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A Fact a Day about Canada

from the

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

No. 62. Tues. Dec. 1. 1936 — Shoeing the Horse

Iron shoes are nailed to the horny casing of the foot of the horse to protect the extremity of the limb. While that protection is unnecessary under natural conditions, the horny casing is found to wear away and break, especially in moist climates, where the animal is subjected to hard work of any kind. Without shoeing we could have neither the fleet racers nor the heavy and powerful horses of the present day.

The ancients covered the hoofs of their horses with socks or sandals, but the iron shoe was used before the Christian era, although it was not commonly known until the fifth century nor was it in regular use until the middle ages. It was only in the nineteenth century that horse shoeing was introduced in Japan, where the former practice was to attach to the horses' feet slippers of straw, which were renewed when necessary.

Despite the sophistication of the modern mind we still cling to the superstition that to find a cast horseshoe brings luck to the finder and that to nail up a horseshoe on a door keeps bewitchment away from the house and brings good fortune to it

Using horseshoes for a game of quoits is an old custom still in use today. An announcement at Sheffield England says that a firm is shipping hundreds of tons of old horseshoes to China to be made into razor blades for export to Britain.

At present there are about three million horses in Canada. The Horse Family budget must have called for twelve million shoes at that rate.

This information comes from the Agriculture Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 63. Wed. Dec. 2, 1936 — Schooling, A Declining Industry

A few years ago we heard much about Canadian schools as a growing bill of expense. They are such no more. For several years now they have been costing less and less, and while some of the revenues that have been taken away from them will in all likelihood be returned, it will probably be long, if ever, before they experience a "boom" like the 1920's. There are fewer children now to go to school, and one might almost say that schooling is a declining industry.

Enrolment decreased last year in seven of the nine provinces, and there is no prospect of anything but a continuation of this trend. Nothing but a longer, often forced attendance of older pupils prevented this happening sooner. Attendance at universities has shown no increase for several years.

Fewer pupils mean fewer jobs for teachers, and the number training in the normal schools this year is less than half what it was a few years ago, in most of the provinces. Many of those who have obtained certificates in recent years have not found teaching positions, and an interesting feature of the keener competition

is in an increase in the number of men teaching. Figures just compiled this week, show an increase of 1,350 in men teachers, a decrease of 500 in women, so in one year men have taken about 1,200 jobs that would normally have been left to the ladies.

The foregoing comes from the Education Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 64. Thurs. Dec. 3, 1936 -- Manganese

A dry battery offers some interest in its composition. The black powder which surrounds the carbon rod is manganese dioxide. Its purpose is to change the hydrogen formed in the battery into a form which will not interfere with the action of the cell in producing electricity.

Manganese ores are produced in small quantities from various localities in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and British Columbia. When extracted from the ores by heating, it is a hard metal resembling steel in appearance. A new development in producing the metallic manganese from the ore is by leaching and electrolysis. The pure metal so produced is stated to be in the form of bright, coherent sheets, perfectly stable in air. The process is said to be simple, cheap and adaptable to commercial use.

Manganese has many uses. It is estimated that more than 90 per cent of the world's consumption of manganese ore eventually goes into the manufacture of iron and steel, chiefly in the form of ferromanganese or spiegeleisen. Manganese steels are used in the making of structural bars, car wheels, tires and axles where toughness and resistance to abrasion are required. The most extensive chemical demand is in making dry cells. It is used in making glassware because of its power to decolorize, as a drier in varnish and paint, in manufacturing germicides and deodorizers and in the textile industry for bleaching.

The greatest supply in the world's production comes from Russia, followed by India and the Gold Coast. In 1935 Canada imported 73½ million pounds of manganese oxide valued at $354,000. Most of it came from the Gold Coast.

These facts come from the Mining and Metallurgical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 65. Fri. Dec. 4, 1936 - Reading Costs Little

Along with listening to the radio, the most popular pastime of these long winter evenings is probably reading. A good book, our favourite magazine or newspaper yields much of companionship for the little it costs. Canadian expenditure for newspapers and magazines in a year is only about two dollars per person who is old enough to read, and only about half a dollar each for books. Fortunately the books accumulate from year to year and we do not have to rely entirely on a fifty-cent supply.

The public libraries of the country seem to buy something like one-tenth of all the books, and out of their accumulated supply they are able to make more than twenty million loans in a year. If as much use were made of all the other books that are bought, every man, woman and child would be able to read twenty in a year, but this

is no doubt many more than they actually do read, for books that we buy ourselves are not likely to be used as much as those in the library.

