

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

) Department of Trade and Commerce

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### Summary of Quotations

1. Alas for a man who in these times, when the immediate is so noisy and obsessive, has no vision that still can see the abiding stars that were here before this storm arose and will be here afterward! -- Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick
2. Where life is more terrible than death, it is then the truest valour to dare to live. -- Sir Thomas Browne
3. They that stand high have many blasts to shake them;  
And if they fall they dash themselves to pieces. -- Richard III
4. Now we are no longer unarmed. We are well armed. -- Winston Churchill in address on May 10
5. Men are the sport of circumstances, when  
The circumstances seem the sport of men. -- Byron

### Farm Family Living Costs

Living costs for Canadian farm families advanced 2.1 per cent between the fall of 1941 and the spring of 1942, according to an index compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. For the latest period the index on the base 1935-1939=100 stood at 118.4 as compared with 116.7 in the fall of 1941. Compared with pre-war levels there has been an increase of 19.4 per cent. The eastern regional index moved up 2.0 per cent to 119.0 between August 1941 and April, 1942, while in the same period there was an increase of 2.3 per cent to 117.5 for the western series. The 2.1 per cent increase in farm family living costs over the past six months compared with one of 1.9 per cent in urban living costs.

Advances in the index of farm living costs continued to reflect increases in foods, notable among which were tea, prunes, cheese and lard. At 126.5 for the spring of 1942 the food index showed an advance of 2.7 per cent above the fall level. The eastern food index at 129.0 for April was up 3.1 per cent, while the western series gained 2.0 per cent to 122.7. Compared with pre-war levels, food prices have risen 32.2 per cent.

Clothing prices have advanced only fractionally since the fall as indicated by an increase of less than one per cent to 124.6 in the clothing index. As against a pre-war index level of 100.3, however, advances in clothing have been substantial, amounting to 24.2 per cent. Eastern and western spring indexes of 125.2 and 123.7 respectively compared with fall levels of 124.0 and 122.8, respectively.

The fuel price index level of 111.7 was 3.6 per cent higher than the preceding fall level. Regional indexes at 113.7 for the eastern series and 108.7 for the western series were 4.2 per cent and 2.7 per cent respectively above fall levels.

### Sales of New Motor Vehicles in March

A sharp reduction was recorded in passenger car sales in March, when the total was 2,269 units which sold for \$3,026,903 compared with 11,261 retailing for \$14,505,422 in March, 1941. The percentage decline was 80 per cent in number and 79 in retail value. A decline of 17 per cent below the previous month contrasted with marked advances which normally occur between February and March. During the first three months of this year, 11,045 new passenger units were sold for \$15,206,088 compared with 23,711 for \$30,128,472 in the corresponding period of 1941, recording declines of 53.4 per cent in number and 49.5 per cent in retail value.

Sales of commercial vehicles totalled 3,377 units valued at \$4,538,028 in March, being fractionally lower in number but up 12 per cent in value from the 3,390 new trucks and buses which sold for \$4,071,076 in the corresponding month last year. Sales during the first quarter of this year totalled 8,620 units valued at \$11,475,394 compared with 8,123 valued at \$9,725,758 in the corresponding period of 1941.

Sales of passenger and commercial vehicles combined totalled 5,646 units with a retail value of \$7,564,931 in March, down 62 per cent in number and 59 per cent in value from the 14,651 vehicles which sold for \$18,576,498 in March last year.



### Maternal and Infant Mortality

The basic statistical features of maternal, infant and neo-mortality in Canada, in conjunction with nativity, general mortality, marriage and stillbirth statistics for the fifteen-year period, 1926 to 1940, are reviewed in a special study released today by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

The material contained in this study has been prepared by the Vital Statistics Branch of the Bureau in collaboration with the Department of Pensions and National Health and is intended primarily for use in the Medical Schools, by physicians in private practice and by public health workers and educators in Canada.

The gradual decrease in the birth rate between 1926 and 1937 meant a drop of almost 20 per cent. Had the rate of 1926 prevailed in 1937 there would have been about 54,000 more births. It is interesting to observe the relations between the birth rate and the marriage rate. In some years the reduction in these two rates ran a parallel course, but from 1934 to 1937 the birth rate kept coming down although the marriage rate increased.

