A Fact a Day about Canada

from the

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

No. 336. Thurs. Sept. 1, 1938 -- Charcoal from Wood Waste

The manufacture of charcoal from wood waste would help to solve the problem of the utilization of large quantities of wood waste that occur in lumbering operations in Canada, if a local market could be found to absorb it. But charcoal, because of its bulk, cannot be transported any great distance economically and there is only a limited demand in Canada, where it is chiefly used for lighting fires and for cooking. Other uses are in the manufacture of metallurgical products, chemicals, black powder and poultry food. It is also used in the purification of water, as a decolourizer, and deodorizer.

In Europe successful attempts are being made to use producer gas from charcoal as a fuel for heavy trucks. Such a fuel is considerably cheaper than gasoline, and, if adopted in Canada, would increase the demand for charcoal.

When wood is heated in the absence of air it decomposes, evolving gases, and leaves as a residue, charcoal. The earliest known method of making charcoal was to stack wood in beehive-shaped piles and cover almost completely with leaves and earth. By kindling a fire and regulating the air supply, part of the wood is burnt producing sufficient heat to convert the remainder to charcoal. This method is still used to some extent, but in modern distillation plants charcoal is produced by placing dry wood in steel ovens which are heated externally. The gases evolved, after passing through condensers, are further processed to yield valuable by-products, acetic acid and methyl alcohol.

The total production of charcoal in Canada during the calendar year 1936 was 41,305,000 pounds, of which 31,913,000 was made in the wood distillation industry and 9,440,000 in the charcoal burning industry.

No. 337. Fri. Sept. 2, 1938 -- Successful Indian Ranchers

Blackfoot Indians living on the Peigan Reserve in the Pincher Creek region of Alberta have made good as ranchers and farmers, and are among the most prosperous and self-reliant of Canada's Indian population. The Department of Mines and Resources, which is charged with the administration of Indian Affairs, reports that this tribe has a herd of about 2,000 Shorthorn and Hereford cattle, as well as about 2,000 horses, and 5,000 acres of their 9,000-acre reserve under cultivation.

Ranching operations on the Peigan Reserve are carried out by the Indians themselves on a co-operative basis. The cattle herd belongs to sixty-five individual owners who stage a grand round-up each summer, during which each owner's brand is tallied, and as a precaution against mange the animals are put through dipping pens under the supervision of a Government inspector. The cattle are remarkably free of disease and are among the best range herds of beef cattle in southern Alberta. On the market the Indian cattle bring premium prices, and from sales of about 400 head yearly the owners derive an annual revenue of from $15,000 to $20,000 at present prices. The reserve is in the shortgrass country and contains an ideal winter grazing range.

The successful transformation of these Indian people from hunters to farmers and ranchers has been accomplished within two generations. Before the coming of the white man, these Indians subsisted mainly on the great buffalo herds, but with the advance of settlement and the depletion of game resources that followed in its wake, they were left practically destitute. Fortunately their lands were suitable for agriculture and stock-raising, and it was only necessary for the Government of Canada to provide stock and equipment and establish them as farmers and ranchers under the supervision of instructors.

No. 338. Sat. Sept. 3, 1938 -- Occupations in Relation to School Life

For the first time in the Canadian Census, an inquiry on the number of years at school appeared on the Population Schedule of the 1936 Census of the Prairie Provinces. Interest in the educational status of the gainfully occupied population has resulted in the publication of a census bulletin giving the occupations of the people in the provinces according to the number of years at school, by sex and broad age groups.

The figures show that persons with less than a high school education are found chiefly in agricultural pursuits and in semi-skilled and unskilled occupations. Clerical and kindred workers and skilled artisans represent a larger proportion of persons having attended school from nine to twelve years, or roughly with a high school education. Those with thirteen years or more of schooling, or, in the main, a college education, are engaged largely in professional, commercial and clerical pursuits, though the numbers in agricultural and in semi-skilled and unskilled occupations are appreciable.

For males almost two-thirds reported less than nine years' schooling or generally less than a high school education. Only about two-fifths of the females fell in the same educational class. The chief reason for this difference is the large number of males in primary occupations, especially agricultural, with short periods of school life. Age seems to be also a factor, the length of school life being longer for both sexes in the younger age groups than in the older.

No. 339. Sun. Sept. 4, 1938 -- Tea A Popular Beverage

Tea is the most popular beverage in Canada, and Chinese legend has it that its virtues were discovered nearly 4,700 years ago. The earliest reference to it in European literature was found towards the end of the 16th century. First used as a medicine, it later became popular as a drink. Today it serves both purposes.

It is stated that the first tea was brought from the East to Europe in 1610 by the Dutch East India Company. Soon afterwards it was introduced into Great Britain, mainly as a curiosity, and it caught the fancy of the fashionable world. The price then ranged from about $30 to $50 a pound. The first sale of tea in England was advertised in 1658, the price by that time having dropped to less than $15 a pound.

Tea grew in popularity during the 17th and 18th century, when it was still known as the "China drink." Early in the 19th century the centre of the tea industry shifted from China to India, Ceylon and the Netherlands East Indies, and the drinking of Indian tea became popular.

Canadians drink huge quantities of tea every year, as evidenced by the imports made in 1937, amounting to the immense total of 40,122,000 pounds, of which 22,826,000 was tea of India, 12,270,000 tea of Ceylon, 2,528,000 the Japanese variety, 726,000 of China and 10,710 pounds were imported direct from British East Africa.

