

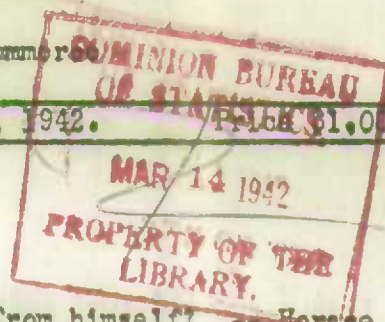
WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

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Ottawa, Saturday, March 13, 1942.



Summary of Quotations

1. Doubtless the pleasure is as great,
Of being cheated, as to cheat. -- Butler.
2. What exile of his country is able to escape from himself? -- Horace
3. If you would be good, first believe that you are bad. -- Epictetus
4. The sovereign is called a tyrant who knows no law but his caprice. -- Voltaire
5. The time that precedes punishment is the severest part of it. -- Seneca
6. What shadows we are and what shadows we pursue. -- Burke

Economic Conditions in January

Economic activity recorded betterment in January over the same month of 1941. The index of the physical volume of business rose slightly more than 9 p.c. to 142.4. The index of wholesale prices rose nearly 10 points, the standing in the first month of this year having been 94.3. The gain over the same month of 1941 was 11.5 p.c. The amount of cheques cashed at clearing centres rose nearly 10 p.c. to \$3,231 million in the month under review.

The chief industrial expansion of the month occurred in manufacturing plants, an index of output rising 15 p.c. to 163. The flour-milling industry operated at a considerably higher level of capacity during the latest month for which statistics are available. The meat-packing industry was considerably more active in January, cattle slaughterings rising more than 15 p.c. to 125,000 head. The gain in hog slaughterings was of relatively lesser proportions. The tobacco industry released 20 p.c. more cigarettes in January than in the same month one year ago, while cigars were made available to the extent of 14.1 million, a gain of 7.7 p.c.

The boot and shoe industry accelerated operations in December over the same month one year before, the gain being nearly 45 p.c. The output was 2,250,000 pairs in the latest month for which statistics are available. Raw cotton consumption, indicating conditions in the cotton industry, showed a gain of about 7½ p.c. The total in January was 16.8 million pounds.

Newsprint production rose to a considerably higher level in January, the advance being more than 19 p.c. Exports of planks and boards, on the other hand, recorded considerable decline. The primary iron and steel industry reflected the expansion in munitions and war supplies. Automobile production, mainly of a military character, was 21,751 units compared with 23,195 one year ago. Crude petroleum imports recorded advance from 55 million gallons to nearly 89 million. The new business obtained by the construction industry showed a marked reduction from the high level of last year, while building permits rose 19.4 p.c. The gain in electric power production was 22.5 p.c., the total in January having been 3,226 million kilowatt hours.

The bright spot of the month was the increase in exports. The gain was from about \$89 million to \$152.3 million. The advance was no less than 71.2 p.c. An increase was also shown in imports, but the percentage gain was of lesser proportions. The advance was from \$98.4 million to \$142.1 million. The active balance of trade consequently was \$10.2 million compared with an adverse balance of \$9.4 million in the first month of last year.

Internal trade recorded a considerable betterment over January, 1941. The gain in wholesale sales over the same month of the preceding year was 24.5 p.c., while retail sales rose 25.6 p.c. in the same comparison. Carloadings, indicating distribution of commodities rose 19 p.c., the total having been 271,946 cars. The gain in the gross revenue on the Canadian lines of the C.N.R. was 27 p.c., while the C.P.R. revenues were 26.2 per cent greater.

A general index of employment was 165.8 on January 2, against 134.2 on the same date one year ago. The gain of 23.5 p.c. mainly reflected the expansion in war plants. Manufacturing payrolls rose 31.2 p.c., while the gain in mining was nearly 6 p.c.

