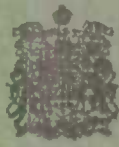


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DEPARTMENT OF  
TRADE AND COMMERCE



CANADA

**A FACT A DAY ABOUT CANADA**

**FROM THE**

**DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**AS SUPPLIED TO THE**

**CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**

**DURING FEBRUARY 1937.**

**THIRD SERIES**

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Published by Authority of the HON. W. D. EULER, M.P.,  
Minister of Trade and Commerce.

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

James Muir,  
Editor.

A Fact a Day about Canada

from the

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

No. 124. Mon. Feb. 1, 1937 - Nursing

Many have been visiting the sick today. This is the time of year there is most sickness in Canada, and the hardest time to find a nurse when needed. We have more than 20,000 trained nurses, without counting those who have left their profession to be married. In addition there are about 12,000 nurses-in-training, and they will average more than a year's experience in caring for the sick.

In the hundred years that have passed since Florence Nightingale started out to make nursing her life work, it has been raised from the status of a menial task to the level of a profession. High standards of intellectual training, as well as character, are demanded for admission. The Lady of the Lamp herself contributed more than any other person to this change, for she was not only a person of high ideals, but like so many of her followers today, a woman of profound intellectual attainments with a broad and informed interest in social problems.

Her interest, which should stand as an inspiration to nurses of today, is shown in a letter she wrote at the age of seventy to Sir Francis Galton, that great scientist between whom and herself there was mutual admiration. After telling him of some of the social problems on which she saw a need for more scientific information, she says: "What is wanted is that so high an authority as Mr. Francis Galton should jot down other great branches upon which he would wish for statistics, and some teaching how to use these statistics in order to legislate for and to administer our national life".

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

No. 125. Tues. Feb. 2, 1937 - Jobs are Fewest in Winter

This is the hardest time of the year for an unemployed man to get a job. There is some occasional work to be found such as cleaning up a cellar, shovelling snow, cutting ice, piling cordwood, but these little aids are not of much avail in the way of lessening unemployment.

However, the latest monthly figures show, fortunately, that it is not so hard this winter to get work as it has been for the last four or five; and a survey of business trends in 1936 gives reason to expect that many more of the unplaced young men of recent years will find jobs this spring. Every few days now a report on some phase of the country's economic life during the past year reveals we have been forging ahead with such momentum that nothing short of a catastrophe can prevent 1937 being a still better year.

Building and construction is the one kind of activity that has not shared in the general improvement, but it is expected that the new Home Improvement Plan, sponsored by the National Employment Commission, will add substantially to employment of this kind.

The annual report on the state of employment in Canada throughout 1936 has recently been issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce. It shows that on the whole there was an increase of just over eight per cent in the general amount of employment during the past year as compared with 1935.

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No. 126. Wed. Feb. 3, 1937 - Winter Cheer from Bogs

Whether you personally believe in the antics of that four-legged weather prophet, the ground-hog, or not, undoubtedly the thought has flashed through your mind that more fuel would likely turn to ash before Spring appears. And although most likely the source of heat in mind was coal or wood, yet some Canadians are counting the earthy blocks of peat stored in the wood-shed.

This spongy substance of vegetable origin is common to most temperate countries. However, the necessary conditions are that the soil must retain enough water near or at the surface at a sufficiently low temperature which will prevent evaporation and yet check too rapid decay. It must be warm enough to allow the growth of vegetation. The depth of the bogs vary greatly, some of those in Ireland being about 20 feet while some in England reach a depth of 40 feet.

Peat has several uses. The top layer has little value as a fuel but is suitable for the manufacture of moss litter used for agricultural and horticultural purposes and in insulating materials. The next layer is light in colour and although used for fuel is not comparable with that taken two or more feet below the surface.

Many Canadian farmers are utilizing near-by bogs as a source of fuel. The estimated production of peat for fuel alone in 1936 from bogs in Canada was 2,300 tons valued at \$10,000. There are no imports of peat as a fuel, but there was about 450 tons of peat moss imported.

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

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No. 127. Thurs. Feb. 4, 1937 -- Canada's Accounts in 1936

Every person or company handling large sums of money keeps a record of its transactions. One of the tasks of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics is to make a record each year of Canada's total dealings with other countries. People living in other countries, chiefly the United States and the United Kingdom, have in the past loaned or invested a great deal of money in Canada. Interest has to be paid, and from time to time part of the principal has to be repaid. We manage to do this by selling to other countries more goods than we buy from them, by giving them gold from our mines, and by having them come here as tourists to spend money, and so on.