No. 340. Mon. Sept. 5, 1938 -- Canada's Apple Industry

It is not quite ninety years ago -- to be exact it was in 1849 -- that the first export of apples from Canada was made by packet from Nova Scotia to England. However, the cultivation of apples in Canada was made by the early settlers. Of the varieties used by the French of the early days it is believed that the only survivor of commercial importance is the Fameuse, or Snow Apple, a delicious fruit used for both cooking and eating.

Apple trees were planted in Nova Scotia before 1663, for in that year Pierre Martin set out a number of trees in the Annapolis Valley opposite what is now Annapolis Royal. At the time of the British occupation of Nova Scotia by the New England settlers in 1760, apple trees were found growing throughout that valley and the English took up the crop as a commercial possibility. They imported varieties from Europe. The Gravenstein, for example, was brought from England, where it had been introduced from its native home in Holstein. Many new varieties were brought in from the United States.

While the Fameuse of Quebec came from a seed brought out from France, the McIntosh Red originated at Dundela, not far from Ottawa. New Brunswick has a small apple industry, its Crimson Beauty being one of the earliest ripening apples in existence. The most recent expansion of commercial production has been in British Columbia.

The commercial production of Canada is now very large. Last year it was about fifteen million bushels.

No. 341. Tues. Sept. 6, 1938 -- The Fur Industry

Fur farming now plays an important part in the fur trade of Canada, supplying approximately forty per cent of the total raw fur production in 1936-37. Practically all of the silver fox pelts came from the fur farms, and probably a third of the mink pelts may be credited to the farms. This phase of the fur industry has developed rapidly during the past fifteen years or more, the number of fur farms advancing from less than a thousand in 1920 to more than 8,000 at the end of 1936.

The fur trade, which at one time was predominant among Canadian industries, has receded into a less important position with the industrialization of the country and the greater development of natural resources. Nevertheless, the fur industry still plays an important part in the lives of many Canadians, the continued demand for furs of both common and luxury varieties keeping fur trappers and fur farmers actively engaged.

Canada's raw fur production during the 1936-37 season had a value of $16,666,000 as against $15,465,000 in the previous season and $12,843,000 in 1934-35. These figures represent the value of the pelts of fur-bearing animals as taken by the fur trappers and fur farmers actively engaged in the business. It is quite a notable possession.

No. 342. Wed. Sept. 7, 1938 -- Canned Food Production

The development in the production of canned foods in Canada has shown remarkable expansion since the beginning of the twentieth century. In 1900 the total value did not exceed $8,250,000, whilst in 1930 it had increased to more than $55,000,000 or six and one-half times as much. In 1933 the value of production dropped to $33,000,000, and rose again to nearly $55,000,000 in 1936.

The principal commodities used in the canning industry are: fish, fruits and vegetables, milk and meats, whilst the industry itself forms an adjunct of considerable importance to other industries, notably the tin can industry, the wooden box industry and the paper and printing industries. The development of the canned foods trade has effected great changes in the relation of foods to seasons. Fruits and vegetables of many kinds are to be had at all times of the year, not always with all the flavour of the freshly gathered product, but with much of their original freshness and flavour.

The producers in the country are provided with an enormously extended market, and the consumer in both city and country with cheap and wholesome food in great variety. The consumer also enjoys protection by frequent inspection under the "Meat and Canned Foods Act, 1907" and subsequent amendments, administered by the Health of Animals Branch of the Federal Department of Agriculture.

No. 343. Thurs. Sept. 8, 1938 -- Wool, the Necessary Fibre

Wool, the necessary fibre, and its use for clothing goes back to where the misty curtain of time hides both the history of sheep and the history of mankind. Fabrics of wool have been found in ruins of villages inhabited in the Stone Age.

Scientists apparently agree that the ancestors of our modern sheep, when they roamed the eternal hills of Northern Africa, had a black or brown covering of coarse hair, but grew, under this natural overcoat, a fleece of soft, fine, white wool.

The Early Romans, in producing white and glossy wool for their togas, took a leaf out of the book of nature. They had overcoats of animal skins made for their sheep and four times a year these overcoats were taken off, the sheep were washed in wine, and the tangled fleeces were combed out.

When the Moors, who lived in Africa, crossed into Europe about 700 A.D. and settled in Spain, they passed through Italy and drove off flocks of Roman sheep. They crossed these sheep with the sturdier Spanish range sheep and produced the breed which today is known as Merino.

Louis XIV of France, in the seventeenth century, was presented with a flock of Merino sheep by the King of Spain, and bred what is now known as the Rambouillett sheep. Some few years ago some 800 of these sheep were imported into Canada to improve the stock of Canadian sheep.

Sheep are grown in 22 countries and there are about 200 distinct breeds. There are about 725,000,000 sheep in the world and they produce 3,879,000,000 pounds of wool. Canada has about 24,000,000 sheep.

If fibres of wool are twisted together by hand quite a passable thread can be made, and this thread can be woven into cloth on a frame made from four sticks. In this way the earliest mothers of men, sitting in the doors of their caves, surrounded

by their younger children, and awaiting the return of the father and elder boys from the hunt, made woollen cloth.