January Employment Situation

In accordance with the movement invariably indicated at the beginning of January in past years, there was a decline in industrial employment at January 1, 1942. The loss, as usual, resulted from the completion or suspension of work in the outdoor industries and from the closing of establishments over the holidays and for inventories and repairs. It was, however, on a scale decidedly below normal, the number of persons laid off and the percentage decline being the smallest on record for the beginning of January.

The 12,833 employers furnishing data to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported a staff of 1,657,990, as compared with 1,688,298 at December 1, 1941. This was a reduction of 30,308 men and women, or 1.8 per cent. The latter figure constitutes only from a quarter to a third of the average percentage loss indicated at January 1 during the past twenty years. In this period, the contraction has ranged from 3½ p.c. to 13½ p.c.

Not only were the decreases in employment at the date under review unusually small, but they also varied from the average in their distribution. The contraction in employment in manufacturing took place wholly in the production of non-durable goods, there being a contra-seasonal advance in the durable goods class, mainly in the iron and steel division. Food, textile and lumber plants showed the largest losses, but in each case these were of less-than-average proportions for January 1. In manufacturing as a whole, some 7,300 persons were laid off; this decline of 0.7 per cent reduced the index to 187.0 as compared with 188.4 at December 1. The latest index was over 31 p.c. higher than that of 142.5 at January 1, 1941.

Among the non-manufacturing groups, services, mining, transportation and construction and maintenance showed curtailment; that in transportation and construction was below normal, but in services and mining, the loss rather exceeded the average. Employment in the latter at January 1 continued to be adversely affected by industrial disputes. On the other hand, logging, communications and trade reported improvement, which, in the case of the first two groups, was contra-seasonal. The gain in trade was above normal, although it was smaller than that recorded at January 1, 1941.

The general slowing down of industrial production over the holidays, together with the contraction in employment in the industries affected by seasonal conditions, resulted in a considerable reduction in the payrolls distributed for services rendered in the last week in December. While the decline in employment in the Dominion amounted to 1.8 p.c., that in the reported earnings was 6.1 p.c. The payrolls disbursed at December 1 had aggregated \$46,132,298, while those distributed at January 1 were given as \$43,314,727. The average per capita earnings paid out at the former date amounted to \$27.32, as compared with the average of \$26.12 paid at the latter.

Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

During the week ending March 6 the export clearances overseas of Canadian wheat amounted to 2,646,986 bushels compared with 4,589,095 in the corresponding week in 1941. The accumulated total for the thirty-one weeks ending March 6 was 87,097,610 bushels compared with 69,440,666 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

Visible Supply of Wheat

The visible supply of Canadian wheat on March 6 totalled 475,074,479 bushels compared with 479,633,276 on February 27 and 485,401,718 on the corresponding date last year. The amount in store in elevators in Canada on the latest date was 455,086,294 bushels, the balance of 19,988,185 being in storage in the United States.

Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending March 6 amounted to 1,613,432 bushels compared with 1,193,716 in the previous week and 2,884,680 in the corresponding week last year. Marketings during the thirty-one weeks ending March 6 aggregated 167,812,996 bushels compared with 325,374,161 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

Marketings during the week of March 6 follow by provinces, with figures for 1941 in brackets: Manitoba, 440,984(324,029) bushels; Saskatchewan, 666,992(1,108,074); Alberta, 505,456(1,452,577). Totals for the thirty-one weeks: Manitoba, 32,532,883(42,589,257) bushels; Saskatchewan, 84,462,442(171,384,622); Alberta, 50,817,671(111,400,282).

Mineral Production in Canada in 1941

The value of production from Canadian mines in 1941 totalled \$560,746,875, the highest ever recorded and is an increase of 5.8 per cent over 1940. Gains were reported for all groups; metals reached \$395,372,577, an increase of 3.4 per cent; fuels, \$84,548,486, up 7.2 per cent; industrial minerals, \$34,123,685, 31.2 per cent over 1940, and structural materials \$46,702,127, or 11 per cent over last year.