Newspapers and magazines do not accumulate like books but in them, too, we have more printed value in a year than the two dollars our subscription costs. It costs six dollars to produce them and we make payments on the other four dollars worth when we buy the things that are advertised in them. Other forms of printed advertising, such as catalogues, handbills and posters, cost half as much again as what appears in the papers, so the reading in the advertisements costs about three times as much as all other reading matter put together.

This information comes from reports on the printing trades and on libraries issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 66. Sat. Dec. 5, 1936 -- Canada's Trade with Colombia

The Republic of Colombia is a marvellous country of 460,000 square miles, larger than Ontario but smaller than Quebec. It has a coastline on the Atlantic as well as the Pacific. It has lofty mountains and snow capped summits, fertile valleys, extensive natural pastures, great virgin forests, with tropical coasts and lowlands. The country is rich with promise of vast mineral wealth.

Colombia was a possession of Spain until the early years of last century. Simon Bolivar established the Republic which then included Venezuela, Ecuador and Panama but these are now independent states. The people are of mixed origin, Spanish, African and native Indian, but the inhabitants of the towns are white, or largely white, who carefully cherish their European culture and character. Local literature is prolific. Bogota, the capital, is called the Athens of South America. The Roman Catholic church is officially recognized but all creeds are tolerated.

Canada's imports from Colombia are valued at about $4,500,000 and consist chiefly of coffee and petroleum. We got over 6½ million pounds of coffee beans last year and 125 million gallons of crude petroleum.

Our exports amounted to almost one million dollars and were very varied, the chief items being rubber tires and wheat, but Canadian canned salmon, paper, processed milk, oatmeal, copper, aluminium and gasoline were popular.

This information comes from the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 67. Sun. Dec. 6, 1936 -- A Shorter Working Life

One of life's greatest satisfactions is in doing things, in accomplishing things by our own hand or brain, and there is often more real happiness in our daily work than in the amusements we pay for in our leisure hours. But most of us do not like to feel that we are obliged to work, and applaud the extension each year of the shorter working weeks. By this means there has been in a few decades a tremendous reduction in the working time of the average life, and the end is not in sight.

Our working lives are also being shortened at both ends. Every ten years the general age for young people to start earning their living advances one year; at the other end of life we find the proportion of persons at work over the age of 65 steadily diminishing. For each of these changes there has had to be increased expenditure out of the public purse, because the younger people have had to be kept longer in school, and those over 70 have had to have pensions.

One by one since 1927 the Provinces, in cooperation with the Dominion Government have made arrangements for giving older people an income when their working days are over, and this winter for the first time, old age pensions are being paid in all of the provinces. Their cost in a year will now be something like 30 million dollars, 75 per cent of which is paid by the Dominion Government.

This statement is based on data collected in the Census by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 68 Mon. Dec. 7, 1936 -- Christmas Seals to Fight Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis takes the lives of about 6,500 Canadians each year. There are between seven and eight thousand seeking a cure from it in sanatoria across the country tonight, and the Canadian Tuberculosis Association estimates that there are at least five times as many with active tubercular trouble at home. To help these latter we are asked at this time of the year to buy the familiar Christmas seals sold in every province.

Like the poppies of Remembrance Day these seals have become not only a Canadian custom but an international institution. Like postage stamps their designs differ from year to year, or in different countries, and collecting them can become an interesting hobby. A member of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics staff, on going to Denmark recently, was asked by a Manitoba doctor to call on a Danish friend whom the doctor had never seen but with whom he had been exchanging Christmas seals for many years.

Medical science in recent years has made amazing progress in the conquest of tuberculosis, and could reduce much farther the death-rate, which has already been cut in half, if cases came under medical care in their early stages. It is especially to provide for its early detection, by means of free clinics and nursing services, that the money from the Christmas seals is used. Young people in their twenties or thirties, and girls even younger, are the most numerous victims, but the toll among men is heavy right up to the fifties.

This broadcast is based on the Vital Statistics of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 69 Tues. Dec. 8, 1936 -- Almonds

Almonds were grown in Western Asia and Northern Africa in the days of Moses. When the twelve tribes of Israel murmured against Aaron as a leader, each tribe was asked to place a rod upon the altar. The rod which blossomed designated the leader. Aaron represented the tribe of Levi. His rod alone blossomed and took the form of an almond branch.

The almond tree is similar to the peach tree with peach-like flowers and fruit. The outer part of the fruit is a dry, fibrous husk which shrinks and splits when ripe, leaving the stone or pit, the almond nut with which we are familiar. The wood of this tree is hard and of a reddish colour and is used by cabinet makers.

