

-D-02

C-3

RECEIVED
JUN 14 1981

A FACT A DAY ABOUT CANADA
FROM THE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
AS SUPPLIED TO THE
CANADIAN RADIO BROADCASTING COMMISSION
JUNE 1 TO JULY 7, 1935.

Note: These broadcasts have been discontinued until the Fall.

See Page 19.

Contents

- | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|
| 245. | Canada's Trade with Abyssinia. | 262. | We Spend More on Cars than on Clothes. |
| 246. | Pens and Penmanship. | 263. | The Great Cod Banks. |
| 247. | 1935 Wheat Crops are on the Way. | 264. | Pawnbrokers. |
| 248. | About the Skilled Mechanic. | 265. | Wool. |
| 249. | Canadians and the Drug Store. | 266. | Canada's Trade with Ceylon. |
| 250. | The Population of the Prairie Provinces. | 267. | Damask and Fine Linen. |
| 251. | Canadian Crop Situation. | 268. | St. Jean Baptiste Day. |
| 252. | Canada's Trade with Italy. | 269. | Whaling in Canada does a Comeback |
| 253. | The White Plague. | 270. | Revolvers and Pistols. |
| 254. | School Vacation Time. | 271. | Lifelong Education. |
| 255. | Can Canada Supply her own Sugar? | 272. | Time Lost Through Sickness. |
| 256. | The Cost of Living. | 273. | Canada's Trade with Syria. |
| 257. | The Delicious Strawberry. | 274. | The Bicycle in Canada. |
| 258. | The Piano in Canada. | 275. | Dominion Day. |
| 259. | Canada's Trade with the Netherlands. | 276. | How Small Things Grow. |
| 260. | June Bridals. | 277. | Buckwheat. |
| 261. | The Cuspidor in the Parlor. | 278. | Regarding these Facts a Day about Canada. |
-

A Fact a Day about Canada

from the

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

No. 245. Sat. June 1, 1935. - Canada's Trade with Abyssinia

Canada's trade with Abyssinia is small but there is for us an interest in that romantic country which goes beyond trade figures. This interest has been stimulated recently by the friction that has arisen between the Italians and the Ethiopians.

The present rulers of Abyssinia claim descent from Menelek, who was the son of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. It was the first Christian country in the world and its Coptic ritual is in the main unchanged from the 7th century.

Abyssinia is wholly an inland country, surrounded by British, French and Italian possessions. It has no seaport. It is a mountainous rock-bound stronghold, almost as large as British Columbia and the population about half that of Canada. Deserts surround it. Its Empire history dates from the first century B.C. when there was a large influx of settlers from Southern Arabia. The government is an autocracy, tempered by an oligarchical constitution promulgated in 1931.

The only Abyssinian product we got last year was green coffee to the value of about \$13,000. It is highly prized. Coffee grows wild in Ethiopia. Canadian exports were valued at \$1,500 of which \$1,400 was accounted for by rubber tires and tubes.

This information is contained in records and reports by the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 246. Sun. June 2, 1935. - Pens and Penmanship

The change that has come over pens and penmanship, letter writing and bookkeeping, the whole art of correspondence, in the last half century is an illustration of our development in speed and consequent change of practice. We have gained much, although we have lost something. What we have certainly left behind us is the wondrous variety of characteristic caligraphy, often difficult to decipher, that was carried by the mails.

The earliest writing instruments were the brush of the Chinese and the Egyptians and the stylus of the Greeks and the Romans. The origin of the quill for writing is uncertain, but it was for many centuries the chief writing instrument, holding its own until the middle of the last century. Fifty or sixty years ago, a judge on the bench might still be seen scratching his notes with a goose quill, and many men, clinging to habit, wrote their correspondence that way.

The steel pen was invented early in the 19th century and took the place of the quill. It made style somewhat more uniform and its vogue persists, despite the influence of the typewriter. Many leading men in Canada write their letters by hand with a steel pen and that is still considered the ultimate of courtesy in letter-writing. The stylographic pen came next, but it has been replaced by the fountain pen, a handy instrument, although it is not possible to display with it the highest art in penmanship or decorative writing.

There are over half a million fountain pens made in Canada in a year, and the factory value of other pens is over \$80,000. Our importations are considerable but the domestic production is far in excess.

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

No. 247. Mon. June 3, 1935. - 1935 Wheat Crops are on the Way

Wheat crops throughout the world are in varying stages of development depending largely upon their geographical position. In the month of June, wheat will be harvested in south-western Europe and in southern portions of the United States. In July, harvesting will take place in the Danubian countries of Europe, in southern areas of Russia and Germany and in Austria and Switzerland. In August, the finest wheats in the world are harvested when farmers in the southern and central areas of Canada are garnering their crops. In the same month wheat crops in the United Kingdom and the northern countries of continental Europe are being gathered in.

In the Argentine and Australia farmers are seeding wheat crops at the present time and both countries need rain. In these countries farmers are seeding "winter" wheat. The new crops will undergo early stages of development and then will lie dormant during the cold weather of July and August. Development will be resumed with the return of spring rains and warm weather and crops will mature under the ripening December sunshine.