Notwithstanding the fact that Canada's base metal production plays an important role in the mining picture, from point of value, gold output holds the leading position in the industry. Gold production totalled 5,351,689 fine ounces valued at \$208,040,000 in 1941 and represented 52 per cent of the total value of the metal production of the country and 37 per cent of the total value of all minerals produced. In 1940, gold production amounted to 5,311,145 ounces valued at \$204,479,083.

Silver production totalled 21,754,798 fine ounces valued at \$8,323,603 compared with 23,833,752 ounces valued at \$9,116,172 in 1940. Coal output totalled 18,222,107 short tons valued at \$57,995,503, an increase of 3.7 per cent in quantity and 6.1 per cent in value over 1940. Natural gas output showed a decline from 41,232,125 thousand cubic feet in 1940 to 39,213,386 thousand in 1941. Production of crude petroleum rose to over 10,000,000 barrels, of which 9.9 millions were produced in Alberta.

The value of production of non-metallies other than fuels aggregated over \$34,000,000 as against \$26,000,000 in 1940. Canada has been for years the largest producer of asbestos in the world; fluorspar deposits in various parts of the country have been investigated and shipments have been made to steel mills; feldspar exports and Canadian consumption were higher, while Canadian mica plays an important role in the war industry. A discovery of a large barite deposit in Nova Scotia in the fall of 1940 has led to the development of a new mining industry in that province.

Production of gypsum in 1941 totalled 1,590,321 tons compared with 1,448,788 in 1940. Salt production totalled 560,827 tons compared with 464,713. In Ontario, a large heavy chemical industry has been built up near some of the wells; the amount used for the production of chemicals being 46 per cent of the total output. The output of nepheline-syanite was greater than in 1941. Structural materials, including brick, cement, lime, stone, and sand and gravel all showed gains over 1940. Clay products totalled \$7,572,040 a gain of 20 per cent; cement production reached 8,368,711 barrels, a rise of 10.7 per cent; lime production totalled 862,845 tons compared with 716,730 in 1940; stone totalled 7,904,475 tons, a gain of 6 per cent, and sand and gravel output was valued at \$11,839,623 compared with \$11,759,245 in the previous year.

Sales of New Motor Vehicles in January

New passenger car sales in January were five per cent greater in number and 16 per cent higher in retail value than sales in the same month of 1941. There were 6,043 new passenger models sold for \$8,424,780 compared with 5,733 units sold for \$7,263,210 in January, 1941.

Increases of 34 per cent in number and 43 per cent in dollar volume of new commercial vehicle sales in January this year over last were the widest margins in corresponding-month comparisons recorded since April, 1941. Sales of 3,043 units for \$3,918,497 in January compared with 2,274 vehicles which retailed for \$2,747,477 in January, 1941.

Combined sales of passenger and commercial models totalled 9,086 with a retail value of \$12,343,286, up 14 per cent in number and 23 per cent in value from the 8,007 units which sold for \$10,010,687 in January, 1941.

Price Movements in 1941

The wartime rate of increase in price levels accelerated during 1941. The general wholesale price index for Canada advanced 11.2 p.c., from 84.2 in December 1940 to 93.6 in December 1941; and in the same period the cost of living index rose 7.2 p.c. from 108.0 to 115.8. The rise was general, and struck its most rapid pace during the summer months. The increase in area and intensity of the war caused many shortages of basic materials, and advances in shipping and insurance costs. The influence of these factors was clearly apparent in price levels of the United States and United Kingdom as well as Canada.

As the rise of prices gained momentum in the latter half of 1941, it became clear that controls established over a few key commodities would not check the general advance, and an over-all control of wages, rents, and commodity prices was imposed. On December 1 price movements in Canada were for the first time made subject to a general ceiling. Under this Order, maximum prices were the highest prevailing between September 15, 1941, and October 11, 1941, inclusive. Wholesale and retail prices could not legally move above this level after December 1, but below it they could fluctuate freely. There were a few exceptions; for instance the ceiling did not apply to fresh fruits and vegetables; and there was still a minimum price for wheat. Provision was made for maintenance of the ceiling on necessary imported foods as well as on domestic foods and services.