In 1936 we sold about 327 million dollars worth of goods more than we bought, and we paid about 126 million dollars in gold. The expenditures of tourists in Canada were about 165 million more than Canadians spent in visiting abroad. Foreign advertising in Canada and the earnings of Canadian residents working across the international boundary netted us about two million. From all these sources combined we were about 620 million dollars to the good.

It is too soon yet to know exactly what we did with this balance, but a preliminary calculation shows that we paid about 250 million more in interest and dividends than we...

received. Freight and insurance payments took about 32 million more of it. Smaller sums, amounting altogether to about 17 million, were used up by our immigrant residents sending money home, government expenditure abroad, missionary and charitable contributions, payment for foreign magazines, motion pictures and other entertainment. After all these net payments were made we had about 300 million dollars left to pay off on the capital of our debts in other countries.

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

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No. 128. Fri. Feb. 5, 1937 - Prairie Wheat

On the Prairies in threshing time there are two questions on everybody's lips: "What's it running?" and "What are you getting for it?" In other words, "What is the yield of wheat per acre, and the grade?". In the good old days when 30 or 40 bushels to the acre was not uncommon, and No. 1 was the rule, the farmers could reply cheerfully, and in the sly hope of having a better answer than their neighbours'. Of late years there has been little of cheer in the replies, except for the grim humour of seeing whose answers were the most absurdly low.

In the 1930's there has not been a single crop as good as the average of 1925-29, and only one or two that have been anywhere near it. The last two together have not amounted to very much more than one crop in the 1920's. A year ago rust made the quality low, as well as the yield. This year with better quality as well as better prices, the prairie farmers are a little more fortunate on the whole, but in spite of the improvement it is still almost literally true to say that they had only half a crop in 1936.

As the seed is being cleaned these days for this year's crop, there must be a good many misgivings, but it is safe to say that there is still enough optimism in the West to expect that another crop like the one of 1915 will again some day be a reality, --- and who knows but this will be the year.

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

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No. 129. Sat. Feb. 6, 1937 - Canada's Trade with Bulgaria

The kingdom of Bulgaria is a Balkan country of about 40,000 square miles, almost exactly the same size as Nova Scotia and New Brunswick combined, its seaboard entirely on the Baltic. There are six million inhabitants, who may for general purposes be classed as Slavs, with the reservation that in an earlier stage they may have been Mongols. Although the national religion to which the sovereign must belong is Greek Orthodox, Bulgaria has had its own church and hierarchy since 1870. The people sided with the Central Powers in the Great War and lost much territory, including access to the Aegean Sea.

Bulgaria is largely an agricultural state and is one of the richest countries of Europe in respect of livestock. Ninety per cent of the exports are derived from cattle breeding and crop raising. The valleys are famous for their flower gardens, like all Balkan valleys, and the preparation of otto of roses is a Bulgarian monopoly so far as Europe is concerned. Bulgarian otto is said to surpass in fragrance

and strength that of Persia and India.

Canada's trade with Bulgaria is more or less indirect. That is, most of the commodities we send and receive go and come via other countries. The only direct import of any importance is cheese of a variety which some people like particularly well. We got six thousand pounds of it last year. Our main exports are rubber tires.

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

No. 130. Sun. Feb. 7, 1937. - Eucalyptus Oil

A cold in the head is almost the style at this time of year. An old fashioned means of relieving it, and one that is still used a good deal, is to put a few drops of eucalyptus oil on one's handkerchief, and sniff it occasionally. To persons whose sense of smell is not impaired by a cold, the odour is apt to be disagreeably strong, and consideration for their sensibilities may sometimes be a reason for using something else.

Another substance sometimes used for a similar purpose is camphor. Eucalyptus oil and camphor have something in common about their origin too. Although now made synthetically, camphor has in the past come almost entirely from Japan. It is extracted from the wood of a Japanese tree. Eucalyptus oil is from Australia. About 90 per cent of Australia's forests are eucalyptus trees. There are 400 different varieties. The oil is distilled from the leaves of these trees. About \$200,000 worth is exported in a year, and large quantities are used by the Australian mining industry.

In Canada we usually buy from fifteen to twenty thousand pounds in a year. Much of it goes into patent or proprietary remedies. Our importers pay the Australians about 25 cents a pound for it, but it costs more when bought in small quantities at the drug store.

