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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 APRIL 1936.
SECOND SERIES

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

James Muir,
Editor.

A Fact a Day about Canada

from the

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

No. 187 Wed. April 1, 1936 - Conference on Agricultural Statistics

When Marshal Foch was once asked who won the Great War he replied: "Statistics won the War". The recent Dominion-Provincial Conference, grappling with the problem of showing the farmers of Canada the way out of their present crisis, expressed their views as to the basic necessity of accurate statistics. In a resolution, these leaders of the Dominion and Provincial Governments placed themselves upon record as stressing the importance of agricultural statistics, urging the expansion of the statistical work now being done and favouring the calling of a conference of provincial officers and others interested, along with the Dominion authorities, as soon as possible.

Hon. W. D. Euler, Minister of Trade and Commerce, acted at once on the resolution, and instructed the Dominion Statistician to call such a conference. The response has been extremely gratifying. Representatives of seven provinces, producers' organizations, corporations and great industries, as well as leading Dominion Government officials and delegates from other public bodies have been in session for three days past at the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in Ottawa. The United States has sent one of its prominent officials. The Conference has brought together one of the most imposing bodies of experts in specialized trade, domestic and international, and in statistical information, this country has known.

The results of the deliberations will be reported to the various governments, public bodies and corporate interests and organizations concerned and no doubt a considerable improvement in this very important field will be the result.

This statement was issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics today.

No. 188 Thurs April 2, 1936 - National Wealth of Canada

Canada's national wealth has been estimated at \$25,000,000,000. This estimate is for the year 1933. It has been higher in previous years, such as the peak year of prosperity, 1929, when it was \$31,000,000,000. The per capita wealth is \$2,413. Looking at it from a provincial point of view the highest per capita wealth is in British Columbia where it is \$3,414. Alberta is second with \$2,689 and Saskatchewan third with \$2,657.

Slightly over one third of the aggregate wealth of the Dominion is concentrated in Ontario, while Quebec has slightly over one quarter.

The largest item in the national inventory is urban real property, which is valued at \$8,250,000, agricultural wealth coming second with just under the eight million mark.

Agriculture is the leading wealth producer in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island, while urban real property is first in Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Nova Scotia. Steam railways is the leader in New Brunswick, with mines in the Yukon.

This statement is taken from a report issued on Wednesday by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 189. Fri. April 3, 1936 -- The Decreasing Severity of Punishment

The greatest price that a man can pay for crime is his life, but it is demanded less often than it used to be. In the last five years the average number of death penalties exacted in Canada has been 22 per year, but this is a smaller number than twenty years ago in spite of the increase in population and accompanying growth of crime.

As the number of death penalties has decreased, the number of life imprisonments has increased. In the opening years of the present century there was only one sentence of life imprisonment to seven death penalties whereas now the ratio is one to three or less.

Another way of indicating this tendency is to say that the number of these two severest penalties combined constitutes only about half as large a proportion of all sentences as they did thirty years ago. Similarly with other long terms of imprisonment; they represent a declining proportion of total sentences.

Whether there is any connection between this tendency and the growth of crime is a question that is difficult to answer, but it is of interest to note that the proportion of crimes committed by habitual offenders -- those who have been convicted three times or more -- is much larger than it used to be.

On the other hand, the proportion of second offenders is substantially less. The only apparent explanation for this situation is that people who commit a first crime may be divided into two distinct groups, -- those who respond to the more humane and lenient treatment, and those who do not.

This information is taken from a study of Criminal Statistics made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 190. Sat. April 4, 1936 -- Canada's Trade with Denmark

Denmark is one of the most impressive countries in the world. It bulks large in the public mind, yet is the smallest of the Northern States of Europe and it has a population of only about three and a half million souls. The area is 16,576 square miles which is much less than that of Nova Scotia. There are 34,000 people of Danish origin in Canada and in addition there are 20,000 who are Icelandic. The member of parliament for Selkirk is of Icelandic origin.

From time immemorial the Danes have been great seafarers. They own the Faroe, or Sheep, Islands and Greenland. Iceland, colonized by the Danes long ago, acknowledges the sovereignty of the King of Denmark. In 1864 Denmark was attacked by Prussia and Austria and deprived of Schleswig-Holstein, Prussia taking the whole territory after a further war with Austria in 1866. At the conclusion of the Great War, North Schleswig became again a part of Denmark, after a plebiscite.

