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A FACT A DAY ABOUT CANADA
FROM THE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
AS SUPPLIED TO THE
CANADIAN RADIO BROADCASTING COMMISSION
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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.

A Fact a Day About Canada

from the

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

No. 153. Fri. March 1. 1935 - Fresh Vegetables in Winter

Among the early explorers wintering in Canada, as every schoolboy learns, a wasting disease, known as scurvy, took a frightful toll of life. Its cause was unknown, but in later years when there were permanent settlers, with farm and garden providing fresh meat and vegetables, milk and eggs, the disease did not appear.

It is less than 25 years ago since scientists discovered that fresh vegetables, fruits and certain other foods contain substances, necessary for life, whose absence causes various diseases, of which scurvy is one. The name given to these substances, vitamins, has rapidly become familiar. The effect of their discovery on the eating habits of Canadians is to some extent reflected in the figures of foreign trade.

In spite of depleted incomes we have been spending more per person for imported fresh vegetables in the last few winters than we did ten years ago -- over one million dollars in January, February and March of last year. In addition to quantities of cabbages, carrots, onions and beets supplementing the storage supply, there were more perishable vegetables in such quantities as the following: over 13 million pounds of lettuce, 8 million pounds of tomatoes, 7 million pounds of celery, 3 million pounds of spinach and half a million pounds of asparagus. Practically all of them came from the United States except the tomatoes, which were mainly from the West Indies.

No. 154. Sat. March 2, 1935 - The Problem of Jobs for Young Men

The census shows that for every two persons earning money in 1931 there were just over five persons, including themselves, to be supported; 30 or more years ago there were over six. This lessening of the workers' responsibility is noticeable even in ten years, for in spite of unemployment in the year preceding the census of 1931 there was a higher proportion of the population gainfully occupied than in 1921.

One cause of the change is the number of people who have immigrated to Canada, a very high proportion of whom come at working ages; a second cause is the increasing number of girls who take positions for a few years before marrying; a third factor is the smaller number of children in families.

This third cause may be partly the outcome of the other two, for the jobs that might have gone to the young man coming of age in Canada may be filled by older and more experienced men from abroad, or by young ladies -- and the young man obliged to wait longer before he is earning enough to marry and support a family.

Another factor that has a bearing on the situation is the extent to which an occupation in Canada has come to mean working for wages or salary. As recently as 20 years ago half of all gainfully occupied persons were working on their own account, now scarcely more than one-third. In these 20 years the number of persons on wages or salary has nearly doubled, while the number of independent workers has increased but little.

No. 155. Sun. March 3, 1935 - Automobile Accidents

One Canadian motor vehicle owner in every seven or eight appears to have put his car away between 1931 and 1933, to await a time when he could better afford to run it. Last year such a time came for some, and it seems likely that in 1935 still more of these cars will be back on the road, or new models in their places. Production by the factories, sales by the dealers, registrations for licenses, have all been on the increase in the last year. In the next few weeks, spring roads and weather will add greatly to the number in operation.

It is timely to remember, then, that along with increased traffic there comes a greater danger of accidents. From 1929 to 1931 there were 1300 Canadian deaths each year due to motor accidents -- or one in every 84 deaths in Canada. In 1932 and 1933, with fewer cars on the road, deaths from this cause showed a corresponding decrease, but with the spring and summer of 1934 the toll again began to mount. Without greater vigilance and caution it will doubtless continue to do so in 1935.

There is, fortunately, one ground for assurance in the situation. The number of drivers convicted in the courts of causing injury by fast driving was only 85 in 1932 and 1933, compared with 157 in the two preceding years. This at least suggests less disregard on the part of drivers for the "other fellow".

No. 156. Mon. March 4, 1935 - The Movies

There are over 900 motion picture houses in Canada. A record of attendance at them is not available but a conception of it may be formed from the fact that Canadians spent \$2.40 apiece, on the average, in attending the movies in 1933. In 1930 they spent \$3.71. City and town folk would average higher than this, of course. The total cost of admissions in 1933 was about 25 million dollars, in 1930 about 38½ million. A further 3 million or thereabouts is required to pay the amusement taxes on admissions. Ontario and Manitoba people spend most per capita on motion pictures, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan people least.