No commodity component groups, and few individual commodities in the general wholesale index showed not decreases for 1941. The greatest rise was in the animal products index which moved up from 83.5 in December 1940 to 98.9 in December 1941. Prices for eggs, prepared meats, and oils and fats all recorded substantial gains. The most important group, vegetable products, rose 13.8 p.c. The continued low price of wheat, and steadiness in milled products and bakery products, which together make up half of the vegetable products index; dampened the effect of such large increases as 84.1 p.c. for vegetable oils, 33.9 p.c. for tea, coffee, cocoa and spices group, and 39.7 p.c. for table vegetables. Rises for other groups varied from 1.6 p.c. for bakery products to 44.1 p.c. for the miscellaneous vegetable products group. Among the remaining component groups of the general wholesale index, increase varied from 0.8 p.c. for non-ferrous metals to 14.3 p.c. for chemicals and 12.4 p.c. for fibres, textiles and textile products. The indexes for iron and its products, wood, wood products and paper, and non-metallic minerals rose 6.1, 7.8 and 9.4 p.c. respectively.

The Canadian farm product wholesale price index kept pace with the general wholesale index, advancing 11.2 p.c. from 67.1 in December 1940 to 74.6 in December 1941. Field products rose 12.8 p.c., while animal products rose 9.7 p.c.; but the animal products index at 100.5 for December was still 41.3 points above the field products series. Increases in the animal products group were somewhat erratic. Livestock showed declines in April, October and November; hides after initial increases fell sharply in June and July, and recovered to their May level only in December. In vegetable products there were small recessions in May, August and November, breaking the slight upward trend of grain prices.

In December 1940 the Bureau's cost of living index showed a rise of 7.1 p.c. above August 1939 level; by December 1941 the increase was 14.9 p.c. A decline of 0.5 points to 115.8 in December marked the first appreciable fall in this index since the outbreak of the war. The food group, which has been responsible for almost half of the wartime increase in cost of living, advanced 13.5 p.c. during the year. Clothing and home furnishings followed with increases less than half as great. The indexes for rents and miscellaneous items showed the smallest net advances, 3.2 p.c. and 3.8 p.c.; fuel and lighting increased slightly more.

Production of Coal and Coke

The Canadian production of coal in January was recorded at 1,897,954 tons compared with 1,777,863 a year ago and 1,537,470 tons, the average for the month during the past five years. The output of bituminous coal totalled 1,226,435 tons, of sub-bituminous 69,549 and of lignite 601,970 tons. Coke production in January totalled 278,000 tons compared with 282,000 in December and 268,000 in January, 1941.

Production of Leather Footwear

The production of leather footwear in January amounted to 2,463,947 pairs, a decrease from the preceding month of 10 per cent, but an increase of 30 per cent over the corresponding month last year.

Public Debt of Canada

The Finance Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has just issued a bulletin on the Public Debt of Canada. The summary table of the aggregate debt of the Dominion shows net debt which was arrived at by deducting sinking funds and active or available assets from gross liabilities for the Dominion and provincial governments, while for municipalities sinking funds only were deducted.

The net direct debt of the Dominion Government as at March 31, 1940 was \$3,271,259,647 compared with \$3,152,559,315 in 1939; the net direct liabilities of the provincial governments as at their fiscal year ending in 1940 was \$1,439,130,929 as compared with \$1,362,034,478 in 1939, while the net direct liabilities of the municipalities were \$1,484,623,461 in 1939 as at their fiscal years ending, mostly December 31 as compared with \$1,453,451,506 in 1938.

The total net direct debt arrived at by adding Dominion and Provincial figures for 1940 with those of the municipalities for 1939 amounts to \$6,195,014,037 for 1940 as compared with \$5,968,045,298 for the previous year.

The indirect or guaranteed debt of the Dominion Government was \$1,355,233 in 1940 as compared with \$1,378,724,940 in 1939. The provincial guaranteed debt totalled \$251,191,781 in 1940 compared with \$287,091,843 in 1939.