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

No. 131. Mon. Feb. 8, 1937 - Petroleum

Petroleum is one of the great sources of power in the world of the 20th century. A generation or two ago it was valued chiefly for the kerosene we got from it for our coal oil lamps, but in the more recent years of motor power, kerosene has become a consideration quite secondary to the production of gasoline and lubricating oils.

Canada produces some petroleum in the Turner Valley and other sections of Alberta, and smaller amounts in Ontario, New Brunswick and the Northwest Territories. In fact we produce about one and a half million barrels in a year, but this is only one for every 20 or 25 barrels we use. We buy the greater part of the rest from the United States, but we also get more from each of Columbia, Peru and Venezuela than we produce ourselves. It comes to some forty refineries spread across the country, where the gasoline and other products are extracted.

The United States is the source of about two-thirds of all the petroleum produced in the world. Their daily average production reaches the enormous total of three million barrels, -- as much as we produce in two years.

The next greatest producers are Russia with half a million barrels a day, and Venezuela with almost as much. After these come Rumania, Iran, the Netherlands East Indies and Mexico with more than 100,000 barrels apiece. Beside these our Canadian 4,000 barrels sounds small, yet we rank well among Empire countries. The British Empire is notably deficient in petroleum sources, the leading producers being Trinidad with 30,000 barrels, India with 25,000, and Canada third. Several new Alberta wells were brought into production in 1936.

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

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No. 132. Tues. Feb. 9, 1937. Seed Potatoes

The spring seed catalogue is a source of joy to the average person. Whether your planting extends over acres or is confined to three flower-pots, the thrill of selecting new seed is not one to be passed over lightly. Among the interesting features in recent catalogues is the sale of potato eyes rather than the whole potato for seed.

Seed potatoes are given special attention from the time of planting until harvesting and Canadian seed is in great demand. Of the 20,083 acres entered for certification in 1936, 16,739 passed field inspection. There were about three million bushels of certified seed potatoes produced in 1936. Of this amount the exports up to December 31 were over one million bushels.

Normally Canada supplies around 93 per cent of the seed potatoes planted in Cuba and some very interesting points come to light in the regulations regarding this trade with Cuba. The seed is duty free while edible potatoes are not. To prevent the chance of the duty-free potatoes becoming used instead of the heavy-tariffed edible ones for food, a deposit equal to the duty on edible potatoes is required of the purchaser. The seed is kept track of until the authorities are certain of its use. Then the duty deposit is returned. It is estimated that Cuba will require over four hundred thousand bushels for the 1936-37 planting season.

The 1936 potato crop in Argentina was almost a complete failure and this opened up a comparatively new market for Canadian seed. By October 31, approximately 120,000 bushels had been exported to Argentina and Uruguay.

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

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No. 133. Wed. Feb. 10, 1937. Rubber

There are few articles of commerce that bring Canada into touch with more countries than rubber. We produce no raw rubber ourselves, our climate being too rigorous for the rubber trees, but strangely enough it is in selling rubber products made in Canada, rather than in buying rubber, that we have dealings with so many countries.

We used to buy nearly all our rubber through the United States, but in the last two years most of it has been coming to us direct from the Straits Settlements. There was an increase of about 50 per cent in price during the year 1936.

Our factories use some eighty million pounds of rubber and gutta percha in a year. About half of the value of their output is in automobile tires and tubes, about one-third in rubber footwear, and the remainder includes a very long list of products, chief among which are belting and hose. The annual value of rubber products made in our factories has only twice been below fifty million dollars in the last twelve years. About three-fourths of these rubber goods are for our own use, the other fourth finding its way to almost every corner of the globe. Tires alone went to more than a hundred countries.

The foregoing comes from the Manufactures and External Trade Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

#### No. 134. Thurs. Feb. 11, 1937 - Infants' Deaths

Out of every thousand children born in Canada, thirty five die before they are one month old, and as many more before they reach the age of one year. This is the record at the present time. A few years ago it was much worse, and it is gradually improving, but it is still not a record of which we can be entirely proud in comparison with other countries.

There are countries where the record is much worse, even two or three times as bad, but there are many where it is much better. It is better in the British Isles, in the other British Dominions, in the Scandinavian countries, in Holland and Switzerland. While we lose seventy babies out of every thousand, New Zealand loses only thirty and Australia forty. British Columbia's record is the best of any Canadian province, being almost as good as Australia's. The New Zealand record is one at which all provinces are doubtlessly aiming through the spread of scientific knowledge to mothers and others responsible for the babies' welfare.