Danish dairy products are famous the world over and the country has a sea-going mercantile marine of about 600 steamers. Canada's imports from Denmark in the fiscal year 1935 amounted to \$126,000. Seeds accounted for \$36,000, rennet \$17,000, malt \$9,000, feathers \$8,000. Our exports were much larger at over two million dollars. Wheat was the largest item at \$1,220,000, wheatflour \$182,000, rubber manufactures \$178,000, copper \$196,000, farm implements and machinery \$45,000.

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

No. 191. Sun. April 5, 1936 - Listening In.

There were more than 190,000 radio receiving sets sold in Canada in 1935. While that is a very large number in a country between only ten and a half and eleven million people, it is not so large as in 1931 when 286,000 new sets were sold.

There were close to 850,000 radio licenses sold in 1935 which brings up the question: "How many listeners-in are there in Canada when the Coast-to-Coast network is in operation?"

It is merely conjecture, of course, but if an average of two to each radio is allowed there might be, say, one and a half million listeners-in. There are occasions when the number must be very much larger. The Christmas Day broadcast of the late King George is an outstanding example. It aroused so great an interest that some millions of Canadians certainly heard it.

Then there were the funeral services of the dead King-Emperor and the proclaiming of the accession of his son to the throne. Radios were installed even in the churches and it seemed as if a whole nation were listening. Patients in hospitals heard the words.

This information comes from the Census of Industry conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 192. Mon. April 6, 1936 - Mining Explosives

Large quantities of explosives are used in mining operations and without the use of explosives our mines could not be worked successfully. Every year in Canada we spend about five and a half million dollars in explosives and their accessories for that purpose. There is always danger attached to their use and great care is exercised. It is remarkable that there are so few accidents.

Explosives are supposed to have been first used in the seventh century by the Greeks. They made a mixture of naphtha, pitch and sulphur. Gunpowder was used in warfare by the Chinese in 1232, but it was not until 1627 that it was used as a blasting agent.

Alfred Nobel, a Swede, discovered in 1862 that nitro-glycerine could be used as an explosive and in 1867 instituted a method whereby it could be made more stable and safer to handle. In the same year the fulminate of mercury detonator was introduced.

Ontario in 1934 spent \$2,750,000, in round figures, on explosives for mining, British Columbia \$1,800,000, Quebec \$725,000, Nova Scotia \$250,000. The total

output of the explosives, ammunition and fireworks industry in that year was valued at over \$9,000,000 so that mining industries took considerably more than half of the production.

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

No. 193. Tue. April 7, 1936 - About Leather Footwear

Leather footwear appears to have been made in New France from the very first days of the Colony. According to the first Canadian census, in the year 1666, there were 20 shoemakers serving a total population of 3,215 inhabitants.

Before the introduction of machinery, the shoemaker, or cobbler, was an artisan supplying his own private customers. All footwear was made by hand in small shops seldom employing more than four skilled hands. In the rural districts of Canada, however, farmers made at home their own boots and deerskin moccasins, as they did their own cloth, soap and many other necessities that were needed for sustaining life in the hard days of the pioneer.

Indeed, it was not until towards the close of the last century that the factory-made shoe became popular. Machinery made this possible. Although we still have our cobblers' shops, they are for repair work as a rule. But now there are over 200 great shoe factories in Canada turning out upwards of 19 million pairs of leather footwear in a year. The factory made shoe is a skilfully done job. There is no difficulty in getting a perfect fit and the old agony of "breaking in" a new pair of hand made shoes has gone. The export trade in Canadian-made leather footwear has shown considerable expansion in recent months and in February of the present year amounted to 14,794 pairs.

This information comes from the Animal Products Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 194. Wed. April 8, 1936 - The Pineapple

The pineapple, an imported fruit, is in great favour in the Canadian household. It is a native of South America, but is grown in many tropical countries. In the 17th century it was introduced into Europe, where it was cultivated and grown in stove-houses. The plant grows from 3 to 4 feet high in environment perfectly suited to its culture. The first crop produces but one fruit to the plant, but later on two or more may be grown, and average between three and one half and four and one half pounds, but they have been produced to the huge size of 20 pounds. With proper care the pineapple stock will yield a ripe fruit every eight months for probably ten years or more.

