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FEB 18 1981

A FACT A DAY ABOUT CANADA

FROM THE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

AS SUPPLIED TO THE

CANADIAN RADIO BROADCASTING COMMISSION

DURING MARCH 1936.

SECOND SERIES

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

James Muir,
Editor.

A Fact a Day about Canada

from the

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

No. 156. Sun. March 1, 1936. - St. David's Day.

This is St. David's Day. St. David is the national saint of the mountainous principality of Wales. All that is known of him historically is that he was Bishop of Menevia, now St. David's in the County of Pembroke. He has been venerated in Wales from the 7th Century and the custom of wearing a leek in his honour is said to have had its origin in a battle with the Saxons.

The Welsh are a distinct nationality, with a language and literature of their own, and the national bardic festival, the Eisteddfod, is annually maintained. The sessions are believed to date from the time of Prydian, a ruling prince in an age many centuries before the Christian era. David, the last Welsh sovereign, was captured and executed by the English in 1283.

The earliest inhabitants appear to have been subdued or exterminated by the Goidels, a people of Celtic race, in the Bronze Age. Christianity was introduced during the 4th century and was preserved after the withdrawal of the Roman garrison. Welsh missionaries carried it to the Hebrides, the Orkneys and the Shetland Islands. The Welsh or Cymric tongue is a branch of the Celtic family of languages and is related to Cornish and Breton.

The area of the country is about 7,500 square miles, or one-third that of Nova Scotia. The population is over 2½ million, somewhat greater than that of Quebec. Cardiff, the largest town, has a population of 225,000.

There are over 22,000 natives of Wales now living in Canada, and there are in the Dominion over 60,000 people of Welsh origin. There are Welsh Societies in the leading Canadian cities who seek to preserve the traditions of their romantic race.

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

No. 157. Mon. March 2, 1936 - Firearms.

The only rifle entirely fabricated in Canada from Canadian materials, with the exception of the stocks, which are made out of imported walnut, is the small .22 calibre rifle. The output of the single shot .22 far exceeds that of the repeating rifle. The latter is, of course, much more expensive.

The production of guns in Canada is mainly an assembling business and the small market in the Dominion for that kind of firearm apparently does not warrant the setting up of a plant for the manufacture of all parts, according to recent representations to the Canadian Tariff Board. Consequently the parts are imported. The value last year of guns and parts was close to \$100,000. These include toy guns, air guns, air rifles, shot guns and revolvers.

The main supply of guns and parts came from the United States as usual. Belgium was next, followed by the United Kingdom, Germany and Japan. In other years we got a supply from Spain. Five years ago the amount imported was over half a million dollars, so it would seem that the market for guns in Canada is much smaller than it was, probably one-fifth.

These figures have been taken from reports issued by the External Trade Branch, of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 158. Tues. March 3, 1936 - Live Stock and Poultry in Canada.

The cattle population of Canada appears to have experienced a slight decline of late. The estimated number of cattle in the Dominion in December last year was 8,431,000 head, which was a decrease of about one half of one per cent. There is no prospect of an increase next summer, but rather a further reduction.

However, there was an increase in the number of cows being milked last December, the estimate being over 2½ million. That makes one milk cow for every four or five people in the Dominion.

Pigs have increased by 8 per cent and in the next few weeks a considerable addition is anticipated. Sheep and lambs, however, are declining, the 2,630,000 or thereabouts being a 4 per cent drop.

There were in December about 45 million hens and chickens throughout the country, and those who are watching the situation believe that the decline in poultry numbers, which has been in progress for some years, is slowing up.

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

No. 159. Wed. March 4, 1936 - About Fatal Accidents.

There were four passengers and two employees killed in electric railway accidents in Canada in 1934. There were 16 passengers and 43 employees killed in railway train accidents in the same year. Twelve persons lost their lives in civil aviation accidents, but in automobile accidents no fewer than 1,108 deaths resulted. Almost half, or 527, of the automobile accident fatalities in the Dominion occurred in Ontario. Quebec had 274 and British Columbia next with 81.

About half of the motor vehicle fatalities were drivers and passengers of these vehicles and the total mileage travelled by all motor vehicles was somewhere between six and seven billion miles.

Passengers in railway trains undoubtedly run less risk of fatal accidents than passengers in motor vehicles, on a passenger mile basis, but a satisfactory basis of comparison is difficult to establish.

The average number of motor vehicle fatalities per mile run in the several provinces based on the gasoline consumption indicate a consistently low rate in Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island.

