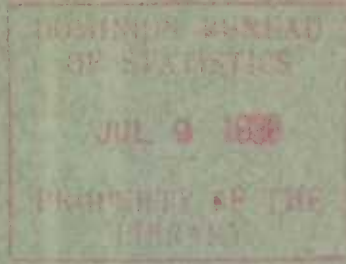


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A FACT A DAY ABOUT CANADA

FROM THE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

AS SUPPLIED TO THE

CANADIAN RADIO BROADCASTING COMMISSION

DURING JUNE 1936.

SECOND SERIES

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Minister of Trade and Commerce.

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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. 248. Mon. June 1, 1936 - Quahaugs

The quahaug is a hard shell clam, which is taken principally in Prince Edward Island and the north east shore of New Brunswick, but there are some also got in Nova Scotia.

Quahaug is an Indian word and the Department of Fisheries tells us that in the old days the aborigines used these hard shells as coinage. So it is not too far fetched to picture a young Micmac brave strutting proudly before the lady of his dreams and rattling the small change in his wallet to show how rich he was in pocket money and well able to support a wife as she should be supported.

The eggs of the quahaugs are minute things, measuring about one-three-hundredth part of an inch in diameter. At that they are slightly larger than the eggs of the oyster.

The catch of quahaugs and other clams is over 40,000 barrels in a year and when marketed, either fresh or canned, that popular dish has a value of over \$110,000.

These figures are taken from a report issued by the Fisheries Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 249. Tue. June 2, 1936 - Vancouver

Vancouver tomorrow will begin celebrating its jubilee. William C. Van Horne in 1886 had its name changed from Granville when the Canadian Pacific Railway had just succeeded in pushing its way to the Pacific Coast. The place fifty years ago was but a settlement in the forest with two thousand inhabitants all told. Its first name was the very suggestive one of Gastown.

In that very year of 1886 the settlement was wiped out by fire, but the courageous settlers started building again on the day after the conflagration and they have been building ever since. In 1891 the population was 14,000; it is now one quarter of a million, making it the third largest city in Canada, a miracle of progress. A little more than half of the inhabitants were born in Canada.

The name given the city was in honour of Captain George Vancouver, the noted British naval explorer, who in 1793 discovered the waters of the Burrard Inlet, which now forms one of the largest and most magnificent harbours in the world.

The racial origins of most of the people of Vancouver are as follows: English 100,000, Scots 58,000, Irish 30,000, Chinese 13,000, Japanese 8,000, German and French 5,000 each.

The religions are: Anglican 78,000, United Church 62,000, Presbyterian 36,000, Roman Catholic 24,000, Baptist 11,000, Confucian 10,000, Lutheran 9,000.

This information is taken from Census Reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 250. Wed. June 3, 1936 - Newsprint and Newspapers

In 1810 a man could make only a few small sheets of paper a day by hand. In 1845 the best paper-making machine available made a ton a day, but today a single Canadian paper-making machine can turn out 200 tons.

When paper was made by hand the largest individual sheets were only about a yard square. A modern Canadian newsprint machine makes a sheet over seventeen feet wide and a mile long in four minutes -- half an acre of paper a minute.

In 1810 only five hundred tons of paper were made in North America. In 1935 Canada made two and three quarter million tons of newsprint paper alone and now supplies the world with two-thirds of the newsprint it uses.

When paper was made of rags the printed word was a luxury for the privileged few. With the advent of wood-pulp paper, cheap and widely distributed books, magazines and newspapers were for the first time available to all.

Two hundred years ago there were only ten newspapers in all the American Colonies and their distribution was small. Today newspapers are published at the rate of a copy a day for every family in Canada and the United States.

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

No. 251. Thurs. June 4, 1936 - Pretzels

The Pretzel is one member of the biscuit family which defies the machine age and continues to baffle the best efforts of the engineering world to make its manufacture automatic. The traditional twist of the true Pretzel can only be given by hand. It is an interesting sight to see the contortions of the girls as they make these curiously curved and twisted biscuits.

The age and origin of the Pretzel is indefinite. In the days of the Roman Empire its use was of a religious and symbolic nature. Later it was the custom of monks in mediaeval Europe to present Pretzels to the poor and also to school children during the Lenten season as a reward for diligence. The Latin word from which it is derived means "little reward".

