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A Fact a Day about Canada  
from the  
Dominion Bureau of Statistics

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No. 33. Thurs. Nov. 1, 1934 - Artificial Teeth from Palestine.

Palestine has had an added interest to British people everywhere of late years because of the mandatory power, bestowed by the League of Nations, which the United Kingdom exercises over the native land of the Messiah.

Canada's trade with Palestine is growing, particularly the imports from that country. While brandies, liquors, wines and Oriental carpets have fallen off, oranges have more than taken their place. Palestine oranges have grown from nil in 1930 to a value of \$107,000 last year.

It is interesting to note that in the last year or so, ever since the expulsion of Jews from Germany, the second most important import into Canada from Palestine has been artificial teeth. The quantity last year was valued at \$11,000.

Canada's principal exports to Palestine are shooks for the making of crates, leather, wheatflour and sardines. The value of the settlers' effects which went to Palestine from Canada last year was \$10,500.

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No. 34. Fri. Nov. 2, 1934 - Our Mentally Afflicted.

One person in every 300 is the proportion of the population in the 60 Canadian institutions which have the care of patients afflicted with mental disorders.

At the beginning of this year there were over 37,000 patients on the books, of whom about two thousand were sufficiently recovered to be placed on parole. Of the resident patients, some seven thousand were classed as just feeble-minded and a few hundred as epileptics.

There was a slight increase in the number of patients in the institutions last year. There is a lack of accommodation in mental institutions to fill the need, and the plan of finding additional accommodation is being met by renovations and additions to existing hospitals and treatment in the earlier stages of mental illness through Out-Patient clinics.

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No. 35. Sat. Nov. 3, 1934 - Eighty Thousand Fisher Folk.

Much is being heard about fish at Ottawa these days. Vessels, boats and gear used in Canada's commercial fisheries represent a capital investment of twenty-five million dollars and with this equipment the fishermen catch everything from tiny sardines a few inches long to huge whales which measure fifty feet and more and weigh as many tons.

Eighty thousand people are directly engaged in the fishing industry, and more than sixty different kinds of food fish and shellfish are taken by the

Dominion's commercial fishermen, in addition to various species which are of value for other than food purposes.

There is no country which offers fisheries products in wider variety. All of the different kinds of food fish and shellfish are marketed in the fresh and frozen forms and many of them are also canned, smoked, pickled and dried.

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No. 36. Sun. Nov. 4, 1934 - Leather for Canadians.

The skins of more than four and a half million animals were made into leather in Canada last year for the use of the Canadian people. There were cattle and horse hides, sheep skins, calf skins and goat skins. We imported some as well.

The principal product of our 88 tanneries is oak tanned sole leather which had a total value of about four and a half million dollars. Next in order of value were calf skins at over three millions.

A great variety of necessities is made from Canadian leather, such as boots and shoes, harness, gloves, coats, trunks, bags and pocket books.

An interesting development in our international trade in recent years is that Canada stands first in the great British market with her supply of patent leather.

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No. 37. Mon. Nov. 5, 1934. - Tin.

Tin is the rarest of the common metals. Romans and Phoenicians used to travel to ancient Britain to trade the silks of China, the cottons of India and the frank incense and myrrh and spices of Araby for the tin of Cornwall and other things.

But Cornwall has lost its leadership in production, for today there are the tin mines of Bolivia and British Malaya, and thence comes the chief Canadian supply.

An idea of the enormous use to which we put tin may be got from the fact that Canadian manufacturers make from ten to fifteen million dollars worth of tin cans in a year. If these are valued at two for five cents on the average, Canada must be producing over 400 million tin cans in a year and sometimes even 600 million.

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No. 38. Tues. Nov. 6, 1934 - Soap.

Ever since the early settlers cleared the land and made potash, pearlsh and lye out of the huge forest trees they had to burn, Canada has been a soap-making country. Comparatively little is imported, not much more than four million pounds in a year, whereas we make about 160 million.

If quantity used is a guide, then Canadians can be reckoned a clean people, for the per capita consumption per annum is 15 pounds. The average for a family is almost 70 pounds.

There are white soap and black soap, yellow and green, all colors to suit the maid and the matron and even highly perfumed shaving cream for flaming youth.

Canada exports a good deal of soap--over 8 million pounds. It goes mainly to the United States, but in other countries the traveller will find it, especially in Holland, the Irish Free State and the British West Indies.

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No. 39. Wed. Nov. 7, 1934 - The Ubiquitous Scot.