Long before Columbus discovered America the natives of British Columbia were spinning yarns from the fibres of mountain sheep and goats, and the hair of dogs, and weaving cloth on primitive hand looms.

The early French settlers in Canada found their first requirements in order to maintain existence were food, habitation and clothing. They produced their own food and built their own houses, but their clothing was supplied from France. In 1705, when supplies of clothing were cut off from Canada by a war, the clever and adaptable French Canadian made cloth from nettles and the inner bark of basswood trees. Then they were given permission to keep sheep, and with the wool from the sheep they spun yarns, wove cloths and made clothing. This was the start of the textile industry in Canada. In 1936 the output of factories in Canada included in the Woollen Textile Industries was valued at $42,390,000, giving employment to close to 12,000 persons, with salaries and wages totalling $10,000,000.

No. 344. Fri. Sept. 9, 1938 -- Silk, the Queen of Fibres

Silk, the queen of fibres, produced by the silk worm in forming a cocoon inside of which to transform itself into a butterfly, was woven in China five thousand years ago.

Five thousand years ago, according to legend, Si-Ling-Chi, the Queen Consort of Hoang-Ti, Emperor of China, studied the activities of silk worms and invented the processes necessary to turn silk into cloth.

Although born five thousand years ago Si-Ling-Chi was a "new woman" because she developed the use of silk for clothing to provide industrial employment for Chinese women.

Silk culture spread from China to India and Japan about 200 B.C. According to tradition two Chinese Princesses married an Indian Prince and a Japanese Prince and as their dowery gave their husbands the secrets of silk culture.

Carefully guarded in the East, the secret of silk worm culture was brought to Europe about 552 A. D. by two Nestorian monks, who smuggled out of China a quantity of silk worm eggs concealed in hollows of their pilgrim staffs. Italy, however, is the only European country to produce any quantity of silk.

Japan, China and Italy today are the largest producers of raw silk, but nearly every manufacturing country in the world, including Canada, fabricates silk into cloth, stockings and silk goods.

One of the outstanding features of the textile situation in Canada has been the spectacular expansion of the silk industry, increasing from a total value in 1918 of $2,452,000 (the earliest year for which statistics are available), to $26,931,000 in 1936.

No. 345. Sat. Sept. 10, 1938 -- Cotton, the Universal Fibre

Cotton is called the universal fibre because of its many uses in industry and households. It is a vegetable product obtained from the pod of the cotton plant and there are references to the weaving of cotton cloth in the "Rig Veda", an Indian historic classic, written 3,400 years ago.

In the Dark Ages the people of Europe knew so little about cotton that they believed cotton to be the wool of lambs that grew upon trees. At that time Europe obtained its supply of cotton cloth from India which was carried by caravans to the marts of Persia, Arabia, Palestine and Egypt, before finding its way to Europe.

When the Mohammedans in the fifteenth century captured Constantinople they cut the trade routes from India to Europe and consequently cut off the supply of cotton goods. Columbus sailed westward in search of a new trade route to India.

Columbus found cotton growing in the West Indies and the natives making cotton cloth. Later Magellan, on his voyage round the world, found the natives of Brazil using cotton. Cortez, on invading Montezuma's kingdom of Mexico, found the natives weaving beautiful and richly coloured cotton fabrics.

Europe then and today produces practically no cotton. The only cotton produced in Europe is a negligible amount grown in Bulgaria and Greece. No cotton is grown in Great Britain. Today, the North American continent is the largest producer of raw cotton in the world.

The gross value of production in Canada of the cotton textile industries was $75,413,000 in 1936, providing employment for 20,200 persons, who were paid a total of $16,256,000 in salaries and wages.

No. 346. Sun. Sept. 11, 1938 -- Rayon, the Scientific Fibre

Rayon, the scientific fibre, is a creation of the chemical laboratory. Its base is obtained from wood pulp or cotton linters. It is man-made and the most modern of any textile fibre.

By the magic of the chemist, trees that grow in Canada are turned into rayon yarn which is woven into cloth or knitted into articles of apparel.

Spruce trees, usually 20 inches in diameter, are felled, cut into 30 foot logs, and floated down rivers to the pulp mill. The logs are washed, the bark removed, and then they are cut into small chips. The chips are placed in a digester and cooked by steam in the presence of acid bisulphite. The result is cellulose.

This cellulose is then made into huge sheets, like blotting paper, which are treated with caustic soda, and cut into "crumbs." These crumbs are then treated with carbon disulphide.

Now the cellulose xanthate is dissolved in water, is filtered, and is kept to "age". The solution is then pumped through a nozzle, usually of a platinum gold alloy, pierced with a number of small holes, and the fine threads of cellulose are then passed through a coagulation bath, then over a glass wheel, and then wound into a cake.

The rayon yarn is then wound from the cakes into hanks, which are washed, bleached and dried, and the yarn is ready for further manufacturing processes. Cotton linters are used as the cellulose base as an alternative to cellulose obtained from wood pulp.

The Canadian Textile Journal states that the output of rayon has increased from 2,000,000 yards in 1926 to 41,800,000 yards in 1936.

No. 347. Mon. Sept. 12, 1938 -- Louisbourg Fortress Historical Museum

Stirring events of bygone days were recalled when the new historical museum at Louisbourg Fortress, Nova Scotia, was formally opened in the fall of 1937. Few places in the British Empire have had a more spectacular history or have exerted a greater influence on the current of British events than the old city of Louisbourg, situated on the eastern coast of Cape Breton Island. Once the proudest fortress and only walled city in North America, Louisbourg in the brief span of less than fifty years experienced all the drama and tragedy associated with centuries.

