A FACT A DAY ABOUT CANADA

FROM THE

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

AS SUPPLIED TO THE

CANADIAN RADIO BROADCASTING COMMISSION

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SECOND SERIES

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James Muir,
Editor.

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No. 309. Sat. August 1, 1936 - Swiss in Canada

This is the national holiday of Switzerland, the Helvetia of the Romans. It was on August 1, 1291 that the Swiss Confederation was founded. It was called an "Everlasting League" for the purpose of self-defence against all who should attack or trouble them, a league which is expressly stated to be a confirmation of a former one. Switzerland is thus the oldest republic in the world. It is the playground of Europe and a "nest of sanitaria". Today there have been local celebrations by the people of Swiss origin at Lachine and other places of the Dominion of Canada.

The inhabitants of Switzerland were always a hardy and independent race, but their high military reputation dates from the fourteen-hundreds when the comparatively ill-armed and untrained mountaineers signally defeated Charles the Bold of Burgundy and the flower of the chivalry of Europe. Afterwards the wealthier countries vied with each other in hiring them as mercenaries.

Switzerland has an area of 16,000 square miles. It is considerably smaller than Nova Scotia, which has 21,000 square miles, but it has a population of over four millions.

There is full religious liberty but the settlement of any other orders that, in the view of the Swiss, may endanger the State or interfere with the peace of other creeds, is forbidden.

The Swiss are highly esteemed as immigrants. They appear to like Canada and there are no better people here. They are happy and industrious. There are over six thousand persons in Canada who were born in Switzerland and they are scattered over every province. There must be more than 100,000 people in the Dominion who have some Swiss blood coursing in their veins.

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

No. 310. Sun. August 2, 1936 - Canada's Trade with Switzerland

Reference was made last evening to yesterday's celebration of the national day of Switzerland, but the limit of time did not permit a mention of Canada's trade with that ancient republic, which is important.

Switzerland is a country of great waterpowers concentrated within a comparatively small area. It is highly industrialized. As becomes a country of that character, the capital city of Geneva has been a historical seat of learning, particularly in divinity. The League of Nations in recent years has had its headquarters there.

The chief industries comprise the manufacture of silks, artificial silk, ribbons, embroidery, paper, chemicals, chocolate, condensed milk, dyestuffs and tobacco, while the metallurgical, electrical and pharmaceutical industries are extensive. Clocks and watches have long been the staple products of Geneva and Neuchatel.

Imports from Switzerland last year amounted to over two and a half million dollars, the largest item being clocks, watches and watch cases with parts at close to one million dollars. Aniline dyes came next at about half a million, then there were large quantities of cotton fabrics, silk ribbons, artificial silk, cheese, essential oils, leather, linen handkerchiefs, embroideries, chocolate confectionery, manufactured wood, medicinal preparations and a lot of other things.

Our direct exports amounted to $750,000, nearly half of which was aluminium. Next followed copper, rubber manufactures and silk stockings. However, considerable Canadian wheat and other commodities are purchased by the Swiss, but as there is no seaport in Switzerland these items appear in the trade figures concerning other countries.

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

No. 311. Mon. August 3, 1936 - "Touch Wood!"

We hear so much these days about substitutes for wood that many of us have the idea that our daily use of this, the oldest of all raw materials, is actually decreasing and that we are entering a woodless age. This is not the case. More wood is being used to-day in erecting buildings of brick, stone, concrete and steel than was ever used in the past in building structures of wood alone.

The proportion of wood used in the modern building has already reached its minimum and is now tending to increase. We still use it for window sash, interior finish and furniture and where concrete is used for floors it is covered with linoleum in which wood-flour is an important constituent.

We use a great quantity of wood in the process of construction of a modern building for concrete forms, scaffolding, etc. that does not enter into the final structure. It takes more wood to build a modern apartment house than it took to build the small wooden dwellings it replaces. There is also at present a decided increase in the construction of all-timber houses in the United Kingdom and a similar tendency on this continent to return to the all-wooden dwelling that lends itself so well, architecturally, to rural and suburban surroundings.

More wood is used in connection with the manufacture of automobiles than was ever used in making carriages and wagons because there are so many more automobiles and trucks to-day than there were wooden horse-drawn vehicles in the past. It takes more wood to build a ship like the Queen Mary than it took to build a whole fleet of wooden vessels in the past. In most cases the substitutes are indirectly responsible for an actual increase in the use of wood itself.

We are daily developing new uses for wood hitherto undreamed of. Wall-boards of wood fibre replace lath and plaster. Artificial silk, linoleum, explosives and many other products, to say nothing of the enormous annual increase in the use of paper made of wood, all tend to make this material more important.

