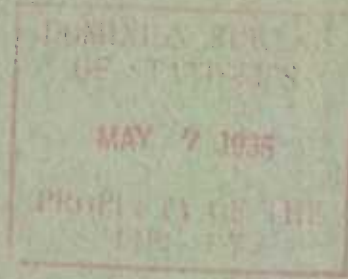


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A FACT A DAY ABOUT CANADA

FROM THE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

AS SUPPLIED TO THE

CANADIAN RADIO BROADCASTING COMMISSION

APRIL 1, TO APRIL 30, 1935.

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

A Fact a Day About Canada

from the

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

No. 184. Mon. April 1, 1935 - Salt

It has been plausibly assumed that the ancient trade routes were created for traffic in salt. One of the oldest roads in Italy is the Via Salaria, by which the salt of Ostia was carried to the Sabine country. In Phoenician commerce, salt formed an important item and the vast salt mines of Northern India were worked before the time of Alexander the Great. Oriental taxation of salt was often oppressive, resulting in adulteration. The Biblical expression "the salt hath lost his savor," is a reference to the earthy residuum of diluted salt. Cakes of salt have been used as money.

Canada's natural resources in salt are abundant and the production of the mineral is one of the Dominion's oldest non-metallic industries. Early in the 19th century the Hudson's Bay Company obtained its local supplies from the brine springs of the Mackenzie Basin. However, the real birth of the industry occurred with the discovery of salt in Ontario in 1866.

Salt is produced from wells in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan while in Nova Scotia the mineral is mined as rock salt. Production has advanced with population and industry and its consumption for the manufacture of caustic soda, liquid chlorine and other chemicals has increased rapidly. The Canadian salt production runs to about 300,000 tons in a year with a value of about two million dollars.

This information is obtained from the Mining and Metallurgical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 185. Tues. April 2, 1935 - Horse Hair

Ask a man who has passed the half-century mark what is the most uncomfortable memory of social life in his youth and he is quite likely to reply that it was the black horse hair upholstery that graced the furniture of what was then described as the "Parlor." No child, paying a formal visit with his parents could ensconce himself upon that sliddery furniture with ease. He had to sit as still as a mouse for, if he moved at all, he was apt to slip ignominiously to the floor and catch in the confusion the militant eye of paterfamilias, which meant still more discomfort later on.

Hardly ever do we see that horse hair upholstery in the living room these days. Few seem to regret its passing. Yet horse hair cloth is still made, although not much of it is intended to be sat upon. The latest yearly output had a value of \$26,000.

Horse hair, however, has its attractions even today as in generations passed. It has the strange faculty of curling when immersed in cold water, and every farmer's son knows this. He can delight the novice from the city with the sight of it curling and uncurling like a little worm or snake.

This curling is utilized by textile people in making stuffing for chairs with the curled horse hair. They have a process of making it keep the curl after it has been in the cold water for several hours. By the way, horse hair from a dead animal is of a very much inferior quality. The quantity imported last year was valued at \$33,000.

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

No. 186. Wed. April 3, 1935 - Peat

The process which converts plant substances into peat is similar to that which has formed the coal measures but, geologically speaking, the oldest peat deposits are modern compared with coal. Its heat value is rather more than half that of a similar weight of black coal. Mountain peat is considered superior to lowland peat.

The use of peat as fuel is very familiar to many people who have come to Canada from the old countries of Europe. In the United Kingdom there are six million acres of peat bog and one half is in Ireland. Those who have been accustomed to it have a great liking for it and prefer the odour even to that which comes from hard maple. Some brands of poteen are said to be favoured because of their peat reek taste.

There is an immense area of peat bog in Canada but, although Governments, federal and provincial, have done extensive work in research and testing and sought to encourage its use, the demand has not been very great. Possibly those who use peat in Canadian cities get it for their open fireplaces and, no doubt, those who sit around the fire when lights are low will have some understanding of how the precious folk lore and the beloved poetry and historical romance of the people of Erin and the Highlands of Scotland, have come to be so well created and cherished and sung by the long generations of a home-loving race.

Commercial production of peat in Canada in 1934 fell to about 600 tons, got from Alfred, Chesterville and Morewood in Ontario. That was much less than in previous years.

This information is obtained from the records and reports of the Mining and Metallurgical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 187. Thurs. April 4, 1935 - Employment of Women

A familiar topic upon the platform and in the Press lately has been the extent to which the employment of women has been growing in recent

years and its influence upon the social problems of our time. Here are the employment facts as obtained by the censuses.

