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

## Contents

|      |                                    |      |                                  |
|------|------------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|
| 127. | Canada's Trade with French Africa. | 142. | Dried Currants.                  |
| 128. | Dry Cell Batteries.                | 143. | Calumet.                         |
| 129. | Spinsters.                         | 144. | Cheese.                          |
| 130. | Canadian Wheat in Great Britain.   | 145. | Writing Ink.                     |
| 131. | Matches.                           | 146. | Plant Food.                      |
| 132. | Surfaced Highways.                 | 147. | Foreign Exchange.                |
| 133. | The Milky Cocoanut.                | 148. | Canada's Trade with Norway.      |
| 134. | Canada's Trade with Morocco.       | 149. | Blue.                            |
| 135. | Are We Our Brother's Keeper?       | 150. | Trousers.                        |
| 136. | Cold Storage.                      | 151. | Nursery Stock.                   |
| 137. | Medicinals.                        | 152. | Rabbit Skins.                    |
| 138. | Iron Ore from Abroad.              | 153. | The Growing Task of the Schools. |
| 139. | Chinese in Canada.                 | 154. | The Button Industry.             |
| 140. | My Lady Nicotine.                  | 155. | Revision of School Statistics.   |
| 141. | Canada's Trade with Newfoundland.  |      |                                  |

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

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No. 127. Sat. Feb. 1, 1936 - Canada's Trade with French Africa.

The French possessions in Africa are considerable. The area is nearly equal to that of the Dominion of Canada and the population is over 32 million souls, of whom over one million are of European origin. There are about one million Europeans in Algeria alone. Although the actual land area is not much less than that owned by the British, the British population is much larger, being about 60 million people, or close to half the total population of the whole continent of Africa.

The Federation of French West Africa is the largest of these possessions. It extends from Mauretania to Dahomey. It has an area of over 13/4 million square miles or about four times the size of Ontario, and it has 15 millions of people. French Somaliland, which appears much in the public press these days, is one of the smallest, having an area of 9,000 square miles, or one-third that of New Brunswick and a population of 70,000.

Canada's trade with French Africa, exclusive of Madagascar, is small. Last year the imports were valued at \$35,000 and the exports \$97,000. Our chief imports were wines at \$21,000, olive oil at \$11,000 and salt at \$3,000. Our leading exports were wheat, flour, rubber tires, canned salmon and farm implements.

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

Note: Since the foregoing was broadcast there have been inquiries as to the area and population of Italian possessions in Africa. The area is about 1,094,000 square miles and the population 2,640,000. The area of Eritrea is 64,000 square miles, Libya 810,000 and Italian Somaliland 220,000. The population of Eritrea is 640,000, Libya 1,000,000 and Somaliland 1,000,000. The Portuguese have 800,000 square miles with a population of 8,200,000. Belgian Congo is 910,000 square miles in extent with a population of 10,000,000.

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No. 128. Sun. Feb. 2, 1936 - Dry Cell Batteries.

It makes an old-timer rub his eyes and wonder if he has been dreaming to be told that 17½ million dry battery cells were produced in Canada last year. Their use is increasing by over a million each year.

The farmer is the chief support of this industry, although the dry cell is to be found everywhere. The battery sets for radio are mostly for rural use. The increased activity in mining accounts for a large part of the increase also.

Then there are the flashlights. Flashlights are replacing the old fashioned oil lantern on the farm. Motorists and campers find them handy and even the policeman who long ago used to carry a bull's eye lantern affixed to his belt is now equipped with a flashlight in his pocket. The old toy lanterns which Santa Claus

used to give the enterprising boy are gone and the reindeers bring flashlights out of the north instead. They are to be found everywhere. Eight million of them were made in Canada last year.

These figures are to be found in a report issued a few days ago by the Mining and Metallurgical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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No. 129. Mon. Feb. 3, 1936 - Spinsters

It was once an English maxim that a young woman should never be married until she had spun herself a set of body, table and bed linen. Hence the name "spinster"

Formerly the title "spinster", was given to unmarried women of the gentle classes, from a viscount's daughter down, and often retained by them on their marriage, especially when the husband was not of the gentry. Nowadays, a spinster in the popular mind, is an unmarried woman, somewhat advanced in years.

However, for the purpose of this broadcast we may be allowed to say that all unmarried women in Canada, twenty years old and over, are spinsters. There are over 660,000 of them. There is one spinster for every three or four married women in the Dominion, or women who have been married. Twenty-six thousand of these married women are under twenty, and twenty of them are under 15, most of these twenty are Indians.

There are not so many spinsters as bachelors so it might be agreed that there is no dearth of husbands and that cannot be the cause of their spinsterhood. There are about one million bachelors in Canada who have passed their twentieth birthday, so numerically there are plenty of husbands available for all the spinsters, and plenty to spare.