The progress of civilization will be demonstrated with the harvesting of wheat in various parts of the world. In the specialized wheat producing countries, such as Canada and the United States, harvesting will be completed with modern equipment ranging from the binder and threshing machines to the "combine" which cuts and threshes the crop in one operation. In parts of Europe and Asia harvesting will be done by hand with a scythe or sickle in much the same manner as 2,000 years ago. Whether crops are garnered by the modern combines or the humble instruments of centuries ago, the purpose is the same -- the maintenance of human life.

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

No. 248. Tues. June 4, 1935. - About the Skilled Mechanic

The skilled mechanic, the man who has been trained to his job, is invaluable to a country. Our industries, our progress depend so much upon him. He has spent many of his most receptive years in intensive training. He is one of the great doers. One of the instructive things the Census tells

us is the country of birth of the skilled mechanics.

There are 214,000 native-born Canadian males engaged in manufacturing and about 121,000 who were born in the British Isles. That is not three to one. In a highly specialized industry such as iron and its products there are not two Canadians for every Old Country man, while in the non-ferrous metal products there are two men from the United Kingdom for every three Canadian-born.

While there are 110,000 men from Great Britain in agriculture, that is only one for every seven Canadian-born in the same business, the proportion being smallest in the Province of Quebec where it is one in eighty-four, whereas in British Columbia almost every second farmer is from Great Britain. There are three Canadian-born to one British immigrant in the Construction business. On the other hand there are about thirty Canadian-born to every one man from the British Isles in forestry, fishing and trapping.

These figures show that the number of British immigrants in industries which require skilled help is out of all proportion to the number of Canadian-born, pro rata to population. One of several reasons for this may be found in the age distribution of Canada just before and shortly after the great immigration movement of the first decade of the century.

This information is contained in a report issued last week by the Census Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 249. Wed. June 5, 1935. - Canadians and the Drug Store

It was discovered at the recent Census of Trading Establishments that the per capita sales of drugs and drug sundries in Canada amounted to almost \$5. British Columbia's drug sales were the highest of the provinces per capita, amounting to over \$6, while in Prince Edward Island the amount was about \$2.75, the lowest in the Dominion.

The total sales of drugs and drug sundries amounted to over \$50,000,000, excluding estimates for the value of medicines sold by physicians from their own dispensaries, or by hospitals or other institutions. The provinces with the lowest proportions of urban populations have the lowest per capita sales of drugs through retail stores, while those provinces in which the proportions of urban population are greatest have the highest per capita sales of the same commodities. The Quebec figures, however, do not conform to the relationship existing for the other provinces, the per capita sales of drugs in that province falling much below the normal value corresponding to its degree of urban concentration.

Some interesting facts regarding drug stores were obtained. Only 6½ per cent of all drug store sales were made on credit; 42 per cent of the stores indicated that they sold for cash only. Only 20 per cent of the stores had been under the same ownership for more than twenty years. The average capital investment was over \$9,000. Only eight out of every 100 were chain stores.

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

No. 250. Thurs. June 6, 1935. - The Population of the Prairie Provinces

Most families in the older places of the Dominion have relatives or friends in the wide spaces of the Great West. That alone draws us close to the Prairie Provinces. But there is more than that to rule our minds. There is the rich appeal of sentiment and romance. Our literature, our poetry, our history, our adventure, have been given rare quotas from ancient lands over which the Red Indian once held sway.

In the East it is still in the back of men's heads that the Prairie Provinces are vast plains of waving wheat, treeless, a farm home as a dot on the landscape only now and again, with a few ambitious towns and cities. It is as a farm country that we view the West.

So it will come to many of us as something unexpected to learn from the Census that the non-farm population is almost equal to the farm population. There are 1,195,000 people living on farms and 1,153,000 who are not. Most of the latter, far more than half, live in such cities as Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina and Saskatoon.

More than half of the people of the Prairie Provinces were born there, whereas thirty years ago the number of Prairie-born was only 156,000. Like their fellow-Canadians they have the spirit of travel, and there are 100,000 Prairie-born who are living in other provinces, two of them in Parliament, one, Leslie Gordon Bell, representing a Quebec seat and the other, Wilfred Hanbury, elected in British Columbia.

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

No. 251. Fri. June 7, 1935. - Canadian Crop Situation

There is a growing interest in the Canadian crop situation and a few venturesome souls have already made estimates of the size of the Prairie wheat crop. The ultimate harvest in Canada is so dependent upon the weather of June and July that reputable authorities must wait until the end of the growing season before hazarding an estimate in bushels. To provide a more definite guide and comparison than qualitative description, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics asks its large corps of crop correspondents to estimate the condition of the crop at the end of each month during the growing season. These figures for May 31 were released today.

They reveal a marked improvement in the crop situation in the Prairie Provinces, especially in those southern areas which have been so ravaged by drought during the past few years. In fact, prospects at May 31 were higher in the so-called drought areas than in the northern districts where seeding was seriously delayed. So far, rainfall has been very plentiful, amounting to over six inches since April 1 at several Prairie stations and being generally double that of the same period last year.

Eastern Canada, the Maritime Provinces and the far western province of British Columbia have not fared so well. The cold, backward spring resulted in condition figures for most crops being lower than any at the same date in the past twenty years.

At the end of May, condition figures indicated that the grain harvests of Canada would be 15 to 58 per cent greater than in 1934, but, of course, there is a long period of anxiety still ahead.