The Pretzel seems to have been introduced into Germany in the eleventh century and developed its affiliation with beer. There is a stone imprint in the museum at Basle, dated 1447, which shows the Pretzel as the trade emblem of a baker named Bruglinger. The historic flavour of the Pretzel is as old as the biscuit itself.

Comparatively speaking there are not many Pretzels used in Canada. They are seen mainly in hotels. One or two firms in Canada make them, and some are imported. Possibly there may be about half a million pounds consumed in the Dominion in a year.

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

No. 252. Fri. June 5, 1936 - The Opening of the North West

When we Canadians look at a map we are apt to have a super-agreeable impression of our national importance. On a map of the North American continent our Dominion seems enormous as compared with Mexico, but the "populated" part is really no larger than that of the southern republic. Ninety-four per cent of our people live in about one-fifth of our total area. Only six per cent are scattered over the "unpopulated" four-fifths of the country's surface, a territory of more than two and a half million square miles.

There is some ground for pride, however, in the fact that our people have been consistently spreading out and settling new areas. Eighty years ago the parts of the country that could be called populated amounted to no more than 157,000 square miles; and while there is still more than half of our population in these same small sections we have in the interval definitely peopled a new area nearly four times as large. On terms of area it is almost exactly as if the people of the British Isles had spread out over France, Spain and Germany.

Most of our spreading has, of course, been to the west and north. Eighty years ago the centre of gravity of the Canadian population was at Soulanges, Quebec; now it is in Algoma, Ontario,-- a distance of 451 miles farther west, and 111 miles farther north. Four-fifths of this westerly movement and nearly all the northerly movement have been in the last thirty years.

The foregoing is taken from records of the research division of the Census Branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 253. Sat. June 6, 1936 - Construction

Probably no lesson has been better learnt from the depression years than that we as a people are absolutely dependent one upon another. Hard times in one industry affect all more or less. But perhaps the industry which reflects or is affected by conditions more than any other is Construction. The clang of the hammer and the staccato tap tap of the rivetting machine are not heard upon the city street where huge buildings should be rising high up into the air, and in the big and the little places all over the Dominion the erection of dwellings to make new and happy homes is halted. This influences a whole world of production of goods and supplies. Young folk are not marrying as they were wont to do and that one element alone in our social life rocks our economic system to its foundations.

In 1929, the great year of this Dominion, there were over 77,000 marriages and by 1932 this had dropped to over 62,000. It can be said that in the interval the depression had resulted in the non-existence of some 30,000 households which would otherwise have been established.

Here, therefore, is a single fact which wielded an influence upon business in Canada that is not easily calculated, to say nothing of the effect on the birth rate which this pronounced decline in marriages inevitably produced.

This thought is induced by perusal of a report on the Census of Construction, the first since 1920, which was issued a few days ago and a summary of which may be obtained on application to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 254, Sun. June 7, 1936 - Two Cunard Ships

The great Cunarder, the Queen Mary, is on her return voyage across the Atlantic and it calls to mind several things that are especially interesting to Canadians. The first ship to sail across the Atlantic entirely under steam was the Royal William out of Quebec almost 103 years ago. She was built there and engined at Montreal. She was only 178 feet long. The company which owned her was headed by Samuel Cunard, a native of Nova Scotia, of Scottish descent. He was the founder of the great steamship company which bears his name.

The Royal William eventually passed into the possession of Spain and was the first ship of war powered by steam, and the legend is that her old wooden hull perished under the guns of Admiral Dewey's fleet at Manila Bay.

It is appropriate that the Queen Mary, if not built in Canada, should have slipped into the waters of the Clyde, in the home of the ancestors of the Cunards.

The Queen Mary crossed the Atlantic in under four and a half days and her Cunard ancestress, the Royal William, made the passage from Pictou, Nova Scotia, where she put in for coal, in 24 days in the fall of the year 1833.

This information is taken from the records of the General Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 255, Mon. June 8, 1936 - More About Construction

There are some searching truths about construction which may be gathered from the Census of that industry made in 1934. They have particular relation to work done by the various governments, - Dominion, provincial and municipal, and the work done by contractors.

