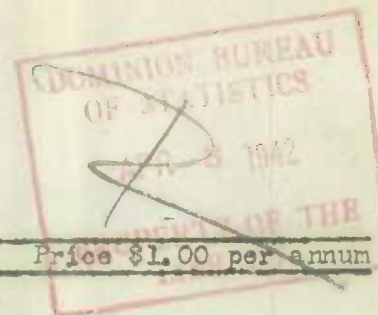


WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce



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Summary of Quotations

1. Tomorrow we will believe, but not today. -- Latin Proverb
2. If you wish another to keep your secret, first keep it yourself. -- Seneca
3. An idle life always produces varied inclinations. -- Lucan
4. The one needs the other's help. -- Sallust,
5. Discretion of speech is more than eloquence. -- Bacon

Canada's External Trade in February

The value of Canada's external trade in February, excluding gold, was \$287,752,712 as compared with \$294,434,021 in the previous month and \$190,155,778 in February, 1941. The gain over the corresponding month last year was no less than \$97,596,934. The balance of trade was in Canada's favour to the extent of \$48,641,010, the highest monthly total recorded for some years.

Imports in February were valued at \$119,555,851 compared with \$142,126,584 in January and \$89,631,628 in February last year. Domestic exports totalled \$166,518,968 compared with \$150,519,904 in January and \$99,596,443 in February, 1941, while re-exports were valued at \$1,677,893 compared with \$1,787,533 in January and \$927,707 a year ago.

Economic Betterment in February

Three of the six major economic factors indicating general conditions in Canada recorded increases in February over the preceding month. The index of industrial material prices averaged slightly higher in February than in the preceding month. The index was 92.8 during the four weeks of the month under review, against 92.4 in the first month of the year. The standing in February 1941 was 81.2. An authorized increase in prices of certain steel products was mainly responsible for this advance.

Business operations which had reached a high point in the first month of the year showed a recession in February. The index has shown an advance since the early part of 1938, recording a marked acceleration after the outbreak of hostilities. During the early months of 1940, the high level of 1929 was exceeded and an important gain has been recorded since that time.

Manufacturing production recorded a decline in February. Some recession was shown in the operations of the meat-packing industry, the index receding from 143 to 131. The hog slaughterings were 494,000 head against 588,000, a considerable proportion of the drop having been due to seasonal tendencies. Exports of canned salmon were 13.8 million pounds against 5.1 million in January. The raw cotton used by the textile industry was nearly maintained in February at the high level of January. The total was 16.7 million pounds against 16.8 million.

The forestry industry was more active, the index advancing from 127.1 to 134. Gains were reported in the exports of woodpulp, planks and boards and shingles, while newsprint production was at a slightly lower level. The exports of planks and boards were nearly 129 million feet against 103 million. Construction contracts awarded were \$11.1 million against \$12.9 million, the new business obtained being at a considerably lower level than in the same period of 1941. Automobile production, including military vehicles, was 20,181 units against 21,751.

Continued on page 2 --

The gross earnings of the two large railway systems reached the highest level on record, the amount of \$87.8 million exceeding a year ago by nearly \$18 million or 25.5 p.c. The previous maximum for the first two months of the year was \$75.8 million recorded in 1929, this figure being exceeded this year by about 15.8 p.c. The combined gross for the month of February at \$43.2 million exceeded a year ago by \$8.8 million or 25.6 p.c.

Economic Activity in February Compared with the Preceding month

	1942	
	February	January
Physical Volume of Business, 1935-1939=100	134.3	140.6
Industrial Production	141.3	148.4
Mineral Production	113.7	120.2
Gold, Mint receipts	105.4	115.7
Silver shipments	106.0	94.9
Asbestos exports	150.6	147.0
Coal production	135.7	128.2
Manufacturing	152.4	158.3
Flour production	-	152.4
Oatmeal production	-	31.7
Inspected slaughterings	131.3	143.3
Cattle	111.9	123.6
Sheep	103.2	115.3
Hogs	166.8	179.5
Creamery butter	112.5	114.2
Factory cheese	291.1	300.3
Salmon exports	345.0	111.7
Tobacco	179.8	173.4
Cigar releases	204.4	204.7
Cigarette releases	178.1	171.1
Rubber Imports	20.9	9.6
Boots and Shoes production	-	177.8
Textiles	138.0	148.0
Cotton consumption	176.3	177.0
Wool imports	131.8	157.5
Silk imports	31.1	20.0
Rayon materials used	135.5	146.2
Forestry	134.2	126.9
Newsprint	127.5	130.4
Woodpulp exports	231.1	209.7
Planks and boards exports	102.3	90.8
Shingles exported	216.2	125.3
Iron and Steel	240.3	241.9
Steel production	239.2	242.0
Pig iron production	239.1	243.3
Iron and steel imports	214.2	277.0
Automobile production	106.4	114.3
Coke production	128.2	127.5
Crude Petroleum imports	123.0	128.6
Construction	103.6	125.8
Contracts awarded	98.8	118.4
Building permits	118.8	149.6
Cost of Construction	122.9	122.4
Electric Power	136.6	142.9
Distribution	121.9	125.3
Carloadings	140.4	149.6
Imports	187.6	229.0
Exports (excluding gold)	223.7	199.7
Producers' Goods	154.5	160.9
Consumers' Goods	114.8	118.5
Marketings -		
Grain and Live Stock Marketings	93.9	136.3
Grain Marketings - Country Elevators	70.6	110.4
Wheat	98.8	158.2
Oats	78.0	145.7
Barley	117.8	158.4
Rye	192.5	248.2
Live Stock Marketings	100.9	112.3
Cattle	109.5	125.4
Calves	83.2	96.7
Hogs	95.4	91.2
Sheep	55.5	70.5