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

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No. 130. Tues. Feb. 4, 1936 - Canadian Wheat in Great Britain.

About one-third of the wheat which Great Britain imported in 1935 to feed her people was Canadian wheat. It is from Canada that Great Britain draws her main supply and only once in recent years has Canadian supremacy in that great market been seriously challenged. That was in 1934 when wheat from the Argentine Republic was only a little over one million bushels less than the quantity purchased from Canada. However, in 1935 the Canadian product was far ahead of all others as usual. Great Britain is Canada's main market for wheat.

The quantity imported from Canada in 1935 was about 69 million bushels and from the Argentine 42 million. There were 33 million bushels from Australia and about 13 million from Russia, with smaller quantities from such countries as British India, Germany, Roumania, United States and Morocco.

About one million bushels of the wheat imported by Great Britain last year were re-exported, practically all of it going to the Irish Free State.

The Scottish bakers put a larger proportion of Canadian wheat in their bread than do the bakers in other parts of the United Kingdom; 62 per cent of the wheat



imported by the Glasgow Corn Trade Association in 1935 came from Canada. Scottish bread is said to be the finest in the world, and no Canadian doubts for a moment what is the reason.

These figures are contained in a British Board of Trade statement received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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No. 131. Wed. Feb. 5, 1936 - Matches

In the year 1800, Philemon Wright came from New England and settled on the north shore of the Ottawa River, opposite what is now the City of Ottawa, founded the town of Hull, began the exploitation of the timber wealth of the Ottawa Valley and prepared the way for Hull to be for years the "Match Box of Canada". He was and still is spoken of as the "King of the Gatineau".

Until comparatively recently the common match in Canada was of the evil-smelling type. They were dependable lighters but they had to burn for a little while before being used to light a pipe of tobacco, otherwise the tobacco was ruined by the obnoxious taste created by the match. They were sold in little paper packages. They are rarely seen today but they were once the favourites amongst outdoor people. The aristocrat amongst matches in those days was the wax vesta.

The man who uses the modern mechanical lighter and never buys a match is apt to conclude that wooden matches are going by the board like so many other old industrial products, but he is mistaken as the records show. In 1930 the factory output as valued at \$1,645,000. In 1931 it climbed to over two millions, but dropped in 1932 to \$1,212,000. In the last two years the production has been over \$1,600,000 in each year, which is just about the average of late years. The imports and exports are small.

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

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No. 132. Thurs. Feb. 6, 1936 - Surfaced Highways

There are 94,000 miles of surfaced roads in Canada, exclusive of streets in cities, towns and incorporated villages. The mileage has doubled since 1925. The cost is enormous. In 1934 alone the construction and maintenance account was \$67,000,000.

A spectacular part of the programme is, of course, the Transcanada Highway, not yet completed, and in this connection the name of Doolittle should be remembered as is Macadam in association with the type of road surface that bears his name.

Dr. Perry E. Doolittle, of Toronto, has been called the "Father of the Transcanada Highway". He died over two years ago at the age of 72. He was a remarkable man. When he was seven he became the proud possessor of a home-made bicycle. Later he made a wooden bicycle, the rear wheel being 18 inches in diameter and the front one 48 inches. They had steel tires. The backbone was a piece of gas pipe. He built another from a musket barrel and he imported the tires from England. On this wheel he made a successful debut in racing and between 1881 and 1890 he won many trophies, including a Canadian championship. He built what is believed to have been Canada's first motor cycle. He raised the first Canadian Good Roads Fund.

The figures in the foregoing have been supplied by the Transportation Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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No. 133. Fri. Feb. 7, 1936 - The Milky Coconut

The coconut palm is a native of the East Indies, but it now grows on all coasts and islands of the tropics. The tree is about 50 feet in height and the leaves are sometimes 20 feet long. The coarse fibre which covers the nut is known commercially as coir and is used extensively in making ropes, fishing nets, and in caulking boats. A characteristic of coir rope is that it will stretch 25 per cent before breaking and it is also more durable than most other fibres.

Another important product is copra, the dried kernel from which oil is extracted. This oil is used in enormous quantities in soap making as well as in some food products. The oil cake is used as a cattle food.

During the Great War coconut shell was made into a high grade of charcoal, used in the manufacture of gas masks.

Canada imports tremendous quantities of coconuts. Last year we got 14½ million nuts, chiefly from the British West Indies. Jamaica alone sent over nine million. We got over one million pounds of desiccated coconut, almost entirely from Ceylon. We got over four million gallons of coconut oil, chiefly from the same island. There were 700,000 pounds of coir from British India.

Thus we see what a great boon to mankind is the milky coconut.

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

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No. 134. Sat. Feb. 8, 1936 - Canada's Trade with Morocco.

