

A Fact a Day about Canada

from the

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

No. 213. Sat. May 1, 1937 - Water for the Prairie Farm.

One of the remarkably appealing activities in the Prairie Provinces during the past two years has been the conservation of water for the rehabilitation of farms in the dried-out areas of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

In addition to community projects for stock-watering and domestic purposes and for irrigation where feasible, the Dominion Parliament has provided for engineering and some financial assistance to individual farmers and stockmen for building dug-outs and small irrigation schemes. Since the water development programme was inaugurated in 1935, nearly 6,000 applications have been received from individuals, in addition to hundreds of applications for community projects. Up to the end of last February, 1,775 had been completed. These included about 140 private irrigation schemes.

The heavy demand for assistance makes it necessary to have applications in not later than the end of May, otherwise the work may have to be carried over until 1938. The engineering services are free.

What this scheme will mean to the Prairie Provinces can readily be visualized. In very many cases hope deferred will become hope fulfilled. When the day arrives that the 57,576 farms in Manitoba, 142,389 in Saskatchewan and 100,397 in Alberta, are all well watered, it will be a great day for the Prairies. These figures come from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 214. Sun. May 2, 1937 - Preservation of Wild Flowers.

Sunday is the special friendship day when the rush of business is stilled and there is time to regard our neighbour as a human being. And out in the woods the spring flowers are blooming; those old and trusted friends which are sought and found, with never failing ecstasy, year by year. But there is a grave danger that the spoliation which has been in evidence will be the death of many species. It is on Sunday trips into the rural areas that most damage is done.

The Department of Agriculture has issued a strong appeal against the wanton abuse of wild flowers, particularly the White Trillium of Ontario. The reckless plucking of wild flowers has already resulted in the disappearance of some of the finest plants of the woods through the damage caused by removing with the blooms, all the foliage which is needed to mature the roots. The trillium is one of the wild plants which should never be gathered freely, if at all, because the blooms cannot be picked without taking all the foliage and on this foliage depends the maturing of the bulbous root for the following season's crop. Some species of wild flowers such as violets, hepaticas, and others with flower stems rising directly from the roots, may be freely picked so long as the plant body is not disturbed.

Other wild flowers, however, such as the white trillium, are best left undisturbed in their native beauty.

It is noticeable in recent years that the killing of wild birds by ruthless and unthinking boys with catapults is decreasing. The hope is that a campaign of education will also lessen the destruction of Canada's lovely wild flowers.

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No. 215. Mon. May 3, 1937 - Canadian Nails.

During the Great War a leading marine engineer from the Firth of Clyde arrived in Canada looking for boat nails, those galvanized cut nails that clinch well. He said the Clyde boat builders were desperately in need of supplies, and he had been told by a Canadian mariner that exactly what he wanted could be got in this Dominion. So he took the trip himself.

When he arrived in Ottawa he had paid a visit to a comparatively small Ontario factory and so impressed was he with the product of that firm that he placed an order that made the foreman wince with apprehension lest any accident might happen to prevent him filling the huge contract.

The Scottish engineer stated emphatically at Ottawa that no better nails for his purpose could be produced anywhere and he was enthusiastic.

The incident is recalled as an illustration why the Canadian production of nails is so large. Take wire nails alone, for example. The quantity sold last year by eleven companies was over 122 million pounds at a factory value of just about four million dollars. The cut nail sales were less, of course, amounting to about one and a half million pounds. There are many other kinds of nails produced, but these figures will indicate the great extent of that business in Canada, according to the Metallurgical Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 216. Tues. May 4, 1937 - Sleepers.

There is something exciting about a railway station with its hurrying people and puffing locomotives. It speaks of adventure, a change of surroundings and maybe a few new clothes packed in a suitcase. The trip may last only an hour or it may be for a few days whereby several nights' sleep is at stake. But in the sleeper, the smiling porter at his expert bed-making is assurance enough of a comfortable journey.

However, it was not always so. Just 77 years ago the first sleeping car was built in Brantford, Ontario. It was built especially for the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, when he visited Canada. He and his entourage were the first to rest in bunks while travelling at night. Later in the same year, George Pullman took out his first United States patent, secured a monopoly and became a multi-millionaire.

That first Brantford coach was 46 feet long and 10 feet wide, painted blue with gold trimmings. Upon the centre panel was the royal coat of arms and immediately above it, the carved coronet of the Prince of Wales in white and gold. The



three compartments inside were tastefully decorated and well furnished with handsome carved tables, chairs and lounges. Canadian wood was used extensively in the construction of this sleeper.

To-day there are over one thousand sleeping cars in service, on Canadian Railways, travelling over 70 million miles yearly. About 900 employees, special inspectors and operators as well as porters, are kept busy on the sleeping and parlour cars to insure the comfort and safety of travellers.

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

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No. 217. Wed. May 5, 1937 - Canada's Lumber Yard.

Let us glance briefly at Canada's lumber yard. The 1935 figures regarding the cut are now complete. It shows a total of almost three billion board feet, which is quite an increase -- 400 million -- over the 1934 cut. However, these huge figures mean very little to the person not directly connected with lumbering and perhaps there is a way of looking at it which may make the picture clearer.

