store Sales In March & First Quarter Chain store sales in March rose 2.1% to an estimated \$235,533,000 from \$230,767,000 a year earlier, placing the January-March total 6.9% above last year at \$684,361,000 versus \$640,193,000. March 1 stocks (at cost) were 7.7% larger than a year ago at \$348,014,000 versus \$323,263,000.

Sales by grocery and combination store chains declined 3.3% in March to \$112,148,000 from \$115,947,000 a year earlier and this was the only trade to record smaller sales in the month as compared to a year earlier. Sales in the first quarter were up 6.6% from last year's comparable total at \$348,384,000 versus \$326,826,000.

March sales of the remaining 10 trades showed increases over a year earlier ranging from 18.3% for both lumber and building material chains and men's clothing to 3.9% for shoe store chains and 2.2% for furniture, radio and appliance chains.

March sales by these 10 trades were: variety stores, \$19,443,000 (\$17,538,000 a year earlier); furniture, radio and appliance stores, \$10,024,000 (\$9,813,000); lumber and building material dealers, \$5,847,000 (\$4,941,000); women's clothing, \$5,121,000 (\$4,925,000); shoe stores, \$4,756,000 (\$4,577,000); drug stores, \$4,112,000 (\$3,739,000); family clothing stores, \$3,187,000 (\$3,059,000); hardware stores, \$3,084,000 (\$2,942,000); jewellery stores, \$2,870,000 (\$2,658,000); and men's clothing stores, \$2,539,000 (\$2,147,000). (13)

Operating Results Of Dry Goods, Piece Goods And Footwear Wholesalers In 1957

Average net sales of 46 dry goods wholesalers increased in 1957 to \$1,-838,255 from \$1,698,305 in 1955.

Gross profit in 1957 declined to 15.92% of net sales from 16.08% in 1955, while total operating expenses rose to 14.82% from 14.65%. Net operating profit was smaller at 1.10% versus 1.43%.

Average net sales of 42 piece-goods wholesalers rose in the year to \$477,-344 from \$421,780 two years earlier. Gross profit increased to 17.08% of net sales from 16.81%, but total operating expenses declined to 15.42% from 15.95%. Net operating profit was larger at 1.66% of net sales versus 0.86%.

Fifteen footwear wholesalers had bigger average sales in 1957 as compared to 1955 at \$675,297 versus \$607,178. Gross profit advanced to 13.40% of net sales from 13.08%, and total operating expenses to 11.88% from 11.69%. Net operating profit was larger at 1.52% versus 1.39% of net sales. (14)

B U S I N E S S

Cheque Cashings In 1958

Total value of cheques cashed in Canadian clearing centres again reached record levels in 1958. The aggregate value of payments in 35 centres rose to \$221,290 million, an advance of nearly 8% over the preceding year's total of \$205,558 million.

Debits in four of the five economic regions were higher than in 1957. Payments in Ontario increased by more than 11%, in the Prairie Provinces by nearly 8%, in Quebec and in the Atlantic Provinces by 5% and 4%, respectively. Debits in British Columbia declined slightly over 2%.

Totals for the five economic areas in 1958 (in thousands): Atlantic Provinces, \$4,438,573 (\$4,253,883 in 1957); Quebec, \$63,318,152 (\$60,153,455); Ontario, \$102,798,608 (\$92,469,365); Prairie Provinces, \$34,490,157 (\$32,060,-427); and British Columbia, \$16,244,464 (\$16,621,306). (15)

M I N I N G

Shipments Of Iron Ore In March And Quarter

Shipments of iron ore from Canadian mines in March increased to 190,601 tons from 94,186 in the same month last year and in January-March to 820,061 tons from 354,394 a year ago. End-of-March stocks were smaller than a year ago at 3,145,-917 tons versus 4,174,416. Ore shipped for export in the month advanced to 85,-411 tons from 45,155 and in the quarter to 528,709 tons from 222,528. Month's shipments to Canadian consumers rose to 105,190 tons from 49,031 and the quarter's shipments to 291,352 tons from 131,866. Shipments from mines in Quebec and Ontario were greater this year than last in both periods, while deliveries from Newfoundland and British Columbia were smaller in the month but larger in the three months. (16)

Consumer Price Indexes For Regional Cities

Consumer price indexes declined in six of the ten regional cities between the beginning of March and April 1959 with a decrease of 0.5% in Montreal being the largest. Indexes in the other four regional cities registered increases ranging up to 0.4% in St. John's.