The first weapon of primeval man was a wooden club. The modern high-power rifle still retains the wooden butt. Most of us were rocked in wooden cradles. When our self-confidence fails us, we "touch wood" to restore it, and there is something more than a mere superstition in the friendly "feel" of its surface.

The average Canadian is responsible, directly or indirectly, for an annual consumption of the equivalent of over 200 cubic feet of standing timber and the general tendency is toward an increase in the per capita consumption.

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

No. 312. Tues. August 4, 1936 - The Meats we Eat

The Canadian people are not eating so much meat as they used to. The per capita consumption of beef and veal, pork and mutton and lamb in 1935 was 134 pounds. This was six pounds less than in 1934 and fifteen pounds less than in 1932.

Two or three years ago the Canadian people were eating very much more pork than beef, but that characteristic of the dinner table has disappeared and we are now consuming more beef than pork, over 66 pounds of beef last year per capita and less than 62 pounds of pork. We use comparatively little mutton, only about six pounds per capita.

It is in the consumption of poultry that we have been making distinct advances. Four years ago the per capita consumption was about twelve pounds. This has risen gradually to eighteen pounds last year. The amount of turkey was over one and a half pounds, or a total of eighteen and a half million pounds, so that most Canadians seem to have done very well in that respect last Christmas.

Our consumption of cheese is growing but slowly, the per capita being about three and a half pounds. As a people we eat less cheese than most other countries, less even than the countries from which most of us have sprung. The average Canadian consumes twenty-two dozen eggs in a year.

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

No. 313. Wed. August 5, 1936 - Dry Ice

If you ask to have ice cream packed for your week-end picnic, you will probably find upon unwrapping it some little cubes that look like snow but which gradually disappear, leaving no trace. This is "Dry Ice", or solid carbon dioxide, which is now much in use as a refrigerant and preservative.

Carbon dioxide is an odourless, colourless gas. It is the product of human respiration and is always present in the atmosphere. It will not support human life but is essential to vegetable life.

Under pressure it can be reduced to a liquid and as such is distributed in iron cylinders for use in industry. It is used in making soft drinks, imparting the sparkle and the bubble to these refreshing beverages. If allowed to expand it absorbs heat from the atmosphere, producing intense cold and thus is much in demand for refrigerating purposes.

Under further pressure the liquid is solidified to "Dry Ice" which has the appearance of ordinary ice but is many times colder. When it melts it turns back to the dry invisible gas, leaving no noticeable trace or mark. It is convenient for use in refrigerating cars, in preserving foods in transit or in packages and is becoming increasingly popular for these and a variety of other uses.

Canada produced nearly five million pounds of liquid carbon dioxide in cylinders in 1935. About one-half of this was used in making carbonated beverages. The solid carbon dioxide or "Dry Ice" is also made in several Canadian plants.

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

No. 314. Thurs. August 6, 1936 - Migratory Birds

Every one in Canada who observes what is happening in the world of nature knows that the birds are travellers, that they come back to brighten the whole country-side as harbingers of spring, and that they leave just as surely on the approach of winter. Canada has perhaps five hundred different kinds of birds, and each different kind has a different travel schedule; in fact some kinds scarcely travel at all and may be found even in the most severe winter weather in their accustomed haunts.

Canada values its bird travellers for the aesthetic pleasure they give by their presence, by their beauty of colour, and by their charm of song. They are an important control of insect pests in forest and garden, and some kinds, which are grouped as game birds, are a major attraction for hunters in the fall.

Not only are the game bird kinds used for sport, but they are also valuable to the residents in remote parts of Canada as providing an important part of their food supply.

To protect its bird travellers which spend part of the year in Canada, and part of the year in the United States, Canada almost twenty years ago entered into a treaty with the United States which, by co-operation between the two countries, extends protection to migratory birds by means of close seasons, bag limits and the prohibition of unfair hunting methods. The birds do not belong to either country, they belong to both.

Canada's Migratory Birds Treaty of 1916 has been of major assistance in conserving this resource, and has been hailed the world round as the first international Treaty for bird protection, according to a statement by the Parks Branch, Department of the Interior, to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 315. Fri. August 7, 1936 - Canadian Fishing Grounds

Canada's fishing grounds are perhaps the most extensive in the world. On the Atlantic, from Grand Manan to Labrador, the coast line measures over 5,000 miles. The Bay of Fundy, 8,000 square miles in extent, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, fully ten times that size, and other ocean waters comprise no less than 200,000 square miles, or over four-fifths of the area of the fishing grounds of the North Atlantic. In addition there are on the Atlantic seaboard 15,000 square miles of inshore waters controlled entirely by the Dominion.

