

C-3

CANADIANS

FEB 12 1981

A FACT A DAY ABOUT CANADA
FROM THE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
AS SUPPLIED TO THE
CANADIAN RADIO BROADCASTING COMMISSION
DURING JANUARY 1936.
SECOND SERIES

Contents

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 96. New Year's Day. | 112. Oxygen. |
| 97. Mining Achievements in Canada. | 113. Canada's Trade with Peru. |
| 98. Douglas Fir. | 114. Tooth Brushes. |
| 99. Canada's Trade with Siam. | 115. Pearls and Mother-of-Pearl. |
| 100. Advertising vs Education. | 116. Canada 1936. |
| 101. The Silver Fox. | 117. Wireless Telegraphy. |
| 102. Canada Balsam. | 118. Mackerel. |
| 103. New Wheat Markets in 1935-36. | 119. Canadian Leather Footwear. |
| 104. The Development of the Newspaper. | 120. Canadian Trade with Iraq. |
| 105. The Automobile. | 121. Motion Pictures. |
| 106. Canada's Trade with British South Africa. | 122. The Canadian Horse Industry. |
| 107. Which is the Weaker Sex? | 123. Those Old Tires. |
| 108. The X-ray. | 124. Wireless Devices. |
| 109. The Glove. | 125. Laudanum. |
| 110. Canadian Skates Abroad. | 126. Clay Products. |
| 111. Barley. | |

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

James Muir,
Editor.

A Fact a Day about Canada

from the

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

No. 96. Wed. Jan. 1, 1936 - New Year's Day

Today is the first day of 1936 throughout the Western world and much of the rest besides. The Christian calendar dominates more than half of that area. But this is the year 3,762 in Jewish chronology and the 4,715th year of the Julian period. The earth itself is said to be more than 1,500 million years old.

The Christian calendar is reputed to have been introduced into England by St. Augustine in 596, the same century in which it came to Italy. It was first used in France in the seventh, but was not universally established until the eighth century.

However, New Year's Day is another matter. For many centuries in Europe the commencement of the year varied. It was Julius Caesar who changed it in Rome from March 1 to January 1. In England the Anglo-Saxon historical year began with Christmas Day. This was altered to January 1 at the Norman Conquest in 1066. Since 1752 when the Gregorian Calendar was adopted the civil, or legal, year in the British Dominions, exclusive of Scotland, has begun also with January 1.

New Year's Day on January 1 was adopted by Venice in 1522, Germany in 1544, Spain, Portugal and the Roman Catholic Netherlands in 1556, Prussia, Denmark and Sweden in 1559, France in 1564, Scotland in 1600, Russia in 1725.

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

No. 97. Thurs. Jan. 2, 1936 - Mining Achievements in Canada

The history of Canadian mining achievements is replete with romance and the story of the Cariboo and Yukon trails has been hallowed by privations and struggles of the early adventurers. During the past quarter century the pan and the cradle of the placer miner have largely given place to the highly efficient mining and milling of the lode ores of many now famous camps.

Since 1885 the enormous nickel-copper-platinum bearing ore deposits of the Sudbury area have been successfully developed; in 1903 the discovery of the high grade silver ores of the Cobalt camp attracted world-wide attention. This was followed by gold in Porcupine and Kirkland Lake, copper and gold from Quebec, gold, copper and zinc from Manitoba, and silver, lead, zinc, gold and copper from British Columbia. Coal is mined in our eastern and western provinces. Canada leads the world in the production of asbestos. Gypsum, salt and many other non-metallic minerals are economically produced.

This wide-spread expansion is reflected in the value of \$308,000,000 for Canadian mineral production in 1935, an increase of 11 per cent over 1934. Outstanding in the 1935 survey is the all time high of \$115,798,000 for gold

production. Other new output records were established for copper, nickel, zinc, selenium, tellurium and sulphur. By groups, metal production showed an advance of 14 per cent to a total of \$222,000,000. Fuels, including coal, natural gas and crude petroleum, were valued at \$54,280,000; other non-metallic minerals totalled \$12,130,000 and structural materials, such as cement, lime, clay products and stone were valued at \$20,000,000.

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

No. 98. Fri. Jan. 3, 1936 - Douglas Fir

The Douglas Fir attains the largest size of any tree in Canada, and, with the exception of the redwood of California, is the largest tree on the continent. The tallest on record reached a height of 380 feet. Trees 15 feet in diameter have been found and a single tree has been cut that scaled 60,000 feet board measure. Specimens have been found over 700 years old, but comparatively few are found over 400 years.

The Douglas Fir ranges from the east slope of the Rocky Mountains in Alberta through to the coast of British Columbia and Vancouver Island, where some of the finest commercial stands are found. In Alberta it grows as far north as the headwaters of the Athabaska.