Food indexes were lower in eight of the ten regional cities, unchanged in Vancouver, with only the index for St. John's recording a rise of 0.5%. Beef, pork, lamb and chicken were generally lower and coffee, sugar, bananas and fresh tomatoes also declined slightly in a number of cities. Prices were higher in most regions for eggs, some canned fruit and fresh vegetables.

Shelter indexes showed mixed results as four indexes were up, five decreased, while the Montreal index was unchanged. In clothing, five regional indexes were higher, four remained unchanged at March levels, while the Toronto index declined a fractional 0.1%.

The household operation indexes, reflecting mainly the effect of new 1959 appliance prices compared with year end prices on 1958 models, were up in all ten regional cities. The "other" commodities and services group indexes were higher in eight of the ten cities and unchanged in the remaining two. Increases in doctors' and dentists' fees as well as higher premiums for prepaid health care were mainly responsible for these movements. Gasoline prices were down in a number of cities. Haircuts increased in Winnipeg.

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

	<u>Total Indexes</u>		<u>Group Indexes - April 1959</u>				
	March 1959	April 1959	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities & Services
St. John's (2) ..	113.4	113.9	111.9	114.4	104.1	109.4	125.0
Halifax.....	125.0	125.1	116.0	132.7	118.4	128.9	135.2
Saint John.....	127.0	126.8	119.2	135.4	117.9	123.6	140.2
Montreal.....	126.2	125.6	123.6	143.2	105.7	119.7	133.3
Ottawa.....	125.9	125.8	117.4	146.9	113.5	121.4	133.9
Toronto.....	128.2	127.9	117.1	153.9	112.5	122.9	136.4
Winnipeg.....	122.6	122.7	117.7	131.3	115.8	118.4	130.7
Saskatoon-Regina	122.1	121.9	117.2	122.3	120.1	123.8	126.5
Edmonton-Calgary	122.2	122.0	116.7	125.3	117.8	121.7	130.0
Vancouver.....	127.0	127.1	121.2	137.8	114.5	131.1	133.7

(1) Total indexes for March and April and April 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.

Farm Prices Of Agricultural Products

Canada's index number of farm prices of agricultural products (1935-39=100) for March stood at 237.4, down 2.3 points from February's revised figure of 239.7. This decline, the second in succession since the first of the year, is largely attributable to lower prices for cattle, calves and potatoes which more than offset some increase in prices for poultry and eggs.

Following are the provincial indexes for March, those for February being in brackets: Prince Edward Island, 178.9 (179.4); Nova Scotia, 216.8 (220.2); New Brunswick, 211.5 (210.4); Quebec, 275.9 (274.9); Ontario, 262.6 (268.1); Manitoba, 227.7 (229.2); Saskatchewan, 199.6 (200.7); Alberta, 222.9 (223.3); and British Columbia, 262.8 (268.1). (17)

Security Price Indexes

	<u>May 7</u>	<u>April 30</u> 1935-39 = 100	<u>April 9</u>
<u>Investors' Price Index</u>			
Total common stocks.....	266.5	267.3	263.3
Industrials.....	270.5	272.3	269.0
Utilities.....	204.8	202.8	201.4
Banks.....	369.8	366.8	350.1
<u>Mining Stock Price Index</u>			
Total mining stocks.....	118.3	119.8	120.4
Golds.....	85.1	85.2	85.5
Base metals.....	194.2	198.9	200.3

L A B O U R

Employment And Weekly Earnings In February

Canada's industrial employment index (1949=100) for February stood at 113.0, down from January's 113.7 but unchanged from last year's February figure. Average weekly wages and salaries increased by 75¢ from the latter part of January to the corresponding period in February, reaching a new high of \$73.09 in the latter month. In February last year the average was \$70.02. The February payroll index was 192.9, up slightly from 192.2 in January.