Economic Activity in February Compared with the Preceding Month -- Cont'd.

	February	1942	January
Cold Storage Holdings, 1st of following month.....	149.1		148.1
Eggs	346.2		187.8
Butter	116.6		116.7
Cheese	89.5		110.8
Beef	153.7		161.7
Pork	175.1		205.5
Mutton	118.0		111.0
Poultry	143.6		147.8
Lard	259.7		251.2
Veal	171.8		197.4

World Wheat Situation

Spring is here and with it the clang of farm machinery emerging from its winter quarters. For whole continents of farmers it is the beginning of a new year; time to prepare land for new crops and build fresh hopes for a successful harvest in 1942. It is seeding time in Canada and part of the United States, in parts of war-ridden Europe, on the great wheat lands of Russia, and in South Africa, Australia and Argentina.

More than usual interest attaches to sowings of spring wheat in Europe this year. The weather and the war combined last fall to upset farm programs in many parts of the Continent with the result that large tracts of land usually sown to winter wheat were left cropless. In Roumania, for instance, it is now estimated that 25 per cent of the acreage intended for winter wheat never saw a wheat seed.

Weather and war are still factors to be reckoned with this spring and the fortunes of battle will determine whether the rich wheat lands of the Ukraine will echo with the sound of plow and seed drill or again become the battlefield of mechanized armies. The labour question and the matter of fertilizer supplies also present difficulties in south-eastern Europe but the Nazis are reported to be doing everything possible to overcome the farm labour problem. They are in a position to draw upon large numbers of people in occupied countries and it is very certain that Dutch and other labour will be conscripted for this work. In the matter of weather, however, even the Herrenvolk are helpless to do anything about it.

While the 1942 programs in most of Europe will have for their goal the highest possible production of wheat, the objective in North America and Australia will be to keep wheat production within limits. To this end, new legislation has been introduced in Canada and Australia, while the United States set a goal for wheat last fall which anticipates a reduction of 9 per cent in the acreage to be sown to spring wheat. In Argentina where an acute wheat situation exists and the seeding of new crops will commence in April, there is as yet no indication of definite plans to curtail wheat production in 1942-43. In the United Kingdom it is estimated that when this year's plowing is completed there will be 6,000,000 more acres under cultivation than before the war.

Soviet Russia is said to have plans to offset wheat acreage lost to the Nazis in the Ukraine. These will include the breaking up of a large expanse of virgin land in southern Siberia for the sowing of spring wheat. It is believed that new land east of the Volga was sown to winter wheat last fall and the loss of the Ukrainian territory may be very largely offset by these new developments. Should the need arise for a large volume of wheat to be shipped to Russia, however, both Canada and the United States are in a position to supply the grain or flour.

So much for the new season and some of its developments. We turn now to the current situation and the changes recorded in the past month. In the matter of supplies, no further official revision has been made in the estimates of crops recently harvested in Australia and Argentina and although a new wheat crop is now being gathered in India, it is highly improbable that it will add anything to the world wheat surplus. The acreage sown to wheat in India and now being harvested was 2.4 million acres less than the area harvested a year ago, and while no official estimate of the crop has yet been made the yield is not expected to be more than average. The new winter wheat crop in the United States has wintered well and looks promising at the moment.

World Shipments of Wheat

World shipments of wheat during the week ending March 28 amounted to 6,325,000 bushels compared with 6,244,000 in the previous week and 6,920,000 in the corresponding week last year. During the first thirty-four weeks of the crop year shipments aggregated 183,030,000 bushels compared with 170,072,000 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

Visible Supply of Wheat

The visible supply of Canadian wheat on March 27 totalled 462,471,931 bushels compared with 467,136,389 on March 20 and 483,014,000 in the corresponding date last year. The stocks in elevators in Canada amounted to 446,784,790 bushels, while the amount in storage in the United States was 15,687,141 bushels.

Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

Overseas export clearances of wheat during the week ending March 27 amounted to 2,886,618 bushels compared with 3,110,556 in the corresponding week last year. The accumulated total for the thirty-four weeks ending March 27 was 97,691,634 bushels compared with 81,425,533 in the like period of the previous crop year.

Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces for the week ending March 27 amounted to 1,706,026 bushels compared with 2,010,715 in the previous week and 4,458,099 in the corresponding week last year. By provinces the receipts were as follows, with figures for the same week in 1941 in brackets: Manitoba, 338,744 (529,016) bushels; Saskatchewan, 780,437 (1,881,495) bushels; Alberta, 586,845 (2,047,588).

Marketings during the thirty-four weeks ending March 27 aggregated 173,820,251 bushels compared with 339,285,074 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year. Totals follow by provinces: Manitoba, 33,891,527 (44,318,778) bushels; Saskatchewan, 87,217,266 (177,658,130); Alberta, 52,711,458 (117,308,166).

Production of Flour in February

Canadian production of flour in February amounted to 1,584,978 barrels compared with 1,462,187 in the same month last year. The percentage of output to capacity was 73.5 compared with 68.2. Total production for the seven months of the crop year totalled 11,478,780 barrels compared with 10,103,930 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

Grains ground in Canadian mills in February were as follows, with figures for the corresponding month last year in brackets: wheat, 7,081,029 (6,557,760) bushels; oats, 879,502 (831,108); corn, 182,264 (215,963); barley, 239,120 (210,572); buckwheat, 900 (3,466); and mixed grain, 2,172,896 (2,723,724).

Production of Coal in February

Coal production in February amounted to 1,693,471 tons compared with 1,501,939 in the corresponding month last year. Bituminous output totalled 1,209,850 tons, sub-bituminous 60,631 and lignite 422,990. Imports in February were recorded at 843,256 tons or 55 per cent above the February 1941 tonnage. Exports during the month amounted to 42,652 tons compared with 36,962 a year ago.

Production of Iron and Steel

Production of pig iron in February totalled 143,973 tons compared with 102,104 in the corresponding month last year. Furnace charges for the month included 263,080 tons of iron ore, 66,288 tons of limestone and 130,536 tons of coke. Output of steel ingots and direct steel castings in February amounted to 242,921 tons compared with 193,422 a year ago. Ferro-alloys production in February amounted to 17,358 tons compared with 12,847 in 1941.

Leading Mineral Products in January

Production of Canada's leading mineral products in January was as follows, with figures for the corresponding month in 1941 in brackets: cement, 283,395 (282,564) barrels; clay products, \$346,526 (\$316,073); coal, 1,897,954 (1,745,482) tons; feldspar, 1,606 (965) tons; gold, 405,664 (434,259) fine ounces; gypsum, 76,403 (65,053) tons; lime, 72,913 (63,498) tons; natural gas, 5,182,954,000 (4,798,176,000) cubic feet; petroleum, 875,659 (802,652) barrels; commercial salt, 19,874 (14,58) tons; silver, 1,538,259 (1,557,370) fine ounces.

Bank Debits in February

The amount of cheques cashed in February was \$2,893,000,000 compared with \$2,540,000,000 in the same month last year. The gain of nearly 14 per cent reflects the higher level of business operations and commodity prices. Gains were shown in each of the five economic areas, the greatest percentage increase having been recorded in the Maritime Provinces.

Totals follow by areas, with figures for February 1941 in brackets: Maritime Provinces, \$77,690,830 (\$59,694,619); Quebec, \$825,810,631 (\$714,453,493); Ontario, \$1,344,264,159 (\$1,217,770,707); Prairie Provinces, \$435,326,084 (\$374,910,072); British Columbia, \$209,771,878 (\$173,353,621).

Canada's Imports in February

Canada's imports in February, excluding gold, were valued at \$119,556,000 as compared with \$89,632,000 in the corresponding month last year, an increase of almost \$30,000,000. Purchases from the United States totalled \$96,161,000 compared with \$68,015,000 a year ago, from the United Kingdom \$8,167,000 compared with \$7,815,000, British India \$2,333,000 compared with \$1,169,000, Brazil \$1,049,000 compared with \$564,000, Australia \$1,105,000 compared with \$691,000, British Guiana \$566,000 compared with \$260,000, Venezuela \$597,000 compared with \$187,000.