The wood of the Douglas Fir is harder, heavier, stiffer and stronger than that of any other native evergreen tree. It produces the largest structural timber growing in Canada, and is used extensively in bridge-building, mine timbers, wharf construction and heavy framework of all kinds. It also provides an excellent material for boat, scow and other marine construction. It has properties which enable it to be used in the making of flooring, and when creosoted, provides a long-wearing, noiseless and dustless pavement for roadways.

More than a billion feet board measure are being cut each year, and Canada finds a market for this all over the world. The export last year of Douglas Fir planks and boards, logs, and square timber, amounted to nearly 780 million feet.

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

No. 99. Sat. Jan. 4, 1936 - Canada's Trade with Siam

The Kingdom of Siam has an area of about 195,000 square miles, or nearly four times that of our own Maritime Provinces. The population of eleven and a half millions is greater than that of all Canada.

Siam is a buffer state between British Burma and French Indo-China and its integrity is guaranteed by the British and French Governments under an agreement reached in 1904. Until 1932 the King was an absolute monarch, but since that time he rules as a constitutional sovereign. There is a People's Assembly, half of the members elected and the others nominated, but there is a provision that after ten years all shall be elected. There is a standing army of 20,000 men.

The Kingdom contains many Chinese, besides Shans, Laos, Malays, Burmese and Cambodians, and about 1,800 Europeans and Americans. The principal religion is

Buddhism. There are nearly 7,000 schools of all kinds, attended by 800,000 children. There are two universities. The chief products of the country are rice, teak and tin. The rice area has been much enlarged by irrigation.

Imports from Siam last year were valued at \$52,000, rice accounting for \$46,000 and precious stones and imitations over \$5,000. Canada's exports amounted to \$6,000, the main item being rubber belting.

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

No. 100. Sun. Jan. 5, 1936 - Advertising vs Education

In advertisers' phraseology their task is "to educate the buying habits of the people", to educate the public to buy a certain product or service, to buy products of a particular origin or in a particular store, or just to buy. Is advertising education? If we look upon education as the whole process of changing and shaping individual lives, the training of habits in buying will certainly claim a place in the program.

One by one, as we become buyers, we pay for the education contained in advertisements. The paying is painless and there is little complaint similar to that over school taxes, yet the cost of printed advertising alone runs to more than \$50,000,000 annually in Canada, or two or three times our national expenditure on universities and colleges. Then there is the cost of writing and preparing these advertisements, window displays and other exhibitions, broadcasting, contests, and the other forms that advertising takes. If the records of expenditure on all of these were to be had, it would probably be found, as it has been estimated in the United States, that the cost of advertising and the cost of schools are quite comparable figures.

This information has been obtained from reports issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 101. Mon. Jan. 6, 1936 - The Silver Fox

The silver fox was once the most rare of the foxes, but has now become about the most numerous, due to extensive ranching in recent years. The silver fox is a colour phase of the common red. After numerous experiments to fix this colour, success was finally attained in the year 1894 when a litter of silver foxes was raised to maturity on a farm near Alberton, P.E.I.

The silver fox brought a revenue to the fur farms in 1934 of over \$4,000,000, of which \$3,500,000 is credited to the pelts sold and \$500,000 to the sale of live animals. Prince Edward Island is the birthplace of the silver fox farm industry which has grown to such importance in a period of twenty-five years and which has spread throughout the Dominion.

In the early days of the industry fabulous prices were realized from the sale of pelts and the live foxes -- as high as \$2,500 being obtained for a silver fox pelt of exceptional quality and \$35,000 for a pair of live silver foxes.

This was many years ago, however; the industry has since become stabilized and is now regarded as a branch of general agriculture operations. Prices of

pelts vary from year to year with the general trend of prices in the fur trade and the highest value recorded of late years for a silver fox pelt was around \$200 and for a live fox around \$500.

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

No. 102. Tues. Jan. 7, 1936 - Canada Balsam

Canada balsam, a distinctively Canadian product, is collected chiefly in the province of Quebec by the inhabitants of the small villages in the Laurentians who camp in the bush for the summer, or by farmers who own stands of the balsam fir.

The turpentine-like oleo-resin gathers in prominent blisters on the smooth, thin bark of young balsam firs. It is obtained by puncturing and draining the blisters in one of several ways, but the gathering should only be done in fine weather, because when it rains the water dripping into the balsam causes cloudiness and decreases its market value.

Its use as a simple drug is very old. It is of value as an antiseptic dressing for cuts and wounds. Canada balsam appears to be unrivalled as a medium for the permanent mounting of microscopic specimens. Its use as a cement for glass in the optical work was introduced more than 140 years ago by Abbe Rochon and Grateloupe, assisted by the optician Putois.

Exports of Canada balsam in 1930 were valued at more than \$18,000, but in 1934 it had fallen to slightly more than \$7,000. The United Kingdom, Germany and the United States are the principal markets.

