

FREIGHT IN '56 Car loadings of railway revenue freight in the full year 1956 reached an all time high of 4,402,581 cars, an increase of 8.3 per cent over the previous year's 4,064,909 cars and 5.7 per cent over the previous record of 4,166,515 in 1951. Receipts from connections rose 5.7 per cent to 1,740,929 cars from 1,647,236 in 1955, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports.

Cars loaded during the final ten days of 1956 decreased 8.6 per cent to 74,977 cars from 81,996 in the same 1955 period, and receipts from connections dropped 2.2 per cent to 40,153 cars from 41,038.

Car loadings in the month of December eased 0.7 per cent to 308,237 cars from 310,283 a year earlier, and receipts from connections moved down 0.6 per cent to 142,296 cars from 143,083. Grain loadings were 31,834 cars (26,806 a year earlier); coal, 27,171 (29,351); pulpwood, 14,875 (12,560); fuel oil, 13,726 (14,526); lumber, timber and plywood, 12,684 (15,674); gasoline, 9,569 (8,774); miscellaneous carload commodities, 21,078 (19,985); and l.c.l. merchandise, 52,117 (54,651).

Principal commodities carried in greater volume in the year were: grain, 7454,903 cars (33,232 in 1955); iron ore, 249,621 (172,351); manufactured iron and steel products, 80,468 (63,380); fuel oil, 126,854 (113,398); "other" mine products, 138,485 (124,796); pulpwood, 189,534 (162,699); and miscellaneous carload commodities, 289,632 (265,910). Principal decreases occurred in loadings of lumber, timber and plywood, down to 222,269 cars from 235,432, and automobiles, trucks and parts, down to 90,484 cars from 100,285.

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MARGARINE AND BUTTER Canadian production of margarine in the full year 1956 eased to 124,707,000 pounds from the preceding year's 125,094,000 pounds, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. During the year production ranged from 6,427,000 pounds in July to a record high of 13,640,000 in October. Output was smaller than a year earlier in seven months and larger in five. December's output dropped to 9,446,000 pounds from 11,376,000 in the same month of 1955. Stocks held by manufacturers, wholesalers and other warehouses at the beginning of this year were larger at 3,217,000 pounds versus 3,018,000 at the same time last year.

Also during 1956, production of creamery butter showed a 5 per cent decrease in the year's output to an estimated 301,672,000 pounds from 317,871,000. All provinces shared in the decline both in December and the year. Domestic disappearance of creamery butter rose to 27,473,000 pounds in December from 26,525,000 a year earlier, and to 311,954,000 pounds in the 12 months from 300,935,000.

Production of cheddar cheese was substantially larger in December at 3,404,000 pounds

versus 2,518,000 a year earlier, the year's total rising less steeply to 84,923,000 pounds from 79,238,000. Ice cream production rose 12 per cent in December to 1,686,000 gallons from 1,512,000, and was little changed in the year at 32,734,000 gallons versus 32,672,000.

Output of concentrated milk products fell 8 per cent in December to 23,697,000 pounds from 25,684,000 a year earlier, but the year's total rose 2 per cent to 483,143,000 pounds from 473,065,000.

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TARGET BUDWORM: There's to be a bigger attack than ever on one of the worst menaces to Canada's forest wealth. In a joint announcement made by Federal Resources Minister Jean Lesage and New Brunswick Lands Minister Norman Buchanan, plans were outlined for a 1957 expenditure of about \$3,500,000 to control the spruce budworm outbreak in northern New Brunswick.

The budworm, a small insect which feeds chiefly on the foliage of the balsam fir, now has seriously attacked more than 6,000,000 acres of northern New Brunswick forest. The insect does the damage in the larva stage, but later develops into a moth; these moths sometimes move in swarms of millions across the country. If left unchecked, the budworm destroys with the ruthlessness of a forest fire, leaving in its wake bare and lifeless trunks. In the past, millions of acres of forest have been destroyed and the harm done to local economies has been incalculable.

To meet the problems in New Brunswick, in 1953 joint action was started by the Federal and Provincial Governments and the industry, each contributing one-third to one of the most ambitious programmes of spraying ever known. The shares had been \$3 million each but with today's announcement they will rise to \$3,250,000 each.

With this money Forest Protection Limited, a provincial Crown Corporation, will further expand its programme of aerial spraying which has already covered 5 million acres with one or more applications of insecticide. There are a lot of problems for those involved in the spraying programme. Arrangements must be made for the large number of specialized aircraft and experienced pilots required for the operation. Tremendous quantities of insecticide must be obtained well in advance. Effective spraying can be done for only three or four weeks and even the starting date cannot be known long in advance. Spraying can be done only in fine calm weather. The whole timetable for the operation must finally be set by the spruce budworm itself. For this brief period, therefore, it is a very large scale intensive operation.

The estimated 1957 expenditure of \$3,500,000 is about double the amount spent in the 1956 operations.