Years ago the baby death rate used to be particularly high in large cities where dangers of contagion and infection were greatest. This is no longer the case. In Montreal and Toronto, the rates are about the same as for the provinces in which they are situated, while the Winnipeg and Vancouver rates are substantially lower than the provincial.

The foregoing information is taken from reports published by the Vital Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

#### No. 135. Fri. Feb. 12, 1937 - Breakfast Foods

Canadians of the year 1937 have a very wide choice in their breakfast foods. They may have them made from wheat, corn, oats, rice, soy bean, rye, flax and perhaps other grains. The foods may be bought uncooked, partially cooked, or cooked and ready to serve. If the first, they may be rolled, cracked or ground; if the last they may be unsweetened or partially sweetened, and may be flaked, shredded, puffed, crumbled or otherwise prepared.

Rolled oats which became popular a quarter of a century or more ago and took the place largely of old fashioned oatmeal, still seems to retain more devotees than any...



of the others. It is difficult to say how much wheat is cooked for porridge, any farmer with a crusher can prepare it at home; and it is hard to say how much corn meal goes into mush, but it seems likely that most of the rolled oats is meant for the breakfast table, and we use something like 80 million pounds of it in a year, as compared with some 30 million pounds of prepared breakfast foods of all kinds. Price may often be a factor in determining choice, for the prepared foods on the average, cost three or four times as much as oats per pound. Measured by dollars, we eat more of the prepared foods than oats.

We sell a good deal of both kinds to the United Kingdom but the records do not tell us whether the oats are all for Scotland. Habits have probably changed since Dr. Johnson described oats as a food for horses in England, for men in Scotland, to which the reply was where can you find such horses and where can you find such men.

The above information comes from the Manufactures and External Trade Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

#### No. 136. Sat. Feb. 13, 1937 - Canadian Money Abroad

The majority of Canadian people probably have never left the North American continent. But that does not mean that their minds have not travelled to the mysterious East or to tropical jungles. One of the questions which escapes in imaginative travel is "How much is our money worth in that country?" In answering that one, let us use the nearest equivalent.

Should you go to Austria, the unit of currency is the 'schilling' which is worth about 19 cents in our money. A visit to the land of the latest royal romance would bring you in contact with the Dutch 'guilder' which is valued at about 55 cents. Mussolini would give you one 'lira' for your five-cent piece.

Some currencies are of the same name in different countries but have different values. For instance, a French 'franc' is about 5 cents while a Swiss 'franc' is nearly 23 cents. A 'krone' in Denmark is nearly 22 cents, in Norway nearer 25 cents and in Sweden is changed slightly to 'krona' and is worth slightly over 25 cents.

In Belgium the 'belga' is worth 17 cents; the 'rupee' of India 37 cents and the 'yen' of Japan is valued at 29 cents. The familiar English term 'pound' in Great Britain is approximately \$4.90, about the same in Jamaica and South Africa, but \$3.92 in Australia and \$3.95 in New Zealand. Egypt uses the unit 'pound' which is 100 piastres in her money and \$5.02 in Canadian.

Just where the 28,000 Canadian tourists who went to overseas countries last year spent their money we do not know. The amount they spent was 16½ million dollars, all of which they must have exchanged into foreign currency, probably with the result of a few headaches.

The foregoing information is taken from a report on the Tourist Trade and the latest publication on exchange issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 137. Sun. Feb. 14, 1937 - Pianos

One of the signs of better times in 1936 was the number of families who felt able to brighten up their homes with a new piano. More did it than had done for several years.

Many families who had bought pianos in 1928 or 1929, found their income reduced or stopped entirely in 1930, and were obliged to discontinue payments. Others whose payments were completed -- many who were strongly attached to their pianos through years of ownership and use -- found it necessary to dispose of them before going on relief. The result was an unusually large number of second-hand pianos on the market for several years, and few were demanded new from the factories. This surplus of distress merchandise is now very greatly reduced, and the situation is much improved.

Figures for 1936 are not yet available, but the output of new pianos is greatly increased, running again into the thousands, and employment figures have naturally shown a decided improvement. 1937 is looked forward to very optimistically by all piano manufacturers.

