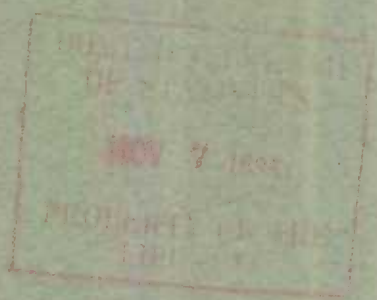


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A FACT A DAY ABOUT CANADA

FROM THE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

AS SUPPLIED TO THE

CANADIAN RADIO BROADCASTING COMMISSION

SEPT. 28 TO OCT. 31, 1935.

SECOND SERIES

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Note: A Fact a Day is broadcast over the Commission's network immediately after the Canadian Press News broadcast.

A Fact a Day about Canada

from the

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

No. 1. Sat. Sept. 28, 1935 - The Response

Tomorrow evening the broadcast "A Fact a Day about Canada" from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics will be resumed. These "Facts" apparently have been of great interest to radio listeners. The Bureau itself has received over 800 letters in a month concerning them. They appear to have proved of considerable value to teachers and students and it is interesting, as well as instructive, to find that the majority of the letters from the West indicate that the writers are people of Central European origin. They demonstrate the keen desire of these immigrants, or children of immigrants, to learn all they can about the country which inspired them to migrate from their old lands and rear for themselves homes in the new Dominion. These must be splendid citizens who go to the trouble of writing the much appreciated letters. Complimentary Letters have come also from the United States and overseas countries.

Many school teachers are using the broadcasts as supplementary information in their class work and for that purpose at the end of each month they are published in permanent form. Copies may be obtained by writing to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

No. 2. Sun. Sept. 29, 1935 - British Commonwealth Statisticians Confer

For over a fortnight leading statisticians representing the British Commonwealth of Nations have been in conclave at Ottawa. They are carrying out an important work. They are laying the foundations for clarifying and co-ordinating intra-Empire statistics, and at the same time they have in mind the creation of a system and practice which may in time be acceptable to all nations.

In older days it was not so clear to us as it is now that nations, as well as individuals, depend upon one another. We are thinking internationally more than we ever did and national policies are framed with the thought of others ever present.

Not only our domestic policies but our foreign affairs, the making of treaties and agreements, indeed the whole world of dealing and exchange, cannot properly be directed unless we have exact information -- unerring statistics. They are the fundamental guide. To make that guide of the greatest use, the statistics of the countries with which we are dealing should be established upon a similar basis. This enables us to compare one with another with less liability to error.

The Empire statisticians have been labouring to achieve uniformity, but their task is not yet done and for a week or more they will discuss and compare, give and take, and then decide upon all the things they will ask their governments to do.

This information comes from the General Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 3. Mon. Sept. 30, 1935 - Ostrich Feathers

One of the startling statements made incidentally at the Conference of British Commonwealth Statisticians now in session at Ottawa was about ostrich farming. That industry has diminished so greatly in South Africa that the number of these huge birds is only four per cent of the total of pre-war days.

This is a reminder of two things. The beautiful lady crowned with the majestic Gainsborough hat is seen but rarely on the Canadian boulevard, and the wonderful ostrich egg, which used to grace the parlour mantelpiece, is seldom or never seen by the Canadian youngster. They were very precious mementoes brought home by the traveller.

The wind-swept open motor car was too much for the lady's plumed hat, yet ostrich feathers are still a rich adornment and of an evening when fair ladies attend some grand function these remarkable feathers may still be seen in hats, fans and boas.

In the years before the Great War and before the motor car became a common means of transport, the importation of ostrich feathers by Canadians reached sums around half a million dollars. In the last year or two less than one thousand dollars has covered the import. The ostrich feather industry is one of the business tragedies that changing conditions and customs bring in their trail. In pre-war days the export from South Africa of these feathers was valued at about \$11,000,000 and has now declined to \$100,000.

This information comes from reports issued by the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 4. Tues. Oct. 1, 1935 - Fiscal Years

To attain uniformity in the statistics of the British Commonwealth of Nations is not so easy as it seems and the statisticians of these nations, who are at present in conference at Ottawa, have their hands full. Here is an example. Most of the countries of the Empire have established a fiscal year ending on March 31, but others have not. The United Kingdom, Canada, India and British South Africa end their fiscal years on March 31, but Australia's fiscal year ends on June 30.

When this was mentioned in the Conference, one of the delegates remarked casually that Australia was behind the others but the representative of that country interjected: "Earlier than the others, I should say." Which goes to show that even statisticians have humour.

Summer in the Souther Hemisphere corresponds with our winter, but the fiscal years of the South are not all uniform, nor are they in the North. New Zealand's fiscal year ends on March 31 and that of Newfoundland on June 30.