The maternal death rate for Canada, after remaining stable for a number of years, began a downward trend in 1931 and during the last ten years there has been a decided improvement except for 1934 and 1936. However, the Canadian rate of 4.0 in 1940 is not considered by any means the irreducible minimum, because a large number of deaths occur from causes which are controllable.

The following list of rates for various countries demonstrates that further improvement in Canada's maternal situation is possible. These rates are the latest available: France 2.1, England and Wales 2.3, Netherlands 2.6, New Zealand 2.9, Norway 3.0, Denmark 3.1, Irish Free State 3.1, Sweden 3.1, British Isles 3.4, Switzerland 3.5, Union of South Africa (Whites) 3.6, Northern Ireland 3.8, United States 3.8, Canada 4.0.

A greater saving of infant lives could be accomplished, says the report, although with the exception of 1937, the improvement since 1926 has been constant. The Canadian infant mortality rate is 19 per cent higher than in the United States. A list of the rates for some countries follows: New Zealand 30 per 1,000, Iceland 32, Netherlands 38, Australia 38, Sweden 41, Norway 42, Switzerland 43, United States 47, Union of South Africa (Whites) 50, British Isles 54, England and Wales 55, Canada 56.

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### Cotton Textile Industries in 1940

A very considerable advance was made by the cotton textile industries during 1940 and the gross value of production at \$115,559,067 represented an increase of \$34,329,369 or 42.3 per cent as compared with the previous year. Capital investment increased by \$6,802,577 or 7.5 per cent to \$97,423,757. The total number of employees was 26,017, an increase of 3,677 persons or 16.5 per cent and the amount paid out in salaries and wages at \$25,362,997 was greater by \$6,242,552 or 32.6 per cent than the 1939 disbursement for that purpose. Materials used cost \$60,975,877, an increase of \$19,598,877 or 47.4 p.c.

Fabrics, chiefly of cotton and cotton mixtures, comprised the principal output of this industry. Their value in 1940 was \$67,197,614 as compared with a valuation of \$47,450,138 in 1939, and they represented about 60 per cent of the total value of the output in the years named. Grey cotton fabric was produced to the extent of 69,407,533 pounds or 205,291,604 yards valued at \$24,635,953 in 1940 as against 51,195,640 pounds or 171,135,717 yards worth \$15,647,312 in 1939.

Yarns spun for sale in 1940 had a valuation of \$17,372,603 compared with \$10,835,048 in 1939. Cotton thread produced was valued at \$4,621,612 in 1940 and \$3,456,753 in 1939. Other important items included tire fabrics, blankets, towels, etc.

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### Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales in April

A further decline was recorded in the financing of motor vehicle sales in April, when 6,597 units were financed to the extent of \$2,488,528 as compared with 25,767 financed for \$12,352,589 in the corresponding month last year. The percentage drop was 74.4 and 79.9 per cent, respectively. During the first four months of this year 24,696 units were financed for a total of \$10,750,618 compared with 62,639 for \$29,923,475 in the like period of 1941.

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### Visible Supply of Wheat

Canadian wheat in store on May 15 totalled 424,311,694 bushels compared with 432,259,244 on May 8 and 466,074,306 on the corresponding date last year. The amount in transit on the lakes on the latest date was 2,780,232 bushels compared with 6,024,805 on the corresponding date in 1941, while the total in transit by rail was 19,994,466 bushels compared with 22,360,036 a year ago.

### Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces for the week ending May 15 amounted to 1,402,709 bushels compared with 1,069,442 in the previous week and 6,679,294 in the corresponding week last year. By provinces the receipts were as follows, with figures for 1941 in brackets: Manitoba, 276,337(631,555) bushels; Saskatchewan, 769,932(3,711,574); Alberta, 356,440(2,336,165).

Marketings in the three provinces during the forty-one weeks ending May 15 aggregated 184,338,799 bushels compared with 381,169,419 in the like period of the previous crop year. Totals follow by provinces: Manitoba, 35,188,825(48,923,496) bushels; Saskatchewan, 92,371,978(198,587,652); Alberta, 56,777,996(133,658,271).

