A FACT A DAY ABOUT CANADA

FROM THE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

AS SUPPLIED TO THE

CANADIAN RADIO BROADCASTING COMMISSION

FEB. 1, TO FEB. 28, 1935.

Contents

Note: A Fact a Day is broadcast over the Commission's network immediately after the Canadian Press News broadcast at 10.45 p.m. E.S.T.

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Dominion Bureau of Statistics

No. 125. Fri. Feb. 1, 1935 - A Birth in Canada Every 2¼ minutes

There are people enough in the world to provide about 190 countries with a population the size of Canada's. In the average each year the increase in the number of human beings is more than equal to the total number living in our country. The population of the world has increased threefold since Malthus, a great English scientist, warned "that the power of population is indefinitely greater than the power of the earth to produce subsistence for man."

Every minute of every day, there is an average net increase of about twenty persons in the world. The great reservoirs of population are India and China, but, contrary to the expectations of the average person, it is in the western world rather than there that the greatest contributions to population increase are being made.

If Canada were contributing only her proportional share, the natural increase in her population would average just one person every ten minutes, or 150 daily, instead of more than double this number.

In recent years, births in Canada have been at the rate of about 650 per day or one every 2¼ minutes; deaths about 300 daily, or one in a little less than five minutes, leaving a net increase of one person every 4½ minutes. Actually there is a considerable daily variation at different seasons of the year, the lowest number of deaths coming in summer, and the smallest number of births in the later months of the year.

No. 126. Sat. Feb. 2, 1935 - Lipstick and Other Toilet Preparations

Uncompromising critics of the flaming lips may find some comfort in the fact that the output of lipstick has been going down a little, according to the latest figures received by the Bureau. Apparently a great many of the fair sex have been renouncing the carmine coloring or else they have been making the coating thinner. At factory prices the value of the latest recorded production was $150,000, and of compact powders and rouges a quarter of a million.

The manufacture of toilet preparations is a business of some importance in Canada. The factory value of the output runs up to over $7,000,000, and as a large proportion of this is fancy soaps, it shows that the Canadian people generally observe the maxim of the Koran: "Cleanliness is next to godliness."

Leaving soap aside, tooth pastes and powders are the largest item in these toilet preparations, followed by creams of all kinds, solid or liquid. Then come face powders, toilet waters and lotions, and talcum powders.

Those people who imagine that the perfumery Queen Elizabeth loved and that her austere older sister Queen Mary took little stock in, was going out of fashion will sit up when they learn that perfumes run up to about half a million dollars. At retail these values would be much higher.

No. 127. Sun. Feb. 3, 1935 - Canada's Orphan Children

There are over 75,000 children in Canada who have neither father nor mother, 75,000 orphans under the age of 15 who, through the misfortune of losing both their parents, have had to rely on the kindness of others for support. They are mainly looked after by relatives, friends and charitable institutions, but some have been thrown entirely on their own resources.

Who are their best friends?

On a representative basis, out of every 25 of these children we find that this is what has become of them: Seven are with their grandparents, five are with an uncle or aunt, one is with an older brother or sister, four are adopted by foster parents, one is kept by other relatives or friends and seven are living in an orphanage or other child-caring institution or making a living for themselves.

Thus, apart from institutions, the grandparents most often take the homeless child, then the aunts and uncles, and thirdly foster parents.

The aunts and uncles make the best provision for the orphan child's education. They don't let more than one in 70 grow up illiterate, the other relatives more, the foster parents three times as many.

No. 128. Mon. Feb. 4, 1935 - The Canadian Family

More than one-quarter of the married people of Canada have no children, 17 in every hundred have only one child and 14 in every hundred have only two children.

This means that considerably more than half of the married people, or slightly more than 58 out of every hundred to be exact, have not contributed enough to keep the population up to its present numerical strength. Indeed in process of time the race would die out were it not for the remaining 41 married people who have three or more children.

It is a fact that much less than half of the married folk of the Dominion are responsib for the natural increase of the population which the Census has recorded, and when one refle that a large number of men and women have preferred to remain bachelors and spinsters, the responsibility for the growth of the nation is carried by a comparatively small section of t people. Only six in every hundred have eight or more children in the family.

