

A Fact a Day about Canada
from the
Dominion Bureau of Statistics

No. 93. Fri. Jan. 1, 1937 - A New Year's Resolution

Is it too late at this "eleventh hour" of the first day to make a New Year's resolution? There is one we can commend to all, old and young. Unlike most resolutions there is a good reason why it should date from January 1st. And even if you don't keep it for more than a few months it will have served much of its purpose. In short, if you are looking for a resolution, here is a real bargain.

Let us resolve to be careful of our health, especially during the next three months. Between today and the end of March there will be more sickness and death in Canada than during any other quarter of the year. At least this is what the record of past years leads us to expect. It is an especially dangerous time for influenza, pneumonia and diseases of the heart. Trouble so often starts when a common cold is not given proper care, and more serious complications follow.

Sickness brings suffering, death brings sorrow, both beyond measure. But even if we fail to consider the human values and think in terms of money alone, there is reason enough for resolving to take better care of ourselves and those about us. The cost of sickness in Canada is over \$200,000,000 a year, or more than \$50 for every person who is earning money. There are more than 100,000 Canadians sick on the average day, about 50,000 of whom are in hospitals. Much of the sickness arises out of carelessness; let us resolve to avoid it.

The information used comes from the Census and Vital Statistics Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 94. Sat. Jan. 2, 1937 - Canada's Trade with Salvador

An interesting little country of Central America is the Republic of Salvador. Its coast line on the Pacific is 170 miles long, with a general breadth into the interior of a little over 40 miles. The whole country is about half the size of New Brunswick. The population is about one million and a half. The language is Spanish.

Salvador was part of the great conquest of Spain in America and continued under the rule of that European power until 1821 when the final break-up of its vast empire came. It then formed part of the United States of Central America until the dissolution in 1839. There were various abortive attempts at reunion but in 1921, the five republics, secure in the approval of the United States, formed a new republic of Central America.

It is a mountainous country, punctuated with volcanoes. A new one made its appearance in 1880 but has since almost disappeared. Much of the interior has an average altitude of 2,000 feet. There is a very fertile lofty valley, which is the most populous area. A British firm has built 100 miles of railway.

Coffee is the chief crop and the chief export. Many metals occur but are not yet seriously exploited, except in the Metapan district. Henequen is used in the manufacture of sugar and coffee bags. Coffee is what Canada gets mainly

from Salvador, and wheat is the chief item in the Canadian export, amounting last year to \$41,000 out of a total of \$60,000.

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

No. 95. Sun. Jan. 3, 1937 - Foil Wrappings

Apart from the cellophane and the many varieties of paper that wrapped seasonal presents, there was one covering that made gay the appearance of many a gift. That was metal foil.

A piece of foil is purely and simply a piece of sheet metal. Paper is coarse and heavy by comparison. Tin and compositions of tin are still widely used but the leading metal in foil popularity is aluminium. It is generally rolled much thinner and has a gleaming sheen which gives it the look of precious metal.

For authentic tin foil, the metal comes mainly from the Straits Settlements smelters in pig form, almost 100 per cent pure. Aluminium, which quite probably came originally from British Guiana, comes to the rolling factories in coiled sheets. Flowing silvery sheets three ten-thousandths of an inch in thickness are produced. The finishes are very beautiful and the favourite colourings are red, blue and gold. The metal is rolled for colour and many times again for embossing, printing, waxing and finishing. Then it is wrapped around everything from wax to cheese.

We import more than fifty thousand pounds of tin foil in a year and considerably more than twice that amount of aluminium foil from the United States and Great Britain. This would blanket a very large area.

Canada produces considerably more than is imported but as there are only one or two companies manufacturing foil their output is not made public, in accordance with practice.

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

No. 96. Mon. Jan. 4, 1937 - Preservation of Ties.

Most people have walked the railway tracks and while trying to regulate their pace to step on the ties, have noticed the black, oily appearance and tarry smell of the wood. Very few people think of the importance to themselves of these treated ties. The price of practically every commodity used in Canadian homes is affected by the cost of railway transportation.

If it were not possible to treat wooden ties to resist decay, the railway companies would be forced to adopt a substitute for wood. In 1912 for every 46 ties used there was only one treated but by 1935 for every 1.7 ties untreated there was one treated. The two principal preservatives in use in Canada at the present time are creosote and zinc chloride.

Research laboratories are experimenting with various chemicals and their reaction upon various woods. Their findings mean a great saving in the national and private budgets when one stops to think of the numerous wooden structures.

Some wooden ties are used untreated such as those made from tamarack and cedar, others such as yellow birch, hard maple and beech can only be used economically when treated. But Jack pine, lodgepole pine, red and white pine, spruce, Eastern and Western hemlock, Douglas fir and oak can be used either treated or untreated.