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

No. 252. Sat. June 8, 1935. - Canada's Trade with Italy

With Prime Minister Signor Benito Mussolini so much in the newspaper headlines, people are apt to forget that Italy is still a kingdom and that the king is Victor Emmanuel II. Italian unity was accomplished under the House of Savoy after an heroic struggle continuing from 1848 to 1870. Cavour, the statesman, Mazzini, the philosopher, and Garibaldi, the soldier, being the principal figures. From a constitutional monarchy the kingdom's government has become, since 1922, a Fascist state, the basic idea being that the corporative or guild state based upon capitalism is supreme over the economic and social groups within the nation.

The peninsula and the seventy islands belonging to Italy have an area of less than one-fifth the size of Quebec, but the population of forty-two millions is four times that of all Canada. There is a large settled and floating population of Americans and Britishers. Rome, the capital, is about the size of Montreal.

Canada does a considerable trade with Italy, the imports last year being valued at about \$2,750,000 and the exports over \$3,500,000. We get lemons, olives and cherries in brine, olive oil, wines, felt hats, silk fabrics, cream of tartar, tobacco pipes and many textile products. We send to Italy a good deal of wheat, rubber tires, dried cod-fish, wood pulp, copper, nickel, sausage casings, upper leather and fox skins. Cargo vessels run direct between Canada and Italy both from and to the St. Lawrence and Vancouver ports.

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

No. 253. Sun. June 9, 1935. - The White Plague

Years ago we heard far more about tuberculosis than we do now and with dread men spoke and wrote about the "White Plague" as it was called. The battle against it has been remarkably successful and progress is being recorded year by year.

The number of deaths from tuberculosis in 1930, exclusive of the Indian population, was 7,383, which dropped to 6,944 in 1931 and to 6,446 in 1932, the average for the three years being 68 per 100,000 of the population. Emphatic progress has been recorded in Quebec where the death rate was 129 per 100,000 as late as 1926; the three year average from 1930 to 1932 being lowered to 110.

That is the highest of the provincial rates. Saskatchewan being the lowest with 28. The Maritimes, along with Quebec, have a higher rate than the Canadian average but all the rest of the provinces are lower.

Amongst the cities, Quebec led with an average of 160 per 100,000, Halifax 130, and Montreal 114. On the Pacific Coast, Vancouver had 84 and Victoria 85. The leading Prairie Province cities had low death rates from tuberculosis with Winnipeg 48, Regina 39, Saskatoon 31, Calgary 35 and Edmonton 43. The Toronto rate was 52 and Ottawa 57.

This information is contained in a report issued recently by the Demography Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 254. Mon. June 10, 1935. - School Vacation Time

With the arrival of June, most Canadians begin to see their annual holiday within sight, - and not least that fourth of the people whose place of daily labour is the schools. Over 80,000 teachers look forward to six or eight weeks of relaxation from trying days in the classroom. But nearly 10,000 of them will spend the greater part of their vacation going to school themselves -- to summer school, in order that they may be better equipped to serve the children another year. Twenty or thirty years ago there was little of this summer improvement among teachers, but it is probably safe to say now that a majority of teachers have spent at least one vacation in this way, and many of them several.

When the schools close at the end of the month nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ million children go on holiday. Fewer of them than formerly have to face the final examinations by which their failure or success was so generally determined a few years ago. Now more weight is being given to the teacher's opinion of their work throughout the year.

Over 200,000 of the young people are leaving school not just for the summer but for the rest of their lives. Most of them are in their middle teens and have spent some time at least in high school. Although they have finished school many of them will not know just what they are going to do. In the last census year, it was found that they did not become self-supporting until the age of 18, so each on the average may have a couple of trying and uncertain years.

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

No. 255. Tues. June 11, 1935. - Can Canada Supply her own Sugar?

The question is often asked: Can Canada supply all her own sugar requirements. The answer is: certainly. But there are modifications. One consideration is that at present it appears to be more expensive to produce sugar from beets than from imported cane.

The per capita Canadian consumption of sugar is about one hundredweight so that the annual requirements are between ten and eleven million cwt. Our domestic supply runs up to over 1,300,000 cwt. Last year it was about 1,140,000 and we imported over 8,550,000 cwt. mainly from Empire countries, such as the British West Indies, British Guiana, British South Africa, Australia and the Fiji Islands.

The beet sugar acreage in Canada last year was less than 40,000 acres. An average of about 3,000 pounds of refined sugar was got from an acre of beets; it would require, therefore, five or six times that acreage to produce enough sugar to supply Canada's domestic needs. Successful beet growing requires a heavy loam soil with lots of moisture. Practically every province can produce sugar beets.

There are three sugar beet factories now operating in Canada, two in Ontario and one in Alberta. However, another one is being built in the latter province. In the early nineties there were three factories established in Quebec, at Farnham, Coaticook and Berthier, under a system of Government bounties. There were four in Ontario at Kitchener, Dresden, Wallaceburg and Wiarton. The only Eastern Canada factories today are at Wallaceburg and Chatham.

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

No. 256. Wed. June 12, 1935. - The Cost of Living

The "Cost of Living" is a vague term with a wide range of definitions. To most of us the cost of living equals the amount of our pay cheques, in spite of the firmest resolutions to budget and put something by for a rainy day. When the statistician measures changes in living costs, he starts with a fixed list of commodities and services and then traces the average cost of this list at retail from month to month and from year to year. There are 245 items in the official Canadian cost of living index number, including 46 foods, over 50 items of clothing, fuels, rentals, household furnishings, insurance premiums, health maintenance costs, and a wide range of other expenditures.

