A FACT A DAY ABOUT CANADA

FROM THE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

AS SUPPLIED TO THE

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James Muir,
Editor.

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No. 217. Fri. May 1, 1936 - Cyanamid.

Sir William Crookes, a noted British scientist, in 1898 aroused the world to consideration of the great necessity for discovering new sources of nitrogen. He called attention to the fact that the supply of nitrate in Chile was limited. At the rate the population was increasing, he predicted ultimate world starvation unless additional sources of combined nitrogen could be discovered. Without an adequate supply of plant-food nitrogen, the production of crops could not keep up with the steadily increasing world population.

Now we get nitrogen from the air. The baffling question of fixing or combining the nitrogen of the air by chemical means on a large scale at a sufficiently low cost was solved by the cyanamid process. White hot carbide, formed by burning lime and coke, greedily sucks up pure nitrogen from liquid air and combines with it chemically. The mixture is used, as a fertilizer, by the farmer.

Cyanamid is made at Niagara Falls, Ontario. It is the largest cyanamid plant in the world and the only one on the North American continent. The export of this plant food is very large. Last year it aggregated two and a quarter million cwt. and the value was slightly over one dollar per hundredweight. The chief purchaser is the United States, but large quantities go also to Japan, West Indies, British East Africa, South America and Central American countries, as well as the Netherlands, Hawaiian and Philippine Islands.

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

No. 218. Sat. May 2, 1936 - Canada's Trade with Greece.

Greece has an area of over 50,000 square miles, or almost exactly equal in extent to our own Maritime Provinces, but so much of it is mountainous that it could never support a very large population. To-day it is over six million

Owing to its recent extension, it is a much more extensive country than was ancient Greece. Whether the present inhabitants are descended from the Greeks of ancient history is disputed by many. There have been so many invasions of the country, both war-like and peaceful, by other races, chiefly Slav, that the admixture of stock must be considerable.

The short white kilt is still worn by a great many of the peasants, though in the country, as in the towns, the fashion of wearing coats and trousers and hard felt hats is growing.

The chief crop is currants, which are grown on a very large extent of land and exported all over the world. Olives are grown widely, tobacco is an increasing crop and wine is made in large quantities, chiefly for home consumption. Only about one-fifth of the country is worth cultivating by present methods.

Our imports from Greece in the last fiscal year were valued at about $50,000, the chief items being prepared fruits, figs, currants, wool carpets, undressed furs and distilled spirits. Our exports amounted to $430,000, most of which went in the first quarter of 1936. Wheat predominated. Indeed there was little other than wheat.

This information is supplied by the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 219. Sun. May 3, 1936 - Mona.

One of the most romantic places in the British Empire is the Isle of Man. The Romans gave it the beautiful name of Mona. Situated in the Irish Sea, equidistant from England, Ireland and Scotland, it has an area of 227 square miles, or a little better than one-tenth that of Prince Edward Island, and a population of 50,000. Douglas is the capital. The Manx language, now almost extinct, is a dialect of the Celtic.

For three centuries Mona was under Norwegian rule until Alexander III defeated the famous King Haco at Largs in 1263 and all the Western Isles, including Man, fell under Scottish rule. On the accession to the English throne Henry IV seized the island and bestowed it in 1406 on the Stanley family. In 1827 the Crown purchased it for about two million dollars. Half a million people spend their summer holidays in Mona. At one time the Manx herring fleet was the finest in the world.

Man is now governed by a legislature called the Tynwald, consisting of the Governor and Council and the House of Keys. Possibly that name is from the Scandinavian "keise", meaning the chosen. Tynwald Day is July 5, the day of proclamation of the laws in the Manx and English languages.

It is difficult to say how many natives of the Isle of Man or people of Manx origin there are in Canada. There are many thousands. The people of a small country must emigrate and Manx folk are found in surprisingly large numbers, especially in the United States and the Antipodes. There are almost as many Manx people around Cleveland as there are in the Isle of Man itself. There are Manx societies in our large cities. They are a progressive race and they are to be met with in high places. Senator H. A. Mullins is a Manxman. They were not listed separately at the last census made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 220. Mon. May 4, 1936 - Yellow Birch.

Yellow birch is the most important commercial hardwood in Canada, consideration being given to its fine qualities and its abundance. It is the largest of the nine birches native to Canada, sometimes reaching 100 feet in height and three feet in diameter. In the forest it is usually from 60 to 80 feet in height.