The pineapple is produced in tropical and sub-tropical countries, such as the West Indies, the Bahamas, Florida, the Azores, parts of North Africa, Straits Settlements, and more especially the Hawaiian Islands.

The consumption of pineapples in Canada is very large. The import in 1935 was 20,000,000 pounds of the canned variety. The Straits Settlements supplied nearly 18,000,000, Australia coming next with better than a million and a half. Imports of the fresh variety amounted to a value of \$276,308, coming mainly from the United States, Cuba, Hawaiian Islands, Central America and West Indies.

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

No. 195. Thurs. April 9, 1936 - Kola

The Kola, or Guru, nut is the fruit of a tropical African tree. The nuts, or more properly seeds, are red or white in colour when fresh, rather larger than walnuts and have a bitter taste. They contain a large quantity of caffeine and are used by the natives as a stimulant and also medicinally. They enter largely into the ceremonies of the natives and the trees are held in great regard.

Caffeine is a crystallizable, slightly bitter, stimulating alkaloid, which is also found in the leaves and berries of coffee and chemically similar to those found in tea leaves. It is found in other products of tropical soil.

In Europe and America the Kola nut has been used with cacao in making a beverage.

The Gold Coast, Nigeria and Sierra Leone are large exporters of Kola nuts, the value running to over one and a half million dollars in a year. The import into Canada varies from year to year, but about \$20,000 would be a fair average.

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

No. 196. Fri. April 10, 1936 - Good Friday

Good Friday is the name given by the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches to the Friday in Holy Week on which the Crucifixion is commemorated. In England, to which the name was for a long time peculiar, it superseded that of Long Friday, an allusion to the Fast. The name Pascha, afterwards appropriated to Easter, derives from the association of the day with the time of the Jewish Passover. In England and Ireland, Good Friday is observed as a Sunday. In Canada the observance is not general and in many centres, business continues as usual.

However, there are customs, or what have grown into customs through the enterprise and ingenuity of trade, connected with the Easter season. Hot cross buns are an item in the menu of most families on Good Friday, although some people now get them for weeks before.

There are the Easter eggs around which there were many old customs, such as colouring the shells of hardboiled eggs and a company of young people in the early morning rolling them down hill. However, the confectionery industry has substituted the factory made product in the minds of youth and the domestic Easter egg is fast going by the board. Then there is the Easter hat, which makes a brave display in the churches on Easter Sunday.

There are no accurate records to be had regarding these special productions now associated with the Holy Week season, but that the observances have a distinct influence upon trade is definitely affirmed by the Manufactures Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 197. Sat. April 11, 1936 - Canada's Trade with the Gold Coast

The Gold Coast is a British possession situated on the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa. It is somewhat larger than Nova Scotia and has a population of 1,660,000. Ashanti, which is administered under the Governor of the Gold Coast Colony, is a

little smaller than New Brunswick and has a population of over 600,000. Europeans number about 2,500. The Gold Coast became British officially in 1843 and Ashanti in 1900. Prior to that, the Ashanti people had been notorious for orgies of human sacrifice.

The climate is hot and damp, but science and sanitation are making it less unhealthy. The natives are mainly Pagans, but there are many Mohammedans and the number of Christians is increasing. The Government assists the missionaries in educational matters and has established many schools. There is a railway through the gold mining section to Accra the capital, which has a population of 65,000.

The chief products are palm oil, palm kernels, rubber, cocoa, lumber and gold. The forest products are a great potential source of wealth.

Imports from Canada are mainly wheatflour, motor cars, rubber tires and canned fish, whilst we get cocoa, manganese ore and kola nuts. Last year our imports from the Gold Coast were valued at \$440,000 and our exports \$223,000.

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

No. 198. Sun. April 12, 1936 - The Easter Holiday

The Easter season has not quite the same significance for school children in all parts of Canada. In Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces they have a holiday only on Friday and Monday; from Ontario west to the Pacific they have the full week following Easter Monday in which to make merry, while their teachers repair to the city to attend their annual convention and do their Easter shopping.