In 1931 there were 666,000 females over the age of ten who were engaged in gainful occupations. There were 3,259,000 males so employed. That means that there was one female for every four or five males.

Ten years before that there was only one earning money as against five or six males, while in 1911 the ratio was one to every six or seven males.

In ten years female workers have increased by 176,000, in twenty years by 301,000 and in thirty years by 428,000. In other words in ten years the number of female workers increased 36 per cent, in twenty years 82 per cent and in thirty years 180 per cent.

During these years there have been changes in the class of employment and several occupations showed a much greater percentage increase. In 1921 fewer than 3,000 women were engaged in laundering, cleaning, dyeing and pressing, whereas in 1931 there were almost 9,000, an increase of 200 per cent. Female barbers, hairdressers and manicurists numbered 600 in 1921 and 6,000 in 1931, ten times as many. Waitresses rose from 6,300 to 13,000.

These facts are taken from Census reports issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 188. Fri. April 5, 1935 - Soup

Beautiful soup, so rich and green,
Waiting in a hot tureen!
Who for such dainties would not stoop?
Soup of the evening, beautiful Soup!
Soup of the evening, beautiful Soup!

So sang Lewis Carroll in his immortal story of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland", and told a whole world the glory of mock turtle soup. Sir John Tenniel, no lesser man, illustrated it.

Every nation upon earth seems to love soup and there are special concoctions that are favored by certain peoples. Thus there is an immense variety on the international menu, from the bird's nest soup of the Chinese to the stew of the Irish, from the bouillon of the French to the broth of the Scots, from the turtle soup of the Australian Blacks to the peasoup of the Quebec Canadians. It is a poem in liquid for the epicure, a prelude for the banqueter, a life-giving stream for the Mounted Policeman in the frozen Arctic, and salvation for the unfortunate unemployed.

The Canadian people have taken to soup to an extraordinary extent and have made of it an aristocracy in food. The busy housewife makes her own soul-sustaining preparations, but there are hosts of others who rely upon the canning factory and buy their soup ready-made. Canadian

production of canned soup runs to 40 million pounds; there are 13 factories making soup in Canada.

Canadian soups have caught on in England and there was a great increase last year in our export to the United Kingdom. It had a value of over one million dollars to that country alone. Our imports are small, a good deal being in the form of tablets and cubes.

This information is obtained from the General Manufactures and External Trade Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 189. Sat. April 6, 1935 - Canada's Trade with the Bermudas

When Sir George Somers was wrecked on the Bermudas in 1609 he was lucky. He knew it. He fell in love with their healthful climate and equable temperature. Sailor like, he did a lot of talking about them, and made an impression, with the result that the largest of these 350 coral islands was colonized by the British three years later. The area is computed at less than 20 square miles. The inhabitants now number 28,000, of whom 11,000 are whites. Bermuda is an important British naval station.

These Bermudians know their business. They have about 100 miles of roadway, but they have kept thundering railways and speeding motor cars out of their charming little country. There the horse is still king and picturesque craft abound in the waters. They have advertised to the world convincingly that out on the broad Atlantic they have a great winter health resort. Many Canadians are making it a habit of thought that Bermuda is the place when they want a short winter sea voyage and other pleasant thrills. They can visit lighted caves that would have meant a palace for Robert the Bruce and his indomitable spider. It is impossible to tell just how many Canadians go there in a year, because the Canadian requires no passport and there is no actual record.

Canada is a leading market for Bermudian agricultural producers. We get tomatoes and fresh vegetables to the value of about \$165,000. Last year we sent to Bermuda foodstuffs and lumber to the value of over one million dollars. With so many visitors much food has to be imported.

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

No. 190. Sun. April 7, 1935 - Displacement of Manual Labour by Machinery

The displacement of manual labour by machinery, as the result of increased efficiency of equipment, is exemplified by statistics concerning telephones and steam railways.

The switchboard girl in 1923 was taking care of 62 telephones. With the installation of automatic switchboards, starting in 1924, she is now

taking care of 160 telephones. Due to increased efficiency in equipment, employees have decreased from 7,800 to 4,200, yet the telephones have increased from 486,000 to 671,000.

The work done by freight train crews, as measured in revenue ton miles, increased from 31 billion in 1917 to 41 billion in 1928 and decreased to 23 billion in 1932. The total numbers of train crew employees increased from about 14,500 in 1917 to over 15,000 in 1928 and decreased to about 9,300 in 1932. The number of hours work of these train crews decreased from 50 million in 1917 to 43 in 1928 and to 21 million in 1932.