No. 129. Tues. Feb. 5, 1935 - Coffee

Next to tea, coffee is Canada's favorite beverage. The consumption has been increasing recently. Last year the Dominion imported about 35,000,000 pounds of coffee beans to satisf the needs of the people. That makes about three and one-third pounds per capita.

Coffee came originally from Kaffa in Abyssinia, where it grows wild, and there are many Canadians with particular tastes who prefer the product of that country. Last year 100,000 pounds came from the country to which Saint Mark is said to have taken the Gospel and to have made Abyssinia the first Christian country in the world, but authorities differ upon that point.

Coffee is now grown all over the warmer sections of the world. Mocha coffee formerly came only from Arabia, but names are used indiscriminately nowadays. Mocha comes chiefly from Brazil and many mild-flavored coffees are called Java.

Canada used to get her main supply of coffee from Brazil, which is about two-thirds of that country's total exports, but we are now getting it principally from British Empire countries, notably from British East Africa and the British West Indies. A large supply is got also from Colombia, but British East Africa last year headed the list of countries of origin.

Coffee is sometimes adulterated with dandelion roots, carrots, beans of various sorts, rice and other cereals. A mixture with chicory is much in favor.

No. 130, Wed. Feb. 6, 1935 - New Schools to Meet New Needs

This is "Education Week" in Canada, and as parents turn their thoughts toward the schools of today their own school days will come back to mind. Their first day at school came at about the age of 6½, the same as for their children, but in what followed that memorable day there were many contrasts with what happens now. Most of them went to a little one-room schoolhouse. Their school days ended when they reached the age of 13, but their children do not finish until they are 16 or 17. As most of them were raised on the farm there was not the present problem of finding work when leaving school.

It is to such changes as these that the schools of today are attempting to adjust themselves. In the old days, when schooling lasted only about seven years, the elementary school with its seven or eight grades fitted the requirements fine. Now the majority of children are not ready to leave school when they finish these same grades, yet they will not take a full high school course. They can stay only a year or two beyond the present high school entrance, and so we have new types of schools being organized, in most of the provinces, that will enable them to round off their schooling with a course of about nine or ten years. Junior high schools, intermediate schools, junior schools, are some of the new terms that we have begun to hear as a result of the developments.

No. 131. Thurs. Feb. 7, 1935 - Patronizing the Movies

The average Canadian has been spending on the movies lately $2.40 in the year. Some of us spend little or nothing on that kind of entertainment, while others dip deep into the family purse, to be made sad or glad by the show on the screen. The $2.40 is less than we used to spend. Three or four years ago the per capita outlay was about $3.75, but attendances have decreased and the prices charged are lower than they were.

British Columbians are the great moving picture supporters with a per capita expenditure of $3.60 in 1933, dropping from $5.88 in 1930. Ontario comes next with $3.19 and Manitoba third with $2.60. Prince Edward Islanders have been staying at home of an evening more than the rest, spending lately only 97 cents, and probably getting most of their mental stimulus via the radio.

Of course, attendance at motion picture theatres is dependent, to a large degree, upon convenience. Attendance is higher in the provinces with large urban populations than where rural communities predominate.

Moving pictures are in the Big Business class, and the receipts have been running from 25 to 40 million dollars in a year, the lowest amount being in the depression year of 1933. That does not include Amusement Taxes which are imposed by all Provinces except Saskatchewan.

No. 132. Fri. Feb. 8, 1935 - Ice Cream

Little Canadian boys and girls have not been getting so many delicious ice-cream cones as their elder brothers and sisters got when they were at the same age. Nor do grown-ups appear to have been indulging themselves to so great an extent either, for the production of ice-cream has been falling off quite a lot of late years.

Four years ago the industry had an output of ten million gallons, but this has dropped to six million. However, no doubt the little people of the Dominion will get more this year and they may look forward hopefully to a grander old time on the hot summer evenings than they had when Father's purse was lighter.

Dairying authorities evidently believe in ice-cream, for this is an official pronouncement: "Ice-cream possesses all the elements of a real food, being easily digested, palatab and highly nutritive."

The production of ice-cream is carried on chiefly by the dairy and confectionery industries. The figures given do not include the production of ice-cream in hotels, restaurants, or ice-cream parlors, so that the national consumption is greater than the record.