Under the provisions of the treaty of Utrecht, which brought peace between France and England in 1713, the Island of Cape Breton, together with other islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, was ceded to France. A settlement was established on the shores of what was known as English Harbour, and the new settlers, being French, changed this name to Louisbourg, in honour of Louis the Fourteenth, King of France. The island of Cape Breton was re-named Ile Royale. Louisbourg was subsequently fortified as a naval and military station, at an estimated cost of about six million dollars, and, styled the "Dunkirk of America," was considered impregnable.

During the period between 1720 and 1760, in which it existed as a fortified naval and military station, Louisbourg held the key to Canada. Possessing a fine harbour, it served as the headquarters for the largest fishing industry on this side of the Atlantic and as a haven for French privateers. Captured by a force of New England volunteers in 1745, Louisbourg was ceded back to France by treaty three years later. Its final capture in 1758 by British forces led to the fall of Quebec the following year and the ultimate transfer of Canada from French to British rule.

Following the capture of Louisbourg in 1758 came orders from England for its complete destruction, and for almost six months soldiers toiled with explosives, spades and levers until nothing remained of the town and citadel but a shattered group of casements or bomb-proof shelters.

Since 1928 the Government of Canada has set aside more than three hundred acres in the vicinity of Louisbourg, which is being preserved as a historic site of national importance under the direction of the National Parks Bureau, Lands, Parks and Forests Branch, Department of Mines and Resources. Considerable excavation work has been carried out, and walls outlining a number of the more important buildings have been partially restored. During 1935-36 a museum building was constructed of native stone, which houses a large and interesting exhibit of relics relating not only to Louisbourg but to early Acadian history.

No. 348. Tues. Sept. 13, 1938 -- The King's Privy Council

When King George of Canada visits his North American domain next summer, we are told that he will preside over the first full meeting of the Privy Council ever held in Ottawa. Conservatives and Liberals, bearded old men and active young Cabinet ministers will sit down together to take counsel, but the issues discussed will be non-controversial.

Privy Councillors are entitled to the prefix "Honourable". There are ninety at present and the senior member is the distinguished Sir William Mulock who recently retired from the Ontario bench. He was a Cabinet minister in the Laurier administration; he became a Privy Councillor in 1896, forty-two years ago. He will be 95 years of age on January 19 next.

Following him in seniority is Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, who will be 85 on December 19 this year. He also was a member of the Laurier Cabinet, but he was not appointed until 1902. Others of the elder statesmen by seniority are: Sir Allen Aylesworth, 1905; Rt. Hon. George P. Graham, 1907; Senator Raoul Dandurand, 1909; Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, 1909.

No. 349. Wed. Sept. 14, 1938 -- Aviation Gains in Canada

The principal activity of commercial aircraft in Canada during 1937 was the carriage by air of freight, passengers, and mail to the mining fields in the more remote parts of the country. The freight carried consisted largely of machinery and supplies for mines in the northern part of Quebec, Ontario, the western provinces, and the Northwest Territories. Promising new mining areas have been opened up in the Northwest Territories due to the introduction of aerial transportation, and many regions rich in mineral wealth are now within a few hours' flying time from large centres of population. Scattered throughout most of the mining country of the North are numerous lakes which provide suitable landing for aircraft with floats in summer and with skis in winter.

Apart from its importance as a means of transporting men and supplies to remote mining areas, the airplane is used to advantage in Canada for forest fire prevention work and in mapping. Marked success is reported in the use of aerial photographs for forest survey work from which good maps can be supplied in a small fraction of the time and at much less cost than ground surveys. Airplanes are also used extensively for topographical survey work, and the newer technique of surveying by means of photography from airplanes has so speeded up the field work of the map makers that they are now able to survey in a few hours that would formerly have taken months.

Commercial aviation in Canada hit a new high during 1937, when 10,627,000 miles were flown compared with 7,804,000 miles in 1936 and 7,522,000 miles in 1935. In these flights more than two million ton miles were carried in 1937 compared with a little over one million in 1936. Freight and express accounted for almost two million ton miles in 1937 and mail for 113,000 ton miles. This compares with 1,075,000 ton miles of freight and express and 89,500 ton miles of mail in 1936.

No. 350. Thurs. Sept. 15, 1938 -- Facts About Cuba

Cuba is the largest and the most important of the islands in the Caribbean Sea and occupies a dominant position in all phases of the life of the entire group. Until 1898 it was a colony of Spain but became a free and independent republic at the close of the Spanish-American War. It is governed by an elected President, Senate and House of Representatives.

Cuba is approximately twice the size of our own province of Nova Scotia, and is divided into six provinces, Pinar del Rio, Havana, Matanzas, Santa Clara, Camaguey and Oriente. Although Cuba has numerous small rivers, none is of importance for navigation purposes except the Cauto, which is navigable for about 50 miles, and the Sagua la Grande for about 20 miles.

Cuba's population at the end of 1937 was estimated at 4,165,000. Of the total, approximately 1,200,000 were white, 1,500,000 part white, 1,200,000 Negro and the remainder Asiatics, Carib Indians, and other unclassified races. The population of the City of Havana was about 600,000. Spanish is the national language, although English is well understood and fairly widespread among the upper classes.

