

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

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Weekly Summary of Quotations

1. A thousand years scarce serve to form a state;
An hour may lay it in the dust. -- Byron
2. True friendship is like sound health, the value of it is seldom known until
it be lost. -- C.C. Colton
3. Measure your mind's height by the shade it casts. -- Browning
4. Peace rules the day, where reason rules the mind. -- Collins
5. The Gods are just, and of our pleasant vices
Make instruments to scourge us. -- King Lear

November Employment Situation

There was a further expansion in industrial activity at the beginning of November when the tenth successive increase in employment was reported by firms furnishing returns to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Statistics were received from 12,775 establishments whose staffs aggregated 1,676,193 on November 1; this was an increase of 17,945 persons or 1.1 p.c. over October 1. The crude index of employment, based on the 1926 average as 100, rose from 165.8 in the preceding month to 167.6. This figure was more than 20 p.c. above the November 1, 1940, index of 139.2, heretofore the highest for that date.

Manufacturing showed further important improvement, some 12,750 persons having been added to the forces of the co-operating factories between October 1 and November 1. The gains in the durable goods division were exceedingly large, particularly those in iron and steel. The advance in manufacturing brought the index to a new high at 187.6 per cent of the 1926 average and compared with 185.0 on October 1 and 144.6 at November 1, 1940, previously the maximum for November.

Among the non-manufacturing divisions, logging, mining, building and retail trade afforded greater employment. While the gain in logging at November 1, 1941, was important, it was not equal to that recorded at the beginning of November in any of the last few years; this was probably due to a shortage of labour in some sections of the country. Seasonal contractions were shown in communications, transportation, highway and railway construction and maintenance and services.

The 1,676,193 men and women employed at November 1 by the 12,775 establishments furnishing information to the Bureau were paid \$45,279,584 for services they rendered in the final week in October. In the final week in September these establishments had indicated a staff of 1,658,248 employees, whose earnings in the period of observation in September had amounted to \$43,717,942. Thus a gain of 17,945 or 1.1 p.c. in the number of employees was accompanied by an advance of \$1,561,642, or 3.6 p.c. in the aggregate payrolls. The per capita average earnings continued to rise; the gain of 65 cents shown in the weekly pay envelope in October as compared with September was the largest reported in the brief experience of the payroll statistics.

December Cost of Living Indexes

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost of living index number declined from 116.3 on November 1, 1941 to 115.8 on December 1. This index has increased 14.9 per cent between August 1939 and December, 1941. The December decrease was due almost entirely to a decline in the food index from 125.4 to 123.8. Eggs, meats and fresh fruits recorded substantial reductions while moderate increases occurred in butter and fresh vegetables. The only other change for December 1 was a decline in the clothing index from 120.0 to 119.9. Remaining group indexes were unchanged as follows: fuel and light 112.7, rent 111.2, home furnishings and services 117.9, and miscellaneous 106.7.

Expansion of Industrial Employment and Sources of Labour Supply

The recent expansion of industrial employment, including the results of a sample investigation on the sources of labour supply are reviewed in a bulletin issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

It first analyzes briefly the expansion in employment since the beginning of the war and more particularly during the most recent six-month period. The rate of increase of the wage-earner body in Canada seems to be approaching stability at approximately 50,000 new entrants per month and there is little evidence of a slackening off.

A sample of 3,835 cards taken from the unemployment insurance records as of July 1, 1941 were traced back by individual names to the National Registration of August, 1940. It was found that 617 persons in the sample had not been working as wage-earners for one reason or another at the earlier date. Of these, 98 were own accounts and 26 were employers, mostly farmers who had left farms to take work in factories. There were 188 unemployed, 133 students, 87 home makers, 81 persons who had never worked, largely females, and four retired persons.

The relative proportions of these gives an indication of the extent to which the various reservoirs of labour have been drawn upon; thus between one-tenth and one-fifteenth of own accounts and employers, and almost half of the unemployed were absorbed as wage-earners in the ten-month period. Of the persons who had never worked over half of the men but less than one-tenth of the women have been drawn into industry. Only two to three per cent of the home makers of the country have taken jobs.

Canal Traffic During 1941

Freight passing through both the Canadian and the United States locks of the Sault Ste. Marie Canals created a new high record during the 1941 season of navigation when the tonnage was 111,121,718. The previous record was 91,888,219 tons for 1916, and the 1940 tonnage was 89,857,672 tons. Downbound iron ore accounted for 83,059,401 tons or 75 p.c. of the total. This also was 25 p.c. above the record iron ore shipments made in 1940. Wheat increased from 224,216,668 bushels in 1940 to 296,882,587 bushels which was exceeded only in 1927 and 1928. Other grains decreased from 63,092,836 bushels in 1940 to 61,839,724 bushels and upbound bituminous coal increased from 10,142,127 tons to 12,050,792 tons. The number of passengers increased from 52,807 to 89,740 which was also a new high record for the canals. The previous record was 79,951 in 1911.