Yellow birch is similar to white oak in hardness but is not so hard as maple. It is a hard wearing wood of wide utility. Although the grain is so very pronounced it produces lumber with a pleasing subdued figure. It is increasing in popularity as a furniture wood and for high class interior finish and decoration.

While the plainer timber of this species is still often stained to resemble mahogany or walnut, the natural appearance of slightly figured wood is so attractive that natural finish or light stained finishes that preserve the sheen and figure of the wood are coming into extensive use.

Our exports of birch are for the most part as planks and boards and go in the main to the United Kingdom and United States, although such countries as the Irish Free State, Portuguese Africa and the Dutch East Indies occasionally display a liking for that wood. The total export of all the birches in the last fiscal year was valued at almost $2,500,000.

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

No. 221. Tues. May 5, 1936 - Baskets.

The manufacture of baskets is one of the oldest of all handicrafts. The ancient Israelites used baskets in offering sacrifice, the early Britons were skilled in basketry and the Chinese and Japanese have for ages produced baskets of great beauty. The Indians of the Americas reached a high degree of proficiency in the art.

To-day basketry holds an important place in educational work. It is taught in practically all schools where manual training has been introduced and has proven an admirable industry for the aged and disabled, especially the blind.

Fancy baskets are made of raffia, the outer covering of the Madagascar palm, a light, tough material which may be used in its natural colour or may be dyed in many beautiful shades. Rush is used for baskets where strength and durability are required, as for scrap baskets and hampers.

Canadian production of baskets and crates for fruit and vegetables runs close to one million dollars, while of the fancy and variety baskets the output is about $80,000. Imports are valued at $40,000 and many of them come from far away countries like China, Japan, Poland, East Africa, Ceylon, Germany, France, Spain, Italy and many more.

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

No. 222. Wed. May 6, 1936 - Fruit and Vegetables in the Provinces.

Fruits and vegetables on the Canadian farm came almost alongside Poultry and Eggs in bringing in much needed revenues last year. The aggregate was just under $50,000,000 -- a sizable amount. Evidently the cultivation of that source of income is spreading for, although prices were better, these do not altogether explain the increase of more than $6,000,000 over the previous year. An orchard on the farm is no mean possession and small fruits pay handsomely.

Ontario bore the palm with a revenue of considerably over $18,000,000, and got a lot of it from those wonderful grape vines on the Niagara Peninsula. British Col-

umbia followed with about $10,000,000, and out there they have to thank the apple tree mainly as have the people of Nova Scotia, where fruits and vegetables harvested over $5,500,000.

Quebec came third, however, and fairly close behind British Columbia with about $8,250,000. Saskatchewan led the Prairie Provinces with $2,655,000, Alberta taking in $2,250,000 and Manitoba $1,350,000. New Brunswick showed slightly over one million and Prince Edward Island $154,000. Every province did better than in the year before.

These facts are contained in a report issued recently by the Agricultural Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 223. Thurs. May 7, 1936 - A Memorable Day.

This is a memorable day in Ontario and indeed throughout the Dominion. It was on May 7, 1906, that Adam Beck introduced the bill in the Ontario legislature upon which the hydro-electric system of the province was founded.

While the name of Sir Adam Beck stands out to-day most prominently in the public mind in connection with the great system, it should not be forgotten that the pioneers, the men who dreamed the dream, were two Berlin (now Kitchener) men -- E. W. B. Snider and D. B. Detweiler. Snider and Detweiler organized the first convention on the subject at Berlin in 1902. Snider was chairman of the meeting and Detweiler was secretary. Adam Beck, then Mayor of London, was present. Snider became the first chairman of the Power Commission of the Province.

It was also at Berlin on October 11, 1910, that Sir James Whitney first turned on the power in Ontario. There was an electric illumination of the town and at the dinner some of the food was cooked in electric ovens. The gift to the people by these outstanding men became the greatest publicly-owned electric system in the world. It delivers cheap electricity to 760 municipalities with a peak load of one and a half million horsepower. Main transmission lines are over five thousand miles.

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

No. 224. Fri. May 8, 1936 - The Crop Outlook.

"Hope springs eternal in the human breast". So wrote Pope. Nowhere is it better exemplified than on the farm in the spring-time. The farmer may use the best seed and the best cultural methods possible but still he must depend in high degree upon the bounty of nature. Despite frequent disappointments his confidence remains and he sows each spring with new hope.