Cuba is not well endowed with natural resources, these being confined almost entirely to a few metallic minerals. Limited amounts of copper, chrome, manganese and iron ores and silicates are exported. Deposits of mercury, zinc, antimony, coal and asbestos exist and small quantities of gold are mined. Various kinds of tropical hardwoods, salt deposits and asphalt are the only other resources of importance. The agricultural and, to a smaller extent, the pastoral industries are the mainstay of the population. Sugar is Cuba's most important product and prosperity or adversity depend almost entirely upon the overseas market for this commodity. The island is, however, by no means self-sustaining in foodstuffs as large volumes of essential products including wheat flour, rice and lard must be imported.

Canada's trade with Cuba was worth well over $2,500,000 in 1937-38, domestic exports totalling $1,700,000 and imports $800,000. Newsprint paper, rubber manufactures, seed potatoes, staves and headings, dried fish, malt and chemicals were Canada's chief commodities exported to that country, while fresh tomatoes, sugar, fruit pulp, fresh pineapples, sisal, molasses, tobacco and cigars were the leading items imported.

No. 351. Fri. Sept. 16, 1938 -- Canadian Silk Stockings for Foreign Legs

It is a far cry from the cocoon which the tiny silkworm so carefully spins in the trays of the Japanese farmer to the stocking bag of the Canadian miss, but still further is the trip these delicate strands of silk must take when they go through mills in Canada and are sent to delight the fastidious in England, South Africa, or New Zealand, for example.

Fifteen years ago there were few in Canada who could afford the luxury of silk stockings at $3.00 a pair. Canadian mills started to make them then, and the growth of this new branch of the textile industry is a romance of the application of the inborn skill and dexterity of Canadian textile workers to the making of a better stocking within the reach of all. What was then a luxury, produced in small quantity at a high price, has now been made an adornment which Canadian women buy at 75 cents or less and insist is a necessity. When it is remembered that in 1926 Canada made only about 200,000 dozens of silk stockings the present output is amazing. The Canadian production in 1936 was 2,347,000 dozen pairs which is over 56 million stockings.

No one has yet found a stocking which will take the place of the real silk product made from the infinitely fine strands which the silkworm believes are to be his own comfortable little nest. Canadian mills turn these tiny filaments into a flattering sheath for the most shapely limb, and do it so well that their products are known and appreciated the world over. Last year Canadian silk stockings were sold to over 30 countries, the list of which reads like a Cook's Tour of every continent. Exports in 1937 were 487,000 dozen pairs (over 11 million stockings), which means that the stockings purchased in every corner of the globe helped to provide employment for the concentrated ability of Canadian textile craftsmen in turning out stockings to please not only the discriminating "la Canadienne" but the dusky miss of India or Egypt.

No. 352. Sat. Sept. 17, 1938 -- Canada Leads in Platinum Metals

Canada produced almost 260,000 ounces of platinum and allied metals in 1937, more than half the world output of 470,000 ounces for that year. The successful development of the copper-nickel mines near Sudbury, Ont., has been largely responsible for the increased Canadian production of metals of the platinum group, as the ores of these mines contain a notable amount of platinum metals and are the chief source of the Canadian output. A few ounces are also obtained from the rivers of British Columbia and small quantities are recovered as an impure residue in the refining of gold at Trail, B. C. Since 1934 Canada has been the leader in the world's production, displacing Russia, which country previously held first place. The other principal producers are Russia, South America (Colombia), and South Africa.

During the past fourteen years the price of platinum has fallen considerably, decreasing from about six times the price of gold to approximately the same value. This reduction in price together with research on the possibilities of platinum as an industrial metal has brought about a greater use and increased demand for platinum.

Due to its high melting point and specific gravity, its freedom from oxidation at high temperatures, and its comparative immunity to acid, platinum is finding increasing use in the industrial field. In the electrical industry it is used extensively for contact points, power switches, thermostats, resistors for high temperatures, electric control apparatus and clocks, while the chemical industries use platinum for laboratory equipment, for anodes, and as a catalyst in the production of sulphuric, acetic and nitric acids. Rayon firms use platinum for spinnerets, glass manufacturers use it as a dye, and architects employ it as a plating material.

A considerable demand for platinum and platinum metals has been developed in the armament industries, where it is used for instruments, for reflectors and lamps for searchlights, and for contact points in airplane engines. As a result of these developments, the world's absorption of platinum metals increased from the low level of 75,000 ounces in 1932 to 200,000 ounces in 1934 and to approximately 450,000 ounces in 1937.

No. 353. Sun. Sept. 18, 1938 -- Yellowknife

There was a very interesting statement made by the Mines Branch the other day. It recorded that in the monthly gold production the first record of a shipment of gold from the Con mine at Yellowknife had been received.

Yellowknife, away in the Northwest Territories, lies on the north shore of Great Slave Lake at the mouth of the Yellowknife River. It is the scene of one of the

biggest gold rushes of the continent. However, it was a gold rush very different from the rush to the Klondike. To the Klondike it was the long, arduous trail on foot or with a packhorse; today men travel largely by aeroplane and the event of a rush is so swift that it is over before the general public hardly knows that it is begun.