No. 133. Sat. Feb. 9, 1935 - Canada's Sea Fishermen

On those cold winter nights, when the weatherman over the radio tells of the frost-biting winds that are to come out of the North, those who know to the full what that means, shiver with apprehension. The prospect is bad enough for inland dwellers, but the anxiety is mainly for the toilers of the sea.

Brave men have perished this winter in the waters lashed to fury by the Storm Fiend, as happens every winter and as always will happen. The light in the window does not bring them all safely home.

They are a great folk, these fishermen who earn only small returns from their hazardous toil-gallant wrestlers with fate. They have proven their greatness by the large numbers of their offspring who have held high places in this Dominion. Everywhere they have relatives, people whose souls are stirred when they sing in the congregations William Whiting's hymn of prayer:

O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

There are 65,000 fishermen in Canada who go to sea, very many of them to the Grand Banks in the open Atlantic. They man 900 vessels and 35,000 boats. They can build boats as well as sail them, as witness the Bluenose. In the great fishing fleets of the world, especially of the United States, they have won name and fame.

No. 134. Sun. Feb. 10, 1935 - Don't Worry

In a great many business houses of Canada, especially newspaper offices, there is an ancient motto observed. It is often hung upon the walls, and it reads: "Don't worry. Smile" A very wise man inspired it in the first place. He believed that worry impaired efficiency.

Poverty brings worry and constant worry is said to unbalance the mind. Some claim that poverty and worry combined are among the main causes of the troubles that have brought the majority of patients into the mental institutions of the Dominion.

Whether that may be debatable or not, it is a matter of record that the last survey made by the Bureau Shows that 85 per cent of first admissions to these institutions were people stricken with poverty; 49 per cent were actually in the indigent class, while 37 per cent were only just above the indigent line. Only 13 per cent of these first admissions were in comfortable circumstances.

There appears to be a further lesson to be learnt. Only 1½ per cent passed through a university and only 8½ per cent through high school. Is it reasonable to deduce that the better education a man has had, the better able is he to rise above the worries and trials of life?

No. 135. Mon. Feb. 11, 1935 - The Changing Psychology of Crime

It is possible to divide most crimes into four classes, corresponding with four different anti-social impulses, one of which is perhaps predominantly responsible for every crime. That is, different types of theft and burglaries can generally be attributed to avarice, or an unrestricted desire for gain; assaults are probably most often committed as a result of spite or malice; the more definitely personal crimes constitute another category; while sheer negligence, without active intent to harm, produces lack of support for wives and families, reckless driving, and so on.

By using this fourfold classification to compare the crimes of the past century with those of today, we find interesting evidence of the changing psychology of the Canadian people. Fifty years ago, more than half of all crimes were of a malicious variety, now less than one-fifth; in their stead, crimes of avarice or greed now unmistakably take first place, and include about two-thirds of all offenses. From this we may infer that a love of worldly gain, though it leads to an astounding number of crimes itself, has served in some measure to displace from the minds of Canadians the more frequent personal squabbles of an earlier generation.

The more definitely personal crimes do not now contribute their former proportion to the total -- in contrast with criminal negligence which has become much more common. Thus, we may say that the great increase of crime in the present generation is the result, not of conscious antagonisms between individuals, but of an increasingly passive disregard for the rights of fellow Canadians.

No. 136. Tues. Feb. 12, 1935 - Oyster Farming

W'at's bring de peop' togeder on de w'arf at Trois Rivieres,
Dat happy crowd is look so glad, w'y are dey comin' dere?
O, de reason dey're so happy while dey're waitin' dere today
Is becos de oyster schooner she's sailin' up de bay....
Ain't dey got de noder oyster more better dan Malpecque
Or Caraquette, dat leetle wan from down below Kebeck?

Forty or fifty years ago when William Henry Drummond wrote these lines, fishing for oysters was a much greater Canadian industry than it is now, and the delicacy must have graced the festal board much more often than in our day. At that time about 60,000 barrels was the annual catch ---- two and a half or three times what it has been in recent years. This is one case in which the older generation played a trick on us, for their insatiable taste for oysters contributed much to the present scarcity.

To prevent the complete extinction of the Atlantic oyster fisheries the Dominion Government has taken preventive measures, has closed certain fishing grounds to the public, and has established a station at the famous Malpecque Bay, Prince Edward Island,

for research into the conservation and propagation of these curious little creatures.