Traffic using the Welland Ship Canal created a new high record of 13,232,263 tons as against 12,906,474 tons for 1940, the previous record. Flaxseed showed an increase over 1940 but all other grains showed decreases, wheat being lighter by 247,124 tons and corn by 263,690 tons, but flour increased by 88,936 tons. Iron, pig and bloom, iron and steel and coke showed substantial decreases but bituminous coal was heavier by 382,685 tons, iron ore by 473,841 tons, gasoline by 63,768 tons, petroleum and other oils by 297,249 tons and pulpwood by 66,076 tons.

Due largely to light grain shipments total freight using the St. Lawrence Canals declined from 7,479,617 tons in 1940 to 6,929,569 tons. Although the number of vessels using the canals decreased from 8,793 to 8,636 the vessel registered net tonnage increased from 5,812,055 to 5,910,172 tons. The large decreases in freight were corn 380,889 tons, wheat 353,251 tons, iron and steel 129,938 tons and anthracite coal 145,230 tons. Flour increased from 94,937 to 169,782 tons, gasoline from 391,367 to 410,991 tons petroleum and other oils from 613,273 to 741,845 tons, pulpwood from 546,529 to 615,010 tons, and bituminous coal from 2,114,509 to 2,497,488 tons; over 90 p.c. of this coal was downbound.

November Production of Leather Footwear

The production of leather footwear in November amounted to 2,935,564 pairs, a reduction from the preceding month of seven per cent, but an increase over November 1940 of 32 per cent. Production during the 11 months ended November aggregated 29,910,629 pairs compared with 24,216,363 in the corresponding period of 1940.

Visible Supply of Wheat

The visible supply of Canadian wheat on January 9 totalled 502,471,990 bushels compared with 502,455,470 on January 2 and 492,439,462 on the corresponding date last year. The stocks in elevators in Canada amounted to 472,887,531 bushels, the balance of 29,584,459 being in storage in the United States.

Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

During the week ending January 9 the export clearances overseas of Canadian wheat amounted to 2,273,962 bushels compared with 3,021,370 in the corresponding week last year. The accumulated total for the twenty-three weeks ending January 9 increased to 63,568,329 bushels from last year's corresponding total of 41,709,125 bushels.

Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces during the week ending January 9 amounted to 1,626,687 bushels compared with 3,330,597 in the previous week and 3,039,974 in the corresponding week last year. By provinces the receipts were as follows, figures within brackets being those for 1941; Manitoba, 343,273(352,674) bushels; Saskatchewan, 612,972(1,185,210); Alberta, 670,442(1,502,090).

Marketings during the twenty-three weeks ending January 9 aggregated 151,642,538 bushels compared with 290,629,888 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year. Totals follow by provinces with those for 1941 in brackets: Manitoba, 28,961,705(39,526,689) bushels; Saskatchewan, 77,813,831(156,125,871); Alberta, 44,867,002(94,977,328).

Canada's Domestic Exports in 1941

The value of Canada's domestic exports during the calendar year 1941 aggregated \$1,621,003,000, an increase of \$442,049,000 over the export of 1940. This was the greatest export trade Canada has ever had in the whole of her commercial history. During December the value increased to \$150,472,000 from the December 1940 valuation of \$97,621,000. Foreign exports during the calendar year totalled \$19,451,000 compared with \$14,263,000 in 1940; the total for December was \$1,619,000 compared with \$1,090,000. The foregoing figures do not include gold.

Certain principal items of export in 1941 were as follows, with figures for 1940 in brackets: wheat, \$161,856,075(\$119,530,365); wheat flour, \$44,807,353(\$26,351,695); fish, \$41,269,277(\$31,747,771); furs, \$16,159,036(\$16,176,075); meats, \$84,176,300(\$63,292,348); cheese, \$13,554,911(\$15,723,486); planks and boards, \$75,205,335(\$67,736,909); wood pulp, \$85,897,736(\$60,936,567); newsprint, \$154,355,944(\$151,359,496); automobiles and parts, \$148,010,655(\$64,595,642).

December values of leading exports were as follows: wheat, \$14,295,013(\$9,318,057); wheat flour, \$3,713,324(\$1,216,613); fish, \$4,883,922(\$3,550,144); furs, \$1,352,321(\$3,175,625); meats, \$9,450,895(\$3,110,896); cheese, \$933,437(\$569,710); planks and boards, \$5,114,553(\$5,649,327); wood pulp, \$9,574,249(\$5,392,942); newsprint, \$14,042,398(\$12,393,542); automobiles and parts, \$9,323,551(\$12,942,430).