Seasonal factors are not normally a cause of overall change in employment between January and February as they tend to produce increases in manufacturing and mining that offset seasonal declines in other industries. In 1959 the usual January to February increases in employment indexes for manufacturing and mining did not occur because there were layoffs in the aircraft and coal mining industries.

Employment index numbers declined from January to February in all provinces except Alberta and British Columbia. Seasonal increases in forestry and in the wood products manufacturing industries accounted for the rise in British Columbia, and construction employment was up in Alberta. The industrial composite index for Nova Scotia was down 7.2% over the month, largely owing to layoffs in coal mining. In the main, seasonal influences were responsible for the small declines recorded for other provinces. Average weekly wages and salaries rose in all provinces. (18)

Carloadings Of Railway Revenue Freight Cars of railway revenue freight loaded on lines in Canada in the final nine days of April this year eased to 98,915 from 99,844 in last year's corresponding period. Loadings in April rose 5.1% to 307,062 cars from 292,276 a year earlier, placing the January 1 - April 30 total 1.3% above a year ago at 1,135,578 cars versus 1,121,355. Cars received from connections rose 4.6% in the nine-day period to 36,920 from 35,289 a year ago and 5% in the month to 121,224 cars from 115,434, but declined 3.2% in the four-month period to 476,797 cars from 492,720.

Railway flat cars loaded in piggyback services in the last nine days of April numbered 3,582, comprising 2,925 in the eastern division and 657 in the western division. April loadings in these services aggregated 11,448 cars, with 8,980 cars being loaded in the East and 2,468 in the West. Loadings since the first of the year to-date totalled 36,365 cars, with the eastern division totaling 29,904 and the western division 6,461.

Principal commodities loaded in greater volume in the January-April period included: iron ore, 25,711 cars (11,720 a year ago); aluminum ore and concentrates, 7,261 (3,013); fuel oil, 51,302 (47,066); crude gypsum, 18,004 (7,294); lumber, timber and plywood, 67,042 (59,867); automobiles, trucks and parts, 32,756 (26,987); and miscellaneous carload commodities, 101,965 (83,353). Loaded in smaller volume: non-ferrous ores and concentrates, 10,455 cars (16,526); sand, gravel and crushed stone, 33,736 (38,076); pulpwood, 36,859 (47,035); and l.c.l. merchandise, 179,770 (200,513). (19)

F U R S

Fur Production In 1957-58 Pelts taken from wildlife and ranch-raised fur-bearing animals in the 1957-58 season declined in number to 6,440,000 from 6,920,000 in the preceding year, while the value increased to \$26,335,000 from \$25,592,000, according to the Bureau's annual report on fur production.

The number of pelts of beaver, squirrel, white fox, otter, marten and fisher taken was greater in 1957-58 than in the preceding year but less for mink, muskrat and ermine (weasel). Principal furs taken in 1957-58: mink, 1,116,000 pelts valued at \$18,345,000; beaver, 342,000 at \$3,572,000; muskrat, 2,932,000 at \$2,085,000; squirrel, 1,524,000 at \$626,000; white fox, 32,000 at \$487,000; otter, 16,000 at \$384,000; ermine (weasel), 279,000 at \$303,000; marten, 17,000 at \$104,000; and fisher, 5,700 at \$97,700.

Ontario was the leading producer from the value standpoint in 1957-58 with a total of \$6,712,000 (\$5,562,000 in 1956-57), followed by Manitoba at \$5,264,000 (\$5,981,000); British Columbia, \$3,703,000 (\$3,578,000); Alberta, \$3,352,000 (\$3,383,000); Saskatchewan, \$3,253,000 (\$2,991,000); Quebec, \$1,909,000 (\$1,971,000); Northwest Territories, \$735,000 (\$733,000); Newfoundland, \$474,000 (\$257,000); Nova Scotia, \$439,000 (\$666,000); New Brunswick, \$310,000 (\$285,000); Yukon Territory, \$119,000 (\$109,000); and Prince Edward Island, \$65,500 (\$76,900). (20)

9-City Creamery Butter Stocks Stocks of creamery butter in nine cities of Canada at May 7 amounted to 36,632,000 pounds, up sharply (77%) from last year's comparable total of 20,681,000 pounds, DBS reports in a special statement. Holdings were larger this year than last in all the cities except Quebec and Calgary. May 7 stocks were: Quebec, 2,133,000 pounds (3,434,000 a year ago); Montreal, 17,145,000 (11,599,000); Toronto, 4,619,000 (1,215,000); Winnipeg, 9,377,000 (2,122,000); Regina, 917,000 (300,000); Saskatoon, 593,000 (424,000); Edmonton, 636,000 (462,000); Calgary, 210,000 (270,000); and Vancouver, 1,002,000 (855,000).