Almonds are of two kinds, sweet and bitter. The sweet almonds are of an agreeable flavour and very nutritious and are used in confectionery, for desserts and in medicine. The long almonds of Malaga, known as the Jordan almonds, and the broad almonds of Valencia are the most valued in commerce

The bitter almonds differ from the sweet in that they contain a substance from which a peculiar volatile oil is obtained. This oil is used as a flavouring agent and in the manufacture of perfumes and dyes. One thousand pounds of almonds will yield four to nine and a half pounds of oil. This oil is then reduced about 10 per cent during its purification Almond oil can now be prepared artificially from toluene, obtained from coal tar

Last year Canada imported 968,000 pounds of unshelled almonds and over one and a half million pounds of shelled. In both cases the largest quantity came from Spain.

This information comes from a report issued by the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 70. Wed. Dec 9, 1936 - Amber

Amber is a fossil resin which arises from the exudation of coniferous trees. It is commonly associated with fossil wood It is of a clear brownish-yellow colour, varying in shade

When rubbed it is negatively electrified and from this property, which was well known to the ancients, the word electricity has been derived. The Greek word for amber is elektron

Amber is used principally in the manufacture of mouthpieces for pipes and cigar holders, beads, necklaces and ornaments. It is soluble in alcohol and forms the basis of certain varnishes. Amber ornaments which have been worn for a considerable time gradually assume a rich, dark, ruddy colour, which is much prized. Amber formerly had a high reputation as a medicine but the virtues ascribed to it were almost entirely imaginary. It is regarded as a charm against disease and witchcraft. Amber beads have been found in Scandinavian relics of the Stone Age, in the royal tombs of the Mycenae and other ancient repositories.

From time to time amber has been discovered in the sands of Cedar Lake, Manitoba, according to the Department of Mines, but it is doubtful as yet if the amber there is of commercial importance.

Last year the imports of amber and arabic gums amounted to over 700,000 pounds valued at more than $60,000 and coming chiefly from the British Sudan, while the amber ornaments, which come mainly from Germany where the amber mines a number of years ago were taken over by the Government, had a value of over $60,000

This information comes from the Mining and External Trade Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 71. Thurs. Dec. 10, 1936 - Nuts

Nuts at any time of the year are perhaps the most universally favoured delicacy but Christmas-time seems to bring them more closely to our attention. They are excellent fillers in making a Christmas stocking look fat and enticing.

The brown Brazil-nut or "nigger toe" from the Amazon Valley grows near the top of the tree which reaches the height of 130 feet. Each shell is about six inches in diameter and very hard and contains 12 to 22 nuts.

Walnuts are favourites and require skill in extracting the kernel. The walnut tree attains the height of 100 feet or more, the trunk measuring four to six feet across. English walnuts are easier to crack than some of the other varieties.

Hickory nuts and their cousins the pecans are natives of the North American continent. Nearly every boy and girl in Canada is familiar with the round, smooth, thin-shelled nuts of the hickory tree. At one time they formed a staple food of the Indians.

A nut gaining wide popularity is the kidney-shaped cashew. It is a product of tropical countries and grows on the bottom of a red, pear-shaped "apple". The "apple" is thrown away and the nuts roasted for commercial use.

Another queer little nut is the pistachio from Asia and Sicily. The fruit is about the size of an olive, is salted in the shell and when used in candy or ice-cream, produces a green colour.

Canada imported over 38 million pounds of unshelled nuts and nearly 10 million pounds of shelled nuts during the last year. Unshelled peanuts alone amounted to 33 million pounds.

This information comes from the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 72. Fri. Dec. 11, 1936 - Tuberculosis

At the present time when the Canadian Tuberculosis Association is making its annual appeal to the public of Canada to assist in the conquest of this disease by the purchase of Christmas seals, it seems appropriate to make some reference to the splendid progress which has been made in the past in reducing tuberculosis mortality.

In England and Wales the tuberculosis death rate for the years 1850 and 1851 averaged more than 350 per 100,000 inhabitants; for the years 1875 and 1876 it averaged 298; for the years 1900 and 1901 the average was 185; for two recent years, 1933 and 1934, the average rate was only 79 per 100,000.

In the United States a comparison can be carried back to 1900 for a certain number of States known as the Registration States of 1900. For the years 1900 and 1901 the average rate was 192; for 1910 and 1911, 162; for 1920 and 1921, 104 and for 1930 and 1931 only 66.

In Canada comparable statistics under the National System have been available for eight provinces since 1921 and for nine provinces since 1926. Taking the total of the eight provinces we find a rate of 75 in 1921, 73 in 1922, 59 in 1931, 55 in 1932, and

48 per 100,000 in each of the years 1934 and 1935.