Morocco, the largest of the Barbary States, has an area of about 218,000 square miles, or not much more than half that of Ontario. There are more than five million inhabitants. Between the various ranges of the Atlas Mountains lie well watered and fertile plains. The northern flanks are well wooded but the southern slopes, exposed to the desert winds, are arid and desolate. The climate is generally good and healthy, especially on the Atlantic coast. The rocky eminence on the promontory of Ceuta, and Gibraltar opposite it, were known to the ancients as the Pillars of Hercules, the Gateway of the Mediterranean.

The country is divided into three zones -- French, Spanish and International Tangier. France is the paramount power and represents the Sultan, Sidi Mohamed, in all foreign relationships. Sidi Mohamed came to the throne in 1927 when he was only sixteen.

Among the agricultural products are wheat, barley, maize, esparto, hemp, figs, almonds, lemons, oranges and grapes. The egg industry is important.

Canada's trade with Morocco is not large but has been growing of late. Our imports during the last fiscal year amounted to \$23,000 and our exports to \$66,000. Half of our imports was iron ore and most of the remainder was seeds, some of them aromatic. The largest item in our exports was rubber tires at \$59,000, followed by farm implements, apples, canned salmon, wheat flour, needles and pins.



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

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No. 135. Sun. Feb. 9, 1936 - Are We Our Brother's Keeper?

During Education Week, soon to be observed throughout Canada, teachers and other educators will tell us that the citizens of average good fortune in a province do not accept enough responsibility for the schooling of families less fortunately situated financially, and the following is the basis of their contention.

In the organization of public education Canada is a country of nine provinces, but in paying for it these provinces are an aggregation of more than 23,000 school districts or sections, each obliged to be self-reliant to the extent of about 80 per cent of the cost of its schools. There are, of course, a few big towns and cities where the cost is pooled among a large population. There are nearly 1,000 school areas with a population of 500 or more, and half of our people live in these. But the rural half of our population has over 21,000 school districts, a number so large that there are fewer than 250 persons, or 50 families, to support the average school.

Due to local crop failure or other causes, many of these small communities sometimes cannot raise the necessary money for their schools, and the education of their children suffers, unless the teacher charitably keeps the school running without being paid. Thousands of Canadian teachers have been working in the last few years for less than \$30 a month, and paying their board out of this salary. If the districts with more money could share the lot of the poorer districts this would be less likely to happen and in the course of a few years, with a change of their luck in crops, their positions might be reversed, so that the aided area could return the favour.

This statement is based on reports issued by the Education Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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No. 136. Mon. Feb. 10, 1936 -- Cold Storage

The principle of the preservation of food by the abstraction of heat is very old. Cold caverns, cellars and snow have always been used for the purpose. The freezing mixture of ice and salt was known in the 17th century. In 1834 Jacob Perkins invented a machine which included in simple form the principle of the modern refrigerator.

The first meat refrigerating plant was established in Sydney, New South Wales, in 1861 and there was a trial shipment to England in 1876, the vessel being fitted with an ammonia compression plant. A huge international trade in frozen and chilled meat, butter, cheese, fruit, fish and other perishable products has been developed as a result of that successful trip.

Cold storage plants are absolutely essential in such a country as Canada, more so than in countries where changes of temperature are less extreme. Take butter and cheese. Cheese is made almost entirely in the summer months, while 60 to 80 per cent of the butter is produced between May 1 and October 31, depending on the season and the existing climatic conditions. Thus it is necessary to place butter and cheese in cold storage plants for consumption

during the low production period in fall and winter. In this respect we are guided by the instinct demonstrated by the squirrels in storing up nuts for the winter; the quantity stored depends on the length and severity of the winter.

There are large cold storage warehouses in all the chief distributing centres and smaller refrigerating devices are in general use in creameries and in large wholesale and retail establishments. On the first day of January, 1936, there were approximately in cold storage 32 million pounds of creamery butter, 23½ million pounds of cheese, 75 million pounds of meats, lard and poultry and about 21 million pounds of fish.

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

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No. 137. Tues. Feb. 11, 1936 - Medicinals.

Like most other things, the apothecary's shop has been changing with the changing years and the drug store of today has very little resemblance to the shop whose windows were resplendent with great glass containers filled with coloured water, vivid red and green predominating. We knew from afar when we were approaching the chemist's place of business.

In the present day the appearance of the drug store is very much like a little palace of varieties. In place of the shelves of labelled bottles filled with all sorts of medicinal liquids, often the most prominent articles are candies, tobaccos and magazine literature. Indeed we can dine at many drug stores and get an ice cream at most of them. If some of our forbears could visit us they would tell us that in their day the barber's shop was where to get the healing stuffs.

However, ~~medicinals~~ and pharmaceuticals are sold nowadays as never before, and the factory value of these liquids and substances that are devised to relieve pain and conquer disease is no less a sum than \$16,000,000. Considerably over \$14,000,000 of this is made in Canada. We import over \$2,800,000 worth and export over three-quarters of a million, according to the 1934 reckoning.