The characteristics of the roads probably are important factors in these records; wide highways, easy curves, good visibility, hard, smooth surfaces and absence of dust, all tend to reduce the danger. Excessive speed is very productive of fatal accidents especially on open roads, the number of deaths per accident being higher on straight stretches of rural roads than on urban streets.

These figures and observations come from the Transportation Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 160. Thurs. March 5, 1936 - Salmon.

In point of annual marketed return, the British Columbia salmon fishery is the most valuable of the fisheries of Canada. The return fluctuates from year to year, of course, but of late years it has been between 13 and 16 million dollars. The record output for British Columbia canned salmon is 105,600,000 pounds. Over 70 per cent is sent to the export markets of the world. Sixty canning plants give employment to over 5,000 workers.

There are five species of British Columbia salmon taken by the fishermen. The fish are entirely distinct from the Atlantic salmon and the several species are known scientifically by names which came originally from the Russian vernacular. The popular names, however, are Sockeye, Spring, Coho, Pink and Chum. They are very similar in food value, although the rich, red colour of the sockeye's flesh and the firmness of its tissues give this fish a market advantage and cause it to bring the highest price.

All of these salmon are born in fresh water but their mature life is spent in the sea. The bulk of the catch is taken along the coast and in the inlets and bays, generally closer than two miles off shore.

When the spawning grounds in the rivers are reached, each female salmon, guarded by the male, deposits her eggs to the number of several thousand in a little basin which the fish scrape out in the river bed with snout and fin. When the eggs are fertilized the fish cover them with gravel. With that the life cycle of the parent fish is ended. Unlike the Atlantic salmon, the Pacific spawns but once and death follows spawning. The children never see their parents. One generation is dead before the next arrives.

This information comes from the Department of Fisheries and the Fisheries Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 161. Frid. March 6, 1936 - The Toboggan.

In most parts of the Dominion the toboggan is being put away for another year and it goes into the store room carrying with it all the romance that gathers around the chiefest of our carriers over the snowbound and trackless places. Little Canadian boys and girls know their toboggans from the time they know anything almost at all and between these city young folk who play with them and the trappers of the North who work with them, there is a multiplicity of duties and uses that only a toboggan can properly fulfil.

Toboggan is taken from the Indian work, "odaboggan", indicating a sled or drag, such as was used by the aboriginal inhabitants of northern North America to carry their game and goods over the snow. These sleds were fashioned of strips of birch bark turned

up at the end to allow them to slide easily over rough and smooth snow alike. The strips were bound together with thongs of leather.

The modern toboggan is made on the same principle, the chief aim being to secure strength and lightness. It is from four to nine feet long and about 18 inches wide. The long toboggan will carry five persons.

There are about 12,000 toboggans made in Canada every year, which information comes from the Manufactures Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 162. Sat. March 7, 1936 - Canada's Trade with British Guiana.

British Guiana has an area of 90,000 square miles, or nearly twice that of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The population is estimated at 322,000, considerably less than that of New Brunswick. More than 135,000 of the people are immigrants from the East Indies.

The cultivated portion of the country is confined to between ten and forty miles from the sea coast and to a short distance from the rivers. The coast land is very much like Holland, being below the level of the sea and intersected with canals constructed by the former Dutch owners. The land rises towards the interior.

The colony was originally founded by the Dutch who settled on the Essequibo River in the 17th century. In 1781 it was captured by the British and, after changing owners several times, was finally ceded to the British in 1815. The country is administered by a Governor, assisted by a Council; Georgetown in Demerara is the capital.

The chief products are sugar, rice, cocoanuts, coffee, wild rubber, maize and vanilla. Cattle, sheep, horses, pigs, goats and donkeys are reared. Gold is mined and precious stones are found.

Canada's imports from British Guiana are quite large, amounting to about \$2,500,000 last year. Most of that was raw sugar, other items being nuts, molasses, cocoa beans, green coffee and rum. A considerable quantity of bauxite comes to us indirectly via the United States. Our exports were about one million dollars, with wheat flour leading, other commodities being potatoes, oats, rubber, fish, butter, cheese, lumber and a large variety of other things.

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

No. 163. Sun. March 8, 1936 - Singing Birds.

Upwards of a quarter of a century ago, Sir Richard McBride, then premier of British Columbia, was visiting in Ottawa. In the course of a conversation with one of the correspondents of the Parliamentary Press Gallery at that time, he remarked that to him the most impressive thing in rural England was the singing of the birds. The air was full of song and the beautiful notes that trilled from the sky seemed to come to him from Heaven itself. He had read somewhere, he said, that the Italians had made a success of transplanting canaries from the Canary Islands to Italy and he would like to let loose, as an experiment, a number of English song birds on one of the islands of the Pacific Coast, taking care first that as many as possible of the birds and beasts of prey would be exterminated. The story serves to portray the gentler thoughts of great men, busy with

affairs of state.