Teachers' associations and other voluntary organizations of educators have been occupying an increasingly important place in our educational systems, and in a majority of the provinces the annual meeting at Easter has become an established institution. The oldest of these organizations, the Ontario Educational Association, is this week celebrating its 75th anniversary at Toronto; and along with it, the Ontario School Trustees' and Rate-payers' Association is observing its 50th birthday. Another body of educators outstanding for maturity among those of its kind in Canada, which will at the same time convene in the Ontario capital, is the Ontario Library Association. The occasion is its 36th anniversary.

In the Western Provinces too, the educators will this week flock to their capitals to the veritable educational congresses that have become the custom of Eastertide. In thousands they will partake for a few days of mutual inspiration not to mention their new costumes of spring that will stand them in good stead during the months ahead in the classroom.

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

No. 199. Mon. April 13, 1936 - Canada's Place in the Base Metal World

Canada's position as one of the world's outstanding mineral-producing countries is made clear when we consider that she stands second in zinc, third in copper and fourth in lead. In the total output of these metals Canada's production is exceeded only by that of the United States. No part of the British Empire outside of Canada has a

quantity of production of more than two of these metals. In addition Canada produces nearly all of the world's nickel

Practically all of this development has occurred in the last 25 years. In 1900 the year's output of the base or common industrial metals, nickel, copper, lead and zinc, had a value of \$9,000,000, but Canada had no refineries. She had to export the ore and import all her metals. The first refinery was built at Trail, B. C., in 1904 to produce refined lead and today there is a chain of refineries, with the result that Canada has become a large metal-exporting country. In 1935 the production of the same four metals only was valued at \$38,000,000. The quantity was 20 per cent above 1930, the peak year before prices fell.

Canada has large reserves of lower grade iron ore awaiting development when cheap high grade imported ores are no longer available.

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

No. 200. Tue. April 14, 1936 - Canadian Carpets

The day is definitely past when the young Canadian bride, furnishing her new home, would have none other but an imported carpet, maybe from Persia, if her purse were long enough. Nowadays by far the larger proportion of the carpets sold in Canada are manufactured in the Dominion. They are good carpets; only the trade mark enables the purchaser to distinguish between an imported Wilton or a Wilton made at home.

The growth in the Canadian woollen carpet industry of late years is illustrated by the fact that in 1933 the output was factory valued at about \$1,900,000 while in 1934 it went to over \$2,700,000, an increase of pretty nearly a million dollars in a year. In quantity the Axminsters take the lead, but Wiltons, the second in production, cost more.

The importation in 1934 amounted to \$574,000 or about one-fifth of the Canadian output and it should be noted that \$409,000 of the imports represented Oriental carpets and rugs, which demonstrates that practically all of our Axminsters, Brussels and Wiltons are a home product.

In addition to the woollen carpets we import a considerable quantity of carpets made of hemp, flax and jute, as well as cocoa and straw carpetry, mats, rugs and matting.

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

No. 201. Wed. April 15, 1936 - Cocaine

Cocaine is an alkaloid obtained from leaves of the coca shrub, a native of Bolivia and Peru. Long before we knew of the anaesthetic uses of cocaine, the plant was known and used by the Incas of Peru. The leaves were found to possess a stimulating and sustaining power. The dry leaves have an agreeable odour. They leave a delightful, fresh taste in the mouth and, thanks to them, the Indians are able to do heavy work all day without needing food and without being affected by

high altitudes, according to an official Peruvian publication. Chewing coca is a real necessity with them. It has also an agreeable stimulation on the mental qualities. In large quantities it produces intoxicating effects, like those of opium, and its prolonged use shortens life.

The practice of taking cocaine for its effect upon the mind increased, both in France and England, during the Great War and it was found necessary to adopt stringent precautions to prevent its sale by unauthorized persons. Similar precautions are in force in Canada. The cocaine habit is difficult to cure. It leads to very serious disorders, even to mania. The Confessions of An English Opium Eater by Thomas de Quincey should be read by all who contemplate using such drugs.

Imports of cocaine during the fiscal year 1935 amounted/considerably over 2,000 ounces, coming mainly from the United Kingdom, United States and Switzerland. The invoiced value was \$16,000.