The source of films exhibited in Canada has been changing considerably in the last few years, a much higher proportion of European pictures now being included. Last year Great Britain and France provided one-third of all the films imported, and there were a few from Germany. French pictures have been received in considerable number only since 1930. Pictures from both Great Britain and France have increased consistently since 1930 -- in spite of the fact that total imports last year were only one-third of what they were then -- all of the loss having been in the films from the United States.

No. 157. Tues. March 5, 1935 - Cancer

Last Saturday Canadian newspapers announced the appeal of Their Excellencies, The Governor General and Countess of Bessborough, for funds to establish a cancer fund for Canada, in commemoration of the silver jubilee of the reign of His Majesty, King George V. The timeliness of the appeal is indicated by the vital statistics of the Dominion.

The death rate from recorded cancer cases in Canada, as in other countries, increases steadily from year to year. In Great Britain it is reported to be nearly three times as high now as fifty years ago. In 1921, when Canada's system of vital statistics was inaugurated, cancer was the cause of only one adult death in nine, instead of one in seven as now. The higher proportion is not all due to an increase in cancer cases but partly due to a decrease in the death rate of some other diseases, partly to the changing age distribution of the population, and possibly to better diagnosis. But, however, the fact remains that cancer now exacts a toll of 10,000 lives every year. No other malady, except diseases of the heart takes as many.

Although many cases are now cured by the rise of surgery, X-ray, and radium, cancer remains an outstanding puzzle to medical science, demanding further study and research. Generally speaking, the chief failures in the art of healing have been with diseases that are hereditary, the great successes with diseases that are acquired. In spite of such family cases as that of Napoleon Bonaparte, whose father, brother and two sisters, as well as himself, all died of cancer of the stomach, there is as yet no evidence to prove that cancer is not in the conquerable class of acquired diseases.

No. 158. Wed. March 6, 1935 - Riding

The annual report on the harness and saddlery industry offers a clue to one of the habits of the Canadian westerner, less common among his eastern compatriots. Before the customary balance was lost in 1932 there were more saddles manufactured in the Prairie Provinces than in the rest of Canada -- about four times as many in the five-year period 1927-31.

Further figures from the same report give a clue to the type of riding for which many of the saddles are used. Chapps, an indispensable part of the cowboy's costume, and a convenience to anyone who wishes to go on horseback in his Sunday suit, are manufactured in Alberta to the number of several hundred pairs per year.

Francis Bacon mentioned it as an accepted belief of his time that gentle walking was good for the stomach, riding good for the head; and thoughts of health are probably still prominent in the minds of city equestrians who patronize the dozen riding schools in Canada that the census discovered. But in much of the riding on the Canadian prairies, the head, not to mention other parts of the rider's anatomy, is apt to suffer mishap. To realize this one needs but to witness one of the annual stampedes still held in towns of the range country, or even to be present at a community picnic when horses of the locality with a reputation for "pitching" are given a chance to perform.

Though it is now 25 or 30 years since farm settlement displaced most of the big ranches of Southern Alberta and the adjoining part of Saskatchewan, the

tradition of cowboy and cayuse has remained alive. That a few lean years cannot kill it is suggested by the revival in saddle and chapps production in 1933.

No. 159. Thurs. March 7, 1935 - The Farmer's Livestock

The Canadian census takes record of the growth or decline not only in the human population, but among the horses, cattle, pigs, sheep, and poultry as well. It is an interesting coincidence that in the early days of the Dominion -- at the census of 1871 and 1881 -- the number of horses and cattle was about equal to the number of people. From then until 1921 they increasingly outnumbered the people, but a reduction of half a million horses and half a million cattle in the last ten years, practically restored the numerical relationship between man and beast that existed in the last century.

In these earlier days there were more than three cattle for one horse, but as the latter displaced the ox as a beast of burden his ratio increased. In recent years there have been about five cattle to two horses, but now the horse in his turn is being displaced by the tractor and automobile, just as he displaced the slower ox and it may be that by the time of the next census their old relationship in numbers will be restored.

The number of sheep on Canadian farms fell continuously from 1871 to 1911, and only in the post-war period again exceeded the three million of those earlier years. In 1931 there were over $3\frac{1}{2}$ million, but only one farmer in five or six kept sheep.

The greatest increase in live stock population of recent years has been in pigs. There were over $4\frac{1}{2}$ million in 1931 as compared with 3 million in 1921. The number in 1931 was almost equal to the number in Denmark, where so much of Britain's breakfast bacon comes from, but the number per farm in Canada is not nearly so great for there are $3\frac{1}{2}$ times as many farms in Canada. Practically every farmer in Denmark raises pigs, only three in every five in Canada.