The value of the work done by contractors in the Construction industry proper in 1934 was \$100,000,000; by municipalites \$29,000,000; Provincial governments \$35,000,000 and the Dominion Government \$19,000,000. The total of these and other works performed was \$186,000,000.

The construction industry proper had a total capital investment of over \$94,000,000 and the Dominion Government only \$6,000,000 odd.

The construction industry proper employed over 46,000 people, paid about \$40,000,000 in wages and spent \$52,000,000 in materials, which latter gave additional employment to many people, while the municipalities employed about 53,000 persons, disbursing less than \$22,000,000 in wages, relief allowances and statute labour, and spent less than \$7,000,000 in materials. The provincial and Dominion governments spent less in materials.

Much of what the country municipalities and townships did in the way of employment was statute labour in return for road work while the urban municipalities furnished considerable work to relief labour. Building and maintenance of highways and bridges constituted the chief work of the Provincial governments.

The point is that the more work done by the construction industry proper the more will be spent as wages and materials, thus spreading more widely the benefits.

This deduction is induced by a Census of Construction report which may be obtained on application to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 256. Tue. June 9, 1936 - Crop Prospects

The condition of all the grain crops in Canada at the end of May was below average and all except fall wheat, peas and mixed grains were below the figures reported for the same date a year ago. The forage crops, on the other hand, show distinctly better prospects than at May 31, 1935, while pasture was one point above average and at the highest spring level since 1922.

The below-average condition figures for the grain crops result from a combination of such factors as the general lateness of seeding, cool May weather in the Maritimes and Eastern Canada and soil moisture shortage in parts of the Prairie Provinces. The uniformly high condition of pastures and meadows is attributed to the lack of winter injury and the earliness of spring growth. Plentiful forage supplies will have an indirect influence on live stock and dairy production.

The condition of the main spring wheat crop was remarkably uniform throughout the Prairie Provinces at the end of May, but a serious soil moisture shortage was threatening over a wide southern area. This condition persisted during the first week of June, but the drought was broken last Sunday by heavy and well-distributed rainfall. Frost, soil drifting, grasshoppers and cutworms caused some damage during the past week, but the benefits of the week-end rains will be tremendous and should return crop prospects nearly to normal.

The foregoing is from a statement issued today by the Agricultural Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 257. Wed. June 10, 1936 - Mirrors

Shakespeare has not recorded that Portia, before going into court to tell the world that the quality of mercy is not strained, had a look at herself in her little mirror, but no doubt she did. Hers was of polished silver plate, which was considered better than the polished bronze of the Egyptians and the early Greeks and Romans.

Steel and aluminium have been used in making mirrors, but glass is the most satisfactory. Glass was first used in Venice about 1300, first as a protective sheet over burnished silver plates and later backed with mercury.

By the time Queen Anne came to the throne in England mirrors, as now, were made of heavy plate glass with bevelled edges. By and by there came into being those immense mirrors that stretched from floor to ceiling of a room, manufactured in the Lancashire town of St. Helen's, whose product is to be found in every quarter of the globe.

Mirrors are made in Canada to a very large extent, the output having a factory value of about \$570,000. The plate glass of which they are made is largely imported and comes mainly from the United States and the United Kingdom, with smaller quantities from Belgium, Germany, France and Czechoslovakia. Most of our imported common glass is from Belgium.

This information comes from the Census of Industry, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 258. Thur. June 11, 1936 - Immigration

Immigration has always been an important factor in Canadian development. In fact, if one thinks of it for a moment, he realizes that all the development which has taken place in this country since the day when it was occupied by the Red Indian has been due to immigration.

The crest of the immigration movement was in 1912-13, when it reached a total of 382,841. This was a larger pro rata absorption of newcomers than occurred in the United States at any time in the history of that country.

Since 1930, because of world-wide depression and unemployment, Canada has not been encouraging immigration, and the figure has fallen to the unprecedented low of 11,277 in the last calendar year. British subjects and citizens of the United States are still admitted when in good health, of good character, and possessed of sufficient funds to assure that they will not become contributors to unemployment in this country. Immigration from other countries consists largely of wives and dependent children coming to join family heads already established in Canada, and farmers with capital coming to establish themselves on the land.