A week or so ago a Vancouver newspaper man, who has come to Ottawa to become private secretary to one of the Ministers, was addressing the Tuesday noon gathering at this Bureau and the incident was related to him. His comment was that when he went to the Coast in 1912 he found that 2,000 singing birds had been brought in from the south of England, where the climate is somewhat similar, and released near Vancouver and Victoria. In a year or two they seemed to have disappeared, but in a year or two more, people began to realize that there were a few survivors. Evidently some had become acclimatized. They began to multiply amazingly with the result that today British Columbia is becoming remarkable for its song birds. The speaker said the birds were brought to British Columbia during the regime of Sir Richard.

There are no accurate statistics regarding the importation of songbirds into Canada, but a fair estimate is that the value yearly is about \$20,000. About one quarter of a million pounds of bird seed, largely from Morocco, comes to Canada in a year.

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

No. 164. Mon. March 9, 1936 - Blotting Paper.

When R. M. Ballantyne, as a young boy in his teens, wrote those voluminous letters from his shack in the Hudson Bay district to his mother in Scotland and was by that charming exercise preparing himself for the writing of those marvellous books that have thrilled millions upon millions of boys, he did not have blotting paper to dry the written page. He had to hold it over the box stove, or just wait until the moisture had gone as it willed. So with all these pioneers, adventurers and discoverers. And so with many people even yet.

But blotting paper is in very general use today in Canada, and it has become a thing of beauty, far different, if not more effective, than the great squares of that commodity that used to be carried home in a roll from the stationer's shop and afterwards cut into small pieces. Actually the printing of pictures that is now done on blotting paper gives a rich soft impression that is a delight to the eye.

This great paper-making country manufactures on an average about 500 tons of blotting paper in a year. Sometimes it runs to 750 tons. We import about 115 tons. It is made mainly from cotton rag stock and in medium grades from cotton rag mixed with sodawood pulp. Cheap blotters are made from mechanical wood pulp.

Before the invention of blotting paper, fine sand was used to hasten the drying of ink. It was sprinkled lightly over the freshly written page and then blown or shaken off. Supplies of sand in a shaker were used in the United States Senate for this purpose.

The foregoing information is supplied by the Forestry and Manufactures Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 165. Tues. March 10, 1936 - Masts and Sails.

The days are gone when ships which had crossed the Atlantic and rounded the Horn took away with them to Europe from the Pacific Coast of North America, tall masts and spars of Oregon Pine lashed to the bulwarks for safe keeping on the long and stormy passage. These were treasures from the groves for the fighting navies and the peaceful merchant fleets.

Yet there are still sailors who can run their mast and rigging down. And so masts and spars are still required, probably always will be needed so long as winds blow and men go to sea. In 1933 the factory value of those which were peeled and trimmed to shape in Canada was only \$1,600 but in 1934 it had risen to over \$5,000. Of course masts are a commodity with which factory production bears a very small relation. The fisherman who builds his own boat usually gets out his masts and spars himself.

Probably not to such an extent, yet the same applies to the manufacture of sails. Many fishermen fashion their sails themselves from the cloth got from the factory. There is no record of these, but the factory production of sails in 1933 was \$21,000, increasing to \$23,000 in 1934. We imported sails in 1935 to the value of \$5,000.

These figures, taken from reports by the Forestry and Manufactures Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, make it plain that there are still wet sails on flowing seas.

No. 166. Wed. March 11, 1936 - In the Criminal Courts.

The returns of Criminal Court proceedings for 1934 are now complete and have been analyzed. They show some surprising and thought-provoking things. There were more trials than in the previous year but there were fewer convictions for the indictable or more serious offences.

There were 19 death sentences, or fewer than in any year since 1930. The greatest number of offences was in breaches of traffic regulations, a much more frequent misdemeanor since the invention of the motor car. They aggregated 218,000 out of a total of 329,000 non-indictable or less serious offences.

The most pronounced revelation, probably, was the increase in gambling and the decrease in drunkenness. Convictions for gambling which numbered 6,000 in 1930 have increased steadily and rapidly each year until they reached 30,000 in 1934. On the other hand, convictions for drunkenness which numbered 35,000 in 1930 have dropped to 20,000. Looking over the details gives the impression that offences and misdemeanours which are usually associated in people's minds with inebriation have also been lessening.

