

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Dominion Bureau of Statistics

Department of Trade and Commerce

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Summary of Week's Quotations

1. Every subject's duty is the king's; but every subject's soul is his own. -- Shakespeare
2. Fortune gives too much to many, enough to none. -- Martial
3. The web of our life is of a mingled yarn, good and ill together. -- Shakespeare
4. Fame sometimes hath created something of nothing. -- Fuller
5. History is the essence of innumerable Biographies. -- Carlyle
6. Recollection is the only paradise from which we cannot be turned out. -- Richter

Dominion Statistician Retires

Honourable James A. MacKinnon, Minister of Trade and Commerce, announced Thursday, January 22, the retirement of Dr. R.H. Coats, Dominion Statistician, one of the most widely-known members of the federal public service.

The text of Mr. MacKinnon's announcement follows: Dr. Coats' official career has extended over a period of forty years. On graduation from the University of Toronto, he turned first to journalism and, subsequently, under Mr. MacKenzie King, then Deputy Minister of Labour, was appointed to the Department of Labour to assume the editorship of the Labour Gazette.

When the Dominion Bureau of Statistics was organized by Sir George Foster, Dr. Coats became the first Dominion Statistician, and has been the directing head of the Bureau since its inception. In that capacity, Dr. Coats' services have brought high distinction to himself and have been instrumental in gaining international recognition for Canada. In his duties as Dominion Statistician, Dr. Coats has been called upon to lend assistance of the most valuable character in connection with the work of many royal commissions and special committees, both in Canada and abroad.

Mr. S.A. Cudmore, Assistant Dominion Statistician -- formerly on the staff of the University of Toronto and for many years Editor of the Canada Year Book -- has been appointed Acting Dominion Statistician to take over Dr. Coats' duties as executive head of the Bureau. Mr. Cudmore has himself had an extended and distinguished career both in statistical investigation and as an administrator in the statistical field. It is only two or three years ago that he returned to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics after having spent several years in Palestine, where he was invited by the Palestine Government to undertake the task of organizing an adequate system of statistics for that country.

Bank Debits in Individual Accounts

Bank debits consisting of the amount of cheques cashed in the clearing centres of Canada amounted to \$39,243,000,000 during 1941 compared with \$34,437,000,000 in 1940, a gain of \$4,805,000,000 or 14 per cent. The expansion was occasioned by greater business activity and a higher price level due to operations connected with the war. Considerable advances were recorded in each of the five economic areas. The total for December was \$3,636,546,000 compared with \$3,208,348,000 in December, 1940 an increase of 15 per cent.

Totals by economic areas in 1941 were as follows, with figures for 1940 in brackets: Maritime Provinces, \$940,712,152(\$824,439,336); Quebec, \$11,068,666,530(\$9,973,060,607); Ontario, \$18,214,788,841(\$15,384,504,480); Prairie Provinces, \$6,591,645,027(\$6,118,407,201); British Columbia, \$2,427,144,534(\$2,137,113,355).

Commercial Failures in November

During November there were 36 commercial failures reported to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics with estimated assets totalling \$425,535 and liabilities aggregating \$585,532. In November 1940 the number of bankruptcies was 99 with assets amounting to \$668,310 and liabilities of \$825,982.

Economic Conditions in December

An average of 6 major factors indicating the trend of economic conditions averaged higher in 1941 than in any other year since 1929. New high records were established by the index of the physical volume of business and in the sum of the notice and demand deposits of the chartered banks. High grade bond prices remained steady throughout the year, showing a moderate rise in November. The level was slightly in advance of the inter-war trend. Wholesale prices showed a considerable advance throughout the greater part of 1941, averaging higher than in any year since 1929. The reaction of the speculative factors including the prices of common stocks traded on Canadian exchanges and the volume of speculative trading tended to temper the high standing in other sectors of the economy.

The change during the last month of the year in the six above-mentioned factors was of moderate proportions. Increase in the sum of the notice and demand deposits and in the physical volume of business compares with minor declines in other sections. The preliminary index of the physical volume of business recorded an increase in December, following the recession of the two preceding months. A few factors may be cited in this connection. The index of coal production after seasonal adjustment recorded an increase from 110 in November to 118 in the last month of the year. The index of tobacco releases including cigars and cigarettes rose from 147 to 160.5. An index of the output of manufactured goods based on animal products was nearly 180 in December, compared with 162 in the preceding month. The recession in cheese production was far less than normal for the season and some increase was shown in butter production after the usual adjustment. An index of inspected slaughterings indicating conditions in the meatpacking industry, advanced 2 points to 157. Some recession was shown in the amount of cotton used by textile industries. The index of forestry production was more than 4 points higher at 127.5.