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

No. 202. Thurs. April 16, 1936 - The Sweet Toothed Canadians

The average Canadian has a sweet tooth. Huge importations of raw sugar, mentioned previously, demonstrate it, but a still clearer view of this fact is obtained from a glance at the confectionery manufactured. There are close to one hundred million pounds turned out by the Canadian factories in a year.

These are chocolate and sugar confections alone, without taking into consideration chewing gum, maple sugar and the like. Sugar confectionery appears to be more popular than the chocolate variety, at least more of it is sold, probably about 20 per cent more. It should be remembered too that a great deal of sugar candy is made at home, as well as icing for the great layer cakes that are a feature of the Canadian supper table.

The four corners of the bridge table usually have bright-coloured confectionery ready to hand, the young Canadian visiting his lady love carries a box of exquisite candies under his arm, and the children have a never-satisfied appetite for them. Even some of these old peppermint lozenges we used to call Presbyterians are still surreptitiously conveyed to the mouth while the Minister is preaching a longish sermon.

The per capita consumption of confectionery must be over ten pounds, which is a goodly quantity when we remember that there are many people who eschew sweets. Relatively speaking, the imports and exports are negligible.

The figures come from the Manufactures Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 203. Fri. April 17, 1936 - Care of the Sick, - Then and Now

A distinguishing characteristic of life in the 20th century is the emphasis on public health. The doctor and nurse fill a much bigger place in society now than they did in earlier generations. Between the first and last census of the Dominion of Canada, while the population was increasing three-fold, the number of physicians, surgeons, and dentists multiplied about five times. Today there are over 3,000 medical students in the universities, while at the earlier date the census reported 385 "students of

medicine", young men who travelled about from case to case with experienced practitioners to observe at first hand the effect of the remedies prescribed, and generally to become schooled in the hardships of the country doctor's life before the days of telephone and motor car.

Nowadays many of the patients come to the doctor, or at least to a hospital near the doctor's office, and with this development he has found a professional feminine assistant in health work. Nurses are now twice as numerous as doctors, whereas in the early days of the Dominion there were but 556 hospital attendants and 89 midwives to aid the 3,000 medical men.

In recent years, hospitals have become an institution of such general use that more than one fourth of all births and deaths occur in them; and every year one person in every fifteen, or one in every third family, receives treatment in them.

This information is derived from a study of the Census made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 204. Sat. April 18, 1936 -- Canada's Trade with Fiji

One of the lands of the South Seas which people who can never go there visit in their dreams is the Fiji Islands. There are 250 of them, of which about 80 are inhabited. Viti Levu, the largest, has an area of 4,250 square miles, or about twice the size of Prince Edward Island. The climate is cool for the tropics and is remarkably healthy for Europeans and a few thousands of them live there. The total population is 200,000, half being native Fijians, and most of the others are from British India. There is rain throughout the year, the driest season being between April and October.

A generation ago the Fijians, dark and frizzy-haired, were notorious cannibals and human sacrifices formed part of most of their ceremonies. The Wesleyan Methodist mission had recently over 90,000 adherents, and the Roman Catholic over 9,000. Discovered by Tasman in 1643, the islands were subsequently ceded by the chiefs and people to Great Britain.

There are millions of cocoanut palms, and sugar, copra, bananas, pineapples and turtle shell are amongst the large exports. Canada's imports from the Fiji Islands during the fiscal year 1935 were valued at over 1 3/4 million dollars and our exports close to \$200,000. Raw sugar is what Canada gets mainly, along with oranges and other fresh fruits, canned pineapples, and gums. We send lumber, automobiles, canned fish, rubber manufactures, canned vegetables, onions, apples, and quite a large variety of little things that appeal to European residents.

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

No. 205. Sun. April 19, 1936 -- Lamps

Next to implements of war, stone and clay lamps were among the first articles fashioned by man. Most museums have large and interesting collections of lamps. The origin of the first lamp is hidden in mystery but it is probable that primitive man, seeing the fat from his roasting meat set ablaze by his fire, conceived the idea of a lamp. The Eskimos, with their long dark days of winter, had to improvise lamps and we have examples of their early inventions.