This information is based on reports issued by the General Manufactures Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 138. Mon. Feb. 15, 1937 - World Trade in Wheat

In recent years our wheat crop has had its ups and downs, but a survey of world trade in wheat during the last ten years shows that Canada has remained the greatest source of supply for countries that do not grow enough for themselves. In the five years from 1926 to 1930 our yearly exports averaged about 258 million bushels, Argentina's 150 million, and the United States 116 million. In the more recent five years, our annual average has been reduced to 190 million bushels, our closest competitor's, the Argentine's, slightly reduced to 144 million, and the United States so far reduced that Australia has taken third place from her with 101 million. The two British Dominions together have been supplying almost exactly half of all the international demand for wheat in the last five years.

The greatest buyer of wheat is the United Kingdom and, fortunately for us, her demand has remained steady over the whole ten years -- has even increased. So has it in the Irish Free State, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland and China. The situation is very different with Germany and Italy. Next to Great Britain they used to be the world's largest buyers, each taking about 80 million bushels annually, but they have cultivated self-sufficiency to such a degree that in the last five years they have averaged only about one-third as much, -- in 1935 less than one-tenth as much.

This information has been taken from a survey just issued by the Agriculture Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 139. Tues. Feb. 16, 1937 - British Columbians

The thoughts of the Canadian radio audience tonight are directed westward. The opening of a new broadcasting station in Vancouver marks another step ahead in the fastest-growing province of Canada. In the ten years preceding the last census the....

population of British Columbia increased by nearly one-third, an amount easily sufficient to win the laurel for speed from the Prairie Provinces, where it has been held so long.

This outstanding rate of growth produces some distinctive characteristics in the radio audience of the coastal province. It is by immigration rather than births that the increase has taken place. There are proportionately fewer children and a lower birth-rate than in any other part of Canada, but British Columbians take good care of their children and young people. They have much the lowest infantile death rate of any province, and the only provincial system of recreational and physical education for young people in Canada.

Only one-third of the province's people are British Columbians by birth, the other two-thirds by adoption. Over one-fourth were born in the British Isles; this is more than have gone to British Columbia from the other Canadian provinces; and the latter in turn are more numerous than people from foreign countries. An outstanding feature of British Columbia's European-born population is the number from the Scandinavian countries.

Another characteristic of the foreign-born is the relatively large number from China and Japan. More than half of the Chinese in Canada are in British Columbia, and nearly all of the Japanese. The two Asiatic races together constitute about one in fourteen of the province's population.

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

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No. 140. Wed. Feb. 17, 1937 -- Stock Prices

Mark Twain reports the following from Pudd'nhead Wilson's Calendar for October: "This is one of the peculiarly dangerous months to speculate in stocks. The others are July, January, September, April, November, May, March, June, December, August and February". As we are now in the last-mentioned of these twelve dangerous months, it may be as good a time as any to look at trends in the market.

Stocks of nearly every kind are higher in 1937 than they were at this time a year ago. Several groups have risen more than 25 per cent; these included the stocks of base metal mines, pulp and paper companies, machinery making and flour-milling concerns, transportation and power companies. Industrial stocks of all kinds were about 15 per cent higher last week than a year ago, public utilities about 30 per cent higher.

If we make a long-term comparison with the pre-depression days of ten years ago, we find that stocks of different kinds have had a wide variety of experience. Pulp and paper and transportation stocks are selling for only about one-third now of what they were then. Some kinds have changed little, while others are four times as high, and the whole industrial group twice as high. It must have been some such variety of changes as this, rather than a general upward movement like that of the last year, which led Pudd'nhead Wilson to record his remark.

The material for this broadcast came from the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 141. Thurs. Feb. 18, 1937 - The Cost of Going to Hospital

The average Canadian is a hospital patient about once in sixteen years. The married man with two children must have a hospital bill to pay about once every four years, and since the average stay in hospital is about three weeks, it is a sizeable item of expense, without counting doctor's fees and medicine bills.

A place in a public ward costs about two dollars a day; a semi-private room costs a little under three dollars a day, and a private room costs five dollars. These are average prices for the country as a whole; provincial averages range from \$1.50 to \$6.00. A trip to the operating room costs eight dollars.

The hospitals report that it costs them considerably more than three dollars a day to keep a patient, — namely, some forty cents more than they charge their patients in semi-private rooms. So this business of caring for the sick can hardly be considered a money-making proposition. There is further evidence to this effect in the fact that during the depression years when other costs of living dropped substantially there was very little change in the cost of going to hospital. Apparently the hospitals could not afford to reduce their rates.