Economic Conditions in December Compared with the Preceding Month and the same Month in 1940

		December 1941	December 1940	November 1941
Physical Volume of Business	1935-39=100	*	128.3	131.7
Gold receipts at Mint	fine ounces	401,716	415,065	415,265
Silver shipments	fine ounces	642,920	1,515,441	1,602,120
Sugar manufactured	lb.	167,952,019	164,005,509	162,213,036
Canned salmon exports	cwt.	107,513	89,004	205,043
Newsprint production	tons	300,823	252,897	300,308
Woodpulp exports	cwt.	2,868,132	1,727,318	2,363,143
Planks and boards exported	M ft.	139,542	190,249	182,435
Shingles exported	squares	105,315	83,744	223,392
Construction contracts	\$	19,109,900	16,918,300	22,889,500
Exports total	\$	152,091,110	98,710,660	164,078,629
Butter output	lb.	11,849,011	12,308,237	14,965,123
Cheese production	lb.	5,806,999	1,799,325	7,228,346
Carloadings	no.	260,945	231,271	285,818
Cigars released	no.	18,888,878	16,866,691	19,567,017
Cigarettes released	no.	720,022,131	574,837,242	753,932,321

*According to preliminary calculations the index of the physical volume of business showed a gain over the preceding month.

Gold Production in November

Gold production in November was recorded at 442,837 ounces compared with 461,168 in the previous month and 450,712 in November, 1940. Output during the eleven months ending November totalled 4,909,210 ounces compared with 4,860,283 in the same period of 1940, an increase of one per cent.

Production by areas was as follows, with figures for November 1940 in brackets: Ontario, 253,582(276,772); Quebec, 93,957(86,519); British Columbia, 53,278(49,792); Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 26,832(22,370); Yukon, 6,579(5,462); Northwest Territories, 7,086(5,515); Nova Scotia, 1,494(2,241).

Wheat Situation in Canada

The volume of export clearances of wheat and wheat flour continues to be the bright spot in the Canadian situation. Overseas clearances of wheat alone are running at the rate of about one million bushels weekly in excess of clearances in the corresponding period a year ago with approximately half of the crop year gone. In addition, the wheat flour movement is about one-third greater than the total at this time last year and imports of Canadian wheat into the United States also show improvement.

Figures compiled to the end of December and covering the first five months of the current crop year show unrevised total exports of wheat and wheat flour, including United States imports, to be 86.3 million bushels compared with 54.7 million in the corresponding period in season 1940-41. The movement during the first half of January has been well maintained but it should be pointed out that when comparing exports this season with last the movement during the August-December period of 1940 was less than 24 per cent of the total exports for the crop year. It will be recalled that shipments during the four months March to June 1941 were unexpectedly heavy and amounted to 120 million bushels or about 52 per cent of the crop year total of 231.2 million bushels. It can happen again but in these unpredictable days to look as far ahead as the summer of 1942 is to get a long way from shore.

Stocks of Canadian wheat are still very large. The visible supply reached the record figure of 507.5 million bushels just before Christmas and has receded only 9.5 million bushels in the interval but on the basis of the third estimate of production, less the amount already delivered from farms and the seed and feed requirements, deliveries from farms in the last half of the season will be quite small.

Some private estimates of the probable carry-over on July 31, 1942 have recently been made and indicate a reduction of 100 million bushels or more from last year's record figure of 480 million bushels. Such a reduction in carry-over pre-supposes that the present rate of exports in excess of last season's figures will be maintained throughout the balance of the 1941-42 crop year. This would appear to be a very optimistic view since we have already pointed out that more than half of the 1940-41 exports were made in the four months March to June 1941 and the season's exports of wheat and wheat flour reached the very respectable total of 231 million bushels.

A more realistic view but one that is not without considerable hazard is to assume that exports this season might equal those of 1940-41 in which case the carry-over based on current estimates of production and home requirements might show a reduction of 70 million bushels. The 1941 wheat crop plus carry-over totals approximately 780 million bushels of which 140 millions are earmarked for home use. It would, therefore, require exports in the neighbourhood of 230 million bushels to bring the carry-over down to 410 million bushels on July 31, 1942.