These facts are taken from reports issued by the Vital Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 73. Sat. Dec. 12, 1936 - Canada's Trade with Trinidad

Trinidad, the most southerly of the West India Islands, has had a long and close connection with Canada, especially Nova Scotia. With an area of almost 1,900 square miles it is somewhat smaller than that province. Several distinguished Canadian educationists, such as the Falconers, spent part of their boyhood on that island. The population is close to half a million. Next to Jamaica it is the largest of the British West Indies. Port of Spain, the capital, is a very modernized city.

Trinidad was discovered by Columbus in 1498 and was colonized by Spain but capitulated to the British under Abercromby in 1797. The climate, although warm and moist, is healthful and hurricanes are unknown. The soil is fertile and the island heavily wooded. Trinidad furnishes the world supply of Angostura bitters.

The most striking natural feature of the island is the Pitch or Asphalt Lake, about 104 acres in extent. The asphalt is exported in increasing amounts each year but there seems to be no diminution in the supply. Oil is the chief mineral wealth of the island.

Crude petroleum is occasionally Canada's leading import from Trinidad, but last year it was sugar, followed by cocoa, coffee, molasses, tomatoes, rum, cocoanuts, spices, bananas and grapefruit. Our total imports had a value of $2,593,000 and our exports $2,314,000. These included a large variety of commodities such as potatoes, oats, flour, biscuits, canned fish, cheese, condensed milk, butter, lumber, paper, automobiles, electrical apparatus, rubber goods, etc.

This information comes from the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 74. Sun. Dec. 13, 1936 - Our Field Crops

The principal field crops of Canada have a value this year of $594,000,000. In itself this has very little meaning fur us, but its importance may be gauged somewhat by the fact that the gross revenue from field crops are about one-sixth of the production revenue of the whole of the Dominion.

Nor is that all. Regarded in the light of raw materials for manufacturing purposes, these field crops enter into a much wider production picture. From our wheat crop we make flour, which again makes bread, pancakes and what not. Corn has a multitude of uses, and barley is famous for its bree. Strange to say the soya bean is taking the place of iron in some articles of manufacture.

We might, if we so desired, grow enough beets to make it wholly unnecessary to import a pound of raw cane sugar. Indeed the ramifications of Canada's field crops through Canadian factories is so widespread and entailed that no man could say how much that one-sixth of all our production has grown to when all of it in its various forms reaches the consumer. It is a great lesson in interdependence.

The other day it was announced that the 1936 field crop was $86,000,000 greater in value than that of 1935.

These thoughts are suggested by a report issued by the Agricultural Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 75. Mon. Dec. 14, 1936 - Glue

Glue is one of our most useful commodities that received an impetus in good quality during the Great War when the manufacture of it became of great importance in connection with aeroplanes.

Glue is prepared from the skins and bones of animals, the skins producing a far stronger adhesive than the bones. Properly manufactured fish glue is quite as good. Liquid glue is glue which has been treated with nitric or acetic acid to prevent it from gelatinising. Marine glue is a solution of rubber and shellac in naphtha or benzine and is used in shipbuilding for its property of resisting moisture. A mixture of linseed oil and quicklime is another form of waterproof glue, and there are other varieties for special purposes.

Glue was one of the by-products of the Indians' thrift when they butchered a buffalo long ago. They used the hoofs to make their glue; the horns were kept for cups and spoons and the large bones for clubs. Today we use the head, ribs, shoulder blades, skin, clippings and waste left from the leather making industry.

Last year the production of animal glue in Canada was over four million pounds with a factory value of over half a million dollars. The production of other glues was nearly twice as much.

This information comes from the Chemical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No 76 Tues. Dec. 15, 1936 - Glycerine

When a package of nitro-glycerine about the size of four pounds of butter explodes, the power exerted is sufficient to lift a weight of 140 ordinary people to a height of one yard in one forty-thousandth of a second. Described in more mathematical language, the explosion of six cubic inches of nitro-glycerine will lift nine tons to a height of one yard. The quickness of the explosion explains the downward effect that nitro-glycerine manifests in shattering rock and earth on which it is placed.

Glycerine itself is a thick, oily, colourless liquid having a sweet taste. It is a by-product of soap making. When fats and oils are made into soap, the fatty acids combine with the soda or potash, leaving glycerine or "sweet water". It is purified and concentrated and the colour removed by animal charcoal.

It is used extensively in cosmetic and medicinal preparations, in the manufacture of printer's rollers and inks for use with rubber stamps. Because of its tendency to keep moist, it is used to keep tobacco from drying and to keep leather soft.

Glycerine is injected into a mixture of concentrated nitric and sulphuric acid to make nitro-glycerine which is insoluble in water

Over three million pounds of crude glycerine is manufactured yearly in Canada and over six million of refined. We import two million pounds.