For example, convictions for insulting, abusive and profane language have dropped in the same four years from 578 to 163. Loose, idle and disorderly conduct convictions have declined from 7,000 to 4,000. Offences against the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act have decreased from 217 to 146.

This information is taken from a report issued a few days ago by the Criminal Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 167. Thurs. March 12, 1936 - Manufacturing Progress in Canada.

Until the later 90's the growth of Canadian manufacturing industries though continuous was not particularly rapid. Afterwards there was a change and industries generally shared in the advantages of the great growing period from 1900 to 1912.

The influence of the Great War upon the manufactures of the Dominion was profound and far-reaching, tending to promote the diversification of products and the production at home of many commodities that had previously been imported. Enterprising manufacturers made use of their opportunities when the importation of manufactured goods from Europe was practically suspended. Added to this was the reflex effect of the great prosperity of agriculture produced by unprecedented war-time prices.

The great boom in Canadian manufactures reached its height in the summer of 1920, statistics for that year showing a gross value of products which was not exceeded until 1929. The 1929 values were higher, although prices had dropped 41 per cent in the intervening period.

The output of the Canadian manufacturing industries in 1890 was \$470,000,000. In 1910 it had gone over the billion mark. In 1920 it was $3\frac{3}{4}$ billions and in 1929 it went over four billions. By 1933 it had dropped down to two billions. There has been a recovery since 1933 but there is no prospect that the 1935 figures, when they are totalled, will approach those of 1920 or 1929.

The statistics are contained in a handbook issued by the Manufactures Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 168. Frid. March 13, 1936 - Imports for Canadian Industries.

So much has been said in the press and over the radio regarding sanctions in connection with the Italo-Ethiopian war and so largely has the question of oil sanctions bulked, that the average man understands more or less clearly that there is immense power in such a measure. To understand it better, let us see how the oil question stands in relation to Canadian industry.

Crude petroleum is by far the largest commodity imported for Canadian industries. It enters into the national life to an extraordinary extent. The figures demonstrate it. Our imports of crude petroleum in 1935 were valued at \$35,000,000 and the next in value was automobile parts at \$25,000,000.

Strange to say, the leading import in the nature of raw material for clothing and textile work generally, namely raw cotton is third on the list at \$15,000,000, actually much less than half the value of the importation of oil. Heat during a Canadian winter is important and the importation of bituminous coal ranks fourth at just a little less than cotton.

The first food importation is raw sugar. It is fourth on the list, and almost equal to bituminous coal and cotton in value.

These give us a fairly general idea of Canadian dependence upon the world outside of us, and show that the necessity of securing oil is an outstanding need.

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

No. 169. Sat. March 14, 1936 -- Canadian Trade with Hong Kong.

Hong Kong has been a British Crown Colony since 1841. It consists of a number of islands and a portion of the mainland of China at the mouth of the Canton River. The mountainous island of Hong Kong itself is about eleven miles long and from two to five miles broad. The whole colony comprises about 400 square miles or about one-fifth the size of Prince Edward Island. The population is almost one million, the non-Chinese residents numbering 20,000.

The capital of the colony is Victoria, facing the mainland, the population 400,000. The harbour is one of the finest in the world. There are excellent docks. The port is fortified. There is a considerable ship repairing and construction industry. Much encouragement is given to education. There are over one thousand schools attended by 73,000 children. The university was opened in 1912.

Hong Kong is the centre of a vast entrepôt trade in many kinds of produce, and Canada plays a more or less modest part in it. Our imports from Hong Kong in 1930 were valued at \$1,160,000 and our exports \$1,566,000. We get oranges, dried fruits, nuts, fresh and canned vegetables, beans, rice, peanut and soya bean oil, spices, tea, fish, bone and ivory, eggs, silk, paper, books, chinaware, medicinal preparations, fireworks, toys, brushes, footwear, jewellery, baskets, ornamental boxes and precious stones. Of course, while these things come to us from Hong Kong, it should be remembered that the country of origin of most of them is China. We send wheatflour, rubber tires, fish, leather, meats, condensed milk, butter, lumber, paper, hardware, machinery, automobiles and a host of other things. We even sent settlers' effects last year as well as in previous years.

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

No. 170. Sun. March 15, 1936 -- Kapok.

Seated by the fire on a Sunday evening, listening to the radio before "turning in" for the night, that old arm chair feels pretty comfortable, doesn't it? It doesn't feel so lumpy nor so hollowed in the centre as father's morris chair or grandfather's big wing chair did years ago. As likely as not the upholstering of our modern arm chair has been done with a material called Kapok, of which over 600,000 pounds were imported into Canada last year for use in the industries of the Dominion. It is very light, so the bulk is enormous.