Yellowknife combines log cabins and modern conveniences, tents and aeroplane transport. It has a dentist who fills prospectors' teeth with prospectors' gold. It is full of romance. A provincial premier has visited it.

Two hundred miles from the Arctic Circle powerful mining interests and penniless adventurers are writing a new chapter in Canadian development.

No. 354. Mon. Sept. 19, 1938 -- New Indian Schools Built

To meet the educational requirements of Canada's increasing Indian population, five day schools were constructed last year on reserves at Restigouche, Quebec; Christian Island, Ontario; Bloodvein, Manitoba; Kinistino, Saskatchewan; and Port Simpson, British Columbia. With the exception of Kinistino, where a school was established for the first time, these schools were built to replace buildings which had become unsuitable for educational purposes. The new schools are modern in every respect, and are equipped to provide an educational program designed to meet the needs peculiar to the reserves on which they are established.

Progressive attempts have been made to bring the educational policy into closer conformity with the actual needs of the Indian children, with special emphasis on manual training and vocational instruction. Residential schools are now equipped to provide worth-while instruction in agriculture, carpentry work, boat-building, tailoring, dress-making, cooking, hand-loom weaving and physical culture. A program of vocational training is also being put into effect in rural one-room day schools where accommodation is available. In areas where the livelihood of the Indians depends largely upon the game resources, boys of teen age are afforded opportunities for practical training in hunting and trapping. The revival and advancement of Indian handicraft has been given particular attention, and the tendency and willingness of the Indians to recognize the value and distinctiveness of their arts and crafts has been most encouraging. The response of the Indians to the efforts to advance them to a position of independence and self-support has been a major factor in the success of the work.

The provision of day and residential schools has done much to advance Indian education in Canada. At present there are 277 day schools, 80 residential schools and 10 combined Indian and white schools in operation throughout the Dominion under the supervision of the Department of Mines and Resources. During the past ten years enrolments have increased from 15,400 in 1928-29 to 18,800 in 1937-38, while the percentage of attendance has advanced from 73.35 to 75.22. Enrolments at day schools in 1937-38 totalled 9,510, while 9,233 Indian children attended the residential schools.

No. 355. Tues. Sept. 20, 1938 -- Tobacco Growing Industry

A further chapter has been written into the history of the tobacco growing industry in Canada, an enterprise which dates back to the days of the French settlement, and which now, in addition to meeting increasing demands from overseas, takes care of nearly the whole of our own tobacco requirements.

The Canadian tobacco crop of 1937 was the largest ever produced, and the quality

was exceptionally good. The acreage planted was 69,000 compared with 55,000 in the previous year, and the production ran to 71,000,000 pounds against 46,000,000.

The increased acreage was almost entirely confined to the flue-cured type, although the cigar leaf acreage in Quebec also showed an advance over 1936. The bulk of the crop is grown in Ontario.

No. 356. Wed. Sept. 21, 1938 - Historic Sites Marked

More than 250 monuments and tablets have been erected throughout Canada during the past sixteen years to mark points of historical interest which have been declared by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada as being of outstanding national importance. An honorary advisory board, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, composed of recognized historians, co-operates with the National Parks Bureau of the Department of Mines and Resources in the marking and preservation of historic sites, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific stirring events in the history of Canada are recalled by tablets and monuments erected by the government. The following monuments and cairns were unveiled during September:

A cut stone monument at Grand Pre, Nova Scotia, commemorating the Battle of Grand Pre which took place on February 11, 1747, when New England troops, under Colonel Arthur Noble, were surprised and defeated by French and Indians under Coulon de Villiers, who had made a forced march from Beaubassin in a blinding snowstorm. The British Commander was killed and the French leader died later of his wounds.

A cut stone monument at Baie Verte, New Brunswick, commemorating the pre-historic Indian portage which connected the Baie Verte and Missaguash rivers. This route from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Bay of Fundy was the chief means of communication between Quebec, Isle Royale and Chignecto.

A cairn at Fort Alexander, Manitoba, marking the site of Fort Maurepas, one of La Verendrye's trading posts. Both the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company located here in 1792. Only Fort Alexander, built by the former company, has survived. The unveiling of this monument formed part of the La Verendrye Bi-Centenary Celebration.

A cairn at Norway House, Manitoba, marking the site of Norway House built on Jack River in 1812-13, by the Hudson's Bay Company. It was rebuilt on this site in 1825 and was a frequent meeting-place of the Council of the Northern Department of Rupert's Land. Here the Rev. James Evans invented the Cree Syllabic System. In 1875, Treaty No. 5 was made here, whereby the Saulteaux and Swampy Crees ceded their rights in about 100,000 square miles in this vicinity.

A cairn at Fort McMurray, Alberta, commemorating the historical events associated with the Methye Portage. The earliest trade route between eastward and northward flowing waters followed the Clearwater River and the Methye Portage. It was discovered by Peter Pond in 1778 and used continuously for more than a century by fur-traders and explorers, including Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Sir John Franklin and Sir George Simpson.

No. 357. Thurs. Sept. 22, 1938 - Films of National Parks Popular

Motion picture films of the National Parks of Canada reached a new high in popularity and enjoyed world-wide circulation last year, according to the report of the motion picture library. The distribution of national parks films has more than doubled in the past four years, advancing from 1,721 in 1934-35 to 4,026 in 1937-38.