This information comes from the Chemical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 77. Wed. Dec. 16, 1936 -- Beds

The luxury of a good bed is something to talk about, but what is a good bed to one person may be a very different thing to another. The pioneer can rest on good turf or balsam boughs as well as on an expensive mattress with good springs. In some countries the hard floor is the thing.

A generation ago the feather bed was the aristocrat, with its towering canopy hung with curtains. Even yet in some places in Canada two feather ticks are used, one above and one below the sleeper. The old-fashioned boxed in beds, some of which are still to be seen in old houses, had mattresses filled with fresh chaff.

But the downy bed into which one sank and dreamed has been largely replaced by the mattress and springs, only varied on a summer vacation by the camp cot or sleeping bag. This change in fashion has created a flourishing industry which runs into six or seven million dollars in a year at factory prices. Last year there were nearly half a million mattresses of various kinds manufactured and they had a value of over three million dollars. Bed springs ran close to one million dollars.

Metal beds, cribs and couches accounted for three-quarters of a million and studio couches somewhat less. Wooden beds made in the furniture factories are not included in this category.

This information comes from the General Manufactures Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 78 Thurs. Dec. 17, 1936 -- Our New Citizens

Immigration is always a question of profound interest and importance to the Canadian people. The countries from which the new arrivals come have a bearing upon the social and political future of the Dominion.

Last year there were 11,277 persons who came to make their homes in Canada. Over five thousand of them, or nearly half, came from the United States and over two thousand from the United Kingdom. No doubt very many of those from the United States were of British stock originally. New York, Michigan, Massachusetts and California were the leading states from which the Americans arrived. Over 1,300 of the British immigrants were English, about 500 Scots and 300 Irish.

From the Northern European races we got over six hundred people, Germans leading the way with 230 and French next with 90. There were 80 Belgians.

Amongst the other races the Hebrews led with 560, followed by Ruthenians, Poles and Slovaks. There were 333 Italians, 319 Magyars, 70 Japs, 84 Russians, six Spaniards and three negroes, but no Chinese.

Ontario was the leading destination of the immigrants with close to 5,000. Less than half that number came to Quebec while British Columbia was the third choice with about 1,300. Every province received some of them and seven were bound for the North-west Territories.

It is interesting to know that there were more female immigrants than male.

These figures are contained in a report from the Department of Immigration to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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No. 79. Fri. Dec. 18, 1936 -- Christmas Candles

To walk along the snowy streets under a star-lit sky on Christmas Eve and to see a tall, red candle wink from behind a window does something to the heart that makes it atune to the season of peace and goodwill. A single tall Christmas candle placed in the window is another old custom that is being revived.

Canadians are keenly interested in stories of the pioneer days of this country. The women were marvellous housekeepers; not only did they work with clumsy and, what seems to us, antiquated equipment, but they made so many things with their own hands. Candles were one of the homemade necessities.

In the autumn, after the killing of beef and mutton was over, there was a large quantity of tallow to render for the winter's supply of candles. The tallow was strained through a flannel to make it clean. Candles could be made either in a mould or by dipping. To make "dips" several pieces of cotton wick were suspended in a row along a slender stick. The stick was dipped into the hot tallow then removed, cooled and again dipped. The process was repeated until the desired size was obtained.

Beeswax and tallow were the earliest materials for making candles. Today paraffine wax, stearine and spermaceti are used. Undoubtedly the greater number of candles manufactured today are used for religious purposes. February 2, Purification Day, is sometimes called Candlemas

The production of candles last year amounted to over one million pounds at a value of $468,000. Imports amounted to eight and a half thousand dollars. A small quantity was exported.

The information comes from the General Manufactures and Chemical Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 80. Sat. Dec. 19, 1936 - Trapping

The pages of Canada's early history are filled with the romance of the fur trade. As late as a century ago the value of our fur exports exceeded that of any other product. Hunting and trapping is still the chief occupation of 14,000 people, the majority of whom are Indians, as in former days.

Besides these, thousands of farm boys, stirred by stories of the adventurous north, set out traps in likely corners of the fields, woods, or ponds near home. Their catch is most often a muskrat, if we may judge from the two million sold in a year; squirrels next, to the number of more than a million; and half a million weasels.

Mink follow and there is still a good chance (or should we say danger) of them finding a skunk in their trap. More than 100,000 of these are caught in a year, and those other two crafty chicken-thieves, the red fox and prairie wolf, are next in number.

After these come the little animal that is most characteristically Canadian, and which in former days used to head the list. The beaver, still trapped to the number of 50,000 in a year, is now finding many protectors, chief among whom is Grey Owl, that great Canadian who is making it his life work to befriend the busy little builder that is emblematic of Canada.