The first Europeans who visited the Dutch East Indies found the natives making use of a whitish silky vegetable fibre which they called "randoe alas". In course of time a few small parcels arrived in Holland from Java and were soon thereafter brought to the attention of the rest of the world. It has been given the name Kapok. Its tendency to resist matting and moisture makes it an ideal substance for stuffing furniture, cushions and mattresses. It is greatly superior to cork in life-saving appliances and, due to its insulation qualities, is used in aviators' clothing and winter garments; also as an insulator for ice chests.

The filaments are taken from the pod of a tall evergreen tree with a prickly stem 100 feet high. It is a native of the West Indies, but it is only in the Dutch East Indies where the tree is cultivated on a large scale. The filaments cannot be spun into threads as are those of the cotton, owing to their smooth edges.

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

No. 171. Mon. March 16, 1936 - Canada's place in World Trade.

Canada in the calendar year 1935 was in the sixth position amongst the nations of the world in her aggregate international trade. The Dominion was fifth in exports and ninth in imports.

This is a remarkable statement possible to be made by a country of about eleven million people. Examine it from the point of view of population, not that population exercises the whole influence upon trade, yet it bears a considerable relation, particularly in regard to imports.

The countries which were ahead of Canada in 1935 in world trade were the United Kingdom, United States, Germany, France and Japan, Japan being only narrowly ahead.

The United Kingdom last year did a trade of 1½ billion dollars more than the United States, yet the 47 million population is a great deal less than half that of the United States. Canadian trade was between one-third and one-fourth that of the United States, yet the population is less than one-eleventh.

Germany is the third trading country, but is a long way behind the United Kingdom, although Germany has around 20 million more people. Germany has upwards of 30 million more people than France and does one billion more trade in dollar value. Pro rata to population Canada does a great deal better than either of them. The per capita trade of the United Kingdom in 1935 was approximately \$118, Canada \$115, France \$60, Germany \$49 and United States, \$34.

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

No. 172. Tues. March 17, 1936 - The Irish.

There are over 1,230,000 people of Irish origin in Canada. The males outnumber the females by 30,000. The Irish rank third in numbers amongst the British races in the Dominion, coming behind the English and the Scots. At the time of Confederation they were first, leading the Scots and English by good margins.

Irish children in Canada, under one year old, number one in less than 62 of the race, which is slightly better than the English do, but it is decidedly in front of the Scots who have only one infant in every 64 of their people. In this respect all of the population of British origin are much below the Canadian average. The British combined are able to present one in 62, whereas the Canadian average is one in 51. The French-Canadians have actually one in every forty.

The Irish in Canada are not pronouncedly city dwellers. In the cities of over 30,000 population there are about 363,000 but on the farm and in the rural villages there are 558,000. The Hebrews and Italians are outstanding as favoring city work and city homes.

As an example of the great changes that are taking place, note the city of Montreal. Once Franco-Irish, the English now outnumber the Irish and Scots combined, the Scots, once second, now coming third.

These figures are supplied by the Census Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 173. Wed. March 18, 1936 - Divorces.

There were 1,376 divorces granted in Canada in 1935. That was an increase of no less than 24 per cent over 1934, and shows that we are travelling away fast from the code of our forbears regarding the marriage vow "till death do us part".

Without attempting to set out the causes which lead so many people to the divorce court, it is a fact that while divorce is increasing, the number of divorced persons who remarry is at the same time increasing.

More wives secure divorces than do men in Canada. In 1934 the proportion was 68 per cent; last year, 62 per cent. The proportion is even larger in some other countries. The number of New Zealand wives granted divorce was 73 per cent recently, while in the United States the ratio is about five wives to two husbands.

Quebec shows the lowest percentage of divorces and British Columbia the highest. There is no divorce court in Quebec and cases are adjudged by a parliamentary committee. There have been no divorces in Prince Edward Island during the last few years.

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

No. 174. Thurs. March 19, 1936 - World Wheat Situation.

During the past month, there has been a sharp improvement in the world movement of wheat, clearances from all countries during this period being at the highest level of the crop year. Canada and Australia have secured a very high proportion of the total trade in the past four weeks, 42 per cent in the case of Canada and 37 per cent for Australia. The destructive influence of drought on the Argentine crop of 1935-36 continues a major factor in the world wheat situation in its limitation of pressure on the European markets and its diversion of the existing demand to Canada and Australia. Less wheat has been forthcoming from European countries recently, partly as a result of the difficulty of financing exports and partly due to unfavourable new crop prospects. Prices have been more erratic on all markets, except Buenos Aires, influenced by European political events and the first real news of the 1936 crops.