In Canada itself, strange to say, the disparity is much more glaring and difficult. Up to recently, British Columbia was the only province which

ended its fiscal year, like the Dominion, on March 31, but Ontario has just come into line. The fiscal year of Nova Scotia ends on September 30, New Brunswick October 31, Quebec June 30, Manitoba and Saskatchewan April 30, Prince Edward Island December 31.

This information is taken from records and reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 5. Wed. Oct. 2, 1935 - The Goat

The goat is often described as the "poor man's cow." It does not cost much money. A good animal can be got for about \$10. It is hardy, easy to keep and thrives on a miscellaneous diet. It is almost free from tuberculosis.

The goat gives from two to four quarts of milk a day, the butter is white and goat cheese is much esteemed. Strange to say, there are not many goats in Canada comparatively speaking. There are only about 15,000, while in some countries, such as India, there are millions of them. British Columbia has about six thousand and Ontario four thousand. Many of them are looked after by the children of the family, for they are easily cared for.

The goat in its wild state inhabits the Eastern Hemisphere only. Our Rocky Mountain goat is not a true goat, but is more nearly an antelope. The true wild goat is a native of Persia, Asia Minor and some of the Mediterranean Islands. It was domesticated in prehistoric times. The Cashmere and Angora goats are noted for their very valuable silky hair.

This information is contained in reports issued by the Agricultural and Census Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 6. Thurs. Oct. 3, 1935 - Investments Abroad

An important item in Canada's international trade is the purchase and sale of securities. There is a continuous movement over the border and across the seas of securities purchased or sold for investment or speculative purposes, for sinking funds or retirements and so forth. This business amounts to surprisingly large sums annually. Last year the sales of securities by Canadians to other countries totalled \$321,000,000 and purchases by other countries \$312,000,000. It may be said, accordingly, that considerably over half a billion dollars came and went in this fashion.

In these multitudinous transactions, Canadians may be selling abroad the securities of Canadian governments and corporations, or they may be reselling British and foreign securities owned in this Dominion. On the other hand they may be repurchasing from abroad Canadian securities held in other countries or they may be purchasing the government or corporation securities of other countries.

International business in securities is, of course, subject to many influences, hence its extent shows great fluctuations. For example,

in the first half of 1933 Great Britain purchased \$15,000,000 of securities in Canada, this being while the pound sterling was at a discount. In the latter half of the same year, when the pound rose to a premium, sales rose to \$60,000,000. The pound sterling was strong in 1934 and Great Britain purchased \$102,000,000. The largest dealings in securities are with the United States.

This information is taken from a report issued by the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 7. Fri. Oct. 4, 1935 - Gypsum

The possibilities for expansion of the gypsum industry in construction, to make buildings as nearly fireproof as possible, has greatly increased the demand for gypsum products. Acoustic plasters prepared from gypsum are being rapidly extended.

Gypsum is a common mineral, white in colour, and used from ancient times as a plaster. Indeed that is the old Greek name. When crystallized it is often called Selenite. It frequently occurs in connection with rock salt. Alabaster is a fine-grained compact variety of gypsum resembling marble in appearance.

In Canada it is used in the making of cements, such as plaster of paris, a basis for paints and for making imitation marble. It is also used in agriculture as a fertilizer.

Last year the production of gypsum totalled 461,000 tons but in the best years the total was over 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ million tons. The value last year was about \$864,000 and in one year it has been as high as 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ million dollars.

This information is taken from a report issued by the Mining and Metallurgical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 8. Sat. Oct. 5, 1935 - Fisheries Research

Fisheries research, an appropriate subject at this time when Canada's Fish Week is being observed, is one of the most interesting and most important branches of scientific study carried on under the Dominion Government in order to further the development of natural resources and stimulate national progress. Scientists on the staff of the Biological Board of Canada, which operates under the control of the federal Minister of Fisheries, are continually at work upon fisheries research.

They study problems of fish life, which are of direct importance to the commercial fishermen, and by investigations and experiments at research stations maintained by the Board they develop improvements in the methods of handling and processing fish and shellfish so that the fishing industry may operate to greater advantage and high standards of quality may be ensured in the interests of the consumers.

Scientists have found out some very significant things. For instance, it has been established that fish foods not only contain Vitamin A but, more

important, they are especially rich in Vitamin D, which is lacking in many other articles of human diet. It has been found, too, that iodine, the great preventative of goitre, is present in sea fish and shellfish in much larger quantities than in any other food. Goitre is rare where sea foods are eaten regularly. Another interesting discovery is that oysters are very helpful in the diet of persons disposed to be anaemic.

Canadian fish foods, which contain the various elements which fisheries research has shown to be so valuable as builders of health, are obtainable in great variety all the year 'round.

