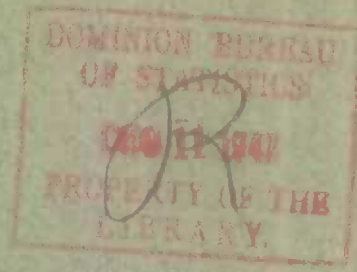


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DEPARTMENT OF  
TRADE AND COMMERCE



CANADA

**A FACT A DAY ABOUT CANADA**

**FROM THE**

**DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS**

**AS SUPPLIED TO THE**

**CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**

**DURING APRIL 1937.**

**THIRD SERIES**

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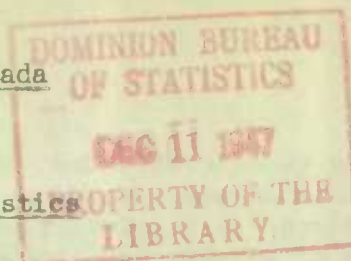
Note:- A Fact a Day is broadcast over the Corporation's network immediately after the Canadian Press News broadcast.

James Muir,  
Editor.

A Fact a Day about Canada

from the

Dominion Bureau of Statistics



No. 183. Thurs. April 1, 1937 - A Marvellous Machine.

There are few industries in which machinery plays so important a part as in the manufacture of pulp and paper. The Fourdrinier machine on which most paper is made is almost a complete factory in itself. Wood pulp mixed with water to the consistency of thin soup is sprayed on a moving belt of bronze mesh at one end of the machine and by progressive screening, pressing and heating this thin film of pulp is converted into a sheet of dry paper at the other. The entire process takes only a few seconds. This enormous piece of machinery, costs over half a million dollars. It may be 300 feet in length, 15 feet in height, and 25 feet wide. It may weigh over 400 tons and can produce a continuous sheet of paper over 20 feet wide at the rate of 1200 feet a minute as long as it is in operation.

To the uninitiated observer the paper machine seems to be operating almost as if by magic. Only three or four men are to be seen taking the finished rolls from one end of the machine but the thousands of moving parts of this mechanical monster are under the constant supervision of the paper-maker and his assistants. However the entire machine can be operated by a staff of only six men.

The preparation of the pulp necessary to fill the maw of the paper machine involves a higher percentage of human labor but here also many improvements have been made in recent years. In the preparation of groundwood pulp, continuous grinders have largely taken the place of older types of pocket machines into which pulpwood had to be fed in batches, by hand. Until now, all the chemical pulp had to be cooked in huge digesters, a batch at a time. The latest development in this progressive industry is the continuous digester. The chipped wood is fed continuously into one end of the long metal cylinder containing this equipment and the cooked pulp comes out of the other as long as the machine is in operation. It would seem that in time the entire process from raw pulpwood to finished paper might be carried on continuously and mechanically.

At the present time the pulp and paper industry in Canada gives employment to over 27,000 men who produce paper products valued at over \$162,000,000, an average of over \$5,800 per employee every year, according to the Forestry Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce

No. 184. Friday, April 2, 1937 - The Coronation Stone.

Stones and gems are prominent in our minds as the Coronation approaches but most prominent of all is the Stone of Destiny, on which the sovereign will be crowned.

The Stone of Destiny is only an oblong block of sandstone, but it is the most ancient and hallowed possession of the British race. It carried us back to Jacob in Palestine fleeing from his brother's wrath, 3,600 years ago. Weary and worn he lighted upon a place where his grandfather Abraham had built an altar. Taking one of the stones for a pillow he slept and dreamed of angels ascending and descending a ladder which reached to Heaven.

Later he entrusted that precious relic to Joseph, and the Israelites carried it with them on their way from Egypt to the Promised Land. Centuries later it found a corner in the Temple which Solomon built and it remained there until the captivity of Judah. Nebuchadnezzar took it away to Babylon. Jeremiah rescued the Stone of Destiny. He, along with the Princesses and a faithful few, departed for Spain where Dan, a brother of Joseph, had founded a colony in what is now Valencia.

The prophet and the Princess Royal, heiress to the throne of Israel, did not stay long there but travelled north to Erin. The Princess married Eochaid, the high king of Erin, and both were crowned on the Stone of Destiny at Tara. From that union there sprang a long line of Irish, Scottish and English sovereigns. Jeremiah was buried near Enniskillen. The religion of the Hebrews had become the religion of the country.

Nearly one thousand years later Fergus MacEarca founded the Kingdom of Argyll and sent for the Stone on which he was crowned at Iona. St. Columba died with his head pillowed upon it. The Stone remained in Scotland until Edward I of England removed it from Scone (see foot note) to Westminster. These are the traditions and records.

It may seem a far cry from ancient Egypt, but it is the fact that sandstone, similar to that of the Stone of Destiny, is quarried in several Canadian provinces. It is used for building and for making abrasives. In some years the production is about one million tons, according to the Mining Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

Note: Scone is pronounced Skoon.

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No. 185. Sat. April 3, 1937 - Conserving Bird Life.