The total cut was valued at \$48,000,000 or about \$4.50 per capita, but half of the cut was in British Columbia. The British Columbia \$24,000,000 means over \$34 per capita in that province, while the cut in Ontario at over \$8,000,000 made less than \$2.50 per capita for the second lumbering province.

Douglas fir is the tree which puts British Columbia in the pre-eminent lumbering position. The cut was 38 per cent of all species of wood, spruce coming second with 27 per cent. Hemlock and white pine were third and fourth with less than 10 per cent each. Cedar, balsam, yellow birch and Jack pine followed in that order.

We pride ourselves upon our maple and the good housewife gazes with real pleasure on her maple flooring, but the cut was only something over one per cent of the total.

Amongst the less common yet valuable woods were cherry, chestnut, red alder, butternut, hickory, walnut, tulip and willow.

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

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No. 218. Thurs. May 6, 1937 - Inland Fisheries.

The Great Lakes and tributary waters of the St. Lawrence are a second great division of the Canadian fisheries. The value of the inland fisheries of Quebec lies chiefly in the output of the eel, doré (pickrel) and sturgeon fisheries and is valued at \$618,000. In Ontario, whitefish, trout, pickrel and lake herring are the most important commercial fishes, though pike, sturgeon and coarse fish yield a fair return. Ontario's production was valued at \$2,852,000.

The season on the Great Lakes lasts from six to eight months and, though fishing through the ice is followed by many, a large number depend on miscellaneous employment between the seasons. Moving westward, Lake Winnipeg, Lake Winnipegosis, Lake Manitoba and the smaller lakes to the north and east furnish most of the fish products of Manitoba, amounting to \$1,258,000. Whitefish and pickerel are the chief products, but pike, tullibee, goldeye and many other varieties are found. In Saskatchewan and Alberta commercial fishing is confined to the regions north of the Saskatchewan river, where whitefish in large quantities are taken. Saskatchewan's production had a market value of \$252,000 and Alberta's \$225,000.

The difficulties in connection with transportation have not yet been surmounted; some of the greatest lakes of the continent -- Reindeer, Great Slave, Great Bear -- and hundreds of smaller bodies of water are still beyond reach from a marketing point of view. The lakes of the west, however, repeating the part which the St. Lawrence played in the days of the French regime, and the cod banks in the history of New England, have assisted greatly in the settlement of the country by providing a much needed food supply for early arrivals.

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

No. 219. Fri. May 7, 1937 -- The Canadian Horse Coming Back.

It will be cheering news to lovers of horses that man's best friend is coming back. In the ten years from 1925 to 1935 the horse population fell nearly half a million, and in the United States about eleven million.

It is now discovered that there is a shortage, especially of draught horses. Great Britain has a shortage and has become an importer. Strange to say, nearly 300 Canadian Clydesdales went back to the land of their forefathers last year and brought high prices on Scottish markets, ranging up to \$440. each.

The motor car seems to have disposed of the carriage horse almost entirely. Sleighs are seldom seen in the cities in winter. No more will there be a story of the governor-general's lady being thrown out of her sleigh on the way from the railway station to Rideau Hall as once happened to the Princess Louise.

It is on the farm mainly that the horse is coming back. The stylish Clydesdale is still the favourite work horse in Canada, although the more docile Percherons and Belgians are increasingly popular. The Percheron is the chief challenger to the supremacy of the Clyde but the Belgian, the quietest tempered of the three breeds, is becoming a substantial factor.

One interesting comparative statement is made that it requires more than two bushels of oats to purchase enough fuel to operate a three-plough tractor for one hour.

Last year 410 horses were imported for the improvement of stock and half of them came from Belgium. There were 16,000 horses exported to the United States compared with 5,000 in 1935, according to the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.



No. 220. Sat. May 8, 1937 - Canada's Trade with Haiti.

A trade agreement between Canada and Haiti was signed this week, and many people would note in the newspaper announcements with interest that it was signed at Port-au-Prince, the capital of that country, by the British minister there on behalf of the Dominion. Canada has no consular system, but in cases of this kind, the services of the United Kingdom's consulates are requisitioned to perform the necessary duties.

The Republic of Haiti is the western or French portion of the Island of San Domingo which, next to Cuba, is the largest of the West Indian islands. It was discovered by Columbus on his first voyage. A million aboriginal inhabitants were later exterminated by the Spaniards and the island populated with negroes from Africa, the beginning of the revolting slave traffic.

Haiti is said to be the most fertile spot in the West Indies. It is about half the size of Nova Scotia. It was ceded to France in 1697 and its independence was proclaimed in 1804. Since 1915 it has been a protectorate of the United States, the treaty expiring this year.

The history of the country is one of struggle by the people to organize themselves into a civilized society. To-day education is free and compulsory.

The most important commodity we get from Haiti is sisal grass. Last year the value was \$93,000. We also get grapefruit, oranges and occasionally other tropical fruits. Canadian canned fish is highly favoured by the Haitians, chiefly alewives, smoked herring and cod, but we send a fairly large variety of other things, such as wheat flour, auto tires, lumber, textiles, iron, chemicals and potatoes, according to the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

Note: See broadcast No. 238 in 1935 for further information regarding Haiti.