There were approximately four million treated ties placed in the tracks in 1935 at an average cost of over one dollar. There were nearly seven million ties untreated and the cost was something over 50 cents.

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

No. 97. Tues. Jan. 5, 1937 - The Longest Month.

How often we hear it said that January seems the longest month of the year! The days are short, the weather is cold, and there is not the busy anticipation of Christmas and New Year festivities that helps us through the same conditions in December. It is probably the month in which we spend most time with radio and books.

From public libraries this month we will borrow more than two million books, and there will be many to read that were given to us or our friends for Christmas. Those who live out of reach of a public library will often club together with their neighbours, and ask for the loan of a free package of books, or a "travelling library" as it is called, from their provincial capital. Last year there were about 5,000 packages of books supplied in this way, -- more than half of them in Saskatchewan. But when all this distribution is counted, Canada is much behind the United States and Great Britain in organizing public library service.

In Prince Edward Island, and in some sections of British Columbia, it can almost be said that nobody is out of reach of a free public library, for here the people have developed modern library systems to serve the rural as well as the urban dwellers. This year gives promise of similar schemes being developed in other parts, and it may be that Canadians will eventually catch up with other countries in providing themselves with books. When this happens, perhaps January will not seem so long.

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

No. 98. Wed. Jan. 6, 1937 - Scrap Metal.

While a considerable number of people are burrowing feverishly in the Canadian cellar for minerals stored away by Mother Nature, other are busy on the surface gathering what we commonly call "scrap" or "junk". Anything from an out-of-date, sea-going vessel to an unreliable alarm clock is harvested by the junk dealer. Most of the scrap collectors are to be found around large shipping centres and there is in force today a shipping act legislation which covers the dealings of junk dealers.

Sorting out such a conglomeration and transporting it from one place to another, even across the seas to countries where the supply of certain metals is not sufficient to meet the demand, is quite a big business, as may be noted from the fact that last year Canada imported about \$700,000 worth of scrap metal and exported a quantity valued at \$2,500,000. Much of the scrap metal, of course, is used at home. Indirectly this large amount of trade in scrap metal reflects the prosperity of the country. When metals are expensive it pays to collect the scrap.

The largest item in the scrap metal which Canada exported was iron and steel. The value of it was over one million dollars and most of it went to the United States and Japan. The next largest item was brass, followed by copper, zinc, aluminium and platinum. Brass went mainly to the United States and Germany, copper to Germany and the United States, aluminium to the United Kingdom and Brazil, zinc to Japan and Belgium and platinum to the United Kingdom, Norway and the United States.

The foregoing is based upon a report issued by the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 99. Jan. 7, 1937 - Exegi monumentum aere perennius

Sometimes the child of an over-indulgent mother fails to measure up to the expectations of a more exacting father. Most of us have probably heard a mother excuse her youngster by saying, "You must not expect too much of him yet, -- after all he is still a baby". And though the child may grow into adult years, the fond mother may persist in thinking of him as "her baby" to the end of her days.

As with the mother and child, so it is with many Canadians in relation to their country. When someone points out to us a national shortcoming, the most frequent apology is, "O, yes, but Canada is just a young country". This is the reply when we are reminded how little we have set aside for advancement of learning and culture, for such institutions as libraries, museums, colleges and universities.

We can look at any one of several universities in the United States and see that each has received much more in the way of gifts and bequests for its support than all of the Canadian universities combined. Two or three of them were each given more last year to add to their endowment than all of our universities together have received in several years. Similarly in Great Britain. In the last five years (and poor years they have been) the British universities received almost as much in capital gifts as the Canadian universities have received in all the years since they were first established. Is it any wonder that our universities, in comparison have so little to offer in the way of scholarships, and other forms of assistance to research in the sciences and humanities.

Here, indeed, is an opportunity for Canadians to include a clause in their wills that will enable them to say with the poet Horace, "I have built a monument more lasting than bronze."

The foregoing comes from the Education Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 100, Fri. Jan. 8, 1937 - Golf.

Times have changed. The lowly shepherd tending his sheep used to play golf on the Scottish uplands and the grassy swards that border the sea. It was a game that the poorest might play. One may wonder, however, just how many Canadians, whose incomes are small, are able to play golf. Gone are the days when it was quite the proper thing to go round a course with a "cleek" only. A dozen clubs carried by a caddy is a common sight. Some players affect more than two dozen.

The ball has changed from the feather core covered with horsehide by the Scottish shepherd, to the "guttie". The game has improved, of course, and has become more popular, with the result that the factories have benefited. The output of supplies now runs up to about \$300,000 in a year at factory prices. That does not include golf balls, of which 80,000 dozen are manufactured in the Dominion and valued at close to one quarter of a million dollars. The imports of golf supplies are comparatively small, but the imported balls, practically all from the United Kingdom, run up to 45,000 dozen. However, the importation in recent years has been decreasing.