The economic value of native wild birds as a natural resource in North America actually runs into millions of dollars annually, but unfortunately too few persons fully realize the beneficial effects of wild birds in controlling the legions of insect pests and in destroying tons of noxious weed seeds of many kinds which they consume to the direct benefit of the agriculturist. Also, wild game birds are of value, not only as a natural food supply, but also as an object of sport. Sportsmen spend many thousands of dollars throughout Canada with business concerns dealing in hunting equipment and supplies and with transportation companies.

Native wild birds afford an important natural resource of great economic value, and their conservation is essential if this resource is to continue. As an aid toward the conservation of wild birds, it is necessary that certain exact data concerning their migration and general life history be available. The only satisfactory way in which much of the required information can be obtained is by marking the birds with numbered leg bands.

Because the birds are international, bird banding in North America must be international in scope. It is being administered in full cooperation by the National Parks Bureau, Ottawa, and the United States Bureau of Biological Survey at Washington, D.C.

Since 1920, over two million wild birds have been banded in North America. If a wild bird wearing a numbered metal leg band comes to your attention, you can assist the Canadian Government in studying wild bird-life by reporting the number on the

band, the date on which the bird was taken, and the manner and locality in which it was taken. Your report should be sent to the National Parks Bureau, Ottawa, which will in turn advise you as to the kind of bird, and tell you when, where, and by whom it was banded.

This information comes to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics from the Department of Mines and Natural Resources.

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No. 186. Sun. April 4, 1937 - Birth Stones.

The four most precious species of the gem stones -- they will be much in evidence at the Coronation -- are diamonds, rubies, emeralds and sapphires, but there are many others which have a strong appeal to people.

Birthstones are popular. The story which occurs in the Book of Revelations, where the order in which the twelve foundation stones of the Holy City of Jerusalem is recorded, is supposed to have determined the order of birthstones. The names of these birthstones differ slightly but the earliest ones were based upon the foundation stones or upon the gems of high priest Aaron's breastplate.

The breastplate was set with twelve gems, each engraved with the sign of one of the twelve tribes of Israel. Superstitions concerning these twelve stones have persisted to the present day, especially in the wearing of birthstones. Josephus mentions the connection between Aaron's breastplate and the months of the year.

The following are the birthstones commonly used in this country: January, garnet; February, amethyst; March, bloodstone or aquamarine; April, diamond; May, emerald; June pearl or moonstone; July, ruby; August, sardonyx or peridot; September, sapphire; October, opal or tourmaline; November, topaz; December, turquoise. The pearl is not really a stone but it is in the front rank of gems.

Imports of precious stones and imitations, exclusive of diamonds and pearls, of which there will be something said later, were valued at about one-quarter of a million dollars last year, according to the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 187. Mon. April 5, 1937 - Sweet Potatoes.

A favorite dish with many people, especially those who have acquired a taste for it while on their travels in tropical countries, is the sweet potato, variously named in various places. It is a perennial herb with a long slender stem which sometimes climbs by twining. It forms underground a large spindle-shaped tube as a reservoir of starchy and sweet tasting matter.

The sweet potatoes we import are not very large as a rule but, as usually cultivated, these tubers ordinarily weight from two pounds to twelve pounds each; however, by being left in the ground for a few years they may grow to thirty pounds or even more. The herb is a native probably of South America but is grown extensively as a food crop in most warm countries.

The name potato is a corruption of batatas, the native name of the sweet potato. The latter was known in Europe at an earlier date than the common potato and the two

plants were often confused. These sweet potatoes are often called yams in the West Indies and South America.

We imported 50,000 cwt. of sweet potatoes last year, mainly from the United States, but we get supplies also from the West Indian Islands and British Guiana, and occasionally some from Hong Kong, according to the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 188. Tues. April 6, 1937 - A Service to the Public.

One of the most gratifying trends in Canadian domestic life is the steady decrease in the infantile and maternal death rate, and one of the organizations which has helped largely to bring this about is the Victorian Order of Nurses.

The Victorian Order was founded in 1897 by a Government House Lady, Ishbel, Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair. She raised a fund by appeal throughout Canada to inaugurate a National Service of Nursing in the Home as a commemoration of the great Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Nursing Homes were established in various cities with local branches throughout the Dominion.

The Countess of Minto, recognizing the success of five hospitals established by the Order, raised a further fund to build and equip 44 similar hospitals in the North West. Eventually all were absorbed by local authorities and that phase of the work of the Order terminated. With the coming of official public health nursing organizations and municipal hospitals, the Victorian Order concentrated its efforts on work through the medium of branches established in the more closely populated centres.

The nurses of the Order have played a noble part in emergencies. Four of them endured the hardships of the Klondyke Trail and stayed there three years; 52 enlisted in the first year of the Great War. The military authorities placed all district nursing work in the hands of the Order on the occasion of the Halifax disaster in 1917 when a munition ship blew up, causing 1800 deaths and nearly 3,000 casualties.

Today the Order has 78 local branches across Canada, with 343 highly trained registered nurses whose services are directed by a physician. But in many parts of Canada there is no organized home nursing service and many people who urgently need skilled nursing care are not being served. To extend the service an appeal is being made to the public for funds.

