

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics
Department of Trade and Commerce

Vol. IX - No. 20

Ottawa, Saturday, May 16, 1942.

Price \$4.00 per annum

Summary of Quotations

1. Collaboration a la Hitler: "You give me your watch and I'll tell you the time."
2. We have only to endure and persevere to conquer. -- Winston Churchill in his address of May 10.
3. "If the British league of nations dies, no other league can live." -- R. Coupland, Professor of Colonial History, University of Oxford. Taken from "The Voice of Austria"
4. You cannot establish freedom without force and the only force you can substitute for an armed mankind is through the instrumentality of all the enlightened governments of the world. -- In Time to Come (Woodrow Wilson speaking).
5. "When time has sifted the wheat from the chaff, it is the works of violence that perish and the achievements of the spirit that endure." -- Dr. H.E. Fosdick

March Employment Situation

A further slight decline in employment was reported to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at the beginning of March, when 12,923 establishments furnishing data indicated a staff of 1,651,067 men and women as compared with 1,654,191 in the preceding month. This loss of 3,124 workers or 0.2 per cent lowered the index number from 165.4 to 165.1. It was, however, 22 per cent higher than on the corresponding date last year.

At the first of March, the sum of \$46,093,114 was distributed to persons on the staffs of the cooperating establishments as compared with \$45,746,652 in the first week of the preceding month. A decline of 0.2 per cent in the personnel was thus accompanied by an increase of \$346,462 or 0.8 per cent in the weekly payroll. The per capita weekly average at \$27.92 was higher by 27 cents than that indicated a month earlier, being also the largest average yet indicated.

The contraction at the beginning of March involved the release of a rather smaller number of workers than was laid off in the preceding month. The loss again took place wholly in the non-manufacturing division, the reductions in construction and trade being most pronounced, logging, mining and transportation were also generally quieter. On the other hand, a further important advance was shown in manufacturing, in which the reported employees, for the first time in this record exceeding the million mark, numbered 1,018,653, as compared with 995,170 at February 1. The increase of 23,483 men and women, or 2.4 p.c., raised the index to a new maximum of 195.7 at March 1; previously the high figure was that of 191.2 in the preceding month.

The increase in manufacturing at the beginning of March was seasonal in character, but with one exception, was greater than that reported in any earlier March in the record. As a result, the seasonally-corrected index resumed its upward movement, following a slight decline in the preceding month. The latest figure was 199.9; at February 1, it had stood at 198.4, while the previous maximum was that of 199.6 at January 1, 1942.

The largest gains were those of 11,000 persons in iron and steel and 10,500 in chemical manufacturing. Other important additions to the personnel were reported in non-ferrous metals, lumber, textiles, miscellaneous manufactured products, pulp and paper and leather factories. Although employment in textile plants continued at an unusually high level, the increase recorded at March 1 was decidedly less-than-usual for the time of year. The expansion in iron and steel, on the other hand, greatly exceeded the normal.

Curtailment as compared with February 1 was noted in the food, tobacco, clay, glass, and stone, rubber and electrical apparatus divisions; the losses in some cases were seasonal while those in the last two groups were largely due to shortages of materials.

Car Loadings

Car loadings for the week ended May 2 increased to 66,126 cars from 63,802 in the previous week and 61,263 in the corresponding week last year. Loadings in the western division totalled 21,337 cars compared with 19,584 the week before and 20,741 in the same week a year ago. In the eastern division loadings amounted to 44,789 cars as compared with 44,218 in the previous week and 40,522 a year ago.

Canada's Domestic Exports in April

Canada increased her domestic exports by a substantial amount during April, the total having been \$168,350,000 as compared with \$116,932,000 in the corresponding month last year, a gain of \$51,418,000. The aggregate for the four months ended April was \$660,870,000 compared with \$405,369,000 in the like period of last year, an increase of \$255,501,000. The figures quoted do not include gold.

The United States purchased Canadian merchandise to the value of \$62,655,000 in April compared with \$42,401,000 in the corresponding month last year, that country being Canada's principal market during the month. The United Kingdom was a close second with purchases amounting to \$59,147,000 compared with \$55,017,000. Exports to Egypt continued to be heavy, the total being \$13,359,000 compared with \$2,346,000 a year ago, British India \$9,024,000 compared with \$1,508,000, Australia \$4,724,000 compared with \$3,083,000, Russia \$3,488,000 compared with nil and New Zealand \$2,968,000 compared with \$816,000.