The earliest specimens of lamps were made of clay. Later they were fashioned of rock, and still later of iron, bronze and other metals. Greek and Roman lamps were frequently made of alabaster and were often highly artistic in design.

An ancient form of lamp or candle was the rush light made of the stalks of flax and rushes pressed together and saturated with grease or tallow. These were the precursor of the torches. In the early days in Canada, as elsewhere, lamps were made of iron, similar in shape to the Greek and Assyrian ones. Copper, tin, brass and pewter were also used and somewhat later glass came into great favour.

The output of oil lamps in Canada is much lower than it used to be, of course, since electricity entered the homes of the people, but it is still considerable and the factory value is about \$150,000 in a year.

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

No. 206. Mon. April 20, 1936 - Farm Revenue in 1935

The revenues of the Canadian farmers were somewhat better in 1935 than in 1934 and the report on the subject issued a few days ago demonstrates that the branches of agriculture concerned with live stock, dairying and fruit continued to improve from the low levels of 1932. The yield and quality of the principal grain crops were seriously affected by drought, rust and frost in 1935 and the revenue from all field crops was down \$42,500,000 compared with 1934 figures.

It was very fortunate for the farmers, therefore, that they had better returns from their other endeavours. Fruit was particularly profitable last year. Live stock revenue has shown steady improvement since 1932 as prices rose sharply and marketings also increased. In 1935 revenue from live stock was practically double that of 1932 and over 20 per cent greater than in 1934. The revenue from dairy products has also increased steadily since 1932 and the 1935 figure was the highest since 1930.

Poultry and eggs contributed an increased revenue in 1935, being 10 per cent above the level of the previous year. Other lesser items in the farm economy provided increased revenue in 1935, these including wool, maple products, tobacco and flax fibre.

The net agricultural revenue in 1935 was about \$609,000,000, which was \$31,000,000, or nearly 5½ per cent, better than in 1934.

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

No. 207. Tue. April 21, 1936 - Halibut

Fish, like humans, have their own racial and family characteristics, as for instance in the case of halibut, one of Canada's most important food fishes, which starts out swimming upright or vertically but then changes its mind and twists or turns its body into a flat shape and moves through the water horizontally.

Another peculiarity of the halibut is that, although the position of the eyes is much the same as it is in other fish, the twisting of the body gradually brings both of them to the upper side, according to a story about halibut issued by the Department of Fisheries.

The Canadian catch of halibut ran to over 12 million pounds in 1934 and 20 million in 1933. It used to be larger but since 1930 a Conservation treaty with the United States has been in operation. The larger part of the catch is made on the Pacific Coast, but the fish is also taken in Atlantic waters. Sometimes the halibut grows to 200 pounds or so. The livers are rich in vitamin content and they alone yield the substantial sum of about \$50,000. The halibut catch is valued at between three-quarters of a million and one million dollars.

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

No. 208. Wed. April 22, 1936 - Cigarette Paper

Tissue and cigarette papers constitute a class by themselves as they are too thin to be made by the ordinary machine. Cigarette paper should be absolutely neutral in flavour and aroma while burning and for this reason fine flax, hemp fibre or ramie is generally used.

Ramie is the Malayan name for a shrubby Chinese and East Indian perennial of the nettle family. It has been cultivated in the West Indies and the southern United States. The fine fibre yielded by the stem of this plant is coming into use for almost every purpose served by cotton.

Very little cigarette paper is manufactured in Canada, practically all of it coming from abroad. The main Canadian supply is got in France. Our total imports in the fiscal year 1935 amounted to \$512,000 and of that amount \$391,000 came from France and \$114,829 from the United Kingdom. Smaller supplies came from Hong Kong, Italy, Spain and the United States. Most of this cigarette paper comes in packets ready for sale, but a large quantity also comes in rolls, to be cut to size and gummed.

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

No. 209. Thurs. April 23, 1936 - World Wheat Situation

There has been an unusual number of opposing tendencies in the world wheat situation during the past month. The main pessimism is derived from the lack of either continuity or breadth in world demand. Minor factors discouraging an enthusiastic outlook are the continued provision of export supplies by European countries, the scarcity of foreign exchange, the possibility of an exportable surplus in the United States in 1936-37, and repeated forecasts of increased 1936 acreage in Australia, Argentina and Canada. The persistent failure of Liverpool traders to be impressed by the drought in the United States hard winter wheat area has been a recent discouragement.