Golf has been much blamed, among other things, for the breaking of the Sabbath Day - a strange situation when one recalls that the game is believed to have originated in a country which became noted for its Presbyterian Sabbath. Whether or not in early days the same charge was laid, is not recorded, so far as we know, but it is a fact that in the ancient English cathedral of Gloucester one of the beautiful stained glass windows represents a golfer.

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

No. 101, Sat. Jan. 9, 1937 - Rules of the Stork.

When it is known that the stork is going to visit a house the expectant parents always wonder just what he is going to leave them. He seems to them a very whimsical old bird for they never know whether to expect a baby boy or girl, or whether it will be healthy and strong. Sometimes he surprises them with two babies, or even three or more. But when we consider it all from the stork's own point of view we see that he works according to quite definite rules; the trouble is that in doing so much work he pays very little attention to the wishes of individual families.

Year in and year out he brings more boy babies than girls. In Canada it is about 105 or 106 boys for every 100 girls. He has to do this to keep the balance even, for the infant boys are not as strong as the girls, and four of them will die for every three of the girls.

The stork has quite a fixed rule, too, about the number of times he brings more than one baby. Year after year he refuses to make 100 trips without bringing two babies on one of them. About once in 80 or 85 times it is. And in the long run, for every 100 times he takes twins he once takes triplets. On rare occasions he carries four or more. Perhaps if we watched him long enough, we would find that he brings more than three about once for every 100 times that he brings three. He has done it twice in Canada in ten years, while he has brought triplets 283 times, and 28,400 pairs of twins. To carry out this rule he would bring more than three only once in about one million trips.

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

No. 102. Sun. Jan. 10, 1937 - Dentistry.

Dentistry in Canada prior to 1867 had no organization and no standard of qualification. Dentists began to practise after a private pupilage of from three to twelve months; they passed no examination and there was no guarantee of their efficiency. Today the minimum period of training is five years.

Ontario was the first province to establish professional qualifications and in 1875 a school of dentistry was founded in Toronto. Eighteen years later a college of dental surgery was established in Quebec at Bishop's College, Lennoxville. Later it was closed and a dental school established at McGill. Following this another training centre was instituted at the University of Montreal. In 1912 the Dalhousie Faculty of Dentistry was established, and more recently another in the provincial university at Edmonton, Alberta.

Many improvements have taken place in this service to mankind. From very early days we have records of teeth having been filled with lead and even gold foil. Bridges were crude, being wire or gold bands to hold an artificial tooth to its neighbours, and yet, these bridges form the essential principle of modern bridge-work. The substitute teeth for bridge-work were human or carved from ivory. Enamel for this purpose was not thought of until the 18th century.

One consolation, and one big enough to make the patient forget the drilling and freezing, is the assurance that work is being done by skilled hands with the latest available equipment science can produce and under the most hygienic conditions possible.

According to the last census, there were 4,000 dentists in Canada of whom 32 were women. Attendance at the five dental schools in Canada is now about 370; the annual number of graduates has recently been about 80.

This information comes from the Census and Education Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 103. Mon. Jan. 11, 1937 - Canadian Wines.

Most Canadian wines are made from grapes, and so the industry is confined to a few localities such as the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario and the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia, where climatic conditions for the cultivation of grapes are favourable. There are 42 establishments in Ontario, six in British Columbia, one in Quebec and one in Saskatchewan. Ontario produces nearly 90 per cent of the output.

Wine making is a very ancient art, and different countries have specialized on the kinds of wine produced. The German, French, Italian and Spanish wines have long been famous. Now we have South Africa and Australia bidding strongly for recognition in the world markets.

But grapes are not the only fruits or vegetables from which wine is made. From potatoes to dandelions there is a huge variety, and in many Canadian homes rich wines are made. Newly wedded couples, a thousand years ago in Norway drank wine made

from honey for one month after the ceremony, and it is from that old custom that we get the word "honeymoon". It means simply the honey month.

Last year we imported wines to the value of over three million dollars, mainly from France, Spain, the United Kingdom and Australia, and our production was rated at over one million. Our exports are very small.

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

No. 104. Tues. Jan. 12, 1937 - Silk and More Silk

Silk has always been associated with the finer things of life. We have made the word a synonym for all that is good in people and things. We describe the best folk as being as fine as silk. The word itself is beautiful, conveying correctly in sound the thought of the thing it names. Sometimes, of course, we use it in a sinister sense; for example, when we talk of an individual we all can name and say he is "as smooth as silk".

The silk industry has a large variety of processes and produces a long range of textiles to adorn both the lady of the house and her home. Velvets and satins are both made of silk. We have China silk, India silk and taffetas. There are poplins, grosgrains, moires and other ribbed silks which give the corded effect. There are the shot silks and the pebbly effects obtained in crepes.