This information is taken from reports by the Fisheries Department to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 9. Sun. Oct. 6, 1935 - Holland Bulbs

This is the time of the year when flower-lovers take thought for brightening up their homes in the winter months. Cuttings and pottings are made from the plants that flourished in the open garden during the summer, but these are supplemented by the ever popular bulbs, among which tulips, daffodils or narcissi, and hyacinths probably take first place.

For our supply of these we are largely dependent on one little country, Holland, which specializes in their production for export. In a single year we have imported as much as one and a half million dollars worth of flower bulbs and roots, over half of them from the Netherlands. We have not been buying as many in the last few years, but two-thirds of our purchases have come from there.

Belgium, the United Kingdom and Japan are the next greatest sources of our imported flower bulbs. From Britain we receive quantities of those favorites among house plants, the tuberous-rooted begonias; and from Japan a wide variety of the increasingly popular lily family. Among the latter the well-known Easter lily is the only one used extensively for house culture. The so-called Chinese lily with which the laundryman expresses his appreciation of friends and customers is not botanically a true lily.

This information is taken from reports issued by the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 10. Mon. Oct. 7, 1935 - Trade with Argentina

The Argentine Republic, occupying less than one-third the area of Canada, has a slightly greater population. Its climate in the central and most thickly populated part is temperate with slight variations. The northern tip is in the tropics and therefore hot, and the southern extremity is relatively cold. Argentina shares with Canada the distinction of possessing one of the largest areas of prairie land in the world. Most of the population and chief industries are in this area. Rainfall is slight but the soil is very productive where irrigation is possible. Buenos Aires is the capital and has a population of over two million.

Although Argentina and Canada are competitors in the markets of the world, noticeably with respect to wheat, the trade between them is substantial. In the fiscal year ended March, Canada's imports from Argentina amounted to nearly \$3,000,000 and exports to Argentina to over \$4,000,000. Principal imports were corn, flaxseed, hides and skins, meats and quebracho extract. Exports included such items as rubber manufactures, largely tires, sewing machines, paper and manufactures, farm implements, copper and products and electrical apparatus.

This information is taken from reports issued by the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 11. Tues. Oct. 8, 1935 - Feldspar

Feldspar is an important rock-forming mineral. It is used chiefly in the manufacture of vases, cornices, cups, articles of porcelain, terra-cotta and pottery in general. A few varieties are handsome and are cut as gem stones. It varies in colour. Some are green, others almost white but reflecting a brilliant red metallic glitter. Some are glass clear.

Another important outlet is the glass industry. It melts without becoming entirely fluid and when cool forms a strong, colorless, or only slightly colored glass. Feldspar also finds a place in the manufacture of electrical insulators and similar forms of porcelain.

During the year 1934 Canada's production of this mineral amounted to 18,302 tons, coming entirely from the provinces of Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba. It is worthy of note, however, that prior to 1933 the commercial output was confined to the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, with the exception of the year 1921 when a relatively small tonnage was got in Nova Scotia.

This information is taken from reports issued by the Mining and Metallurgical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 12. Wed. Oct. 9, 1935 - Honey Bees

"The little busy bee" has figured from ancient times in our proverbs. It competes with the ant as a symbol of industry and perseverance wherewith to sting lazy people into increased energy. Bees are frequently alluded to in Scripture and in Egyptian hieroglyphics. Aristotle, Virgil and Pliny wrote about them. Saxon lords were sometimes paid their rents with honey.

All through the warm summer months the honey bee will be found feverishly gathering the nectar from the blooms which abound in the fields and gardens. In most cases they store away far more than their requirements for the coming winter and the surplus honey is taken from them.

Canada's large honey-producing provinces are Ontario and Manitoba, although Ontario's proportion far exceeds that of Manitoba. The production of honey during the year 1934 amounted to more than 24,000,000 pounds and that of 1935 promises to be higher. We export from two to three million pounds, mainly to the United Kingdom.

This information is contained in reports issued by the Agricultural Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 13. Thurs. Oct. 10, 1935 - Caring for Our Dead

The first wooden coffin was a hollowed-out tree trunk, a form still used by primitive peoples. The Egyptians, Greeks and Romans used wooden coffins but the coffin of Joseph is the only one mentioned in the Bible. The early Chinese coffin was often in the form of a miniature junk and some of our American Indians still bury the dead man in his canoe. The Norsemen sent their Vikings on their last voyage in ships enveloped in flames.

Canada has forty-three factories specializing in coffins and caskets at the present time. The annual production exceeds sixty-three thousand caskets, nine thousand coffins, forty-six thousand shells or rough-boxes and other undertakers' supplies, with a total value of more than two and a half million dollars.

While many of the caskets are lined or covered with metal or cloth, wood is still the chief material used in the industry. As the late Dr. B. B. Fernow, Dean of Forestry at Toronto University, so aptly put it: "Through all our lives we are surrounded by wood -- from the cradle to the coffin."