Dry Skim Milk Powder Dry skim milk powder packed in consumer-size containers (24 pounds or less) totalled 5,508,001 pounds in this year's first quarter, DBS reports in a special statement. This was an increase of 623,610 pounds or 12.8% from the 1958 first-quarter total of 4,884,391 pounds.

Domestic Disappearance Of Dairy Products In 1958 Per capita domestic disappearance of cheese, concentrated milk by-products, and ice cream was slightly larger in 1958 than in 1957, but disappearance of butter, concentrated whole milk products and fluid milk and cream was smaller, according to the Bureau's annual report "Dairy Statistics".

Consumption of fluid milk and cream increased in total in 1958 to 5,100,215,000 pints from 5,013,933,000 in 1957, but the per capita figure fell to 307.06 pints from 310.21. Total consumption was larger in all provinces, while the per capita averages were smaller in all except Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

Domestic disappearance of ice cream climbed in total to 36,515,000 gallons from 35,117,000 in the preceding year and on a per capita basis to 2.14 gallons from 2.12. Total consumption was greater than in the previous year in all provinces, and the per capita averages were bigger in all provinces except Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario.

Domestic disappearance of cheese increased to 115,047,000 pounds from 111,802,000 in 1957 and the per capita average to 6.75 pounds from 6.74. Consumption of butter -- creamery, dairy and whey -- fell to 326,206,000 pounds from 336,356,000 a year earlier and the per capita average to 19.13 pounds from 20.28.

Total domestic disappearance of concentrated milk by-products -- skim powder, evaporated skim and condensed skim -- advanced to 152,165,000 pounds from 128,035,000 in the previous year and the per capita average to 8.93 pounds from 7.72. Total disappearance of concentrated whole milk products -- evaporated milk, condensed milk and milk powder -- rose to 348,289,000 pounds from 345,744,000, but the per capita average declined to 20.43 pounds from 20.84. (21)

Exports & Supplies Of Canadian Wheat Overseas export clearances of Canadian wheat in the week ended April 22 amounted to 5,762,000 bushels, bringing clearances in the August 1 - April 22 period to 171,586,000 bushels compared to 179,883,000 a year earlier. Visible supplies in Canada at April 22 aggregated 376,069,000 bushels compared to the week-earlier total of 375,857,000 bushels and the year-earlier total of 359,353,000. (22)

Stocks Of Food Commodities In Cold Storage & Other Warehouses

Greater production of creamery butter, coupled with a slightly lower consumption total, resulted in an increase in stocks, or into-storage movement, of 23.8 million pounds in 1958. Stocks built up rapidly from the low point (35.3 million pounds) at May 1 to the season's peak of 113.9 million pounds at November 1. Five-year average peak stocks (1953-57) were 109.6 million pounds and 108.2 million pounds at October 1 and November 1, respectively. In three of these years, the season's peak was reached with October 1 holdings. The record high for creamery butter stocks in Canada was 127.9 million pounds at November 1, 1955. Thus the peak holdings in 1958 were 14 million pounds below the record high.

Stocks of cheddar cheese were consistently 13 to 14 million pounds greater than average holdings during the last five years until November 1. After this date, holdings were sharply reduced by exports, and at January 1, 1959 amounted to 46.6 million pounds, still about 5.5 million pounds above the five-year average but 5.4 million pounds lower than at January 1, 1958. The season's low and high holdings were 41.3 million pounds and 61.4 million at April 1 and October 1, respectively.

Stocks of evaporated whole milk were approximately 48 million pounds at both the beginning and the end of 1958. Seasonal fluctuation was somewhat less pronounced than in 1957 with a low of 22.1 million pounds at April 1 as compared with 12.3 million in 1957 and the high point at September 1 with 80.6 million pounds was almost identical for both years.