The foregoing is taken from a report issued by the Internal Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 142. Fri. Feb. 19, 1937 - Broom Corn

Why witches used brooms particularly for midnight flights is probably unknown but there is no question as to the use to which the Canadian housewife puts that important article. Present a woman with a shiny, new broom and watch the dust fly.

Brooms originally were just bunches of broom, a beautiful shrub which grows wild in the British Isles, particularly in Scotland. It has lovely yellow flowers. The slender twigs were bound together for coarse sweeping. Heather besoms were made for a similar purpose. The material used today is chiefly broom corn, a species belonging to the same family as the corn we use for food or fodder. The production of this broom corn is rapidly becoming a thriving industry in Western Ontario. The 1936 crop in the Chatham district was estimated at about one million pounds.

Although the raw material is being produced in Canada, large shipments come from the United States and some from Hungary and the Argentine. Before the bales are allowed into the country they must be sterilized for the destruction of any possible insects or pests concealed in the fibres. Until last year all imports were routed either to the port of New York or Boston for sterilizing with steam. Now there is an inspection station in Montreal for the treating of the imports. In this plant, series of experiments are being carried on to replace the steam sterilization process.

The manufacturers of brooms and brushes in Canada use about five million pounds of raw broom corn and 800,000 pounds of broom fibre annually. Last year we imported over \$321,000 worth. This amount was \$47,000 less than the imports of the previous year.

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

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No. 143. Sat. Feb. 20, 1937 - Cod Liver Oil

During the spring months, anxious mothers are chasing their offspring about, and occasionally Dad, with a bottle and spoon. Not so long ago the dose may have been sulphur and molasses, at the present time it is more likely to be vitamin A or D prepared in a palatable preparation, or better still, a capsule. One swallow and there is the equivalent of four or five teaspoonfuls of cod liver oil neatly deposited where it will do the most good.

The cod is a cold water fish which appears annually in enormous shoals off the coasts of northern countries. As early as the 17th century, "trayne oyle" or cod liver oil was shipped in considerable quantities from Newfoundland to English ports. Although its use was for technical purposes chiefly, it was known that several Arctic races used it for food. It was not until the beginning of this century that the vitamin content was discovered.

The early method of extracting the oil was to expose the livers to the atmosphere and let them rot. The action of decay destroyed the cell walls of the liver, freeing the oil. The oil so produced was brown, dirty and decidedly disagreeable, both as to taste and smell.

The process is very different today. As soon as the fish is caught the liver is extracted, washed and examined. Every effort is made to extract the oil immediately and for this reason some of the trawlers carry equipment to render the oil while they are still at sea. Fish caught inshore are rushed to the collecting stations to be treated. The oil is extracted by steam cooking which breaks down the cell structure freeing the pale or light yellow oil which has only a slightly, fishy smell.

Canada produced 61,000 gallons of medicinal cod liver oil in 1935 valued at \$33,000. The exports of cod liver oil amounted to about 10,000 gallons valued at \$7,000 and the imports to 330,000 gallons at \$229,000.

This information is based on figures from the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 144. Sun. Feb. 21, 1937 - Education Week

The school teachers of Canada, through their Federations, are asking that the week which begins today be observed as Education Week. They invite everyone during this week to give special attention to the problems of the schools. Their problems are many, and not all the result of depression, for their task has steadily grown and changed.

The Canadian child of today spends ten years in school. Nearly one-quarter of our entire population find their chief pursuit in the schools from day to day. In a real sense schooling could be called the biggest "business" in Canada. But schooling is a much more complex undertaking than any business or industry. Each school has a different task, each child is a different problem, for the first principle on which a democracy insists is the value of individual lives. It does not expect the same from all, but the best from each, and it depends on its parents and teachers to see that the best in each young life is developed. The two may well take a week to think together on their problems in a special way.

For every seven dollars that parents spend on their children at home, one dollar is spent on them in the schools, and the teachers like to feel that they have an....

interest more than proportionate to this in the welfare of the children. The coming week is the time to talk over these common interests.

