

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics  
Department of Trade and Commerce

Vol. IX - No. 26

Ottawa, Saturday, June 27, 1942

Price \$1.00 per annum

Summary of Quotations

Paternal power should consist in affection, not atrocity -- Latin Law Phrase --  
The World is a comedy to those who think, a tragedy to those who feel -- Walpole --  
To be trusted is a greater compliment than to be loved -- George MacDonald --  
Every one is the artificer of his own fortune -- Sallust --

Business Conditions in May

Prominent factors indicating the trend of economic conditions showed only minor change in May from the preceding month. The deposit liabilities of the banks receded from the maximum reached at the beginning of April. Slight gains were recorded in common stock and wholesale prices, while high-grade bond prices were more than maintained. According to preliminary calculations the index of the physical volume of business in May was slightly below the level of April.

The factors indicating the trend of mineral production averaged higher. Gold receipts at the Mint, however, dropped from 413,161 fine ounces to 393,710. A marked gain was shown in silver shipments from Canadian mines. Wheat flour production at 1.96 million barrels in the latest month for which statistics are available, recorded a considerable gain over the preceding month.

The meat-packing industry was less active than in April, the index of inspected slaughterings dropping more than 10 points to 127.3. Dairy production failed to advance in line with seasonal expectation.

The cotton used by textile industries receded from 17.9 million pounds to 17.1 million. The forestry industry was less active in May after the usual adjustment. Woodpulp exports recorded a gain while newsprint production and the outward shipments of planks, boards and shingles were at lower levels.

The new business obtained by the construction industry recorded a gain less than normal for the season. The railway freight traffic indicated a heavier movement of commodities to ultimate markets. Carloadings numbered 282,434 cars against 272,934. Exports of merchandise rose to an exceedingly high level, a marked gain having been shown before and after seasonal adjustment.

Business Factors in May Compared with April and the Same Month of last Year

		May 1942	May 1941	April 1942
Physical Volume of Business .....	1935-39=100	*	134.2	140.4
Gold Receipts at Mint .....	fine ounces	393,710	448,436	413,161
Silver Shipments .....	fine ounces	1,694,160	1,457,375	998,001
Factory Cheese production .....	pounds	24,276,008	16,853,938	11,558,430
Creamery Butter production .....	pounds	29,167,784	33,190,284	17,029,081
Canned Salmon exports .....	cwt.	38,745	14,925	54,067
Newsprint production .....	tons	251,831	284,767	277,741
Contracts awarded .....	\$	23,895,400	40,875,600	22,512,100
Carloadings .....	no.	283,434	276,157	272,934
Exports - domestic .....	\$	234,180,000	161,639,000	168,350,000
Cotton consumption .....	lb.	17,064,741	16,502,000	17,863,817
Slaughterings				
Cattle and calves .....	no.	153,863	162,216	152,170
Sheep and lambs .....	no.	20,017	34,212	37,141
Hogs .....	no.	534,102	486,650	545,195

\* The index of the physical volume of business according to preliminary calculations showed recession in May from the preceding month.

### Wheat Stocks in Store

The visible supply of Canadian wheat on June 19 totalled 408,459,205 bushels compared with 410,895,748 on June 12 and 470,100,346 on the corresponding date last year. The amount in transit on the lakes was 2,812,468 bushels compared with 4,485,608 on the same date last year, while the total in transit by rail was 20,607,647 compared with 24,871,792.

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### Primary Marketings of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending June 19 amounted to 2,829,729 bushels compared with 3,253,639 in the previous week and 7,917,414 in the corresponding week last year. By provinces the receipts were as follows with figures for 1941 in brackets: Manitoba, 762,023(836,898) bushels; Saskatchewan, 1,589,196(4,664,843); Alberta, 478,510(2,415,673).

Marketings during the forty-six weeks ending June 19 aggregated 196,638,049 bushels compared with 421,049,017 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year. Totals follow by provinces: Manitoba, 37,861,560(52,939,406) bushels; Saskatchewan, 99,291,821(223,337,270); Alberta, 59,484,668(144,772,341).

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### Area of Field Crops in Quebec

The area sown to field crops in the Province of Quebec at date of the 1941 Census of Agriculture was 6,427,621 acres as compared with 6,079,793 on the corresponding date in 1931, an increase of 347,828 acres or 5.7 per cent. The cultivated hay acreage in 1941 stood at 3,908,055 compared with 3,764,957 acres in 1941, oats 1,694,622 acres compared with 1,657,452, potatoes 153,464 acres compared with 146,190, barley 144,373 acres compared with 96,762, buckwheat 73,897 acres compared with 95,767, grain hay 44,726 acres compared with 49,947, and turnips and swedes 28,635 acres compared with 23,680.