### Value of Agricultural Production and Value of Farm Capital in 1941

Reflecting increased production as well as some improvement in farm prices, the gross value of agricultural production in Canada in 1941 showed an increase of nine per cent over that of 1940. The 1941 figure of \$1,379,386,000 is highest recorded since 1929. The most important increases in values in 1941 occurred in farm animals and dairy products. The value of field crops, on the other hand, was lower in 1941 because of serious declines in Saskatchewan and Alberta where grain production was drastically curtailed by drought.

An estimate of the current value of farm capital, including land and buildings, machinery and live stock, provides a total of \$4,689,656,000 for the year 1941. Some increase in the value of land per acre, combined with a sharp increase in the numbers of live stock on farms, resulted in an increase of approximately 200 million dollars in the value of farm capital as compared with that of 1940.

The gross value of commodities produced on Canadian farms by provinces, in order of magnitude follow, with the 1940 values in brackets: Ontario, \$460,935,000(\$380,342,000); Quebec, \$264,322,000(\$217,323,000); Saskatchewan, \$194,205,000(\$233,948,000); Alberta, \$192,720,000(\$209,784,000); Manitoba, \$131,197,000(\$102,751,000); British Columbia, \$48,265,000(\$44,081,000); New Brunswick, \$37,705,000(\$33,204,000); Nova Scotia, \$34,201,000(\$29,128,000); Prince Edward Island, \$15,836,000(\$14,551,000).

### Sales of Farm Implements and Equipment

Marked increases in farm implement sales in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia in 1941 over 1940 were modified by a slight drop in Alberta and a more substantial reduction in Saskatchewan, with the result that the total volume of farm implement business in Canada varied but little between the two years. Domestic sales, mainly at wholesale prices to dealers, totalled \$50,147,586 for 1941, up five per cent over the \$47,747,865 recorded for 1940 and 47 per cent above \$34,060,447 reported for 1939. These figures relate to the sale of new equipment and machinery only and are exclusive of the sale of parts, binder twine or motor trucks.

### Railway Revenues in February

Gross revenues of Canadian railways for February amounted to \$44,044,269 as compared with \$34,620,344 in 1941 and the previous peak of \$38,512,700 in February, 1928. Operating expenses increased from \$28,557,764 in February 1941 to \$35,281,385, a new high for the month, and the operating income increased from \$4,317,668 in 1941 to \$6,045,912. The pay roll increased by 25.9 per cent to \$21,064,757 for an increase of 7.3 per cent in the number of employees.

### Canadian Asbestos Mining Industry

Production of asbestos in Canada during 1940 was slightly lower in both quantity and value as compared with the output of 364,472 short tons valued at \$15,859,212 in 1939. The value of sales in 1939 was the highest ever recorded and the tonnage shipped was surpassed only by that of 1937. The entire production in the Dominion during 1940 came from mines in the eastern townships of the province of Quebec. Owing to wartime censorship, complete data relating to 1940 production of asbestos in Canada are not available for publication.

Canadian asbestos as produced commercially in Quebec is of the chrysotile or serpentine variety and is of high quality. Reserves of milling grade asbestos rock have been reported as sufficient for many years of commercial fibre production. Production of asbestos in Canada from 1880 to 1939, inclusive, totalled 6,930,368 short tons valued at \$255,017,509.

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### Reports Issued During the Week

1. Railway Revenue Freight Loadings, April (10 cents).
  2. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
  3. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, February (10 cents).
  4. The Grain Situation in Argentina (10 cents).
  5. The Asbestos Industry in Canada, 1940 (25 cents).
  6. Monthly Financing of Motor Vehicle Sales, April (10 cents).
  7. Preliminary Annual Report, Vital Statistics, 1940 (25 cents).
  8. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
  9. Farm Family Living Costs, 1942 (Spring) (10 cents).
  10. Annual Report of Tuberculosis Institutions, 1939-40 (25 cents).
  11. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, February (10 cents).
  12. A Study of Maternal, Infant and Neo-Natal Mortality.
  13. Value of Agricultural Production and Value of Farm Capital, 1941 (10 cents).
  14. Sales of Farm Implements and Equipment, 1941 (10 cents).
  15. Monthly Sales of New Motor Vehicles, March (10 cents).
  16. Report on the Cotton Textile Industries, 1940 (35 cents).
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