It is expected that the industry will be restored in time by the development and encouragement of oyster farming. Under this scheme, favorable grounds would be leased the "farmers" and oyster seed or "spat" provided for them to produce the annual "crop".

No. 137. Wed. Feb. 13, 1935 - Children Who Have to Work

It was found at the census of 1931 that there were 213,000 children in Canada under the age of 17 who had to work. That was 12 per cent of all the children. In 1921, just ten years before, there were 16 in every hundred who had to help to support themselves or their family.

Children of school age in gainful occupations have decreased considerably in recent years. In 1921, 73,000 of all children between the ages of 10 and 15 were employed, whereas in 1931 there were only 51,000.

Most of the 213,000 children under 17 at work were employed on the farm - 98,000 of them - and there were 24,000 domestic servants. There were 10,000 salesmen and saleswomen, and children were found in all sorts of occupations, skilled and unskilled. There were 2,000 young fishermen under the age of 17.

The trend of the times is to keep children at school as long as is reasonable, but her is evidence that that is not always possible and no doubt the large majority of those at wo have been sent out because the domestic situation made it impossible to do otherwise.

No. 138. Thurs. Feb. 14, 1935 - The Lady's Winter Coat

Winter is drawing to a close and the Canadian lady is making up her mind already as to what she is going to do about her coat for next season of ice and snow. This brings a thou to mind about the fashions of yesterday and today.

Occasionally an old gentleman may be heard to dilate upon the wonderful mink coat that Princess Louise wore when she went sleighing, and there are lots of people who can recall the Countess of Minto, also wrapped up in a long mink coat when she went to the hockey rink to see the Ottawas play the Wanderers. Mink was the choice fur those days with seal and Persian lamb following. They were ideal for travelling in a cutter.

But the city lady goes sleighing no more. She travels down town in an auto or in a heated street car and seldom is a long mink coat to be seen. Silver fox is now the fur de luxe.

Yet mink holds a high place still in the affections, and runs second only to the silve fox in production, although a long way behind. Sales of mink pelts last year brought about $120,000 to the fur farmers. Average prices rose to $7 from $4 the year before.

No. 139. Fri. Feb. 15, 1935 - Mushrooms

Many Canadian mothers, especially those who live in the country, send their boys out of a morning to gather mushrooms. They know the difference between mushrooms and the poisonous toadstools. The delicious meal that results is a firstclass compensation for the early morning task.

People are so fond of mushrooms that a large trade is done by growing them in the cellars of their homes. In fact mushroom spawn is an article of commerce.

Every country has its specialty, something which it produces better, or believed to be better, than any other country. France has one of these specialties in mushrooms and we actually imported from that country alone last year about a quarter of a million pounds.

Lately we have been getting a lot from Hong Kong, a British possession with which Canada has been doing much business for many years. The Hong Kong mushrooms are said to be very choice. That is no doubt true or they would not be brought over so great a distance. Besides, they are expensive. We get mushrooms also from Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom and Poland.

No. 140, Sat. Feb. 16, 1935 - Handkerchiefs

The Canadian people use up many millions of handkerchiefs in a year. All kinds of them, cotton, linen, silk and artificial silk, big and small. The Canadian production is comparatively small. We imported last year over one million dollars worth of handkerchiefs but the Canadian production is recorded at less than one-tenth of that.

The great bulk of the handkerchiefs sold in Canada come from the United Kingdom. All sorts come from there, from the gentleman'c choice Irish linen to the lady's lace creation and the children's gaudy variety. Other countries which send us considerable supplies of handkerchiefs are Switzerland and China.

That most useful article, the handkerchief, is an adaptation of the "kerchief" which literally and in good Anglo-Saxon meant a covering for the head. The ladies of the Middle Ages used kerchiefs for this purpose. The kerchief became a covering for the neck and was called a "neckkerchief". It was carried in the hand and became a "handkerchief". It was conveniently tucked in the pocked and became a "pocket handkerchief".

Necessity creates customs. Neckkerchiefs have developed into mufflers which are more often used by the men since beards disappeared. For other reasons, the gorgeous bandanna is necessary for the Alberta cowboy.

Note: The following is taken from a letter which appeared in the London Times a few weeks ago:

> "When George IV was king it was the habit even of Royalty to blow the nose with thumb and fingers, which was dangerous to persons in close proximity. When the use of handkerchiefs was gradually established those who adopted the habit found it useful to display the handkerchief, so that friends approaching them might know that they could do so with impunity."