The Order treated 85,000 patients last year to whom 751,000 visits were paid, most of them free, 405,000 being for maternity and infant welfare calls, according to the records of the Institutional Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 189. Wed. April 7, 1937 - Canada's Trade with Panama

The Republic of Panama is a small country of 32,000 square miles, somewhat larger than New Brunswick. It was formerly one of the nine Departments of Colombia. The separation arose in 1903 from the exigencies of the situation regarding the Panama Canal. Independence was asserted and the government was recognized by the

United States and other powers. In the same year the treaty which provided for the construction of the Canal was signed by Panama and the United States. The canal was opened to navigation in 1914.

The population is about half a million. The people are a mixed race of Spanish, Indian and Negro origin. They are chiefly cattle raisers for the markets of the Canal Zone which is five miles wide on either side of the water-way. Although the rainfall is abundant and the soil very fertile, more than half the land is unoccupied and the remainder is inadequately cultivated. The chief crop is bananas, and small amounts of coffee, cocoa and rubber are produced on plantations. The interior is elevated. One of the points of interest is the ruins of the old cathedral, looted and burned by Morgan, the pirate. The new town of Panama was built by Morgan in 1671, after he had sacked the old town, which was founded in 1519.

Bananas are the principal crop we get from Panama. As the imports of that country are almost entirely manufactured goods and foodstuffs, Canada sends a great variety of commodities, the principal being Douglas fir, paper, wheat, rubber tires and evaporated milk. The total was valued at over \$300,000 last year, according to the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 180. Thurs. April 8, 1937 - Where Canada Gets Her Sugar.

Sugar, so far as Canada is concerned, is almost entirely a British Empire product. That is, the raw cane sugar which we import is brought from Empire countries. Last year the Empire supplied Canada with considerably over one billion pounds of the raw product for refining in this Dominion while the total that came from other countries, Cuba and Peru only, was slightly over six million pounds. We imported on a per capita basis about one hundred pounds for every man, woman and child, which goes to show how large a part sugar plays in our domestic economy. We also made 120 million pounds of sugar from beets grown in Canada.

The largest quantity from any country was from British Guiana at nearly 260 million pounds, Jamaica coming next with 140 million. From the Fiji Islands in the Southern Pacific we got 134 million, followed closely by Barbados and Trinidad. The sugar cane is of prolific growth.

We got large supplies of raw sugar also from Australia and British South Africa while British East Africa in late years has been taking a hand in this trade, although the imports from that country are not yet quite so large as from the smaller islands of the British West Indies, whose chief export, so far as Canada is concerned, is raw sugar, according to External Trade reports issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 191. Fri. April 9, 1937 - Bone China.

We were talking about pottery and chinaware a few days ago and mentioned the high excellence which English porcelain had attained in the last two or three centuries, rivalling the best that the Chinese in ancient days had created, except from the point of view of artistic design. Critics aver there is nothing finer than the designs of the Chinese potter.

It was in the 1700's that the greatest of the modern advances were made in the manufacture of English porcelain. The clay had been famous for many centuries before that. The Romans, when they conquered Britain, made vessels from the native clays to grace the equipments of the Emperor Hadrian. One of the most valuable legacies these Roman colonists left was the potter's wheel.

But it was in the 1700's, about the time of the American Revolution, that English china, discarding part of its borrowed traditions, assumed a character of its own. A peculiar china body was produced, of which bone ash and feldspar formed the chief components. In the following century practically all the English factories made the so-called "bone porcelain" with a body consisting of china stone, china clay and bone ash. Bone porcelains came to be made in Germany, France and Sweden. Some is being made in Canada today.

Last year we imported bone ash, which is used for other purposes also such as cleaning jewelry, making artificial fertilizers and in making cups for commercial refining of precious metals, to the amount of 26,000 cwt, according to the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 192. Sat. April 10, 1937 - Canada's Trade with the United States

Most people are familiar with the trend of Canadian trade with the United States, as shown by statements issued at Ottawa, and there will be added interest in an official statement regarding that trade from the capital of the big neighbour itself.

United States exports in 1936 to Canada, says Washington, increased 19 per cent in value under the terms of the reciprocal trade agreement. As a result the trade reached a level 82 per cent higher than in 1933, the lowest year of the depression period on this continent. The improvement in 1936 involved an expansion in all classes of commodities; finished manufactured exports increased 28 per cent, semi-manufactures 13, crude materials 10 and foodstuffs 24 per cent as compared with 1935. Leading commodities responsible for major parts of these increases were machinery, automobiles, iron and steel manufactures, textile manufactures, lumber, crude petroleum, coal and raw cotton.

Imports from Canada in 1936 were 31 per cent larger in value than in 1935. Purchases of a wide range of commodities increased, among them being commodities not affected by the terms of the agreement as well as many on which duties were lowered. Important factors were the small crop of hard wheat and barley in the United States, high prices of meats and the increased activity of industries. Importation of crude foodstuffs increased 60 per cent, manufactured foodstuffs and beverages 65, semi-manufactures 25 and finished manufactures 12 per cent. Amongst the increased commodities were furs, cheese, wheat, barley, abrasives, asbestos, nickel, lumber and newsprint.

The foregoing is taken from a Summary of United States Trade, sent to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 193. Sun. April 11, 1937 - Cut Flowers.