No. 160. Fri. March 8, 1935 - Curling

When rinks from seven provinces met in Toronto this week to decide the Dominion curling championship, were they using stones from Scotland, the historic home of the "roaring game", the country where it has been played for four hundred years? In the last four years Canadian have imported only about 1,000 pairs of curling stones, but in the preceding four years about 6,000 pairs. It is probably safe to say that practically all of these were made of Scottish granite as there were only a half dozen pairs that did not come from the United Kingdom. The import price of a pair of rocks averages about \$23.

Even a thousand pairs of rocks, though few in comparison with former purchases, are still enough to provide amusement for a good many communities, only eight pairs being needed for a game. Then in Eastern Canada some of the clubs use irons instead of stones, and these are not included in the

import figures.

Curling is still primarily a game of British peoples, but it has spread to all parts of the Empire where the temperature permits of ice formation, and to the United States. In Canada it is especially popular in the Prairie Provinces, most of all perhaps in Manitoba, the province that has won the Dominion championship five times out of eight. There it is the game of young and old alike, of farmer as well as villager, of women as well as men. While ice lasts, six evenings of the week the curling rink is busy, and on holidays or bonspiel days from morning until night.

No. 161. Sat. March 9, 1935 - Statistics of Commerce

One evening last month the Bureau presented a brief resume of the history of Statistics and the responsibilities and duties of the Dominion Bureau.

Of all economic statistics those of imports and exports are among the oldest and most widely known and used. In publication England was the pioneer about 1694, although detailed records were kept much earlier. It was in 1374 that Geoffrey Chaucer, author of the Canterbury Tales and statistician as well as poet, was appointed "Comptroller of the Customs in the Port of London", with the obligation to keep the records of his office "with his own hand".

Holland, Belgium, Norway, Austria, Germany and Russia can date their statistics back to the first half of the 19th century. Italy, Denmark and Sweden came a little later, also China and Japan. In the United States there have been annual records under legal sanction since 1821, although less formally they go back to 1790. In Canada we can now review a full three-quarters of a century.

Canada is naturally a great trading country and consistently maintains a high place among the leading commercial nations of the world in international trade. The Dominion occupied eighth place in total trade in 1934, ninth place as an importer and fifth place as an exporter, rising from sixth place the year before.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics proposes to present each Saturday an item dealing with some feature of Canada's trading relations with other countries. They make a romantic story.

No. 162. Sun. March 10, 1935 - Canadian Bond Yields Lower than in 29 Years

It is a significant fact that the yields on the highest-grade bonds of Canada in the current period are lower (taking the current price of bonds into account) than at any time since 1906, 29 years ago. Interest rates in London and New York - the principal money markets of the world - have been at remarkably low levels in the last two years. The rate on prime commercial paper in New York is less than one per cent, and three months bank drafts in London are quoted as low as three-eighths of one per cent. Money is now borrowed and credit obtained at extremely low rates in most of the principal countries.

That fact constitutes perhaps the main factor in the present recovery pro-

cess. It is in sharp contrast with the high rates obtained in 1929 and it is the direct result of action by governments and central banks to bring about easy credit and low interest rates.

As just stated, the widespread decline in money rates, resulting from ample liquid reserves, is the principal factor in the current period leading to the resumption and extension of productive operations.

This information is contained in reports by the General Statistics Branch which appear in detail in each Friday edition of the Daily Bulletin of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 163. Mon. March 11, 1935 - Breakfast Foods and other Cereal Products.

The prepared breakfast foods and other cereal products industry is a very modern enterprise but it has grown to comparatively large proportions in the last few years and the output runs close to 60 million pounds. The value is between seven and eight million dollars. This is exclusive of oatmeal, rolled oats, cornmeal and similar unprepared cereals which are produced only in the flour milling industry.

Canada has established an international reputation for her prepared breakfast foods and cereals generally, and they now go to such far countries as British South Africa, British India, Hong Kong, Australia, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. But the export to Great Britain, valued at over $2\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, is greater than to all the rest of the countries combined.

A common method of retailing these breakfast foods is in containers and, as showing how one industry affects another, it is surprising to find that the value of these containers in one year is almost one million dollars.

There are now 14 of these breakfast food factories in Canada, eleven being in Ontario, two in British Columbia and one in Manitoba.