Large as are these areas they represent only a part of the fishing grounds of Canada. The Pacific Coast of the Dominion measures 7,180 miles in length and is exceptionally well sheltered, whilst throughout the interior is a series of lakes which together contain more than half the fresh water on the planet, Canada's share of the Great Lakes alone amounting to over 34,000 square miles.

Still more important than the extent of the Canadian fishing grounds is the quality of their product. It is an axiom among authorities that food fishes improve in proportion to the purity and coldness of the waters in which they are taken. Judged by this standard, the Canadian cod, halibut, herring, mackerel, whitefish and salmon are the peers of any in the world.

In 1935 the value of output of the fisheries was $34,427,854. This represents the total value of fish marketed, whether in a fresh, dried, canned or otherwise prepared state. The annual consumption of fish in Canada is estimated at upwards of 21 pounds per capita.

This information is obtained from a report issued by the Fisheries Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 316. Sat. August 8, 1936 - Crop Prospects

The month of July 1936 enters the records as one of the most disastrous experiences of farmers in the central part of the Dominion. In the principal area of field crop production, comprising most of central and western Ontario and the Prairie Provinces, unrelenting drought and extremely high temperatures doomed the good crop prospects that existed at the first of July.

While condition figures were well maintained during July in the Maritimes, Quebec and British Columbia, the drought in the central areas effected sharp reductions in the Dominion figures and at the end of July all these were well below the long-time averages. During the month, the reduction in the spring wheat crop prospects amounted to 45 per cent, marking the eighth successive July in which condition figures were lowered.

The 1936 fall wheat crop of Ontario is estimated at 11,637,000 bushels, nearly a million bushels below the production in 1935. Oats suffered a 34 per cent reduction in prospects and barley, 36 per cent. The potato crop also declined in promise and, except in the Maritimes, the harvest will be far poorer than in 1935.

Fodder supplies will be adequate in the Maritimes and Eastern Canada and British Columbia but serious shortages are apparent on the southern Prairies. Pastures declined 18 points in condition during July and are far below the 1935

level at this date. Sugar beets suffered with the other crops and the production will be about 25 per cent below average.

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

No. 317. Sun. August 9, 1936 - Indian Reserves

The system of reserves, whereby particular areas of land have been set apart for the use of Indians, has been established in Canada from the earliest times. It was designed to protect the Indians from encroachment, and to provide a sanctuary where they could develop unmolested until advancing civilization had made possible their absorption into the general body of the citizens.

Indians are minors under the law. They are the wards of the Department of Indian Affairs. The activities of the Department as guardian of the Indians include the control of Indian education, health, etc., the development of agriculture and other pursuits among them, the administration of their funds and legal transactions and the general supervision of their welfare.

According to the last census there are in Canada 122,911 Indians - 62,943 males and 59,968 females. About 112,500 live on the reservations.

There is no foundation for the common belief that the Indians of Canada are a vanishing race. The census which is taken at five-year intervals has shown a substantial increase in each of such periods during the past fifteen years at least.

This information is obtained from a statement of the Department of Indian Affairs and the Census Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 318. Mon. August 10, 1936 - Hotels in Canada

While houses for the accommodation of travellers and pilgrims in the form of hostels and inns have existed since man first began to travel, it is only since the advent of railways that the modern hotel came into being. The word "hotel" was adopted to signify the departure from the customary method of housing guests to something more luxurious and ostentatious.

Many of the hotels in our cities are large and imposing buildings, and competition for the patronage of the travelling public has resulted in the installation of many modern conveniences such as elevators, telephones, radios, etc.

Hotels are divided into three classes according to plan of operation; European plan hotels where separate charges are made for rooms and meals; American plan hotels which have a combined rate for room and meals, and mixed plan hotels which operate partly on the European and partly on the American plan.

In the year 1930 when a census of hotels was taken, the number operating during the entire year was 4,176 - 1,306 were European plan, 1,565 were American and 1,305 were mixed plan - and total receipts amounted to $83,700,000. In addition to hotels operating the entire year there were 782 hotels of the resort type

operating only a part of the year - generally the summer months - and their receipts were $6,800,000.

This information is taken from a statement by the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 319. Tues. August 11, 1936 - Flour Milling

Flour milling, the important manufacture based on our world famous product - wheat - dates back to the settlement made by the French at Port Royal - now Annapolis, N.S. - in 1605. Milling was of course an absolute necessity to the first settlers.

The Napoleonic wars established the flour export business and for the next half century the mills were closely associated with the commercial and banking history of the country.