The value of furs taken in the wild state last year was about nine million dollars.

This information comes from the Animal Products Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 81. Sun. Dec. 20, 1936 - Is It Coming to be a Woman's World?

It used to be said that "God made the country; man made the town", and it looks as if we would soon be able to expand on this by saying "God made the country for man; man made the town for woman". The returns for this year's census of the Prairie Provinces show that among young people under the age of 25 many more girls than boys have work in the cities. These are in addition to those who are married and keeping house in town. Moreover the girls have better jobs, in the sense that they lose less time from unemployment.

It almost looks as if the boys were abandoning the cities to the girls, for in spite of the greater number of the latter holding city jobs, there are fewer boys than girls in the cities looking for work. There are many farm girls seeking work, of course, but it is to the city they will go if they can, and there they will stay unless they come back to be married.

Out in the country there are nearly twice as many boys as girls working, and apparently many of this relatively small number of girls remaining on the farm have threatened their parents to go to the city, for a higher proportion of them are being paid a fixed wage than is the case with the farm boys.

The foregoing is taken from a study of reports of the 1936 census made by the Census Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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No. 82. Mon. Dec. 21, 1936 - Felt

Felt is a cloth made from wool, hair or fur, or mixtures, compacted by moistening, heating, rolling and pressing. The invention is sometimes ascribed to the Oriental shepherds and stories still exist that people put wool in their shoes or sandals and found that after walking on it for some time, the wool had turned into a new fabric. The story sounds plausible when one remembers the appearance of a pair of woollen socks after several washings.

Felting is probably older than weaving, the cloth having been used for tents, clothing and other purposes from remotest times. Wool has the best qualities for felting because of the many barbs on each fibre. Fur or hair from the ox, goat, hare, rabbit and beaver are readily felted.

Hats are made principally from rabbit, hare and beaver. In the 12th century feltmakers were known as feltmongers and later in 1604 the Feltmaker's Company was founded to regulate the making and sale of felt hats.

Felt has many uses. Not so long ago felt boots were worn in cold weather. Felt house slippers and insoles are still popular. It is used for insulating and as a non-conductor, for making harness, in paper making, for roofing, padding, lining and trimming and for carpets.

Manufactures of felt products amount to about four million dollars. Building and roofing paper which use felt and felt hats are not included. Imports amount to $380,000 while the exported manufactures are valued at $461,000.

This information is taken from a report issued by the General Manufactures Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 83. Tues. Dec. 22, 1936 -- Windows

The earliest example of windows playing an important part in architectural construction is the openings in the great temples and palaces of Egypt, Assyria and Persia. These openings exposed to the elements were sometimes protected by thin marble slabs which allowed diffused light to permeate the dark interior. In some of the Roman houses, the windows were protected by shutters, and a transparent material, probably mica, used for glazing. In the 2nd century horn was used and by the Middle Ages, cloth was being used as in China today.

There is no proof of Roman glass-works of any importance having been established in England. From early times simple vessels and rough window glass were made in the forests of Surrey and Sussex. In the 14th century the glass for the windows of St. Stephen's Chapel, Westminster, came from Surrey. In the next two centuries the Venetian adventurers who settled in England introduced improved methods for making window glass.

Window glass is made by taking a mass of molten glass on the end of a long iron blowpipe and blowing it into a large bubble. This is drawn out into a cylinder by swinging it and rolling it on a plate. The ends of the cylinder are cut off, a cut is made lengthwise, and the glass is spread out flat. Plate glass is made by pouring the molten glass on a bronze table, rolling it with a hot, iron cylinder and finally polishing it. Crown glass is a colourless window glass used for convex lenses.

The imports of common and colourless window glass last year amounted to 12 million square feet valued at $300,000. Belgium supplied the largest quantity followed by the United Kingdom.

This information comes from the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 84. Wed. Dec. 23, 1936. -- Telegrams and Cables

The word telegram is derived from a Greek word meaning "to write far off". Our ancestors conducted fairly fast communication by means of beacons and fiery crosses The jungle tribes still beat drums. Today speed of communication has become almost instantaneous. Electricity has made this possible.

There are 13 trans-oceanic cables with termini in Canada -- eleven of them on the Atlantic Coast and two on the Pacific. The Atlantic cables are controlled by English and United States interests, while the Pacific cable from Canada to Australia and New Zealand, which has been in operation since 1902, was the result of a partnership by the Governments of Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia and Canada. However, since 1929, all Empire owned cables have been operated by the Imperial and International Communication Company.

We have about 366,000 land lines over which more than eleven million messages were delivered in Canada last year, or an average of approximately one telegram per person. There were 1,300,000 cablegrams sent and received, which illustrates the close and intimate connection that is maintained with people and organizations overseas. Christmas messages have become a feature. Money transfers by cable last year amounted to nearly four million dollars.