These facts are taken from the reports issued by the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 103. Wed. Jan. 8, 1936 - New Wheat Markets in 1935-36

For several years past, the wheat producers of other exporting countries have benefited as a result of bad weather for crop production in Canada. Since 1932, our wheat production has been well below normal and while the Canadian wheat area was again visited by drought, rust and frost in 1935, other exporting countries also fared badly. Canada is "getting a break" during the present crop season.

Normally, Canada depends on the United Kingdom and Europe as her principal wheat markets. The European market has been very poor until recent weeks, but drought and rust in the United States during 1935 and a very serious drought in Argentina have opened up other markets. The United States is normally an exporter of wheat, but she is a large importer of Canadian wheat this year. Her imports from Canada in the August-November period of 1935 amounted to over 20 million bushels. Only one country, the United Kingdom, took more Canadian wheat in the same period, her imports amounting to 24½ million bushels. The United States is still bidding for Canadian wheat and large quantities are held in bond there close to the mills.

Drought in Argentina has reduced the exportable surplus so that it is barely sufficient to cover her South American customers. The wheat area remaining for harvest is less than 12 million acres compared with over 18 million acres in the previous year. Brazil and Peru usually secure their supplies from Argentina but may import from Canada this year. One cargo of Canadian wheat has already gone to Brazil, but it is too early yet to gauge the full necessity of Brazilian imports from Canada.

This review is supplied by the Agricultural Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 104. Thurs. Jan. 9, 1936 - The Development of the Newspaper

The development of our modern, up-to-the-minute newspaper, from the primitive smoke signals of the aborigines to the organ of great national importance of the present time, has been very gradual. News was first spread by word of mouth as gossip is to this day. The town-crier was perhaps the first official distributor of news. With the invention of printing, the progress made was comparatively rapid.

With the beginning of Reuter's News Agency in 1847, the press association came into being and modern journalism began. Today, the people of all countries are in close touch with one another. What happens in Canada today is known on the other side of the world tomorrow.

Canada's first newspaper came into being in the year 1752, John Bushell establishing the Halifax Gazette in that year. Among the United Empire Loyalists were many who had a knowledge of the printing trade. With their coming the printing business was speeded up, and from then on, with the steady growth of our population, the number of newspapers has had a steady climb.

There are, according to recognized authorities, about 1,100 newspapers printed in Canada at the present time, either daily, semi-weekly, tri-weekly or weekly. Therefore, it would be safe to assume that most of Canada's annual consumption of over 200,000 tons of newsprint is utilized by her birling newspaper presses.

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

No. 105. Fri. Jan. 10, 1936 - The Automobile

The first motor vehicle was built in 1770 by a Frenchman named Cugnot. It was a small three-wheeled wagon carrying two people at the rate of two and a quarter miles per hour. Like all early motor cars it was steam-driven, the steam being produced by the use of a coal or wood fire. But as time went on Richard Trevithick in 1803 brought out a model in England which attained a speed of ten miles per hour.

It was not until the year 1854 that the gasoline engine made its appearance upon the engineering horizon, and in 1896 the first important automobile road race was won by a gasoline car. That year marked what is termed the decline of the steam-driven car. Continued satisfactory progress was made by

the gasoline model, outstripping the electric model which for a time was developed side by side with that of gasoline. In recent years, the oil-burning engine has made its appearance.

The engineer, through years of constant endeavour, has ironed out the sharp angles which seem characteristic of the old-type auto, and has given the peoples of the world, even to the farthest corner of the earth's surface, an automobile embodying speed, beauty, safety and riding comfort.

As to the progress made in the industry, the results may be summed up perhaps by recalling that last summer at Salt Lake City in the United States, Sir Malcolm Campbell set up a new high record for land speed of 301 miles per hour.

For further witness of the great industry which has risen from so humble a beginning, Canada produced about 117,000 autos last year, holding fifth position in world production, and exported more than 20,000. The capital invested in the manufacture of automobiles is about \$35,000,000 and nearly 10,000 persons find employment in making these exemplars of present day civilization.

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

Canada's Trade with British South Africa

The Union of South Africa consists of the four provinces of Cape of Good Hope, Natal, Transvaal and Orange Free State, an area of over 473,000 square miles, or considerably larger than Ontario. The population is about 8,000,000, natives numbering 5,000,000, people of European origin 1,500,000 and Asiatics over 800,000. It is one of the most prosperous countries in the world. The climate is delightful. Calla lilies grow wild.

British South Africa is a considerably younger Dominion than Canada, its first Parliament having been opened in 1910 by the Duke of Connaught. The seat of the Government is Pretoria. The constitution was modelled upon that of Canada.

The two official languages are the Dutch of the Netherlands and English. The Dutch commonly spoken is a dialect derived from the speech of the early settlers. It is locally known as Afrikaans.

South Africa is the world's great producer of gold and diamonds. Her imports are chiefly manufactured goods while gold and wool comprise over 75 per cent of the total domestic exports. Canada's imports from South Africa last year were worth about \$3,500,000, largely corn, sugar and fruits. Our exports totalled \$12,600,000, the chief being automobiles, farm implements, wheat, rubber tires, socks, paper and wood.