Large scale production in milling began with the competition between the two processes, stone and roller milling. By the 1880's the roller process had secured a virtual monopoly and local mills gave way to large mills served by elevators at central points. The high quality of Canadian wheat became recognized throughout the world, and Canada's huge export trade in wheat and its products developed.

Canada ranked second in 1935 among the world exporters of wheat flour with 4,858,000 barrels valued at $19,382,000. There were 1,310 mills and flour milling was fifth in Canadian industries with a total production value of $95,746,000.

This information is obtained from reports issued by the Agricultural and Industrial Census Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 320. Wed. August 12, 1936 - Sporting Goods

The Olympic games, now being held in Berlin, Germany, represent a survival of the great national festival of the ancient Greeks, which was held every four years between the 8th century B.C and the 4th century A.D.

The Olympic games were revived in 1896 and were staged in Athens. Since then, the games have greatly increased in popularity, every branch of sport is represented and almost every country sends its quota of outstanding athletes to match their skill with competitors from other nations.

Canada, like other English-speaking nations, has been an active and enthusiastic participant and is usually well placed in the final points standing.

To take part in the Olympic games is the goal of every Canadian amateur athlete and keen is the competition to gain the much coveted honour of representing the Dominion in this great international carnival of sports.

The interest taken by Canadians in athletics is reflected in the amount of money spent on sporting goods in retail stores. At the last census of Merchandising, it was estimated that Canada's retail expenditure on sporting goods was

over seven million dollars. About 30 per cent of this amount was spent in sporting goods stores - that is, stores dealing principally in these commodities, the remaining 70 per cent in department stores, hardware stores, and other lines of business.

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

No. 321. Thurs. August 13, 1936 - Bromine

All motorists are familiar with anti-knock or ethyl gasoline and some probably know that the distinctive qualities of this popular grade of motor fuel are due to its treatment with ethylene bromide in conjunction with tetra-ethyl lead. The first of these chemicals is made from bromine, a reddish brown liquid which gives off a dense pungent vapour of the same colour when exposed to air.

With the advent of ethyl gasoline in recent years the demand for bromine increased so rapidly that regular sources of supply were quite inadequate to meet the requirements. New supplies had to be found, and the chemists and engineers turned to ordinary sea water, although its bromine content is less than 70 parts per million. After years of research a practical and economical method of recovery was worked out and a plant was erected on the coast of North Carolina, U.S.A. This plant efficiently extracts 95 per cent of the bromine content of the sea water and now supplies the bulk of the requirements of this continent.

A recent development in Empire mineral production is proceeding in Palestine where potassium salts and bromine are recovered from the waters of the Dead Sea.

Bromine is also used in metallurgy in the manufacture of bromides for use in pharmacy and in the photographic industries, and also as a disinfectant.

Bromine is not produced in Canada and our imports are very small. In 1935, however, the Dominion imported compounds of tetra-ethyl lead valued at $1,249,477, practically all for the treatment of motor fuel.

This information is from the Metallurgical and Chemical Branch of the Industrial Census, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 322. Fri. August 14, 1936 - Revenues from the Operation of Motor Vehicles

There were over a million motor vehicles registered in Canada last year and to meet the requirements of these vehicles the provincial governments have built some thousands of miles of surfaced roads. Many of these roads are kept open during the winter months and when ice forms on the surface they are sanded.

Motor policemen patrol the main highways for the protection principally of the motorists, and signs and safeguards are erected for their convenience and safety. Where does the money come from for all these services?

Last year the motorists paid into the provincial treasuries a total of close to $55,000,000, over half of which - about $31,500,000 - was by way of tax on gasoline consumed, and almost $22,500,000 by way of registration fees, drivers' permits and so forth.

The buses and trucks doing a commercial transport business on provincial highways paid special fees of over half a million dollars and chauffeurs' permits brought another half million dollars.

This total was an average of $46.41 for each motor vehicle registered.

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

No. 323. Sat. August 15, 1936 Natural Products Used in Construction

Construction at its peak period in 1929, supported one-eighth of the entire working population, giving employment to over 300,000 workers. This number was very materially reduced in the years following, but in the year 1934 returns submitted by 9,527 employers showed there were 173,153 persons employed in different phases of construction work, and it is expected that the 1935 returns will show a substantial increase.

The construction industry depends for its success on conditions in our own country and in turn furnishes one of the principal avenues for the use of our natural products. The forests of British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick supplied the timber and lumber for structures, bridges, culverts, stagings, concrete forms, etc. In 1934 the output of sawn lumber together with lath and shingles was valued at $45,000,000. Exports were $30,000,000 and imports $2,000,000, leaving a net value for consumption in Canada of approximately $18,000,000.