There is a popular belief that the Scot scatters widely over the world area. The last census reveals that this conception is justified. The Scot is more evenly distributed over Canada than any other race.

There are something like five thousand municipalities in Canada and very few without a Scotsman. After careful measurement of the distribution over the country, the facts, expressed in simple form, seem to be as follows:

If in any area we take a hundred persons, 13 of these persons are apt to be Scotsmen. In the case of other races there may be a great many or none among the hundred, but we are justified in looking for a reason if we do not find very nearly 13 Scots. Of course there are provincial differences, but less so than in the case of other races.

By the way, there is some irony in this ubiquity of just 13, but the Scot is fond of a joke at his own expense.

Other races that rank very high in evenness of spread, although not so high as the Scots, are the Irish, French and Swiss. The Scandinavian is not so ubiquitous as one would suppose.

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No. 40. Thurs. Nov. 8, 1934 - Castor Oil.

Over 200 thousand gallons of castor oil are imported in a year for the use of the Canadian people. It is to be found in most households. Children are familiar with it from their earliest years, but no sublime poetry has been written about it, although it is claimed to be good for the little ones.

The castor oil plant is a native of India, where the early traders discovered it, but it is now cultivated in Brazil, the East and West Indies and other warm climates.

It is as a remedy that we know castor oil best, but the lower qualities are used in soap-making and leather dressing, as lubricants and in making artificial leather, linoleum and rubber substitutes.

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No. 41. Fri. Nov. 9, 1934 - Middle Aged Canada

Canada is no longer a young country if we can judge from the age of her population at the last census and the manner in which her age distribution has developed since 1881. Canada is very definitely middle aged, with more of a leaning towards old age than towards youth.

The difference between her age distribution in 1931 and 1881 is one that has developed gradually in the intervening period. In the earlier period youth was predominant, old age very small. There has been a gradual interchange until in 1931 the situation, while not greatly reversed, is becoming an argument between middle age and old age. In this connection we mean by youth, persons under 20; middle age, persons 20 to 64; old age, persons over 65.

The factor bringing a change like this about is, normally, length of settlement, but in Canada it was speeded up very considerably by immigration and emigration.

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No. 42. Sat. Nov. 10, 1934 - Birds' Nest Soup

Although the depression may have compelled most Canadians to simplify their diet, there are at least a few individuals who have been all along able to regale themselves with an unusual and epicurean fancy. Hong Kong exported to Canada last year about three thousand dollars' worth of birds' nests.

These nests are edible. They make a delicious soup. They are composed chiefly of the saliva of the birds, which are a species of swift. The nests are attached to the walls of caverns and are found in India, the Malay Archipelago and Australia. Most of the product goes to China.

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No. 43. Sun. Nov. 11, 1934 - Platinum

The growth in the export of platinum is one of the spectacular happenings in Canadian Trade and Industry this year. During the first nine months of 1934 the value was five million dollars, which is eight times what it was in the same period last year.

The main Canadian supply is recovered from the nickel-copper ores of the Sudbury district of Ontario and the bulk of it goes to Great Britain for refining. It is more expensive than gold.

Until very lately its main use was as a substitute for white and colored golds in the jewellery field, but now there has grown up a demand for platinum for spinnarets in the rayon industry. It is being more largely used in dental work, while as leaf and foil it is decorating ladies' hats, shoes and gloves. It is required for picture framing, outdoor signs and decorations and for electrical purposes.

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No. 44. Mon. Nov. 12, 1934 - Decline in Birth Rate

The birth rate in Canada fell from 29.4 per thousand population in 1921 to 20.9 in 1933. The birth rate without Quebec Province would have been 18.9

last year, but the post-war decline has been quite as marked in Quebec as in the other provinces taken as a whole, although Manitoba shows the greatest decline of any single province.

The decline in the birth rate in Canada has not been so pronounced as in some other leading countries. The rate for England and Wales fell from 22.3 per thousand population in 1921 to 14.4 last year, Germany from 25.1 to 14.7, United States from 24.2 to 16.4.

For many years before the Great War the low French birth rate had been a matter of world comment, yet in 1933 it was 16.3, which was higher than the English or German rate and only fractionally lower than that of the United States.

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No. 45. Tues. Nov. 13, 1934 - The Canadian Hen

The Canadian hen in the last year or two has been building up a commerce all her own. Four years ago Canada was sending no dressed poultry to Great Britain but lately there has been a sharp development in the export trade. A large supply was sent to the British Christmas market last year and the year before.