Due to the improvement in operation through larger and more powerful locomotives, better signallings etc., the number of revenue ton miles per man hour worked by these train crews increased from 614 in 1917 to 947 in 1928 and to 1,071 in 1932, or an increase of 74 per cent. In other words, although the freight traffic decreased by 24 per cent, the number of employees on freight trains decreased 36 per cent and the hours work decreased 58 per cent.

This information is obtained from the Railways and Public Utilities Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 191. Mon. April 8, 1935 - What Canadian Gold is Doing

During the past twelve months the Canadian Government has exported about \$100,000,000 in gold bullion. Canada is the world's second largest producer, coming next to the Union of South Africa.

The economic importance of primary gold production to the Dominion may be better appreciated when it is stated that, in the estimate by the Bureau of the balance of International Payments for Canada in 1934, the net value of gold exports was surpassed only by the favourable balance of exports in the entire commodity trade of the Dominion, the favourable balance of \$145,000,000 in the entire commodity trade being raised to \$239,200,000 when the balance of gold exports is included. Again the net value of gold exports equalled 41 per cent of the net interest and dividend payments to foreign holders of Canadian securities, whether government, municipal or corporation and were \$19,200,000 in excess of the Dominion's requirements to meet its capital payments on maturing bonds.

The price of gold has risen from the old par of \$20.67 per fine ounce in 1931 to about \$35 at the present time, partly as the result of the change in the weight of the United States dollar. This great increase in the price of gold has in the last few days compelled Belgium to commence a similar devaluation of the belga.

This information is obtained from the General Statistics and External Trade Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 192. Tues. April 9, 1935 - Who Suffered Most by Unemployment?

It was discovered at the Census of 1931 that 21 per cent of the male wage and salary earners were not at work on June 1 and only 9 per cent of the females. That indicates that unemployment amongst males was twice as heavy as amongst females. This was largely accounted for by the kind of occupation followed by the sexes.

The workers in the primary industries and construction were the hardest hit by the depression. In logging and fishing 37 per cent were not at work, in construction 34 per cent, in mining 32 per cent, as compared with 18 per cent for all industries.

More than half of the persons employed in services are women, and only about 7 per cent of them were not working. The largest class of these women is the domestic servants who numbered 137,000. School has to go on and therefore, as school teachers are largely women, there were comparatively few of the 60,000 out of work. The same was true of the 28,000 in health service. Domestic servants appeared to be more secure than females in industrial employment.

Laborers and unskilled workers suffered heavily as 37 per cent of them were out of work, whereas only 8 per cent in clerical employments and 5 per cent of salaried workers in professional occupations were reported as out of a job.

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

No. 193. Wed. April 10, 1935 - Canadian Postage Stamps

Adhesive postage stamps were invented by a Dundee man, named Chalmers, in 1834, and came into official use in the United Kingdom in 1841, spreading from there throughout the world. Since their introduction in Canada ten years later there have been issued over two hundred main varieties of stamps. In these varieties there is a myriad of colours ranging across the spectrum from a bright yellow to pitch black and there have been over eighty distinctive designs.

The designs include portraits of about twenty people, beginning with Queen Victoria, and including other royal personages, early figures in Canadian history and prominent Prime Ministers of Canada. There are over twenty show scenes in Canada's past and a dozen allegorical designs. In the new Jubilee Issue of May 6 next, the portrait of a princess, the youthful Elizabeth, will appear for the first time on a Canadian stamp.

In philatelic value, Canadian stamps range from almost nil, as in the case of the present issue, to the sum of \$1,500, which is the approximate value of the Twelve Penny Black of 1851. The Victoria Jubilee Issue of 1897 is one of the most valuable, popular and sought-after issues of any yet printed anywhere in the world. One of these was a map of the world with the British Empire shown in red and the famous inscription: "We hold a vaster Empire than

has been."

The average per capita expenditure of the Canadian people on postage during the past few years is about \$3.28 yearly, according to reports of the Post Office Department. Stamp sales average 26½ million dollars and considerable postage was paid without stamps being affixed.

This information is taken from reports issued by the Internal Trade and General Statistics Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 194. Thurs. April 11, 1935 - Camphor

Winter clothes are being laid aside for another season and there is a run on special preparations to keep the moths away. Moths can do an immense amount of damage in the course of a few months. Some people have cedar chests and others have camphor cabinets in which to store their furs.

Moth balls have been in use for a long time. They are made of camphor for the most part. It is obtained from the camphor laurel tree which is a native of China, Japan and Cochin China. Crude camphor is obtained by boiling chips of the wood and distilling the product. Originally it was collected from deposits in the trunks of old trees and has been known for many centuries as a highly prized perfume. Camphorated oil and liniment are favorite remedies. There are various medicines made from camphor.