The European winter wheat acreage is lower than in 1934-35 and in several important countries there are definite signs that recent high yields will not be repeated this year. This, of course, is a very important factor that will gain in effect as it becomes translated into the reality of lower supplies. Heavy rains have weakened the resistance of winter wheat in France. Excessive rainfall is also reported in Holland, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Spain, Portugal, and Italy. In the Danube Basin, conditions are described as generally satisfactory, but this optimism is tempered by the considerable acreage reduction in Roumania, the principal export area. In Russia, the winter wheat is increased by 3 million acres and a greater spring acreage is 'planned'. Prospects are favourable, but the harvest is by no means assured. In contrast with the wet winter season experienced in western and southern Europe, North Africa has suffered from drought until recently and Algeria still reports the need of rain. In India, prospects are favourable. The United States winter wheat crop is generally believed to promise a return about 75 to 100 million bushels more than in 1934-35, despite dust storms and winter-killing in important areas.

As Argentina and Australia prepare to seed another crop for 1936-37, soil conditions are quite variable. If the minimum price in Argentina remains at its present

level, this naturally will encourage a decided increase in acreage. Abnormally dry weather is reported in Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria but increased acreage is anticipated in New South Wales, where soil conditions are much better.

This information is from a report issued today by the Agricultural Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 175. Frid. March 20, 1936 - The Mentally Sick.

There are 58 institutions in Canada which have the care and treatment of the mentally sick and the epileptic. The normal capacity of these institutions is almost 35,000 beds. There were about 48,000 patients treated in 1934, 8,000 of them being first admissions. The ratio of resident patients per 100,000 of the general population is 335.

It is curious to note that there are more mentally sick male patients than female, but the percentage of recovery amongst males is greater than amongst females. According to the 1934 statistics the expectation of recovery is 31 cases out of every 100.

There has been a steady increase in the number of admissions to institutions in recent years, but this should not be regarded as showing an increase in mental disease in Canada. It simply means that there are improved facilities for detecting mental aberrations, and indicates the promptness of public health authorities in committing borderline cases to mental institutions, which cases previously were not hospitalized.

In order to cover the general situation, it would be necessary also to take into consideration the patients treated in their own homes, which has not been done.

Forty-three per cent of those who died in the institutions passed away within one year's residence.

This information is taken from a report issued a few days ago by the Institutional Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 176. Sat. March 21, 1936 - Canada's Trade with British East Africa.

Kenya Colony and the Kenya Protectorate are in British East Africa, the eastern boundary settled by agreement with Italy, to whom the Province of Jubaland was ceded by treaty in 1925; and on the north by agreement with Ethiopia in 1908.

The area of the country is 225,000 square miles or more than half the size of Ontario. The population is over three millions, of whom 18,000 are Europeans. The capital is Nairobi, which has a European population of about 7,000 out of a total considerably over 100,000. There are 600 European farmers in the neighbourhood.

A great portion of the country consists of pasture lands or barren wastes but there are extensive tracts of great natural fertility in the interior as well as on the coast. Railways are state owned.

Canada's imports from British East Africa were valued at \$1,330,000 last year, of which green coffee accounted for \$893,000, over nine million pounds being received. Next in importance was raw sugar, along with manganese oxide, spices, hemp and sisal fibre. Our exports at \$635,000 included automobiles and parts, apples, oatmeal, flour, rubber

goods, canned fish, silk stockings, farm implements and machinery, electrical apparatus and paints.

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

No. 177. Sun. March 22, 1936 - The Big Twelve.

Canada has twelve million-dollar fish. Here they are in their order of financial importance -- salmon, lobster, cod, herring, whitefish, halibut, haddock, sardines, pickerel, trout, smelts and pilchards. These are "the big twelve" to use the term given them by the Department of Fisheries.

Each of them is worth more than one million dollars to the Canadian fishing industry. In fact the salmon is itself worth more than twelve million. In some years it has gone over 17 million.

Seasons come and seasons go, bringing changes in values, but for a number of years there has been no change in the leadership of "the big twelve". The salmon has remained at the top, with the lobster second, cod third and herring fourth.

Of these four only one takes the leadership as a Pacific Coast product and that is the salmon, notwithstanding that in the East it is also a valuable catch. The other three are preeminently Atlantic Coast fish. The Canadian fisheries catch in 1934 was valued at \$34,000,000.