Most people love flowers and it is still a mark of good taste to present a lady with flowers, even in this fast-moving age. A dinner table without flowers to grace it is considered a bare sort of thing in most households. We cheer our sick folk with them, and when we die our friends send flowers as a little tribute of affection.

The cut flower business, therefore, is one of fairly large proportions, and as our out-of-doors is somewhat cold for a part of the year, most of these flowers are grown under glass. That the wholesale price of cut flowers and greens from green-houses was about one and three quarter million dollars last year shows how large the business is. The cut flowers grown in the open had a wholesale value of only \$38,000.

Roses, of course, are the prime favourites. There were about ten and a half million of them sold wholesale and the average price was over six dollars per hundred. They would be more than that by retail. Carnations were the next favourite flower, over four and a half million being sold.

But by far the most expensive was the orchid, the wholesale price of a hundred being over \$53. Gardenias were the second most expensive at \$25 per hundred, lilies \$11, calla lilies \$9, large flowered chrysanthemums \$8. The more moderately priced were corn flower, larkspur, sweet peas and violets. It should be pointed out that wholesale and retail prices of cut flowers must differ widely as cut flowers are very perishable and serious losses are often sustained.

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

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No. 194. Mon. April 12, 1937 - Canada's Leading Manufacturing Industry.

The pulp and paper industry, in the number of employees and distribution of wages, is Canada's leading manufacturing business. It is more than that, for Canada is the world's largest producer and exporter of newsprint paper, supplying an average of over one-third of the world's yearly requirements. About 92 per cent of our annual production is exported, with the United States consuming the bulk of this supply. The United Kingdom and Australia are large customers. Normally about 11 per cent goes to the Empire and the remaining 89 per cent to other countries.

Production of newsprint during the past two years has surpassed the high level of 1929 and the estimated output of 3,191,000 tons in 1936 is a new high mark in the history of the industry. This figure represents a gain of 70 per cent over the low point of the depression.

It is curious to note, however, that the prices of newsprint continued to fall long after the low point of the depression was passed. The precipitous decline which began in 1928 continued downward until 1935, since then a gradual upward trend has been in evidence.

This great industry employs an army of 27,000 men, according to the Forestry Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 195. Tues. April 13, 1937 - Diamonds.

Diamonds will be very much in evidence at the Coronation. It is the chief of precious stones. It has long been held appropriate for the engagement ring, because it was thought to soften anger, strengthen love and promote harmony between husband and wife. The derivation of the word is Greek, from adamas, meaning invincible.

All the diamonds known in ancient times were obtained from the neighbourhood of Golconda in India and Indian lapidaries were the first to realize that the diamond could be ground with its own powder. Diamonds were first cut in symmetrical shape in Europe in the 1400's. Since then, they have been discovered in Brazil, Australia, Russia, South Africa, Borneo and other places in the Orient. Today, South Africa supplies all but a small proportion of the world's diamonds. Stones devoid of any tinge of colour are said to be of the "first water".

The most famous and the oldest diamond is the Koh-i-nor, or Mountain of Light, believed to have been found in India four or five thousand years ago. It was presented to Queen Victoria and is now in the collection of Crown Jewels. The largest diamond in the world is the Cullinan, found in South Africa and presented to Edward VII by the Transvaal Government. It weighed 1 1-3 pounds, was divided into nine large stones and a number of brilliants and set in His Majesty's crown and sceptre.

Other famous diamonds are the Florentine Brilliant, bought from a Swiss soldier for 40 cents, the Great Mogul, the French Regent and the Orloff. The latter was stolen from the eye of an idol and eventually found a place in the sceptre of Catherine of Russia.

We imported last year close to one million dollars worth of unset diamonds, according to the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 196. Wed. April 14, 1937 - Price Relationships.

The behaviour of commodity markets is attracting more attention these days than for many years past. For some people the rapid advances which have occurred give cause for misgivings and alarm, but to others they mean a better living and increased purchasing power. It is difficult to determine just how far the good effects will cancel the unfavourable ones, because a rise which is too rapid and too prolonged would be unfortunate for all classes of the community. This was clearly demonstrated between 1914 and 1920, when the consumers' dollar shrank until it would purchase only a little more than half as much as in 1913.

So far, however, it seems fairly certain that benefits from the recent advance have considerably exceeded the unfavourable effects. One of the most important benefits has been to improve the value of farm products so that now a bushel of wheat or a hundredweight of livestock will exchange for about the same quantities of the necessities of life as they did in 1928 and 1929.

Besides improving the position of the farmer, who supports nearly one-half of Canada's population, this means more work for wage earners who form an important proportion of the other half, and so far, living costs have not risen sufficiently to offset the resultant increase in money income. It is to be hoped that excessive

speculation by causing further abnormal increases in commodity prices will not undo the good which has come from recent advances.

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

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No. 197. Thurs. April 15, 1937 - Rubber Tires on Farm Fields.

Those people old enough to remember how ludicrous pneumatic tires looked when they first appeared on the racing track will remember that the enterprising bicyclists who dared public opinion won easily from the riders who preferred the thin solid-tired wheels and gradually the public became used to the then uncouth appearance of the new wheels, as they did to the sight of a carriage without a fine horse between the shafts. These new tires were not called rubber wheels but some improvised pronunciation of that difficult word "caoutchouc".