These facts are taken from a report issued recently by the Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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No. 138. Wed. Feb. 12, 1936 - Iron Ore from Abroad.

Iron is one of the oldest and most used of all the metals, having been in use for some 6,000 years. The Egyptians called it the "celestial metal". Iron was worked in Sussex by the Britons in Julius Caesar's time. Caesar's ships were said to be inferior in some respects to those of the Britons and their allies, the Celtic ships being built of oak rivetted with iron pins and having chains instead of ropes.

The earliest source of iron was said to be meteorites composed chiefly of iron, but alloyed with small percentages of nickel; later it was obtained by crude reduction methods from some iron mineral, usually the oxide. Most of the ordinary varieties of commercial iron that we use today are alloys of the metal. Iron of extremely high purity is not in much demand, comparatively speaking.



There are large iron deposits in Canada but none is worked at present. It has been found less costly to import iron ore from other countries than to mine and process the native lower-grade ore. Some came last year from Brazil and Morocco, a comparatively small amount from Spain, and a considerable quantity from Norway. Most of our iron ore imports, however, were got last year from the United States and Newfoundland, 762,000 tons from the former and 693,000 from the latter. The total imports were over  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million tons, a quantity which has not been exceeded since 1929 when the total was about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million tons.

These figures are taken from reports issued by the Mining and Metallurgical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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No. 139. Thurs. Feb. 13, 1936 - Chinese in Canada.

Tomorrow, according to the old Chinese calendar, the year 2486 begins. Until the year 1911 A. D. a Lunar Calendar was in force in China, but with the establishment of the Republic the Government adopted the Gregorian Calendar, and the new and old systems were used simultaneously by the people for several years. Since 1930 the publication and use of the old Calendar have been banned by the Government, and an official Chinese calendar, corresponding with the European or Western system, is in vogue. It is believed, however, that the old Lunar calendar is still in use to some extent.

The Chinese are the most numerous of the races of Asiatic origin now residents of Canada. Indeed more than half of the latter are Chinese. There are over 43,000 males and about 3,500 females. Of these, 1,900 are boys and 1,800 are girls under the age of 15.

More than half, or over 27,000, of the Chinese reside in British Columbia, of whom 24,900 are males and 2,240 females. Most of the Chinese children are in British Columbia, 1,160 boys and 1,130 girls.

There are about 6,400 Chinese cooks and about the same number engaged in laundry work, 3,500 cafe and tavern keepers, 125 hairdressers, 15 musicians, 14 clergymen, 8 journalists, 7 actors and 4 police, as well as many in other varied occupations and professions.

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

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No. 140. Fri. Feb. 14, 1936 - My Lady Nicotine.

Tobacco is one of the important industries of Canada and contributes materially to the agricultural economy of the Dominion. All told, the tobacco industry is using, according to latest figures, over 36 million pounds of raw leaf, of which 75 per cent is grown in Canada. The largest proportion of our home-grown tobacco goes into the smoking and chewing varieties. Only about one-fifth of the leaf used is imported.

Notwithstanding the growing prevalence of the cigarette, a great deal more tobacco is used for pipe smoking and chewing than for "tailor-made"

cigarette-smoking. The proportion is about 7 to 4. Slightly more than half of the tobacco in Canadian cigarettes is imported and the same statement applies to the tobacco in cigars. The bulk of the imported leaf, especially for cigarettes, comes from the United States and for cigars from Cuba. We get a comparatively trifling amount of tobacco leaf from the Dutch East Indies and other countries. Our exports are not large.

Canada is not a country of cigar smokers for the leaf used for that commodity is only one-eighteenth of the whole. Quebec is the great manufacturing province and manufactures over 80 per cent of the raw leaf, domestic and imported.

These statements are based upon a report issued a few days ago by the General Manufactures Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and which dealt with the 1934 situation. The tobacco crop of 1935 was 65 million pounds, or 45 per cent greater than in 1934. This might make a new situation in some respects.

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No. 141. Sat. Feb. 15, 1936 - Canada's Trade with Newfoundland.

Newfoundland is the oldest colony of the British Empire. It was discovered by John Cabot in 1497; the first land seen was hailed as Prima Vista, the present Cape Bonavista. In 1583 the island was formally occupied by Sir Humphrey Gilbert in the name of Queen Elizabeth and by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 the whole island was acknowledged to be British. The administration of affairs is at present vested in a Commission.

Newfoundland has an area of 42,720 square miles or somewhat less than that of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick combined, while the population of 300,000 is less than that of either of them. The coast is extremely rugged and the coastal regions mountainous. The interior contains many fertile valleys and the island has a great forest wealth. The climate is salubrious and the people are a strong, brave, healthy, hardy, industrious race. The thermometer seldom falls below zero in winter and ranges in the shade in summer from 70 to 80 degrees.