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

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No. 145. Mon. Feb. 22, 1937 - Motion Pictures

Motion pictures for Canadians have come to be just about as much of a necessity as the other things on which we spend our money. During the first three depression years, when things were on the down grade, our expenditure for motion pictures dropped just a little over 35 per cent, and almost exactly the same percentage decrease took place in our total purchases from retail stores of all kinds. Since 1933, when our expenditure for everything has been increasing again, our movie spending has risen in much the same proportion as the rest.

There are nearly 900 motion picture theatres in Canada, with a combined seating capacity of more than half a million. Each seat is occupied between four and five times a week on the average. The yearly attendance is equal to about a dozen shows for everybody old enough to go to the movies.

There is a charming story from the far North of an Eskimo boy ringing a cow bell and turning himself proudly so that all could read the legend emblazoned on his sandwich boards:

Motion Pictures Today  
Admission One Fish

These fish are later sold by the trader to dog drivers for cash. The traders bring the pictures.

Canadians are slower than the people of some other countries in using motion pictures outside of theatres, though we now have a National Film Society to encourage such uses. Motion pictures are coming to be an important means of instruction in the schools of many countries. The German Government has recently distributed 7,700 projectors and 32,000 films among German schools. The Nova Scotia Department of Education is acquiring a library of films for use in schools, and the Extension Department of the University of Alberta, but they seem to be the only provinces doing so, as yet. This being Education Week, school motion pictures will likely be a topic of discussion in many Canadian communities during the next few days.

This information is from the Internal Trade and Education Branches of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 146. Tues. Feb. 23, 1937 - Street Cars

The year 1937 is the 50th anniversary of the street car as we know it today, -- namely, the electric trolley car. It is so thoroughly taken for granted by city people nowadays, we have trouble in realizing that it is younger than many of those who ride on it. In some countries where electric power is cheap, it has been brought into use for main-line, cross-country railroads, but in Canada its use is practically confined to cities and their suburbs.

There are 40 different electric railways in Canada, and they carry 600 million paying passengers in a year. Counting the free rides, it means an average of something like 150 street car trips in a year for everybody in the cities where they operate. These figures include rides on the buses operated by the street railway companies, an increasingly important part of their service in the last ten years, but even so, it is plain that the street car remains the chief means of conveyance for a great many Canadians. The drop in passengers during depression years was about 30 per cent but since 1933 the number has been going up again. There are about 1,800 miles of track in use now, where there used to be 2,200.

There is a great deal of truth in the saying "The safest place is on the street car" for a fatal accident to a passenger is a rare event compared with street accidents while walking or motoring. Some years there is not one in the whole of Canada.

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

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No. 147. Wed. Feb. 24, 1937 - Fur Farms

Scarcely a week, or even a day, passes now but that we are reminded of some of the broad implications of the forthcoming coronation. One of these has to do with the demand for Canadian furs; from the days of New France they have held such reputation as to be in great demand on state occasions. Since the date of the last coronation, Canadian enterprise has put at the ladies' choice another handsome fur in quantities, -- the silver fox.

Well over 100,000 silver pelts are now provided from Canadian fur farms in a year. Prince Edward Island, the original home of the industry, still produces most in proportion to its size, but Quebec and Ontario actually have more foxes, while New Brunswick, Manitoba and Alberta have almost as many, and the other provinces about half as many. In short, fox farming has become a national industry. The next few weeks are an anxious time for the fox farmers, for it is the time that this year's puppies begin to appear on the scene; they and their mothers must have every care and consideration if the little ones are to be raised to maturity.

The raising of mink on farms has come to be quite an established business too. Last year over 30,000 pelts were sold from farms. Mink, like ermine, has always been a favourite with the ladies, but the raising of them in captivity is comparatively new. Several other kinds of fur-bearers are being experimented with by Canadian fur farmers, including the fitch from Russia, and nutria, but nothing yet compares in number with the fox and mink.

This information is taken from a report just issued by the Fur Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 148. Thurs. Feb. 25, 1937 - Regional Libraries

Last Monday night the President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation invited everybody interested in the schools to visit them this week. It is not unlikely that many parents, on accepting the invitation, have found a good many dog-eared and dilapidated books in the school library. Some may even have found that there was no library at all. While wondering how to remedy the situation they may be

interested to hear of some special plans that have been devised for this purpose, -- plans which at the same time provide reading for the parents.

In the Fraser Valley of British Columbia, 42,000 people scattered over a length of 100 miles have joined together to provide themselves with library service, schools and all. A book van travels about the area, distributing its cargo of reading material at 133 different points. The municipalities included assess themselves 35 cents per person for the service. The plan has worked out so well that the Okanagan Valley and Vancouver Island are organizing in the same way.