Although immigration is at a low mark, there is a temporary movement -- that of tourists and other visitors -- which reaches immense figures. In 1935 those who passed the Canadian immigration inspectors at boundary point and ocean ports reached the huge total of 24,788,501. In other words, the Immigration Department dealt with a temporary movement amounting to more than twice the entire population of the Dominion. Marching seven abreast and six feet apart this huge army would form an unbroken procession from Halifax to Vancouver, British Columbia.

This information is taken from reports received from the Department of Immigration by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 259. Fri. June 12, 1936 - What of Roads?

The establishment by the Dominion Government of a Department of Communications calls to mind some great policies of the past which have left distinct impressions upon history and progress. Inland communication was a more difficult problem than by water, and the Romans solved it magnificently in their day with wonderfully constructed roads. Speed in travel was greatly accelerated and territories opened up for organization and development. It was in the beginning a military policy.

More recent history tells us that the pacification of the Jacobites was brought about speedily by the building of roads after the last Rising. It was a military undertaking also carried out by soldiers.

The most outstanding example of road policy carried out in Canada in the early days was the great highway which was built by the military from end to end of Ontario. Its western terminus was Windsor. It became known as the Governor's Road, in honour of Governor Simcoe. It stimulated settlement and trade and did a remarkable social service.

Today we have over 400,000 miles of highways in Canada, of which close to 100,000 are surfaced. Truly a marvellous development in less than a century and a half.

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

No. 260. Sat. June 13, 1936 - Canada's Trade with Russia

Russia, or more correctly, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, is a remarkable country. Prior to the World War it was the most imperially governed country in Europe. The aristocracy seemed to be a people apart from the rest, and there was even a cleavage in language. French was the speech of the court.

Today the system of government is the very reverse. Russia is now the leading communistic state in the civilized world. There are many nationalities in the Union, probably the most interesting, to western people at least, being Armenia, for the Armenian Church is the oldest national Christian church, Christianity being officially recognized as the state religion in 300 A.D. From the fifth century there is a national language and literature. Massacres by the followers of Islam have been frequent.

Longevity is extraordinary in Russia, for in a population of about 146,000,000 there are 30,000 persons who are over a century old. Most of the centenarians are women. The rural population is 80 per cent of the whole. Moscow, the capital, has a population of over 3,500,000.

Canada's trade with Russia in recent years has been small. During the fiscal year 1935 our imports amounted to \$265,000, or double those of the previous year and our exports to \$22,000, also double. The leading commodities we have been getting are potato starch, resin, oriental carpets, potash, soda and compounds and furs, such as caracul, sable and seal. Our chief export last year was coal, no doubt for the fuelling of vessels.

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

No. 261. Sun. June 14, 1936 - Radio Receiving Licenses

There were 862,000 private radio receiving licenses issued in Canada during the last fiscal year. That was about 50,000 more than in the previous year, which indicates how rapidly radio reception is expanding in the Dominion.

While Ontario as a province leads with 342,000 licenses, Montreal leads the cities with over 131,000, Toronto having about 40,000 fewer than the metropolis.

The great romance of radio reception is, of course, in the knowledge that the far away places of the Dominion, the outposts of civilization, have been brought into touch with the heart of the country and one has not yet ceased to wonder at the miracle of those thrilling messages that have gone out to the far north of an evening, telling Royal Canadian Mounted Policemen, sturdy pioneers and brave missionaries, of the precious love and thought which the folk at home have for them in their lonely ways. There are about 400 in the Yukon and the North West Territories.

There is a fine illustration of consideration for the less fortunate in the fact that 2,300 blind people last year got their licenses free.

This information is taken from a report by the Radio Branch of the Department of Marine received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 262. Mon. June 15, 1936 - Black Bass Travel West

Here is a remarkable story of the long trip made by 300 adult small-mouthed black bass from the Georgian Bay to Lake Waskesiu in the Prince Albert National Park.

The fish were netted in the vicinity of Spanish River with the cooperation of the Ontario Department of Fisheries. They travelled in cool, specially equipped compartments or tanks in a private car with attendants skilled in fish culture to look after them. The C.P.R. and the C.N.R., rising to the occasion, gave the fish a free ride on their trains to Saskatchewan.