A generation ago, when coal oil lamps were the chief means of illuminating the home, a camphor ball was placed in the oil to increase its brightness. The domestic economics of the young bride of those days was a very varied training, just as it is today and always will be.

The chemist has been busy in this as in so many other things and has produced a synthetic camphor, but it is only profitably produced when the price of natural camphor is high.

It takes between sixty and seventy thousand pounds of camphor in a year to satisfy the needs of the Canadian people. In volume this is a very large quantity as camphor is light.

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

No. 195. Fri. April 12, 1935 - The Motor Car and the National Pocket Book

There are about 1,100,000 motor cars of various kinds in use in Canada, but passenger cars alone number close to one million. In round figures there is one motor car in Canada for every ten inhabitants, and these cars have about 400,000 miles of roadway upon which they can travel.

It takes more than 500,000,000 gallons of gasoline to run these cars for a year, or, roughly speaking, about 500 gallons for each car. If the

price is 25 cents per gallon, the average cost of fuel is about \$125 for each car owner.

Some cars cover only about eight miles on a gallon of gasoline but there is one make of car which gets fifty. But, supposing the average is 15 miles, it means that the average distance travelled by a motor car is about 7,500 miles in a year, which is enough to make the man wedded to the horse and buggy mode of transportation fairly gasp.

All this costs real money. The annual charge for provincial highway debt comes close to \$24,000,000. The maintenance costs have been running up to \$22,000,000 in late years, and there have been heavy cuts in these.

There have to be revenues to compensate for these high expenditures. Registrations and taxes on vehicles bring in over \$20,000,000, while gasoline taxes account for \$27,000,000 or more. However, this income is not sufficient to retire the expenditures on construction after paying interest and maintenance charges.

This information is obtained from reports issued by the Transportation and Public Utilities Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 196. Sat. April 13, 1935 - Canada's Trade with Belgium

Both Canada and Belgium rank high among the great trading nations of the world. Their trade with one another is also large and important. Canada's imports from Belgium in 1934 amounted to about \$3,500,000, and our exports to Belgium to over \$12,000,000. A part of this export does not remain in Belgium but is transhipped to the interior of Europe through the great Belgian free ports of Antwerp and Ostend.

Belgium has a population roughly four-fifths that of Canada and an area only slightly greater than one-half the province of Nova Scotia. The self-sufficiency policies so generally pursued now in Europe are not possible for Belgium. Belgium is therefore a good market for agricultural products requiring extensive cultivation of which Canada normally has a surplus.

Canada's most important export to Belgium is wheat but she also sells in that market substantial quantities of apples, fish, leather, hair, cheese, raw wool, wood pulp, copper, lead, zinc and asbestos.

From Belgium, Canada buys the products of the historic Belgian glass industry; iron, principally in the form of skelp for making pipe; leather gloves, textiles, fur skins and hatter's furs, mostly rabbit and hare furs; precious stones and a host of other products.

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

No. 197. Sun. April 14, 1935 - Forest Production in Canada

With about 600,000 square miles of accessible timber in a growing condition, an average annual increment of 10 to 11 cubic feet per acre would be quite possible under forest management and would cover the present annual average depletion. In view of the destruction of young growth which occurs and the deterioration of the forests and the soil caused by repeated fires and by insect and fungus damage, there is little evidence that this increment is being produced at the present time in Canada as a whole, although particular areas are producing in excess of this quantity.

Considerably over two billion cubic feet of standing timber was cut in Canada in 1933, but 230 million cubic feet of merchantable timber was destroyed by fire as well as the young growth on over half a million acres. Destruction by insects, fungi and windfall amounted to at least 700 million cubic feet. The drain in one year, therefore, on our forest resources was about three billion cubic feet.

Canada's forest resources are estimated at 266,844,000,000 cubic feet, and at our present rate of consumption the supply would be exhausted in about 90 years. However the question is not one of simple arithmetic. The rate of utilization is far from constant and the rate of destruction is also very uncertain. In the last few years forest fire damage has been materially reduced.

It is now a profitable investment to plant trees in Canada under certain conditions and the planting and management of forest lands will become increasingly profitable as supplies decrease and prices advance. Before such crops are sufficient for our needs we may have to pass through a period of very lean years.

This information is contained in a report issued a few days ago by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 198. Mon. April 15, 1935 - Sardines

Young boys have been known to vow that, after they have grown up and are earning their own living, about the first thing they will do will be to buy a can of sardines and demolish it there and then and keep on until they have had their fill of that delicious little fish.