The first official crop report of the new season was issued this afternoon and according to farmers' intentions at May first, an increase of over a million acres in the field crop area of Canada is planned. Most of this increase is in spring wheat where a rise of three per cent, or nearly 800,000 acres, will bring the area sown to 24,354,000 acres. Increases of barley and flaxseed are also expected, amounting to four and ten per cent, respectively. Potatoes will be sown on an area two per cent larger than in 1935. Little change is expected in the areas sown to oats, spring rye and mixed grains.

Pastures, meadows, fall wheat and fall rye came through the winter with little damage

and are more promising than they were a year ago. The seeding of spring crops will be late, but operations are now proceeding rapidly under favourable conditions. In the Prairie Provinces, the optimism resulting from the best moisture conditions since 1932 is tempered by the general lateness of the season and by poor and inadequate seed supplies in some districts.

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

No. 225, Sat. May 9, 1936 - Mother's Day.

Tomorrow is Mother's Day. The second Sunday in May has been set apart for special observance as such. The object of the day is to recall memories of Mothers who have gone; to brighten the lives of those who remain; and to encourage men and women and children to honour home and parents. It is to be observed by some act of kindness to Mother and Father and by services in the churches.

The idea of Mother's Day originated with Miss Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia and it was celebrated by a number of cities in the United States in 1910. The popular observance is a red flower if Mother is living and white if dead.

There are 1,938,000 married women in Canada and of these 1,594,000 are mothers. They have 4,703,000 children living at home. There are 139,000 widows left with children to support alone, and that burden in many cases is a heavy one. There are actually 425 widows in Canada who have ten or more children to provide for and to train to face the world. Divorced women have not many children as a rule; in fact, not half of them have any at all. There are only about 3,000 children in Canada whose parents have been divorced.

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

No. 226, Sun. May 10, 1936 - The Hospital Campaign.

On May 12, the sixteenth annual celebration of National Hospital Day will be observed over the length and breadth of the North American continent. The purpose of National Hospital Day is purely educational and endeavours to meet a popular demand for authentic information regarding hospital and medical care.

Pain and sickness have shadowed mankind through the ages and despite the marvellous advances made by medical science in the last fifty years there is still a vast amount of work to be accomplished before the many deadly enemies to the human race can be routed.

Following the work of Pasteur, Lister, Koch and other leaders in the medical field, remarkable progress has been made in controlling the communicable diseases and the average length of life has been greatly extended. In this great work the hospitals of Canada have played a noble part.

In periods of profound economic distress, there are values that lie beyond economics and the battlefront raised in a national crusade against sickness, disease and ill-health is just as important as the economic battlefront against unemployment.

The public hospitals of Canada are profoundly vital to the national future and are becoming more and more radiating centres of medical leadership. Institutions as well as individuals can play heroic roles in difficult times and in this respect Canadian hospitals must be listed among the heroic institutions of the country, for they have preferred to suffer financial deficits rather than permit their patients to go without hospital services.

Public hospitals care for all classes of the community and their one aim is to facilitate their recovery. The great work carried on by our hospitals in Canada should be recognized for, in spite of shrinking revenues and reduced income, their volume of services have suffered no diminution. The modern public hospital has to-day become the centre of medical knowledge and provides not only the best facilities for the care and treatment of patients but also provides the material for the teaching of physicians, medical students, nurses, dietitians, social service workers and many others.

There were 620 public hospitals operating in Canada in 1935 with a total bed capacity of 53,000 beds. These hospitals had under care during the year 708,331 patients with a total collective days' stay of 14,093,393 patient days. The average days' stay for all patients in public hospitals was about 19 days and the average number of patients under care per day 38,608.

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

No. 227. Mon. May 11, 1936 - Canadian Horses Abroad.

Everybody loves a horse, and in this respect the Canadian people show that liking unmistakably. At the fall fairs the exhibit of horses is always a treat. Canadian breeders of horses have been enterprising and they are constantly bringing in animals for the improvement of stocks. Last year about five hundred horses were imported. Many of them came from the United States, but many also came all the way from the United Kingdom, France and Belgium. About $150,000 was spent on these horses.

As a result the quality of Canadian horses has become famous and has developed a surprisingly large trade abroad. Last year, for example, we sold to other countries no fewer than 11,300 horses and the aggregate value was $1,312,000. Most of them went to the United States, but we sent 222 to the United Kingdom, the traditional home of some of the outstanding types of horses. We sent some to Bermuda, to Trinidad and other West Indian islands and even to Venezuela. All of which shows the value of building well.