Opposing these bearish tendencies is a wide variety of more constructive forces. Of principal interest to Canada, in possession of two-thirds of the total exportable supply of wheat, is the fact that importers are taking such a high proportion of their supplies from this country, with the probability of higher percentages in the very near future.

Secondly, growing crop conditions in important European countries are less favourable than they were a year ago. During the past month, prospects have been

reduced in Spain, Italy, Germany and the Balkan states. Hot, dry weather has persisted in the North African countries that are counted upon by France and Italy to fill their domestic wheat deficiencies. Low temperatures and dust storms have been harmful in Russia.

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

No. 210. Fri. April 24, 1936 - Rope

Rope-making is a very ancient industry. Constant references to it are made by ancient writers, and pictorial diagrams of the industry are found in early Egypt.

Until the 19th century, ropes were laboriously made by hand, although the first rope-making machine was invented in 1792. The first machine was used in England industrially in 1820.

The materials used in rope and cordage are hemp, jute, coir, cotton, flax, sisal, manila and New Zealand fibre, and for the most part the fibres are spun into yarn in a similar way to that in which cotton is spun.

It takes about ten million pounds of rope in a year to satisfy Canadian needs. Much of it is used in the fishing industry, but all along the line of business and the home we depend greatly upon rope. By far the larger proportion of the rope we use is made in Canada. We manufacture four times more than we import.

The largest importations come from Great Britain where, as should be in a seafaring nation, the industry is highly specialized.

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

No. 211. Sat. April 25, 1936 - Canada's Trade with China

Chinese civilization is the oldest in the world and its government, based upon that of the family, remained unchanged in its root idea until the revolution of 1911-12 when the Reform party forced the Imperial dynasty to a "voluntary" abdication and proclaimed a republic. The 1928 constitution provides for government by five councils, -- executive, legislative, judicial, examination and control.

China proper is almost as large as Canada, excluding the North West Territories, but with Mongolia, Turkestan and Thibet, it is one-third larger than the whole of Canada. The population is close to 500,000,000 people. There are in China 370,000 foreigners, including Japanese, Russians, British, Americans and French. There are about 8,000 foreign business firms, of which 4,000 are Japanese, 1,200 Russian, 725 British and 330 American.

While many of our imports from China come via Hong Kong, a large proportion comes direct. The value runs to about \$2,500,000, and more than half of the total is peanuts and peanut oil. We also get large quantities of eggs, spices, animal bristles, carpets, tea, artificial silk, drugs, and an immense variety of curios. Our exports in the fiscal year 1935 were about 4½ million dollars, the chief items being paper, lumber, fish, wheat, flour, nickel and lead. There was no silver bullion, which item in 1934 was \$2,500,000.

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

No. 212. Sun. April 26, 1936 - Diamond Drills

The thrilling story of the rescue a few days ago of two men entombed in a gold mine at Moose River, Nova Scotia, contained constant references to the diamond drills which were piercing their way downwards.

It is quite certain that to the lay mind a diamond is a precious stone, a sparkling gem to be set in a ring or other ornament. Therefore, it may surprise many to learn that although, owing to colour and other defects, one half of the total weight of all the diamonds mined is useless for cutting into brilliants for ornamental purposes, this half of the world's diamond production has a very great utility value, being, in fact, indispensable for an endless variety of industrial, mechanical and scientific purposes. Such diamonds are termed Industrial Diamonds and are found side by side with diamonds of the first water.

The African Continent produces practically all of the world's diamonds, but the highest priced of all the Industrial Diamonds are the Brazilian Black Diamonds. The stones are broken and shaped into the sizes required for diamond drilling crowns. They are of inestimable value to mining engineers, although useless for ornamentation. They do the cutting such as at Moose River.

The importation of Industrial Diamonds runs to so large a sum as actually over one million dollars in a year.

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

No. 213. Mon. April 27, 1936 - Field Crops of the Provinces

The field crops are Canada's main source of agricultural revenue, Ontario and Saskatchewan the leading provinces. The gross farm revenue in 1935 was \$943,000,000 and field crops accounted for over \$506,000,000, or considerably more than half of the total.