This information is taken from reports issued by the Forestry Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 14. Fri. Oct. 11, 1935 - Potatoes

Potatoes are a standard item in the diet of most Canadians, exception being made for those interested in figures other than statistics. Last year the Maritime Provinces and Eastern Canada had such a large crop that the surplus was embarrassing and caused a sharp decline in prices. The reaction of Canadian farmers to this situation was prompt and the acreage planted to potatoes in 1935 was lowered in each of the nine provinces. The potato acreage for the whole of Canada in 1935 was 10.8 per cent less than that of 1934. Resulting from a combination of this reduced acreage, with summer drought, the 1935 production of potatoes was estimated today to be 38,345,000 cwt. compared with 48,095,000 cwt. in 1934. The reduction amounts to over 20 per cent.

The reductions in production were confined to the Maritime and Eastern provinces and British Columbia. Each of the Prairie Provinces shows an increased yield over the extremely poor harvest of 1934, the total increase for the three provinces amounting to 2,806,000 cwt. or 50 per cent.

Despite the smaller harvest, there are ample supplies of potatoes for Canadian consumption. Export possibilities for table stock are little better than in the previous year because the United States crop is reduced only slightly from the large outturn of 1934. Most of the reduction in the United States crop, however, took place in the New England States where population is concentrated. The Cuban market for seed potatoes should be maintained as in previous years.

This information is obtained from the Agricultural Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 15. Sat. Oct. 12, 1935 - An Amazing Change

The election campaign now closing has given the people of Canada a picture of the amazing change that has come over political theory and practice in the last fifty or sixty years. At the time of Confederation the activity of the state was limited to little more than the defence of its citizens from external aggression and the maintenance of law and order.

British financing at that time well illustrates the theory of the functions of government. During the fiscal year 1867 the gross expenditure was about \$335,000,000, of which \$131,000,000 was for interest on war debt and \$127,000,000 for the army and navy. After collection costs were met all that was left for general expenditure was some \$46,000,000.

Since that time other activities of the state have increased throughout the world. The building of modern highways, roads and communications, the great expansion of educational facilities, the development of agricultural industries and extension services for marketing their products, the ownership of public utilities or assistance to public services, together with the demands of increased social services and public welfare problems, have all exacted heavy outlays. In Canada many of them are under provincial care but, whether provincial or federal, they show the great change. The defence of Canada not so long ago used to be one of the engaging platform debates, but in this campaign it has hardly been mentioned.

This information is taken from records of the General Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 16. Sun. Oct. 13, 1935 - Going to the Polls

There are 5,917,387 people who are entitled to vote in the Dominion elections on Monday. That is about three-quarters of a million more than in 1930 and about one million and a quarter more than in 1925, just ten years ago.

Just how many will make it their business to go to the polls remains to be seen. If as many do so, pro rata as in 1930, there will be about 4½ million votes cast.

The general election of 1930 was remarkable in that more votes were recorded than was usual. The percentage of recorded votes was 76.11. That was a large vote. In 1926 the percentage was 70.32 and in 1925 it was only 68.77. In 1921 it was 70.16.

It may be said, therefore, that in 1930 there was a deeper interest in governmental affairs than in any other post-war election and it will be illustrative to observe after Monday's election whether that aroused interest in 1930 has been maintained or increased in 1935.

This information has been obtained from records of the General Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Note: The above percentages refer to votes and not to voters. There are some constituencies which sent or still send more than one member to Parliament. If double voters are counted twice the proportion of the electorate voting in 1930 would be 73.65 per cent and it would still be the heaviest recorded vote pro rata. On October 14, 1935, the vote as given by the Canadian Press was 4,022,567. While this was the largest total vote ever recorded, it was the smallest pro rata in the last five Dominion elections. The percentage was 67.98 and, if double voters are counted twice, the percentage would be still less.

No. 17. Mon. Oct. 14, 1935 - Prime Ministers of Canada

During the 68 years since Confederation there have been 16 ministries and there have been 11 prime ministers. In the 34 years up to 1901 there were 7 prime ministers and in the 34 since then only four have been added to the list.

The most frequent changes in the premiership came after the death of Sir John A. Macdonald in 1891. Between that year and 1896 there were 5 new prime ministers -- Sir John Abbott, Sir John Thompson, Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Sir Charles Tupper and Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Sir John Macdonald was leader of the Government for about 19 years, the longest period, but Sir Wilfrid Laurier, leader for 15 years, had the longest unbroken term. Sir Charles Tupper had the shortest term, only two months and one week. Sir Robert Borden was in office 8 years and 10 months. Mr. Mackenzie King has been prime minister for about 8½ years and, as the result of today's election, is again in office.

Until Mr. Meighen became prime minister, all of his eight predecessors, except Alexander Mackenzie, were given titles. Sir Charles Tupper received a baronetcy, a hereditary title. The widow of Sir John Macdonald was created a baroness. Arthur Meighen, W. L. Mackenzie King and R. B. Bennett have remained untitled.