Canada's trade with Newfoundland is quite large. Our imports last year were over  $1\frac{1}{2}$  million dollars and our exports  $6\frac{1}{2}$  million. The chief product we get is iron ore, together with fish and fish products, stone, furs, leather boots and shoes. An interesting import last year as usual was florists' stock to the amount of \$146,000, the chief variety being azaleas. Our exports are general in character, large items being wheatflour, oats, potatoes, confectionery, rubber boots and shoes, meats, butter, cheese, concentrated milk, textiles, paper, machinery, automobiles, coal, petroleum and a great variety of other commodities.

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

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No. 142. Sun. Feb. 16, 1936 - Dried Currants.

Dried currants are not so commonly used by the Canadian housewife as they were a generation ago. This is often remarked and the remark is true, as the trade figures demonstrate.



The currant of commerce is really a small raisin which is an important product of the regions of the Eastern Mediterranean. That was where the Canadian people formerly got the bulk of their currants, up until 1928. Greece was the main country of supply. However, in recent years, Australia, for Canadians at least, has become the chief supplying country, taking the place that Greece formerly occupied.

About the year 1900 our importation of currants was about eight million pounds; last year, although our population is very much larger, we only got  $5\frac{1}{2}$  million pounds.

Raisins, on the other hand, have grown in popularity. In 1900 we imported  $11\frac{1}{2}$  million pounds and last year almost 40 million. And it is notable that of late years the buying public have turned strongly to the Australian variety of raisin also. Out of the 40 million pounds last year, these cousins of ours in the Antipodes sent us over 30 million.

These facts have been obtained from reports issued by the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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No. 143. Mon. Feb. 17, 1936 - Calumet.

The earliest forms of tobacco pipes of which we have accurate knowledge were those of the Red Indians of North America. The best known was the Calumet, or Pipe of Peace, around which has gathered much legend and story. The bowl was of red pipestone.

Pipes were introduced into England in 1586 by Ralph Lane, governor of Virginia. Clay was the first material used and still furnishes the commonest and cheapest pipes. Some devotees describe them as the best.

There is a very large variety of characteristic pipes, the old churchwardens, still occasionally seen, the corn cob of the American, the cutty of the Scot, the dhudeen of the Irishman, the Turkish chibouque, the Indian narghileh, the Persian hookah.

Clay pipes lend themselves to elaborate designs for the bowl and one firm in Glasgow is said to have 2,000 moulds, a number of them representing the faces of famous men. Teutonic pipes were made of porcelain. The aristocrat of the pipe world is the meerschaum.

Wooden pipes are now in almost universal use and our own Indians make wonderfully beautiful and elaborate carvings on the bowls. The Canadian factory production is very small -- less than 4,000 dozen last year, all from Quebec, the value being about \$12,000.

But our importations are very large and ran up to a value of close to half a million dollars last year. The largest supply came from France at \$137,000, then Great Britain at \$121,000 and Italy at \$103,000. We got pipes also from the United States, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Irish Free State, Japan, China, Hong Kong, Hungary, Denmark, Sweden and Finland.

This information is supplied by the Manufacturing and External Trade Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 144. Tues. Feb. 18, 1936 - A Lost Leadership.

Away back in 1900 factory cheese production was six times that of butter, Canadian cheese had become famous the world over. Our export in that year was no less than 186,000,000 pounds and represented more than seven times the quantity of butter exported from the Dominion. Canadian cheese was pre-eminent in the great United Kingdom market.

During the next two decades creamery butter steadily increased in quantity while cheese production declined. In 1922 the factory butter output for the first time exceeded cheese production. In 1925 cheese again recovered its leadership but this position was short-lived for in the following year butter production exceeded the cheese output by over five million pounds. Since that time factory cheese production has moved in a downward direction and in 1935 was just slightly above one hundred million pounds. Butter production meanwhile continued to increase and in 1934 reached the maximum of nearly 235 million pounds, or considerably more than twice the production of cheese.

Canada has lost her leadership in cheese in the British market, which has been captured by New Zealand. New Zealand last year sent more cheese to the British market than all the rest of the world put together, yet the Canadian product is unsurpassed for quality and still maintains a high premium in the United Kingdom. It commands a higher price than the product of New Zealand and those who have explored the situation are of the opinion that there is every opportunity for expansion so long as the quality is maintained or improved.

Although butter has superseded cheese in the Canadian factory, it has not become so great a factor in our export trade as cheese. In butter New Zealand has a pronounced lead, with Denmark and Australia second and third. Comparatively speaking, the Canadian contribution is negligible.

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

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No. 145. Wed. Feb. 19, 1936 - Writing Ink.

