

FISHERIES REPORT: During the first quarter of this year Canadian sea fishermen caught 116 million pounds of fish, 33 million pounds of which were landed in Newfoundland and 83 million in the rest of Canada. It was about an average season for Newfoundland; but since the war the total haul on the other coasts has usually amounted to more than 200 million pounds by the end of March and last year it topped 260 million, the Department of Fisheries has announced in "Trade News."

Of the 83 million pounds landed on the main-land coasts, 62 million were caught on the Atlantic coast and 21 million on the Pacific. This made it a good season in the east and a very poor one in the west.

The catch of cod was six million pounds lighter and \$300,000 less valuable than in the early months of 1952 but landings of higher-priced related species were very heavy indeed. Haddock, pollock, hake, cusk and rosefish caught in the area during January-March usually amount to about 12 million pounds, for which the fishermen get about half a million dollars. Last year this catch grew to 18 million pounds and brought \$844,000. This year it reached nearly 22 million pounds and sold for nearly \$900,000.

Flatfish were also plentiful. An unusually good haul of halibut and a very heavy catch of plaice and flounders brought fishermen \$364,000. Last year this fishery doubled the average value for the first quarter and brought \$271,000. The usual catch of halibut amounts to about half a million pounds. This spring it was nearly three-quarters of a million. The take of plaice and flounders has grown from an average 800,000 pounds to four million last year and well up toward six million this year. All figures are for the first quarter.

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AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES: His Excellency Robert Douglas Stuart presented on July 15 to the Honourable Mr. Justice J.W. Estey, Deputy Administrator of the Canadian Government, his Letter of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Canada. The ceremony of presentation took place at the Supreme Court Building.

Mr. Stuart who was born at Glencoe, Illinois, in 1886, is a prominent business man. He has been associated with the Quaker Oats Company since 1906 and became Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of this company. He is also a Director of several important business firms. During World War I he served as Red Cross Commissioner for France.

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Some \$5,062,000 worth of motor vehicle bumpers and bumperettes were manufactured in Canada in 1951 as compared with \$4,170,000 worth in 1950.

UPSWING IN HOUSING STARTS: The 1953 upswing in new residential construction continued in May with the number of dwelling units started jumping 39 per cent to 13,606 from 9,801 in the same month last year, and the number of new units completed 38 per cent to 8,099 from 5,868. All regions of Canada reported appreciable advances in both starts and completions over a year earlier.

For the first five months of this year starts were running 46 per cent ahead of 1952 at 35,438 as against 24,196, while completions were up 35 per cent at 32,816 against 24,259. January-May starts were up substantially in all provinces, and completions were higher in all except New Brunswick, where a comparatively small decline was recorded.

May saw Canadian builders cut the time new dwelling units were under construction for the fifth straight month this year, though the May drop to 8.1 from 8.2 months a year earlier was the smallest of the five. Regionally the cut in construction time was confined to British Columbia, the Prairies, Ontario and Newfoundland, the average length of time under construction being higher than a year earlier in the Maritimes and Quebec. Of the units completed in Canada during May, 36 per cent had been under construction from four to six months, 36 per cent from seven to nine months, 12 per cent from 10 to 12 months, eight per cent from one to three months, and eight per cent for over a year.

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\$767,354,984 AUTO INDUSTRY: Canada's motor vehicles industry again set new production records last year, the gross factory selling value of its products climbing by \$24,459,096 to \$767,354,984 from \$742,895,888 in 1951, according to a preliminary compilation of 1952 figures by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Since 1948 the industry's production value has risen some 93 per cent from \$398,056,575.

The 1952 output included 433,710 motor vehicles valued at \$670,901,744 as compared with 415,420 worth \$651,420,227 in the preceding year. The number of passenger cars made was up only 0.3 per cent to 283,534 from 282,714 in 1951, but the number of trucks and busses was 13 per cent higher at 150,176 against 132,706. Auto parts and miscellaneous products were turned out to the value of \$96,453,240.

The industry's 19 plants last year employed some 31,102 persons as compared with 30,479 in 1951, and salaries and wages totalled \$113,607,071 as against \$101,342,774. The cost of materials increased to \$497,474,097 from \$469,114,484, and fuel and electricity costs rose to \$2,781,312 from \$2,667,570.

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In the last two calendar years about 96% of the crude oil produced in Canada has come from Alberta fields.