It is worth special mention that during the first four months of 1936 we sent 8,700 horses to the United States alone and the value of these horses was $1,025,000.

The figures and facts come from the External Trade and Agricultural Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 228. Tues. May 12, 1936 - The Wood We Import.

Canada is very rich in forest resources but there are many varieties of wood that we have to import. Some of these do not grow in the Dominion and others occur in too small quantities to satisfy industrial requirements. There are also the choice

woods of the tropics that are used in endless ways to enrich our homes and treasured possessions.

The principal wood we import is oak and it comes mainly from the United States, although occasionally the builder of a yacht will order for his customer some of that English oak that knows no peer for that purpose. The next largest wood import is walnut. That also comes in the main from the United States.

Then there is mahogany, of which the chief supply is got in Central America, notably Honduras. We get very little of that rich African mahogany that our European ancestors proudly displayed in their dining rooms when they were fortunate enough to get a plank huge enough to make a table in a single piece, carried home by the trading skippers that scoured the seas.

Teak is the next favorite wood import. It is the finest planking a boat builder can have. A vessel built of English oak timbers with decking and planking of teak from India is the dream of the yachtsman. Another favorite wood to-day, especially for veneers, is the Australian blackwood. We get greenheart for fishing rods, lignum vitae for blocks, chestnut and hickory, the whole import last year being valued at almost $3,000,000.

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

No. 229. Wed. May 13, 1926 - Leeches.

In mediaeval times and indeed until not so very long ago, physicians were often described as "leeches". These were the real blood-letting days and this system of curing many and varied affections has proved of immense value to countless writers of historic fiction. As late as 1833 there were 41 million leeches imported into France, which indicates their extensive use.

While to-day we do not refer to the family physician as a "leech", and have associated the mental image of that remedy with the dead past, it is a fact that leeches are still employed in blood-letting. Canada got over 6,000 of them last year. Some came by parcel post, an Ottawa druggist informs the Bureau. The same druggist states that a number of years ago when he used a leech to take the blood out of a beautiful black eye which a customer late one Saturday night had acquired, he had great difficulty in stopping the bleeding, apparently that being one of the troubles about the use of leeches.

There are a great many species of leeches. One variety reaches a length of two and a half feet and they vary down to half an inch. The small medicinal leech is very common in Germany, Russia and Bohemia. It is also found in the United Kingdom. Its mouth possesses three tooth like serrated plates, curved so as to form semi-circular saws which enable the leech to make its typical three-gash wound. The animal sucks its victim till completely gorged, when it drops off and slowly digests its meal.

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

No. 230. Thurs. May 14, 1936. - Soya Beans.

The discovery of new uses for the soya bean is a remarkable chemical and metallurgical feat. From the humble soya bean of tropical Asia have been manufactured window frames, gear shift knobs, horn buttons and electrical parts for automobiles. It also goes into automobile enamel. People were thrilled when we began to make vegetable ivory from nuts got in Brazil, to take the place of the rapidly diminishing supply of natural ivory, but the interest in the soya bean discoveries is even greater. How far it will go in taking the place of steel is a question.

It is said that the cost of soya bean plastics is greater than steel per pound but the finishing of steel brings the final cost of many steel parts in excess of that for the finished product manufactured from the soybean material.

The soya bean has a great variety of uses. It is a source of oil for margarine and soap. In Japan they make from it concentrated milk, flour and a piquant sauce; in China, flour, milk, bread and cheese; in Cochin-China milk, cheese and casein.

For six years the soya bean has been cultivated in Ontario and last year 10,000 acres were under crop. They are now grown extensively in the United States. Our imports are very large, running to over 300,000 gallons of oil and sauce, 53,000 cwt. of cake for cattle feed and 260,000 bushels of beans.

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

No. 231. Fri. May 15, 1936 - Farming Under Water.

We have heard a lot about dry land farming and the crops raised where rain is scarce, but we know very little about farming under water. However, along comes an entrancing story from the Department of Fisheries, about farming under the waters of the sea that breaks upon the shores of Prince Edward Island. We are told that the people there have increased their production of oysters by ten times since 1933, which is a marvellous increase in any line of business. The Department calls the industry "oyster farming". The seed is planted and crops are being harvested in ten regions. Surveys were made and grounds leased. A start was made at Malpeque Bay.