From the beginning of 1930 until June 1933, living costs in Canada declined by approximately 25 per cent, but since that time the tendency has been towards a slow increase which has been most apparent for foods. Rising food prices are of course of special importance to the consumer since purchases of this type are a daily occurrence. In Canada as a whole, there has been little change during the past two years in other budget groups, such as clothing, fuel, shelter and household equipment. For the average family of five persons, living costs are now probably somewhat less than 5 per cent higher than they were at the lowest point of the depression.

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

No. 257. Thurs. June 13, 1935. - The Delicious Strawberry

Izaak Walton records in his famous book the saying of his friend, Dr. William Butler, regarding the strawberry: "Doubtless God could have made a better berry, but doubtless God never did". That was hundreds of years ago when the wild strawberry of England had not been "gardenized" so much as now, if the Bureau may be allowed to coin a word.

The strawberry in Canada, perhaps not quite so luscious as in England with its more moist atmosphere, is withal our favorite berry. None other approaches it in popularity. The annual crop runs to nearly forty million pounds, with Ontario and British Columbia the main producers. This is not the largest small fruit crop in the Dominion, for grapes lead, but a great proportion of the grapes is used to make wine. The strawberry does not make good wine. Ontario's crop runs to about fifteen million pounds and British Columbia's not very much less. We also have the wild strawberry, a choice fruit.

While we have been waiting for the 1935 strawberry to ripen and grace our meals, we have been importing out of season many millions of pounds from the United States and it is remarkable how good they are after the long rail haul and the necessity of being gathered before they are quite ripe. Last year we got six million pounds of that fruit out-of-season, truly an extraordinary testimony to our love for the strawberry.

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

No. 258. Fri. June 14, 1935. - The Piano in Canada

It is not much more than two centuries ago since the pianoforte was invented by Cristofori, the famous harpsichord maker of Padua and Florence, and the modern grand piano is in all essentials the same today. To the average musician the piano offers the maximum of return for the minimum of outlay, enabling him to acquire a personal acquaintance with various forms of music. Scarcely a home of comfortable pretensions in Canada or elsewhere but can boast the possession of a household instrument.

Although it is quite true that not so many musical instruments, pianos amongst them, are being sold today as there were before the coming of radio, the output is still quite large. About five hundred have been manufactured each year in Canada recently and more are imported. There were 100 brought into the country last year, mainly from the United States, although there were some also from the United Kingdom and Germany.

It is perhaps surprising to find that in a Canadian output of slightly upwards of 500 there were 180 grand pianos, that variety of the instrument which makes such an appeal both on the concert platform and in the drawing room.

This information is taken from a report issued by the Census of Industry of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 259. Sat. June 15, 1935. - Canada's Trade with the Netherlands

The Netherlands is the modern kingdom known to the British as Holland and to the French as Le Pays Bas. In size it is about half the province of New Brunswick and the population is over eight millions. Netherlanders are Frisians, Saxons and Franks in the main. Their language is more akin to English than to German, which is exemplified in the old English couplet we learned at school:

"Good butter and good cheese
Is good English and good Frise".

Holland has been an ancient rival of the British for dominance of sea-borne trade and no sailor of a foreign power is better known amongst British people than Van Tromp. Today the Netherlands is the seventh trading nation of the world. Her enterprise has been remarkable. Much of the country is below the level of the sea, which is kept out by walls. Rivers at their mouths are frequently below the level of the sea into which they have to be lifted by canals and locks across the dunes.

Our imports from the Netherlands last year were of the value of close to \$5,000,000, while our exports went over \$10,000,000. We got tulips, and other bulbs and plants, seeds, gelatine, artificial silk, binder twine, gin, cocoa, butter, cheese, fertilizers, diamonds and lithopone, and we sent to Holland apples, barley, buckwheat, oats, wheat, rubber tires, wood pulp, aluminium and its manufactures, copper and its manufactures, and nickel.

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

No. 260. Sun. June 16, 1935. - June Bridals

Leafy June is the favorite marriage month in Canada. It is generally regarded as the luckiest month for that event. But October runs it close. During the past few years the percentage of marriages in June was twelve in every 100 and in October it was eleven.

There are provincial contrasts that are interesting. In Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia, June is the popular month, but in Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan and Alberta they have a preference for November, in Nova Scotia September, in New Brunswick and Manitoba October. The callings of the majority of the people in the different provinces certainly influence the choice of the month of marriage.

Why there is a preference for entering wedded bliss in June is difficult to say, but it is possible that we have inherited from the Romans the superstition of luck in that month. In Olde England the bride in fixing her wedding day was careful to choose an evening in June with a growing moon and a full tide, both of these circumstances being considered lucky. But never on a Friday.

The fewest marriages take place in March, the Lenten month, reminding us of the old proverb: "Marry in Lent and you'll repent". The French-Canadians observe that saying most of all our people. The number of Canadians

marrying in May is comparatively small, recalling another old proverb: "Marry in May and you'll rue the day".

Last year there were 9,273 marriages in June, 8,075 in October and 3,310 in March. In the whole year there were 73,023 marriages as against 63,865 in 1933.