Through the co-operation of distribution agencies film subjects were distributed last year in the United States, Great Britain, Australia, South Africa, Roumania, Norway, Alaska, Hawaii, and India, as well as throughout the Dominion of Canada. While all users of national parks films do not supply attendance reports, the attendance reported for showings in 1937-38 was well in excess of two million.

The motion picture library of the National Parks Bureau is operated as a publicity and educational medium, and contains a great variety of subjects descriptive of the magnificent scenery, recreational advantages, and wild life of the national parks. The library contains 85 complete film subjects, comprising 1,658 prints, nearly all of which are available in both 35mm. and 16mm. sizes. These films are lent to conservation societies, universities, schools, writers, lecturers, and other organizations and individuals interested in wild life conservation and in making known the many attractions of Canada's national playgrounds.

No. 358. Fri. Sept. 23, 1938 -- Uranium

While the mineral resources of Canada seem inexhaustible the enterprise with which she is developing those resources and applying the fruits of research to the more varied uses of the minerals are equally impressive. An example is provided by uranium, of which Canada is now an important source. It is used, among many other purposes, as a colouring agent in the production of certain shades of yellow and deep orange in glazes and glass.

Uranium is obtained as a by-product in the processing of radium from pitchblende, and after the discovery and development of the rich deposits of pitchblende in the Great Bear Lake area and the erection of a refinery at Port Hope, Ontario, it entered the world markets. Its entry into the ceramic field was achieved by the co-operation of private research workers and the laboratory experts of the Department of Mines and Resources.

In recent years the popularity of the bright orange colour which it produces has increased considerably, particularly for such articles as bungalow tableware, tiles, jugs and bowls, and art pottery.

The new chemical plant for the recovery of radium, at Port Hope, Ontario, was erected by the Eldorado Gold Mines Limited. There the ore from the mine is treated. Recovery for uranium was about 90 per cent.

No. 359. Sat. Sept. 24, 1938 -- More About Wool

A week or so ago we said something about wool and its production. Something more might be added to the store of information, for wool is one of the oldest industries in the world and it is very necessary to us in this country.

Great Britain leads the world in cloth weaving, and the main sources of the supply of the wool are Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Until the middle of the last century Great Britain was not only the premier wool manufacturing country, but also the source of the wool on which the industry was built.

Even today the British Isles carry more sheep than any single Australian state, except New South Wales. The sheep of the Kingdom, however, are not raised primarily

for wool production, but for food. That is where Australia leads, with 112 million sheep. Next is New Zealand with 40 million, while South Africa has 35 million. These sheep, approaching the 200 million mark, produce 75 per cent of the world's clothing wool and 95 per cent of the fine merino wool which goes into international trade.

In the 1936-37 season, Australia's wool exports accounted for 43 per cent of her total income from all sources, excluding gold. In South Africa in 1936, also excluding gold, wool accounted for 41 per cent of all exports. In New Zealand, where more attention is paid to fat lambs for the table and dairy produce, wool export revenues were over 23 per cent of the total.

The production of wool in Canada, which is not a sheep country in the sense that other countries mentioned above are, is over 13 million pounds, and the export of raw wool last year was slightly over one million pounds. Wool imported into Canada in various forms such as yarn, amounted to more than 30 million pounds.

No. 360. Sat. Sept. 25, 1938 -- Canadian Films

Last summer Sir Henry Lindsay, director of the Imperial Institute, with headquarters in London, visited Canada to deliver a series of lectures to clubs throughout the Dominion on the work of the organization of which he is the head.

When he arrived at Quebec he said adults and children in Great Britain were intensely interested in Canada and the Canadians and that interest was partly satisfied by distribution of moving picture films of the Dominion.

That was a very interesting statement to make, but he made it more emphatic by stating:

"We cannot satisfy the demand for Canadian films in the United Kingdom. We need double the number for the Empire film library which is a part of the Institute's work. The demand is very high from both adult and juvenile organizations, proving there is real interest in Canada among people of all ages in England."

Various organizations, such as transportation companies, send many educational films abroad, particularly to the United Kingdom, but the Government, under the Department of Commerce, maintains and operates a Motion Picture Bureau of its own which does remarkable work. It is constantly making moving pictures and many still pictures as well, of Canadian life and activities. It is headed by men thoroughly trained in the art, and their productions are under constant demand both at home and abroad.

No. 361. Sun. Sept. 26, 1938 -- Canadian Sardine Industry

Sardines are young herring and not a distinct type of fish. The Canadian sardine industry is located entirely in New Brunswick, and has during the past four years exceeded in importance the lobster industry of that province, which formerly was in first place. New Brunswick sardines are sold throughout Canada and in practically every country of the world.

Sardine oil, like cod liver oil, is rich in Vitamin D, the chief difference being that in the case of the sardine the oil is distributed through the flesh, whereas

in a lean fish such as the cod, the oil is stored in the liver. In Norway the Government constantly co-operates with industry in an "Eat More Fish" campaign.

The output of the sardine industry in New Brunswick was valued at $1,526,000 in 1937, accounting for approximately one-third of the total fisheries production of that province. Lobsters followed with a value of $1,089,000. Other kinds of fish with values of $100,000 and over in 1937 were herring, smelt, salmon, cod pollock and clam.

No. 362. Sept. 27, 1938 -- Cake of Another Age

Here are one or two ideas for the busy housewife who wants to bake a cake that will last a long time -- meaning by that, so long as the youngsters are kept away from it.