No. 141, Sun. Feb. 17, 1935 - Canada's Wheat Flour

The grinding of wheat into flour is Canada's oldest manufacturing industry. The first Canadian flour mill was built by the French at Port Royal, now Annapolis. Indeed,

it was the first on the American continent. It was built in 1605 and is still there. The first in Central Canada was on the Cataraqui, near Kingston,in 1782 but it was found difficult of access by water and abandoned. Another was erected at Napanee, some four years later and that mill property is still grinding flour today. To the Indians of the district the name Napanee became a synonym for flour.

From a production value point of view flour milling has been the greatest industry in Canada until recently when electricity, pulp and paper, non-ferrous metal smelting and animal slaughtering exceeded it.

Approximately 15,000,000 barrels of wheat flour are manufactured in a year in Canada, besides many other kinds of flour, such as potato, corn, buckwheat, barley and rye. A great deal of our flour is exported and it goes to most countries of the world, principally to Great Britain. The per capita home consumption is about one barrel in a year.

No. 142. Mon. Feb. 18, 1935 - Canadian Family Smaller than It used to be

The most typical Canadian home of the present day includes only two or three persons. Many of these smaller households are those of older people whose families have grown up, but the fact remains that families now are smaller than they used to be. The average number of persons to sit around the family table today, not counting boarders, is four, whereas when the parents of today were young there were five, and in an earlier generation six.

In recent years married women give birth to a child almost every five years on the average, up to the age of 45. Since as many of them marry before the age of 22 as after, this means that they will average four children apiece.

Many mothers, of course, have more. Each year about 80,000 births occur to mothers who have already reached their quota of four -- about 25,000 of these to mothers who have more than doubled the number four. Most of the 25,000 are in the province of Quebec.

One Canadian mother in each three or four loses one of her babies by death before it is a year old, but the chances of this happening are happily growing smaller, year by year.

No. 143. Tues. Feb. 19, 1935 - Beet Sugar

In the year 1760 a German apothecary obtained 6.2 per cent of sugar from white beets and 4½ from red. In process of time great improvements were made in the sugar beet until in 1900 in England, best production reached 25½ tons to the acre with the percentage of sugar exceeding 16½.

Beet sugar production has become a great industry and is an important one in Canada. There are around 44,000 acres sown in sugar beets compared with 18,000 some fifteen years ago. The yield per acre to the growers has been about $63 lately on the average, but in 1920 it was over $143.

There are three factories in Canada which make beet sugar only, two in Ontario and one in Alberta. The factory value of the production in the last year or two has been about 5 3/4 million dollars. The amount of granulated beet sugar turned out was 132 million pounds in 1933 while cane sugar amounted to 714 million pounds, which shows that the home grown sugar is a sizable proportion of the requirements.

Roughly speaking, one ton of beetroot may be considered equal in value to one ton of sugar canes, the value of the refuse of the beet as food for cattle being put against the refuse of the canes as fuel.

No. 144. Wed. Feb. 20, 1935 - Canada Leads in Newsprint Paper Production

One of the great industrial romances of Canada is the manufacture of paper, especially the class of paper that is mostly used for the printing of the news of the day.

The first paper made in Canada was manufactured in 1803 at St. Andrew's, that beautiful village situated on the North River, just before it empties into the Lake of Two Mountains. The paper was made of rags. The better the rags the better the paper, and certain fine papers are still made from rags.

But the supply of rags was limited and manufacturers were forced to experiment with other raw materials. They discovered that excellent paper could be made from spruce, balsam, fir and hemlock. So in 1866 the first wood grinder in America was installed at Valleyfield, Quebec, and the manufacture of wood pulp by the mechanical process began. The same year a chemical pulp mill was started at Windsor Mills, Quebec.

From these small beginnings, paper making in the Dominion has grown into a business of immense proportions and Canada has become the world's greatest producer of newsprint paper. Canada's output is over one-third of the world's total production. Canadian mills in 1934 produced 2,600,000 tons, an increase of almost 30 per cent over 1933.

No. 145. Thurs. Feb. 21, 1935 - Limey!

In older times one of the worst evils that befell sailors in their long passages across the seas was an attack of scurvy. The giving out of their supply of fresh vegetables was the main cause. They had no canned goods such as the mariners of today have. They had salt meats ad nauseam.

