

carried was 38,122,771 as against 40,487,660 the previous year, the average number of passengers per train mile dropping from 102 to 83, excluding commuters.

Ratio of operating expenses to revenue increased to nearly 88 per cent from 87 per cent. Total payroll reached an all-time high at \$409,244,118 for 173,078 employees on Canadian lines compared with \$377,770,198 for 168,914 employees in 1946.

1948 "CANADA": Publication is announced of the 1948 edition of the Official Handbook Canada. Initiated eighteen years ago to supplement the field of the Canada Year Book, this convenient pocket-sized annual contains official information in condensed form and is especially designed for ready use by business men, students, and all interested in the progress of Canada. While placing emphasis on those aspects of most importance currently, it deals so far as space permits with all phases of the country's economic organization and brings statistics up to the latest possible date.

Containing over 260 pages of text, more than 100 illustrations including eleven pages of colour, 100 statistical tables, together with diagrams, charts and two map inserts, the current edition is both an attractive and readable publication. The frontispiece illustration is a colour photograph of H.R.H. the Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of Edinburgh, and H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, taken at Buckingham Palace immediately following the wedding ceremony in Westminster Abbey on November 20, 1947.

Special articles in this edition deal with "Canadian External Relations" and "Travel and National Unity". The chapter material falls under headings of vital statistics and public health, welfare services and veterans' affairs, survey of production, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, furs, mines and minerals, water powers, manufactures, transportation and communications, domestic trade, prices and price control and cost of living, foreign trade and international payments, construction, labour, national accounts and public finance, banking and insurance, education, science and culture.

WHOLESALE SALES: Wholesale sales during February were 3.5 per cent higher in dollar volume than in February last year, showing a slightly higher gain than recorded in January, but were two per cent below the latter month. The Bureau's general unadjusted index, on the base 1935-39 equals 100, stood at 239.5 for the month as compared with 231.4 for February, 1947, and 244.6 for January this year.

Quebec and British Columbia, with gains of 11 and 10.5 per cent respectively, were the only provinces to show substantial increases. There were slight gains of one per cent in

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Ontario and the Maritime Provinces, while in the Prairie Provinces dollar volume dropped 1.5 per cent below February, 1947.

Among the different trades, largest increases in dollar sales over February last year were recorded by dry goods and drugs, which were 17 and 14 per cent higher respectively as compared with gains of 14 and 11 per cent in January. Sales of tobacco and confectionery wholesalers were nine per cent above the volume for February last year, and those of hardware wholesalers seven per cent higher. Wholesale grocers' sales were practically unchanged.

As in January, sales of four of the nine trades were lower in February than a year earlier. Footwear wholesalers, with a drop of 10 per cent, and fruit and vegetable dealers, with sales down seven per cent, had the largest percentage decreases. Wholesale clothing sales declined five per cent, while those of the automotive equipment trade were one per cent lower as compared with a decline of seven per cent in January.

WHEAT STOCKS: Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on April 8 totalled 87,146,885 bushels, made up of 84,765,028 bushels in Canadian positions and 2,381,857 bushels in United States positions. Total for the previous week amounted to 88,103,478 bushels, and for the corresponding date last year 102,833,283 bushels.

PRODUCTION BRIEFS

CLAYS: Reaching the lowest monthly total since February last year, producers' sales of products made from Canadian clays amounted in value to \$993,200 in January compared with \$1,150,400 in December and \$863,300 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The figure for February 1947 was \$875,500.

LUMBER: Canadian production of sawn lumber in January has been estimated at 341,226,000 feet board measure as compared with 352,796,000 in the corresponding month last year, a decrease of three per cent, according to estimates by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

CRUDE PETROLEUM: Continuing the up-trend of recent months, Canadian output of crude petroleum and natural gasoline reached a high point in January, amounting to 775,628 barrels as compared with 766,309 in December and 597,572 in January last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Alberta produced 687,447 barrels compared with 563,172 a year ago, Saskatchewan 73,753 barrels compared with 19,725, Ontario 12,839 barrels compared with 10,401, and New Brunswick 1,589 barrels compared with 2,237.