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

No. 261. Mon. June 17, 1935. - The Cuspidor in the Parlour

The cuspidor has gone from most of the parlours. No more does the welcoming hostess see to it that one is installed beside the morris chair for the male visitor ensconced in that honored, restful furniture. She produces an ash tray instead. Men have changed their habits much of late years, and they do not chew tobacco nor smoke cutty pipes so much as they used to do. A nonagenarian of today may even be seen puffing a cigarette which once upon a time was described as a "coffin-nail".

There were many beautiful cuspidors in the old days, the hotels boasting magnificent highly polished brass creations, the House of Parliament not far behind. From them to the little delft exemplar of ordinary folk there was a long range of designs.

But the Canadians still chew, if more surreptitiously. They chew about four million pounds of tobacco in a year, including snuff, which is more generally chewed than inhaled nowadays. Roughly speaking, the factory value of chewing tobacco is about one dollar a pound so that when retail expenses are added, the national expenditure on that habit is quite a large sum. All of it is manufactured in Quebec.

This information is contained in reports issued by the Census of Industry of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 262. Tues. June 18, 1935. - We Spend More on Cars than on Clothes

It takes \$50,000,000 more to keep feminine Canada dressed up than it does the men folk of the Dominion. The latest figuring shows that retail sales of women's apparel and children's wear in a year were \$197,000,000, whereas the clothing of men and boys cost only \$143,000,000.

The Canadian people spend more in a year on automobiles than they do on clothing for the bill ran up to \$347,000,000 or \$17,000,000 more than on apparel.

Women's and girls' footwear cost \$36,000,000 and men's and boys' \$26,000,000 so that the ladies spend 38 per cent more on their dainty shoes than men to on their less artistic clappers.

There is a curious difference in the practice of buying by men and women. The woman gets twice as much of her raiment from the departmental stores as she does from the women's ready to-wear stores, but the men patronize the men's clothing and furnishing stores far more than they do the

departmental stores. Why the man favors the trader who specializes in men's commodities and the woman does not is a question for the psychologist.

This information is taken from a Census of Merchandising report issued last week by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 263. Wed. June 19, 1935. - The Great Cod Banks

Every Canadian should know something about the great cod banks which lie off the coasts of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Their story is one of the outstanding world romances of industry and enterprise. It is the oldest organized industry in the modern Canadian domain.

Leaving aside traditions and taking only authentic records, Cabot discovered in 1497 the Cod Banks of Newfoundland. He reported that the sea was so covered with fish they could be caught "with baskets, a stone being attached to make the basket sink in the water". Cape Breton, one of the oldest place-names in America, is a memorial of the early French fishermen and the Spaniards and Portuguese were but little behind. The vessels returned to France with from 30,000 to 50,000 cod in their holds. Twelve of these banks, or uplands on the ocean's bottom, have an area of 70,000 square miles. The Grand Banks is the greatest of them.

These deep sea fisheries are visited regularly by fishermen from Canada, United States and Europe. Canadian vessels are from 40 to 100 tons, carrying 12 to 20 men operating with trawl lines from dories. Splendid home-yard vessels they are, manned by sailors that have no superior anywhere. Sometimes they remain at sea for months and very seldom they come to grief.

Cod, of course, is the chief catch on the banks and along the coasts and it varies up to nearly two million dollars in a season. The Nova Scotian fishermen lead in the Canadian catch with Quebec next and New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island also making good hauls. There is some cod caught on the Pacific Coast. The volume of cod in 1935 was 156 million pounds.

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

No. 264. Thurs. June 20, 1935. - Pawnbrokers

The pawnbroker's shop appears to be passing in Canada. There are very few left. The sign of the Three Golden Balls is seldom seen on a city street.

The origin of pawnbroking may be traced to very early times, but in Christendom the practice was philanthropic rather than commercial. Originally an Italian institution, it was supported by the popes and based on loans to the poor, free of interest. In the end, interest was everywhere charged and had to be controlled by legislation.

Pawnbroking and banking often went together and in England in the reign of Edward I, certain Italian traders gained a foothold on the site

of Lombard Street. Exorbitant charges led to the expulsion of the Lombards in Elizabeth's time. It is said, although this has been disputed, that the sign of the three golden balls is derived from the arms of the Medici, which family gained much power by profitable loans to needy potentates.

The last census showed only 60 "pawbrokers and money-lenders" in the Dominion, as against 425 ten years before. This unexpected difference may be accounted for by changes in designation. The pawbrokers may be calling themselves something else. Certainly a good many of them describe their calling as "merchants" or "second-hand dealers".

The following is the racial origin of most of those who have stuck to the historic name: English 15, Scottish 13, French 12, Hebrew 9, Irish 3, Chinese 3, German 2, Dutch 2.

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

No. 265. Fri. June 21, 1935. - Wool

Canada is a heavy importer of wool for her textile manufactures, the cloth that makes our clothes, that makes our blankets, rugs and a wide range of necessities. Most of that wool is from the fleece of the sheep and the two great sheep countries of the Empire are Australia and New Zealand. In fact, the Antipodes is the largest sheep emporium of the world.