These facts are taken from the records of the Canada Year Book relating to Administration in Canada. It is a leading publication of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 18. Tues. Oct. 15, 1935 - Our Young Men

It is a statistical fact that young men today have a comparatively smaller place in the economic life of the country than they had twenty years ago.

The census shows that since pre-war years the number of women and girls in money-making jobs has practically doubled, and that the number of adult men in gainful occupations has increased by nearly one-half. But for the youths between 15 and 25 years of age the increase has been less than one-fifth.

This small increase is not due to failure of their numbers to grow, for young men of this age are one-third more numerous now than twenty years

ago. There are one-third more of them but only one-fifth more jobs for them. Girls of their own age are half again as numerous as in pre-war years, but jobs for them are four-fifths more plentiful.

Practically the entire increase of twenty years in money-making occupations has been in salaried or wage-earning jobs. This increase has been almost as great as 50 per cent. Presumably this is due to the development of large-scale enterprise in so many lines of business, and if the employer preferred to hire the young lady rather than the young man, there seems little the latter could have done about it.

But it has doubtless often been discouraging to the young man, especially when, having failed to find a place on a payroll, he has undertaken to establish himself in business independently and here too has failed in competition with the larger and old established concerns.

This information is obtained from Census reports issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 19. Tues. Oct. 16, 1935 - Mica

The micas comprise a group of minerals which readily split up into thin flakes. They are flexible and elastic, properties highly valued for certain industrial purposes. They have a pearly lustre and in colour range from black to brown, violet, yellow, green and colorless. Muscovite may be obtained in plates two feet in diameter, perfectly transparent.

Sheet mica was formerly used for windows and is now employed for lamp chimneys, stoves, sound diaphragms and as an insulator in electrical apparatus. Ground mica is used in the manufacture of wall papers, as a lubricant in combination with grease and oil, as an absorbent for glycerine in the manufacture of dynamite and in the roofing and rubber trades.

India normally produces 50 per cent of the world's supply of higher grade micas. United States, Madagascar and Canada are also important producers. The Canadian production last year was almost one thousand tons valued at \$100,000. It is confined almost exclusively to the "amber mica" and the production region lies for the most part within a radius of about 100 miles from Ottawa. There are deposits of muscovite in Canada but mining of it has not proved very profitable.

Quebec and Ontario are the main producers of mica. The supply from British Columbia is comparatively small.

This information is contained in a report on the subject issued by the Mining and Metallurgical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 20. Thurs. Oct. 17, 1935 - The Raccoon

The raccoon is a sociable little animal. He is an ideal family man, travels around with his wife and helps her to look after the children. He is rarely found alone. He is clean in his habits and, when near water, washes his food before eating it.

The coon is a small cousin of the bear family, thickly built, with a shaggy coat of grey-brown fur interspersed with yellowish and black hairs. The under-fur is dark and dense. He uses his toes, particularly of the forefeet, much as a monkey uses his hands. The toes are long and well separated.

The coon of Canada is found mostly in western British Columbia and in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. He is an excellent climber and swims well. His favorite den is a hollow branch high up in a tree and well exposed to the sun, yet he hunts and obtains most of his food on the ground. He eats practically anything from frogs to berries and he is passionately fond of green corn, as the farmer well knows. He is nocturnal in his habits.

The coon coat is a favourite out-of-doors protection for the well-dressed Canadian and also is fashionable as a sport coat for the younger set.

The number of pelts taken in Canada last year was over 26,000 which was considerably greater than for some time. The value of a pelt was less than \$4, which was a large drop of more than a dollar in the last four years.

This information is taken from a report recently issued by the Fur Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 21. Fri. Oct. 18, 1935 - Canadian Trade Commissioners.

Canada has trade commissioners in 26 countries or groups of countries. They perform services which have increased in importance since the Great War.

There are Canadian trade commissioners in all the leading countries of the British Commonwealth as well as in such other countries as the United States, Germany, France, Italy, Holland, Norway, Japan, China, Mexico, Panama and Peru.

There are seven trade commissioners in Great Britain alone, four located in London and one each at Liverpool, Bristol and Glasgow. Where the duties are large and complicated, they specialize and, in the case of those at London, one looks after fruit and another animal products. The fruit commissioner's territory includes many of the Continental European countries. There is a Canadian trade representative in Ireland also.

The commissioner in British Malaya has a territory comprising the Malay States, Siam, British Borneo and Northern Sumatra. In South Africa there are two commissioners. There are two also in Japan. These trade commissioners should not be confused with the Canadian Government representatives at London, Washington, Paris, Tokio and Geneva.