Writing ink is one of the manufactures in daily use today which reached a high degree of perfection long before our time. The use of ink dates back to the era following the invention of writing. The earliest writing inks consisted of a mixture of lampblack with a solution of glue or gum and are still used in China, Egypt and the East, but have long been replaced amongst western people by inks made from iron and galls. The galls of commerce contain tannin, which is used in making inks and dyes.

This transition from carbon inks of the Eastern type into the modern inks took place very gradually and was not complete until the 14th century. Pliny, Vitruvius and other classical authors mention writing inks, and old deeds and manuscripts show that its manufacture had reached a high degree of perfection in the Middle Ages.

Most of the ink sold in Canada is manufactured in the Dominion. At factory prices the production in a year is considerably more than one-quarter of a million dollars. Our imports have averaged less than \$30,000 in the last two or three years,



coming mainly from the United Kingdom and the United States, but smaller amounts also from Hong Kong, China, Germany, Japan, Holland and France.

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

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No. 146. Thurs. Feb. 20, 1936 - Plant Food.

Prior to 1900 little was known of the nature and sources of Plant Food, although manure has been used from the earliest times. Even until comparatively recently, there have been many misapprehensions in high places regarding fertility.

As late as 1893 the president's address to the British Association for the Advancement of Science, contained this amusing and ridiculous statement: "The fertility of the North-West Provinces of the Dominion is due to an exceptional and curious circumstance. In winter the ground freezes to a considerable depth. Wheat is sown in the spring, generally April, when the frozen ground has thawed to a depth of three inches. Under the hot sun of the short summer the grain sprouts with surprising rapidity, partly because the roots are supplied with water from the thawing depths. The summer is too short to thaw the ground thoroughly, and gateposts or other dead wood extracted in the autumn are found still frozen at their lower ends."

A similar misapprehension by Storer is quoted in the American Chemical Journal in 1906: "This underground layer of frozen earth is believed to explain the wonderful fertility of the soil, as the frost in gradually coming to the surface during the summer months creates a moisture, which, meeting the warmth from above, forms a kind of natural hot bed."

Agricultural science in Canada has reached a very advanced stage and our farmers use plant food generously. In consequence the fertilizer industry has grown to large proportions. The value of the output is now up to over 8½ million dollars. There were 195,000 tons sold in Canada, including comparatively small imports, and 166,000 tons exported.

There is a large variety of materials used in these commercial fertilizers, such as phosphates and phosphate rock, basic slag, bone meal, fish meal and whale meat, dried blood, cyanamide and potash.

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

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No. 147. Fri. Feb. 21, 1936 - Foreign Exchange.

When nations of the world declare that their currencies are legally worth a fixed quantity of gold and allow debts to other countries to be paid in gold as well as by means of bills of exchange or drafts, the question of foreign exchange values is relatively simple. Under these circumstances a currency unit worth 20 grains of fine gold will always be worth about two units of a currency worth 10 grains of fine gold. However, the problem has been complicated in recent years because so many nations have abandoned a fixed gold value for their currencies.

Between September 1931 and February 1934, foreign exchange relationships were seriously disturbed. The position of the Canadian dollar was changed substantially twice during this period. The first change came in the autumn months of 1931, following the abandonment of the gold standard by the United Kingdom in September. Before the end of the year, the pound sterling had fallen nearly 20 p.c. at Montreal, while remaining gold currencies including the United States dollar and the French franc advanced for a short time to a premium which exceeded 20 p.c. From the spring months of 1932 until February 1933 this premium averaged roughly 15 p.c.

The second change followed the devaluation of the United States dollar in April 1933. The premium on remaining gold currencies subsequently increased at Montreal, until early in 1934 it had reached 68 p.c. At that time, the premium on the United States dollar practically disappeared and the pound sterling returned to approximately its old parity of \$4.86.

These relationships have not been seriously disturbed in the past two years, although minor flurries have occurred. Today the Canadian and United States dollars are very close to their former exchange par, while sterling is quoted at approximately \$4.98.

This information comes from the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which keeps a record of exchange values.

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No. 148. Sat. Feb. 22, 1936 - Canada's Trade with Norway.

The independent kingdom of Norway was founded in 872 A.D. From 1814 to 1905 it was united with Sweden under the same king, but the union was then dissolved. With an area of 125,000 square miles, it is about half the size of Manitoba. The population of 2,900,000 is practically the same as that of Ontario.

Norwegian immigrants are highly regarded. The characteristics of the race, in the popular mind, are fine physique, flaxen hair and blue eyes, but statistics from Norway tell us that the flaxen-haired and blue-eyed people are only about 20 percent of the population. Norwegians are remarkable for their adventurous courage, hardihood, God-fearing and law-abiding deportment. They are seldom in the courts. Education in Norway is compulsory and free. As lumbermen and sailors they are unsurpassed.