During the past twelve months over  $2\frac{1}{4}$  million pounds of dressed poultry of all kinds have been exported, the bulk going to Great Britain, but a very large supply also to Newfoundland. This is double the export of the previous twelve months.

It is the same with eggs. Two years ago our export of eggs was only 270,000 dozen but it is now running at the rate of two million dozen in the year, having increased nearly eight times. Great Britain is the chief market.

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No. 46. Wed. Nov. 14, 1934 - The Milky Cocoanut

The milky cocoanut is still tapped by the Canadian boy in the same old-fashioned way that his father did the job. To him as of old it is still the sweetest nut of the British Empire countries.

Canada consumes a lot of cocoanut in one form or another. In its familiar garb, unshelled, with the brown fibre sticking to its hard crust we import over eleven millions in a year which is 50 per cent more than two years ago.

Seven and a quarter million cocoanuts came from Jamaica alone and  $3\frac{3}{4}$  millions from Trinidad and British Guiana. A good supply came from the Fiji Islands.

Then there is the dessicated or shredded cocoanut, the whole supply of over one million pounds coming from Ceylon, which is usually associated in the public mind with tea.

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No. 47. Thurs. Nov. 15, 1934 - Canadians as Readers of Books

The distractions and attractions of the radio, the show and the motor car are by no means impairing the love of Canadians for good books. The reading of books is increasing.

Thirteen persons in every hundred of the population over the age of ten are borrowers of books from public libraries, books they take home with them. Twenty-two million books were circulated last year, a million and a quarter more than two years ago. About two-thirds of all circulation was in Ontario but, British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan each circulated a million and a half or more.

But one million borrowers of 22 million books does not indicate the full extent of the book-reading proclivities of the people of the north, for there are many private and lending libraries in the Dominion, as well as reading rooms and reference libraries, and church and parish libraries, notably in the province of Quebec which are not included in the figures quoted.

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No. 48. Fri. Nov. 16, 1934 - Macaroni

Once upon a time sunny Italy was the one and only producer of macaroni, and that delicious dish of Naples made a great appeal to the fastidious and dainty appetites of all countries.

Indeed some young Englishmen, after a trip to Italy in the eighteenth century, were so enthusiastic over it that they formed a Macaroni Club. One of its members was no less a person than Charles James Fox, the great English statesman.

But the macaroni glory has largely departed from Italy and many countries now manufacture it. Canada is one of them and Canada is peculiarly able to do so because of her great durum wheat crops. Durum wheat makes the best of macaroni.

Canada's output of macaroni, vermicelli and so on last year was 28 million pounds and her export nearly four millions, three millions of which went to the United Kingdom.

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No. 49. Sat. Nov. 17, 1934 - The Canadian Schoolma'am

Without counting university professors and lecturers there are 83,000 school teachers in Canada. About 65,000 of these are ladies. Without settling the question as to whether there is a school ma'am type, whose identity is not to be mistaken in school or out, statistics can tell us something about her.

The typical school mistress is 27 years of age. She is two years older than her counter part ten years ago, and three years older than the pre-war teacher. Part of this difference is due to her own education having been longer and more thorough, and part to her teaching longer before getting married. She now teaches about seven years before exchanging her duties for those of housewife.

In 1931 she was getting a salary of more than \$900, but last year it had shrunk almost to \$600. For those who were unfortunate enough to be in the little country school house their salary was not much more than half of what it had been. A few thousand of them taught the whole year for less than \$200.

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No. 50. Sun. Nov. 18, 1934 - Sweet are the Uses of Adversity

In Canada, no less than in the Shakespearean forest of Arden, years of adversity have their salutary effects. Since the end of their more comfortable living conditions a few years ago, thousands of Canadians have set their mettle to thinking out **cooperatively** the solution of their community problems. Study groups among farmers as well as town folk have become the order of the day.

Under the guidance of St. Francis Xavier University Extension Department alone there are likely to be a thousand such groups in eastern Nova Scotia this winter, with eight thousand or more members. The movement is only five years old.

Other communities in organizing for study have chosen to seek respite from their economic woes by losing themselves for a time in literature, drama, music or other of the arts. Witness the growth of musical festivals, art exhibitions the Little Theatre movement, the use of public libraries, statistics of which would take long to recite. We had supposed that these things were for city people alone, but experiments east and west are demonstrating both that the country people want them and can have them. What better evidence could there be that though Canadians' belts may have been tightened their minds have been expanding.