Years ago the Malpeque oyster was the aristocrat of its kind and was much in demand, but for various reasons the supply gave out and it was thought the famous oyster had disappeared like the Great Auk and the Carrier Pigeon. But no, most of the oyster farming is in the Malpeque district, and it is coming back. There were over 10,000 barrels of oysters marketed in Prince Edward Island last year. We get oysters also from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and British Columbia, but the domestic supply is not sufficient to meet the demand.

The figures are obtained from a report issued yesterday by the Fisheries Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 232. Sat. May 16, 1936 - A Sociological Phenomenon.

The Census contains some revealing things but none more so than the fact that there is more illiteracy amongst the married people of Canada and those who have been married than amongst the unmarried. There is no shadow of doubt about this statement for the per-

centage difference is quite marked. Over five per cent of the married or widowed in Canada are illiterate and over two per cent of the unmarried in the same age range.

This is by no means wholly due to the fact that the married and widowed are on the average older than the single, because at the ages between fifteen and twenty the married and widowed show three and a half per cent illiterate and the unmarried between these ages show only one and a half per cent. From twenty-one to twenty-four the married or widowed are over three per cent illiterate and the single not quite two and a half per cent. And so on throughout the age groups.

We cannot explain away these differences between married and single by differences in rural and urban, or age distribution, nor by differences in age. On the whole it is fairly safe to say that the illiterate, -- at the present time especially -- are marrying more than the literate.

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

No. 233. Sun. May 17, 1936 - Hose.

By hose or half hose we mean stockings or socks to-day, but the term formerly included breeches when both were a single garment. Early in the 16th century the two became separate articles.

Visitors to Hatfield House, London, have the opportunity of seeing a very early pair of silk stockings. They belonged to Queen Elizabeth; and if they were not the first silk stockings in England -- for both her father and her brother are reported to have had a pair -- they are the oldest extant.

Past times, no doubt, could produce marvels of fineness — a pair of silk stockings that would fold up into a walnut shell or pass through a wedding-ring; but it is the present, the wood-pulp age, which has made fine hose the rule and not the exception.

Homespun, home-knitted stockings were worn by the greater part of the population, female as well as male, not very long ago. The solidity, the warmth, the comfort of such things are still known to men who wear -- and guessed by women who darn -- hand-knitted stockings, for these are not yet extinct; but where are the white stockings that women wore with elastic-sided boots? Where are the black stockings that played their sombre, puritanical part in shadowing the ankles half a century ago?

In Canada we make about sixty-five million pairs of stockings in a year, -- cotton, wool, silk and artificial silk.

This fact is contained in reports issued by the Manufactures Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 234. Mon. May 18, 1936 - Clocks.

The sun may be regarded as a time-piece and its motion, as shown on the sun dial was the earliest means of measuring time. The desire to measure the hours after sunset led to the introduction of mechanical devices.

The water clock was used by the ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans. The Anglo-Saxons measured time by the burning away of a graduated candle. The hour glass, in which sand was allowed to trickle through a small hole, was widely used in the Middle Ages.

The mothers and grandmothers of a vast number of people living in Canada to-day measured the time of their cooking with these sand glasses. The proverbial breakfast egg was boiled to suit the varied tastes of the family by watching the sand in that hour glass.

The first clocks, much as we have them now, were made in the 13th century. They were turret clocks and the dials had hour hands only. Now we have electric clocks.

The output of clocks in Canada runs up to nearly half a million dollars in value. The number is not available. We import a great many also, the value being somewhat less than the domestic product, but there are nearly 75,000 of these imports. They come mainly from Germany, the United States and the United Kingdom, but many also come from France, Japan, Italy, Switzerland, Austria and Holland.

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

No. 235. Tues. May 19, 1936 - Breakfast.

There is no standard rule for breakfast. Tastes vary, or perhaps the vocation of the individual dictates the menu. But from the hurried swallow of his Athole Brose by the Highland shepherd long before the day breaks to the more leisurely absorbed beefsteak of the construction worker, there is a vast variety of dishes.

There are some communities in Canada that would hesitate to say grace over a breakfast which was minus a bowl of stout oatmeal porridge, others declare for ham and eggs but will compromise with bacon. The liquid accompaniment is of less importance.

However, there appears to be a growing army of consumers of prepared breakfast foods, for the output in Canada is increasing fast. Last year the value of these preparations was about $9,000,000, which is an increase of about $2,000,000 in two years. Cereals has become the popular name for them.

