

RETAIL TRADE GAINS: Total number of retail stores of all kinds in Canada's ten Provinces and two territories in 1951 was 151,603, a rise of 10.4 per cent over the 137,331 recorded in 1941 for nine Provinces and the territories, and retail sales in 1951 totalled \$10,768,000,000, almost 213 per cent above the total of \$3,440,900,000 in 1941, according to a summary by the Bureau of final data on retail trade collected in the 1951 Census of Distribution.

The food and beverage group of stores, (grocery, meat and combination stores, and eating places) accounted for 65,135 or nearly 43 per cent of the total number and for \$3,306,000,000 or nearly 31 per cent of total sales. The automotive group was second in number at 18,369 and in sales at \$2,544,000,000 or about 24 per cent of total sales. Third in sales total was the general merchandise group, embracing department stores and mail order offices, general merchandise, general and variety stores, at \$1,839,900,600 and with 16,147 establishments. Next in order were the apparel and accessories group with total sales of \$783,843,300 and 16,284 stores, and the building materials and hardware group with total sales of \$673,175,000 and 7,884 stores.

COMBINATION STORES

Among individual kinds of businesses, combination stores showed the largest proportionate gain in number with a rise of nearly 88 per cent to 11,460 from 6,101 stores, while their sales were up 300 per cent to \$1,206,700,000 from \$301,400,000. Eating places were next in numerical gain with a rise of 57 per cent to 13,832 from 8,821, while their sales rose 244 per cent. Percentage-wise, farm implement dealers had the biggest sales advance with a jump of almost 548 per cent from \$30,400,000 to \$196,900,000, although only increasing in number from 2,587 to 2,688.

Among the groups for which data for 1951 and 1941 are directly comparable the automotive group showed an outstanding rise of almost 328 per cent in sales from \$594,700,000 to \$2,544,000,000, the number of establishments increasing slightly less than nine per cent from 16,867, to 18,369. The furniture, household appliances, radio and home furnishings group also showed a more than average rise of 233 per cent in sales and 49 per cent in number.

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FIRST FARM PRICE RISE: Canada's index number of farm prices of agricultural products turned slightly upward in May to show the first gain since the beginning of this year, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. From the revised figure of 240.8 for April, it rose to 241.2. Higher prices for live stock and poultry and eggs more than offset lower prices for potatoes and dairy products.

PETROLEUM: Supplies of crude petroleum received by Canadian refineries were sharply higher in March than a year earlier, as were the month's production and month-end inventories of refined products, according to the Bureau's monthly report.

Receipts from all sources in March rose to 10,180,470 barrels as compared with 8,596,063 a year ago. Supplies from domestic sources increased to 3,391,291 barrels from 2,785,444, while those from foreign sources -- Venezuela, the United States, and Arabia -- rose to 6,789,179 barrels from 5,810,619.

Output of refined petroleum products in March climbed to 11,491,456 barrels as against 8,239,109, with increases in motor gasoline, heavy fuel oil, furnace oil, stove oil, and a decline in diesel fuel.

Stocks of refined petroleum products held by refineries at the beginning of April advanced to 20,275,020 barrels from 18,439,255 at the same time last year.

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MINING REPORT: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has released its annual report on the miscellaneous metal mining industry for 1951. Metals and metal-bearing ores produced in Canada during 1951 and classified in this group include antimony, barium, bismuth, cadmium ore, molybdenite, pitchblende, selenium, tellurium, titanium ore, tin, and tungsten concentrates. In addition to statistical data on these metals or minerals, the bulletin contains notes of a summary nature on aluminum, beryllium, mercury, vanadium, and a few of the rarer metals.

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WAGE RISE: Average hourly and weekly earnings of wage-earners in manufacturing were slightly higher during the week of May 1 than those reported for the week of April 1. The latest earnings were 135.6 cents per hour and \$56.82 per week, and the average work-week was 41.9 hours. Upward wage-rate revisions were reported in agricultural implement factories, chemical plants and some other industries. Average weekly wages were 4.8 per cent higher than at May 1, 1952.

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TO IMPERIAL DEFENCE COLLEGE: Col. Roger Rowley, DSO, ED, 39, of Ottawa, Director of Military Training for the Canadian Army, has been selected to attend the 1954 course at the Imperial Defence College in England, it has been announced at Army Headquarters.

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Department store sales rose 11.6 per cent during the week ending July 4 as compared with the corresponding week last year, according to the Bureau's weekly release. There were increases in all sections of Canada.