Figured silks may have the pattern woven into them or just printed. Then there is wild silk produced from the tussur worm which feeds on oak trees. The silk it yields is a yellowish brown and cannot be bleached, but it dyes well. Pongee silk is another name for it. The common silk worm feeds on the mulberry.

There are over eight million yards of real silk made in Canada in a year at a factory value of about four million dollars. Real silk mixtures are about half as much again.

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

No. 105. Wed. Jan. 13, 1937 - Natural Increase.

The population of a country may increase in two ways, - either by having more births than deaths, or by receiving immigrants from other lands. The former is what is meant by "natural increase". There has been little immigration to Canada since 1930, and the natural increase, too, is less than it was.

In the three years ending with 1932, our natural increase averaged about 134,000; since then it has been only about 119,000 a year. Previous to 1930 for several years there was an annual increase of about 13 persons for every 1,000 persons living in Canada. This rate has since been reduced to between 10 and 11 per 1,000.

There is a great deal of difference between provinces in the rate of natural increase. In Quebec it is more than three times as great as in British Columbia. Ontario has the second lowest rate.

In Canada as a whole the rate of increase is much higher than in most other parts of the British Empire. In Great Britain it is less than in the lowest Canadian province. In France it is lower still. The population of France has, in fact, almost ceased to increase, and the situation is not very different in Britain.

One of the highest recorded rates is in Japan; it is greater than Canada's. In the United States it is about half as high as here.

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

No. 106. Thurs. Jan. 14, 1937 - Our Museums.

Radio listeners across Canada every Sunday night hear a programme in the series, "Forgotten Footsteps", originating in the Royal Ontario Museum, and dramatizing for them the life of earlier civilizations. These programmes are an example of the increasing usefulness of our museums, which is contributing to a recognition of their value as educational institutions. Other services known throughout Canada are those of the National Museum and the National Gallery, the former in loaning specimens, lantern slides and motion pictures to schools, and the latter in loaning collections of art works or providing reproductions of famous works at nominal cost. The Dominion Archives are well known to students of Canadian history.

There are about 130 museums in Canada open to the public for the study of art, history, science or industry. Quebec, with about 50, has the largest number, and the majority of them are attached to colleges or universities. A dozen of the 40 museums in Ontario are sponsored by local historical societies, whose central interest is in the earlier days of their own communities.

Many of the 130 museums are small, with little or no endowment and have very little money spent on them in a year. It has usually been the interest and initiative of one or a few enthusiastic persons that has been responsible for their establishment, and there has often not been money enough to provide a suitable building. But as our Canadian history becomes longer, our contacts with other peoples closer, there are growing signs that our museums are entering a period of greater interest and use.

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

No. 107. Fri. Jan. 15, 1937 - Northward on the Prairies.

The history of Canada includes more than a few mass migrations of her people. Think of the Acadians, the United Empire Loyalists, and the pioneers of the Western Provinces. Choice and compulsion both have played their parts in varying degrees at different times, and the two today have combined in bringing about our broad movement to the North. On the side of choice there is the lure of mineral wealth, but let us look for a moment at those on the Canadian prairies whom drought has forced to seek new homes elsewhere.

About 6,000 farms in southern and central sections of the Prairie Provinces have been abandoned in the last five years. Some 30,000 people must have

given up their homes and started anew. What disappointments and heartbreaks these figures bespeak. But there is a brighter side to the story, for they have not been broken in spirit. Most of them must have taken fresh courage and started again in the North, for on the northern frontier of Saskatchewan alone there have been about 8,000 new farms established since 1931. Altogether the more favoured areas of the three provinces show an increase of nearly 20,000 farms in the five years. This many families at least have either started farming or started over again.

The net increases in the five years, after allowing for losses in the south and in the Peace River area, has been about 12,000. So in spite of all hardships the farming industry on the prairies is expanding. Manitoba shows an increase of more than 3,000 farms since 1931, whereas in the preceding five or ten years the increase was less than 1,000.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has obtained this information from the Prairie Province Census of 1936.

No. 108. Sat. Jan. 16, 1937 - Farm Changes on the Prairies Since 1931.

Last night we spoke of the movement of Canadian prairie families out of the sections in which they have not been able to make a living under conditions of the last few years. Those who have not had to abandon their old homes, have nevertheless been making changes in the routine of their farms since 1931.

There are not quite as many acres under crop in Saskatchewan, but an increase in Manitoba and Alberta almost makes up the loss. More of the land is sowed in Durum wheat, but considerably less to other kinds, with the result that the total acreage in 1936 was about 4 per cent less than in 1931. There are more oats and barley now, and almost twice as much cultivated hay crop.

Adjustments have been made in live-stock, too. There are four cows milking now for every three there were, and five hives of bees for every two there used to be. The prairies are coming nearer to being a land of "milk and honey". Bacon and eggs must be scarcer for the pig and poultry populations have been reduced by one-quarter.