Last year we imported 15 million pounds of raw wool, that is, sheep wool. We got about 7 million, or nearly half of the total, from New Zealand, close to 6 million from the United Kingdom, and over 3 million from Australia. Besides this, we got 11 million pounds of noils and worsted tops mainly from the United Kingdom. No doubt, however, most of the wool imported from Great Britain came originally from other Empire countries, such as the two mentioned, as well as India, British South Africa and the Irish Free State.

It is surprising to find that most of our wool comes from New Zealand rather than from Australia, for although New Zealand has great flocks of sheep totalling over 30 million head, Australia, the greatest sheep country in the world, has four times that number.

Canada is by no means a sheep country, with only about $3\frac{1}{2}$ million head so the chances are overwhelming that the cloth we wear is made of wool that came from the other side of the world.

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

No. 266. Sat. June 22, 1935. - Canada's Trade with Ceylon

Ceylon has the distinction of having the oldest recorded history of any country within the British Empire. Hundreds of years before the time of Christ the Singhalese colonists from the Valley of the Ganges had a highly developed civilization. They had a splendid irrigation system which is still in use in some parts of the island. Ruins of buildings show beautifully carved stone work. Although slave labor was prevalent, social services existed, such as

maternity hospitals and homes for the aged.

The Dutch settlements in Ceylon were taken by the British in 1796 and became a Crown colony in 1802. In 1915 the King of Kandy was deposed and banished.

The area is almost as large as that of New Brunswick and the population about half that of all Canada. Its greatest length from north to south is 270 miles and its greatest breadth 140. The principal product for home consumption is rice.

Canada has direct shipping communication with Ceylon from the Atlantic ports as well as the Pacific. Our main import is tea and that comparatively small island sends us about half as much as we get from British India. We also get desiccated cocconut, raw rubber, cocoa beans, spices, oils and green coffee. We send the people of Ceylon automobiles, rubber goods, such as tires and footwear, agricultural implements, canned salmon, condensed milk, clocks and watches, electrical apparatus, paint, paper, medicines and all sorts of odd manufactures. Last year our imports were valued at \$2,000,000 and our exports \$237,000.

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

No. 267. Sun. June 23, 1935. - Damask and Fine Linen

It is safe to say that Canadian men were not adorned at church today with linen collars and boiled shirts to nearly so great an extent as their fathers were, nor as they were themselves not so very long ago. But when they want the real thing in handkerchiefs or other men's paraphernalia, it is for linen they still bargain over the shop counter. The housewife glories in the snowy whiteness of her tablecloth and other home accessories. They are of damask and fine linen.

The native country of flax is unknown but linen fabrics, thread and linseed oil, which are made from flax, have been found in excavations of the Stone Age, so these old forefathers of ours knew a great deal more than we in our self-conceit sometimes attribute to them. In the best method of harvesting flax we have not advanced one iota beyond them. The best fibre is obtained by hand-pulling and the best threshing results are obtained by using the old flail, afterwards crushing the seed heads with a roller. No substitute has been found to satisfactorily replace flax in the manufacture of fine linens and damask. Its use extends from oakum for caulking boats to the lady's lace handkerchief.

Canada is not a flax country. The total output of manufactured linen last year was factory valued at \$225,000 and much of the raw material was imported. Our total importations of linen, hemp and jute, raw material and finished goods, have averaged over nine million dollars in the last five years. Linen thread from Paisley in Scotland was one of the important items, making, along with linen yarn and twine, over one million pounds last year.

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

No. 268. Mon. June 24, 1935. - St. Jean Baptiste Day

This is the day of Saint John the Baptist. Wherever the French-Canadian dwells it is a day of especial interest, for is not St. Jean Baptiste his national saint, as is Joan of Arc the patron saint of the French of Old France?

John the Baptist comes before us as the forerunner of Christ, which is for us his most noteworthy claim to fame, but he did other work which stamps him as one of the great makers of history and deliverers of men. When black depression was upon the land of his birth and thinkers and writers were devoting their minds to the difficult problems of recovery and there was anxiety amongst good people lest the moral element in the community should not prevail, it was John the Baptist, the evangelist from the desert, who found the answer. Still more than that, there are embodied and illustrated in his life and character, the truths he taught. He was a cousin of Jesus of Nazareth.

John the Baptist became the patron saint of the French-Canadians just about a century ago, when the society of that name was founded by Duvernay and others. There is hardly a settlement in Canada or even the New England States and many other places in the American Republic which has not had a patriotic function of some sort today. "O Canada" was first sung at Quebec in 1890 at a St. Jean Baptiste celebration.

There are over 1,108,000 persons in Canada ten years of age and over who speak French only and there are 1,231,000 who speak both French and English.

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

No. 269. Tues. June 25, 1935. - Whaling in Canada does a Come-Back

The large catch of whales on the Pacific Coast last year has drawn special attention to this ancient industry. The Basque fishermen caught whales from the ninth century onwards, but the Biscayan species has almost died out. The overhunting of the Greenland or Right variety, when its long plates of whalebone were in great demand for shaping and stiffening ladies' dresses and the oil was used for street illumination, is now extremely scarce also. The white whale is found chiefly off the Labrador and Canadian Atlantic coasts. Its skin is converted into the excellent shoe leather known commercially as "porpoise skin".

The whaling industry is carried on mainly by Norwegians around Iceland, Newfoundland, the Faroe Islands and South Africa, as well as off South Georgia, South Shetland and parts of the Antarctic. The Antarctic fisheries are the most productive.