Construction materials such as hardwood flooring and other matched and planed lumber, sashes, doors, millwork, moulding, etc. were produced in Canadian mills to the value of $15,000,000 all of this being used in building and construction work. The brick plants manufactured $5,383,929 worth of plain, shale and pressed brick. Stone was quarried and cut to the value of $850,000. The steel industry furnished structural steel, reinforcing steel, wire mesh, pipe, tubing to the value of $15,000,000.

This information is taken from a report on the Construction Industry recently issued by the Industrial Census conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 324. Sun. August 16, 1936 Tuna

Deep sea angling off Nova Scotia has been voted one of the major sports of America. Just off the coast are the best tuna feeding grounds along the Atlantic Sea board and the great fish linger there from early June until late September. To land a tuna is one of the amateur fisherman s great adventures.

The tuna, or albacore, taken in Nova Scotia waters, is the same as the tunny of British waters. This fish ranges from the Mediterranean, believed to be its spawning grounds, to California. The only apparent difference in the several localities is the size.

On the Pacific coast the tuna are upwards of 250 pounds, in England about 500 pounds, while along the North Atlantic 700 and 800 pound fish are common. Among the different varieties are skipjack, blue fin and yellow fin.

The tuna is a commercial as well as a sport fish. It is a valuable food fish, with flesh which looks very much like beef. In 1935 the total marketed value was $13,092 - 2,392 cwt. was marketed fresh and 1,074 cases canned. The average price paid to the fishermen was three cents per pound.

This information is obtained from reports and records of the Fisheries Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 325. Mon. August 17, 1936 - Destroying Canada's Game Birds

Most of the kinds of birds which are protected throughout Canada and the United States by the Migratory Birds Treaty are not under any major attack from man. The game birds, on the other hand, have had to meet an ever increasing demand from man, and many kinds of game birds have become seriously depleted because of this demand. Fire-arms have improved and better roads let hunters reach the hunting grounds more easily. The marshy areas waterfowl frequent, have been reduced by drainage, or other causes, until these birds have been often in serious plight. Natural causes, as well as man's demands, have depleted the supply of water birds and among the most serious of all has been drought.

Perhaps 80% of the wild duck supply of the continent is produced in a part of the Prairie Provinces and vicinity, including particularly the southern third of Manitoba, the southern half of Saskatchewan, most of Alberta, and an area in the Northwest Territories lying immediately north of Alberta. From this great waterfowl hatchery the continental supply migrates fan-wise until it reaches the Pacific, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Atlantic. Drought on this part of the continent has reduced the production of wild ducks. Over-shooting throughout the continent has caused further reduction, until, for some kinds that have their natural habitat particularly in the drought areas of the Prairies, there is grave danger of extinction.

Truly the duck hunters of the continent, as well as all those who love wild birds for their own sake, have grave reason for worry about the continued existence of many kinds of wild ducks amongst the 500 species of wild birds in Canada.

This information comes from the Parks Branch of the Department of the Interior to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 326. Tues. August 18, 1936 - The Maple

The maple is dear to the heart of the Canadian. A good maple bush is a valuable asset. It made a strong appeal to the early settlers for it was a source of immediate revenue and the maple leaf became the national emblem. Correctly, that emblem is the leaf of the sugar maple, or the hard maple as it is sometimes called.

There are nine species of maple trees in Canada but the sugar maple is the most valuable commercially. It provides an annual income with its spring harvest of syrup. As lumber it is especially adapted to flooring because of its resistance to wear and its attractive light colour. It takes a high polish and is easy to stain. Curly maple and bird's eye maple are particularly prized for furniture. It has been introduced into many countries successfully.

It grows chiefly in Quebec, Ontario and the Maritimes. It is a very strong, stiff wood, exceeding white oak in these respects, but the untreated wood is not considered very desirable in exposed situations which favour decay and so it is not used much in boatbuilding.

Last year the cut of maple ran to over 37 million feet. The export of hard flooring, which amounted to over four and a half million feet, went mainly to the United Kingdom. The export of planks and boards was over five and a half million feet.

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

No. 327. Wed. August 19, 1936 - Canada as a Gold Country

We have no complete records regarding gold production in Canada prior to 1891 but from then on we know exactly all that has occurred in that industry. The trails and the tales are an open book, which the story-teller has used lavishly. The lure has grown with the years and today, even if gold production has become more and more the work of the machine and the skilled engineer and scientist, the romance has not departed from it.

In 1891 the production was less than five and a half million dollars in value. In 1901, just ten years later, the amount had grown to over forty-two million dollars, actually eight times greater. By 1921 it had risen to about fifty millions. Last year it was almost $222,000,000, a vast sum.