There are fewer old horses but nearly twice as many young horses and colts. It may be that a good many of these are being raised to take the place of worn-out tractors, which the farmers have not money enough to replace.

The source of this information is the Quinquennial Census of the Prairie Provinces taken in June last by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 109. Sun. Jan. 17, 1937 - Better Times, Fewer Crimes.

There is no better assurance that young people will become law-abiding citizens than to see that they are kept busy. In the years from 1930 to 1933, when paying work was hardest to find, there was a pronounced increase in crime among young people between the ages of 13 and 20. These were the ages at which so many had left school but could find no work to do. Their younger brothers and sisters, still busy in school, did not have the same increase in trouble with the courts.

In the last two or three years, however, with the gradual return of better times, the amount of crime has been very definitely decreasing among young people in their later teens. Unhappily there is no decrease in the total crime for all ages, perhaps in part because it became a habit with so many of those who left school in the early 1930's.

There is an interesting point about the school records of boys who get into serious mischief, which may later become a habit of delinquency and crime. Up to the age of nine or ten the delinquent boys are more advanced in their school work than other boys, so their general level of intelligence cannot be low. But after the age of ten they apparently become more interested in trouble-making, and less interested in school. By the time they are fifteen they are a full year behind other boys at school.

This information is from the Judicial Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau.

No. 110. Mon. Jan. 18, 1937 - The Government Debt of Canadians.

Some of us, perhaps most of us, have debts. Many of us may feel that it would be easier to pay our debts, or to pay the interest on them, if we did not have to pay so much in taxes. Taxes seem to be something quite different from our debt problem, but the fact is that a very large part of them goes to pay our debts too, - the debts that we have incurred through our governments.

For every Canadian who is making money there is \$1,300 owing through his different Governments, - Dominion, Provincial and Municipal - and almost \$300 more debt of other organizations, mainly railroads, guaranteed by the governments. Nearly all of the interest on this \$1,600 for every working Canadian must be raised in taxes. Of course, there is a difference between our government debts and our personal debts, in that we expect to pay the principal of the latter in a few years (certainly within our own lifetime), whereas our children, or children's children, are expected to take partial responsibility for government debts which have been made for purposes from which they will benefit. But there is no difference about the interest; it must be paid regularly in both cases.

Most of our public debt is owing through the Dominion Government, - roughly \$1,000 per worker. Of the remaining \$600, more is owed through the municipality than through the province.

This information is based on a report just issued by the Finance Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 111. Tues. Jan. 19, 1937 - Our Coal Supply.

In most parts of Canada we have been congratulating ourselves on a long, open fall, and, so far, a comparatively mild winter. It makes the coal bill lighter, but we have to spend a good deal of money on it nevertheless. What we spend depends mainly on where we live, and it is not always those in the coldest sections who have to pay most.

We have huge quantities of coal in the Eastern and Western Provinces, but little or none in Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba. The provinces without coal are those that need most, and their distance from the Alberta and Nova Scotia mines is so great that it is generally cheaper for them to buy coal in the United States. Of all the coal used in Canada, more came from United States' mines than from our own, until the last five years. Our central provinces were using some from other countries, too, chiefly Britain.

In the last few years several changes have been taking place. We have been getting more coal from Great Britain, less from the United States, and from the two together we have not been buying quite as much as we have been using from Canadian mines. The estimated production of our mines for 1936 is fifteen million tons. The Dominion Government paid part of the freight on about two million tons of this, to help move it into the central provinces.

Last year, we bought a few hundred thousand tons from Germany and French Indo-China. This year, under the new trade agreement of 1936, we will probably buy some coal from the U.S.S.R., which we have not done since 1931. Purchases may be as high as a quarter of a million tons. Nearly all that we buy from a distance is hard coal or anthracite. Some of what we buy from the United States is also, but most of it is the softer bituminous, like the greater part of our own. The rest of ours is sub-bituminous or lignite. We have no anthracite, or almost none. It is because of its higher heating qualities that the central provinces often find it cheaper to bring anthracite all the way from Europe.

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

No. 112. Wed. Jan. 20, 1937 - Canada 1937.

Thousands of radio listeners supplement the information they receive in these broadcasts each year by obtaining a copy of the annual official handbook of Canada published by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This year's edition, entitled "Canada 1937", is being issued this week. It reviews very succinctly the progress of the last year and describes present conditions in all fields of the country's economic life. A wealth of illustrations contributes to its interest.

The frontispiece this year reproduces an official photograph of King George VI, together with the texts of the proclamation of his accession to the throne, and the Prime Minister's message on behalf of the people of Canada. There is a pictorial record of the official visit of the President of the United States to Canada, and a special section illustrating phases of our export trade, which has shown such splendid progress during the past year.