In Prince Edward Island, a province-wide library system provides free library service for everybody, including the schools that wish to join in the scheme. The plan has now been in operation nearly four years, and five or six times as many books are distributed as used to be before it was started.

In Ontario there is a county movement on foot for public libraries and schools to collaborate in the purchase and exchange of books. Lambton and Middlesex counties have been the leaders in the movement. In Nova Scotia the Department of Education has a plan for providing adult reading through the schools.

All of these plans have one thing in common: they treat the book question, in school and out, as a single problem, and this is what modern library schemes in other countries are doing.

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

No. 149. Fri. Feb. 26, 1937 - The Power Age

The development of mechanical power as an aid to man has been one of the distinguishing characteristics of the twentieth century. The beginnings of the modern power age are back as far as James Watt and his steam engine, but the nineteenth century added a continuous series of discoveries and inventions which made possible the enormous use we are now making of gasoline, oil and electric power, as well as steam.

Western countries have several times as much mechanical horsepower working for them as they have manpower. In the United States, which is generally considered to be the world's most highly mechanized country, there are estimated to be five or six horsepower for every person in the population.

In Canada and Great Britain it is more like four horsepower per person. If we adopt the ratio of six men to one horsepower, then there must be something like twenty-five mechanical manpower available for every man, woman and child in the population, -- surely an amazing contrast with a century or so ago when men had to rely on their own strength, and that of their horses and oxen.

Much the greater part of all this potential power is for transportation purposes; it is in our more than a million motor vehicles and our thousands of steam locomotives and ships. Part of our eight million electrical horsepower is used for transportation too, but most of it goes into our mines, our manufacturing plants, and our homes. Besides electric power, our factories use another million and a half horsepower from steam, gas, oil and waterwheels. Then there are the tractors and stationary engines on our farms, each another reason in itself for calling this the...



age of mechanical power.

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

No. 150. Sat. Feb. 27, 1937 - Prairie City People Moving

In a recent daily fact we told something of what the 1936 census showed about farmers moving northward on the prairie in the last five years. Further figures this week show that city people have been moving too. Winnipeg is fairly representative of the larger cities in this respect.

In the five years Winnipeg's population decreased 2,971, but this is only the net difference between several interesting increases and decreases. The Manitoba-born Winnipeggers increased 10,901, or the very substantial percentage of 11.8; Winnipeg residents from all four western provinces increased by 12.4 per cent. Those born in the eastern provinces and in other countries decreased by 15,171, or over 12 per cent, and not more than half of this decrease could have resulted from deaths. Large numbers must have returned to Eastern Canada and elsewhere. The heaviest decrease, amounting to more than 6,000, was in those born in the British Isles, but the drop was also large enough in the case of continental Europeans to represent a considerable exodus.

The net result was that 47.9 per cent of Winnipeg's people were Manitoba-born in 1936, as compared with 42.3 per cent in 1931. One could say that Winnipeg has become decidedly more of a Westerners' city.

This information is taken from a report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on the Census of the Prairie Provinces.

No. 151. Sun. Feb. 28, 1937 - Pharmacy

With the great advances of scientific knowledge in the modern world, professions have become more and more specialized. It is really not so very long ago, viewed in the light of history, that the barber and the doctor were one and the same person, and it is indeed only recently that the doctor divided his work with the druggist. Today there are more than 3,500 drug stores in Canada, some of them with several graduate druggists.

To become a qualified druggist nowadays requires a long period of schooling, apprenticeship and college. First must come matriculation (honour matriculation in some provinces), then three years of apprenticeship during which there has to be private study and examination, and finally two years of college. The Ontario College of Pharmacy, the first in Canada and still the largest, commenced teaching in 1882. Ten years later it was affiliated with the University of Toronto, and now in every province except Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and British Columbia there is a university Faculty of Pharmacy. In Quebec there are two. Altogether they graduate between 150 and 200 new druggists each year -- eight or ten girls among them.

During the past week many of us have heard radio lectures or read articles in connection with the campaign to make the public aware of the danger of narcotic drugs. They serve to remind us that not only high educational qualifications but high ethical standards are required by a nation of its dispensers of poisons and habit-forming drugs. Both standards are zealously guarded in each province by a professional organization of druggists. In the larger cities there are also local associations, with which professional ethics are a first consideration.

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





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