No. 221. Sun. May 9, 1937 - Mothers' Day.

Even if the wholesome idea which Miss Anna Jarvis, of Philadelphia, gave to the world in 1910, when she began the movement to devote a day of reverence to Mothers and Motherhood, has been largely commercialized, it is nevertheless true that Mothers' Day has inspired thoughts that otherwise might not have been invoked. Yet, indeed, commercialization in itself has not been without good.

All through time, good people have held sacred the name of "mother" and have enshrined her in their hearts. Motherhood is the highest estate of woman. And while good people in all ages have revered her as such in whatever station of life her lot may have been cast, and while, no doubt, all generations have felt that they have supported and assisted her in more ways than their predecessors, we like to think that we in our day and generation have done still better. Mothers' Day has played a part in the advance.

We have tried to relieve mothers and motherhood of much of the drudgery and hardship, and industry, whose leaders after all are the sons of mothers, has been a foremost worker. Science and research, alongside industrial enterprise, with its

modern gadgets, have eliminated from the kitchen a great deal of the household labour. Political reformers have given us the Mothers' Allowance Act, which aids over 16,000 families, and the Old Age Pension. These have made the journey easier and removed many anxieties.

But higher still than the material things that the thoughts of mother have inspired us to provide is the awakening to the knowledge of the sacrifices mothers have made and are making. The word "mother" appears no fewer than 293 times in the Book of books.

Only six years ago there were over two million school girls between the ages of 10 and 24, the prospective mothers of future Canadians. What will Mothers' Day mean to the children of the next generation?

No. 222. Mon. May 10, 1937 - The Emerald.

When the emerald is mentioned, one's thoughts naturally turn to Ireland, where the grass is more beautiful than anywhere else on earth. As the ship nears Ireland, say Dublin, bearing a visitor making his first trip to the country and the early morning haze lifts, revealing the beauty of the land, the great enchantment is the rich green colour of the verdured hills and slopes. No man who has never been there has ever seen its like. That is why poets sing lovingly of the Emerald Isle.

The emerald is the birthstone of May. It is the emblem of Hope and Faith. The ancients dedicated it to the goddess Venus, and it seems always to have been the gem of lovely women. The Egyptian mines were owned by the famous Queen Cleopatra, who gave emeralds, engraved with her portrait, to her ambassadors. Napoleon's only gifts in jewellery to Josephine were emeralds and pearls. Catherine the Great had a vast collection. Caesar was a collector. Nero wore one as a monocle when observing the games. He found that the green colour relieved the strain.

The Book of Revelations tells us that the fourth foundation stone of the wall of the Holy City was an emerald. The second row of gems on Aaron's breastplate was partly emeralds.

The finest emeralds are said to come from Colombia. There are green jades, green garnets, and beryls, but they are not emeralds. Canada's importations are not exactly classified but are probably worth, at the ports of entry, about \$50,000 a year, according to the External Trade Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 223. Tues. May 11, 1937 - Rabbits.

During the last few months the importation of frozen rabbits from Australia has begun again, after being in abeyance for a number of years. These rabbits, however, are not imported for human food but for fox feeding purposes.

Advices from Australia say that the rabbit pest in that country is now well under control, particularly in Victoria and New South Wales, although not in Queensland. Old timers in Australia tell us that at one time, when the rabbit pest was at its worst, the ground seemed to move with them. They ate every leaf of vegetation



just like a plague of locusts. They came on to the roads in droves. That English rabbit was introduced into Australia by well-meaning but thoughtless people.

Canadians who visit Europe, especially the British Isles, are amazed to see the rows and rows of rabbits hanging up in the meat shops ready for sale and to find that rabbit meat is a favourite dish. Indeed, hare soup is a most highly regarded delicacy.

It is not so in this country and the chief reason appears to be that in the late fall and early winter, when the meat should be at its best, the rabbits are feeding on the bark of trees and shrubs, especially cedar, with the result that the meat has an unpleasant taste. Before the snow covers the ground is the time to get rabbit.

Probably the fact that, because of the increase in the raising of rabbits for fur, which sometimes runs up to nearly half a million skins treated in a year, we have plenty of the meat at home for the fox ranches, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 224. Wed. May 12, 1937 - Some Statistics Relating to the Coronation.

There are 163 persons in Canada to-day, according to the last Census, who are aged one hundred years and over. They had begun their long lives when the young Queen Victoria ascended the Throne, just one century ago this Coronation year.

The population of Canada one hundred years ago was about one and a quarter million. There were 200,000 in Nova Scotia, 600,000 in Lower Canada and 397,000 in Upper Canada, so that a million and a quarter seems to be a fairly conservative estimate.

There are 3,666,000 persons in Canada to-day who were alive at the accession of Edward VII in 1901. In that year the population of the Dominion had risen to 5,371,000.

There are 4,355,000 persons living in Canada to-day who were alive when George V became king in 1911, 26 years ago, and the population in that census year was 7,207,000.

To-day the subjects of King George VI in this Dominion number over 11 million persons.