This information is taken from records of the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 22. Sat. Oct. 19, 1935 - Canada's Trade with Southern Rhodesia

Southern Rhodesia is that part of the territory, named after Cecil Rhodes, lying south of the Zambesi River. The total area is about three times that of our own three Maritime Provinces. The population is about a million and a quarter, of whom 53,000 are Europeans. Responsible government was instituted in 1923. The climate is well suited for European occupation because of the altitude.

The rights to the rich mineral deposits of Southern Rhodesia were purchased by the government two years ago for about \$10,000,000. In that year the output of gold alone was worth over \$20,000,000. Copper, coal, diamonds and other minerals are mined. The staple crops are Indian corn and tobacco.

Canada's principal import from Southern Rhodesia is corn. Indeed a very large proportion of the imports of corn which Canada gets come from British South Africa. The value last year was \$163,431, but ordinarily it goes into the millions. Recently there was a crop failure. Peanuts also come from that country, although we got none last year.

Our exports to Southern Rhodesia last year were valued at over half a million dollars, the largest item being automobile parts at \$355,000. There was a great variety of other articles, such as canned goods, wheat, rubber manufactures, newsprint, agricultural implements, pianos, and, illustrating the fact that Canadians are wandering abroad, we sent also about \$700 of settlers' effects.

This information is taken from reports issued by the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 23. Sun. Oct. 20, 1935 - Radium

Radium was discovered by Monsieur and Madame Curie in 1898, and in 1910 it was isolated from radium chloride. It is a silver-white metal which tarnishes rapidly on contact with air. It is extensively used in medicine.

The chief source of radium is the mineral pitchblende in which it appears in minute quantities, only a few grains to the ton, and from which it is extracted by a lengthy process. It is remarkable for its radio-active properties.

The commercial production in Canada comes entirely from a refinery at Port Hope, Ontario. The ores and concentrates treated there are from a pitchblende-silver mine situated at Echo Bay, Great Bear Lake. The distance by water from Echo Bay to Waterways, Alberta, is 1,400 miles. There is a regular summer and winter aeroplane service between Edmonton and Waterways and Great Bear Lake.

Last year the Port Hope plant received from the mine 77 tons of pitchblende and silver ore and seven tons of silver concentrates. Twenty-six tons of ore were treated for the recovery of radium and other metals, and the value of the products was stated to be \$210,000.

This information is contained in a report issued by the Mining and Metallurgical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 24. Mon. Oct. 21, 1935 - Tonquin Beans

Perfumes and spices have been an important item of trade since the earliest times. Great ladies in all ages have insisted upon them. Today that bartering goes merrily on.

One of the most interesting of the scented beans which come to Canada is the Tonquin, or, as it is often called, the Tonka. It is a native of Guiana. It grows on an evergreen tree about 60 feet in height. It has alternate leaves divided into five or six leaflets.

The violet-purple flowers are clustered and are succeeded by a short pod which contains a single bean, oval in shape. It is very fragrant and in this country is used for scenting sachet powders as well as snuff and other things.

We got over 4,000 pounds of these Tonquin beans last year. They are worth at the port of entry about 50 cents per pound.

This information is taken from reports and records of the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 25. Tues. Oct. 22, 1935 - Should Youthful Genius in Canada be Encouraged More?

A glance at the sports page of the Saturday paper is enough to tell us that the universities and colleges have opened for another year. It is safe to say that all of the six or seven thousand "freshies" of the year have now been initiated into the ways of the institutions where they will spend the greater part of the next few years.

Behind such activities as football and initiations, with which the public perhaps identifies their work too closely, there are the more fundamental activities of the universities which earn for them the appellation of seats of learning. What proportion of their students is genuine scholars is an interesting speculation. Out of the more than 6,000 young people who attend each year for the first time, about 500, or one in twelve, have won matriculation scholarships. The average value of an award is about \$200, or less than the cost of two years' fees.

Considered from the side of the total number graduating from the high schools each year, which is about 50,000, only one in a hundred can win a scholarship that will help to take him to a university. The total sum spent on such scholarships in a year is only about \$100,000. Comparing this with the practice in other parts of the British Commonwealth, it is found that much less is spent in Canada than elsewhere to insure that the most scholarly young people are enabled to attend a university. More money is provided for this purpose in such smaller sections as New Zealand, South Africa, Scotland, Australia and many times as much in England and Wales. And there have been increases in Canadian university fees during the last few years that make attendance more difficult for prospective students.

This information is taken from reports issued by the Education Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 26. Wed. Oct. 23, 1935 - Lobsters

If there is one delicacy more than another produced in this country that makes a special appeal to the palate, surely it is the Canadian lobster. It may surprise a great many people to learn that whereas cod was once supreme in the Maritime Provinces as the catch of the fisherman, lobster now occupies first place in order of marketed value.