The price of the Handbook is 25 cents, a sum that covers only the cost of paper and printing. A special concession in price is made to teachers, students and clergymen. They may buy it for ten cents. Teachers are finding it valuable in the new social and economic studies that are finding place in high school courses. Many teachers encourage students to put their dimes together and get copies for everybody in one order. This is a convenient arrangement. Orders should be sent to the Government Printing Bureau, Ottawa. Postage stamps can not be accepted in payment.

No. 113. Thurs. Jan. 21, 1937 - The Fashionable Age for Marrying.

When young people ask permission to marry, parents are sometimes known to say, "Not yet, you're too young". There are probably always at least a few standing differences of opinion on the point. It may help to decide the problem to know what other people are doing, what is the customary age for marrying.

In the last few years more Canadian girls have been wedding at twenty-one, more boys at twenty-four, than at any other age, but the average is higher because more marry older than younger. The age of the average bride is twenty-three, the bridegroom twenty-six. This is a little older than in pre-depression days, but not much; and the old difference of about three years in the age of man and wife still persists.

Dan Cupid still claims his victims, of course, across most of the span of life. Each year he strikes nearly 100 boys and 300 girls in Canada under the age of eighteen; more than 100 men, and 20 to 25 women who are seventy-five or older.

Cupid strikes a second time more often in the case of women, but claims neither as often as he used to. Whether it is that experience teaches differently, or whether they just can't afford it, we don't know; but a much smaller proportion of widows and widowers are remarrying now than did ten years ago.

The source of this information is the Vital Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 114. Fri. Jan. 22, 1937 - Narcotic Drugs.

Opium, cocaine, morphine, heroin, - these are terms associated in the minds of many with the doings of the underworld. They can be great benefactors of mankind, too, as is known by the many they have relieved from pain. It is when they become a habit, and taken in excess, that they become an evil, so great that nearly all countries of the world are cooperating, through the League of Nations, in the control of their manufacture and sale.

Criminal Statistics throw light on this problem. From among the few thousand addicts in Canada a few hundred are fined, imprisoned or deported each year. The number has been very much reduced in the last ten or twelve years, however, and as there has been no lessening of vigilance on the part of authorities, this is taken to mean that good progress is being made in reducing the evil. It has at times been necessary to punish persons for growing opium poppies in Canada, but the chief problems are to restrict imports and regulate distribution, for the drugs are not made in this country. Smuggling is notoriously difficult to prevent, they are handled in such small packages.

One evidence of success in keeping them out of the country is the increased use of substitutes. A few years ago it was paregoric, but at the instigation of the Narcotics Division, Department of Pensions and National Health, a plan of control was worked out, under which purchases were cut in half between 1932 and 1934. Since 1934 it has been necessary to restrict the sale of codeine, another habit-forming drug, less powerful than morphine or heroin, but producing deplorable effects when used in excess. Imports of codeine since 1929 have been double what they were previously. An Advisory Committee of the League of Nations in 1934 found that Canada used more codeine per capita than any other country in the world.

Records of narcotic imports and court cases are published in reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 115, Sat, Jan. 23, 1937 - Accounts at the Country Store.

We understand better now just how pleased the country storekeeper is with the customer that pays his bill regularly once a month. This plan makes payments only about two weeks behind purchases; his average customer is over two months behind. At least, it would seem so, by looking at his accounts on December 31, for on that date the country storekeeper has owing to him a sum equal to more than two months of his entire year's sales, including cash sales.

The accounts at the end of December may show more outstanding than usual, by reason of the extra Christmas shopping. But it is not long after harvest time and poultry-killing time, when a good many farmers paid up bills that had been growing all summer.

The general stores with the highest proportion of farmers among their customers seem to find payments farthest behind even in December. In Prince Edward Island, where there is a higher proportion of farmers than in any other province, country store bills are four months behind. (There is an extra reason here, in that it is too early for fox farmers to have got money for pelts). New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, the most rural provinces after P.E.I., come next, with store bills of about three months unpaid.

The general storekeeper in the country town has to wait for his money for just about twice as high a proportion of his sales as other merchants, considering them all together; and for about three times as high a proportion as in the case of city department stores. So we shouldn't be surprised if he seems a little uneasy when we ask him "to charge it" or to "put it on the bill".

This information comes from the Census of Merchandising Establishments conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 116, Sun, Jan. 24, 1937 - Canadian Mining in 1936.

Increases in output of many mineral products and improved prices for several metals combined to make 1936 a record year in the mineral production of Canada. Products of Canadian mines and quarries, including metals, fuels, non-metals other than fuels, and structural materials were valued at \$360,340,000, or an average of nearly a million dollars per day for every day in the year. This is an increase of 15.4 per cent over 1935, the previous peak year.

Metal production reached an all-time high of \$256,335,000. This was an increase of 16 per cent over 1935 and 71 per cent of the value of the total mineral production of the country. Fuels, including coal, natural gas and crude petroleum, were valued at \$61,002,000, an increase of 11 per cent over last year. Non-metallic minerals, other than fuels, rose 32 per cent to \$16,533,000, and structural materials gained 15 per cent over 1935 to reach \$26,670,000.