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

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No. 85. Thurs. Dec. 24, 1936 -- The Children's Tree

While Dad hammers and fusses and Mother gives a helping hand, the youngsters rush about with starry eyes and flushed cheeks. It's the Christmas Tree. To every boy and girl it is the tree supreme.

Many years ago children did not have a Christmas Tree. On Christmas Eve a specially fine, big log was brought in and placed on the hearth. It was called the Yule Log. Its light was supposed to be sacramental; it was emblematic of Christ as the light of the world. Many things, including clothes and food, were spread out so that the beneficent rays might fall upon them. In later years, candles were lit from the Log on Christmas Eve and placed in the window.

We owe our use of the Christmas tree to Germany. A Strassburg chronicle of the year 1605 first makes mention of it. As the custom grew in popularity in other countries, the toys and ornaments with which to decorate it were ordered from Germany. In time Germany was supplying almost all the nurseries of the world with toys. Of course that is not the case now.

The cutting of Christmas trees does not constitute a serious drain on our forest resources. Small trees growing in the open, branching close to the ground are usually chosen and few of these would ever produce valuable timber.

In cutting spruce and balsam for pulpwood the tops of the trees are sometimes salvaged and sold as Christmas trees. What was otherwise waste has become a source of profit and a valuable silvicultural measure in reducing inflammable material left in the forests.

It is impossible to say how many Canadian trees are sold for Christmas but there is a great trade done with them in the United States. Last year the Canadian export was valued at $366,000.

This information comes from the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 86. Fri. Dec. 25, 1936 -- Greetings from the Minister

This is the 401st Christmas that Canada has seen since Jacques Cartier and his pioneers spent their first winter in this Dominion and celebrated here the Natal Day of the Saviour. Their celebration was very limited in comparison with ours. From coast to coast we are today able to participate in the broadcasting of goodwill and fellowship throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion.

The Honourable W. D. Euler, Minister of Trade and Commerce, under whom the Dominion Bureau of Statistics operates, would like to express to all those people in Canada and elsewhere who listen to these facts each evening, the wish that they may have a very happy Christmas season and a very prosperous New Year.

The Minister believes that the condition of business is very much better than it was a year ago and thus more of our people will be happier and more hopeful.

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No. 87. Sat. Dec. 26, 1936 -- Non-Christians in Canada.

While Christmas Day is a national festival in Canada it should be remembered that the birthday of our Lord is only sacred to professing Christians. However, Christian and non-Christian alike unite in observing the day in the spirit of goodwill and neighbourliness.

There are over 200,000 people of non-Christian religions in Canada. The large majority of these are Jews. There are over 155,000 of them. Fifty years ago there were only one thousand or so and at the beginning of the present century only 16,000.

There are 24,000 Confucians and 16,000 Buddhists, the Confucians being mainly Chinese and the Buddists Japanese. Fifty years ago there were over five thousand pagans in the Dominion but the number has been reduced to about 4,500.

There has been a large increase in the number of people who describe themselves as having no religion at all. Half a century ago there were 2,600; today there are more than 21,000. One quarter of them are English by racial origin, about 3,000 Chinese, 2,000 Scots and 2,000 Irish. Next in order come the Ukrainians and Germans.

Taken all in all, it may be said that two out of every hundred Canadians are non-Christian in religion.

Does not the foregoing illustrate clearly that this Dominion is a land of religious freedom?

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

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No. 88. Sun. Dec. 27, 1936 -- Christmas Time is Homecoming Time

There are so many pleasant things about Christmas week, it is hard to say which means most to us, but certainly one of these is the family gathering. Christmas is a time of homecoming, and reunion with loved ones. There must be few mothers and fathers who do not feel that Christmas is incomplete in the first years that their boys and girls are not able to come home to them. Parents will have seen to it that there are few of the 100,000 young Canadians boarding in school or college who are not back in the family circle tonight. Older brothers and sisters are home from their work in the..

cities, and it is a curious thing in the modern world that more of these older absentee members of the family are girls than boys.

But ours is a country of such great distances that there comes a time in many a family when the young people are not able to get home even once a year. We think of those in the outposts of the north, and those who know the separation of east and west. We think too of those who for other reasons are not able to sit at the family fireside, the 50,000 who are in hospital beds, the 10,000 in prisons, the 40,000 orphan children without the good fortune to have a home of their own, and the 15,000 aged in institutions whose home life is only a memory.