At Prince Albert the tanks were loaded on trucks and motored to Lake Waskesiu, a few miles north of the city. Once at the lake most of the bass were set free to follow their own inclinations, but others were put in the water at selected spots where enclosures had been built around suitable spawning grounds. Here these fish will be watched during the spawning season by the professor of biology at the University of Saskatchewan who had pronounced the lake very suitable for bass.

The fish arrived apparently in excellent condition and statistical information as to their progress is promised later on.

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

No. 263. Tues. June 16, 1936 - Illuminating by Gas

It is actually less than a century ago since coal gas came into use for illumination in Canada. Montreal led the way in 1837. Toronto followed shortly afterwards. This was somewhat behind London, England, where Westminster Bridge was lighted with gas in 1813.

The new parliament buildings at Ottawa were illuminated with gas in 1867 supplied by the Bytown Consumers Gas Company which had been formed in 1862. The company had a ten year contract and all the gas supplied was measured by a meter in the East Block. The government provided the meter. When the centre building, which houses the Commons and the Senate, was destroyed in 1916 some of the old gas piping still remained.

Although our city streets are now illuminated by electricity, the making of gas is still a large industry. There are 41 plants in the Dominion making gas and coke, according to the latest figures available, and the number of customers by the producers of illuminating and fuel gas is over half a million, while the sales of gas alone amount to about \$16,000,000. Production of artificial gas is, broadly speaking, about double that of natural gas.

The foregoing facts are supplied by the Internal Trade, Mining and Metallurgical Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 264. Wed. June 17, 1936 - The Great White Ways

Last evening our subject was gas lighting. Tonight a word on electricity. Only fifty years have passed since the streets of Montreal were first lighted with electricity, replacing gas. The first use of it for lighting had been made by the Montreal Harbour Commissioners in 1877, nine years previously. In 1881 it was coming into general use in Toronto.

Electricity revolutionized city lighting and in a few years talk of a "Great White Way" became quite a campaign plank for the enterprising municipal politicians all over the Dominion.

London, Winnipeg and Saint John were just behind Toronto with electric lighting in early eighties and Vancouver in 1887 was abreast of the times. The Parliament Buildings at Ottawa were illuminated with electricity in the same year 1887. After that, electric lighting, or "chained lightning" as the old jokesters termed it, spread rapidly throughout the country.

These figures have been taken from reports by the Public Works Department and the Transportation and Public Utilities Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 265. Thurs. June 18, 1936 - Jewellery Stores

The desire for personal adornment which was evident in prehistoric times, and which we see exemplified in grotesque fashions amongst uncivilized tribes, is the foundation upon which the jeweller's craft of today has been built.

From the heavy gold bracelets of the ancient Egyptians and the bronze jewellery of the Assyrians, the jeweller's art has reached a level where delicacy and beauty are the predominating theme. As to be expected, therefore, the jewellery store of Canada is one of the important kinds of business in the retail merchandising field.

At the last Census there were over 1,500 jewellery stores operating in the Dominion and they had a total sales volume of about \$27,000,000. Of course, many jewellery stores deal in merchandise other than strictly jewellery, but on the other hand, jewellery is sold in department stores and some other lines of business.

It is estimated that the value of jewellery sold in Canada is over \$26,000,000, including clocks and watches. Sixteen per cent of the sales is diamond jewellery, and 13 per cent is clocks and watches.

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

No. 266. Fri. June 19, 1936 - World Wheat Situation

Exports of Canadian wheat and wheat flour since August 1, 1935 have now reached 205 million bushels compared with less than 166 million during the entire crop year 1934-35. With only seven weeks of the 1935-36 season remaining, Canada's return to the premier place among wheat-exporting nations for the season is assured.

The present crop season has one characteristic in common with recent years in that early estimates of importers' requirements made by recognized authorities have again proved to be considerably too high. The main reason for over-estimation is discernible as a lack of full appreciation of the potency of import restrictions in Europe and of reduced purchasing power in the Orient. These are corollaries of a dislocated international trade, difficult to translate into bushels of wheat moving between countries. Even with the United States taking the unusually high amount of approximately 35 million bushels for domestic consumption, the world wheat trade in 1935-36 will be the lowest in modern records. No marked betterment in 1936-37 is being predicted.