Ontario is the great gold producing province. About two-thirds of the amount shipped to the Royal Canadian Mint last year was got in Ontario. Quebec came next and British Columbia third. Manitoba, Nova Scotia, the Yukon, Alberta and Saskatchewan followed in that order.

Canada stands third as a world gold producing country, being surpassed by the Transvaal and Russia only, although data regarding Russian production are not considered by some authorities as very reliable. However, the production of no country approaches that of the Transvaal. United States production is fourth.

This information is taken from a review of the Gold Mining Industry issued a few days ago by the Mining and Metallurgical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 328. Thurs. August 20, 1936 - Canada's Inland Waterways

Before the period of extensive railway construction which commenced for Canada in the 1850's, the water routes, more especially the St. Lawrence, the Great Lakes and the Ottawa, were the chief avenues of transportation. These routes were interrupted at certain points, necessitating portages, and, to eliminate the toil of unloading, transporting and reloading at the portages, the canals of Canada were constructed.

Canals were the earliest large transportation works in Canada. One of the first locks was a small one constructed by the Hudson's Bay Company at Sault Ste. Marie. Another was built at the Lachine Rapids on the St. Lawrence above Montreal in 1825, followed by the Welland Canal in 1829 to overcome the obstacle of Niagara Falls.

The Rideau Canal - military in primary purpose, the St. Lawrence system and the Chambly Canal followed.

Today there are ten canals under the Dominion Government. By means of these canals a total waterway of 1,846 miles has been opened to navigation, the actual mileage of the canals proper being about 510.

Commercial vessels made nearly 30,000 passages through the Canadian canals last year and carried about eighteen millions tons of freight. While that is less than one-quarter of the freight carried by the railways, it is a very important contribution to transportation. Agricultural products led the freight on the canals, followed by mine products, much of our coal and oil, for example, being carried on the water.

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

No. 329. Fri. August 21, 1936 - Occupations of Indians

There are about 130,000 Indians and Eskimos in Canada. Most of them are wards of the Government and to a certain extent are cared for under treaties. That, however, by no means tells the story of the adventure in business and general enterprise of the descendants of the original owners of the soil of this Dominion.

Many of them have climbed to high estate and have radiated from their spheres of influence a sense of power and vision, high benevolence and great understanding.

About one-third of the Indians are engaged in classified occupations. There are 15,000 employed in fishing, hunting and trapping, 10,000 in agriculture, 1,200 in lumbering, 1,800 in manufacturing, while many are to be found as carpenters, machinists, blacksmiths, plumbers, masons, mail carriers, bakers, printers, police and soldiers. Indeed, almost every occupation has an Indian on the payroll, from locomotive engineer to librarian.

There are a dozen clergymen, half a dozen physicians, three civil engineers but there are no lawyers, dentists nor magistrates. Grey Owl is one of the most famous of Canadian Indians today. His writings have attracted world wide attention.

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

No. 330. Sat. August 22. 1936 - Canada's Trade with Puerto Rico

The West Indian island of Puerto Rico, which means "Rich Harbour", is about half as large again as Prince Edward Island, but has a population of over one million and a half. Three-fourths of the people are of Spanish descent and the rest coloured.

Puerto Rico was discovered by Columbus in 1493. Ponce de Leon was made governor in 1508 and it remained a Spanish possession until 1898 when the United States took formal possession as a result of the Spanish-American War. The legislative functions are vested in an elective House of Representatives and a Senate.

The Governor is appointed by the President of the United States. The island is self-supporting; there are free public schools and a system of good roads and railways.

Sugar is grown in the low lying districts and tobacco and coffee on the slopes of the hills. Cotton, maize, sweet potatoes and rice are also grown.

Naturally most of the trade of Puerto Rico is with the United States, but some is done with Canada also. One of the fruits much favoured in the Dominion is the fresh pineapple from that country. We send fish, paper, malt and cyanamid to Puerto Rico.

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

No. 331. Sun. August 23, 1936 - The Trail of War

The civil war now raging in Spain provides an illustration of the high cost of strife. Spanish troubles, out of which the civil war has arisen, are fundamentally economic and, whatever the result of the hostilities, the problems will be rendered the more acute by the distress, feuds and losses which come in the trail of war. Periodic revolutions since the flight of King Alfonso have sapped the structure of central government.

Take one aspect only of the effect of war upon Spanish trade and commerce. The great coal and iron mining districts of Gijon and the Asturias appear to have been more or less permanently disorganized since the fighting last autumn, and the point at which Spain touches international markets most intimately is in lead and iron production. As an exporter of iron ore she was at one time in a paramount position. Some of it comes to Canada occasionally. But Spain is not now supplying the demand and the possibility is that in view of large supplies from other countries, that Spanish industry may have received a mortal injury.