Last year, there were 350 whales caught by Canadian fishermen off the British Columbian coast. Of these 265 were cachalots or sperm whales, which are the largest and most important of the toothed variety. They yield the most valuable of the whale oils, as well as spermaceti and amber-gris. The catch last year, which was the largest since 1918, brought about \$184,000. There were 209 caught in 1933.

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

No. 270. Wed. June 26, 1935. - Revolvers and Pistols

The principle of the modern revolver is of considerable antiquity and specimens of flint-lock revolvers are extant, but until the advent of the percussion cap the weapon had not been an unqualified success. One of the earliest varieties, called the "pepper-box", had revolving barrels instead of revolving cartridge chambers.

The development of the revolver is due chiefly to Col. Samuel Colt, who devoted much time to the subject from 1835 onwards. By that date he had produced a very efficient weapon having one barrel and a revolving cylinder with six chambers. They were muzzle-loading and the hammer had to be cocked by hand for each shot, but they were extremely reliable and very accurate. By 1870 most revolvers were breech-loading.

Col. Colt was born at Hartford, Connecticut, in 1814. At the age of 14 he ran away from a private school and embarked on a voyage to India. It is said that on a visit to the Tower of London he got the idea from a revolving arquebus, which belonged to Henry VIII. He also was a guest at Warwick Castle and took a great interest in a revolving chamber musket there.

The importation of fire-arms of all kinds amounted last year to about \$150,000, which was nearly double that of the previous year, most of them coming from the United States. There is only one firm in Canada making fire-arms and the output is comparatively small.

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

No. 271 Thurs. June 27, 1935. - Lifelong Education

Without counting those from other walks of life, nearly one-quarter of Canadians go on holiday this week, - the quarter whose scene of daily labour for ten months of the year is the schools. But though school stops, their education goes on, - learning to do things at home, how to spend their leisure time, and the like.

There seems to be a growing realization among Canadians of the value of education beyond formal schooling, even into adult years. Two weeks ago, at a Dominion-wide meeting, a Canadian Association for Adult Education was formed. This body is composed of people interested in the improvement of learning facilities for men and women who have ~~left~~ school. Night classes in the schools and universities have been attended annually by about 100,000 persons in recent years, and the additional numbers meeting in groups outside of the schools, for study and discussion must be very large. These are frequently members of clubs, societies, or of a common occupation.

There is an example of the latter in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, where this broadcast originates, members of the staff meeting daily, during the noon hour, in various groups with a common interest, ~~such~~ as the science of statistics or language study. Fellow-employees especially skilled in a particular subject give their services in leading the groups without charge.

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

No. 272 Fri. June 28, 1935. - Time Lost through Sickness

In the summer months, beginning with June, the daily toll of deaths among Canadians is smaller than at other times of the year. This means that there are fewer fatal illnesses at this season, and probably less sickness generally, but the time taken up by indispositions of one kind and another remains high.

The census of 1931 obtained a record of the time lost through sickness by wage-earners, and from this it appears that the average worker loses about a week each year by reason of illness or accident. In addition to this he is often at work when partly incapacitated with a cold or other complaint. Until a man reaches his "forties" he does not average a week of sickness in a year, but beyond this his loss increases to more than two weeks, over the age of sixty. The younger men, in their twenties, lose only half a week.

Gainfully occupied women and girls lose less time on the average than men, but this is partly because they are younger, and perhaps partly because they are in less strenuous or less exposed occupations. Age for age, the time lost through sickness does not differ greatly for the sexes.

The loss that all this sickness represents in working time may be judged from the fact that on the average day of the year there are probably over 50,000 workers incapacitated. And in addition to this there is the time lost from school, household duties, and so on, by the children, mothers, and others, who are not in money-making occupations.

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

No. 273 Sat. June 29, 1935. - Canada's Trade with Syria

Syria is a geographical term for part of the former Turkish territories in Asia Minor. General Allenby made the conquest in 1918. The area is 60,000 square miles. It is larger than the Canadian Maritime Provinces, with a population of $3\frac{1}{2}$ million, or about the same as that of Ontario.

Syria has had a very chequered history. Two thousand years before Christ it formed part of Aram, later on it was in the Hittite confederacy, then under Egypt, the Assyrians, the Israelites under David and Solomon, Persia, Alexander the Great, the Romans, Byzantines, Saracens, the Crusaders with their kingdom of Antioch, Egyptians and Turks. After the Great War the country was mandated to France.

Damascus, with a population of 300,000, is one of the famous cities of the world. It contains the tomb of Saladin. In the south-west quarter is the "Gate of God", through which the pilgrimage to Mecca used to pass, while the "street called straight", referred to in the Acts of the Apostles, runs through the city. Damascus is an important commercial centre and amongst its industries are metal work and mother-of-pearl inlay, also native made silks and cotton stuffs. Canada gets lemons, nuts, linen, handkerchiefs, wooden

furniture and carpets, while we send to the Syrians rubber tires and upper leather. Our imports last year were worth about \$5,000 and our exports \$34,000.