Despite such pessimistic conclusions on the world movement, Canada continues to dominate the world wheat trade and is securing about 60 per cent of the current business. The Canadian export movement is up 56 million bushels over the same 45-week period of 1934-35, while the visible supply is 48½ million bushels under the comparable figure for 1935.

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

No. 267. Sat. June 20, 1936 - Use of Coke in Canada

The consumption of coke in Canada is increasing, not only for industrial uses but also in the homes of the people for heating purposes. In 1934, the latest year for which complete figures are available, we used over three million tons in the Dominion which was about half a million tons more than in the previous year.

Considerably more than half of the quantity used goes into domestic heating. Ontario uses more coke for domestic fuel than all the other provinces combined, actually about 80 per cent of the total.

There are more than 40 establishments in Canada producing coke. Bituminous coal is the material used. Much of it is imported. In fact we use three times the quantity of imported coal that we do of native coal. Most of the native coal that is used for making coke comes from Nova Scotia. We also import coke, the quantity coming into the country being about one-third of the domestic production. The exports are very small.

This information is taken from reports issued by the Mining and Metallurgical Branch of the Industrial Census, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 268. Sun. June 21, 1936 - Canada's Trade with Roumania

Roumania, the kingdom of south eastern Europe, is the classical Dacia and Scythia Pontica. It had its origin in the Union of the Danubian principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia, with a strip of Bessarabia, under the 1856 Treaty of Paris. In 1881 the former principality was recognized by the Great Powers as a kingdom.

Roumania is not a Balkan state and took no part in the military operations of the Balkan League against Turkey in 1912 and 1913. In the Great War, Roumania fought on the side of the Allies. The population is over eighteen million and the territory 123,000 square miles, almost exactly half the size of Manitoba. Bucharest, the capital, has a population of about 650,000. The dominating religion is Greek Orthodox. There are a Senate and a House of Deputies, elected by universal suffrage and by proportional representation.

The soil is among the richest in Europe. Agriculture and sheep and cattle raising are the chief industries but the difficulties are the intense winter cold and fierce summer droughts. There are important forest reserves and petroleum wells.

Canada's imports last year were valued at \$144,400 of which gasoline accounted for about \$141,800, the quantity being about 220,000 gallons. The balance was canary seed and furs. Our exports amounted to \$22,700, consisting of automobile parts, skates, typewriters, farm implements and rubber tires.

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

No. 269. Mon. June 22, 1936 - Last Year's Fur Trade

The fur trade in Canada is making considerable progress. While there were not so many pelts marketed in the season 1934-35 as the year before, they were more valuable. Almost five million pelts of various kinds were marketed whereas in the previous year there were over six million. However, the value was more than half a million dollars greater.

It is to the fur farming industry, particularly silver fox, that we owe the increase. Production of silver fox pelts was 120,000 and the value was considerably over four million dollars, the average price being slightly over \$36.

The muskrat is the second largest revenue producer, bringing over one and three-quarter million dollars. This is a large reduction and it is the first time since 1927 that the number of the pelts has been less than two million.

Mink pelts on the other hand were slightly above the average at a little over a million and a half dollars. Mink is the third best revenue producer. White fox comes next with almost one million dollars, the average price for a pelt being \$15.25. By the way, the most valuable Canadian fur is the fisher with an average price per pelt of almost \$46, the cheapest being the rabbit at six cents.

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

No. 270. Tues. June 23, 1936 - The Lighthouse

The summer holiday season is approaching and, although we are in the motor car and highway age, yet there are a great many people who, with the blood of seafaring ancestors in their veins, will find their rest and pleasure upon the water. The little family cruisers will be ploughing the inland waterways and the marvellous lakes of this Dominion. The bigger fellows will be down the St. Lawrence or out on the British Columbia coast, and those who like to travel far will be away across the ocean, particularly this year on the Vimy Pilgrimage.

All of which brings to mind the lighthouse that will thrill them as does no other sight at sea, not even a passing ship nor yet an iceberg.

Some will see the famous Skerryvore on Tiree off the coast of Scotland; Fastnet, the great Irish light; the Eddystone, the best known of the English lights; Chicken Rock on the Isle of Man; the Rotherstrand at the mouth of the Weser in Germany, that engineering marvel which was built firmly on a sand bank.