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### Area of Field Crops in Province of British Columbia in 1941

The total area sown to field crops in the Province of British Columbia at date of the 1941 Census of Agriculture was 516,377 acres as compared with 452,226 on the corresponding date in 1931, an increase of 64,151 acres or 14.2 per cent. The cultivated hay acreage totalled 258,463, recording an increase of 34.1 per cent during the ten-year period. Wheat at 84,793 acres was 29.6 per cent greater, while oats totalled 81,520 declining 6.4 per cent. Barley at 17,995 acres was up 90.6 per cent from the 1931 acreage.

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### Fur Production in 1941

The value of Canada's production of raw furs in the twelve months ended June 30, 1941 was \$21,068,613, an amount which exceeds that of the preceding season by \$4,400,265, or 26 per cent and that of the season 1938-39 by \$6,781,676, or 47 per cent. Muskrat occupied first place in order of value, with a total of \$4,983,856. Mink is second with \$4,692,136, silver fox - for many years the most valuable of Canada's fur producers - third with \$4,378,837, and beaver fourth with \$2,062,008.

The increase in gross value in 1941 is due chiefly to the rise in prices shown for most kinds of furs: beaver advanced from an average price of \$18.18 in the season 1939-40 to an average of \$23.01 in 1940-41; ermine from 57 cents to 94 cents; silver fox from \$15.43 to \$21.58; white fox from \$8.66 to \$18.38; lynx from \$35.70 to \$41.33; mink from \$8.89 to \$11.08; and muskrat from \$1.18 to \$1.79.

The total number of pelts was 7,246,532, a reduction from the preceding season of 2,374,163, or 25 per cent. Muskrat and squirrel, which are among the less expensive furs, are the kinds most largely used: in the season 1940-41, the number of muskrat pelts entering into the fur trade was 2,790,520, or 38.5 per cent of the total for all kinds, while the number of squirrel pelts was 1,935,837, or 26.7 per cent of the whole. Both muskrat and squirrel show decreases from the preceding year in the numbers of pelts, but increases in average prices.

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### Production of Gold in April

Gold production in April was recorded at 420,795 ounces compared with 439,203 in the previous month and 439,556 in the corresponding month last year. During the four months ending April, production aggregated 1,641,292 ounces as compared with 1,733,074 in the corresponding period of 1941.

Production by areas in April was as follows, with figures for 1941 in brackets: Ontario, 245,098 (276,305) ounces; Quebec, 95,240 (88,540); British Columbia, 42,259 (45,938); Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 26,597 (19,444); Yukon, 602 (829); Northwest Territories, 9,261 (6,878); Nova Scotia, 1,738 (1,615).

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### Department Store Sales in May

Sales of Canadian department stores were six per cent higher in May than in the corresponding month last year but were two per cent lower than in the previous month. Unadjusted indexes of sales on the base 1935-1939=100 stand at 146.2 for the latest month, 144.9 for April and 134.3 for May, 1941. Cumulative figures for the first five months of 1942 stand 15 per cent above the corresponding period of 1941.

Regional increases in dollar volume of sales in May over the same month last year, with increases for the five months of this year over the like period of 1941 were as follows: Maritime Provinces, 11 per cent (20 per cent); Quebec, 9 (17); Ontario, 4 (14); Prairie Provinces, 3 (13); and British Columbia, 14 (17).

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### Building Permits Issued in May

The total value of building permits issued by municipalities reporting to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in May was \$8,556,122. This was a sharp reduction from last year's corresponding figure of \$17,144,335 and was also lower than the April total of \$11,295,975. During the first five months of this year the value of permits issued was \$37,665,830 as compared with \$52,013,064 in the corresponding period last year.

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### Railway Traffic in March

Revenue railway freight loaded at Canadian stations and received from foreign connections during March amounted to 10,603,660 tons as compared with 8,865,008 in March last year, an increase of 1,738,652 tons or 19.6 per cent.

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### Reports Issued During the Week

1. Monthly Traffic Report of Railways, March (10 cents).
  2. Prices and Price Indexes, May (10 cents).
  3. Building Permits Issued, May (10 cents).
  4. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways (10 cents).
  5. Quarterly Report on Coal and Coke Statistics for Canada (10 cents).
  6. Sales of Asphalt Roofing, May (10 cents).
  7. Production of Asphalt Roofing, May (10 cents).
  8. Department Store Sales, May (10 cents).
  9. Area of Field Crops, British Columbia, Census 1941 (10 cents).
  10. Fur Production of Canada, 1940-41 (10 cents).
  11. Diamond Drilling Industry, 1941 (10 cents).
  12. Area of Field Crops in Quebec, Census, 1941 (10 cents).
  13. Gold Production, April (10 cents).
  14. Telegraphic Crop Report, Prairie Provinces (10 cents).
  15. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
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