These figures come from the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 107. Sun. Jan. 12, 1936 - Which is the Weaker Sex?

We have grown so accustomed to hearing of the female as the "weaker sex" that it may come as a surprise to learn that women in industry lose less time

through sickness than men. In fact, considering the workers in all Canadian industries the women lose only about two days to the men's three. In a year the average man is off work sick for about a week, the average woman only about four days.

As compared with the men, women in industry are comparatively young and enjoying the prime of their health. But after allowing for this advantage, age for age, they still show a better record for sickness throughout the years of their employment. The difference is not so great when allowance is made for age, but it still exists.

The real secret of the difference seems to lie in the type of occupation that is characteristic of the two sexes. The men are doing the more dangerous and exposed work. They suffer more accidents at work. When men and women of comparable ages are doing similar work, -- as for instance in the case of school teachers, office workers or waiters and waitresses -- the ladies lose their advantage and show a record of more sickness than the men.

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

No. 108. Mon. Jan. 13, 1936 - The X-ray

Like many other epoch-making discoveries in science, the discovery of X-rays was accidental. While investigating the passage of high-voltage electric currents through vacuum tubes, William Conrad Rontgen in 1895 happened upon this great find. Further research has resulted in the development of X-rays to a point, when today it is considered one of our major aids in the fight against the dread disease cancer. Its use in diagnosis in hospitals is well known and of extreme importance. Its application is being constantly extended.

But the X-ray has also found its place in industry. It is now possible to discover defects in various metals, by the use of the X-ray. This is of great importance when metal is used in construction subject to enormous pressure and strain.

At several of the most important ports of entry, the Customs Department uses the X-ray in searching for articles intended to be smuggled into the country. Then again, in the jewellery business X-rays are used to ascertain the value of gems, particularly pearls. Another curious use to which they are put is to obtain information as to the authenticity of paintings by the Old Masters.

It is believed that no X-ray apparatus is manufactured in Canada. According to the records, the imports of surgical and dental instruments, surgical needles, X-ray apparatus, microscopes and complete parts for all the foregoing, ran to about \$1,700,000 in 1934, coming mainly from the United Kingdom, United States and Germany.

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

No. 109. Tues. Jan. 14, 1936 - The Glove

The glove is a hand covering which most Canadians appreciate to the full during the cold, snappy winter months, especially when the thermometer slips well below the zero point. But the wearing of gloves is by no means a recent acquisition. They were used by the Persians in ancient times. The Romans were familiar with them but despised their use, and the Anglo-Saxons used them in the 7th century.

Leather gauntlets were used in "hawking", a sport that is as old as time. A gallant knight in full armour had gloves with metal entirely covering the back of the hand. In the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries, gloves, perfumed, jewelled, or richly embroidered and decorated with fringed gauntlets made their appearance. Queen Elizabeth was very fond of these costly articles, some of which are still preserved. In our own time, although not so extravagantly got up as in Queen Elizabeth's time, the long elbow glove is an essential part of ladies' formal dress.

Gloves have had their symbolic meaning. It was customary to wear gloves in the hat as the favour of a mistress, or for the memory of a friend. And again, a glove was thrown down as a challenge to an enemy, who accepted battle by retrieving it.

In Canada last year the production of dress gloves was valued at more than \$1,500,000; and the production of the more serviceable variety of gloves and mitts was close to \$2,500,000. Our imports of gloves and mitts of all kinds during 1934 were worth slightly more than \$1,600,000, coming mainly from Germany, France, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, United Kingdom and Italy.

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

No. 110. Wed. Jan. 15, 1936 - Canadian Skates Abroad

Skates, or runners as they used to be termed, were originally made from the bones of animals. Later these runners were shod with iron and so came the iron blade fitted into a wooden holder, which was attached to the sole of the boot by screws and straps. Spring steel skates clamped to the sole of the boot came later, and now we have the skate and boot combined, the type which came originally from Norway.

To the trips abroad of Canadian hockey teams may probably be ascribed the rapid advance in the sale of Canadian skates in European countries. In 1931 our export of skates to Europe was only 6,000 pairs, but in 1933 that export had grown to over 24,000 pairs, while in 1934 we sent abroad to all countries over 34,000 and last year the surprisingly large quantity of over 212,000 pairs valued at \$155,000.

Canadian skates last year went to 19 countries. The United States got 184,000 pairs, Poland 5,400, Germany 5,300, Great Britain 3,500, France 3,400, Newfoundland 2,280, Switzerland 1,700, Czechoslovakia 1,000. Holland even got 400 and Norway, of all countries, 250. The Orient is taking to Canadian skates. China got 1,300 pairs and Japan 950. Down in the Antipodes, Australia sent for 600 pairs from Canada and New Zealand 20.