Sardines are regarded as a delicacy and we find from statistics that in prosperous times we consume far more of them than in times of stress. For example, when the Canadian people were indulging in a glut of spending a few years ago the production was about 33,000,000 tins, not to mention those that were sold uncanned, while in the worst year of the depression the production fell to one-third of that. The value of the latter was considerably over half a million dollars.

All the Canadian canned sardines come from New Brunswick, where the industry has been flourishing for 60 or 70 years, and the importance of

sardines to that province may be measured by the fact that fifty factories in Maine, U.S.A., depend entirely on the supplies got from Canadian waters. The name of "sardine" as applied to the Canadian fish is not the true one as they are really the young of the herring. However, a great many people like them just as well.

Most of our imported sardines come from Norway but there is a choice variety caught in Portugal although they do not always come to Canada under that brand.

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

No. 199. Tues. April 16, 1935 - University Graduation

There are in Canada about 150 institutions of higher education with 40,000 students of university grade. Between now and the end of the present month lies the beginning of the testing-time, the annual or semi-annual examinations, for the students in many of the universities. At these examinations the year's production of young professionals is largely determined.

As a rule about six hundred qualify as medical doctors, four or five hundred as engineers, four hundred as clergymen, three hundred as lawyers, two hundred as druggists, over one hundred as dentists, and so on through the list. The largest group of all comprises the Bachelors of Arts and Science, numbering about 3,000 each year. Altogether there are some 7,000 degrees and diplomas granted in a year, and about 95 per cent of them came from one of the 18 largest universities.

In the present century the co-eds have invaded academic circles in no uncertain manner. About one-third of the bachelor degrees now go to them, though the proportion continuing to higher degrees is smaller. At the current rate of graduation, between 1 1/2 and 2 per cent of the Canadian women of the future will have completed a university education, about 4 per cent of the men.

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

No. 200. Wed. April 17, 1935 - The Farmer Watches the Weather

This is the time of year when farmers in western Canada watch their soil carefully to determine the best time for seeding. The weather is also watched carefully for signs of further spring rains, which are so necessary for germination of the seed and early development of the crop. Generally speaking, the soil moisture is much improved over that of last year. This is especially true of the top-soil, the sub-soil still showing a serious deficiency over the wide areas which have suffered from continuous drought. In Manitoba there is a wide variation in spring conditions from the flooded, low-lying fields of the Red River Valley to the dry and blowing soils of the south-western corner of the province. Winter and spring snows in the north give a promising outlook.

In Saskatchewan also, the soils of the northern sections have received moisture from the plentiful winter snows and prospects are very good. In the southern and central areas there has been a definite improvement in moisture conditions during the past six weeks and the top-soil has been kept moist enough to prevent serious drifting. The sub-soil lacks moisture reserves but there is a more hopeful feeling prevalent. Surely no area is more deserving of a "break" from the weatherman.

In Alberta, the northern and western sections are well supplied with moisture and seeding may be retarded by the late disappearance of the snow. The east-central and southern areas have ample moisture in the top-soil, but extra heavy rains will be needed because of the dry sub-soil.

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

No. 201. Thurs. April 18, 1935 - The Work of the Hospitals

There are in Canada over 900 hospitals, a number greater than the total in the entire western world until comparatively recent years. For the modern hospital, like modern medicine and surgery on which it is founded, is primarily a development of the last century.

In Canadian hospitals of all kinds there is accommodation for nearly 100,000 persons. In those for mental and incurable cases there are about 40,000 persons confined all the time, and in other hospitals about 35,000.

Without counting the babies who are born there, over 600,000 Canadian, or one in every seventeen, spend some time under treatment in a hospital each year. Apart from the mental and incurable institutions, the average length of stay is about three weeks, running as high as four months in sanatoria for tuberculosis, but somewhat less than two weeks in general hospitals.

In spite of this immense amount of work by the hospitals there is, of course, still more illness treated in the homes. On the basis of the census it is estimated that there is about one week's sickness per person in the entire population serious enough to incapacitate for work, but less than one-third of it is treated in hospitals of all kinds.

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

No. 202. Fri. April 19, 1935 - Silver

In some ancient states the value of silver appears to have been superior to gold and so late as the 17th century silver and gold were

valued equally in Japan. The average commercial ratio of silver to gold has risen rapidly since 1931, reaching over 75.5 in 1933.

Silver has many uses other than for coinage. It is now utilized extensively in chemical and food plant equipment and its salts are widely employed in industry. The metal is consumed in large quantities for the manufacture of photographic plate and film.