The direct and indirect net liabilities added together form the aggregate net debt of Canada which amounted to \$7,801,439,570 in 1940 compared with \$7,633,862,081 in 1939.

February Cost of Living Index

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost of living index increased from 115.4 on January 2 to 115.7 on February 2. This index has risen 14.8 per cent between August 1939 and February 1942. Indexes for foods and miscellaneous items moved higher between January 2 and February 2, while the clothing index recorded a fractional loss.

The food group advanced from 122.3 to 123.1, as increases for potatoes, onions and tea overbalanced declines for fruits and eggs. The miscellaneous index mounted from 106.8 to 107.1 due to moderate increases in health costs and life insurance premium rates. The clothing index fell fractionally from 119.9 to 119.8. Other groups were unchanged, rents at 111.2, fuel and lighting at 112.9, and house furnishings and services at 118.0.

Canada's Domestic Exports in February

Reflecting the determination to defeat the aggressor nations Canada's domestic exports continued to mount in February and reached a total of \$186,519,000 as compared with \$99,596,000 in February, 1941, a gain of approximately \$67,000,000. Sharply increased shipments were sent to British India, Australia, New Zealand, Egypt, Iraq, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Actual totals follow, with figures for February 1941 in brackets: British India, \$6,730,000(\$2,245,000); Australia, \$4,902,000(\$1,932,000); New Zealand, \$1,617,000(\$924,000); Egypt, \$17,170,000(\$1,002,000); Iraq, \$3,297,000(\$1,000); Russia, \$3,991,000(\$2,000); United Kingdom, \$59,282,000(\$46,148,000); United States, \$54,063,000(\$34,140,000); Newfoundland, \$2,540,000(\$601,000).

Leading commodities exported during the month follow, with 1941 totals in brackets: automobiles and parts, \$20,865,626(\$7,280,689); newsprint, \$12,072,769(\$10,324,170); wood pulp, \$7,599,792(\$5,435,953); wheat, \$4,809,080(\$7,856,622); wheat flour, \$4,251,891(\$2,000,062); fish, \$5,456,141(\$2,930,467); furs, \$2,484,247(\$1,356,509); meats, \$6,675,014(\$10,049,862); cheese, \$1,703,379(\$171,854); planks and boards, \$4,725,250(\$4,392,607).

Births, Deaths and Marriages in January

Births registered in cities, towns and villages of Canada having a population of 10,000 and over numbered 9,401 in January, deaths 5,338 and marriages 4,432 as compared with 8,309 births, 5,493 deaths and 3,338 marriages in January last year, showing increases of 13 per cent in births and 33 per cent in marriages and a decrease of three per cent in deaths.

Farm Wage Rates

Farm wage rates at January 15, 1942, were sharply higher than at the same date of 1940 and 1941. The increasing pressure on the Nation's manpower has resulted in the diversion of many farm labourers to the armed forces and to urban occupations. For the Dominion as a whole the average wages paid for help hired by the day was \$1.53 at January 15, 1942, when the employer provided the board. The comparable rate at the same date in 1941 was \$1.24 per day. Men hired by the month were receiving an average of \$30.26 at January 15 1942, compared with \$22.65 a year previously.

Farm wage rates were below average in Prince Edward Island and the Prairie Provinces, but were considerably higher in British Columbia, New Brunswick and Ontario. On a seasonal basis farm wage rates were highest at August 15, 1941 when the average rate for day labour, with board, was \$2.06 compared with \$1.48 at May 15, 1941 and \$1.53 at January 15, 1942. The higher rate at January 15, 1942 as compared with May 1941 was due to the upward trend in wage rates as wages in May would normally be above those of January.

Sharp Increase Recorded in Output of Men's Factory Clothing in 1940

Due principally to wartime requirements the gross value of products made by the men's factory clothing industry increased to \$100,669,263 in 1940 from the 1939 valuation of \$70,807,930, a gain of \$29,861,333 or over 42 per cent. There were 4,440 more persons employed, which involved an additional expenditure in salaries and wages amounting to \$5,155,900, being equivalent to a rise of 20 and 25 per cent, respectively.