It is worthwhile to pause for a moment and contrast the story of the Coronation to-day as conveyed to over one million radios in this Dominion by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, with what happened a century ago. The news that a young girl had come to the Throne of Great Britain and Ireland was brought by sailing ships that took weeks to cross the Atlantic. The news regarding the accession of Edward VII came to newspapers by cable and the public read about it hours after the incident occurred. To-day the news was brought instantly to the listening ear.

The figures in the foregoing come from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 225. Thurs. May 13, 1937 - Food Exports in Relation to Domestic Need.

When we hear of an unusually large export of a certain food commodity the thought obtrudes that surely a scarcity is created at home. Strange to say, that is not so, talking generally, and there is a good reason for that.

Our export and import trade, while it looks very large, is really a comparatively small proportion of Canada's total trade. The internal trade of the Dominion is far in excess of the external trade.

There are very few food commodities whose export exceeds the domestic need. The outstanding one is wheat. Last crop year was abnormal and we were able to sell abroad much wheat from stocks of previous years. When adjustments are made for the change in stocks, it is found that the export was 57 per cent of the production. Cheese and apples are two others.

The export of all field crops was only 33 per cent of the production, meats and meat animals 10 per cent, dairy products six per cent. Of course we import some foods in these classes, and when all three operations are combined, we find that the Canadian consumption of field crops was 78 per cent of production, of meats 91 per cent, of dairy products 94 and of poultry 98. Apparently there is room for expansion in poultry as we export a very small proportion of the crop.

Skilful traders keep the balance of supply fairly even. Shortages are met by imports, but the outstanding fact is that our exports do not seriously cut into the supply for domestic use.

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No. 226. Fri. May 14, 1937 - Macaroni and Kindred Products.

The letters of the alphabet lying in a bowl of soup, the white cylinders in that popular dish, macaroni and cheese, the rope-like spaghetti and its slim twin vermicelli, are all made from the same flour paste. Different arrangements of holes in the bottom of a cylinder, somewhat on the same lines as a potato-ricer but very much larger, make the various shapes. The paste comes through in tubes or strips, is cut into lengths and hung over rods to dry.

At one time Italy was the only country producing macaroni. Owing to remarkable enterprise in recent years by the manufacturers of these flour products in Canada, leadership in the British market has been captured. Larger and growing quantities are being sent to other countries. The reason for this is probably that the hard wheat which is best for this purpose, is grown in Canada. Naturally macaroni, spaghetti, vermicelli and noodles play a great part in Canadian dishes.

The manufacturers are now turning out over 35 million pounds yearly to satisfy the demand at home and to export, as they did last year, close to seven million pounds. To the United Kingdom alone 5,400,000 pounds were sent. The imports are comparatively small, coming mainly from the United States.

The figures are from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

Note: For further information regarding macaroni see No. 48 of Series I in 1934.



No. 227. Sat. May 15, 1937 - Electrical Assistance.

There are over two million households in Canada where women are busy preparing meals, washing and ironing, and doing the numberless tasks of homemaking. About half of these households have from six to nine rooms to keep clean, and about 700,000 of them have four or five rooms. The six thousand which have over 15 rooms are likely cared for by several people and on the other hand one person would certainly be able to care for the one-room household of which there are 84,000. The average number of persons per household is four or five.

The labour involved in keeping order in many homes is great but fortunately it is becoming less irksome. Mondays are no longer a day when the heated kitchen belches forth clouds of steam laden with the familiar soapy smell. The electric washing machine quickly does its work with very little attention. More and more women are being made happier every year by one of these new appliances. In 1936 there were 88,000 electrically operated machines, 4,000 gasoline operated and 13,000 hand machines produced in Canada. And you can picture the radiant face of the housewife who owns one of the 9,000 electric ironers produced last year.

Now that the curtains, linens and clothing have been washed and ironed, our attention is turned to the sweeping and dusting. Last year 47,000 electric vacuum cleaners were made and 12,000 sets of various attachments for them. Mothers and wives, sisters and sweethearts don't need to be reminded to clean the corners and under the rugs any longer. A slight push and a whirr whisks away the offending dust.

These figures are taken from reports by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 228. Sun. May 16, 1937 - Children in the Churches.

One of the features of the Coronation Day celebration at Ottawa on Wednesday was the large number of young children present, and from newspaper accounts of the celebrations elsewhere, it seems to have been a feature all over the Dominion.

It is undoubted that many grown-ups would have preferred to sit by their radios and listen to every little bit of that wonderful programme that came over the air. However, the education of children, the training of their young minds, teaching them by visual observation, these things cannot be overlooked if the youngsters are to grow up with a keener knowledge of passing events. So parents forewent their other inclinations and took their children to see the spectacle.

Does not that explain to some extent at least why some people are to be found regularly at church? Is it not more than a suspicion in our minds that, were it not for the children and the desire to teach them good habits, not so many grown-ups would be so regularly in their pews on Sunday? The children in so many ways are the rock upon which we build.

Many clergymen make a point of asking that the children be brought to church and prepare simple little sermons specially for them.

The field for the churches amongst the children is very great. Out of our total population of over 11 million persons, there are about 2½ million between

the ages of four and fifteen, according to the last census of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 229. Mon. May 17, 1937 - Canada's Trade Through the Panama Canal.