There is a wide choice, for wheat, corn and other grains are used. Bran, wheat meal, middlings, malted wheat, malt, malt extract, syrup and sugar come into the picture.

And Canadian breakfast foods have their devotees abroad, especially in England. Our export is valued at about three and a quarter million dollars. Large quantities go also to the United States, Irish Free State, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden and several other far away countries.

This information is taken from the Census of Industry reports by the Dominion

Bureau of Statistics.

No. 236. Wed. May 20, 1936. - Canada's Trade with Sweden.

The Kingdom of Sweden comprises the eastern half of the Scandinavian Peninsula, with an area of 173,000 square miles, or more than three times larger than the Maritime Provinces. The sovereign is described as King of Sweden, of the Goths and the Wends. There is a population of six and a half million people, almost entirely Protestant in religion. Forty per cent of the people are devoted to agriculture. There are 81,000 folk of Swedish origin in Canada and as citizens they have an enviable reputation.

Over one half of the surface of Sweden is covered by forests of pine, birch and fir. These are of great importance, supplying timber, pitch and tar, and the chief fuel of the country. Paper-making is a great industry. The mineral products are extremely rich. Service in the army is universal and compulsory. There is an excellent navy and a competent air force.

Exports to Sweden run to about $1,600,000, consisting mainly of wheat, rubber manufactures, canned lobster, copper, felt, electrodes and lead, while our imports, amounting to about the same in value, are chiefly ball-bearings and machinery parts, cream separators, engines, saws, stone and electrical apparatus. Swedish machinery appears to be very acceptable in Canada.

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

No. 237. Thurs. May 21, 1936 - The Royal Fish.

An Act of Parliament of Edward II constituted the sturgeon a "royal fish" belonging to the sovereign of England, although the Lord Mayor of London claimed such sturgeon as were taken above London Bridge.

The sturgeon is a native of both sides of the North Atlantic. There are about twenty species and these vary in length up to over twenty feet. The largest occur in the Caspian Sea, the Black Sea, the Danube, etc. It is a bottom fish, and obtains its food by grubbing with its snout in the sand and mud.

There are fresh water and sea water sturgeon. Most of those caught in Canada are the fresh water type. Years ago, when the Ottawa River was a great fishing ground, the sturgeon was a common sight on the local market of a morning.

The catch of sturgeon in Canada has a considerable value. It is worth almost $90,000. It is usually marketed fresh. The roe makes caviare and the air-bladder is made into isinglass.

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

No. 238. Fri. May 22, 1936 - World Wheat Situation.

The world demand for wheat has continued at disappointingly low levels during the past month but the high proportion of the total demand being diverted to Canadian wheat introduced an element of optimism.

From last August to the middle of this May shipments of wheat and wheat flour from Canada amounted to approximately 176 million bushels, or ten million bushels in excess of the export movement in the entire crop year 1934-35. It is commonly and confidently expected that world demand will be concentrated on Canadian wheat during the remaining eleven weeks of the 1935-36 season. The outward movement in May and June will probably be the heaviest since 1929. Shipments may decline in July as new crop supplies in Europe are either being used or anticipated at that time.

During the first five or six months of the new crop year, 1936-37, the volume of Canadian exports should be greater than usual because of the limited South Hemisphere residuals. The export situation will remain obscure, however, until the 1936 crops in the import areas and in the United States, Russia and the Balkans are more definitely known.

Making possible exceptions for Russia and Hungary, present indications are that competition from Northern Hemisphere export areas will not be severe in the August-December period of 1936. On the contrary, it is apparent that the dominant position that Canadian wheat is now holding in world markets cannot be relied upon to continue after the 1936 crops are threshed.

This statement was issued to-day by the Agricultural Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 239. Sat. May 23, 1936 - Enamel.

Enamel is a transparent or opaque glassy substance applied to metal or other surfaces in the form of a paste and then fired to fix it. The material -- ground very fine, mixed with gum, water, or oil of spike to render it adhesive and reduced to a pasty consistence -- is brushed on to the object which, when duly decorated, is placed in a furnace.

In the fine arts enamel is principally used in connection with pottery and porcelain wares, jewellery, watches and articles for the dressing table. Coloured enamels were used by the Egyptians, the Greeks and the Romans, but the art was brought to a high state of perfection under the Byzantine emperors. A special style was developed by the Orientals. Limoges enamel was carried to rare perfection in the 16th century.