So the world goes on in progress. One of the very latest things to be seen on the farm is a rubber-tired wheel to take the place of the steel wheel on separators, combines, binders and drills which are heavy to pull on soft or rough ground and must be operated at slow speeds. The Department of Agriculture, after paying close attention to the subject, declares positively that the "rolling resistance" of rubber-tired wheels for this purpose is from 40 to 60 per cent less than that of the steel wheels. Accordingly the rubber tires on these machines reduce the damage done by excessive vibration and probably increase the life of the machines.

Lighter machinery, such as mowers, rakes, planters, cultivators, weeders, manure spreaders and potato machinery are said to be particularly suitable to rubber tires. They can be operated at higher speeds and with less wheel damage to the crop. Rubber tires for the plough and the one-way disc are not thought to be so satisfactory as the steel wheels.

This means more and more rubber for business which is constantly expanding into new fields. Imports of raw rubber at around 60 million pounds have much more than doubled in the last twelve or thirteen years, according to the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 198. Fri. April 16, 1937 - Food Products of the Manufacturing Industry.

When we speak of the manufacturing industries, we are apt to be thinking of something other than food -- perhaps textiles. Yet the preparation of food is the main activity in all the wide range of manufacturing. This is remarkable when we consider that a great many items in our menu -- potatoes and apples for example -- are not subjected to any special manufacturing or preparational process before reaching the kitchen of the housewife, but come to us as Mother Earth has finished them herself.

These food industries have an annual output of a factory value of over \$600,000,000. The flour mills and the bakeries combined lead the way, of course. The value of the output of the flour and feed mills is close to \$100,000,000 while the bread factories reach \$60,000,000 with biscuits and confectionery at over \$40,000,000.

Meats that pass through the factory claimed about \$133,000,000, butter and cheese \$100,000,000. This would seem to demonstrate that bread, butter and cheese are the main props of human life so far as Canada is concerned. Fruit and vegetable preparations account for \$38,000,000 and sugar itself just a shade less. Cured fish represents \$23,000,000. By the way, these are 1935 figures.

Then there are such additions to the family cupboard as breakfast foods, macaroni, rice, condensed milk, tea, coffee, and spices, all of which are over the million mark, according to the Manufacturing Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 199. Sat. April 17, 1937 - Charcoal.

Several centuries ago, charcoal was used for fuel in the making of iron and as a result great numbers of trees were cut down to meet the demand for charcoal. The story is told of the drop in the production of iron in England due to laws passed by Queen Elizabeth to prevent the destruction of the forests. These laws almost brought England's iron industry to an end.

There are two types of charcoal in use at the present time, wood and animal. Both are prepared in somewhat the same way. The piles of wood or bones are heated without access of air, the gases contained in them such as hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen pass off leaving a blackened mass.

The charcoal formed from bones is called boneblack and is used for decolourizing sugar and oils. The colouring matter in the sugar or oil sticks to the surface of the boneblack.

The wood charcoal is used chiefly for fuel and sometimes for filtering and as a deoderant.

Practically all of the wood charcoal is produced in the Province of Quebec where it is an ancient industry. The kilns in which the wood is superheated to make charcoal are common sights in some districts. Many farmers engage in its making as one of their activities. The output runs to around 40 million pounds in a year valued at about \$358,000, according to the Manufactures Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 200. Sun. April 18, 1937 - Religious Literature.

The Family Bible is rarely seen nowadays on the parlour table. Perhaps families do not possess them to the extent they did half a century ago. However, that they are still used and much respected is shown by the acceptance by a Canadian judge the other day of the record in a Family Bible as sufficient evidence of the date of birth of an individual in a case that came before him. The individual concerned had no birth certificate.

There are no bibles printed in Canada, so that the importations present a fairly accurate picture of the number that are sold in the Dominion from year to year. The importation of bibles, prayer books, psalm and hymn books, religious tracts and Sunday School lesson pictures is decreasing. Ten years ago we imported these religious publications to the value of over half a million dollars,

whereas in 1936 the value was only \$371,000, yet the population of Canada is increasing.

Another change in the importation is that, whereas the largest supply of these religious publications used to come from Great Britain, the largest consignment now comes from the United States, thereby following the trend of non-religious literature.

The countries of origin of the 1936 purchase of bibles and other religious work were as follows: United States \$134,000, United Kingdom \$106,000, Belgium \$78,000, France \$21,000, Germany \$11,000, Switzerland \$10,000 and Italy \$5,000, according to the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 201. Mon. April 19, 1937 - Highway Crossings.

While most of us are glad that spring is here, there are men in Canada to whom the departure of winter has brought additional worries. They are those human beings who stand behind the throttle of a snorting mass of metal known as a locomotive. Every minute of the trip is one of nerve-racking suspense due chiefly to some careless, irresponsible motorist.

Highway crossings account for most of the accidents. During 1935 there were 121 people killed and 228 injured. These figures do not include the men whose nerves have been shattered and are forced to leave their jobs as trainmen. It is not an uncommon thing to see a "close shave" at a level crossing but it is cruel to see the motorist turn and wave a breezy salute, forgetting the shock he has given the train crew.