These figures are taken from reports by the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 111 - Thurs. Jan. 16, 1936 - Barley

We are so wheat conscious in Canada that we are apt to forget that barley is also an important grain product with us. Barley is Canada's third largest grain crop, coming after wheat and oats, but the production is usually less than one-quarter that of wheat. The crop has ranged between 65 and 87 million bushels, valued at between \$17,000,000 and \$29,000,000, in the last few years, but a bushel of barley weighs only 48 pounds, while that of wheat is sixty pounds. Canada is the leading barley exporter in the British Empire, as Roumania is the largest among foreign countries.

Barley is one of the oldest cultivated plants known. It is supposed to have originated in Western Asia and during its early cultivation was used for bread, beer and animal food. It is an important crop in European countries and was planted on this continent by the pioneers. It contains more starch and more crude fibre than wheat. The straw of the two plants is similar in composition.

Most of our listeners will know that John Barleycorn is today a poetic name for whiskey, and was in ancient times a festal folk name, but not so many perhaps will be aware that Barleycorn is an old British measure of length equal to one-third of an inch. Possibly someone may know if there is any historic connection between that and the fingers in measuring John Barleycorn in a glass.

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

No. 112. Fri. Jan. 17, 1936 - Oxygen

It is not so very long since the manufacture of oxygen was confined to the laboratory and its practical utilization to replacing oil in the optical lantern. Today it has become an important raw material, in much the same sense as coal is one, in engineering production and in many other industries.

It is a valuable aid to medicine, such as in cases of pneumonia, and for supplying oxygen to confined spaces, in submarines and coal mines and for divers. It makes good nature's deficiency in high altitudes. Maturing wines and obtaining high temperature flame are other uses.

Oxygen is the most widely distributed of the chemical elements. It is a colourless, odourless and tasteless gas. It forms 21 per cent of the volume of the atmosphere. Eight-ninths, by weight, of water consists of oxygen and oxides form a large part of the earth's crust. It is essential to life. It was first liquefied in 1887 by two Frenchmen.

Production of oxygen in Canada last year was valued at considerably over one million dollars, which illustrates the extent to which it is used.

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

No. 113. Sat. Jan. 18, 1936 - Canada's Trade with Peru

The South American Republic of Peru has an area of over 482,000 square miles, somewhat larger than Ontario, and the population is over six millions. Lima, the capital, is nearly three times the size of Ottawa. Peru was conquered in the early 16th century by Pizarro who subjugated the Incas who themselves had invaded the country 500 years before. For three centuries it remained under Spanish rule, until the revolutionary war of 1821. The constitution is that of a democratic republic. The president is elected for five years by direct vote of the people. Spanish is the official language.

The coastal area, although close to the equator, is not tropical, being cooled by the Humboldt current. Its chief products are sugar, cotton, petroleum, wool, hides and skins. The rest of the country is largely undeveloped. Minerals in great richness and variety await improved transport facilities. The dense forests produce wild rubber.

Canada's imports from Peru consist almost entirely of crude petroleum and gasoline, the value being about $3\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars annually. Our exports last year were valued at three-quarters of a million and in 1934 close to one million. The leading items were shooks, newsprint and wheat, but we sent also a great variety of articles such as butter, flour, whiskey, rubber, canned salmon, machinery and automobiles.

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

No. 114. Sun. Jan. 19, 1936 - Tooth Brushes

The tooth brush is a toilet article that has come into favour with a rush during the last two or three generations. We do not find any record of our ancestors being much given to its use. There is little doubt that tooth brushes would be as scarce as forks in the days of Henry the Eighth and much later.

The Canadian people purchase over two million tooth brushes in a year, from the little ones the children are supposed to use regularly, to the special kinds that are manufactured to suit removable teeth. Some people are particular enough about their pets, lap-dogs especially, to polish up their grinders, and the careful owners of valuable horses do the same. The brushes requisitioned are somewhat larger than the average.

Production of tooth brushes in Canada has averaged recently over 120,000 dozen and we import more than half as many. The animal bristles, largely imported, which go into the manufacture come mainly from the United States, but also from the United Kingdom, China, Germany and Japan.

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

No. 115. Mon. Jan. 20, 1936 - Pearls and Mother-of-Pearl

From time immemorial the pearl has been prized as a gem. Those obtained from the large white mother-of-pearl oyster of Australia are the most valuable.

The gem is formed by the oyster as protection against disease or irritation inflicted by foreign bodies introduced from without and its substance is essentially the same as that which lines the interior of the parent shell, namely, mother-of-pearl.

The black pearl, also highly valued, comes mainly from the Gulf of Mexico, while the pink variety is formed in the West Indies. Many pearls come from India. "Cultured" pearls are very common nowadays and are produced largely in Japanese waters. Their formation is artificially induced by the introduction of pellets of mother-of-pearl within oysters. Though real enough, these gems have not the lasting qualities of those formed in a wild state.