Recently the catch has not been so large as formerly when it ran up close to 50 million pounds. Last year it was verging on 40 million and was worth about $3\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars.

In the British market the Canadian canned lobster is the favorite. The importations last year totalled 2,667,000 pounds and of that amount Canada supplied 2,274,000, which itself demonstrates the Canadian leadership. Our lobster goes to many other countries, notably France, Holland, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, where the people are good judges of fish.

While the export of canned lobster at 6 or 7 million pounds represents the greater part of the total marketed value, the export of fresh lobster to the United States is also very important. Last year it was about 10 million pounds.

This information is taken from a report issued by the Fisheries Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 27. Thurs. Oct. 24, 1935 - Thanksgiving Day

There have been Thanksgiving days in Canada since 1799 when on January 10 of that year Lower Canada observed the first of its kind in what is now the Dominion. The reason given was "in signal victory over our enemy and for the manifold and inestimable blessings which our Kingdoms and Provinces have received and daily continue to receive."

Thanksgivings were observed only on special occasions, such as in 1914 "for glorious victories over our enemies", and there was another that year for the "end of sanguinary contest in Europe and to give the Dominions blessings of peace", in 1815 for the "end of the war with the United States and restoration of the blessings of peace", in 1833 for the "cessation of cholera."

In Upper Canada the first Thanksgiving was in 1816 for the "end of war between Great Britain and France", and in 1833 and twice later "to continue His Mercies."

The Province of Canada proclaimed Thanksgivings on a number of occasions between 1850 and Confederation in 1867, such as for the restoration of peace with Russia. One in 1863 was for the abundant harvest and the continuation of peace.

The first after Confederation was in 1872 for the restoration to health of the Prince of Wales. From 1879 onwards they have been annual and mainly for the blessings of an abundant harvest. There were special occasions, such as the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria.

This information is obtained from records given by the Department of the Secretary of State to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 28. Fri. Oct. 25, 1935 - A Census Parallel

The period elapsing from the time of Jacob until the Israelites were numbered before entering the Promised Land was about the same as has elapsed since the Founding of Quebec. See the Book of Deuteronomy.

It is interesting to find that the Israelites then numbered about 600,000 males over 20 years of age "able to bear arms" -- presumably between 20 and 65 -- and that the males of our French race in Canada today between 20 and 65 number about 650,000.

The two almost exactly correspond, therefore, and obviously it may be asked whether, in view of these two parallels, it can be said that there have been drastic changes in the ratio of reproduction since the days of Jacob and Esau. This is to be regarded as merely a question.

This information has been obtained from the Bible and the records of the Census Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 29. Sat. Oct. 26, 1935 - Canada's Trade with Brazil

Brazil is the largest country of South America. With an area of about 3,300,000 square miles, it is nearly as large as Canada but it has a population of 40 millions, whereas Canada has but 10½ million people.

Brazil was discovered in 1500 by Cabral, a Portuguese mariner, and was colonized by his countrymen a few years later. In 1822 it became an independent empire under Dom Pedro, son of the refugee King João VI, of Portugal. In 1889 Dom Pedro II, second of the line, was dethroned and a republic proclaimed. Constitutional government, under the constitution of 1891, was suspended after the revolution of 1930 and a new constitution promulgated last year. Dr. Vargas was appointed president. There is a Senate and Chamber of Deputies. There is universal suffrage. The language is Portuguese.

Brazil is unequalled for its rivers. Minerals are very considerable and valuable but the immense iron deposits have scarcely been touched. The forests are tremendous.

Canadian imports from Brazil last year were valued at \$836,000. Coffee alone accounted for \$659,000. The next most important item was Brazil nuts valued at \$85,000. Large quantities of filberts and hazel nuts were also received and another large import was sago and tapioca. Our exports to Brazil were valued at 2¼ million dollars and comprised a very large variety of articles. The largest item was sewing machines which aggregated over 1¼ million dollars. Pneumatic tires came next at nearly half a million.

This information comes from the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 30. Sun. Oct. 27, 1935 - Americans in Canada

There are 345,000 persons living in Canada who were born in the United States and there are 90,000 of them who still owe allegiance to their native country, persons who have not yet become naturalized Canadians.

There are four or five thousand other citizens of the United States in Canada who were not born there but had lived in that country for a time and became naturalized subjects, afterwards migrating to the Dominion. These include nearly 900 Russians, over 800 Norwegians, 700 Swedes, 600 Germans, 300 Danes and over 100 Italians. Even some British-born are included in the alien list because of having been naturalized in the United States.

Alberta with 79,000, has more American-born in its population than any other province, followed by Saskatchewan with 73,000 and Ontario with 72,500. There are close to 50,000 in Quebec. Saskatchewan and Quebec are remarkable for the numbers of United States-born who have become naturalized. There are far more in Ontario and Alberta who have retained their United States citizenship.