Motorists accounted for 319 accidents and 106 of the occupants of the automobiles were killed. Realizing the fact that a train must travel along a given path of steel and that every engineer must be an efficient and experienced operator, it is evident that these accidents are mostly due to the motorist. In addition, the railway companies have installed bells, wig-wags, built gates, bridges and subways and even placed watchmen at crossings where traffic is heavy. The road markers indicate the approach of every railway crossing.

Canada has about 32,000 highway crossings of which over 27,000 are in the rural districts. The majority of these are unprotected but with a little common sense on the part of a number of drivers, accidents can be avoided. The future may bring about a solution to the question of the level crossing but as yet it presents a great problem.

These figures are taken from a report issued by the Transportation Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 202. Tues. April 20, 1937 - Busy Hands.

The old saying about Satan finding work for idle hands to do still holds good. Children left to amuse themselves in their spare time are more likely to get into mischief than those who are employed at some hobby or whose interests are directed to some worthy organization. One look at the shiny-cheeked little boy in his Cub uniform or at a dancing little elf in a Brownie suit, gives us a comfortable feeling, knowing that here are children who are interested in something worth while.

In Canada there are over 14,000 Brownies and 27,000 Girl Guides. This organization has reached young girls from coast to coast and even in the Northwest Territories there are 18 little Brownies and 11 Guides in its membership. Besides the Brownies and Guides, there are Guiders and Commissioners whose number brings the total membership up to 47,000.

The brother organization has 29,000 Wolf Cubs, 43,000 Boy Scouts and 3,000 Rover Scouts. The increase in numbers since 1917 may be considered a good omen for the future of young Canadians. Wolf Cubs in 1917 numbered 1,000, in 1935 there were 29,000. In the same period the Boy Scouts increased from 17,000 to 43,000. Rover Scouts in 1922 were 90, in 1935 there were 3,000.

In many of our schools, young children are taught the elements of social service as well as personal hygiene in the Junior Red Cross. There are 325,000 young Canadians who wear the familiar Red Cross button.

In the rural districts of Canada, there are 1,900 clubs with a membership of 30,000 boys and girls engaged in agricultural projects such as raising livestock and field crops. Home economics and local leadership are also features of these farm clubs.

These figures are from the Education Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 203. Wed. April 21, 1937 - Streamlined Hogs.

When we were told the other day in a newspaper story that "streamlined hogs" were in the offing, many people, no doubt, just dismissed it as a yarn, but that brightly written official publication at Regina, "Cooperation and Market News" stresses the development and gives the reasons. Incidentally it provides another demonstration that truth is stranger than fiction.

The reason why the roly-poly, lardy porkers are on their way out is because housewives are using less and less lard each year as chemists perfect the processes of making vegetable cooking oils. Consequently, there is less and less market for the fatty-type pig. Perhaps we shall enjoy our breakfast bacon all the more, if there is a little more lean meat in it.

The prediction is made that in twenty years from now very few pigs will be given an ear of corn to munch voraciously. The farmer will haul his crop of corn to a chemical processing plant, where the fattening starch will be removed for making syrups and alcohol for motor fuel. The residue of gluten and oil press will then go back to the hog pen.

A leading scientist says that automobile motors will be developed to utilize solid fuel made from starch in corn and other crops.

Meanwhile the production of lard in Canada is running around 50 million pounds in a year at a factory value between four and a half and five million dollars, according to the Manufacturing Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 204. Thurs. April 22, 1937 - Canadian Coal.

Coal is a mineral fuel formed from vegetation that flourished on this earth millions and even hundreds of millions of years ago. The process has been one of luxuriant growth, death, partial decay, burial beneath sediments and a further slow decomposition induced by heat resulting from the weight of the overlying sediments and by lateral pressure exerted by mountain-making forces. Thus we have coals showing all stages in the process from peat to the hardest coal, or even graphite.

For scientific and commercial purposes coal has been divided into four main classes: lignite, sub-bituminous, bituminous and anthracite. Although there is no sharp line separating these classes, arbitrary boundaries between them have been established based on certain characteristics, such as density and lustre, carbon content, their heat producing value and their coking properties. Ordinary coke, produced from bituminous coal, represents the fixed carbon of the coal together with its original ash content.

All of these classes of coal are found in Canada, although anthracite is limited to a few small isolated areas in the Rocky Mountains.

The output of coal in Canada last year was over 15 million tons. Nova Scotia's production of 6,600,000 tons was about one million more than Alberta's. British Columbia reported close to one and a half million. Less than half of Alberta's production last year was bituminous and the bulk of the rest was sub-bituminous. Saskatchewan and Manitoba produced lignite only, and New Brunswick bituminous, according to the Mining Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 205. Fri. April 23, 1937 - Many Overseas Visitors Bring Their Cars.

It must be the gypsy in people the world over that gave the Department of National Revenue an opportunity to issue over four million permits for tourist automobiles in 1936.

Of course our neighbours to the south run back and forth frequently just as all good neighbours do and likely most of the 2,800,000 tourist permits issued for cars staying not more than 48 hours were used by those living along the Border. About 1,200,000 cars from the United States came on 60-day permits. New York State and Michigan licence plates were in the majority.