The Panama Canal is an important factor not only in world trade but in the domestic commerce of both the United States and Canada. Many commodities are shipped from Canadian Atlantic ports to Pacific ports by that route, and from west to east as well.

That great canal was opened on August 15, 1914, just after the declaration of war in Europe. For the first four years, transits of British vessels exceeded those of any other country, but United States vessels have led in transits ever since. This has been due largely to the transportation of Californian mineral oil. During the last fiscal year over 2,000 United States cargo vessels passed through the locks and over 1,300 British. Norwegian vessels came next with 556.

The movement of Canadian cargo by vessel from western ports through the Canal to all countries was 2,706,000 tons and from western ports 265,000. The great bulk of western Canada's trade was to the British Isles, amounting to almost two million tons via Panama.

The most interesting thing is the Canadian cargo movement between eastern and western ports, which traffic presumably would have been by rail were there no Panama Canal. From east to west it was 63,000 tons and from west to east 56,000, according to reports received by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 230. Tues. May 18, 1937 - Fresh Fruits from Abroad.

From now on there will be friendly competition among those who grow their own fruit and vegetables to see who will have the first strawberries or the first green peas. One of the first products of our own particular garden patch is the trusty rhubarb which in many homes will take the place of grapefruit or oranges for breakfast.

However, the grapefruit has been a popular food during the winter months as is shown by its increased use. Last year we imported 43 million pounds, an increase of five million over the year before. The United States supplied most of the grapefruit. Honduras, Jamaica and Palestine sent some also. Imports from Palestine increased from 12,000 to 1,188,000 pounds in one year. By the way, if the grapefruit on your breakfast table is shaped like a pear or is remarkably large, you should call it a shaddock, according to the dictionary.

The glowing cousin of the grapefruit, the orange, is the most popular imported fresh fruit. Last year we got 211 million pounds which was an increase of over 15 million. Oranges were brought from Jamaica, Japan, Australia, South Africa, Spain and Palestine. The United States sells us the greatest quantity of oranges.

We used five million pounds more pears last year, bringing the imports of this fruit up to 23 million. Grapes reached 26 million pounds. Probably the notable



increase in grapes was due to the increased export to Canada from Argentina.

We are consuming more bananas, the main supplies coming from Jamaica, but other West Indian islands are in that trade also, and we get some from as far away as the Fiji Islands, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 231. Wed. May 19, 1937 -- National Hospital Day and Florence Nightingale.

The need of having one day in the year set apart as National Hospital Day in Canada has met with a widespread and sympathetic support on the part of the general public, for it is only by a nation-wide campaign of public education that every man, woman and child may acquire a better understanding of the great work performed by hospitals and their unique service to humanity. The hospital is a light piercing through the darkness -- a light which dispels the gloom of suffering humanity and restores the spiritual, mental and physical health of the individual. In this great work the nursing profession plays a very noble part with the medical profession in the alleviation of suffering and by their devotion and self-sacrifice in their trying duties have put all womankind on a higher plane.

The training schools for nurses to qualify them for their arduous duties owe their origin to Florence Nightingale, born on May 13, 1820. Longfellow's poem "Santa Filomena" made Florence Nightingale famous as "The Lady of the Lamp". A letter written by a soldier in the Crimean War, 1855, says of her: "What a comfort it is to see her pass! She would speak to one and nod and smile to many more. She could not do it to all, for we lay there in hundreds, but we could kiss her shadow as it fell and lay our heads on the pillow again content. When all the medical officers retired for the night and darkness settled down upon these miles of prostrate sick, she made her solitary rounds with a little lamp in her hands. As her slender form glides through the corridor every poor fellow's face softens with gratitude at the sight of her."

Aside from the establishment of schools of nursing, Florence Nightingale's chief work was for the health and betterment of suffering humanity. She was anxious that the lessons taught by the Crimean War should aid posterity in providing hospital facilities for the sick and in developing among the nursing profession an exalted idea of their work.

The Florence Nightingale pledge taken by nurses on their graduation day contains the noblest sentiments of service and loyalty to duty: "I do solemnly pledge myself before God to pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully. I will abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug. I will do all in my power to elevate the standard of my profession, and will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping. With loyalty will I endeavour to aid the physician in his work and devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care."

The number of nurses in the various hospitals in Canada in 1936 totalled 19,075, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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No. 232. Thurs. May 20, 1937 - Eels.

The appearance of an eel is repellent to many and its flesh too oily for the majority, yet there is a good market for it. "As slippery as an eel" needs no explanation to the person who is confronted with preparing one for the dinner table. We are advised that if a piece of paper isn't sufficient to hold the creature from slithering away while skinning it, try nailing the head to the wall.

Eels, although they resemble snakes, are of the fish family and are to be found in fresh water as well as in the sea. In life history, they remind us of the salmon. In the autumn they migrate down the river to the sea to spawn, which is just the opposite of what the salmon does. Those living in ponds will often go overland for considerable distances during the night to reach a river. The eggs are laid in deep water and in spring little transparent fish about three inches long are hatched. They are scaleless with tiny heads and during the following year apparently do not eat but become slimmer and round in shape. They are called elvers and make their way up the rivers and streams where they remain for several years before returning to the sea to spawn.