Visible Supply of Wheat

The visible supply of Canadian wheat on January 23 totalled 494,145,928 bushels compared with 497,988,148 a week earlier and 495,841,577 on the corresponding date last year. The amount in storage in elevators in Canada was 467,613,607 bushels, the balance of 26,532,321 being held in the United States.

Overseas Export Clearances of Wheat

During the week ending January 23 the export clearances overseas of Canadian wheat amounted to 3,812,135 bushels compared with 5,746,069 on the corresponding date last year. The accumulated total for the twenty-five weeks ending January 23 was 71,671,886 bushels compared with 46,976,056 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

World Shipments of Wheat

World shipments of wheat during the week ending January 24 totalled 6,954,000 bushels compared with 5,925,000 in the previous week and 4,416,000 in the corresponding week last year. Shipments during the twenty-five weeks ending January 24 aggregated 136,170,000 bushels compared with 119,944,000 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year.

Primary Movement of Wheat

Wheat receipts in the Prairie Provinces for the week ending January 23 amounted to 2,973,826 bushels compared with 2,179,323 in the previous week and 5,360,755 in the corresponding week last year. By provinces the receipts were as follows, with figures for 1941 in brackets: Manitoba, 625,171(431,055) bushels; Saskatchewan, 1,228,736(2,483,851); Alberta, 1,119,919(2,445,849).

Marketings during the twenty-five weeks ending January 23 aggregated 156,969,651 bushels compared with 301,777,857 in the corresponding period of the previous crop year. Totals follow by provinces, with those for 1941 in brackets: Manitoba, 29,985,489(40,570,142); bushels; Saskatchewan, 79,848,855(160,933,380); Alberta, 47,135,307(100,274,335).

Canada's Imports In 1941

Canada's imports from the United Kingdom in the calendar year 1941 amounted in value to \$136,282,000 compared with \$136,510,000 in 1940, which illustrates how well sea route travel is being maintained across the Atlantic in comparative safety. The total imports for the year amounted to \$1,448,685,000 as against \$1,081,951,000 in 1940.

The largest amount came from the United States at \$1,004,392,000 compared with \$744,231,000, and the imports from other leading countries were as follows, with the 1940 figures in brackets: British East Africa, \$2,115,000(\$1,739,000); British South Africa, \$1,182,000(\$3,445,000); British West Africa, \$2,881,000(\$1,087,000); British India and Burma, \$18,148,000(\$16,612,000); Ceylon, \$6,064,000(\$4,641,000); Straits Settlements, \$38,737,000(\$27,076,000).

Other leading countries: British Guiana, \$8,429,000(\$8,965,000); British West Indies, \$16,813,000(\$12,284,000); Newfoundland, \$4,273,000(\$3,075,000); Australia, \$19,235,000(\$16,571,000); Fiji, \$3,849,000(\$3,100,000); New Zealand, \$13,552,000(\$5,738,000); Argentina \$4,764,000(\$6,542,000); Brazil, \$19,444,000(\$6,243,000); China, \$2,549,000(\$4,524,000); Colombia, \$12,913,000(\$9,851,000); Cuba, \$4,330,000(\$1,431,000); Egypt, \$2,658,000(\$981,000); Japan, \$2,338,000(\$5,887,000); Mexico, \$1,896,000(\$734,000); Netherlands East Indies, \$4,596,000(\$1,811,000); Netherlands West Indies, \$912,000(\$852,000); Peru, \$2,833,000(\$712,000); San Domingo, \$4,832,000(\$3,792,000); Spain, \$520,000(\$1,111,000); Uruguay, \$688,000(\$431,000); Venezuela, \$6,527,000(\$3,118,000).

Output of Central Electric Stations

Central electric stations established a new monthly record in December by producing 3,220,800,000 kilowatt hours, and the index number on the base 1935-1939=100 rose to a new high of 138.9 or 27.5 points above the December 1940 index. More important was the increase in firm power produced for use in Canada which rose to 2,669,339,000 kilowatt hours and the index number advanced to 174.9 which was 5.4 points above the November index. Production during the calendar year 1941 amounted to 33,445,360,000 kilowatt hours as against 30,080,248,000 in 1940. This was an increase of 11.2 per cent and was the largest output to date.

Production of Iron and Steel

The Canadian production of steel ingots and castings amounted to 2,411,387 tons as compared with 2,014,172 in 1940, an increase of almost 400,000 tons. Pig iron output during the year aggregated 1,365,334 tons compared with 1,166,894 in 1940, a gain of nearly 196,000 tons.