Gold accounted for more than half the value of all metals produced, viz., \$130,329,000. Nickel production, valued at \$43,471,000, took second place,

but copper was a close third with a valuation of \$38,665,000. Lead was valued at \$14,643,000, zinc at \$10,765,000, silver at \$8,164,000, metals of the platinum group at \$7,741,000, and cobalt at \$754,000.

This information comes from a preliminary estimate of Canada's mineral production in 1936, issued by the Mining Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

No. 117. Mon. Jan. 26, 1937 - Fitting the Job to the Person.

In the modern world of specialized work it is a big problem to find the right people for different jobs as is illustrated by work in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. About 1,000 persons were temporarily added to the staff to compile the results of the last Dominion census. They were selected by the Civil Service Commission out of 8,000 applicants, by means of a written examination to test their general education and intelligence.

The best thousand out of eight thousand should not differ very widely in general ability (except for a few particularly outstanding) and yet there was a pronounced difference in the success with which they performed different kinds of work. The fastest quarter of these employees on one kind of work, for instance, did about 23 per cent more work than the slowest quarter. This particular job was the operation of a statistical machine, and as it only takes about two weeks to learn to do a full day's work on this machine, it may often pay to train new operators instead of letting those continue indefinitely who are doing only four-fifths as much work as others. They may be able to do another kind of work better, with less strain on themselves.

Those who come near the very top of the examination list are not so much of a problem. They generally do well at whatever kind of work they are given, but of course they find some kinds more to their liking than others.

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

No. 118. Tues. Jan. 26, 1937 - Our Business Interest in International Friendship.

Figures for 1936 show that our foreign trade amounted to \$150 for every person in the country. Coming at a time of international tension and unrest, they serve to remind us of our tremendous interest in the maintenance of peace and goodwill among nations. For every family in Canada something like \$300 worth of goods passed over the international boundary between our country and the United States, and another \$300 worth crossed the ocean to or from our ports. In scarcely another country of the world is there so much international trade per person or per family. Only four or five of the great powers surpass us in the total value of their trade.

Our \$600-worth of trade per family in 1936 was made up of about \$230 worth of goods that we bought in other countries, and about \$370-worth that we were selling to them. The safety of the ocean for shipping is especially important for selling our produce, because in dealing with countries other than the United States we sell just about twice as much as we buy. Among them Great Britain is, far and away our best customer, and the other British Dominions stand high; especially Australia which buys more from us than any foreign country, except the United States.

For our best foreign customers abroad we have to look across two different oceans, to Japan and Belgium, the importance of whose relations with us is indicated by the fact that both now have legations in Ottawa. France, the other overseas country with diplomatic representation here, comes third or fourth, - the amount of her purchases from us being about the same as the Netherlands'.

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

No. 119. Wed. Jan. 27, 1937 - A Dollar Goes Farther Now.

In the last few years most of us have been finding it hard to make as much money as we did in the 1920's, but there has been a consolation: when we have got a dollar lately, it has been going farther. A careful record of prices in all parts of the country shows that in the last four or five years it has been possible to buy just about as much for the family with four dollars as we used to get with five. In buying food or clothing four dollars has been worth considerably more than five used to be.

In looking at the record for 1936, however, it is possible to see signs of this happy state of affairs for the buying public coming to an end. Prices are going up all along the line. The farmer last year got more for his grain, wool, hides and furs, the miner more for his metals, the lumberman for his lumber. And as the middlemen pass along this increase, the people who ultimately use the goods will have to pay more for them.

But what is the consumer's loss is someone else's gain, and few, for instance, can begrudge the farmer more pay for his produce. The rest of us for several years have been able to indulge in righteous pity of his plight, for it was world conditions rather than anything we did, that brought down the prices of his grain. Now that world conditions have put them up again, we must cheerfully pay our share. And so with other kinds of produce, and in most of the world's countries. During the last few years the people on salary or fixed income, such as from insurance or government bonds, have most often been fortunate; now with prices rising, the primary producers and other people working on their own account, will have their turn.

The annual review, "Price Movements in 1936" has just been issued by Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 120. Thurs. Jan. 28, 1937 - Craftsmanship in Clocks.

Last week in the Bureau of Statistics we had a visit from a former fellow-employee, now superannuated. We had not seen him for more than a year, but a photograph he brought with him showed us the reason. It was the picture of a handsome grandfather clock, replete with carving and inlay work. Since we had last seen him, he had been making this clock by hand, mechanism and all, first calculating the proportions, then carving and cutting and fitting it, piece by piece. Many of the parts had to be cut over and over again before they were exact, but the completed clock keeps perfect time. It had been an exacting but absorbing piece of craftsmanship, such as its maker used to find in his more than forty years of building with statistics.