Coming back to Canada they will be told by the navigator that the St. Lawrence is the best guarded waterway in the world and that the first lighthouse to be put into operation was at Louisburg in 1734. It was the pioneer of our wonderful Canadian system which has over 12,000 aids to navigation. There are nearly 2,000 lights of various kinds and a dozen lightships.

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

No. 271. Wed. June 24, 1936 - Canada's Position in International Trade

It is remarkable that the Dominion of Canada with only ten million odd population should be in sixth place in 1935 amongst the trading countries of the world. The only countries which exceeded Canada's trade were Great Britain, the United States, Germany, France and Japan. All of these are much more thickly populated countries and occupy areas less dependent upon outside supplies. Canada was in eighth place in 1934 and ninth in 1933.

So far as relative place is concerned Canada was fourth in 1920, the highest in her history and for the next three years was fifth. In 1924 and 1925 she was sixth, climbed back into fifth place in 1926 and remained in that position until 1930.

However, an even more remarkable statement than that can be made about Canada's international trade. The per capita trade balance of Canada is the largest amongst the leading countries of the world. It was \$26.31 per head of population in 1935, just beating out New Zealand's per capita which was \$26.12.

The per capita trade balance of the United States was \$1.60, Australia \$10.43, Germany 67 cents. The trade balance of the United Kingdom was minus \$28.97.

These figures come from the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 272. Thurs. June 25, 1936 - Ermine

Six hundred years ago, the wearing of ermine in England was restricted to members of the Royal Family. It is now part of almost all official robes and in heraldry it is the principal fur, the rank and position of the wearer being indicated in many cases by the presence or absence or disposition of the black tips.

The ermine is of the weasel family. It is really the winter name of the stoat. In summer its coat is reddish brown, but in winter in Canada, just as in the north of Scotland, it turns pure white. The change of colour is not due to a moult. The tip of the tail is black.

Long, slender, wiry in body and quick as a steel trap, it is one of the most dreaded animals of the country. It kills not only to eat but for the pure lust of killing. It will kill a whole flock of fowls in a hen house on a single visit. It is a fearsome and fascinating sight to see a brood of these ferocious little animals, with the mother in the lead, out on a hunting expedition, the father, meanwhile, away on his own.

There were 578,000 ermine pelts marketed in Canada last year, but the number was much smaller than usual. The average value was 48 cents.

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

No. 273. Fri. June 26th, 1936 - Mercury

Mercury was known from a very early period; the mines of Spain, from which the Greeks obtained supplies, were worked at least 700 years before Christ. During the Middle Ages the alchemists made great play with this metal, believing that it was a constituent, perhaps the essence or vital principle, of all metals.

In colour silver white, with a pronounced metallic lustre, it is the only known metal fluid at ordinary temperatures. It may be frozen solid, and in that condition may be hammered, rolled and welded like other metals. It has the remarkable power of dissolving, or combining with, other metals, without the aid of heat, forming amalgams some of which have great technical and commercial importance.

Mercury is used in the metallic form in the recovery of gold and silver from their ores by the amalgamation process, in the preparation of barometers and thermometers, for floating the lanterns of lighthouses, for coating the backs of mirrors, and for the preparation of amalgams.

It is curious that there has been no Canadian production of new mercury since 1897. Previous to this a small output of quicksilver was produced in British Columbia from a property situated on the north shore of Kamloops Lake. The principal mercury producing countries are Italy, Spain, United States and Czechoslovakia.

Our imports of mercury last year amounted to over 202,000 pounds, of which Italy supplied 147,000. The value runs from one dollar to one dollar and a half per pound.

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

No. 274. Sat. June 27, 1936 - Canada's Trade with Spain

After the union of Aragon and Castile in the late years of the fourteen hundreds, Spain was ruled by sovereigns, with the exception of two years 1873 to 1875, until Alfonso XIII left the country five years ago to reside in Paris. Since then Spain has been a republic.

The story of Spain's rise to world power is one of the most stirring pages in world history and the decline one of the strangest. Her great American possessions are all gone and her land interests abroad are now confined to Africa.