This is from the Institutional Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 89. Mon. Dec. 28, 1936 - Canadian Leather

A revival of the seventeenth and eighteenth century styles in English furniture is partially responsible for the renewed interest in leather. Due to new methods in scientific tanning processes and advances in colouring and finishing hides, leather may be associated with the finest of woven fabrics such as damasks and brocatelles. The soft, pliable character of leather renders it most suitable for upholstering and decorating.

This material may be cleaned with facility and is unaffected by grease, ink or perspiration. Because of the ability to stand hard wear, the generous use of coloured leather is seen in the R.M.S. Queen Mary. Nearly two thousand hides were used or about the equivalent of two acres of tanned leather for the upholstery of some thousand chairs and settees. This was produced in ten different tones. The upper sections of the library walls were panelled with leather because of its acoustical properties.

During the last 60 years or so, the number of Canadian tanneries has increased from two to 85 and their products consist of leathers of all kinds -- sole, upper, harness, upholstering, trunk and bag, glove and coat and other varieties.

Cattle hides are the most important followed by sheep, calf, goat and horse. The Canadian supply of sheep skins is greatly augmented by foreign imports while nearly all the goat skins are imported.

The production of the miscellaneous leather goods industry runs to over seven million dollars annually. Boots and shoes, gloves and mitts are not included.

This information comes from the Animal Products Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 90. Tues. Dec. 29, 1936 -- A Last Glance at the Christmas Tree

For days past the Christmas trees have been stripped of their gifts and there remain only the tinsel and the decorations, the electric lights and the brilliant-hued reflectors. Before these have been all carefully wrapped and put away for another year and the undressed trees have been given to the garbage collector, it will be worth while to look the whole thing over from the point of view of a statistician and get some facts.

The coloured paper, the showy trappings and much else that have gone into decorations are themselves made from spruce and balsam wood, the same spruce and balsam we use for Christmas trees. It is quite a wonderful invention, this making of paper out of wood instead of rags.

That modern invention has resulted in Canada becoming the largest producer of newsprint paper in the world, and new records are being made monthly. In every month of 1936 the average output exceeded the peak of 1929, and that is the goal for which all activities have been striving. The years 1928 and 1929 were mammoth years in Canada.

The gross yearly value of all products of the pulp and paper industry is now in excess of $163,000,000 and the wages paid to about 28,000 employees run over $36,000,000. It takes pretty nearly six months of the net revenue of the industry to fill the pay envelopes for a year.

The foregoing is from the Forestry Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 91. Wed. Dec. 30, 1936 -- Position and Prospects of Canada at the end of 1936

The year just drawing to a close has been more prosperous on the whole in Canada than any year since the beginning of the depression. Economic conditions have been much better. Impressive gains have been made by industry generally while there has been marked expansion by the mining and power industries.

External trade is particularly vital to the economy of Canada and it is encouraging to note that in the exchange of goods in international markets the Dominion has not only held her own but made substantial progress. Canada is in fifth place as an exporting nation, surpassed only by Great Britain, United States, Germany and France, which is truly a remarkable position for a country of only about eleven million people.

Of course, there has not been progress in all directions. Field crop production was at its lowest point in twenty years, but this was more than offset by price advances. The construction industry has been delayed in the otherwise general revival.

The trade agreement with the United States has opened wider markets for a great many of our commodities. A new trade agreement with Germany has been made and other expansions have been created.

Providing there is no outbreak of a major war, the Canadian people may look forward to 1937 with confidence that an even greater measure of prosperity will be theirs, according to the view of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 92. Thurs. Dec. 31, 1936 -- Trade Mission to the Antipodes

Hon. W. D. Euler, Minister of Trade and Commerce, sailed from Vancouver yesterday on the S.S.Aorangi to confer with the Governments of Australia and New Zealand regarding trade relations with Canada.

On his departure from Vancouver, Mr. Euler made the following statement: "Our trade mission is proceeding to the Antipodes at the pressing invitation of the Australian Government. We go in the hope of renewing the satisfactory agreement which was made in 1930 and 1931, and with the thought that only an arrangement which is mutually beneficial can be of permanent value.

"We believe that our Australian friends will receive us in the same spirit of goodwill which animates us in visiting that part of the world.

"Freer exchange of goods between the Sister Dominions is the policy of our Government as well as the maintenance of cordial relations with all other nations."

In concluding his message, Mr. Euler said: "The return to better conditions has been very marked during the past twelve months but I believe that the year 1937 will bring prosperity and happiness to a far greater number of people. A good New Year to all."

It will be remembered that Mr. Euler last summer visited Germany and Russia. Friendly relations were cemented and improved reciprocal trade between Canada and these countries has followed. Exports to Germany have increased 66 per cent during the past eight months and imports 17 per cent according to the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.