It is curious that from Nova Scotia to Ontario the American-born females outnumber the males but from Manitoba to the Pacific Coast the males outnumber the females.

This information is taken from reports issued by the Census Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 31. Mon. Oct. 28, 1935 - Bananas

The consumption of bananas has increased enormously all over the world in the last few years. In Canada the banana is well established as a leading imported fruit. In the tropics it is one of the most important articles of food. It makes flour. It is highly nutritive.

The original home of the banana is doubtful, but most evidence is in favor of the East Indies. It is now cultivated in every tropical and sub-tropical country. The plant grows to a height of 18 feet. Certain varieties are grown for decorative purposes. All the plantain-tree species have handsome foliage.

The variety of banana grown mostly for market purposes is the large yellow Martinique or Jamaica. The fruit for export is gathered green and allowed to ripen on the voyage and after reaching its destination.

Nearly 90 per cent of the bananas which Canada got last year came from the British West Indies. They are recorded by stems, but the figure the consumer knows best is the dozen. Five or six years ago the importation was around 50 million dozen, but it has dropped considerably. Last year the total was 40 million dozen, which was an increase over the previous year, however.

This information is taken from reports issued by the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 32. Tues. Oct. 29, 1935 - Canada's Investment in Schools

Canada has over half a billion dollars invested in schools and universities, -- nearly \$600,000,000 the records seem to indicate. This sounds like a vast deal of money, but its significance is perhaps clearer when we say that it represents about two per cent of our total estimated national wealth. It is about double our investment in telephones; equal to our investment in the electricity supply industry; comparable with, but less than, our investment in the mining industry, or in automobiles; about one-fifth or one-sixth of our investment in railways; about one-tenth or less of our investment in farming.

There is still a considerable part of the investment in schools to be paid for by the public. The ordinary publicly-controlled schools are valued at less than \$400,000,000 and there is an indebtedness against them of more than half this amount. But if they could collect the \$50,000,000 or thereabouts owing as arrears of school taxes, and apply it to the reduction of debt, their net indebtedness would be only about \$150,000,000.

The value of lands, buildings, and equipment used by the universities and colleges is \$145,000,000, about the same amount as is invested in Canadian hospitals. The universities have indebtedness too, but it will be largely offset by their endowments, the value of which is about \$45,000,000 and is not included in the \$145,000,000 worth of property that they use in teaching.

This information is supplied by the Education Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 33. Wed. Oct. 30, 1935 - Cadmium

The entire Canadian production of the metal cadmium is obtained at Trail, British Columbia, in the treatment of zinc-bearing ores. The cadmium plant is a by-product works and is only operated as occasion demands. Cadmium precipitate is obtained in the electrolytic zinc refining operations at Flin Flon, Manitoba.

One of the principal industrial uses at present for cadmium is as a plating metal in automobile and aeroplane manufacture; it is also utilized in the preparation of pigments. Excellent results have been claimed for cadmium base alloys. It is reported that a cadmium-silver-copper has been found to be more efficient than babbitt metal for bearings. A cadmium-nickel bearing is now being tested in the automobile industry.

Mexico and the United States are the largest producers of cadmium, but it is produced also in France, Russia, Australia, South West Africa and other countries. The Canadian output has gone as high as about 324,000 pounds, exclusive of cadmium sponge produced at Flin Flon. A recent price was 85 cents per pound.

This information is contained in a report issued by the Mining and Metallurgical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 34. Thurs. Oct. 31 - Hallowe'en

Hallowe'en is the popular Scottish name for October 31st, the eve of All Saints Day. In Yorkshire it is called "Cake Day" and in the north of England "Nutcrack Night". Hallowe'en is the name used everywhere in Canada.

Before the Christian era the night of October 31 was the occasion of harvest and other ceremonies, and the festivities which gradually gathered around the Christian Hallowe'en originated under the sway of the Druid religion along with a few of the celebrations borrowed from the pagan Roman festival to Pomona, the goddess of fruit.

The two chief characteristics of ancient Hallowe'en were the lighting of bonfires and the belief that it was the only night of the year when ghosts, witches and evil spirits were permitted to wander on earth. The Druids also believed that Sāman, the god of death, called together the wicked souls that within the past twelve months had been condemned to inhabit the bodies of animals. In parts of Ireland Hallowe'en is still known as Oidche Shamhna, "the vigil of Sāman."

The Druids lit bonfires in honour of the Sungod in thanksgiving for harvests and the practice of lighting bonfires in Canada on Hallowe'en was brought here by Highland Scots and Welshmen.

Apple-ducking and roasting nuts are still the chief of Hallowe'en sports, and there are lots of these commodities on hand. The apple harvest this year is over 4 million barrels, nearly 180,000 greater than last year, while nuts, homegrown and imported, are also more plentiful.

This information is taken from records of the Agricultural Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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