No. 164. Tues. March 12, 1935 - Canadian Mining Records of 1934

When the members of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy opened their annual convention at Winnipeg today they had before them some important reports for their consideration which showed seven new high records in mining production in Canada in 1934. Last year was certainly a great year for the mining people.

The value of the Canadian gold output was greater than ever before. Canada is the second largest producer in the world, coming next to the Transvaal. Nickel production surpassed that of 1929, the previous record year. Canada is the world's largest producer of this metal.

The output of lead exceeded the record established in 1928. Copper and zinc rose above the high level of 1930. Production of metals of the platinum group was much larger than any former annual Canadian output.

Metals as a group totalled in value almost \$194,000,000, an increase of 32 per cent over 1933, and an increase of 25 per cent over 1929, the previous high year.

Production of fuels at \$54,000,000 increased 13 per cent over 1933, and practically every item amongst non-metals had also a greater production.

No. 165. Wed. March 13, 1935 - About Suicides

During the depression years 1930, 1931 and 1932 there were in each year over one thousand deaths attributed to self-destruction. This was considerably above the pre-depression totals and showed the effect of blasted hopes. There were 922 in 1933 and, although figures for 1934 are not complete, it is evident that there was a still further reduction last year.

Between 1929 and 1932 the suicides of persons under 50 increased only 13 per cent but suicides of persons over 50 increased 42 per cent.

Canada's suicide rate is not high as compared with some other countries. Thus in 1932, when the Canadian rate was 9.8 per 100,000, the rate for Australia was 11.5, for South Africa 12.4, for England and Wales 11.3, for New Zealand 16.5, for United States 17.5, for France 19.2, for Japan 22.2 and for Germany 28 per 100,000. On the other hand a number of countries have rates lower than that of Canada.

In Canada the Province of Quebec has a lower suicide rate than any other province. The Quebec rate for 1932 was only 4.6 per 100,000 as against 9.8 for the whole of Canada.

No. 166. Thurs. March 14, 1935 - British Trade with Canada in 1934

Statistics published in the official British Board of Trade Journal show that in 1934 Canada ranked second, next only after the United States, in supplying the imports of the United Kingdom, as compared with third in 1933, fourth in 1932 and eleventh in 1930. Seven per cent of the imports of the United Kingdom came from Canada in the latest year. Australia stood in third place, India in fifth and New Zealand in sixth place in 1934 in supplying the imports of the United Kingdom. The Argentine Republic came fourth.

British exports of domestic produce to Canada in 1934 were five per cent of the total of such exports, Canada ranking fourth among the countries of the world in her demand for British goods in 1934 as compared with seventh in 1933, sixth in 1932 and fifth in 1930. It is significant that the countries which took a greater value of British products than Canada did, namely, India, the Union of South Africa and Australia, are all Empire countries, as is also the Irish Free State ranking fifth in the latest year. The United States of America stood in sixth place in its takings of British products, but took more than any other foreign country.

Taking the Empire as a whole, the proportion of British imports coming from Empire countries stood at 37 per cent in 1934 as compared with 29 per cent as recently as 1930, while the proportion of British exports going to Empire countries was 47 per cent in 1934 as compared with 44 in 1930.

No. 167. Fri. March 15, 1935 - Canned Pineapples lead Sales

It is surprising, perhaps, to find that there are more canned pineapples sold in Canada than any other canned fruit. However, it is understandable when one reflects that native fruits, such as pears, apples, plums, cherries and so on are very largely canned in their homes by the busy housewives.

Even at that the extent of the sale of canned pineapples in Canada is astonishing. Last year we imported 17 million pounds and in 1933 over 18 million, which was a very large increase over previous years, the total in 1932 being only 7½ million.

These canned pineapples come mainly from the Straits Settlements, that important British possession in the Far East. A considerable quantity, usually over two million pounds but somewhat less than last year, comes from Australia. We get some also from such countries as the Fiji Islands, Ceylon and British South Africa.

Peaches and pears seem to be the domestic canned fruits most favored by those who get these supplies from the stores, but we also get large quantities from Australia.

The leading fruits canned in Canada are pears and apples -- 13 million pounds of pears and from five to eight million of apples in a year but these are mainly for export. The consumption of canned pears in the Dominion last year was probably about three million pounds.