Skim milk powder stocks were quadruple the five-year average at the beginning of the year with about 48 million pounds in storage. They declined only about 9 million pounds by April 1, from May to October built up rapidly to a peak of 98.3 million pounds at November 1 and then declined to 77.3 million by the year-end.

In contrast to the situation in 1957, stocks of shell eggs were generally below five-year average holdings during 1958. Peak stocks at June 1 amounted to 259,000 cases as compared with the 1957 peak of 479,000 cases at July 1. Stocks amounted to a very moderate 56,000 cases at November 1, the low point in the 1958 season, and rose to 102,000 cases at the end of the year.

Storage holdings of frozen fruit, together with fruits held in preservatives, were slightly higher than in 1957 and ranged 2 to 4 million pounds above five-year average holdings during the first half of 1958. Into-storage movement in the production season was much more pronounced than in the previous year and stocks through the fall months -- fairly stable at the 50 million-pound level -- were about 10 million pounds in excess of holdings in the preceding year. Most of this increase in holdings was quite uniformly distributed between cherries, strawberries and raspberries.

MORE

Stocks of apples at November 1, the peak of the apple storage season, amounted to 9.4 million bushels as compared with 8.6 million in 1957 and only 6.5 million in 1956. Carry-over at the end of the year was 6.4 million bushels, about 1 million bushels more than at the end of 1957 and 1.7 million bushels above the five-year average. Potato stocks, approximately 19 million hundred-weight at November 1, 1958, the beginning of the storage season, were almost identical with stocks at the same date in the previous year. (23)

Prairie Crop Conditions Seeding progress has been hampered over wide areas of the Prairie Provinces by generally cold, unsettled weather, according to the Bureau's telegraphic crop report issued on May 13. Heavy rainfalls have been causing delays, particularly in Manitoba, and there have been intentional delays also in all three provinces on the part of farmers to obtain a good weed kill before seeding. Surface moisture supplies are generally satisfactory for germination of crops, but despite this condition high winds have been causing soil drifting, particularly in southern areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Pasture growth has been backward but improvement is being reported in many areas.

Most areas in Manitoba received over an inch of rain during the preceding week, but it is dry in the southwestern part. Wheat seeding is 50% completed at Melita in the southwest, the percentage dropping off moving eastward with nothing sown east of the Red River. Some 26% of the wheat and 16% of the coarse grains have been seeded in Saskatchewan, but seeding progress is variable ranging down from 40% to 45% in some southern crop districts to 8% in east-central areas and 7% in the northwest. Surface moisture is satisfactory for germination in most areas but subsoil reserves are only fair. Cold, windy weather prevailed in most of Alberta during the few preceding days with rain and snow in some regions. Seeding is well under way in much of the south and in the Red Deer-Lacombe region, but relatively little progress has been made in the southwest corner and in most central and northern areas. (24)

(Publications listed below are numbered similarly to news items to indicate source of latter. Catalogue order numbers precede titles of reports. Prices for both single copies and annual subscriptions are shown for periodicals).