This information comes from the Department of Fisheries and the Fisheries Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 178. Mon. March 23, 1936 - Maple Sugar.

The maple sugar season has started. It is Canada's most distinctively national industry.

Dating back to the days when the Indians were the sole inhabitants of this continent, the actual origin of the process of extracting the syrup from the maple trees has been lost in antiquity. The early settlers of New France wrote of it to their friends in Old France. It is now shipped to all parts of the world, chiefly from Quebec.

While there has been no basic change in the methods used, the tools have been improved. Spigots and hooks have been combined and there are actually pipe-lines to the vats in some areas now.

Sap runs in the largest quantities where the maple stands are in low, swampy ground, but the best syrup and sap are obtained from the stands on high, rocky ground, such as in the Eastern Townships of Quebec, which is regarded as the centre of the industry. Indeed, the bulk of the Canadian output of maple syrup and sugar comes from Quebec. It also commands the highest price.

The total production of maple sugar in 1935 was over 6½ million pounds and of syrup 2¼ million gallons, the sugar being worth about three quarters of a million dollars and the syrup 2¼ millions.

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

No. 179. Tues. March 24, 1936 - Swordfish.

Nova Scotia is the only Canadian province where the big, toothsome Swordfish are landed. Cape Breton is the centre of the Swordfish industry. It is found also on the other side of the Atlantic and sometimes in British waters.

The sword is really a prolongation of the upper jaw of the fish. It commands the fisherman's respect for he knows that when it comes swiftly into action there is the thrusting force of a big powerful creature. It is no uncommon thing for one of these fish, several hundred pounds in weight, furious from the attack of the fisherman's harpoon, to drive its sword through the planking of a boat.

The fish itself ranges in length from four to fifteen feet and the sword up to three feet. It feeds largely on cod but will attack whales. The flesh is firm, nourishing and tasty.

During the last ten years the catch has averaged \$104,000 to the fishermen, but in 1934 it ran up to \$177,000. Last year it was somewhat less. Swordfish are usually marketed fresh. The oil is centred in the liver.

This information comes from the Department of Fisheries and the Fisheries Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 180. Wed. March 25, 1936 - About a Fur Seal.

There is no Canadian hunting of the fur seal of the Pacific except for trifling operations by a few British Columbia Indians in their canoes. However Canada gets a good deal of that coveted fur.

Under the Pelagic Sealing Treaty of 1911, in order to save the fur seal from extermination, nationals of Canada and the United States, except certain aborigines, were forbidden from engaging in pelagic sealing in North Pacific waters. But it was also provided that Canada should receive 15 per cent in number and value of the seals taken by the United States Government at the Pribiloff rookeries and adjacent areas in the Behring Sea. In their migrations the seals pass up and down the British Columbia coast.

For some years all of the Pribiloff skins were marketed in the United States, and Canada's share was paid in cash, but in 1933 Canada decided to take delivery of her share of the skins and do her own marketing. The business is handled in London.

Net returns from 8,185 skins of the 1933 kill were almost \$68,000. In 1934 the 8,025 share netted \$85,000 and in 1935 the Canadian share was 8,594 skins. There were 2,000 of these marketed in London a few weeks ago and the revenue netted will probably be in the neighbourhood of \$24,000.

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

No. 181. Thurs. March 26, 1936 - Why Young Farmers Leave the Farm.

There was a popular song a few years ago which suggested that feminine charms were partly responsible for young men leaving their parental homestead to try their fortune in the city. "Why young farmers leave the farm", was the title. And when we look

at the statistics of the census we find much to support the theme of the song. Girls do lead the exodus from country to city, and the boys follow.

In 1931 there were 10,000 more boys in rural communities than in city or town, in the last five years of their teens. But among girls of the same age the majority were in the city, - a majority as large as 57,000.

In the next older five-year group, the most popular age for marrying, the situation becomes still more one-sided. At ages 20-24 there remained only 173,000 women or girls in rural communities, as compared with 228,000 men. And so many of the girls were married to older men, who had earlier found girls of their own age scarce, that there were more than two single men in their earlier twenties for every marriageable girl of their own age.

Now in addition to the natural desire of most young men to marry, we must remember that farming is one of the most difficult of all occupations for a bachelor. So is it any wonder that the young farmer, unless he is able to persuade his prospective wife to return to the country, follows her to the city.

This information is contained in a Census study made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 182. Frid. March 27, 1936 - Canada as a Motor Car Country.