Exports to other leading countries were as follows, with figures for April 1941 in brackets: British South Africa, \$1,761,000(\$2,132,000); Trinidad and Tobago, \$1,647,000(\$779,000); Newfoundland, \$2,129,000(\$1,020,000); China, \$1,140,000(\$694,000); Jamaica, \$704,000(\$608,000).

Certain leading exports in April were as follows, with figures for 1941 in brackets: wheat, \$12,243,000(\$17,393,000); wheat flour, \$4,771,000(\$3,047,000); meats \$5,858,000(\$7,926,000); planks and boards, \$5,253,000(\$4,465,000); wood pulp, \$8,199,000(\$6,820,000); newsprint paper, \$10,702,000(\$13,019,000); automobiles and parts, \$14,524,000(\$8,766,000); chemicals, \$5,531,000(\$3,032,000).

Coarse Grain and Flaxseed Crops

A new era for coarse grain crops and oil producing seeds is being ushered in as spring seeding programme gets under way in Canada. Wartime needs demand greater production of oats, barley, rye and flaxseed while wheat, the erstwhile monarch of the prairie regions, is relegated to the category of an "also ran". Reserve stocks of wheat are liberal not only in Canada but in the United States, Argentina and Australia and the policy generally is to hold wheat production within limits in 1942, and to devote wheat acreage to the production of grains of which the supply is now short and the future needs very great.

Canada and the United States have agreed on a joint plan for the production and interchange of certain grains, while in Canada the payment of bonuses and the establishment of minimum prices form part of the Government's general plan to encourage the production of feeding grains at the expense of wheat acreage. Special consideration has been given to flaxseed for oil and a minimum price of \$2.25 compared with the present ceiling of \$1.64 will take effect on August 1 next for top grade flaxseed, basis in store Fort William-Port Arthur. The 1942 goal of flaxseed production is 20,000,000 bushels.

The sum of \$2.00 per acre will be paid as a bonus to growers in western Canada who divert wheat acreage this year to oats, barley, rye, corn, or flaxseed and in the case of rye, an additional \$2.00 per acre will be paid if the acreage is still in rye on July 1, 1943. For the benefit of farmers in eastern Canada, the Dominion Government is providing the sum of \$1,000,000 to be spent by the Agricultural Supplies Board by July 1 to encourage the wider use of chemical fertilizers in the five eastern provinces.

A shift into barley, flaxseed and oats from wheat and summer-fallow was contemplated by Canadian farmers at the end of April, according to a report issued by the Bureau on May 8. Total wheat acreage was shown at 3 per cent less than a year ago despite an increase of 32 per cent in fall wheat acreage remaining for harvest this year in Ontario. The sharpest reduction is indicated in Manitoba where the acreage is shown as only 88 per cent of the 1941 figure, while in Saskatchewan and Alberta the proposed decrease in spring wheat sowings is only 2 per cent and 3 per cent respectively. The total area indicated for spring wheat in the Prairie Provinces is 20,409,000 acres and if intentions materialize this would be the smallest wheat acreage sown in the Prairies since 1925. In the eastern provinces, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick growers contemplate an increase of about 5 per cent in their spring wheat acreage while Quebec and Prince Edward Island propose to make a small reduction. All other grains show proposed increases in varying degrees.

Wheat Stocks in Store

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store on May 8 totalled 432,259,244 bushels compared with 436,217,520 on May 1 and 470,427,576 on the corresponding date last year. The amount in transit on the lakes on the latest date was 7,884,521 bushels compared with 6,827,268 on the same date last year, while the total in transit by rail was 17,885,248 bushels compared with 21,350,527.

Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

During the week ending May 8 the export clearances overseas of Canadian wheat amounted to 4,522,910 bushels compared with 8,010,766 in the corresponding week last year. The accumulated total for the forty weeks May 8 was 126,235,564 bushels compared with 118,902,608 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces for the week ending May 8 amounted to 1,040,840 bushels compared with 1,455,125 in the previous week and 7,066,790 in the corresponding week last year. By provinces the receipts were as follows, figures within brackets being those for 1941: Manitoba, 112,305(776,993) bushels; Saskatchewan, 582,843(3,554,675); Alberta, 345,692(2,735,122).