No. 168. Sat. March 16, 1935 - Canada's Trade with Persia

One of the results of the Crusades was the effect which Persia and Persian thought had upon the European invaders of Syria, which in those days was permeated with Persian culture. Persia in that era was a great repository of the arts and sciences and the contacts which the Crusaders made had an influence upon their dress, horse-equipment, miniature painting, art of design, tapestries and mode of thought, which lasts to this day.

Canada's trade with Persia is not a large trade despite the noteworthy economic and political development of that Asiatic country during the present century. We get rich rugs and carpets from Persia, for which it has been celebrated from ancient times. This industry, largely domestic, has been stimulated by the Shah, by the bestowal of orders and honors on those who promote the production and sale of rugs, and the infliction of severe penalties for the use of inferior dyes and other practices calculated to bring Persian rugs into disrepute. Imports of Persian rugs into Canada in 1934 were valued

at over \$140,000 out of a total import of \$142,000.

The country is rich in mineral oil which goes largely to Great Britain. Persia is normally a good market for Canadian automobiles. Although we did not sell them any last year, it is evident that the Persians are still motor-minded for we sent them rubber tires and tubes to the value of \$38,000. Our total export to Persia was over \$43,000. The population of Persia is about the same as that of Canada.

No. 169. Sun. March 17, 1935 - Canadians from the Emerald Isle

There are about one and a quarter million people in Canada whose origin is Irish. Today they have been chanting the praises and singing the heart-stirring songs of the land from which the good St. Patrick drove the reptiles.

At the time of Confederation the Irish in the Dominion were numerically stronger than either the English or the Scots but they have given way since then to these two other British races and now rank third. One cause of this is seen by a reference to the 1931 census. There were only 108,000 in the country who were born in Ireland, whereas there were 280,000 people born in Scotland and 724,000 in England. We are not getting immigrants from Ireland as we once did, when famine was upon the land.

The main strength of the Irish in Canada is in Ontario just behind the line of earliest settlement and stretching from Lake Huron to the Ottawa River. In numbers they are the second race in Ontario, coming next after the English.

It is not within the scope of the Bureau to estimate the contribution which the Irish have made to the public and social life of this Dominion, but it might be mentioned, as portraying the gift of tongue of these people, that many authorities are not hesitant in declaring that the greatest public speaker this country has produced was Edward Blake, one-time premier of Ontario, Liberal leader at Ottawa and later a foremost member of the British Parliament. There were D'Arcy McGee, Nicholas Flood Davin and hosts of others.

No. 170. Mon. March 18, 1935 - Occupations by Origin

One-third of the men of British stock in Canada are engaged in agricultural pursuits. Twelve per cent are found in manufacturing and mechanical operations and ten per cent in transport, commercial and service groups of occupations.

Canadians of French origin follow agriculture to somewhat the same extent -- a little over one-third. A smaller percentage of the French males is engaged in manufacturing, transport, commercial and service occupations than the British, but there are more of them found in fishing and logging.

Over 50 per cent of those of German and Dutch origin are engaged in agricultural pursuits, but the Germans are also well represented in manufacturing. The males of Central and Eastern European stock are found chiefly in agricultural occupations but a considerably higher proportion of them are reported as laborers and unskilled workers than most other races.

Forty per cent of the Hebrews are returned as following commercial occupations compared with eight per cent of the males of all origins. Thirty per cent of Hebrews are in manufacturing and only slightly over one per cent in farming. Only six per cent of the Italians are in agriculture but 35 per cent are laborers or unskilled workers.

More than 50 per cent of our Scandinavian stock are in agriculture, 50 per cent of the Chinese are cooks, waiters, laundry workers etc., and 45 per cent of the Japanese are occupied in agriculture, fishing and logging.

No. 171. Tues. March 19, 1935 - Silk Hats and Panamas

Not so many silk hats are worn by Canadian men today as formerly. Before the Great War it was the proper thing to attend church arrayed in silk hat and frock coat. At funerals they were a mark of respect for the dead, but nowadays one may attend the obsequies of a friend and see only the undertaker so arrayed. The art of saluting a lady gracefully was best portrayed with the "tile".

But, if statistics are a guide, the high hat is coming back somewhat in Canada, even although the jolty automobile is its chief menace. The manufacture has been increasing. There were about 22,000 made in this country in 1933. They last a while so a good many men must possess them.

On the other hand there has been a marked decrease in the manufacture of Panama hats, men's and women's. They declined from a quarter of a million in 1932 to 90,000 in 1933.