Although so small a country, Norway has a merchant fleet which ranks fourth amongst the countries of the world, coming only slightly behind Japan which is third, with Great Britain and the United States easily first and second.

The leading exports are fish, pulp and paper. Our chief imports from Norway, which last year amounted to about three quarters of a million dollars, were fertilizers, cod liver oil, sardines, paper, fish hooks and iron ore, while the main exports, which totalled close to five millions, were nickel, copper, wheat, flour, rubber and platinum.

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

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No. 149. Sun. Feb. 23, 1936 -- Blue.

Blue is a great colour. Indeed, blue is many colours or, more properly, shades of colour. It is difficult to match a blue; for example, when a man's blue serge trousers have worn out, he hardly expects to get a new pair of exactly the same colour as his bereft coat and vest.

The early Britons painted their faces blue. The staunch Presbyterians were called "true blues", the Covenanters having adopted blue as their colour, red being the royal colour. There was a Blue Squadron in the British Navy in the 18th century. Nelson was at one time "rear-Admiral of the Blue". The Royal Horse Guards were called the "Blues" from their leader, the Earl of Oxford, the "Oxford Blues". They also wore blue uniforms. From the blue ribbon worn by the Knights of the Garter has come the phrase as the highest mark of distinction. An athlete who represents his University is called a "blue", particularly at Oxford and Cambridge. Temperance reformers had a Blue Ribbon army.

We have the blue books of the Government. The "bluestocking" is a derivative name for a literary woman. When we are in the dumps we say we are feeling blue and usually look it. A vessel flies the Blue Peter when about to leave port. Policemen and firemen wear blue and the Quebec Conservatives are called "bleus".

The ultramarine, from which we manufacture most of our blue pigments, is imported in quantities running up to nearly half a million pounds. Considerably more than half of it comes from Great Britain. The production of laundry blue alone in Canada is valued at about \$75,000.

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

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No. 150. Mon. Feb. 24, 1936 -- Trousers.

Men have turned to trousers almost universally in the Temperate Zone and, wherever they have gone they have introduced that habiliment. In ancient times trousers were worn by the nations of North and Central Europe, as well as the Phrygians and Persians. A few Romans began to wear them in the second century. Beau Brummel is said to have introduced trousers into England. The Scottish Highlander had to be forced by a hated Sassenach Law to cover his limbs with unromantic breeks.

The old English name for the leg coverings was hose or breeches, as witness the Breeches Bible; later they were called trousers and today in Canadian statistical reports they are described as pants.

From hose to pants there have been many varieties of fashion, ranging from the ancient baggy trousers to the tight garments puffed at the top in the time of Henry VIII and from the petticoat breeches of the Stuarts to the tight knee breeches worn in the reign of William III and still used in modern court dress. The pants of today could hardly be described as graceful.

About six million pairs of men's and boys' pants, from outing shorts to full dress, were made in Canada last year, which just about represents the marketing. This means that the average Canadian, man and boy has been getting

lately not quite three new pairs in two years. A man is lucky who gets two pairs in a year. This does not include baby's wear, those rubber contraptions running to about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  million yearly for over 200,000 children under one year old.

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

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No. 151. Tues. Feb. 25, 1936 - Nursery Stock.

The production of nursery stock is a highly specialized branch of agriculture and it requires more labour than the cultivation of any other product. It employs 15 to 20 times more men on a given area than does ordinary grain farming and five times as many as even intensive fruit farming. In Canada labour is said to represent 75 per cent of the cost of producing nursery stock.

The Dutch have reached a state of specialization in the production of nursery stock which is unparalleled in any other country. Quite naturally, this intensive specialization leads to a very high state of efficiency. According to a report to Parliament by the Canadian Tariff Board, six hundred growers, cultivating an area of 7,000 acres, have combined and organized to grow nursery stock to meet a world demand.

Canadian nurserymen have made an impressive advance in recent years. Five or six years ago about one million rose bushes were imported, for example, while in 1935 there were but 433,000, chiefly from the Netherlands and Great Britain. The sales of rose bushes by Canadian nurserymen have climbed from a very small quantity to just about the same number, which is an indication of marked progress.

There is now in Canada an area of 22 million square feet under glass and close to 4,000 acres not under glass, so that the industry has become very important. The gross revenues are upwards of \$13,000,000.

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

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No. 152. Wed. Feb. 26, 1936 - Rabbit Skins.

Improvements in the fur dyeing industry --- the result in a large degree of the discovery of synthetic compound dyes known as fur bases --- have created a demand for certain cheap raw skins which, owing to their natural colour had previously been considered unsuitable for the fur trade. Rabbit skin, for which there is now a large market, is the outstanding instance of this development. Today it can be dyed to almost any colour and can be processed to imitate practically any of the rarer and costlier furs.