Disorganized industrial activities generally experience disastrous trade effects. Canadian trade, in common with that of others, has suffered. Our exports at $443,000 in the last six months are only one-third of what they were a year ago, and are declining. The imports have remained much the same.

These observations come from the Mining and External Trade Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 332. Mon. August 24, 1936 - Canadian Wheat Situation

While the world trade in wheat and wheat flour for the crop year which ended on July 31 fell to its lowest level in the post war period, Canada resumed her dominant role as a wheat exporting country. Half of the total world shipments during the year represented exports from Canada, whereas Canada's principal export competitors, Australia and the Argentine, together shipped but 35 per cent of the total world exports of 498 million bushels.

The United Kingdom continued to be the largest importer of wheat with purchases of 190 million bushels of which Canada supplied one half.

From now until December the bulk of the international trade in wheat will originate in Canada. During this period the principal competing exports will come from the Danube countries, since both the Argentine and Australia have very small available stocks of wheat. Competition will become much keener when the new crops in these latter countries are harvested, barring crop misfortunes.

Canada's total exports of wheat in the crop year ahead are likely to be less than in the past year, not because of lack of import markets, but rather because the present carry-over, plus the new short crop, will leave this country with reduced exportable supplies.

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

No. 333. Tues. August 25, 1936 - Advertising

Advertising is an ancient art. The Romans used it. But the first newspaper advertisement in England appeared in 1626. It was a bookseller's announcement of a pamphlet concerning the marriage of the young prince, who later became Charles I. Tea was advertised in 1650 and it was spelt T-A-Y, which seems to confirm the French and Irish pronounciation of the word as correct. By 1707 co-operative advertising was being practised.

Addison in 1710 described the main function of newspaper advertising as "to inform the world where it may be furnished with almost every necessity of life". Therefore when we "tell the world" today we are simply quoting Addison. When the British press became completely free in the early 1700's, newspaper advertising developed speedily.

The first English printed advertisement of which we have any record was one of Caxton's in 1477 and the first decorated printed advertisement was published in 1558 when Master Gervaes announced his willingness to cure certain diseases, "the poor freely for the love of God and the Ryche for a reasonable reward".

Advertising is an immense business nowadays and it is practically impossible to state how much is spent upon it in a year, so many are the ramifications, particularly by radio. However, we do know that in 1934 the gross revenue from advertising by newspapers and periodicals in Canada which did their own printing was about $30,000,000.

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

No. 334. Wed. August 26, 1936 - Wealth from Brine

Two elements that play important parts in Canadian manufacturing industries are chlorine and sodium. These elements, or their compounds, are now produced in large quantities from natural brine obtained from wells located in south western Ontario.

The pulp and paper industries of Canada used over 24,400 tons of liquid chlorine in 1935, while the textile finishing, cleaning and dyeing industries used over 572,000 pounds of this element in bleaching and cleaning our cotton and linen textiles.

Caustic soda, also produced from brine, plays a large part in the manufacturing industries of Canada. This compound is employed largely in the production of soaps, cellulose products, pulp and paper and in the refining of petroleum. Soda ash, another important sodium compound, is utilized in large quantities in the making of glass, soaps, pulp and paper and various other products. The production of sodium compounds in Canada amounted to over $8,500,000 in 1935.

Common salt, or sodium chloride, occurs in abundance within the confines of the Dominion. It is mined as rock salt in Nova Scotia while in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan it is recovered from saline waters pumped from salt strata. During 1935 Canadian salt production totalled 360,343 tons of which Ontario contributed 89 per cent. Imports of salt into Canada in 1935 were evaluated at $526,740 while exports were appraised at $51,239.

These figures were taken from a report of the Mining, Metallurgical and Chemical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 335. Thurs. August 27, 1936 - Devil's Island

Recent news dispatches from Paris suggest that the French Government is considering the abandonment of Devil's Island, or Ile du Diable, as a penal colony for political offenders and criminals. The island is one of a small group lying off the coast of French Guiana, known as Iles du Salut. Major Dreyfus was imprisoned there from 1894 to 1899.

The French first settled in Cayenne, which is now the capital, as early as 1604. In 1763 the French Government, with the view of improving and otherwise increasing the importance of the colony, sent out 12,000 emigrants; but no arrangement having been made for their reception or subsequent disposal, they nearly all perished from exposure to the climate.

In 1809 the colony was captured by the British and Portuguese but was restored to France in 1814. The population is about 35,000 of whom four or five thousand are labour convicts. There is gold in French Guiana and it is the chief export. Other articles of export are coffee, cacao, sugar, rum, cabinet woods, rubber and fruits.