Last year an American archaeologist found a blackberry and nut cake in an Iroquois grave. The archaeologist was excavating on the site of Canawaugus, a large Indian village which existed opposite Avon on the west bank of the Genesee River. He uncovered the cake and many other relics.

That cake is one of the oldest in this part of the world. Two thousand years ago an Iroquois lady made it. Two factors preserved it for modern eyes, according to the discoverer. First, it was made largely of fruit and nuts, which lasted after the dough disappeared. Second, it was in a copper kettle, and copper carbonate from the kettle, a powerful antiseptic, sterilized and preserved the cake.

The cake was placed in the grave, along with a knife to cut it, in order that the departed spirit of the Indian might have food for the trip to Paradise.

Blackberries and nuts of several kinds are common in Canada, so that by taking a lesson from the Red Men, the modern Canadian can have a very durable cake.

The production in Canada during 1936 of biscuits, pies, cakes and pastries, other than the home-made product, was valued at $29,553,000.

No. 363. Sept. 28, 1938 -- The Manx Tongue

Out in the Irish Sea, half-way between England and Ireland, the Isle of Man seems to be witnessing the passing of its ancient Manx language. A visitor to the island reports that fifteen years ago, nearly 1,000 persons out of a total population of 50,000, could speak the native tongue. By 1931 the figure had fallen to about 530 and over 60 per cent of those were 65 years of age and up. When they have passed there will apparently be little more than 200 Manx-speakers left. The language seems destined to fade away into a memory of the days when Manxmen were a race apart from the English.

A few proficients are doing their best to stem the passing of the old language, we are told. The venerable John Kewley, archdeacon of Man, for many years read all the new promulgated laws to the ancient Parliament on Tynwald Hill in Manx, although very few of his hearers could understand him.

The old Manx race belonged, along with the Scottish and Irish, to the Goidelic branch of the Celts.

No separate classification was made in the last Dominion Census of the people of Manx origin; this was done in the Census of the Prairie Provinces in 1936, and it was found that 682 persons or 3.24 per cent of those classified as "Other British" were of Manx origin. Assuming that this percentage of the total number of "Other British" would hold true for the 1931 census, it is estimated that there were in 1931 approximately 2,025 persons of Manx origin in Canada. The total of "Other British" in Canada at the 1931 census was 62,494.

No. 364. Thurs. Sept. 29, 1938 -- A Greenland Tragedy

When Vilhjalmer Stefansson, the Canadian Arctic explorer, announced a number of years ago that he had discovered a band of blonde natives, the sceptics scouted his tale. Discoveries made by the Danish Government and its research workers, recall the story.

By the way, Stefansson's parents were Icelanders who settled in Manitoba. He himself spent five years on one expedition into the north, and it is the longest Arctic expedition on record.

Canadians know very little about Greenland commercially except that we get cryolite from that country for our aluminium works in Quebec Province. The trade of Greenland is a Danish Government monopoly. However, Greenland was once inhabited by several thousand colonists from Norway. The Danish Government has laid bare the gruesome tale which began one thousand years ago, when Icelanders colonized the country. For five hundred years the effort had been kept up, but it ended in the death of a population estimated at between 3,000 and 5,000 souls. Norway had actual control of the Greenland colony since 1261 and it was sheer neglect that spelled the doom of its sons across the Atlantic. Today under Danish rule, the ice-free portion of Greenland has a population of about 17,000.

The question is whether the members of the ancient dying colony of Greenland sought greener pastures elsewhere or whether they mixed with Indian tribes of the north and gave them enough modification of racial appearance so that numerous members would be taken for white men today if they wore white men's apparel.

Perhaps Danish research workers will be able now to tell us more about these Norse colonists, and also build up the story of the early settlement of Eastern Canada.

Meanwhile we are getting about 133,000 cwts. of cryolite a year from Greenland -- a valuable contribution to our economic life.

No. 365. Fri. Sept. 30, 1938 -- Maple Syrup Harvest

All reports last spring indicated that we were having an excellent maple syrup harvest. We have now the figures and it is worth while pausing a moment to note how great a value it has for the farmers who own sugar maple stands.

Although the 1938 maple syrup season was relatively short, the conditions were particularly favourable for the maple products industry. The crop was exceptionally

heavy, being estimated in terms of maple syrup as 3,300,700 gallons. This is practically double the volume of the short crop of 1,673,400 gallons in 1937 and equal to the 1929 crop, the year of peak production when the total crop was also estimated at 3,300,000 gallons in terms of maple syrup. The value of the 1938 crop is estimated at $3,849,900 as compared with the value of the 1937 crop at $2,245,000. However, with supplies heavy, prices in general in 1938 are lower than in 1937.

Of the 1938 crop only 10 per cent was made into sugar, as compared with 26 per cent in 1937. A decline in the proportion of syrup made into sugar is indicated in the four producing provinces, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario, the decline being particularly marked in Quebec when only 12 per cent of the crop is estimated to have been made into sugar in 1938 as against 34 per cent in 1937. In New Brunswick also the proportion of production made into sugar declined from 67 per cent of the total crop in 1937 to 34 per cent in 1938. Reports from producers indicated that about one-third of the syrup would be kept for home use and the remainder sold. For sugar, it was estimated that the proportion of sales would be approximately the same as for syrup.