Reference to silver in Canada dates back to 1604 when its discovery was reported by Master Simon, a mining engineer accompanying Champlain. Bellin's map of 1744 showed the existence of argentiferous ores on Lake Temiskaming.

Canada in 1934 was surpassed as a silver producer only by Mexico and United States. Production in the Dominion has risen from 355,000 ounces in 1887 to over 16 million ounces in 1934. British Columbia and Ontario are the leading silver producing provinces and the Sullivan mine in British Columbia is Canada's greatest single silver producer. Commercial shipments of silver-pitchblende ores are now being made from the North West Territories and the recent increase in the price of silver has stimulated interest in the older silver camps.

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

No. 203, Sat. April 20, 1935 - Canada's Trade with New Zealand

Canada and New Zealand together supply a large part of the world's staff of life. The products are complementary. Canada, the world's largest exporter of wheat and second ranking exporter of wheat flour, contributes the bread while New Zealand is the second largest exporter of butter in the world.

New Zealand, a British dominion in the South Seas, has a remarkably equable climate and provides probably the best example in the world of the island type of country. The dominant industry is sheep-rearing. The dairying business supplies 25 per cent of the country's total industrial production.

New Zealand early became noted for experiments in state socialism. At the end of the Sixties government annuities and life insurance were inaugurated. There is a government fire department, government telephones, government depots to sell coal from government mines and carried over government railways, government maternity and other hospitals, old age pensions, all factory labour controlled by the government, sweating abolished and minimum wages determined, an eight hour day for women as far back as 1873, industrial conciliation and arbitration, compulsory acquisition of land for closer settlement.

Formerly it was butter but now raw wool, followed by sausage casings and raw hides, is the largest import from New Zealand. We also get apples, onions, seeds and meats. Canada sells automobiles, rubber products, paper,

canned salmon, farm implements and a long list of other commodities including onions, which we also get from the New Zealanders. Last year our imports were valued at \$2,893,000 and our exports \$6,821,000.

This information is obtained from the External Trade reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 204. Sun. April 21, 1935 - The Easter Feast

On this Easter Sunday a huge proportion of the civilized world sat down to dinner with spring lamb as the chief item upon the menu. A large proportion of mankind has been doing that for ages. Long before the Israelites became a nation and far beyond the Christian era, spring lamb figured in the feasts to the honor of the various goddesses of spring.

Among the Anglo-Saxons, Norsemen and other Teutonic races, the feast of Eostre or Ostara, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, was celebrated in April, which was named Eosturmonath, or Easter month, when young lambs were principal items at all the feasts. With the coming of Christianity, and the celebration of the Christian Easter, the traditional use of lamb still persisted, and so on to the present day.

The mention of lamb brings the reflection that Canada is very far from being a sheep country. There are actually not as many as $3\frac{1}{2}$ million in the Dominion whereas in a little country like Scotland there are more than double that. There are actually 31 countries with more sheep than Canada has. The great sheep country of the world is Australia with 113,000,000 grazing upon the land. This is more than double the number in the United States, Soviet Russia or South Africa, these having about 50 million each. In a comparatively small country like New Zealand there are nearly 30 million. As a result probably of the smallness of the Canadian flocks, the Canadian people are amongst the smallest consumers of mutton and lamb amongst the great nations.

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

No. 205. Mon. April 22, 1935 - In the Spring Time

In the spring the young wife's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of --- spring cleaning. From garret to living room everything is topsy-turvy in the process and the dutiful benedict repairs to the cellar to contemplate his share of the task, or perhaps just to have a quiet talk with himself over the many things he had planned to do and left undone.

One of the household agenda that has taken considerable thought is how to make old things look almost as well as new, to borrow a thought from the "Cotter's Saturday Night". There are curtains and feathers

and carpets and what not, that should go to the cleaners and dyers to get fixed up.

This necessity has built up a good business in Canada, which runs into upwards of 15 million dollars in a year. There is over 23 millions invested in the cleaning, dyeing and laundering business and the wages paid run to nearly eight millions. The laundries are the major part of the industry, their revenue being double that of the dyers and cleaners.

To the uninitiated it will appear curious that the major material requisitioned is common salt. Nearly four million pounds was used last year, soaps nearly three million and gasoline and benzine over one million gallons. The ordinary man, however, will quite understand that the cost of buttons is about \$50,000.

This information is obtained from a report on the subject issued a few days ago by the General Manufactures Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 206. Tues. April 23, 1935 - Our Native Lands

"Oh, to be in England, now that April's there", wrote Browning while living in Italy, and doubtless with the coming of spring, the thoughts of Canadians from abroad sometimes turn to their native lands. Twenty-two in every hundred is the proportion born in other countries, and a further eight are living in a province other than that of their birth; so nearly one-third of all Canadians may be susceptible to a touch of homesickness of the Browning kind. But only nine in every hundred lack that feeling of being "at home" in Canada, which is engendered from having been born under the British flag.