There is a great deal of enamel work done in Canada, and we import large quantities also, especially of iron enamelled ware. The imports, exclusive of fine art enamel, are about $45,000 in value, and the domestic production in the neighbourhood probably of $1,000,000.

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

No. 240. Sun. May 24, 1936 - Hickory.

Hickory exceeds in importance all other Canadian woods where great strength, hardness and toughness are required. The pity is that it is only procurable in the Dominion in limited quantities. There are six species in Canada, the more important of which are bitternut, shagbark, mockernut and pignut. Hickory is found in Southern Ontario, Southwestern Quebec and in the Ontario counties surrounding Lakes Ontario, Erie and St. Clair. There is no hickory in the West, but it is claimed that the wolf-willow, a common shrub, does equally well for small handles.

The sapwood is very light in colour but the heart wood frequently has a light reddish-brown tinge. The wood is rather difficult to work, shrinks very considerably in drying, takes a smooth hard surface in finishing and is susceptible of a high polish. It is not particularly durable against decay.

It makes excellent handles, vehicle spokes, ladder rungs, neck-yokes, pike poles, rims for wheels, sport goods and machinery parts.

Production of hickory in Canada is about 50,000 board feet in a year and about 430,000 imported, all from the United States.

This information is taken from reports issued by the Department of Interior and the Forestry Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 241. Mon. May 25, 1936 - Windmills.

The windmill is a picturesque thing in a countryside, which painters of Dutch scenery have used to the full. Of course, some windmills are prettier than others, especially those that are actually mills. The all-metal erections that are designed merely for the drawing of water have not so much appeal. In flat countries where there is no water power, windmills have been a necessity until electric power arrived.

There are large windmills which have half a dozen arms, fifty feet long and carrying sails. The sails may be of canvas, or a series of wooden slats like a Venetian blind. The old fashioned post mill which revolved as a whole on a central vertical pivot, embedded in a masonry base, has been superseded by the tower mill, with a fixed body and a revolving top.

Despite the wide use of electricity in Canada there are many windmills throughout the Dominion. Nowadays these are mainly imported. Last year, the number, along with parts, was valued at $21,000, all from the United States.

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

No. 242. Tues. May 26, 1936 - Fans.

Laid away sacredly in that trunk in the garret which contains the treasures of older days there is surely a lady's fan. It was a beautiful thing, usually the gift of a devoted admirer. It might be a creation of beautifully fretted ivory slats carved out of the tusks of a great African elephant, or just a simple little thing of painted silk, but sometimes it was a gorgeous affair made of lovely ostrich feathers,

with precious stones inserted cunningly. Perhaps no lady's equipment of a generation ago is more symbolic of romance, and the temptation to dwell upon it is irresistible to the good novelist.

Fans have always had a place in ceremonials and are used even now in the East. They are carried on state occasions in papal processions in Rome. In Canada they may still be found in country churches, manufactured of straw for utility purposes on a hot summer day.

But the fan as an accoutrement for the lady is well nigh gone. Our imports last year amounted to only $2,500. They came mainly from Japan, Italy, China, Austria and Hong Kong, and many also from the United States.

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

No. 243. Wed. May 27, 1936 - Teaching Gains Recognition as a Profession.

Last year in Saskatchewan and this year in Alberta, the Legislatures have passed an Act making membership in a self-regulating association obligatory for all school teachers. In the opinion of the teachers, these Acts confer on teaching "the dignity, privileges and obligations of full professional status", such as have long been experienced by medicine, law and other professions.

Viewed in the light of history, the step may be considered one in the long trend of professional specialization. In early human societies one and the same man was priest, teacher, lawyer and doctor combined, -- the wise man or medicine-man of the tribe. One of the last separations to take place is that between the jobs of the teacher and clergyman. It is by no means yet complete but the tremendous increase of schooling in recent years, and the influx of women to teaching has created an entirely new balance between the two professions.

In 1871 there were only three teachers to one clergyman in Canada, whereas now the proportion is about seven to one. The clergyman of to-day, however, has not a bigger flock on the average than his predecessor of 60 years ago, -- just over 800 persons at both times. So while the relative number of lay teachers has more than doubled, the Biblical teacher is just holding his own.

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

No. 244. Thurs. May 28, 1936 - Canada's Trade with the Philippines.

The Philippine Islands in the Pacific tropics, have a total land area of over 114,000 square miles, or somewhat less than half that of Manitoba. There are over 7,000 islands but the eight largest have an area of 103,000 square miles. The population of almost thirteen millions is considerably larger than that of Canada. As to be expected after the long connection with Spain, there are about nine million Roman Catholics.

