

purchasing on instalment terms, caused the diversion of a certain amount of consumer buying power from other retail channels.

Sales increased fairly uniformly in all sections of Canada during 1949. Alberta, where new oil developments have stimulated business activity in recent years, led all provinces with a gain of 10 per cent. Sales were up four per cent in Quebec, while in other areas results conformed closely with the country-wide gain of nearly seven per cent.

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1,005,639 UNION WORKERS: The annual survey of labour organization by the Department of Labour has revealed that there were 1,005,639 union members in Canada on December 31, 1949, an increase of almost three per cent over the previous twelve months. Inclusion of Newfoundland unions in the survey for the first time accounted for about 24,000 among the total membership. This was in part responsible for a substantial advance in the membership of international and of independent local unions. Some falling off in membership of a few purely Canadian unions was noted.

An almost continuous increase in union membership since 1939 has been recorded. Membership figures to the nearest thousand for the years 1939 to 1949 have been as follows:

1939 - 359,000	1945 - 711,000
1940 - 362,000	1946 - 832,000
1941 - 462,000	1947 - 912,000
1942 - 578,000	1948 - 978,000
1943 - 665,000	1949 - 1,006,000
1944 - 724,000	

The membership of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada with 2,865 locals of affiliated and directly chartered unions was 459,068. Decreases were recorded in the membership of the Canadian Congress of Labour and the Canadian and Catholic Confederation of Labour. Despite gains by several affiliated unions, the membership of the former was lower than in 1948, owing to the expulsion of two unions from its ranks during 1949 and stood at 301,729. The Canadian Congress of Labour has 1,175 locals. Canadian and Catholic Confederation of Labour unions reported a total membership of 80,089 in 424 locals.

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RAIL REVENUES, EXPENSES: Operating revenues and expenses of Canadian railways reached new high levels in 1949, the former showing an increase over 1948 of 2.1 per cent, and the latter a rise of 2.9 per cent. The increase in revenues was mainly due to the interim increase of eight per cent in freight rates, while higher material costs were responsible for larger expenditures.

According to preliminary figures released by the Bureau of Statistics, operating revenues for 1949 amounted to \$894,397,264 as compared with \$875,832,290 in 1948, while operating expenses rose to \$831,456,446 from \$808,126,-

455. This resulted in the reduction of net operating revenues to \$62,940,818 from \$67,-705,835 and of net operating income to \$30,-558,818 from \$33,162,676.

Revenue freight tons carried during 1949 declined 7.9 per cent to 142,719,431 tons from 154,932,804, and ton miles were down 4.6 per cent. Revenue passengers declined to 34,883,-803 from 38,279,981, and passenger train mileage decreased to 407,421,229 from 410,-689,409 in 1948.

Total number of employees rose to 192,366 from 189,963 a year earlier and the payroll reached \$523,453,375, an increase of \$11,398,-580 over 1948 payments.

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AUGUST TRADE FIGURES: A summary of foreign trade figures for August released by the Bureau of Statistics shows an increase in Canada's total domestic exports to \$257,100,000 from \$251,700,000 in August, 1949, and a rise in estimated total imports to \$268,900,000 as compared to \$212,100,000. Domestic exports to the United States increased to \$167,100,000 as against \$115,400,000, but to the United Kingdom declined to \$42,500,000 as compared to \$62,900,000. Estimated imports from the United States amounted to \$175,300,000 as compared to \$143,600,000. The import figures are only preliminary and therefore subject to revision.

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CANADA-U.S. TRAVEL: Travel between Canada and the United States was higher by plane in the first six months of this year but lower by rail, bus, and boat, according to figures released by the Bureau of Statistics.

Entries of foreign travellers from the United States by rail in the half year totalled 192,403 as compared with 232,105 a year earlier; bus, 139,308 against 143,799; plane, 66,908 against 57,537; and boat, 44,465 against 68,278.

Canadian travellers returning from the United States by rail numbered 225,215 compared with 239,929; bus, 235,794 compared with 232,922; plane, 49,802 against 44,302; and boat, 22,443 against 26,736.

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SPECIAL SERVICE SQUADRON AT ROSYTH: A ceremonial 15-gun salute marked the Canadian Special Service Squadron's arrival at this Scottish port just up the Firth of Forth from historic Edinburgh. The exchange of ear-shattering greetings between Vice-Admiral A.E.N.B. Cunningham-Graham, C.B., C.B.E. Flag Officer Scotland, and Rear-Admiral E.R. Mainguy, O.B.E., R.C.N., Flag Officer Commanding the Special Service Squadron was the signal for revival of 'Auld Acquaintance' between Canadian sailors and their old friends in the Scottish capital. The Magnificent, Huron and Micmac had steamed through calm seas off the east coast of Scotland for their rendezvous with their Scottish hosts.