Far across the six or seven thousand miles of water, the urge to take the family car with them for travelling, possessed our Australian cousins and during last year, six cars came to Canada. Not to be outdone by the Australians, some of the people from Ceylon, China, Hong Kong and Japan brought their cars.

From Europe there came automobiles from Belgium, Germany, France, Italy and Switzerland. Naturally the United Kingdom was well represented but whether the 55 cars were driven from the right-hand side or not is not stated.

From the Hawaiian Islands came 281 cars, 65 from the West Indies and 18 from the Philippines. Some day we may take the trip that the car from Chile took and say hello to the owners of the four cars from Peru and the three from Colombia, not forgetting the one from Venezuela. Likely we would pass some of the 82 cars that came from Panama and several of the 78 from Mexico on our way.

Forty-nine cars from Alaska and 20 from Newfoundland helped to make up the total of over 600 foreign cars, exclusive of those of United States registration, which entered Canada on tourist permits in 1936. This was more than twice the number in 1935, according to a report on the Tourist Trade of Canadian issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 206. Sat. April 24, 1937 - Highway of Empire.

Many years ago, after the Pacific cable had been laid and it was proposed to lay another across the Atlantic in order to complete the All-Red Line around the globe, a great prime minister of Canada talked of making this country the Highway of Empire. Others since then, notably Premier Lyons of Australia, have used the phrase with reference to Canada.

It is not easy to calculate whether visitors from countries beyond the seas are using Canada as a Highway of Empire or just visiting us. It was easier in older days before the automobile arrived, for many of these passengers who arrive at Vancouver bring their cars with them and make their way across the continent by road and vice versa from the Maritime ports westward, yet it is certain that a very large percentage of them are on their way to and from Europe.

We had 550 visitors from Australia last year, 315 from New Zealand and 15 from the Fiji Islands. Most of these were going to or coming from the Old Lands of their ancestors.

We had 595 from China, 163 from Hong Kong, 176 from British India, 10 from Siam, 58 from Singapore, 148 from the Dutch East Indies. Most of these were going to points in Europe, some of them young chaps who were going back home for a well-earned holiday. A Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's broadcast one evening describing the departure of a boat train from Montreal, brought out that point clearly.

From the other side of the Atlantic we had 6,200 visitors from England, 1,400 from Scotland, 300 from France, 300 from Ireland, 222 from Germany, 120 from Wales and so on. Most of these were visiting friends in Canada and returned the way they came. There were 12,000 visitors from countries outside of the United States, according to a report on the 1936 Tourist Trade issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 207. Sun. April 25, 1937 - The Martyr Saint of England.

Two days ago we celebrated St. George's Day, the date consecrated to George, patron soldier-saint of Merrie England. It was on April 23, 303 A.D. that this Christian martyr died for his faith at the early age of 33.

George came of a noble Christian family. He was born on the famed Plain of Roses of Sharon. He entered the Roman army, as a mere boy and at 20 had become one of its most brilliant young officers. He was only 22 when he was entrusted with a mission to Britain by the Emperor Diocletian. It is claimed he was the instrument in the conversion of the Empress Helena to Christianity and, through her, her son Constantine who became the first Christian emperor of Rome. The story is told of his visiting Glastonbury to see the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, said to be one of his ancestors.



He returned to Palestine and when Diocletian decreed the extermination of Christianity, the knight George set off despite the entreaties of his family to plead in Rome for the Christians. On the way he slew the dragon and rescued the Princess Sadra. Diocletian was merciless and sentenced his brilliant young commander to death. George was laid to rest among the roses of Sharon.

Three years later his friend Constantine became the first Christian emperor and chose George to be the patron saint of his native England. So came the people of England by George's Rose of Sharon and his splendid chivalry.

There are two and three-quarter million people of English origin in Canada. By country of origin they lead in six of the nine provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, according to the last census of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 208. Mon. April 26, 1937 - Waterproof Clothing.

A word to eleventh-hour travellers to the Coronation, -- have you packed your mackintosh? Not that we who are staying at home wish to dampen the spirits of fortunate travellers, but then again, England has a reputation for a more humid atmosphere than ours has.

By the way, in the British Museum there is a satirical engraving by Crispin de Passe which shows monkeys starching Elizabethan ruffs. It seems that a few minutes' exposure to the rain made the old stately ruff a limp and pitiful object, and constant labour was required to follow the all-prevailing fashion. Our ladies will not be thus embarrassed.

Fortunately for men as well as women, Mackintosh was granted a patent for making waterproof cloth in 1823. This started the ball rolling. Because the first waterproof cloth was air-proof as well as waterproof and was thus detrimental to health, new substances had to be found with which to impregnate the cloth. The modern types of waterproof and oiled clothing are visible results of the success of many years work.

Canada's 15 establishments which reported the manufacture of waterproof clothing, not only protect the population from downfalls of rain but also from catching pneumonia while fishing or while braving the sea-spray. The production of such articles as coats, hats, suits and aprons amounted to a factory value of over one million dollars. Strange as it may seem, the United Kingdom sent us most of the \$50,000 worth of imported raincoats last year.