The December production of pig iron amounted to 148,377 tons compared with 133,735 in November and 110,477 in December, 1940. Steel ingots and castings output during December totalled 218,611 tons compared with 221,367 in November and 188,420 in December, 1940. Ferro-alloys production totalled 17,845 tons in December compared with 17,078 in November and 18,397 in December, 1940.

Preliminary Announcement of Population

The population of Canada on June 2, 1941, totalled 11,419,896, an increase of approximately 10 p.c. over the 10,376,788 recorded in 1931, according to a preliminary announcement issued today by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. In 1871, the time of the first census, the Dominion had a population of 3,639,257.

By provinces the figures are as follows, with those for 1931 in brackets: Ontario, 3,756,632(3,431,383); Quebec, 3,319,640(2,874,774); Saskatchewan, 887,747(921,785); British Columbia, 809,203(694,263); Alberta, 788,393(731,605); Manitoba, 722,447(700,139); Nova Scotia, 573,190(512,846); New Brunswick, 453,377(408,219); Prince Edward Island, 93,919(88,033); Northwest Territories, 10,631(9,204); Yukon, 4,687(4,230).

The returns are subject to alteration on account of Closed Dwellings, Absentee Households and members of the Armed Forces not enumerated at their usual place or residence.

The Bureau points out that anyone who has reason to believe he or she has been omitted from the Census should notify the Bureau immediately and an investigation will be made.

It might also be mentioned that the changes in population will affect many of the electoral districts, and may give rise to a re-distribution of seats in the House of Commons, particularly in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Housing in the City of Halifax

Equal proportions of single houses to flats and apartments comprised almost 90 p.c. of Halifax homes. Apartment buildings generally were small, with only 2.3 p.c. of homes in buildings containing over 10 dwellings. Over 90 p.c. of dwellings were surfaced with wood, and 8 p.c. with brick and stone. Stucco and other exterior surface materials were almost negligible. External repairs were needed by 24 p.c. of homes. Fifty-six p.c. of homes contained 4 to 6 rooms, and 28 p.c. contained more than 6 rooms.

As many homes, 42 p.c., were heated by stove as by steam and hot water. Hot air was used in almost all others. Coal was the principal fuel for 80 p.c. of homes, fuel oil for 10 p.c. and coke for 2 p.c. For cooking, coal was used in half of Halifax homes, gas or electricity in 30 p.c., and oil in 18 of the remaining 20 p.c. Almost all homes had electric lighting, 98 p.c. had running water, 97 p.c. had the use of flush toilets, but only 81 p.c. had the use of bathing facilities, and only 70 p.c. had either ice or mechanical refrigeration. Of every 100 homes, 93 had a radio, 73 a telephone, 35 a vacuum cleaner, and 29 an auto. All four of these conveniences were reported by 17 p.c. of households.

Three-eighths of Halifax homes were occupied by their owners, whose estimates of market value averaged \$4,635. Of owner-occupied houses, 47 p.c. were mortgaged for an average approximating \$2,200 each. Annual payments on principal and interest averaged \$319, at 6.1 p.c. interest. Typical owner-occupants had lived 14.0 years in their present homes, as compared to 4.8 years for tenants. Property taxes for owners averaged \$164, plus \$13 water tax.

Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries during November

The trade in securities between Canada and other countries was at an unusually high level in November for the period since the start of the war, although a decline was recorded from the previous month. Sales of securities during November totalled \$13,909,250 compared with \$15,928,392 in the previous month and \$8,970,078 in November, 1940. Purchases from other countries amounted to \$8,275,312 compared with \$9,432,675 in October and \$6,587,657 in November, 1940. Total sales during the eleven months of 1941 aggregated \$107,746,103 compared with \$115,822,646 in the like period of 1940, while purchases totalled \$67,030,868 compared with \$88,066,637. A large part of this trade is carried on with the United States.

Commercial Failures in November

During November there were 86 commercial failures reported to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics with estimated assets totalling \$425,535 and liabilities aggregating \$525,562. In November 1940 the number of bankruptcies was 99 with assets amounting to \$668,310 and liabilities of \$825,982.

Department Store Sales in December

Dollar sales of department stores during December 1941 increased 54 per cent over November and were 14 per cent higher than in December, 1940. Unadjusted indexes of sales on base 1935-1939=100 stood at 239.4 for December, 155.4 for November and 210.2 for December, 1940. The adjusted index increased from 137.6 in November to 145.8 in December. Sales during the calendar year 1941 averaged 15 per cent higher than in 1940.

