

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES ACROSS CANADA: Seven of the ten regional consumer price indexes declined between February 1 and March 1 while three advanced. Food indexes were lower for all except the Edmonton-Calgary series which showed no overall change. Lower quotations for beef, tomatoes and shortening were mostly responsible for the decline in foods as they offset a general advance in coffee and scattered increases for pork, oranges and carrots.

Continued advances in rents resulted in higher indexes for the shelter component in all cities except St. John's. The principal changes in clothing were increases for women's cloth coats and decreases for men's nylon socks and women's nylon hosiery and rayon undergarments. As a result of these and other scattered changes, clothing indexes were lower in six cities, higher in two and unchanged in two.

Household operation indexes moved higher in five cities due mainly to advances for electrical appliances, dishes, glassware and cleaning supplies. Higher local transportation fares in Saint John and Saskatoon were reflected in substantial advances in the other commodities and services indexes for these two cities. Of the remaining eight cities, four showed no change, while four registered mixed movements due to changes in automobile operation and higher toilet soap prices.

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ELECTRIC ENERGY OUTPUT: Production of electric energy by central electric stations in February totalled 5,152,524,000 kilowatt hours, moderately below last year's corresponding output of 5,255,048,000 kilowatt hours. This followed a small decline in January from a year earlier, and the cumulative production for the January-February period fell to 10,786,071,000 kilowatt hours from 10,911,585,000.

Consumption of primary power - production, less net exports, and secondary power - in February advanced to 4,873,840,000 kilowatt hours from 4,681,074,000, and with January's total up to 5,379,051,000 kilowatt hours from 5,106,043,000, the two-month total climbed to 10,252,891,000 kilowatt hours from 9,787,117,000.

Gross exports to the United States fell in February to 130,283,000 kilowatt hours from 196,961,000 in the same month last year, and January-February exports dropped to 268,064,000 kilowatt hours from 412,146,000.

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CONCERT PARTY TO KOREA: An all-Canadian group of concert artists will leave Montreal by air May 2 for a six-week tour of the 1st Commonwealth Division in the Far East. It will be the fifth Army-sponsored Canadian show to play to members of the 25th Canadian Infantry Brigade in Korea.

WHEAT AND WHEAT FLOUR EXPORTS DOWN: Total exports of Canadian wheat and wheat flour in terms of wheat in February amounted to 13,700,000 bushels, down from both the preceding month's 17,800,000 bushels and last year's February exports of 17,600,000 bushels. This brought the cumulative total for the August-February period of the present crop year to 152,000,000 bushels, a drop of 27% from the preceding year's 207,800,000 bushels.

Exports of wheat as grain in February totalled 10,600,000 bushels compared with 13,800,000 in January and 14,000,000 a year earlier. In the August-February period the exports aggregated 126,300,000 bushels compared with 175,600,000.

February's exports of wheat flour in terms of wheat amounted to 3,100,000 bushels as compared with 4,000,000 in January and 3,600,000 in February, 1953. This brought the cumulative total for the August-February period to 25,700,000 bushels as compared with 32,200,000.

The United Kingdom continued to be the principal market for Canadian wheat, taking 42,100,000 bushels - 33% of the total - in the August-February period.

The United Kingdom was also the chief purchaser of Canadian wheat flour in the August-February period, taking some 8,187,000 bushels (wheat equivalent). Next in order were the Philippine Islands with 2,895,000; Venezuela, 1,898,000; Jamaica, 1,215,000; Trinidad and Tobago, 1,120,000; Korea, 953,000; Japan, 793,000; Hong Kong, 716,000; and Gold Coast, 605,000.

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GRAIN STOCKS: Visible supplies of Canadian wheat on March 31 totalled 355,403,000 bushels, moderately below the 350,188,000 bushels in store a week earlier, but 29.4% larger than last year's corresponding total of 274,588,000 bushels. Prairie farmers marketed 2,873,000 bushels of wheat during the week ending March 31, up from 2,308,000 a week earlier and 2,690,000 a year ago.

Prairie farm deliveries of oats and barley were larger than a year earlier, but both rye and flaxseed were moved in smaller volume. Marketings of oats amounted to 978,000 bushels (863,000 a year ago); barley, 1,260,000 bushels (1,066,000); rye, 83,000 bushels (142,000); and flaxseed, 36,000 bushels (45,000). Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending March 31 increased to 4,927,000 bushels from 3,278,000 a week earlier and 2,192,000 a year ago, but cumulative clearances from the beginning of the crop year to the end of March were down to 135,702,000 bushels from 170,051,000.

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Wholesale sales increased more than two and a half times from \$5,290,750,000 to \$14,223,198,000 in the 1941-51 decade, but the number of wholesale establishments rose only 6% to 26,156 from 24,758.