Mother-of-pearl itself is the iridescent lining of the shell. It is widely used in the manufacture of buttons, handles of pocket, fruit and dessert knives and forks, and so on.

The importation of precious stones, mainly pearls from Japan, last year was valued at \$35,000, but some years ago it was \$60,000. From Australia none has been coming direct of late but may have been received via the United Kingdom. Imports from India have dropped off also but four or five years ago, along with other gems, ran as high as \$80,000. Imports of mother-of-pearl vary between \$15,000 and \$20,000 annually.

This information comes from the Metallurgical and External Trade Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Note: This evening King George V died at Sandringham House, England, shortly before seven o'clock, Eastern Standard time, and consequently the Canadian Radio Commission's programs after that hour were cancelled, with the exception of the news supplied by the Canadian Press and the weather forecast.

No. 116. Tues. Jan. 21, 1936 - Canada 1936

Prices of primary products have risen substantially more than those of manufactured goods since the low point of the depression. This is a major factor in bringing about the recent improvement.

Production of electricity for lighting and power in 1935 broke records. Construction, although gaining, was still considerably below normal. Freight traffic was below the 1934 level. Dominion revenues showed an upward tendency. Sales of life insurance dropped. External trade increased. There was a general improvement in the employment situation. Mining production was a record.

These are amongst the statements which appear in "Canada 1936", the Official Handbook of Canada, issued annually by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in the opening weeks of the year. It deals with all phases of the economic condition of the Dominion and its progress. The romance of statistics is vividly portrayed as usual in the present edition. Further, the names and addresses of all members of the new House of Commons, with the number of votes they polled, are given in view of the recent election. The book is profusely illustrated.

The price of the publication is 25 cents, which covers merely the cost of paper and printing, but teachers, bona fide students and ministers of religion, who use the publication for educational purposes, may have copies at 10 cents each by applying to the King's Printer, Ottawa. Postage stamps are not acceptable.

No. 117. Wed. Jan. 22, 1936 - Wireless Telegraphy

The birth of wireless telegraphy was April 12, 1853. There was a public demonstration across a Dundee pond on that date. The inventor was James Bowman Lindsay, a Dundee genius, who may be said to have been one of the electrical pioneers of all time. Electric light was used by him for the first time in public in 1835. He proposed the first Atlantic cable. He invented the forerunner of the high-speed news tape and teleprinter. Amongst other great abilities he possessed, he was an outstanding linguist. He did not live to complete his 25 years work on a dictionary in 107 languages. He wrote the Lord's Prayer in 50 languages.

Lindsay was a poor man. In recognition of his contribution to science and to enable him to continue he was appointed schoolmaster of the Dundee prison at a salary of less than \$250 a year. The British Association and Marconi paid him tribute and have recorded his name as the father of wireless. The benefit to shipping especially is inestimable.

Wireless telegraphy is now an important branch of the public service in Canada. There are 77 government-owned radio telegraph stations in the Dominion. Passenger steamers and freighters carry equipment. Apart from the public service rendered, the wireless system carried last year 226,276 messages to and from overseas countries and ships at sea, and the revenue was \$802,674.

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

No. 118. Thurs. Jan. 23, 1936 - Mackerel

The mackerel fishery of the world ranks with the cod and the herring in importance, but in North America it has been somewhat on the decline. Owing to the movements of the shoals the catch is liable to great fluctuations. It is the most valuable fishery in Ireland and it is outstanding in Norway.

The mackerel is a beautiful and shapely fish. It is green above, marked with distinct blue bars, and silvery below. It has provided the sailor's vocabulary with more expressions than probably any other fish. "Holy Mackerel" is a familiar explosive. Small mackerel are known as spikes, blinkers and tinkers. A mackerel sky is flecked with small white clouds and there is an old couplet which says:

Mackerel sky and mare's tails
Make tall ships carry low sails.

The catch of mackerel in Canada is usually about one-tenth that of herring or cod and about one-third of it is marketed fresh. The rest is canned or pickled, but mainly pickled. Mackerel fillets are popular. The exports go mainly to the United States, which imports much mackerel also from Europe. The catch in 1934 amounted to 19 million pounds, which dropped to 15 millions in 1935. The 1934 catch was valued at \$421,000 and the export at \$365,000.

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

No. 119. Fri. Jan. 24, 1936 - Canadian Leather Footwear

It takes over 20 million pairs of leather footwear to satisfy the annual needs of the Canadian people, and there are over 200 factories turning out just about that quantity. The production value in the last few years has been running over \$32,000,000 annually but in 1928 it was over \$50,000,000. Considerably more than half of the output is in the province of Quebec.

There is a very large variety of leather footwear. There are the ordinary boots and shoes for everyday wear. These form the biggest bulk, aggregating 17 million pairs. Then we have shoepacks, larrigans, moccasins, footwear with felt uppers, as well as slippers for indoor wear. Now and again one hears somebody wailing for the carpet slipper that used to be so popular. The grief is unnecessary for carpet slippers are still being manufactured in Canada and there is no need to be without them.

