

**COMMODITY PRODUCTION \$13 BILLION:** The total net value of commodities produced in Canada set a new record in 1951, according to the Bureau's annual survey of production. Total production value for the year was \$12,934,430,000, an advance of 22 per cent over the previous top value of \$10,558,557,000 in 1950.

Canada's manufacturing industries again accounted for well over half the total, contributing \$6,940,947,000 to the net value as compared with \$5,942,058,000 in 1950. Agriculture made the second largest contribution, setting an all-time record of \$2,685,435,000 as compared with \$1,883,036,000 in the preceding year.

Net production value for the construction group also rose to a new peak of \$1,568,179,000, far above the previous record of \$1,284,065,000 set in 1950. In recent years the construction industry has accounted for about 12 per cent of all commodity production. The mining industry - fourth position - added \$770,143,000 to the value of commodities produced in 1951 as compared with \$657,329,000, its proportion of all production value dropping slightly from 6.2 to 6.0.

Net value of production in the forestry industry rose from \$381,326,000 in 1950 to \$484,264,000, with the proportion of all Canadian production value increasing from 3.6 to 3.7. Value added in the electric power industry advanced from \$313,347,000 to \$363,643,000, the proportion of the national total dropping from 3.0 to 2.8.

Ontario remained far in advance of the other provinces in net production value, its contribution rising from \$4,509,499,000 in 1950 to \$5,320,040,000.

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**LARGE YIELD OF FIELD CROPS:** Actual harvesting results indicate that Canadian farmers for the third successive year have harvested unusually large grain, oilseed and fodder crops, according to the Bureau's November estimate of production of principal field crops released November 17. While new production records were set for only one crop, soybeans, outturns of five others - wheat, barley, rye, shelled corn and rapeseed - were the second largest on record, and production of ten of the 20 crops included in the Bureau's estimates was above that of last year.

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**CABOT STRAIT FERRY:** Launching of the new Cabot Strait ferry being constructed for the Department of Transport will mark a further step in the planned expansion of commerce between Newfoundland and the mainland, according to the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chevrier. The new ferry was launched on November 26, from an East Montreal shipyard before a gathering of federal and Newfoundland dignitaries as well as representatives of the shipping and railway world.

**ESKIMO WELFARE:** The Minister of Resources and Development has announced the appointment to the staff of the Department of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Houston, both of whom are well known for their work in the development of the Eskimo handicrafts industry. It is one of the steps being taken by the Government to diversify the Eskimo economy. The objective is to make the Eskimo population less dependent on the fur industry, a traditional source of livelihood that has shown steady decline in recent years.

For the past two years the Canadian Handicrafts Guild, with financial assistance from the federal Government, has been engaged on a programme to stimulate the production of the Eskimo hand-work. Mr. and Mrs. Houston were the Guild's representatives in the Canadian North. They will continue to promote the Eskimo handicraft industry and will develop additional outlets for it. The handicrafts have proved very popular in Canada and the United States. Eskimo stone carvings in particular have come to be recognized as works of art of a genuinely high order.

With other officers of the Northern Administration and Lands Branch, Mr. Houston will study the economic problems of the Eskimos, with a view to the development of new economic activities. Mrs. Houston's work will lie in the same general fields, but will relate specifically to the advancement of Eskimo women in home economics, handicrafts and first aid.

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**NORWEGIAN VISITORS:** The Commanders-in-Chief of the Royal Norwegian Air Force and the Royal Norwegian Navy arrived in Ottawa by air this week for a short inspection tour of Canadian defence installations, it has been announced by the Department of National Defence.

Lieutenant-General Finn Lambrechts, C-in-C of the R.N. Air Force and Vice Admiral Skule V. Storheil, C-in-C of the R.N. Navy were met at Uplands airport and escorted to Defence Headquarters by Vice Admiral E.R. Mainguy, Chief of the Naval Staff and Air Vice Marshal F.R. Wait, Air Member Personnel, RCAF.

After meetings with the Minister of National Defence and the Chairman and Chiefs of Staff at Defence Headquarters, the Commanders left for tours in Ontario and Eastern Canada, prior to visiting the United States.

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**WEEKLY EARNINGS \$55.81:** Average hourly earnings in manufacturing declined by 0.2 cents between August 1 and September 1, but an increase of 0.1 hours in the length of the working week raised average weekly earnings slightly above a month earlier, according to an advance statement by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The latest earnings were 135.8 cents per hour and \$55.81 per week, and the average hours worked 41.1.