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

No. 274, Sun. June 30, 1935. The Bicycle in Canada

Less than one hundred years ago, Kirkpatrick Macmillan, a Scottish blacksmith, was the first to make it possible to preserve a continuity of motion on a two-wheeled, single track vehicle without touching the ground with the feet. The modern bicycle has grown out of Macmillan's invention. There were various stages in the development and tucked away in many an old Canadian garret may be found samples of the high-wheeled contraptions on which young men in smart knicker-bocker suits used to ride out into the country. Bicycle clubs with distinguishing colours were part and parcel of youthful summer activities.

Even if we don't seem to use bicycles so much in Canada as in some countries of Europe, still we use a great many, and the numbers are growing. There were 40,000 sold last year, which included about 7,400 importations. These came almost entirely from the United Kingdom. No other year approached that in the number of sales, except the special spending year of 1929, when 1,500 more were sold. The exports are very small.

At the beginning of the depression years there was quite a noticeable falling off in sales, but they picked up in 1933 and in 1934 the production by Canadian firms was double what it was two years ago.

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

No. 275, Mon. July 1, 1935. - Dominion Day

Today is our 68th Dominion Day. It was on this date in 1867 that the British North America Act, the constitutional legislation of the new dominion came into force. The provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick came into the Union, and the others followed later. Upper and Lower Canada were created the separate provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Viscount Monck was the first governor-general, and Baron Tweedsmuir, who comes this year, will be the 15th.

Sir John A. MacDonald was the first prime minister and there were many and various problems to be solved. The Fenian Raid of the year before had been repulsed, the Reciprocity Treaty with the United States had also just been terminated and feeling at the time ran high between the two countries. There was a temporary depression hanging over the country, new markets had to be sought and the strength of Confederation was tested. Happily the difficulties of the period disappeared and the test stood.

On the first Dominion Day the population was about $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions of people; today it is over $10\frac{1}{2}$ millions. The area of occupied farms has quadrupled, wheat production has increased 25 times, horses more than 4 times, milk cows 3 times, although sheep have decreased slightly. The value of the fisheries has increased more than six times, production of gold 17 times, manufacturing 13 times, exports 24 times, wheat exports nearly 250 times, railway mileage 20 times, sea-going shipping 10 times, post office revenue 40 times, the per capita revenue 8 times and the total ordinary revenue 20 times, besides a vast number of other activities which it is impossible to mention here.

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

No. 276. Wed. July 3, 1935. -- How Small Things Grow

It is not so very long ago since the bulk of the milk sold in the cities and towns of Canada was poured into the household containers from big cans carted around by the early rising milkmen. Mostly they were dairy farmers from the country nearby who peddled it themselves.

With the coming of the new familiar glass milk bottles of standard size, its contents pasteurized, there has grown up a large demand for the handy paper caps which preserve the milk from contact with the air. It is truly astonishing to find that one billion of these are now being made in the Dominion and the factory value runs to about \$375,000.

This is just one of the hundreds of little things that modern practice in buying and selling has developed into quite a big business that previously did not exist.

As a side-light upon the milk business it might be pointed out that the standard milk bottles of the Dominion contain Canadian pints and quarts, whereas certain other products which are sold in so-called pint and quart jars are of United States measurement. The United States quart is only about five-sixths of the Canadian quart.

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

No. 277. Fri. July 5, 1935. -- Buckwheat

more

If there is a more appetizing dish than buckwheat pancakes, liberally covered with good Canadian maple syrup, it is not on record that anybody has discovered it. Buckwheat pancakes served in this way make a typical Canadian supper. Shrove Tuesday is its greatest day of the year when the feast of pancakes is an institution.

The country of origin of buckwheat does not appear to be well established but the suggestion is that it came originally from China, which has given the world so many invaluable things. "Buck" is a corruption of the German "Buche" which means "beech". It refers to the fruits which resemble miniature beechnuts. Though less nutritious than wheat, it is superior to rice. A field of buckwheat crowded with the pinkish white flowers has a very attractive appearance.

The average Canadian production is about $9\frac{1}{2}$ million bushels and is raised primarily for local consumption. About 55 per cent of the crop is grown in Ontario, 35 per cent in Quebec and the remainder in New Brunswick. Production in the United States is not a great deal more than in Canada. The average price in the Dominion last year was 53 cents per bushel.

Our exports during the last crop year totalled about half a million bushels, more than half of which went to the Netherlands. The United States, United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany and France got the balance in the order named.

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

No. 278. Sun. July 7, 1935 - Regarding these Facts a Day about Canada

The remarkable and unsolicited response from the public to these Broadcasts suggests a widespread and gratifying appreciation of the Bureau's effort to give to our people facts gathered from current statistics upon whose accuracy they can rely. These facts are presented uncoloured; there is no propaganda associated with them.

Statistics are not dry-as-dust. They are part and parcel of the national life itself; they deal with the fundamentals, but also with the side-lines and the oddities, and these together point the way we are travelling. They are as fascinating as they are important.

History and geography, tradition and song, proverb and preachment, are woven into the web of our social and economic life, and it has been the aim of the Bureau to spin for radio listeners, for youth especially, in a simple manner, the threads of our national story. The aim is to circulate fact and fact only and to assist in a humble way in the great work of building up a well-informed people, deeply interested in the development of their country, and in the trend and the why and the wherefore of all things that surround them.

These Broadcasts have been discontinued during the holiday season but will be resumed by the Bureau early in the Fall.

Au revoir!

----- oOo -----
oOo -----

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010690764

3