- 1 - 43-004: Radio & Television Receiving Sets, March, 10¢/\$1.00
- 2 - 43-002: Domestic Washing Machines & Clothes Dryers, March, 10¢/\$1.00
- 3 - 46-002: Specified Chemicals, March, 10¢/\$1.00
- 4 - 43-006: Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Equipment, March, 10¢/\$1.00
- 5 - 43-005: Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, March, 10¢/\$1.00
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- 8 - 31-201: General Review of the Manufacturing Industries of Canada, 1956, \$2.00
- 9 - 46-216: Miscellaneous Chemical Products Industry, 1957, 50¢
- 10 - 34-207: Narrow Fabrics Industry, 1957, 50¢
- 11 - 34-217: Women's & Children's Factory Clothing Industries, 1957, 75¢
- 12 - 34-209: Wool Textile Industries, 1957, 50¢
- 13 - 63-001: Chain Store Sales & Stocks, March, 10¢/\$1.00
- 14 - 63-418: Operating Results of Dry Goods, Piece Goods & Footwear Wholesalers,
1957, 50¢
- 15 - 61-201: Cheques Cashed In Clearing Centres, 1958, 75¢
- 16 - 26-005: Iron Ore, March, 10¢/\$1.00
- 17 - 62-003: Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products, March, 10¢/
\$1.00
- 18 - 72-002: Employment & Payrolls, February, 30¢/\$3.00
- 19 - 52-001: Carloadings on Canadian Railways, April 30, 10¢/\$3.00
- 20 - 23-207: Fur Production, Season 1957-1958, 50¢
- 21 - 23-201: Dairy Statistics, 1958, 50¢
- 22 - 22-004: Grain Statistics Weekly, April 22, 10¢/\$3.00
- 23 - 32-217: Stocks of Food Commodities In Cold Storage & Other Warehouses, 1958,
50¢
- 24 - 22-002: Telegraphic Crop Report - Prairie Provinces, May 13, 20¢/\$4.00
- - 11-003: Canadian Statistical Review, April, 50¢/\$5.00
- - 72-003: Man-Hours & Hourly Earnings With Average Weekly Wages, February, 30¢/
\$3.00 -- Summarized in issue of May 8
- - 73-001: Statistical Report on the Operation of the Unemployment Insurance
Act, March, 20¢/\$2.00 -- Summarized in issue of May 1
- - 81-202: Salaries & Qualifications of Teachers in Public Elementary & Second-
ary Schools, 1957-1958, \$1.00 -- Summarized in issue of February 6

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Fishing Tackle More than 301,000 fishing rods were shipped by producers in 1957, an increase of 15% over 1956's total of 261,000. The value moved up to \$737,000 from \$682,000. Shipments of other fishing tackle increased to \$2,035,000 from \$1,903,000.

Baseball And Soft-ball Equipment Close to 49,800 dozen baseballs and softballs were shipped by manufacturers in 1957, almost 3,700 dozen more than in 1956. Shipments of baseball and softball bats increased to 252,000 from 127,000.

Racquets Manufacturers shipped 18,200 tennis racquets in 1957, a decrease of 11% from 1956, while shipments of badminton and squash racquets increased slightly to 20,600 from 20,300.

Hockey Sticks And Pucks Almost 182,000 dozen hockey sticks and 36,100 dozen hockey pucks were shipped in 1957, both below the preceding year's respective totals of 199,000 dozen and 58,300 dozen.

Skis 104,000 pairs of snow and water skis were shipped by producers in 1957, a large increase over the preceding year's 77,000.

Furs Dressed Muskrat accounted for 4,317,558 or over 48% of a total of 8,960,044 fur skins treated in the Canadian fur-dressing industry in 1957. Next largest numbers were 885,851 Persian lamb and 738,141 Jap mink and China weasel skins. Smallest were 23 badger and 14 skunk skins.

Quebec First In Fur Manufactures Plants in Quebec accounted for nearly \$37,000,000 of the 1957 gross value of \$62,188,000 for all Canada of shipments by fur goods manufacturers. Ontario was second at slightly more than \$19,000,000, followed by Manitoba at nearly \$4,200,000 and Saskatchewan at \$966,000.

Hardwood Flooring Producers shipped 67,549,000 feet board measure of hardwood flooring in 1957, 12% under the preceding year's 76,996,000. Birch accounted for almost one-half 1957's total at 30,303,000, followed by plain cut red oak at 21,010,000 and maple at 12,315,000.

Citizenship Certificates of Canadian citizenship were granted to 84,183 persons in 1958, a decrease of 12% from 95,462 in 1957.

Lipstick Canadian manufacturers of toilet preparations shipped lipstick and other lip preparations valued at \$3,293,000 in 1957 and after-shave lotions at \$1,125,700.

Dog Collars Over 245,000 dog collars and 94,500 sets of dog harness were shipped in 1957 by Canadian leather manufacturers. There is no record of total number of dogs.

Sulphuric Acid Apparent consumption of sulphuric acid in Canada during 1957 amounted to 1,261,500 short tons of 100% acid, based on domestic production of 1,290,000 tons, exports of 29,500 and imports of 1,000 tons. Over half of total consumption was in manufacture of fertilizers.

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