The Panama hat is made from the young leaf of a palm that grows in Central America, where the hat used to be exclusively manufactured. It can be folded without injury. The silk hat is made of silk plush.

No. 172. Wed. March 20, 1935 - Charcoal

Charcoal burning is an ancient art, the technique of which has been handed down from father to son. Different woods yield different qualities, the variety employed for gunpowder, for example, being best made from willow, alder and dogwood. Charcoal used by artists consists usually of a charred vine twig.

Many Quebec farmers make charcoal in their spare time. They use sound hardwood, which they char in circular kilns built of brick and lime and reinforced with iron hoops. These kilns contain from 10 to 25 cords of

wood at one filling, and it takes about ten days to complete the process of making the coal. They ship their product to Quebec and Montreal where it is packed in paper bags. The ashes left over are used to advantage in agriculture, while the "crows", or pieces of wood burned as hard as iron, make a marvellous fuel.

Most of the charcoal made in Canada, however, is in the wood distillation industry and the total production from all sources runs from 30 to 48 million pounds in a year and the value from \$275,000 to \$700,000.

No. 173. Thurs. March 21, 1935 - Carpets

The making of carpets is an art which belongs to remote antiquity. The Egyptians and Babylonians used them not only as floor coverings but also as covering for walls and tables. Beautiful carpets were also made by the Assyrians, Persians, Chinese and Indians.

The conquests of Alexander the Great resulted in carpets being introduced into Greece as spoils of war, and the Crusaders brought carpets home with them to Italy, France and Spain. Eleanor of Spain, when she married Edward the First, took carpets and rugs to England with her, but it was Queen Elizabeth who brought them into general use. Her adventurous traders, scouring the seas for cargoes, found them profitable.

Most of the carpets and rugs, especially Axminster and Wilton, which are used in Canada are manufactured in the Dominion and the output in 1933 had a factory value of about \$2,000,000. The imports of Axminster, Wilton and Brussels, coming mainly from Great Britain, are very much smaller. The invoiced value of the Oriental rugs was upwards of a quarter of a million. Persia is the chief country of supply, with British India, China and Turkey coming next. Tapestry and velvet come mainly from the United Kingdom, cocoa matting from India and straw carpeting from Japan.

No. 174. Fri. March 22, 1935 - The Staff of Life

It was a common saying among the Puritans, "Brown bread and the Gospel is good fare".

"Here is bread which strengtheneth man's heart and therefore called the staff of life", wrote Matthew Henry in the 17th century.

"Give us this day our daily bread," is the first supplication in the Lord's Prayer which follows the expression of hope for the expansion of God's Kingdom upon earth.

But the bread of the Puritans, as well as of the common people in the long ages of history, was not the white bread that everybody, rich or poor, gets now. In the dawn of civilization wheat was king, as it is today, but it was considered too precious to be given to ordinary folk who had to be content with loaves of millet, rye or barley.

It was not until the 13th century that the complete transition to wheaten bread for the mass of the people was effected, and, of course, Canada followed suit as soon as wheat became sufficiently available.

Apart from export requirements Canada today grows enough wheat to make a little over a barrel of flour every year for every man, woman and child in the Dominion. And as one barrel makes about 270 pounds of breadstuffs it is possible to compute how many loaves we eat in a year, possibly an average of 150 two-pound loaves. The weight of a loaf varies greatly from coast to coast.

No. 175. Sat. March 23, 1935 - Canada's Trade with Malta.

Although Canada's trade with Malta is not large, the place has a special interest to us because of the immortal story of the defence of the island by the Knights of St. John against the Turkish invaders. It became a British possession in 1814 and was granted self-government in 1921. The ancient Melita, it is now an important British naval base. Valetta is one of the finest harbours in the world. The population is about one-quarter of a million.

Sixteen centuries before Christ, Malta was colonized by the Phoenicians, who made it a trading station. After that it was owned successively by the Greeks, Carthaginians and the Romans. During the regime of the latter, Saint Paul was wrecked there. It was ravaged by the Vandals and Goths, then in turn came under the Byzantines, Moors, Sicilians, Aragonese, Spaniards, Knights of St. John, French and now British. Truly a remarkable history.

Malta is especially noted for its honey and its lace, but the principal pursuit is agriculture. Fruits are grown extensively. Some of the very fine embroideries which come to Canada are made by the Maltese. Our exports to Malta last year at \$170,000 were surprisingly large. They consisted mainly of wheat, flour, leather, condensed milk, machinery and automobiles.