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No. 51. Mon. Nov. 19, 1934 - Mohair

Mohair, the long, lustrous, silky ringlets of the Angora goat came at one time only from Turkey. Indeed Mohair is a comparatively recent Turkish export. Prior to 1820 its export was prohibited by the Sultans. Nowadays British South Africa is very much in the Mohair picture and the recent imports by Great Britain of the commodity from that enterprising Empire country far overtop the imports from Constantinople.

It was Mohair from which Moses commanded the Children of Israel to **make** cloths for the Tabernacle, some 1500 years before the Christian Era.

Mohair yarn, presumably spun almost entirely from the South African Angora fleece, came to Canada from the United Kingdom during the last fiscal year to the amount of 127,000 pounds valued at \$64,000.

A small amount of Mohair yarn came from the United States last year, probably some of it being from the fleece of the United States bred Angora goat which, like his cousin of South Africa, has been imported from Turkey.

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No. 52. Tues. Nov. 20, 1934 - Electricity

Only about two per cent of the electricity used in Canada is generated by coal or coal equivalent as fuel and 98 per cent by water power. In the United States it is very different. About two-thirds of the electricity in that country is generated by fuel.

Production of electricity in the United States serves as an illustration of the effect of improved engines and industrial machinery generally. In 1919 it required 39 million tons of coal or coal equivalent to produce 24 billion kilowatt hours of electricity but in 1933 it took only 37 million tons to generate  $50\frac{1}{2}$  billion kilowatt hours of electricity.

There is an increasing use of hydro electric power and oil in Canada, both in the domestic field, in industry generally and in shipping. Great ships, which formerly required two days or so to get up steam with coal, are now sent on their way with only a brief interval to get ready. This does not mean, however, that coal is not holding its own. The reverse is the case. Both the production of Canadian coal and the imports have been making advances recently.

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No. 53. Wed. Nov. 21, 1934 - Railway Mileage

It is sometimes said that Canada has the greatest railway mileage pro rata to population of any country in the world. That is not so. Australia stands first with one mile of railway for every 238 inhabitants. Canada is a close second, however, with one mile for every 252 persons. New Zealand has one for 464 and the United States one for 493.

There is another way to look at that question, and it illustrates the difficulties of railways in sparsely settled countries like Canada and Australia. Canada has only 252 inhabitants for every track mile while a thickly settled country like Great Britain and Ireland has 1,991 and Italy 2,993.

Russia has only one mile of railway for every 3,289 inhabitants. Colombia one for 5,520, Nigeria one for 14,871, Abyssinia one for 23,279.

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No. 54. Thurs. Nov. 22, 1934 - Examination Bogey is Fading

Only a few years ago the schoolboy in most of the provinces of Canada came face to face with the examination bogey stalking forth from his provincial capital at the end of every year, from the entrance to high school onward. Now it walks but once or twice for the average boy and girl going through school, while in two or three of the provinces their teachers have it in their power to absolve them from any encounter with the bogey whatsoever. A student may pass right through the school system to a normal school or university without writing a single Departmental examination.

The change indicates a growing confidence in the teachers, and allows them to develop more the individuality of each child, instead of trying to shape them all after a single pattern. It brings the educational systems of Canada closer to the ideal, where schooling is recognized as a preparation



for life, not for examinations. Statistical records of the increased training and experience of Canadian teachers indicate that the greater confidence in them has been merited.

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No. 55. Fri. Nov. 23, 1934 - Raisins

Canadians consume an enormous quantity of raisins. The raisin is one of the most important of our imported food commodities. Our ancestors got their supplies chiefly from Turkey, Greece and Spain, but in recent times these old countries have had to meet the competition of new lands.

The United States became a leading producer and for a time dominated many world markets, but of late Australia has been the great factor in that trade as far as the British Empire is concerned.

Until a year or two ago Canada's main supply of raisins came from the United States, but Australia has captured the Canadian market in no uncertain fashion since 1932. During the last six months we imported 20 million pounds of raisins and 16 million came from Australia alone. The supply from British South Africa is also increasing.

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No. 56. Sat. Nov. 24, 1934 - The Sweet Tooth

Canadians consume close to one hundred pounds of sugar per capita in a year, yet can hardly be described as a sweet-toothed people.

The sweetest-toothed people in the world appear to be the Danes. They each consume on the average about 117 pounds. The Australians come close with 116 pounds. Denmark produces beet sugar and Australia cane sugar, large quantities of the latter coming all the way to Canada.