Marketings in the three provinces during the forty weeks ending May 8 aggregated 182,907,488 bushels compared with 374,490,125 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year. Totals follow by provinces, with those for 1941 in brackets: Manitoba, 34,911,735(48,291,941) bushels; Saskatchewan, 91,601,764(194,876,078); Alberta, 56,393,989(131,322,106).

Estimate of 1941 Tobacco Crop

The third estimate of the 1941 commercial crop of leaf tobacco raises the total production to 90,161,200 pounds. This crop is one of the largest on record and has been exceeded only by the very large crops produced in the pre-war years, 1938 and 1939. The 1941 crop exceeds the previous year's crop of 61,136,100 pounds by 29,025,100 pounds or 47.5 per cent, although the planted area of 70,560 acres was only slightly higher than the 67,880 acres grown in 1940. Some expansion in acreage is expected in 1942.

Practically the entire 1941 crop has been sold, with prices for all types averaging 20.5 cents per pound as compared with 17.1 cents per pound paid to growers for the 1940 crop. The gross farm value of the 1941 crop is estimated at \$18,463,700, which is \$7,994,100 or 76.3 per cent higher than the value of the 1940 crop. More than half of the 1941-42 quota of 13 million pounds of Canadian tobacco for the United Kingdom market has been filled.

Production of Cheese and Butter

A sharp increase was recorded in the production of cheese in April while creamery butter output moved lower. Cheese output advanced to 11,558,430 pounds in April from last year's corresponding figure of 3,922,695 with creamery butter output standing at 17,029,081 pounds compared with 19,143,150 a year ago. The percentage gain in cheese production was 194.7 while the drop in butter was 11 p.c.

Production of Petroleum and Natural Gasoline

The Canadian production of crude petroleum and natural gasoline in February totalled 850,397 barrels compared with 875,659 in the previous month and 737,313 in February last year. Alberta's February output was recorded at 833,552 barrels.

Natural gas production in February amounted to 4,676,391,000 cubic feet compared with 5,182,954,000 in January and 4,429,065,000 in February, 1941.

Housing in Toronto

Two-thirds of Toronto homes in June 1941 were houses, and one-quarter were flats and apartments, while the remaining twelfth were rows or terraces. Of the houses, about one-half semi-detached. A third of the apartments were in buildings containing more than 10 dwelling units. The exterior surface of dwellings was brick in 85 p.c. of cases, stucco in 8 p.c., and wood in only 4 p.c. External repairs were needed by 13 p.c. of homes, and 6 p.c. contained business premises. Fifty-seven per cent contained 4 to 6 rooms, and 32 p.c. contained more than 6.

Half of Toronto homes were heated by hot air furnace, 44 p.c. by steam or hot water furnace, and 6 p.c. by stove. Coal was the principal heating fuel for 85 p.c., coke for 11 p.c., and fuel oil for 4 p.c. Cooking was done by gas or electricity in 96 p.c. of cases. Virtually all homes had running water and electric lighting, and exclusive or shared use of flush toilet and bathing facilities. Eighty-eight per cent had mechanical or ice refrigeration facilities. Of every 100 homes, 93 had a radio, 73 a telephone, 50 a vacuum cleaner, 38 an auto and 26 all four of these conveniences.

Housing in the City of Three Rivers

Sixty-seven per cent of Three Rivers homes in June 1941 were flats or apartments, and only 15 p.c. were single houses. Brick provided the exterior surface for 57 p.c. of homes, wood for 29 p.c., stucco and stone for 6 p.c., and other materials for 8 p.c. Business premises were included in 7 p.c. of dwellings, and 17 p.c. required external repair. Sixty-nine per cent of homes comprised 4 to 6 rooms, and 18 p.c. were larger.

Three-quarters of homes were heated by stove, 14 p.c. by steam or hot water furnace, and 9 p.c. by hot air furnace. Principal heating fuel was wood for 70 p.c. and coal for 24 p.c. Cooking also was done by wood in 57 p.c. of cases, and by gas or electricity in 40 p.c. Electric lighting, running water, and exclusive or shared use of flush toilet were reported for almost all households, and 83 p.c. reported some method of refrigeration; but 29 p.c. had no bathing facilities. Of every 100 homes 89 reported having a radio, 45 a telephone, 24 a vacuum cleaner, 20 an auto, and 8 all four of these conveniences.