These figures were obtained from the Manufactures Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 209. Tues. April 27, 1937 - Phosphate for the Farm.

Fertilizing the farm is not such a dirty job as it used to be and while the modern way is cleaner, it also is more effective. There is diversity for diversified soils.

Rock phosphates enter largely into the picture. They contain calcium phosphate, derived from the bones of prehistoric animals, and are the chief source of phosphorus,

a small but very essential constituent of the muscles, nerves and brains of animals. Man derives his largest supply from such protein foods as beans, peas, oatmeal, cheese, meat and bread. Soluble phosphates are very necessary for plant growth and all vegetable foods contain a small percentage of phosphorus.

Phosphate rock, therefore, is a highly important ingredient in the manufacture of fertilizers for the farm. It was first discovered about the middle of last century beneath the great clay fields of Surrey in England. Since that time large deposits have been found in Belgium, France, Holland, South Carolina, Florida and Tennessee.

Between the years 1878 and 1892 the mining of apatite or mineral phosphate was an important industry in eastern Canada but cheaper foreign phosphate displaced that from Canadian mines.

Last year there were 53,000 tons of natural phosphate rock imported, chiefly for the manufacture of superphosphate. The Canadian production of superphosphate for fertilizing purposes amounted to 45,000 tons last year and the imports to 80,000 tons. Canadian farmers and gardeners bought 53,000 tons of superphosphate and 63 tons of natural phosphate rock during 1936, according to the Chemical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 210. Wes. April 28, 1937 - Meat for Great Britain.

The great export of meats in March, the largest in more than a decade, has stimulated interest in the kind of meat which Great Britain favours, amongst the variety which Canada has to offer, for the great bulk of our meat exports goes to the United Kingdom. Without the Mother Country, that trade would be a comparatively small business indeed.

Certain countries specialize in certain kinds of meat. Canada's specialty is bacon, and it is notable that last year the Dominion was second as a supplier of bacon for the British breakfast table, coming behind only Denmark. Denmark sold over three million cwt. and Canada over one million, the nearest competitor being the Irish Free State with half a million cwt. Five years ago Canadian bacon had a very small place in the British market with less than 50,000 cwt.

Canada is nowhere in the mutton and lamb trade, New Zealand easily leading the market, with Australia second. New Zealand last year sent more than three and a half million cwt., a goodly quantity.

Argentina has a long lead in the British market with beef. Chilled beef from that country last year aggregated over seven million cwt., Uruguay and Brazil coming next with over half a million, which figures are supplied by the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 211. Thurs. April 29, 1937 - The Dairying Industry of Canada.

Dairying is one of the oldest and has become one of the most important of Canadian industries. The permanent establishment of cattle in Canada dates from about the year 1608, when Champlain brought a few head to the colony at Quebec. Cattle were placed in Acadia in 1632, and by 1671, according to a census of that year, the number had increased to 866.

Butter and cheese making were introduced by the early French colonists who had brought with them a knowledge of the art, and who soon were able to produce sufficient quantities for home requirements. With the arrival of the United Empire Loyalists the art of butter and cheese making was extended to Upper Canada and dairying commenced to occupy a fixed place in the commercial life of the country. Early records show that in 1801 there was a surplus of butter at Kingston, Ontario, and that some was exported to the United States. It was not until 1864, however, when the factory system was introduced that dairying entered upon the era of development, which has placed it in the forefront of the industries of Canada.

The value of all dairy products in Canada in 1935 is estimated at \$192,000,000. Creamery butter was valued at \$52,000,000, dairy butter \$18,000,000, factory cheese \$11,000,000, farm-made cheese \$111,000, milk consumed fresh or otherwise used \$86,000,000, skim milk and buttermilk \$8,000,000 and miscellaneous factory products \$17,000,000.

These figures are taken from a report on Dairy Factories issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 212. Fri. April 30, 1937 - A Hint to too Plump People.

It is strange how people develop taste and prejudice regarding food, when there is neither rhyme nor reason to it. Canadians have their notions about food in abundance and one of them relates to mutton and lamb. As a people, we eat very little of it -- we eat more pork than any other meat.

Now the Dominion Department of Agriculture has quite a reputation for good advice regarding what we should eat and why. It tells us that the flavour of lamb combines well with all kinds of vegetables and it says that the lean, vitalizing meat and the extent to which vegetables are used with lamb meals no doubt accounts for the fact that persons eating meals built around this meat more readily control their weight. Indeed over-weight people with that menu reduce their circumference. This leads to the thought that the fat lady on exhibition in the midway at the Fall Fair is not given to lamb chops.

Although the Agricultural authorities declare that lamb is improving, we are consuming less than we did years ago. Prior to the Great War the Canadian consumption was over nine pounds per capita per annum; last year it was down to a little over six. In the United States it is about seven.

So far as physical appearance goes, just to mention one characteristic, the New Zealanders and Australians do not have to take back water from anybody, yet the former get away with over 100 pounds and the latter approach that per capita amount. The average of the United Kingdom people is 31 pounds. In France they eat just about the same amount of mutton and lamb as the Canadians, the Belgians and Germans about one pound, according to the Agricultural Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.





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