Spain is a country of less than 200,000 square miles, less than half the area of Ontario, but there is a population of over 22,000,000, more than twice that of all Canada. Madrid, the capital, has a population of about one million. Since the revolution religious orders have been forbidden to give primary or secondary education. The new educational system is under revision. At present primary education is nominally compulsory and mainly free. There are eleven universities.

Spain is rich in minerals only partially exploited. It is a fertile country, well adapted to the growing of heat-loving fruits. Our imports from Spain are varied and interesting. Amongst them last year, which in the aggregate were valued at a million and a half dollars, the leading item was wines at \$170,000, followed by cork at \$125,000, then oranges, salt, onions, raisins, canned vegetables, olive oil, iron ore and mercury. Our exports, valued about the same, were mainly automobiles at \$1,275,000.

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

No. 275. Sun. June 28, 1936 - Locomotives

In the early days of railroading in Canada the pioneer locomotives were christened with a biblical name. Amongst the first were three which bore the names of Shem, Ham and Japheth and were put into service on the Grand Trunk Railway upon the opening up of the line between Montreal and Brockville.

The first locomotives built in Canada were the product of a Hamilton firm; before that the engines used on the Great Western Railway were brought across the Atlantic from Great Britain. For many years the practice of giving names to the locomotives was kept up, just as we still give names to ships. But the crop of locomotives became too great for the vocabulary available.

It is a far cry from the old days of the middle of the nineteenth century to the modern stream-lined locomotives of advanced engineering design now being built in Montreal. They are to go into service next year.

There are about thirteen hundred passenger locomotives in service on Canadian railways today, and there are over three thousand in freight service. There are more than seven hundred used for switching, which with over thirty electric locomotives, make more than five thousand on active service. Over one hundred of these are ordinarily retired in a year.

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

No. 276. Mon. June 29, 1936 - Street Railways

It is only forty-seven years ago since the first electric street railway was operated in Canada. That was in Vancouver in 1889. It speaks volumes for the enterprise of that city which in those days was still in its swaddling clothes, that it should be only one year behind the long settled Richmond, Virginia, in building an electric street railway on this continent.

Ottawa came along in 1891 and one of the two pioneer builders in the East, the Honourable Thomas Ahearn, is still one of the most active business men in the capital. Amidst his multifarious duties he finds time to take part in the deliberations of the Senate.

In 1892 Montreal, Toronto, Saint John, Hamilton and Winnipeg adopted electric cars and the day of the horse car was done. Montreal and Toronto had had horse tramways since 1861, Quebec and Saint John since 1866 and Ottawa since 1870, three years after Confederation.

So swiftly has modern invention moved that the younger generation find it difficult to believe that their fathers and mothers travelled through city streets in cars drawn by horses and sometimes mules. Two horses and occasionally three where there were hills, provided the power.

There are today forty electric railway systems in Canada from the Cape Breton Tramways in the East to the British Columbia Railway in the West. They have over 1,800 miles of track and in 1934 carried upwards of 800 million passengers, as well as two million tons of freight.

This information is contained in reports issued by the Transportation and Public Utilities Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 277. Tues. June 30, 1936 - Seals

Amongst family treasures surely there is an old seal, occasionally a seal ring. Certainly amongst old letters still in their envelopes there is the impression of a seal upon wax on the flap. The deed of an old property will have a seal, or some other legal document. Once many years ago when Sir Wilfrid Laurier was prime minister each member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery was given a seal with the Maple Leaf engraved upon it.

Fenimore Cooper wrote in "Redskins" that charming passage: "My uncle selected a very neat seal, the handsomest he had, being of pure metal and having a real topaz in it, and offered it to Mary Warren, with his best bow."

The use of seals for authenticating or closing up documents dates from remote antiquity. Specimens belonging to the early Egyptian dynasties have been found. In the Middle Ages seals were commonly of a religious or heraldic character. Royal and ecclesiastical seals were usually large and elaborate, and those of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries were very fine. In England, specimens or records of the Royal State seals have been preserved from the time of Edward the Confessor. The great seals and most of the privy seals from the time of Richard I are armorial.

In Canada, seals are still largely used and recently the manufacture of corporation and other seals has had a factory value of about \$15,000 in a year.

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

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