Two-thirds of the residents of British Columbia have not been born in the province, and the proportion "born elsewhere" is also high for the Prairie Provinces and the Yukon. Ontario has received a great many newcomers in recent years, for it now has almost as many immigrants in its population as the three Prairie Provinces combined --- over 800,000 in both cases.

Saskatchewan is "home" for the greatest number of native Canadians from other provinces, though the proportion of such persons is as high in the population of Alberta, and higher in British Columbia.

The Maritime Provinces and Quebec are distinguished by their contributions to the population of other provinces rather than by the number they have received. Only about ten per cent of their people have come from other provinces or countries.

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

No. 207. Wed. April 24, 1935 - The Canoe

There is one mode of travel and one branch of pleasure and sport in Canada that has withstood successfully the competition of the motorboat and the automobile, and that is canoeing. Even if the young paddlers of the cities are not so much in evidence in adjacent waters on a Saturday or a Sunday as they were a quarter of a century ago, there appear to be just as many of them. The difference is that they are able to go farther afield and explore new waters.

It was a charming scene the lads made years ago, before the craze for bare shoulders and backs struck youth, when they set out in their gaily painted little craft, clad in white, their fair ladies in the bow and a little gramophone trilling harmoniously. They paddled away from the cities in their hundreds. Today they are more widely scattered.

There is an enormous number of canoes in use in Canada, from the birch-bark to the cedar planked and the canvas-covered beauties. A good canoe, well taken care of, will last for a couple of generations anyway and there are from one thousand to four thousand turned out by the factories in a year. Many more are home-made, especially in the hinterlands, and these are not included, nor are the canoes of the Indians and the Eskimos. The Canadian canoe is the favorite on the Thames in England.

Yes, the sport of canoeing is still very much alive, and the adventures of John MacGregor in his *Rob Roy*, of Robert Louis Stevenson and of W. Baden-Powell are still books of books.

This information is obtained from reports issued by the Forest Products Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 208. Thurs. April 25, 1935 - Oats

We hear so much about wheat that we are apt to forget about oats as a great national crop and one of our prime foods. Actually the percentage both of fat and albuminoids is much higher for oats than for wheat. The straw, used as chaff and green fodder, has a similar advantage over wheat straw.

Oats are a cultivated cereal whose native country is unknown, but it is believed to have been derived by selection and cultivation from the wild oat of Europe, Siberia and India. The finest oats are grown reputedly in Scotland, yet at the Imperial Conference of 1932 in Ottawa a Scotsman complimented the hotel purveyor on the high quality of his breakfast porridge and his enterprise in bringing oatmeal all the way from Caledonia. To his consternation the guest was informed that he was using Canadian-made oatmeal from oats grown in a certain province. The waiter let slip the name of the province but the radio listener can do some guessing or read the newspaper advertisements for discovery.

Canada grows between 300 and 400 million bushels of oats in a year, and in most years produces a greater bushelage of oats than wheat. We export far less oats than wheat so it must be on oats rather than on wheat that the brawn and muscle of man and horse in this Dominion is so well built.

Canada is exporting considerably over one million bushels a month and most of it is going to the United Kingdom. It sounds like taking coals to Newcastle, but a considerable quantity of oats and oatmeal goes to the Land o' Cakes itself.

This information is obtained from the Agricultural and External Trade Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics

No. 209. Fri. April 26, 1935 - Canada's Highest Priced Pelt

The highest average price paid for the pelt of a Canadian fur bearing animal is not that of the Silver Fox, as is generally supposed, but the Fisher or Pekan. The average price of the raw pelt of the Fisher today is more than \$50, and that of the Silver Fox just over \$30.

The Fisher is a fisher in name only. It does not fish; in fact, it has very little love for the water. It is a member of the weasel family but is larger than the marten and looks like a big black cat. Fishers are found throughout the wooded sections of Canada, from New Brunswick to British Columbia, usually in the vicinity of a swamp. They are equally at home in the trees or on the ground and they are believed to be the most agile of tree animals, faster than either the squirrel or the marten. On the ground also they are so fast they can run down a hare. The Fishers are untiring travellers and cover immense distances at a time. They are destructive and can be a source of annoyance to the trapper, eating the bait or destroying the captured animals.

The number of pelts marketed in Canada yearly is about 2,500, half of them being got in Ontario, over 800 in British Columbia and a few less in Quebec.