NATURAL GAS: Production of natural gas was further increased in January, amounting to 6,186,254,000 cubic feet compared with 6,075,695,000 in December and 5,970,806,000 in January 1947, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The month's output comprised 5,136,777,000 cubic feet from Alberta, 969,233,000 from Ontario, 47,913,000 from New Brunswick and 32,331,000 from Saskatchewan.

SCRAP METAL: The following were dealers' stocks of non-ferrous scrap metal as at the end of January, totals for the first of the month being in brackets: aluminum, 4,481,092 (5,575,884) pounds; brass and bronze, 8,486,312 (8,553,351); copper, 3,362,447 (3,523,261); magnesium, 107,839 (107,514); nickel, 295,510 (279,223); tin-lead, 3,305,875 (3,853,159); zinc, 592,081 (563,607); drosses, 1,442,512 (1,568,624).

CONCRETE: Production of concrete building blocks -- solid, hollow and cinder -- amounted to 2,011,500 pieces in February, down slightly from the January figure of 2,095,000, but up sharply from last year's corresponding total of 1,111,000. Output of concrete bricks totalled 934,700 compared with 606,400 in January and 1,130,000 in February last year.

REFRIGERATORS: Output of domestic electric refrigerators in February amounted to 9,839 units compared with 10,244 in January and 8,272 in the corresponding month last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Imports of 630 units -- domestic or store type -- were higher than in the two previous months, but otherwise were the lowest since June 1946. Exports in February totalled 476 units compared with 99 in January and 263 a year ago.

COAL AND COKE: Canadian output of coal in January amounted to 1,385,800 tons, a decline of 19 per cent from the January 1947 total of 1,700,500 tons, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan showed increases of nine per cent, 13 per cent and 20 per cent, respectively, compared with January last year, but production declined 39 per cent in Alberta and 59 per cent in British Columbia as a result of the strike which began on January 16.

JANUARY RAIL OPERATIONS: Continuing the upward trend recorded in 1947, operating revenues of Canadian railways in January amounted to \$60,450,702, an increase of five per cent over January last year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Freight revenues were nearly seven per cent higher at \$47,921,371, while passenger revenues declined about nine per cent to \$6,287,866.

Increased operating expenses more than offset the gain in earnings, rising \$3,605,571

or 6.5 per cent to \$58,980,145. Transportation expenses increased \$2,311,095 and maintenance of equipment outlays \$1,186,647. Number of employees reached 175,005 and their earnings totalled \$34,879,675 compared with 170,419 receiving \$33,906,092 in January 1947, setting a new record payroll for any January.

MARITIME STUDY: From time to time the Dominion Bureau of Statistics receives requests for comprehensive statistical data illustrating the course of development of different regions of Canada, particularly those consisting of contiguous provinces with similar economic interests. Such a study dealing with the Maritime Provinces is released under the title "The Maritime Provinces in Their Relation to the National Economy of Canada".

In this report an attempt has been made to assemble the more important social and economic statistics relating to the Maritime Provinces from earlier times to the present. They are shown against the background of similar statistics for Canada as a whole. Certain relevant data of an interpretative and historical nature are also included.

CAR LOADINGS: Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended April 10 reached a new high for the year at 77,851 cars as compared with 74,459 cars for the previous week and 71,312 cars for the corresponding week last year. Grain loadings declined from 8,087 cars in 1947 to 5,117 cars and grain products from 3,312 to 3,052 cars, but practically all other commodity groups showed increases.

PAINT INDUSTRY: Production by manufacturers of paints and varnishes in 1946 was valued at \$56,729,620 compared with \$48,396,502 in 1945, according to the annual survey conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. These values are not quite comparable with industry totals for earlier years, it is pointed out, as the plants engaged in making white lead and other pigments were re-classified to another category in 1945.

Works in Ontario accounted for approximately 47 per cent of the year's total production, and establishments in Quebec for about 38 per cent. The number of plants in the industry increased to 98 from 90 in 1945, and were distributed as follows: Ontario, 52; Quebec, 27; British Columbia, 10; Manitoba, five; and one in each of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

FREIGHT LOADINGS: Loadings of railway revenue freight during March totalled 332,000 cars as compared with 286,000 in February and 306,000 cars in March last year. Aggregate for the three months ending March was 935,000 cars as against 878,000 in the first quarter of 1947.