Eels are largely used as food by most European nations. We are told that during the food shortage caused by the Great War, the British Government did all in its power to stimulate fresh-water fish culture, especially that of eels. Previous to 1911, Germany had an elver-catching depot on the Severn from which millions of young eels were exported to Germany for cultivation. Until the past two years, most of the Canadian export went to Germany. New markets are being found in the eastern section of the United States, mainly New York.

The majority of eels sold in the Canadian market were caught in the inland waters of Quebec. The market value in 1935 was around \$162,000 while the exports amounted to \$54,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 233. Fri. May 21, 1937 - Feathers and Down.

If you are thinking of visiting the Orient this year, try using one of the national pillows of China when you retire to rest. Even if it is fashioned from teak, mahogany or other valuable wood and embellished with intricate carving, and is costly, it is nevertheless still a hard wooden block. It may be shaped to fit the neck of the sleeper but it can never be soft.

In this country we like a soft pillow, and one of the most desirable fillings is the eider-down from the large sea-duck which inhabits the northern regions of Europe and Greenland. The birds pluck the down from their breasts to line their nests and this is the source of eider-down used in commerce. So valuable is the down, because of its lightness and warmth, that the ducks have been protected and they have now become almost domestic.

Next in line of choice come goose feathers. They are naturally curly and elastic, characteristics retained for many years despite hard usage. The curl permits air to circulate through the pillow, filling hollow spaces and increasing its buoyancy. Duck feathers have a somewhat similar structure but do not possess the same elasticity and length of life, while chicken feathers are flat with no spring in



them.

Feathers used in the factories for pillows, cushions, mattresses and comforters are thoroughly cleansed with modern equipment that removes all foreign matter that would otherwise reduce their natural longevity. After being scientifically dried and sterilized, the feathers pass into a rejuvenator which restores their natural curl and elasticity. Canadian manufacturers use over a million pounds of feathers and down in a year valued at about \$141,000, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 234. Sat. May 22, 1937 - Vinegar.

Who ever heard of pickling without vinegar? And yet there is something of a paradox about it. Vinegar is used to act as a preservative but it is the product of a form of decay through bacteria, known as fermentation.

The word itself comes from two Latin words "vinum" and "acer" and means a sharp wine. Alcohol liquors such as cider or light wines are acted upon by bacteria which change them into the sour liquid known as vinegar. This can be done in two different processes. The quick method is to allow the alcoholic liquor to trickle through huge vats containing shavings which have been thoroughly cleaned and inoculated with acetic bacteria. These bacteria are commonly called "mother of vinegar". Air is admitted freely to complete the process. The slow method is to leave the liquor exposed to the air. It takes about six months to complete this process. The vinegar formed in both ways is made pure by distilling it.

The various kinds of vinegar sold commercially are determined by the type of liquor used, for example malt vinegar from cider and white vinegar from wine. Sometimes in the home, through accident, what was originally intended to be grape or dandelion wine turns into vinegar.

The vinegar made in Canada is usually a product of factories engaged in pickling or preserving fruit or vegetables. The output amounted to four and a half million gallons in 1935. Some of this is used in the factory but the quantity sold was valued at over one million dollars. The imports of 138,000 gallons last year came chiefly from the United States and about 28,000 gallons were exported, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 235. Sun. May 23, 1937 - Church Vestments.

The scoffer is occasionally heard to say that church is a place for women to display their new clothes. There may be some truth in that, but back of it there is something deep and pure. The "Sunday best" may have given scope to vanity but it also set apart the day and the place from all the rest and governed our actions accordingly. To most of us, childhood memories become indelible impressions, affecting later years and surely the child sitting primly upright in church, slightly uncomfortable perhaps in well-starched clothes, feels at least more decorous and inspired.

So important a part has dress played in our religious life that many of our churches have special rules and regulations as to their style and use. The clerical

robes of ministers and priests are symbolic of the duty they perform and anyone wearing these special robes is given due respect. "Respect the cloth" is an old saying.

Choir gowns and mortar boards give uniformity to the group of people who are usually placed in a conspicuous position and thus prevent thoughts from wandering to various head-dresses or coiffeurs. Special ceremonies such as baptisms and communions call for a particular style of dress with the aim of impressing upon the congregation the seriousness of the event.

It is very difficult to know just how much money is spent in the production of church vestments. Many churches have their robes made within their own institutions and women's organizations and the beautiful embroidery and fine work done upon these garments make them very valuable. However, some idea of the Canadian production can be gained from the fact that outside of church organizations, church vestments were manufactured to the value of \$15,000 in 1935. There were \$27,000 worth imported, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 236. Mon. May 24, 1937 - Victoria Day.

This is Victoria Day and to-day the British Empire celebrated as a holiday the birthday of one of the great and good rulers of world history. Her name stands out as a symbol of all that is best in sovereignty, in culture and in domestic felicity. It was her high ideals and her genius for choosing great and wise councillors, that swept away the dangers that threatened the kingdom from without and within when she ascended the throne and made secure the Empire's place in the world. She taught peoples by her example how the greatest happiness was to be obtained. The unerring lesson lay in beginning with a well ordered domestic life. We see it to-day. It is not a mere guess to say that the affection and loyalty the new king, her great-grandson, and the new queen, have inspired is due very largely to the knowledge that they are a domesticated and home loving couple.

