

WHEAT EXPORTS JUMP: Exports of wheat as grain in April, at 20,400,000 bushels, showed a sharp reversal of the downward trend of the previous four months, and exceeded March exports of 12,100,000 bushels by some 68 per cent. In April last year the exports amounted to 20,000,000 bushels. This brought the cumulative total for the first nine months of the current crop year to 208,100,000 bushels, up 9.6 per cent from the 189,800,000 bushels exported a year earlier.

Preliminary data indicate that the equivalent of an additional 4,700,000 bushels of wheat was exported in April in the form of wheat flour as against 4,300,000 in the preceding month and 4,400,000 in the corresponding month last year. During the August-April period, some 41,000,000 bushels of wheat were exported in the form of flour as compared with 34,600,000 in the similar period of 1951-52.

The United Kingdom received slightly more than one-quarter -- 54,200,000 bushels -- of this season's August-April exports of wheat as grain.

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HANDBOOK "CANADA": Publication of the 1953 edition of the Official Handbook "Canada" is announced by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Initiated in 1930 to supplement the field of the Canada Year Book, it is especially designed for ready use by businessmen, teachers, students, lecturers, and all those interested in the progress of Canada.

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MORE HOME BUILDING: The upswing of new residential construction continued in all parts of Canada in April with both starts and completions substantially outnumbering those of a year earlier. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported that 9,902 new dwelling units were started during the month, a gain of 39 per cent over the 7,127 started in April last year, and that completions were up 19 per cent to 6,325 from 5,325. The average length of time under construction was down nearly two months to 7.0 from 8.9 months in April, 1952.

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EMPLOYMENT STEADY: Industrial employment showed little general change at the beginning of April, the Bureau's index standing at 181.8 as compared with 182.0 a month earlier, and 177.9 at the same time last year. The payrolls index for April 1 was 443.8, down slightly from 445.0 at March 1, but up from last year's April 1 figure of 411.5. Weekly wages and salaries at the beginning of April averaged \$57.31 as compared with \$57.40 a month earlier, and \$54.32 in the corresponding week last year.

RETAIL TRADE TRIPLED: Retail establishments in Canada's ten provinces rang up \$10,750,620,000 worth of sales during 1951, more than three times the 1941 nine-province total of \$3,440,902,200, according to the first figures from the 1951 Census of Distribution to be released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The 212 per cent sales increase was mainly due to substantial gains in each of the nine older provinces. Excluding Newfoundland from the 1951 total there was a 208 per cent rise in total sales to \$10,591,213,400.

Percentagewise the largest advance was in Alberta, where 1951 retail sales were 286.7 per cent over 1941. Gains in the other eight provinces ranged from 180.6 per cent in New Brunswick to 251.4 per cent in British Columbia.

Sales were over the four-billion-dollar mark in Ontario in 1951, above the two-billion-dollar mark in Quebec, and over the one-billion-dollar mark in British Columbia. In 1941 only Ontario had sales of more than a billion dollars. Retail sales exceeded \$500,000,000 in six provinces in 1951 as compared with only two in 1941.

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CANADA-U.S. AIR EXERCISE: A large-scale combined U.S. Air Force - Royal Canadian Air Force air defence exercise is planned for a period in July, it was announced June 14 in Ottawa and Washington.

To be known as "Exercise Tail Wind", the training operation will be similar in most respects to the highly successful "Exercise Sign Post" which took place during July, 1952. During the controlled training manoeuvre "aggressor" forces will fly according to predetermined but unannounced routes and times, to ensure realism and maximum training benefits to all concerned.

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FISHERIES RESEARCH CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Fisheries has announced the appointment of Dr. J.L. Kask, a native of Red Deer, Alberta, as Permanent Chairman of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada. Dr. Kask, who is at present Assistant Director (Fisheries), United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, takes over his new duties at Ottawa on August 15. Mr. Otto C. Young, of Ottawa, one of Canada's top fisheries research engineers, has been appointed Vice-Chairman.

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AUTO ENTRIES UP: Foreign vehicle entries into Canada on travellers' vehicle permits climbed 11 per cent in April to 106,667 from 96,379 in the same month last year, and 13.5 per cent in the first four months to 283,099 from 249,446.