No. 173. Sun. March 24, 1935 - Asbestos

The use of asbestos can be traced back to ancient times. It was used for wicks in the lamps of the Vestal Virgins, and as a cremation cloth by the Romans. Later, in the reign of Peter the Great, a factory was established in Russia for the manufacture of asbestos articles.

Chrysotile, the finest asbestos, was discovered in Quebec about 1862 and the mineral was first produced commercially in Canada in 1878 from the serpentine formation of the Thetford area in the Eastern Townships. During the next few years a rapid development of the industry was witnessed and villages sprang up as if by magic in the vicinity of the mines.

Asbestos fibres of various grades are now constituent components of several manufactured products, including yarns, packing, lumber, shingles

and many other fire-proof materials. Temperatures of 2,000 to 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit are easily withstood by asbestos, while some varieties withstood up to 5,000 degrees.

The high quality of the Canadian mineral is recognized in the markets of the world, as reflected by the value of the exports which totalled $5\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars in 1934. Other important producers are Southern Rhodesia and Soviet Russia. In one of its best years the Canadian asbestos industry employed over \$33,000,000 in capital and paid $4\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars in salaries and wages to about 3,400 employees.

No. 177. Mon. March 25, 1935 - Canadians and the Telephone

Canadians use the telephone more than any other people in the world. In 1933 on a per capita basis Canada led all countries with an average of 213 completed conversations as against 205 for the United States in 1932 and probably slightly lower in 1933.

This leadership is as it should be for Alexander Graham Bell, who came from Edinburgh, Scotland, with his distinguished father in 1870, invented and perfected the telephone after he came to this Dominion. He was 23 when he came to Canada and was still a very young man -- only 25 -- when he accomplished the great invention. In 1876 he succeeded in having a company formed for its development. There are some independent companies but the Bell System covers practically the whole country, except in the three Prairie Provinces which are served by their own provincially owned system.

While Canadians use their telephones more than do the people of the United States, the latter country has more telephones per head of population. The number in Canada is 11 for every hundred persons. Of course there are many countries with much larger populations than Canada, yet only two of them, United States and Japan, had a greater total of completed conversations in a year. Taken all in all, therefore, a Canadian who claims that his is the greatest telephone country in the world, has some powerful facts upon which to build his case.

No. 178. Tues. March 26, 1935 - Dresses for Canadian Women

Dresses for Canadian women and the misses, who have grown up enough so that they can't be classed as children any more, are manufactured in the Dominion by the million, chiefly in the Province of Quebec. There were seven million dresses and suits made in the factories in 1932 and about $8\frac{1}{2}$ million in 1933. Skirts, blouses and the like are not included.

The factory value of these suits and dresses in 1933 was about \$20,000,000 and besides these there were imported from abroad, chiefly from Great Britain, a quantity valued at close to $2\frac{1}{2}$ million. Our exports are comparatively negligible.

That means that the Canadian woman and the young miss average about four factory made dresses or suits in the year. Of course there is a great variety in dresses. Cotton dresses predominate, and they run to about 4½ million. Artificial silk dresses number about 1½ million and silk and satin over one million. There were over half a million woollen dresses and only about 7,000 made of linen.

No one can calculate to a nicety how many dresses are made at home by the deft fingers of the thrifty Canadian women, but there can be little doubt that the average is more than one in a year. If that is so, the Canadian woman and the young miss get at least five new dresses annually.

No. 179. Wed. March 27, 1935 - Pulpwood Production

The average cut of pulpwood in Canada during the last five years was about 5½ million cords. The average value was considerably over \$50,000,000. Less than one-fifth is exported. Its main use is in the making of paper. It is one of the most important of the raw products which bring wealth to the Dominion of Canada.

Quebec, with her great bushlands, is the principal producer of pulpwood. Spruce and balsam are the chief supply and are the most important woods for the purpose. Together they make 91 per cent of the total production in Canada. New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and British Columbia are also producers. Hemlock is the chief pulpwood in British Columbia. Poplar is used in both British Columbia and Ontario.

The United States takes the bulk of Canada's pulpwood export. The export has been increasing of late, but the tendency is to complete the manufacture into paper and similar products at home.

The value of this modern industry to many farmers whose lands in the old days were infested with some of these "tree weeds", which are now cut for pulpwood, is inestimable. Many poverty stricken farms have become fairly remunerative business ventures. The additional income derived during the winter months, when the farmer's cash income is at its minimum, has made a real difference.