It is exactly one hundred years ago since Victoria came to the throne. She was a young girl of eighteen, descendant of a long line that stretched away into the dim and little recorded past. Her immediate ancestors in kingship had been far from illustrious, and many sections of the people were ready for revolt, almost as ready as the New England colonists when they flung themselves into independence.

Canada herself was in the throes in that very year of 1837. Men were springing to arms to fight for freedom and democracy. They won for us what we have to-day.

Under Victoria's beneficent rule of sixty-four years there were changes and reforms that destroyed anarchy and promoted peace, happiness and prosperity.

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No. 237. Tues. May 25, 1937 - Lower Lighting Costs.

There has been a very noticeable decrease in recent years in the cost of electricity for domestic use. Taking the cost all over the Dominion as a whole the reduction in the last eight years has been ten per cent. There has been a lowering of the cost in every province, but in some provinces the drop has been much faster



than in others. In Prince Edward Island the charges in 1936 were 33 per cent less than in 1928, while in Ontario they were four per cent less.

Nova Scotia did pretty well, bringing down the cost 25 per cent, New Brunswick's charges being 6 per cent less. There has been a great deal of publicity given to costs of electricity for domestic use in the Province of Quebec, but the fact is that the average cost has been reduced almost 20 per cent in these eight years.

Coming to the Prairies, Manitoba's costs have dropped about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, Saskatchewan has made a 24 per cent cut and Alberta over 20 per cent. In British Columbia the average rate is down about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  per cent.

It should be noted that these figures only reflect the trends in each province and not the relative costs as between the provinces. Although Prince Edward Island has made a great reduction in these eight years and Manitoba a small one, the average cost per kilowatt hour for all electricity used in residence lighting, cooking, water heating, etc. was 7.82 cents in the former in 1935 and only 1.01 cents in Manitoba.

The average cost of electricity for domestic use in Canada in 1936 was the lowest in Manitoba, followed in order by Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia, Alberta and Prince Edward Island, always remembering that rates vary considerably in many districts in most of the provinces, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 238. Wed. May 26, 1937 - The Underpaid Rural Teacher.

This is the time of year that teachers are deciding whether they will stay in their present school for another year, and that school boards are deciding whether to keep them or make a change. Most of the changing will be done in the rural schools, for the majority of teachers in "the little red schoolhouse" move from one school to another every year, or every second year, while the city teacher remains in the same position for seven to ten years.

There is plenty of reason why the city teacher should be more contented with her lot. In the provinces where the country teachers' salaries are best they average only about half of what the city teacher is paid; in several provinces the rural salary is only one-third of the city salary. There must be very few people indeed, who would say that the country teacher does only one-third as much as her co-worker in town; and by the same token, very few who would not say that the former is on the whole underpaid.

As in the case of the farm families they serve, the depression has hit the country teachers with exceptional severity. In some provinces their salaries are less than half of what they were back in 1929. In most of the provinces the average annual salary in one-room schools is four hundred and some dollars. Thousands have been teaching for \$30 or less a month -- a dollar a day, out of which they must pay their board. This is a figure which we can hardly expect to attract to, or retain in, the teaching profession the more able of our young people. Cities as well as farm communities must eventually suffer for their teachers as a rule come to them by way of the rural school.

The foregoing is based on a report issued this week by the Education Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

No. 239. Thurs. May 27, 1937 - From Anxiety to Optimism.

The past winter was unusual with less cold weather, less snow and much more rain than we are accustomed to have. Such conditions are frequently hard on our wintering plants, particularly those of herbaceous character and there has been considerable apprehension amongst gardeners with regard to the safety of their plants. The coming of spring has revealed a high mortality among perennial flowering plants and bulbs while numerous bare patches on lawns bespeak the damage done by water and ice which replaced the customary covering of snow.

Especially was it an anxious time for those who depend, directly and indirectly, upon fruit trees and bushes for their livelihood. What was the unusual winter going to do to them was the question.

A survey made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics answers the question thoroughly. It makes plain that weather conditions during the past winter were favourable for fruit trees and bushes and, in all parts of the country, they have come through without injury. In British Columbia the winter was cold but the heavy snowfall prevented serious damage. The mild, open winter in the Eastern provinces was accompanied by some injury to strawberries which were blanketed by ice but on the whole the damage was slight.

Tree and small fruits in Ontario have made a remarkable recovery from the setback resulting from last summer's drought and the outlook is encouraging for all crops. In Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, winter losses were negligible. So the anxiety which was upon us for our fruit has been replaced by considerable optimism.

No. 240. Fri. May 28, 1937 - Blossom Time.

To-night, the "Land of Evangeline" is the setting for the opening ceremonies of Nova Scotia's annual Apple Blossom Festival. From near and far, people are gathering to view that beautiful sight of a valley blanketed with scented, snowflake blossoms. Last year, this fairyland produced 1,500,000 barrels of apples.