Our direct trade with French Guiana is not very large, amounting to a little less than $100,000, but it illustrates the exchange of commodities that are needed by both. The principal item we send to Cayenne is wheat flour and the largest item we get is essential oil.

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

No. 336. Fri. August 28, 1936 - A Taste for Olives

Apparently a taste for olives has to be cultivated. Some who readily confess to a weakness for the more common green olive, have never been able to get up much enthusiasm for the ripe or purple variety.

The reason is probably this. Ripe olives are treated in a solution of caustic soda before they are considered fit to eat. Any chemist can tell you that when caustic soda and olive oil come together you get castile soap. The reason some do not care for ripe olives is therefore obvious.

Actually, if any soap is produced by this caustic treatment, it is in infinitesimal amounts and furthermore, olives are subject to inspection by the Dominion Government. However, it has been discovered that a sodium silicate solution, which will not saponify the oil of olives, serves just as well as the caustic soda. By using the silicate solution, the olives may be allowed to ripen further on the trees and still yield a firm texture. The flavour of the fruit treated by the new process is said to be better.

The green olives, or unripe fruit, have their natural bitterness reduced by soaking in a solution of lime and wood-ashes and are then exported as pickled olives.

The total import of olives into Canada in 1935 was about 308,000 gallons valued at $220,000. The countries supplying the largest amounts were Spain exporting 245,000 gallons, Greece 30,000 and United States 23,000.

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

No. 337. Sat. August 29, 1936 - Tanneries

The tanner of former days, in making leather from the hides of animals, used the bark of certain species of trees, according to the different types of leather he wished to produce. The bark of the oak tree was used very largely. But the modern tanner, in keeping up with the advance of science, uses tannin or tannic acid. It should be remembered, however, that much of the older type of tanning is still carried on. For example, goatskins, calfskins and sheepskins are sometimes tanned by the primitive method known as bag or bottle tanning. Then there is mineral tanning for the manufacture of glove leather.

Some idea of the extent to which this work is carried on in Canada may be had when it is noted that there are 90 factories engaged in the manufacture of leather. These firms had a production value of nearly $18,000,000 in 1934. It is carried on chiefly in the province of Ontario where 90 per cent of the manufacturing is done.

The export of Canadian leather is large, amounting to approximately $4,950,000 in 1935. Imports were about the same amount. The United Kingdom and the United States both figure largely in our import and export trade in leather.

This information is taken from reports issued by the Animal Products and External Trade Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 338. Sun. August 30, 1936 - Selenium

Selenium, although fairly widely distributed, is not very abundant. It occurs in association with sulphur but in no case does it occur in quantity large enough to be mined for itself alone. Commercial selenium is recovered from the slime or residue produced in the refining of copper; in Canada it is recovered during the refining of blister copper produced in Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec.

The chief use of selenium at present is in the glass and pottery industries as a colouring agent, as in ruby glass. The most important development is probably the photo-electric cell, or electric eye which is finding many industrial applications. These selenium cells also play an important part in television but they are still subjects of research. Selenium is being used for vulcanizing and fire-proofing switch-board cables and to increase the resistance of rubber to abrasion. It also finds an application in the manufacture of certain kinds of paints and of certain dyes. There are many other minor uses.

The production of selenium in 1935 was 345,159 pounds. Although most of the production is exported, no separate records on this commodity are published. No imports are recorded.

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

No. 339, Mon. August 31, 1936 - Kraft Pulp and Paper

The German word for strength is "Kraft" and kraft pulp is essentially strong pulp. It is made by submitting wood to what is known as the sulphate process, described as a modified soda process.

It is said that it was discovered accidentally by a pulp manufacturer. His plant had broken down, leaving him with a batch of half-cooked soda pulp on his hands. Rather than waste it he ran it through a beater and reduced it to pulp by friction. The resulting paper proved to be so remarkably strong and tough that the process was developed on a commercial scale.

It was introduced by Dahl in Danzig in 1883 and first applied to straw, but soon after to wood. The first sulphate mill in North America was that of the Brompton Company at East Angus in Quebec in 1907.

Canada now makes over 200,000 tons of kraft pulp a year valued at almost eight million dollars. About half of this is used in making paper in Canada and the remainder exported chiefly to the United States.

At first kraft pulp was valued only on account of its strength and was used only for making wrapping paper, heavy envelopes, paper bags and paper twine where its dark colour was not a deterrent, but now that it can be successfully bleached - half the 1935 production was bleached - it can be used for many other purposes. Some mills use it as one of the constituents of newsprint paper.

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