The owners occupied only 22 p.c. of Three Rivers homes. They estimated the value of their premises at an average of \$3,062. Mortgages averaging \$1,521 at 5.5 p.c. interest were reported on 43 p.c. of owner-occupied homes, and average annual payments of interest and principal in these cases were \$150. Property taxes for owners approximated \$170, plus \$23 water tax. Typical owner-occupants had lived 15.2 years in their present homes, almost four times as long as average tenants.

Housing in London, Ontario

Almost three-quarters of London, Ontario homes in June 1941 were single houses, and 21 p.c. were flats or apartments. The exterior surface of dwellings was brick for 62 p.c., wood for 24 p.c., and stucco for 12 p.c.; external repairs were needed by 21 p.c. One dwelling in 16 contained business premises. Sixty-three per cent of homes were 4 to 6 rooms in size, and 26 p.c. were larger.

Three-fifths of homes were heated by hot air furnace, almost a quarter by stove, and 15 p.c. by steam or hot water furnace. Coal was the principal heating fuel for 43 p.c. and coke for another 10 p.c.; 42 p.c. of homes were heated by gas. Cooking was done by gas or electricity in 97 p.c. Almost all dwellings had electric lighting and running water, and most had exclusive or shared use of flush toilets; but 11 p.c. had no bathing facilities and 20 p.c. had no means of refrigeration. Of every 100 homes, 93 had a radio, 66 a telephone, 54 a vacuum cleaner, 41 an auto, and 24 all four of these conveniences.

Sales of Electric Storage Batteries

Reports from manufacturers accounting for 98 p.c. of the Canadian production of electric storage batteries show that sales for the first quarter of 1942 had a factory value of \$1,908,843 compared with \$1,996,008 in the previous quarter and \$1,422,194 during the first quarter of 1941.

April Canal Traffic

Freight transported through Canadian and United States locks of the Saulte Ste. Marie canals during April amounted to 10,216,001 tons compared with 7,865,478 in the corresponding month last year. Traffic started on the United States side on March 22, which was the earliest opening in the history of the canal, and through the Canadian lock on April 9 which was the earliest since 1925.

Navigation on the Welland Ship Canal opened on April 2, a week earlier than in 1941, and traffic increased from 661,400 tons last year to 1,025,309. St. Lawrence canal traffic started on April 9, one day earlier than in 1941 and total traffic for the month amounted to 386,142 tons compared with 308,137 in 1941.

Births, Deaths and Marriages in March

Births registered in cities, towns and villages having a population of 10,000 and over numbered 10,596 in March, deaths 4,995 and marriages 3,830 as compared with 8,662 births, 4,752 deaths and 3,062 marriages in March last year, showing increases of 22 per cent in births, 25 per cent in marriages and five per cent in deaths.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Canal Statistics, 1941 (25 cents).
 2. Summary of Canal Traffic, April (10 cents).
 3. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, February; and Gasoline Sales, January (10 cents).
 4. Canadian Coarse Grains, Quarterly Review (25 cents).
 5. Summary of Canada's Exports, April (10 cents).
 6. Domestic Exports by Principal Countries, April (10 cents).
 7. Tobacco Crop Report, Third Estimate (10 cents).
 8. Housing in Three Rivers, 1941 (10 cents).
 9. Stocks of Canadian Fruit and Vegetables, May 1 (10 cents).
 10. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, May 1 (10 cents).
 11. Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, May 1 (10 cents).
 12. Cold Storage Holdings of Meat and Lard, May 1 (10 cents).
 13. Factory Sales of Electric Storage Batteries, First Quarter, 1942 (10 cents).
 14. Housing in London, Ontario (10 cents).
 15. Summary of Monthly Railway Traffic Reports, 1941 (25 cents).
 16. Housing Bulletin, Toronto (10 cents).
 17. Miscellaneous Food Industry, 1940 (25 cents).
 18. Monthly Review of Business Statistics, April (10 cents).
 19. Car Loadings (10 cents).
 20. Registrations of Births, Deaths and Marriages, March (10 cents).
 21. Intentions to Plant Field Crops. Winter-Killing and Spring Condition of Fall Wheat, Fall Rye, and Hay and Clover Meadows.
Progress of Spring Seeding.
 22. Monthly Dairy Review, April (10 cents).
 23. The Employment Situation, March (10 cents).
-



1010729845