One day in 1747 the skipper of the British Man o' War, the Salisbury, found that many of his crew were down with scurvy. He was a resourceful fellow and he added lemons and oranges to their diet. They were cured. As a result of this successful experiment the British Admiralty ordered that ships of the line were to be supplied with rations of lime juice. That is why the British sailor is sometimes called a "Limey".

The lemon is a native of Northern India where it still grows wild. The Arabs brought it into Egypt and Palestine in the tenth century, and the Crusaders, who found it made a refreshing drink, took it back with them to Italy, where it is now chiefly cultivated. It grows wild in the West Indies.

Canada got over 360,000 boxes of lemons last year and the cost was considerably in excess of one million dollars. They came mainly from Italy and the United States. Australia is beginning to grow a lot of lemons and we got some from that country also.

No. 146. Fri. Feb. 22, 1935 - Statistics

The word "Statistics" is a comparative newcomer to the English language, having first appeared, according to the Oxford Dictionary, in 1787. The French Revolution is credited with opening up in Europe the modern era of social organization, and statistics have developed within this order as its indispensable guide.

Statistics originally meant facts concerning the State and were not associated particularly with information in numerical form until the 19th century. Sir John Sinclair was the first to use it in his "Statistical Account of Scotland, 1799". Eminent scientists subsequently demonstrated the superiority of quantitative data for the analysis of social problems.

The Royal Statistical Society of Great Britain was founded in 1834. In more recent years the recognition of the necessity of such information has grown phenominally. Statistics, as we know them now, are the equipment of the social scientist, indispensable to him as the telescope to the astronomer.

Canada holds an honourable place among the nations in the development of statistics To Canada belongs the credit of making the first scientific census of modern times in any country. The year was 1666 and the census was the census of the colony of New Franc

Since Confederation, a census of population every ten years -- every five years in the Prairie Provinces -- has been taken.

Just before the World War a Commission was appointed to study the statistical situation in the country as a whole. It recommended the setting up of an organization "to co-ordinate the statistics of Canada under a single comprehensive scheme", and the present Dominion Bureau of Statistics is the result.

The Bureau aims to be a repository of all such data on the social and economic aspects of Canadian life, and a "central thinking office" for securing such data.

This brief information is given in response to inquiries which have been received, as a result of these daily items, by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 147. Sat. Feb. 23, 1935 - Playing Cards for Canadians

The early history of playing cards has been much debated but it is now generally conceded that they were invented in Asia and introduced into Europe about the middle of the fourteenth century, by the end of which they were in common use.

There is in the British Museum a manuscript dated 1352 which depicts a king seated at a table playing cards with three courtiers and two others looking on. The arrangement of the cards is identical with that in modern cards.

There have been several types of symbols for the pips. Canadians use the British method: hearts, diamonds, spades and clubs, but in mediaeval Germany and Switzerland they were hearts, bells, leaves and acorns.

Card playing is very general in Canada and we import sometimes as many as over one-quarter of a million packs in a year, besides manufacturing more than we import. Most of those we import come from the United Kingdom, but we get some also from the United States, France, Japan, Hong Kong, Hungary, Holland and several other countries.

No. 148. Sun. Feb. 24, 1935 - Canadians as Meat Consumers

Canadians, Britishers and Americans are the three heaviest meat eaters amongst the nations of the Northern Hemisphere. The Canadians and the people of the United Kingdom consume about the same and the Americans a little less. The per capita average of the last four years in this Dominion was about 144 pounds. The Belgians, according to latest statistics received here, eat only about half the quantity the Canadians consume.

It is in the Southern Hemisphere, however, that the great meat consumers are to be found. The Argentinians have been credited with absorbing about 200 pounds more in a year than the Canadians, considerably more than twice the amount we eat, and are quite probably the world leaders in this respect. The New Zealanders have a healthy appetite for meat eating, with 250 pounds on the average, while the Australians eat less than 200 pounds.

As a rule the Canadian, like the German and the American, consumes more pork than beef, although the reverse was the case last year so far as this country is concerned. The Frenchman eats more beef than pork, and so does the Englishman, emphatically so. In Great Britain, but especially in New Zealand, great quantities of mutton are consumed, whereas in Canada only six or seven pounds per capita.