One outstanding item of production was that of uniforms of all kinds which accounted for \$12,405,663 or over 12 per cent of the entire value of output. Men's overcoats of all kinds were valued at \$12,064,328, a gain of \$4,075,522 or 54 per cent, due chiefly to military, naval and air force requirements.

In marked contrast to those two items was that of men's woollen suits, which suffered a decline to \$20,596,670 from \$21,316,327 in 1939.

Hog Production

The expansion which has been taking place in Canadian hog production will be continued throughout 1942. According to the December Survey of hog production, pigs born in the Fall of 1941 and to be marketed during the period December 1941 to May 1942 will be most substantial in the Prairie Provinces but lesser increases are also indicated for Prince Edward Island, Ontario and British Columbia. Winter and spring farrowings are also indicated to be 12.3 per cent higher than during the 1940-41 period and this should result in greater marketings during the latter part of 1942. Increases are shown for all provinces except Nova Scotia and Quebec.

Numbers of hogs on farms at December 1, 1941 at 6,385,000 head again established an all-time record and were 268,000 head higher than at the same date of a year ago. Despite higher feed costs during the Fall months of 1941 hog prices were still sufficiently high to maintain a better than average hog-barley ratio. Thus, it remains encouraging for the farmer to feed grain to hogs rather than market it as grain. The decline in hog production which occurred in the five eastern provinces during 1941 appears to have been checked in Ontario, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

Stocks of Unmanufactured Tobacco

Stocks of unmanufactured tobacco on hand at the end of 1941 totalled 100,861,829 pounds compared with 123,808,338 at the end of June and 108,169,011 on the corresponding date in 1940. The stocks at the close of 1941 included 99,026,121 pounds of Canadian tobacco and 1,815,708 pounds of imported tobacco.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Monthly Review of Dairy Production, February (10 cents).
 2. Stocks of Canadian Fruit and Vegetables, March 1 (10 cents).
 3. Cold Storage Holdings of Meat and Lard, March 1 (10 cents).
 4. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, March 1 (10 cents).
 5. Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, March 1 (10 cents).
 6. The Hosiery, Knitted Goods and Fabric Glove and Mitten Industries, 1940 (25 cents).
 7. Price Movements in 1941 (10 cents).
 8. Live Stock Survey, December 1, 1941 -- Hogs (10 cents).
 9. The Men's Factory Clothing Industry in Canada, 1940 (25 cents).
 10. Farm Wages in Canada, January 15, 1942 (10 cents).
 11. Preliminary Report on the Pack of Canned Fruits and Vegetables, 1941 (25 cents).
 12. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 13. The Women's Factory Clothing Industry, 1940 (25 cents).
 14. The Macaroni and Kindred Products Industry, 1940 (15 cents).
 15. Stocks and Consumption of Unmanufactured Tobacco, December, 1941 (10 cents).
 16. Domestic Exports by Principal Countries, February (10 cents).
 17. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
 18. The Polishés and Dressings Industry, 1940 (10 cents).
 19. The Miscellaneous Wood-Using Industries, 1940 (10 cents).
 20. Price Movements, February (10 cents).
 21. The Public Debt of Canada, Dominion, Provincial and Municipal Governments (25 cents).
 22. The Fertilizer Manufacturing Industry, 1940 (15 cents).
 23. The Breakfast Foods Industry, 1940 (15 cents).
 24. Census of Agriculture, 1941; Bulletin No. 8 (10 cents).
 25. Sales of Motor Vehicles, January (10 cents).
 26. Preliminary Report on Mineral Production, 1941 (25 cents).
 27. Economic Conditions in Canada, January (10 cents).
 28. Production of Leather Footwear, January (10 cents).
 29. Registrations of Births, Deaths and Marriages, January (10 cents).
 30. Coal and Coke Statistics, January (10 cents).
 31. The Employment Situation, January 1942 (10 cents).
 32. Fisheries Statistics of Canada, 1940 (35 cents).
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