Canada as a motor car country ranks fourth amongst the nations of the world. Only the United States, France and Great Britain have more registrations of motor vehicles than has Canada.

But to talk of any country as a leader invites some analysis. There is the question of population to bear in mind. How then does Canada as a motor car country really compare with the sister dominion of New Zealand, for example?

New Zealand has a population of somewhat over one and a half million people, while Canada is close close to the 11 million mark. New Zealand has about 193,000 motor vehicle licenses whilst Canada has about 1,130,000. So New Zealand had a motor car for every eight or nine people while Canada has one for every nine or ten. That was in 1934. Apparently New Zealand will have even a greater proportion in 1935 for large importations are reported.

Now United States with a population of 137,000,000 people has close to 24 million motor vehicle licenses, which gives one car to every five or six. Australia has one in 11. France has one for every 22, while Great Britain and Northern Ireland have one for every 25 or 26. The Irish Free State has one in 58.

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

No. 183. Sat. March 28, 1936 - Canadian Trade with the Canary Islands.

The Canary Islands are a mountainous, volcanic archipelago in the Atlantic, sixty miles off the African Coast. There are seven islands and six uninhabited islets. The total area is about 2,800 square miles, or somewhat more than Prince Edward Island.

There are 50,000 inhabitants. These islands are a Spanish possession.

The Canary Islands are famous the world over because of the beautiful song birds that are native there, and from which they have derived their name. The wild canaries are yellowish brown or green with ashy sides streaked with black, and yellow forehead and underparts.

Volcanoes in these islands are **intermittent** as is shown by the eruption of Teneriffe in 1909. The climate is subject to hurricanes with waterspouts. The date and banana palm, sugar cane, coffee and orange tree grow there, as well as the laurel pine, heather, broom and lichen. There are native dogs, sheep and pigs, while cats and camels have been introduced.

Canadian imports from the Canary Islands in 1935 amounted to \$1,640,000, consistings almost entirely of flax, while our exports totalled over \$50,000, the chief items being pneumatic tires, wheatflour, silk stockings, cotton duck and canned salmon.

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

No. 184. Sun. March 29, 1936 - Farm Boy versus Town Boy as Student.

There used to be a belief widely held, if it is not still, that the farm boy who had graduated from high school or university was more likely to make good than the boy from town. So it is of interest to see what is probably at the bottom of this belief.

The census shows that only one country boy in five is at school between the ages of 15 and 19 whereas two or more of every five city boys at the same age are in school. In other words the proportion of boys who go to high school is less than half as great from the farms as from the towns. At university ages, say from 20 to 24, there is only one-third as large a percentage of the country boys who are still studying.

This smaller selection from the farms is likely to include those who have been the best students in their earlier years at school, for parents will make a greater effort to give their brightest student a higher education. So it would not be surprising if the farm boys with a high school or university education would make a better average academic showing than the numerous group from the towns. Of course, this is not to say that the rural child's intelligence averages higher than the town child's, but just that the boys from the farm who get a higher education are a much smaller selection of the total.

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

No. 185. Mon. March 30, 1936 - Have Women More Education than Men?

In these years when members of the fairer sex are coming to the fore in so many phases of the national life it is of interest to look at their academic qualifications as compared with those of the men.

To begin with, there is less illiteracy among the girls and women of Canada at all ages and, as regards the Canadian born, at all places. They are the school teachers of the younger generation to the extent of more than three-fourths.



On the average, the girls of today receive about half a year more schooling than the boys. A considerably higher proportion of them go in for a high school education, at least from rural communities.

At the universities the men still have a comfortable majority, but the girls have been gaining on them rapidly in recent years. There are between two and three men graduates to one woman.

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

No. 186. Tues. March 31, 1936 - Languages in Canada.

There are so many languages spoken in Canada that if representative orators of each happened to be assembled on the Parliament Hill at one and the same time, the Peace Tower would be a veritable Tower of Babel. There are no fewer than thirty listed by the Census and there are a good many others.

English is the prevailing language, of course, for that is the mother tongue of considerably more than half of the population and a very large proportion of those whose mother tongue is another language have learned to speak English.

There are over 2,800,000 people who learned French in childhood. The Germans come third with over 360,000, then the Ukrainians with over one quarter of a million. The Poles are fifth with 118,000.

There are Chinese, Japanese, Dutch, Flemish, Greek, Italian, Spanish, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Icelandic, Gaelic, Austrian, Bohemian, Bulgarian, Russian, Slovak, Syrian, Arabic, Yiddish and many other languages spoken.

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