The great bulk of Nova Scotia's apple crop is exported each season to the British market and the average annual shipments run well over a million barrels. The high point was reached in the 1933-34 season when shipments totalled 2,257,000 barrels. Five varieties account for more than half the total exports of Nova Scotia apples, while ten other varieties bring the total between 80 and 90 per cent. Nova Scotia's "big five" are Baldwin, Stark, Ben Davis, Gravenstein and King. With the one exception of Gravenstein which is an early fall variety, these are all winter apples.

Other important apples grown in Nova Scotia are Ribston, Golden Russet, Wagener, Gano, Northern Spy and Cox Orange. The latter is the favourite dessert apple grown in England and most of the Nova Scotia crop finds a ready market in that country. The Canadian variety, McIntosh, which is now so widely planted



throughout North America, is relatively unimportant in Nova Scotia although it is now being planted more freely there.

While many fruit growers in Nova Scotia secure their trees from local nurseries, probably the majority of orchards have been grown from trees produced outside the province. Recently however, there has been a marked increase in the number of orchardists who are planting small nurseries for the purpose of providing their own trees. There is also a noticeable tendency to reduce the number of varieties grown, with a greater concentration on the more important commercial sorts. New varieties such as Delicious, McIntosh and Cortland are being set out along with red colored sports of the older Spy, Gravenstein and Rome Beauty.

Canada's total production of apples in 1936 was nearly four and a half million barrels, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 241. Sat. May 29, 1937 - Canada's Trade with Belgium.

There is much in common between Belgium and Canada. Belgium has the same constitutional system as our own. It is a democracy. It is a young country, its constitution and independence proclaimed as recently as 1830.

Like our own Dominion, Belgium has two main languages, Flemish and French. While the majority speak Flemish, French has gained the ascendancy in educated society and in the offices of the Government. There is no navy but a good merchant marine.

Belgium is the smallest country in Europe, its area of 11,750 square miles being less than half that of Nova Scotia, but it has the densest population, over eight million. There are 700 persons to the square mile. Nova Scotia has only 24 persons to the square mile.

As a people they have shown themselves possessed of great courage, patience and fortitude. A great achievement has been the reclamation of waste sand lands which have been transformed into flourishing farms.

It is wonderful to contemplate that this small country is the seventh trading nation of the world, coming close behind Canada and Japan, which are fifth and sixth. The country is very highly industrialized and efficient.

Our chief imports from Belgium are peas, cotton fabrics, woollen yarn, hatters' fur, coal, unset diamonds, rolling mill products, iron plates and sheets, glass, but the greatest of these is glass. Our main export to Belgium is wheat which accounted for \$19,000,000 out of a total of nearly \$23,000,000. Zinc, asbestos and lead are the largest of the other commodities, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.

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No. 242. Sun. May 30, 1937 - Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

It was with a good deal of pride we read of the fine impression the Royal Canadian Mounted Police escort made when it accompanied the Prime Minister in the great Coronation procession in London. Those beautiful horses, wonderfully trained, commanded admiration. There were 37 in the escort.



So perfect are these horses, so alike are they, so almost human in their understanding, that there is a very wide impression that the Force breeds its own horses. This is not so. The remounts are purchased from farmers and ranchers throughout Canada. The choice demands a most discerning eye and accurate judgment of horse flesh. The remounts are usually purchased in the district where they are required to serve as experience shows that they will do better where they have been raised, for the reason that they have been climatized to it.

Prior to the Force's duties being extended into the eastern provinces, most of the remounts were purchased in the West. This was essential in those days as western horses, brought up on the range, were accustomed to the climatic conditions there and were instinctively aware of such ground obstacles as gopher and badger holes, which constituted a grave menace to eastern horses.

The horses must be perfectly sound, have good feet, short, strong backs, plenty of bone and be between the ages of four and six years. For saddle purposes they should be from 15-2 to 16-1 hands and of any sound colour except greys or buckskins, according to information given the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

No. 243. Mon. May 31, 1937 - Plastic Lenses.

A new and startling development in plastics has recently been developed in England. Two young Englishmen have discovered a way to produce unbreakable lenses for spectacles, cameras, binoculars, telescopes and other scientific instruments on a mass production scale. The material used is a plastic which is somewhat similar to celluloid though of a resinous base.

When it is realized that, up to now, each individual optical lens has required long and expensive grinding and polishing by highly skilled technicians, some idea will be gained of what this mass production may mean in cutting costs.

The polished lenses are produced by a moulding process. It will still need skilled labour, of course, to make the basic mould for any given lens specification but once this is done, enormous quantities of lenses can be produced.

Not only are they produced at a fraction of the cost of regular glass lenses, but they have other desirable characteristics as well. It is stated that they weigh only half as much as glass, are unbreakable, are as optically efficient as glass and are 30 per cent more transparent. Vest pocket size pictures taken through plastic camera lenses have been enlarged to three-by-four feet size, it is said, without losing any of the clarity of the original. Possibly the greatest serviceability of these lenses, however, will be in their use for spectacles.

While there are firms in Canada manufacturing lenses on quite a large scale, the importations are also large and are valued at considerably over a quarter of a million dollars, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Department of Trade and Commerce.