The Philippines were discovered in 1521 by the Portuguese navigator, Magellan. Spain conquered the islands in 1565, naming them Filipinas, after the son of a king of Spain. In 1762 the capital was occupied by a British force, but restored to Spain later. After the annihilation of the Spanish vessels in Manila Bay in 1898, Manila was captured

by the American troops and the islands ceded to the United States by the Treaty of Paris in the same year. Aguinaldo, a native leader, co-operated with Admiral Dewey.

Canada does quite a large trade with the Philippines and it is growing. Our imports in the fiscal year 1935 amounted to half a million dollars and our exports $850,000. We get cocoanut and palm oil, manila grass, hemp and other vegetable fibre, with some lumber. Our largest export is wheatflour to the value of about half a million, oats, evaporated milk, rubber manufactures, paper, copper, ammonium sulphate and soda compounds.

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

No. 245. Fri. May 29, 1936 - Census of the Prairies.

The five-yearly census of the three Prairie Provinces will be taken on Monday, June 1. The knowledge gained will be of extreme importance. Exact inventories are necessary in order that remedial measures may be formulated to cope with present conditions and to form a true guide to the establishment of future policies. Collective information is made public but facts regarding individuals are kept absolutely secret by the Bureau of Statistics. Fear of exposure is groundless.

In 1921 the population of the three Prairie Provinces was 1,956,000. Ten years later it was 2,352,000. In these ten years the rural population increased by 215,000 to 1,467,000 and the urban by 182,000 to 885,000. In Manitoba the increase of the urban population was greater than that of the rural dwellers, however.

Saskatchewan is the most populous of the three Prairie Provinces and its proportion of rural dwellers is considerably greater than the proportion in Manitoba and Alberta. It may well be described as a province of country folk.

What effect the years of depression have had upon the place of residence of the people and all other problems that concern our social and economic life will be revealing.

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

No. 246. Sat. May 30, 1936 - Razors.

The fashion amongst men of the present day to shave their faces clear of hair is not new. Razors for that purpose have been in use since very early in the world's history, as is evidenced by wall paintings of ancient Egypt. The razors of that time were probably fashioned of bronze. Nowadays they are made of the finest crucible steel, possessing a high degree of hardness.

Of late years the safety razor has become very popular, but the old-fashioned straight affair with the loose handle has still a large army of devotees. We do not make these in Canada; all of them are imported. The imports of razors of all kinds run to a value of between $200,000 to $275,000 in a year, coming mainly from the United Kingdom.

However, most of the safety razor blades sold in Canada, as well as safety razors and strops, are made in the Dominion. The output of blades is about 35 million in the year, while we import between five and six million. Over three million of these blades come from the United States, one million and a half from the United Kingdom, over one-quarter of a million each from Spain and Germany, and smaller amounts from Austria, France, Sweden and Switzerland. Our exports, which go to all the leading countries of the world, have a value of over $60,000.

This information comes from reports issued by the Metallurgical and External Trade Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 247. Sun. May 31, 1936 - The Agricultural Fair.

The season of the agricultural fair is about to commence and in many of the towns and villages throughout the Dominion there will be a series of these gatherings which have been so great a factor in the social and economic progress of Canada.

There were conditions peculiarly Canadian. The gregarious instinct of the early settlers, their unswerving resolve to conquer the innumerable difficulties surrounding them, the hazards of travel, and the dense forests preventing the extended contact of the pioneers with their fellow men, all contributed to the moulding of the Canadian character, mainly through the peculiar emphasis devolving on the agricultural fairs of the country.

Before the first Canadian census was taken in 1666, the fun of the fair was relegated mostly to private celebration after the barter had been completed, but later as the result of the establishment of agricultural societies in both Lower and Upper Canada, agricultural fairs blossomed out into full social, economic and political institutions.

The business side was not the only nor the most important angle. The enlargement of knowledge through visual and social contact and the increase in the circle of friends were important factors in the early days and remain so at the present time. The agricultural society in Canada was something very necessary to the country and, because of peculiar conditions, became typically Canadian.

Though Canada worked out her own method of enlarging the educational outlook in agriculture, the idea of the agricultural fair is as old as the hills. Thousands of years before Christ there are records of them in Sumeria, Babylon and China.

The foregoing is taken from material supplied by the Department of Agriculture to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.