Saskatchewan is the great wheat province. Despite drought and rust and frost, the yield last year was 135 million bushels, or almost half of the 277 million produced in the Dominion. Alberta came second with 102 million, Manitoba 22½ and Ontario 14. The Prairie Provinces produce hard spring wheat while Ontario produces soft winter wheat.

Saskatchewan is also the leading province for oats. The crop last year was 132 million bushels out of a total of 394 million. Ontario was second with 85 and Alberta third with 82.

Saskatchewan and Manitoba were about equal in barley, with over 23 million bushels each. Ontario was third with 17 million and Alberta fourth with 16 million. Ontario is the province for corn. Saskatchewan grew more than half of the rye.

Production of potatoes was about 39 million hundredweight. Quebec, the great producer, had a long lead with 11 1-3 million, Ontario 7 3-4, New Brunswick 4 1-3 million, Saskatchewan 3½, and Prince Edward Island a little over 3 million.

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

No. 214. Tue. April 28, 1936 - Spectacles

The inventor of spectacles was one of humanity's greatest benefactors, but he is unknown. The origin of spectacles is buried in legend. There is a widely-spread belief that the Chinese used spectacles long before they were known in Europe, and as that was the information obtained by travellers in ancient days, it is probably correct.

Towards the end of the 13th century spectacles were made in and around Venice. The oldest book on spectacles known to us was printed in Spain shortly after 1600, so it is a reasonable conclusion that spectacles were in fairly general use at that time.

The lenses are made from optical glass which comes from the glass works in the form of sheets and slabs with a surface of about two square feet.

Most of this optical glass comes from abroad, to be finished in this country. Along with imported frames and parts, as well as the finished spectacles, the imports exceed \$600,000 in a year. Most of these supplies come from the United States, France, Great Britain and Japan, with smaller amounts from Germany, Belgium, Italy and Switzerland.

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

No. 215. Wed. April 29, 1936 - Dairy Products by Provinces

Next to field crops, dairy products are the largest revenue producers for the Canadian agriculturist. Field crops in 1935 brought \$506,000,000 and dairy products, chiefly milk, cream, butter and cheese, were responsible for \$191,000,000.

The chief dairy province is Ontario and the revenue last year was \$85,000,000, Quebec coming second with \$48,000,000. Alberta is the third dairy province, its revenue last year being over \$14,000,000 but Saskatchewan, the great wheat province, came closely behind with well over \$13,000,000. Manitoba took in about \$10,500,000, or almost exactly the revenue of the combined Maritime Provinces.

Nova Scotia led the Maritime Provinces with almost \$6,000,000 while New Brunswick went over \$4,600,000 and Prince Edward Island over \$1,400,000.

Dairy revenues in British Columbia at \$7,700,000 were considerably behind fruits and vegetables and were slightly lower than in 1934. Fruits were higher. Only in Alberta and British Columbia were dairy revenues lower than the year before.

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

No. 216. Thurs. April 30, 1936 - Poultry and Eggs in the Provinces

Poultry and eggs brought considerably over fifty million dollars to the farmers of Canada last year. That is a very large sum and surprising to the uninitiated who think in terms of the old-fashioned barn-yard with a few hens busily scraping for a living. Poultry and eggs are big business, as the figures show. The revenue of 1935 was within

measurable distance of yielding half as much to the farm family exchequer as the \$120,000,000 of farm animals.

As to be expected poultry and eggs play a large part in the agricultural plans of the older provinces with their large centres of population at hand. Ontario led last year with a revenue of about \$21,000,000, much more than fruit and vegetables brought to the coffers. Quebec was second with over \$7,600,000. The aggregate of the Maritime Provinces was \$2,600,000, with New Brunswick leading.

However, it is in the Prairie Provinces that the sharp advance in revenues from poultry and eggs has occurred. Saskatchewan led the way with a rise from \$5,800,000 in 1934 to \$7,200,000 in 1935. Revenues in British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba were less spectacular, but they all showed increases.

Truly the domestic hen is a real money maker.

These facts are taken from a report issued a few days ago by the Agricultural Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.



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