The people of the United States come quite a distance behind the Danes and Australians from the sweet tooth point of view with 108 pounds and the citizens of the United Kingdom with 106. Canadians may be ranked as the fifth race in per capita consumption of sugar with 98 pounds.

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No. 57. Sun. Nov. 25, 1934 - Are Women More Devotional than Men?

Are women more devotional than men? Were there more women than men worshipping in the pews of the churches of Canada today from Halifax to Vancouver?

The last census demonstrated a fact which may have some bearing upon these age-old questions. It was shown that 14,375 males were entered as not belonging to any religious denomination whatever and only 1,608 females.

Of course it is not to be thought of that all of those who do not belong to any religious denomination are not devotional nor pious but apparently from these figures women almost invariably like to be known as belonging to a church organization.

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No. 58. Mon. Nov. 26, 1934 - The Beaver

The beaver, the best beloved and the most admired of Canadian animals, the national creature of the wilds and the synonym for all that is best in faithful endeavor and performance of duty, is not holding his own.

It appears to be the fact that, were it not for the wise provision made for his conservation by some of the provinces, the Canadian beaver, whose pelt in days gone by attained the dignity of Canadian currency, would soon pass out of existence. The beaver cannot combat his way successfully against man as an enemy.

Ten years ago the recorded catch of beaver was nearly 200,000. The pelts marketed after the season 1921-2 numbered 230,000. Last year the catch was 70,000. The value of the beaver pelt is about \$15 these days, which is just about what it was a decade ago. It varies considerably, of course, for in 1927 it was \$26 and in 1920 it was \$16.

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No. 59. Tues. Nov. 27, 1934 - The Professor and the Pedagogue

The college professor is not the sedate, bearded and bespectacled gentleman that we have been wont to imagine. On the average he is only 37 years of age, perhaps partly because of the youth and rapid growth in recent years of many Canadian colleges and universities. He is seven years younger than the doctor and nine years younger than the clergyman.

The professor is only six years older than the man teaching in public schools, who is 31. There are over 3,000 college professors and lecturers in Canada, less than one-tenth of whom are women.

The men teaching school number about 19,000 and are outnumbered by the ladies of their profession by more than three to one. They are gaining rapidly on the ladies, however. Their number is half as big again as it was ten years ago when the ladies outnumbered the men nearly four and a half to one.

People seem to be willing to pay the price required to induce the man to take the place of the lady teacher too. Though he is only four years older than she, he gets \$170 in salary for her \$100.

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No. 60. Wed. Nov. 28, 1934 - Canadian Women in the Professions

Technically speaking, there are but three professions—the Church, Law and Medicine. Canadian women have fought their way into these three professions to an extent that will surprise most people. The pulpit they seem to find the hardest to negotiate for the census tells us there are only 16 clergywomen in the Dominion.

But there are 60 lawyers, some of whom Portia might have envied for their skill in pleading.

There are 200 female physicians and surgeons practising in Canada, and, to go outside the technical three, there are 250 professors, lecturers or

college principals with close to 500 authors, editors and journalists. The names of some of them are very widely known.

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No. 61. Thurs. Nov. 29, 1934 - Canned Tomatoes

The story of the canned tomato, as an export, is one of the epics of Canadian trade. It is sheer romance, for only a very few years ago it was one of the least important of the food commodities we sent abroad. It is now going to 31 countries, 18 of them British.

In 1927 we exported only 300,000 pounds of canned tomatoes, but last year almost 10 million, of which nine million went to Great Britain alone. Our export to the world at large is 30 times greater than it was seven years ago and our export to the United Kingdom 100 times larger.

The tomato is a native of South America. It was introduced into Great Britain in the 16th century as a greenhouse climber. The red berries, as they were called, contained some poisons at that time, but these have been eliminated and the berry has become a vegetable. It has been developed amazingly in Canada and grows everywhere in the open.

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No. 62. Fri. Nov. 30, 1934 - Ivory

In these days of celluloid and similar products one is apt to forget that real ivory is still an article of commerce and a cherished possession. There are the genuine ivory piano keys, the images of gods in miniature, the clocks on the mantelpiece, the carved ornaments, the keepsakes, even the old-fashioned ivory necklace.

Although the trade in elephant ivory is not what it was when hunting these huge animals and capturing slaves in Africa were in vogue, there is still a good deal of it exported from the Dark Continent, notably from Kenya and Uganda.

This year we have brought to Canada about four thousand dollars' worth of real ivory, some of it coming from China and Japan. Amongst the imports from Africa were some rhinoceros teeth. These are about three inches long and are highly prized.

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