Women use up more leather shoes than men; in fact, the Canadian woman buys twice as many as her male companion does. Boys are notoriously hard on their footwear, yet it is also a fact that the Canadian girl gets far more shoes than the Canadian boy, more than twice as many. Of course, the boy uses more shoepacks and moccasins than his sister. His footwear is not so dainty.

This information is contained in a report issued this week by the Animal Products Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 120. Sat. Jan. 25, 1936 - Canadian Trade with Iraq

Iraq, or Mesopotamia, "the land between the rivers", the Euphrates and Tigris, has a peculiar attraction for us. During the Great War the territory was freed from Turkish rule by Anglo-Indian and British Dominion troops, under Generals Nixon, Maude and Marshall. General Maude, who was well known in Canada, died of cholera after the capture of Bagdad. Its future administration was entrusted to Great Britain by the Allies. A provisional Arab government was set up in 1920 and in 1921 the Emir Feisal was elected king. In 1932 Iraq was freed of all mandatory control and became a member of the League of Nations. The area of the country is 150,000 square miles or three times the size of our own Maritime Provinces. The population is about three millions.

Then again, Bagdad, the chief city, was the capital of the Abbassid dynasty, one of the Caliphs of that dynasty being Haroun al Rashid of the "Arabian Nights". Iraq appears to have been a definite centre of Western civilization not later than 6,000 years B.C. or 1,000 years before that of Egypt.

Canada's trade with Iraq is not large. Last year our imports from that country amounted to \$254,000, of which \$251,000 was accounted for by dates alone. Our exports were about \$130,000, being mainly pneumatic tire casings and other rubber manufactures.

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

No. 121. Sun. Jan. 26, 1936 - Motion Pictures

Attendance at motion picture theatres has become, for many people in Canada, a weekly or even semi-weekly pastime. Others extend their patronage less frequently, but there are probably few people within reasonable distance of a movie who do not sometimes seek entertainment or amusement by visiting the motion picture house.

The hold which this modern institution has upon the Canadian public is revealed by the attendances. There were almost 108 million paid admissions in 1934 and the average price for each ticket was $23\frac{1}{2}$ cents, so a sum of \$25,000,000 was spent, exclusive of taxes which totalled more than two millions. The highest per capita expenditure was in British Columbia with \$3.68, Ontario coming next with \$3.17, while Prince Edward Island was lowest with 96 cents and Saskatchewan next with \$1.10.

Toronto theatres have a larger patronage than any other centre. More than 19 million paid admissions were reported for 89 theatres. Montreal had 18,600,000 from 56 theatres.

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

No. 122. Mon. Jan. 27, 1936 - The Canadian Horse Industry

Less than three decades ago, the pride of the influential citizen was his "turn-out". That term has been largely lost to the present generation but it was used to describe the condition and value of the horses, harness and carriage. The pride of many citizens today is their car, although a large number maintain an interest in, and even own, saddle horses.

On the farm, the horse has not been superseded to the same extent as in the cities, and during the years of low prices, many a tractor and even automobile stayed in the shed, while the horse performed their tasks. In Western Canada, obsolete autos were converted to use as buggies and wagons.

In 1901 there were more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ million horses in Canada, which were increased to more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ million in 1911. Ten years later, at the Census of 1921 there were over $3\frac{1}{2}$ million. This increase in horse population was largely for the purpose of working the new land brought into production in the great Canadian West. From 1921 to 1931 the number of horses on farms declined to less than three million. Farmers bought tractors, automobiles and trucks to perform many farm operations and chores. Delivery work was done in the cities by means of automobiles. The decline in the number of horses was more than offset by the increase in mechanical vehicles, so that there was no dearth of power.

The rate of decrease of numbers of horses has been slowing up, and the population at June 1, 1935, was only 1,000 less than in 1934. Low cost of feed and relatively good prices for horses have combined to revive interest in horse production. Indications are numerous that horse numbers will be on the increase again.

The producers in the horse industry are widely scattered. Many farmers raise their own. Southern Alberta and south-western Saskatchewan are the chief areas in

which horse ranching and horse raising is a special enterprise. Saskatchewan has the greatest number of horses, 32 per cent of the total for the Dominion, followed by Alberta with 24 per cent, and Ontario with 19 per cent. The ranching industry in Saskatchewan and Alberta and the extensive system of agriculture account for this concentration.

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

No. 123. Tues. Jan. 28, 1936 - Those Old Tires

A new use for old automobile tires has been discovered. During the last few years, says the Canadian Trade Commissioner at Shanghai, a demand has developed in China for a very cheap type of shoe sole made from the walls of old pneumatic tires. These soles, by reason of their low cost, find a very considerable outlet among the farming classes in the interior of the country and they are also purchased by coolies in the cities. Used tires are likewise found in the manufacture of floor mats and similar products.