Results on a regional basis indicate a larger increase in Quebec than in other parts. Quebec sales were up 18 per cent in December over the corresponding month in 1940, while annual totals for 1941 were up 16 per cent. Increases in December 1941 over 1940 for other regions with figures for the calendar year in brackets follow: Maritime Provinces, 13 p.c. (22 p.c.); Ontario, 14 p.c. (16 p.c.); Prairie Provinces, 13 p.c. (12 p.c.); and British Columbia, 13 p.c. (16 p.c.).

Building Permits in December

The value of building permits issued by municipalities reporting to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics was \$7,097,628 in December as compared with \$7,485,753 in December, 1940. New construction of all types accounted for 72.9 per cent of the total value, while the percentage of new residential construction was 34.6. Permits issued during the calendar year 1941 aggregated \$133,986,074 as compared with \$113,005,208 in 1940, an increase of \$20,980,866.

Hat and Cap Industry in 1940

The gross value of production of firms included in the hat and cap industry totalled \$15,813,661 in 1940, the highest annual total since 1928. This figure was 22 p.c. higher than in 1939. Women's wool felt hats, with a value of \$2,608,249 was the most important item of production, followed by men's fur felt hats at \$2,399,633, hat bodies in the rough \$2,028,410, women's straw hats at \$1,862,378, women's fur felt hats at \$1,483,637, cloth caps at \$1,315,277 and uniform caps \$1,224,183.

Leather Industry in 1940

The value of production of the Canadian leather industry in 1940 was \$28,474,387, an increase over the preceding year of 11 per cent and a gain over 1938 of 45 per cent. The 1940 total is the highest recorded since 1928. Sole leather produced during 1940 was valued at \$8,844,834; upper leather, \$13,070,090; and other items, \$6,367,674. The amount received for custom tanning was \$191,789.

Production of Crude Petroleum

The output of crude petroleum and natural gasoline in November totalled 855,993 barrels compared with 871,491 in the previous month and 893,438 in the corresponding month in 1940. Alberta's output was recorded at 842,650 barrels. During the first eleven months in 1941 the Canadian output amounted to 9,226,961 barrels compared with 7,979,599 in the corresponding period of 1940.

November Production of Natural Gas

Natural gas production in November amounted to 3,984,832,000 cubic feet compared with 3,009,606,000 in the previous month and 3,896,425,000 in November, 1940. Output during the eleven months ending November aggregated 34,722,839,000 cubic feet compared with 31,542,883,000 in the corresponding period of 1940.

Production of Automobiles in December

The December production of automobiles totalled 20,313 units compared with 21,545 in the previous month and 23,355 in December, 1940. During the calendar year 1941, Canada's output included 94,045 passenger cars and 176,386 trucks, or a total of 270,431 units compared with 223,013 in 1940.

Reports Issued During the Week

1. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
 2. The Leather Industry, 1940 (25 cents).
 3. Production of Iron and Steel, December (10 cents).
 4. Sales and Purchases of Securities Between Canada and Other Countries, November (10 cents).
 5. Commercial Failures, November, (10 cents).
 6. **Housing in Halifax**, Nova Scotia (10 cents).
 7. Population Bulletin No. 18 (10 cents).
 8. Population Bulletin No. 19 (10 cents).
 9. Population Bulletin No. 20 (10 cents).
 10. The Hat and Cap Industry, 1940 (25 cents).
 11. Building Permits, December (10 cents).
 12. Department Store Sales, December (10 cents).
 13. Imports By Principal Countries, December (10 cents).
 14. Bank Debits to Individual Accounts, December (10 cents).
 15. Location and Capacity of Flour and Feed Mills, 1941 (\$1.00).
 16. Acids, Alkalies and Salts Industry, 1940 (15 cents).
 17. Registrations of Births, Deaths and Marriages, December (10 cents).
 18. Output of Central Electric Stations, December (10 cents).
 19. The Broom, Brush and Mop Industry, 1940 (15 cents).
 20. Car Loadings (10 cents).
 21. Automobile Production, December (10 cents).
 22. Petroleum and Natural Gas Production, November; and Gasoline Sales, October (10 cents).
 23. Monthly Review of the Wheat Situation (10 cents).
 24. Gold Production, November (10 cents).
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