No. 149. Mon. Feb. 25, 1935 - The Farmer's Investment

The average value per acre of occupied farm lands in Canada last year was $23. This includes the improved and unimproved land, together with dwelling houses, barns and all other farm buildings. However, there was a very wide range in values, the highest priced land, generally speaking, being in British Columbia where the average was $60 per acre. Ontario came next at $41.

The average farm horse was valued last year at $57, the milch cow at $29, the pig almost $10 and the sheep a little over $4. This means that the average Canadian farmer who is taking care of 160 acres of land, and has four fairly good horses, fifteen cows whose pedigree is not recorded, pigs, sheep and hens, to say nothing of his other equipment, has an investment of over $5,000.

Out of this he has to get a financial return that will keep his wife and family, meet his taxes, pay his help, give him enough to enable him to look the world squarely in the face.

The average wage he had to pay last year was about $340, including board, but in British Columbia he had to pay about $170 more.

No. 150. Tues. Feb. 26, 1935 - Sugaring-off

As the month of February draws to a close our minds irresistibly turn to thoughts of spring. In central and eastern Canada one of the pleasant accompaniments of the changing season is the tapping of the maple trees and the gleaning of Nature's first crop of the year. Mrs. Susanna Moodie, beloved Canadian poetess of the last century, pictures it thus:

When the snows of winter are melting fast,
And the sap begins to rise,
And the biting breath of the frozen blast
Yields to the spring's soft sighs,
Then away to the wood,
For the maple good,
Shall unseal its honeyed store.

Each spring about 25 million of Canada's emblematic trees are tapped for their "honeyed store". The census found that in the spring of 1931 nearly a million and a half gallons of maple syrup, and nearly five million pounds of maple sugar were obtained, the two forms of the product being worth over three million dollars.

Quebec is the great maple syrup province. Over half of the 47,000 farms in the Dominion where trees were tapped were in Quebec, and they averaged about 800 trees apiece, or five times as many as the farms in other provinces. Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia produced the rest except for a few gallons, for the sugar maple is not native to the Western Provinces.

No. 151. Wed. Feb. 27, 1935 - Cod

The earliest "tourists" in Canada must have taken home "fish stories" quite equal to those that holiday-makers still bring out from our northern lakes and streams each summer. On returning to Bristol in 1497 John Cabot told that he had found cod fish so plentiful they caught them by lowering baskets in the water. The next year his son Sebastian reported the cod so thick that they "sometimes stayed his ships".

Many are the romances that might still be told by the Canadian cod-fishermen of the Atlantic coast, as they bring home their annual catch of 150 to 200 million pounds, or the Newfoundland fishermen who take about half this quantity. Only two other fish are landed in Canada in similar quantities, the salmon and herring; and only salmon and lobster to greater value.

The cod is marketed in many forms — fresh or frozen, salted, canned, smoked, or dried, and finds a ready market in many countries, especially the United States, West Indies, South America and Southern Europe.

There are also certain products obtained from the cod, one of which is an ingredient of the spring tonic that many Canadian boys and girls will soon be taking — some with wry faces perhaps. Over 50,000 gallons of cod liver oil are produced annually from Canadian fisheries, and two or three times as much of other cod oil.

No. 152. Thurs. Feb. 28, 1935 - Books for Rural Dwellers

If the books in the public libraries of Canada were set on a single shelf this shelf would stretch for about 100 miles across the country. Actually, however, few of these shelves are outside of the cities and towns; rural people, in order to have a store of books at their disposal, must usually buy them privately.

But in order to make the reading opportunities of rural dwellers more nearly equal to those of town folk, several experiments are being made in different parts of Canada. In Prince Edward Island, and in the Frazer Valley of British Columbia, a central library has numerous rural and village branches where it keeps a supply of books, and will send any volume from its stock of 20 or 25 thousand. This is the type of library service being developed, to serve urban and rural people alike, in parts of the United States and countries of western Europe. In Nova Scotia the Department of Education is putting libraries in the smaller schools, with books for elder members of the family which the school children may take home to them.

A majority of the provinces have "travelling library" systems, that is, a central stock of books in the capital from which a box of 25 or more will be loaned to any responsible group willing to pay the carriage charges one way. The Saskatchewan system is much the largest, sending out over 2,000 packages of books in a year.

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