The processing of used motor car tires is done in Shanghai with coolie labor and as the domestic supply is inadequate to meet the demand, the bulk of the tires employed in this industry are imported from the United States. A rough estimate of the annual imports by China places the average value at around \$50,000.

Now comes a call for a shipment of used Canadian tires, and so it may be that soon the problem of disposing of these awkward discards will be solved. Some boatmen have been using them as fenders for their craft, but there are not enough boats in the Dominion to take care of all the used tires.

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

Note: Since the above was broadcast the Bureau has been informed that Assyrian peasants in Kurdistan are also using old tires as footwear. The non-skid tread on most of the soles makes walking easier in the sand and in the mud during the rainy season.

No. 124. Wed. Jan. 29, 1936 - Wireless Devices

The first wireless communication across the Atlantic was sent in 1901 from Cornwall in England to St. John's, Newfoundland. Guglielmo Marconi was at St. John's with receiving apparatus. Since that time Canada has played a large part in wireless telegraphy and telephony as well as in radio broadcasting. Indeed it may be said that Canada has been the cradle in which was born most of the devices that have helped to expand the operations of wireless. The first station for trans-oceanic wireless telegraphy was erected at Table Head, Nova Scotia, but later moved to Glace Bay where most of the experimental work that led to regular trans-Atlantic service originated. Marconi was backed by a Dominion government subsidy.

Great strides have been made in the thirty years since then, a station at Drummondville sending messages daily at 200 words a minute, while another at Yamachiche receives them at the same rate. Messages can be sent to England simultaneously on three channels, two telegraph and one telephone, without interference.

Wireless telephony has made a similar advance and calls are being put through daily from Montreal to as far away as Australia. Some trains and most aeroplanes have been fitted with radio, which has also become a feature of the police service. Photographs are being transmitted by wireless and television has developed sufficiently to show its future possibilities.

There are 52 coast stations all told being operated in Canada for wireless telegraphy, especially in navigation, and Canada has 68 public broadcasting stations.

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

No. 125. Thurs. Jan. 30, 1936 - Laudanum

Laudanum is tincture of opium, a fluid extract of opium containing one per cent of anhydrous morphine. Laudanum is obtained by macerating the powdered drug in alcohol and filtering. It is a dark reddish-brown liquid used for the relief of pain. The name is possibly derived from the Latin ladanum, the resin exuding from a shrub found in Cyprus.

According to legend, the herds of goats that browsed on the hills of Cyprus were amongst the principal producers of ladanum. While feeding on these shrubs their whiskers became matted with the gum that was exuded. The thrifty goatherds carefully combed this gum from the whiskers of the goats and from this substance ladanum was obtained. Of course, ladanum is not laudanum.

A generation ago laudanum was more talked about than opium, but today it is opium. The main supply comes from Hindustan, Persia, Yugo-Slavia and Turkey. It is the milky exudation from the unripe capsules of the poppy, rendered concrete and dark-coloured by exposure to the air. The alkaloids are valuable in medicine for their sedative and narcotic properties, as is the gum itself. Some people smoke opium as an intoxicant. Morphine is another well known alkaloid.

All of the imported crude opium comes from Great Britain. Last year it was less than 500 pounds and the invoiced value about \$5 per pound. However, we got 4,250 ounces of morphine from the United Kingdom and lesser amounts from Switzerland, Germany and France. The declared value was between \$3.50 and \$4 per ounce.

The foregoing figures were taken from reports issued by the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 126. Fri. Jan. 31, 1936 - Clay Products

The art of brickmaking dates from very early times; burnt brick was used in the tower of Babel and most of the Assyrian literature was in the form of minute characters on baked clay bricks or tablets. The Romans probably introduced brick-making into England and by the time of Henry VIII the art had reached great per-

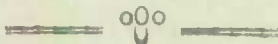
fection. Mention of the industry in Canada dates back to 1665 when the census of that year reported one brickmaker located on the north shore of the St. Lawrence.

The quality of bricks depends primarily on the choice of an earth and the colour by the proportion of hydrated oxide of iron and other ingredients they contain, also by the degree of heat in burning.

The clay and clay products industry in Canada is classified into two distinct divisions, first, the production from domestic clays which includes the making of refractories, building brick, structural tile, pottery, etc., and second, production from imported clays which includes porcelain insulations, refractories, etc.

In 1934, 139 Canadian firms produced, from domestic material, clay products valued at \$2,680,410, including 86,000,000 building brick, over one thousand tons of fireclay; over two million firebrick, 31,000 tons of hollow blocks, and pottery valued at about \$225,000. The value of production in the imported clay products industry totalled about two millions in 1934 and imports of clay and clay products during the year were appraised at six millions. One of the larger users of clay in Canada is the paper industry.

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



STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010690775

3