No. 180. Thurs. March 28, 1935 - Marriages Coming Back to Normal?

An encouraging indication of the improvement in general prosperity in Canada during the year 1934 is given, according to the Bureau, by the increase in the number of marriages, the preliminary figure being now available for the first nine months of the year. During these nine months marriages numbered 51,647 as compared with 45,463 in the corresponding months of 1933, an increase of 6,184.

Commencing with the year 1930, the economic depression was reflected in a very serious fall in the number of marriages, which in turn exercised an unfavorable influence on births. In 1929 marriages in Canada totalled 77,288, and from this number they dropped to 71,657 in 1930, 66,591 in 1931

and 62,531 in 1932. The figure for 1933 showed a slight advance from the preceding year to 63,865 and the increase of over 6,000 which has been noted in the first nine months of 1934 indicates that when the returns for the year are complete, the recovery will have brought the number of marriages back to about the 1930 level.

The increase in the first nine months of 1934 extended to every province in Canada, with the exception of Saskatchewan.

No. 181. Fri. March 29, 1935 - Sponges

A bath of water without a good sponge is robbed of some of its delight. The sponge is an item in the bathroom equipment which has stood the test of time and is as popular as ever.

Most of the sponges that Canadians use come from the Bahama Islands in the West Indies. They are really a lowly sea animal. In the Bahamas, off which they flourish, they are taken by harpooning or hooking from the rocks on which they affix themselves. That is the only method of fishing allowed there.

There are about 2,000 species of sponges in the world varying in size from a pin head to over 100 pounds, and exist in all seas and at all depths. They are found chiefly in the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, off the Coast of Australia, off Florida and in the West Indies but Canadians appear to prefer the West Indian variety. There are several methods of taking them -- wading, naked diving, trawling, harpooning and machine diving. Trawling is very destructive.

There were \$50,000 worth of sponges imported last year and most of them came from the Bahamas. That was a considerable increase over 1933, so that more people must be partaking of that enjoyment already referred to.

No. 182. Sat. March 30, 1935 - Canada's Trade with Portugal

Portugal is the ancient Lusitania, a country of only 5½ million inhabitants. A kingdom since the twelfth century, Portugal became a republic in 1910. The people are kindly, hospitable, artistic, sober and patriotic.

The Portugese were the great navigators of the 15th century. Bartholomew Diaz was the first to double the Cape of Good Hope and Vasco de Gama first reached the shores of India. The Portugese discovered Brazil. Magellan first rounded Cape Horn and his fleet made the first voyage round the world.

The vine is the most generally cultivated plant in Portugal and wine the most important export. The rich red wine known as "Port" is the principal item in Canada's imports from that country. Another important item is corkwood manufactures. Portugese sardines are very choice. Substantial quantities of Canadian wheat in former years used to go to Portugal but there was none last year. Our chief exports were rubber tires and codfish. Our total imports amounted to about \$200,000 and our exports \$80,000.

To Madeira and the Azores, which are administrative parts of Portugal, we send flour and lumber and we get textiles, principally linen.

No. 183. Sun. March 31, 1935 - Leniency in Sentencing Criminals?

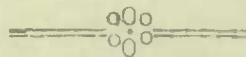
An appropriate Sunday evening meditation might be upon the apparent trend of recent years in imposing sentences in the criminal courts, and to make up one's mind whether or not that trend is real or merely a passing phase, and whether it has influenced the number of criminal offences. It is a very debatable question and views upon it are widely divergent, but the facts are as follows.

Increased mildness in sentences for criminal offences has been noticeable for some years. The years 1932 and 1933 exemplify.

Of persons convicted in 1932 of indictable offences 49 per cent were fined or received suspended sentences and 51 per cent were sent to gaol or the penitentiary.

In 1933 the number receiving the lighter sentences -- fines or suspended sentences -- increased to 53 per cent, with a corresponding decrease in the number sent to gaol or penitentiary. Of course these figures refer to convictions for major offences in bulk and the nature of the offences may differ widely. Before drawing conclusions it is necessary to know that the mildness holds in the case of the same offence and the same circumstances.

The debatable point is whether or not the increased mildness in punishment is responsible for the increased crime rate. In 1933 the charges increased 4 per cent over 1932 and convictions increased 5 per cent.



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