France and Australia produce the greater part of those that are commercially dressed and dyed for the fur trade. It is estimated that 85 million Australian rabbit skins are marketed each year. The pelt of the wild Australian rabbit is light and fine in texture but does not acquire a leather strength equal to that of the pelt of the French domesticated rabbit. Practically all farms in France raise these rabbits.



Prior to 1932, muskrat skins, which when treated are known as Hudson seal, were in numbers the most important product of the Canadian fur dressing and dyeing industry, but since that date rabbit skins have taken the first place, according to a report presented to Parliament by the Canadian Tariff Board.

During the season 1932-33 there were 50,000 Canadian rabbit skins marketed but next year the supply was almost half a million, the average value being a little less than ten cents. The imports into Canada have risen to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  million skins, chiefly from France. The exports are largely re-exports of skins that have come from other countries so that about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  million are at present used in this country in one form or another.

These facts are taken from a report issued by the Fur Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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No. 153. Thurs. Feb. 27, 1936 - The Growing Task of the Schools.

The central theme of Education Week, at present being observed throughout Canada, is "Education as a Training for Citizenship", a theme that is suggestive of the ever-increasing demands being made upon the schools. Besides a grounding in the historic "three R's", the schools are called upon to train for citizenship, for health, for occupations, for almost every aspect of life, and the children of the present generation are spending in the schools nearly half as long again as their parents.

It is difficult to find a statistical measure to indicate the increased work of the schools in training for citizenship, but training for useful places in industry may be considered one phase of it. Twenty years ago there was little of this in the schools; now nearly one-fourth of all students in the high school grades are taking technical or commercial courses.

This increased work demanded of the schools has made the curtailment of their revenues in the last few years more serious than it appears at first sight. Comparing last year with 1926, it is seen that school expenditures were not very much lower, but attendance had increased 20 p.c. in the interval, and the increase was disproportionately high in the upper and more costly grades. The real drop in dollars per pupil must have been about one-third from the relatively normal year of 1926. If the present situation is compared with the peak-expenditure years around 1930, the contrast becomes still more striking.

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

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No. 154. Fri. Feb. 28, 1936 - The Button Industry.

Buttons have been found among prehistoric remains in Great Britain. They were used in Egypt from the Sixth Dynasty. Buttons played a large part in the ornamentation of dress and other articles, especially in the 14th and 15th centuries. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, large silk-covered buttons were worn. England's virgin queen had a predilection for silk. Coats loaded with brass buttons were the fashion at the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries.

Buttons often serve as badges, the Chinese mandarin wearing one in his hat as a mark of his rank. In North America, where societies and clubs of many kinds abound, buttons indicative of affiliation are worn on the lapel of the coat by the members.

Buttons on present day dress are frequently vestiges of bygone fashions or uses. The buttons on the back of a man's morning coat recall the time when horse-back was the usual mode of travel and the tails of the coat were buttoned up to avoid the mud.

Canadians use up an enormous quantity of buttons. In an average year the consumption is about 30 million dozen -- all kinds. And it is said that buttons today are now more popular than ever, despite the substitute zipper. About one-third of our supply comes from abroad, chiefly from Japan.

This information comes from the Manufacturing and Internal Trade Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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No. 155. Sat. Feb. 29, 1936; - Revision of School Statistics.

At the close to-day of Canadian Education week, the Honourable W.D. Euler, Minister of Trade and Commerce made the following announcement:

In a radio broadcast inaugurating Canadian Education Week on Monday evening, the President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, Miss Jessie M. Norris, on behalf of of 30,000 teacher members, made an appeal for more thorough scientific data on the working of Canadian school systems. Similar requests have been received from other educational sources throughout Canada.

Education in Canada, as is well known, is a matter of provincial jurisdiction, and one of the most valuable features of this arrangement lies in the adaptation of educational facilities and policies to local conditions. In this, each province benefits greatly by its neighbours' educational experiences and experiments. In order to reap this advantage to the full, however, there must be a central source of information where the educators of each province may find statistical and related data concerning the others.

In 1920, to meet this need, a Dominion-Provincial conference on school statistics was held, and an Education Branch was established in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for the purpose of compiling and publishing, in co-operation with Departments of Education, uniform and comparable school statistics for all provinces. In recent years, however, as the Teachers' Federation President suggests, there have been many changes in the educational world that should be measured and recorded in a revised statistical scheme, and many new social and economic problems have arisen, on which the light of revised school statistics is required.

In recognition of the situation, the Honourable Mr. Euler will invite representatives of Departments of Education and of education associations to meet at Ottawa, for the discussion of a revised plan of Dominion-wide school statistics, the meeting to be arranged at as early a date as may be convenient. The formal invitations in this connection will go out shortly.

This statement comes from the office of the Minister of Trade and Commerce in whom is vested the administration of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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