Such a feat a hundred years ago, in the days of "Sam Slick, the Clock-maker", would have been less unusual. Sam, in any case, would have been able to relate a more wondrous tale. In those days there was more of handicraft in clock-making and less of the machine.

Most of our clocks and watches nowadays are assembled in Canada from parts made in other countries. The output of plants here has as high a valuation as a million dollars in a year. The value of imported parts is more than a million, but a good proportion of these is used in repairs. We buy from other countries the better part of half a million dollars worth of complete clocks and watches. More than half of the assembled clocks come from Germany and Austria, and the rest mainly from the United States. Complete watches are practically all from Switzerland, while the parts for those assembled in Canada are mainly from the United States.

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

No. 121. Fri. Jan. 29, 1937 -- New Hybrid Apples for the Northwest.

The Dominion Department of Agriculture tells the story of the breeding it has done in order to produce a hardy apple for the great Canadian Northwest. The late Dr. William Saunders commenced the project in 1887 and a quarter of a century later he published a bulletin describing the results he had obtained. Dr. Saunders used the extremely hardy "Pyrus Baccata", the apple of which is not much larger than a good-sized pea.

The first hybrids were crosses between this apple and a number of commercial sorts. From these crosses were obtained a number of hybrids, all of crab-like characteristics, about one inch to one and one-half inches in diameter.

Later on a second lot of commercial apples was introduced from varieties like McIntosh Red, Northern Spy and Ontario. These second crosses were still very crab-like in nature but produced fruits up to two and a half inches in diameter.

From the first crosses two outstanding successes were obtained -- Osman and Columbia, without doubt the hardiest crab-apples of any commercial size growing in Canada and they appear to form a foundation stock for future development.

The third crosses have been distributed throughout the West for a hardiness test. Comparatively speaking, there is at present no commercial apple growing in the Prairie Provinces but if the new hybrids are successful the situation may be much altered in years to come.

The apple crop of the Dominion, exclusive of Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan was about 3-3/4 million barrels last year, according to a report by the Agriculture Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 122. Sat. Jan. 30, 1937 -- A Great Canadian Anniversary.

So swift has been the march of scientific progress during the lifetime of very many of the Canadian people, it is hard to realize that today marks the sixtieth anniversary of the issue of a patent in 1877 to Alexander Graham Bell for his Fundamental Telephone Receiver.

That patented Fundamental Telephone Receiver was the outgrowth of the discovery which the great telephone inventor realized, following his discovery three years earlier, at Brantford, Ontario, of the undulating current, which is the basic principle of transmission and reception by telephone.

An interesting feature of this so-called "receiver" was that it could be used both to receive and transmit messages. There are plenty of people around who will remember how the early receiver was used alternately. To listen to the message it was held to the ear and then brought in front of the speaker's lips to act as a transmitter. Some instruments were supplied with two "receivers". These were held in respective hands, one to listen with and the other to speak with. The receivers hung from a plaque on the wall, and these were the days of shouting into the phones and frequent irritating noises on the line.

Only sixty years ago today the patent was issued and now there is one telephone to every nine persons in this country according to the Transportation Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 123. Sun. Jan. 31, 1937 - Canada's Trade with Australia.

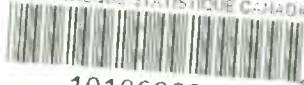
Word comes from Australia that the Honourable W. D. Euler, our Minister of Trade and Commerce, has arrived in the capital, and has begun to discuss with the Australian Government ways of increasing trade between the two Dominions. It is an event full of possibilities, for Australia's purchases from us have been increasing so fast since 1932 that she has become our best customer, next to the United Kingdom and the United States. In each of the last two years she has bought well over twenty million dollars worth of goods from us. We have been taking only about one-third as much from her, so Mr. Euler will likely find the Australians anxious to make the balance more even.

More than one-third of her purchases from us is automobiles. Newsprint comes second, lumber third. Australia's forest resources are all hardwood, and not satisfactory for all building purposes. Until recently they have been thought useless for newsprint paper, but there are plans afoot now to build a mill in Tasmania capable of supplying the Commonwealth's entire requirements. She also bought from us last year about two million dollars worth each of cotton fabrics and canned salmon. There is an idea getting abroad, however, that Australians should develop a taste for their own fish instead of ours. They have an abundance of salt water fish, and the Government has lately been taking important measures to develop the fishing industry.

More than one-third of our purchases is raisins. Currants and apricots bring the total value of dried fruits to more than three million dollars. Canned fruits are quite an item. We have been buying some wines, too and she will likely want to sell us more, for they are a chief item in her exports. Next to fruit products we buy more wool than anything else. Australia produces thirty times as much wool as we do, or more than one-fourth of the world's supply.

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

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHEQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010690828

3