This information is obtained from reports by the Fur Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 210. Sat. April 27, 1935 - Canada's Trade with Austria

The Republic of Austria, that portion of the western half of the great Austro-Hungarian monarchy which remains after its disintegration following the World War, does business with Canada. Indeed, Canada has a trade treaty with Austria. Stripped of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, Dalmatia, Galicia and other important divisions of the country, the foundations of which Charlemagne laid, the territory has been reduced from about 136,000 square miles to 32,000. Vienna is the capital. The population which before the Great War was nearly 30 millions is now only about six millions.

With the exception of Switzerland it is the most mountainous country of Europe and through it flows the Danube. Austria has no seaboard but has an arrangement with Italy and enjoys practically free use, for commercial purposes, of the port of Trieste. Wild boars, deer, bears, lynxes, wolves and chamois abound.

Wheat and wheat flour, maize, apples, wood pulp, fur skins, patent leather, threshing machines, zinc, copper, asbestos, nickel and lumber are some of the commodities which the Austrians get from Canada, whilst from Austria we get a great variety of things such as embroideries, knitted goods, silk ribbons, ladies' hats, umbrellas and parasols, bathing caps, tobacco pipes, scythes, wall tile, bells and fine soaps.

Austria imported goods from Canada in 1934 to the value of \$788,000 and exported \$227,000. The imports from Canada in 1933 were about $2\frac{1}{4}$ million dollars.

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

No. 211. Sun. April 28, 1935 - Sex and Official Language

There are very interesting sex differences in the population attitude towards official language; that is, the capacity to use one or both of the official languages of Canada, English or French.

It is quite apparent that males are more bilingual than females. Census statistics reveal that 15 per cent of the male population of Canada and only 12 per cent of the female population can speak both French and English, while 2 per cent of the females and only $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent of the males speak neither English nor French.

This is not a statement that can be explained away by such accidental circumstances as age because it is exemplified in every age group in the population. It is apparently a true phenomenon.

The reason is probably due to the fact that men mix more than women. Men are away from home more than women and in very many cases their daily toil is rendered easier by knowing both English and French.

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

No. 212. Mon. April 29, 1935 - Tobacco

Englishmen taught the world the use of tobacco as a smoke, while Catherine de Medici initiated snuff-taking in France as a cure for headache. In 1586 Ralph Lane, the first governor of Virginia, and Sir Francis Drake took smoking materials and implements to Sir Walter Raleigh who very rapidly popularized the custom in England.

That astute lady, Queen Elizabeth, saw in it a source of revenue and imposed a tax of four cents per pound on imported tobacco, which King James in the next reign increased to almost one dollar. He hated tobacco. Recently the tariff on imported tobacco in England has risen to about \$3.75 per pound. The Canadian duties on cigarettes run up to \$4.10 per pound.

The tobacco plant can be cultivated in every part of the world but with widely varying measures of success. In British gardens it is grown for the sake of its flowers. Syria produces latakia, Louisiana the black perique, Virginia the fine light coloured variety, and Cuba the dark cigar leaf. The United States is the great producer.

Excellent tobacco is grown in Canada and it is finding favor in the British market. Last year the production was 22 million pounds and sometimes the amount is much greater. Practically all of last year's crop is sold. We sent eight and a half million pounds of unmanufactured tobacco to the United Kingdom last year.

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

No. 213. Tues. April 30, 1935 - The Rose

The rose is the queen of flowers. It is the emblematic flower of England whose cultivated forms have been improved from strains or varieties of the wild dog-rose or briar. There are one hundred natural species of roses in the world and numerous hybrid varieties.

No flower is so popular as the rose. Poets have sung its praises, warriors have carried it to battle, statesmen have relieved the sombre hue of their coat lapels with it, it is the gift of gifts when flowers are presented to a lady. When the morning dew is upon the garden the air is laden with its rich perfume.

Time was when the mistress of the garden demanded a rose whose perfume would measure up to its beauty and there are gardens still in Canada flourishing with Irish ungrafted roses. But today is the day of the hybrid, more beautiful to the eye, no doubt, but having lost the scent of its ancestors and always aching to sprout briar from its borrowed root.

The Netherlands is a country which has developed the hybrid to a very high perfection, and from there the Canadian people get an immense quantity of rose bushes each year. Last year the total importation was 285,000 valued at over \$400,000 and 125,000 came from Holland alone, the invoice saying \$262,000. We got 90,000 from the United Kingdom, and the rest from such countries as Denmark, France, Belgium, Italy and the United States.

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

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