Of the nine broad classifications of commodity imports, eight recorded increases over February, 1941. These were as follows, with figures for 1941 in brackets: Agricultural products, \$11,851,000 (\$10,186,000); Animal Products, \$2,529,000 (\$2,977,000); Fibres and Textiles, \$12,035,000 (\$9,820,000); Wood and Paper, \$3,587,000 (\$3,132,000); Iron and Products, \$31,318,000 (\$30,794,000); Non-Ferrous Metals, \$6,870,000 (\$6,743,000); Non-Metallic Minerals, \$12,714,000 (\$8,905,000); Chemicals, \$4,892,000 (\$3,961,000); Miscellaneous, \$33,760,000 (\$13,114,000).

Housing in the City of Saskatoon

Four-fifths of Saskatoon homes were single houses and 18 of the remaining 20 per cent were flats and apartments, according to information obtained at the time of the 1941 Census. Wood provided the exterior surface for 61 per cent of dwellings, stucco for 21 per cent and brick for 16 per cent. External repairs were needed by 20 per cent of homes. Fifty-eight per cent contained 4 to 6 rooms, and 21 per cent contained more than 6 rooms.

Hot air heating was installed in 56 per cent of homes, steam or hot water in 26 per cent; the remainder depended on stoves. Coal was the principal heating fuel for 97 per cent of dwellings, wood for nearly all of the remainder. Cooking was done chiefly by wood in 34 per cent of homes, by coal in 32 per cent, and by gas or electricity in only 26 per cent.

A considerable proportion of homes lacked basic conveniences: 24 per cent depended on an outside water supply, 30 per cent had no bathtub or shower, and 54 per cent had no means of refrigeration. Ninety-eight per cent of dwellings were lighted by electricity. Of every 100 homes, 92 had a radio, 48 a telephone, 45 a vacuum cleaner, 35 an auto, and 20 had all four of these conveniences.

Canadian Fur Farm Industry

The number of fur farms in operation in Canada in 1940 was 9,164 with revenues totalling \$6,153,074 to which the sales of pelts contributed \$5,608,380 and the sales of live fur bearing animals \$544,694. In 1939 there were 9,899 farms in operation with revenues amounting to \$5,800,292. Of the total pelt sales, silver fox accounted for \$3,318,874 or 59 per cent, and mink for \$2,208,567 or 39 per cent.

Output of Central Electric Stations

Central electric stations produced 2,842,463,000 kilowatt hours during February, the highest on record for the month. In January the production was 3,226,289,000 k.w.h. Firm power produced for use in Canada reached a daily average of 87,789,000 k.w.h., which has been exceeded by only 87,891,000 produced in January and was 24 per cent above the February 1941 production. Exports to the United States amounted to 176,136,000 k.w.h. as compared with 176,643,000 in February last year.

Commercial Failures in 1941

The total number of commercial failures in Canada during 1941 as reported to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics under the provisions of the Bankruptcy and Winding Up Acts, were lower at 1,008 as compared with 1,173 in 1940. The defaulted liabilities for 1941 were \$9,133,657 as compared with \$10,663,326 in 1940, while assets totalled \$7,325,738 compared with \$7,676,295.

Indexes of Retail Sales in February

February sales of retail trading establishments declined six per cent from January but were 18 per cent higher than in February a year ago. The general index of sales on the base 1935-1939=100, unadjusted for seasonal movements, stands at 120.1 for February, 128.2 for January and 101.5 for February, 1941.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Artificial and Real Silk Industry, 1940 (25 cents).
2. The Aerated Waters Industry, 1940 (15 cents).
3. Advance Report on the Fur Farms of Canada, 1940 (10 cents).
4. Imports by Principal Countries, February (10 cents).
5. Summary of Canada's Imports, February (10 cents).
6. The Sporting Goods Industry, 1940 (15 cents).
7. The Miscellaneous Chemical Products Industry, 1940 (15 cents).
8. Monthly Indexes of Retail Sales, February (10 cents).
9. Car Loadings (10 cents).
10. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation (10 cents).
11. Bank Debits to Individual Accounts, February (10 cents).
12. Trade of Canada, February (10 cents).
13. Canada's Leading Mineral Products, January (10 cents).
14. Production of Asphalt Roofing, February (10 cents).
15. Sales of Asphalt Roofing, February (10 cents).
16. Advance Preliminary Statement of Stocks of Canadian Butter,
Cheese and Eggs in Principal Cities, April 1 (10 cents).
17. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
18. The Lumber Industry, 1938-1939 (50 cents).
19. Annual Report of Bank Debits, 1941 (25 cents).
20. Coal and Coke Statistics, February (10 cents).
21. Production of Iron and Steel, February (10 cents).
22. Canadian Milling Statistics, February (10 cents).
23. Housing in the City of Saskatoon, 1941 (10 cents).
24. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
25. Changes in Single Track Mileage Operated by Steam Railways
of Canada, 1940 (10 cents).
26. The Cement Manufacturing Industry, 1940 (25 cents).
27. Commercial Failures, 1941 (10 cents).
28. Output of Central Electric Stations, February (10 cents).

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