Production of Tobacco in 1941

The second estimate of the commercial production of leaf tobacco in Canada in 1941 indicates a crop of 87,032,500 pounds from 70,500 acres as compared with 61,136,100 pounds from 67,880 acres in 1940, increases of 3.9 per cent in area and 42.4 per cent in production. An exceptionally high-yielding crop of good quality flue-cured tobacco in Ontario was responsible for the proportionately large increase in production.

The total production of tobacco in 1941, in pounds, is now estimated as follows, with the 1940 estimates within brackets: Flue-cured 69,721,800(39,144,000); burley 8,966,000(11,813,100); dark 1,764,000(1,466,000); cigar leaf 4,149,500(4,693,800); large pipe 748,000(2,111,500); medium pipe 1,422,000(1,592,800); small pipe 261,200(309,900).

Position of the Dairy Industry in 1940

The production of milk in Canada in 1940 reached a total of 16,263,077,500 pounds, an increase over the previous year of 137 million. All provinces were represented in this advance except Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Alberta, where dry pastures during midsummer tended to place a temporary check on the milk flow. The output of butter was 363,341,000 pounds, a decline of about eight million pounds from 1939. Cheese production on the other increased to 143,123,400 pounds from 126,521,659 in 1939. A total of 156,567,000 pounds of concentrated milk products were produced during the year and milk by-products amounted to 39,000,000. The former registered an increase of 19 p.c. and the latter 11 per cent.

In the dairy industry as a whole, the imprint of a wartime economy is much in evidence. The milk production of the Dominion showed only a normal increase over 1939, but it was utilized in a somewhat different manner. Greater quantities were used for the production of factory products and for fluid milk sales, and lesser amounts were converted into farm-made butter and cheese. Prices, of course, were a factor in this situation. Creamery butter, cheddar cheese and whole milk were sold on a higher basis during 1940, and owing to price advantages favouring cheese instead of butter, considerable milk was diverted from creameries to cheese factories. The price level of other commodities also moved in an upward direction. This change in the economic position followed in the path of a general increase in the employment of labour, larger payrolls and greater purchasing power. The manufacturing industries offer the best indication of what occurred, the indexes of factory employment as at the end of December advancing more than 18 per cent over the previous year.

But notwithstanding better markets and higher prices for dairy produce, the benefits accruing to farmers were at least partially neutralized by increased production costs. The money received from dairy factories for milk and cream in 1940 was 12 per cent above that of 1939; yet, the costs of farm living advanced 7 per cent in the spring period and 11 per cent in the fall period, while feed costs in 1940 showed an increase of 10 per cent over the previous year. Likewise, farm help became more and more difficult to procure as the season advanced and farmers were required to pay more money to obtain experienced labourers. In dairy factories a similar situation existed. Labour costs increased 6 per cent; and although the value of manufactured products moved up 10 per cent, this advance was outbalanced by increased expenditures for milk and cream referred to above.

Petroleum Refining in 1940

Refinery production of gasoline in 1940 amounted to 779,983,106 gallons, being the highest on record. This was an increase of five per cent over 1939, which in turn was 13 per cent higher than in 1938. The refinery selling value of the gasoline made during 1940 was \$71,226,944. In 1940 there was an output of 8,538,070 gallons of natural gasoline from absorption plants in Alberta.

Production of fuel and gas oils, excluding any made and used for cracking processes, totalled 598,913,302 gallons, of which 537,628,616 gallons were made for sale and 61,284,686 gallons for use as fuel in the producing plant. The apparent consumption of fuel and gas oils in Canada amounted to 676,586,326 gallons. Output of tractor and engine distillates was 23,797,763 gallons in 1940.

During the year 1,443,258,451 gallons of imported crude oil and 302,235,830 gallons of crude oil and absorption gasoline from Canadian wells, or a total of 1,745,494,281 gallons was put through Canadian refineries, this amounting to about 63 per cent of the rated capacity. Of the total import, about 57 per cent was brought from the United States and nearly 26 per cent from other countries, while about 17 per cent came from Canadian wells.

Sale of Radio Receiving Sets

Sales of radio receiving sets by Canadian producers during the third quarter of 1941 totalled 120,573 units valued at \$7,111,895. In the corresponding period of 1940, 116,866 were sold. Increased sales were shown for all of the eastern provinces but the reverse was the case in the West. For the first nine months of 1941 producers' sales totalled 280,909 sets valued at \$15,913,597 compared with 274,306 sets at \$13,390,703 in the corresponding period of 1940.

Preliminary Population Figures for Prairie Electoral Districts

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics this week issued a preliminary count of the population of the Federal Electoral Districts in the Prairie Provinces.

The population for Manitoba and Alberta showed a decided increase, while that for Saskatchewan decreased. For the three provinces as a whole, the population has risen, above the 1931 total, with figures as follows: Manitoba, 722,447(700,139); Saskatchewan, 887,747(921,735); Alberta, 788,398(731,605).

The following are some of the larger districts included in this report, with 1931 figures in brackets: Brandon, Manitoba, 38,048(40,483); Portage la Prairie 28,622(25,569); Winnipeg North, 69,822(74,762); Winnipeg North Centre, 59,443(59,004); Winnipeg South, 53,557(51,518); Winnipeg South Centre 65,546(64,090); St. Boniface, 36,019(31,289); Provencher, 38,007(32,613); Humboldt, Saskatchewan 42,986(41,172); Mackenzie, 57,166(46,171); Moose Jaw, 38,673(43,668); North Battleford, 50,677(41,513); Prince Albert, 46,691(39,869); Regina City, 57,389(53,209); Saskatoon City, 45,486(47,362); Swift Current 39,475(46,447); Weyburn, 38,011(44,710); Acadia, Alberta, 26,129(37,423); Athabaska, 52,474(39,102); Bow River, 44,511(44,491); Calgary East, 46,873(44,745); Calgary W.-O., 43,181(41,418); Edmonton East, 53,000(46,086); Edmonton W.-O., 47,565(39,712); Jasper-Edson, 58,542(47,394); Peace River 51,863(43,761); Wetaskiwin, 55,206(46,330); Red Deer, 46,522(39,758).

Population of British Columbia

According to preliminary figures released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the population of the province of British Columbia on June 2, 1941, totalled 809,203 compared with 694,263 on the same date in 1931, an increase of 114,940. The population of the City of Vancouver increased to 271,597 from 246,593, Victoria to 42,907 from 39,082 and New Westminster to 21,602 from 17,524.

The population figures for other centres in British Columbia follow, with those for 1931 in brackets: Fernie, 2,513(2,732); Rossland, 3,609(2,848); Trail, 9,132(7,573); Nelson, 5,753(5,992); Kelowna, 5,047(4,655); Vernon, 5,099(3,937); Prince Rupert, 6,656(6,350); Chilliwack, 3,613(2,461); North Vancouver, 8,844(8,510); Nanaimo, 6,583(6,745); Port Alberni, 4,547(2,356); Kamloops, 5,847(6,167).

Revenues Derived from the Registration of Motor Vehicles and Gasoline Taxes

Revenues derived from the registration of motor vehicles, drivers' licenses, fines for infraction of motor vehicle laws and gasoline taxes aggregated \$85,479,893 in 1940 as compared with \$79,915,560 in 1939, an increase of \$5,564,333. Revenues from registrations etc. increased from \$26,391,220 to \$28,050,084, and fees from public service vehicles declined from \$1,569,980 to \$1,250,636. The gasoline tax, less commissions paid to vendors for collecting the tax from the public, increased from \$51,954,360 to \$56,179,173 in all provinces except Prince Edward Island showing increases. There were no increases in the tax rates during the year, the gain in revenues being due entirely to increased consumption of taxable gasoline.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Operating Revenues, Expenses and Statistics of Railways, October (10 cents).
2. The Employment Situation, November (10 cents).
3. Tobacco Crop Report (10 cents).
4. Census Bulletin, No. 14 (10 cents).
5. Census Bulletin, No. 15 (10 cents).
6. Stocks of Dairy and Poultry Products, January 1, (10 cents).
7. Cold Storage Holdings of Meat and Lamb, January 1 (10 cents).
8. Cold Storage Holdings of Fish, January 1 (10 cents).
9. Stocks of Canadian Fruit and Vegetables, January 1 (10 cents).
10. The Petroleum Products Industry, 1940 (50 cents).
11. The Cooperage Industry, 1940 (10 cents).
12. Car Loadings (10 cents).
13. Production and Sale of Radio Receiving Sets, July, August and September, 1941 (25 cents).
14. Summary of Canal Statistics, 1941 (10 cents).
15. Railway Revenue Freight Loadings (10 cents).
16. Current Trends in Food Distribution, November (10 cents).
17. Recent Expansion of Industrial Employment and Sources of Labour Supply (25 cents).
18. Price Movements, December (10 cents).
19. Dairying Statistics of Canada, 1940 (25 cents).
20. Production of Leather Footwear, November (10 cents).
21. The Highway and the Motor Vehicle, 1940 (25 cents).
22. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).



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